

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!



Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

2020 Annual Report

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Agenda

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| Opening Prayer | Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf |
| Opening Remarks | Donna Weinberg, Moderator Presiding |
| Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting Motion to Receive the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes | Lynne Moore, Secretary |
| Reception of 2020 Annual Reports Motion to Receive 2020 Annual Reports | Donna Weinberg, Council Chair |
| Report of the Nominating Committee Motion to Accept Nominating Committee Report | Cylvia Ultz, Council Vice-Chair |
| Report of the Treasurer | Betty Johnson |
| Presentation of the 2021 Budget Motion to accept 2021 Budget | Betty Johnson |
| Closing of the 2020 Congregational Meeting Motion to Adjourn the 2020 Congregational Meeting | Donna Weinberg, Council Chair |
| Opening of the 2020 Corporate Meeting | Donna Weinberg, Council Chair |
| Minutes of the 2019 Corporate Meeting (pg.5) Motion to Accept the 2019 Corporate Meeting Minutes | Lynne Moore, Secretary |
| Corporate Meeting | Donna Weinberg, Council Chair |
| Closing of the 2020 Corporate Meeting Motion to Adjourn the 2020 Corporate Meeting | Donna Weinberg, Council Chair |
| Closing Remarks and Closing Prayer | Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf |

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting

December 8, 2019

Pastor Ninabeth opened the meeting with prayer at 11:35 am.

Donna Weinberg gave a few opening remarks.

A motion was made by Faye Kennedy to accept the 2018 minutes and seconded by Josephine Fracasso. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Cylvia Ultz gave a report of changes of the council. We now have a Stewardship Commission chaired by Judy Vinson and a Communication Commission chaired by Jim Visco. John Samanns is chair of the Buildings and Grounds Commission. A motion was made to accept the nominating committee's report by Terry Newbold and seconded by Mary Lightfoot. All were in favor. Motion was passed. A discussion was held about the Council By-laws. A copy will be available in the church office. A motion was made by Penny Newell to accept the new by-laws and was seconded by Josephine Fracasso. All were in favor. Motion was passed.

Henry Newbold made a motion to accept the Annual Reports of the Council Committees and Carol Phillips seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Donna introduced our newest Stephen's Ministry member Jayne Lambo. Donna presented Jayne with a gift of prayer cards.

The Finance Committee Report was given by Rick Wilson. He presented the 2020 budget as of October 31, 2019. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Josephine Fracasso to accept the 2020 budget as presented. Faye Kennedy seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried. Donna made a suggestion that a financial report be put in the church bulletin in November. A discussion was held.

The Revised Safe Sanctuary policy was approved and accepted.

A motion was made to close the congregational meeting by Henry Newbold and seconded by Terry Newbold. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Moore

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Corporate Meeting

Sunday, December 8, 2019

A motion was made by Donna Weinberg to open the Corporation Meeting at 11:50. The motion was seconded by Lynne Moore. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Anne Ellis to accept the minutes of the 2018 Corporation Meeting. The motion was seconded by Joan Gibbs. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Lynne Moore to adopt all of the actions made at the Congregational Meeting and seconded by Henry Newbold. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made to close the Corporation Meeting by Henry Newbold. The motion was seconded by Mary Lightfoot. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ninabeth closed the meeting with prayer at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Moore

Nominating Committee Report

Respectfully Submitted by Cylvia Ultz

The Nominating Committee focused on trying to fill vacancies on the Council while trying to include more new members. The Committee submits the following slate of candidates to serve on the Church Council and as Committee Chairpersons in 2021.

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Chair: | Cylvia Ultz, Class of 2021 |
| Council Vice-Chair: | Zoe Milelli, Class of 2023 |
| Treasurer: | Betty Johnson |
| Council Secretary: | Lynne Moore, Class of 2021 |
| Building and Grounds Commission: | John Sammons, Class of 2022 |
| Care and Nurture Commission: | Jayne Lambo, Class of 2022 |
| Christian Education Commission: | Ashley Washer & Dan Ledwith, Class of 2023 |
| Christian Outreach Commission: | Linda Trent, Class of 2021 |
| Denominational Liaison: | Mary Lightfoot, Class of 2021 |
| Stewardship Commission: | Donna Weinberg, Class of 2023 |
| Communications Commission: | Jim Visco, Class of 2022 |
| Worship Commission: | Betty Schultheis, Class of 2023 |
| Member at Large: | Elsa Todd, Class of 2022 |
| Sunday School Superintendent: (not a Council position) | Sarah Ledwith |
| Youth Representative: | This could be you! |

2021 Nominating Committee: Zoe Milelli - Chair, Elizabeth Efremov, Anne Ellis, Joan Gibbs, and Dan Ledwith

We are thankful for this year's Nominating Committee members: Cylvia Ultz - Chair, Anne Ellis, Joan Gibbs, Penny Newell, and Betty Schultheis

Report of Council Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Weinberg

The Importance of Faith as we wander through our Pandemic

*¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails,
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold,
and there is no herd in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.
(Habakkuk 3:17-19 NRSV)*

I find the little book of Habakkuk especially comforting in these times of great uncertainty, distress, and fear. It encourages us to come to God with our questions and to stand, wait, and listen. God's words to us from this little book are profound. They remind us that God is sovereign and that time will reveal God's plans more fully. What is more, they call us to put our faith in the Holy One, the Rock, who is absolutely sure, completely trustworthy, and faithful.

What is Faith? The need to believe in a power outside of ourselves, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Who has promised that He can save us (Hebrews 7:25). This ongoing salvation is a work of faith. It has nothing to do with our feelings, which can go up and down like a yo-yo. But when we believe in God, and set our hearts to obey, even against our feelings or our human understanding, then God goes to action too! He sends grace and help in time of need, and all honor for the salvation gained belongs to Him!

At PVEC we are definitely faithful. We have been forced to open our doors in ways that are very different from our past. We have **Zoomed** through meetings and Bible studies, **Recorded** and **Streamed** while worshiping our God and Christ our Savior and have missed the comradery of our fellow members and friends during coffee hour. But we persevere, because we are driven by faith!

We must thank our Christian Outreach team for feeding the hungry in our area through our Food Pantry. We must thank our Care and Nurture team for their emotional support to each of us during these hard times. We must thank our faithful members who continue to financially support PVEC, our Sunday School team for keeping our kids engaged, and we must thank our Pastor Ninabeth for continuing to provide innovative ministry to us during these strange times.

We will get through this Pandemic because our hearts and minds know God is with us!

Pastor's Report

Respectfully Submitted by Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!*

~ Psalm 27: 1, 4, 14

These words were written in a season of trouble; in a time before LED lamps. A time when light came from the sun during the day and from pottery lamps lit with precious oil at night. And at night the light from those pottery lamps cast just enough light to see a short way ahead.

We are living through a troubled time where we can only see a short way ahead. We thought on March 15th that we would be worshiping at home for, at most, 8 weeks; it has been 7 months at the time of this report on 10/18/2020. And our commitment to waiting at home keeping each other safe from the novel coronavirus COVID 19 has been a witness of how much we care for each other and our neighbors. The pandemic has also revealed the fears, inequalities, and deep wounds of racism as well as our propensity for self-centeredness. The pain, fear, anger, and loss are real. We cry out to God – “How Long?”. The yearning to gather with our beloved community to worship and pray is strong.

We do not know what our way forward will look like in a few weeks or years. God gives us a pottery lamp worth of light in order to take a few steps. We must trust God with this light.

Looking back over the last year I can see the ways that God's light is shining in our community. While it may feel “Oh so long ago”, our 50th Anniversary celebration was terrific. Over 100 folks gathered as our worship service was led by Rev. Ninabeth Metcalf (UMC), Rev. George Rizor (UCC), Rev. Jeanette Hile (TEC), and Mr. Ken Nickel (PCUSA). Many memories were shared and created that day. We are very thankful for the hard work of the 50th Anniversary Committee: Doreen Schaffer, Josephine Fracasso, Mary Lightfoot, Lila Minervino, Henry Newbold, Terrie Newbold, Penny Newell, Kathy Pflugfelder, Carol Phillips, Marilyn Schaffer, and Ella Yager.

Membership continues to grow; we welcomed, John and Bettina Samanns, Ron Philipp, Kimberly Ann Tomasino, David Wilcox, Diane Van Dongen, and Laurie Washburn. We baptized Debbie Villone.

We celebrated the life of Henry Aulenbach on December 14, 2019 and Ron Philipp on February 3, 2020. During our shelter in place, Ella Yager, Claire Prince, Dottie Schiller, and Bob Vinson joined the Saints Triumphant. We will celebrate their lives in our worship service on All Saints

Sunday on November 1st.

Prior to our sheltering in place we were hosting 5 AA groups, Stroller Stride, Chair Yoga, Abilities of NJ, Girl Scouts, Compassionate Care, Pet Adoption League, Master Plumbing training, and Friends and Neighbors game day. Only one AA group is meeting in our building at this time.

In March we were able to quickly pivot our worship service, Sunday school, Contemplative Service, and Faith Formation groups to the Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and PVEC Website platforms. We added a nightly children's "Story time with Sarah & Dan Ledwith", a Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study, and a Virtual Sunday morning Fellowship Hour.

Our re-entry team began their work on May 21st and are still working to make our building safe. The team created guidelines based on the CDC guidelines, our Governor's directives, and our commitment to loving our neighbor and valuing health and wholeness.

We began in-person Worship and Sunday school on World Communion Sunday October 4, 2020. We continue to worship online and in-person and look forward to discovering new ways to worship together as we enter the Advent and Christmas season.

I have participated in 2 continuing education opportunities; "Understanding Why: Looking at the Pandemic Through a Trauma Informed Lens" with Rebecca Bryan DNP and "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going" with leadership consultant Susan Beaumont.

I continue to serve on the District Committee on Ministry with the UMC, The Missional Ministry Team with the PCUSA, and the Board of Trustees at The House of the Good Shepherd.

As we wait for that time when we will be able to gather together remember the Psalmist words. *Behold the beauty of our world, trust in the Light that God gifts us, and let your heart take courage!*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.



Buildings & Grounds Commission

Submitted by: John Samanns

The Buildings and Grounds Commission is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our church's facilities. This includes the church building and all of the outside grounds. Most all of the work is performed by our member volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome.

It has been a busy year for buildings and grounds in spite of the corona virus. Here is a list of many of the things we accomplished in the past year.

- Installation of 4 new light posts at our driveway entrance.
- Removal of the rail fence at the driveway. The wood was rotting at ground level.
- A new Boiler Mate (hot water tank) was installed. The old one was beginning to leak.
- Serviced both dishwashers in the kitchen so they both are now in working order.
- Removed a refrigerator that was not working properly.
- Repainting of the kitchen
- Repainting of the storage room (opposite the kitchen)
- Repair of the walls and ceiling in the groomsmen room. This included removal of the old wall paper, spackling the ceiling and walls, and repainting.
- Installation of the key box outside fellowship hall.
- Painting of the front steps.
- Exterior painting of all the windows and doors.
- A countless number of weeds pulled and bushes trimmed.
- Repainting of the concrete wall in fellowship hall (due to mold remediation).
- Installed a fence and started the beginnings of a garden.
- Repair of the heating system for the office and classrooms. (rooftop unit) We solicited several repair estimates which enabled us to save a substantial amount of money for the church.

The following items were completed with outside contractors, coordinated through B&G volunteers.

- Replacement of the control board in the furnace that heats fellowship hall and the church.
- Mold remediation behind the baseboard in fellowship hall.
- Lawn care
- Repair of the rooftop furnace which heats/cool the office and classrooms.

As you can see, we have been very busy here. There are still many projects we would like to undertake. Here is what's on our list so far:

- Replace the fence by the driveway entrance.
- Repair\replace the storage shed.
- Repair cracks in the concrete window wells.
- Improve the landscaping around the church to reduce the amount of maintenance

currently required.

- Repair the concrete front steps.

There are also some large projects that we would like to be able to plan for.

- Update/remodel bathrooms in fellowship hall
- Repave parking lot
- Replace the exterior doors in fellowship hall
- Replace windows as needed



Care & Nurture Commission Report

Respectfully submitted by Jayne Lambo

Commission Members: Jayne Lambo, Chairwoman, Joan Gibbs, Mary Lightfoot, Lila Minervino, Lynne Moore, Penny Newell, Carol Phillips and Amy Testa.

The Care & Nurture Commission has re-structured the Commission during the pandemic. We found new ways to reach out to the congregation since in-person contact has been restricted. Until the pandemic restrictions are lifted, we are having monthly zoom meetings and we have changed our sub-committee events and activities. Instead, of having events and activities in Fellowship Hall or throughout the community, we are reaching out to our congregation via emails, regular mail and telephone calls.

We established a Care & Nurture Newsletter to let the members of the congregation know we care about them. The Newsletter will bring thoughts of encouragement; inform the members of things happening throughout Panther Valley Ecumenical Church; and share fun thoughts and activities.

A committee has been set-up to mail cards of encouragement and support to members of the congregation monthly so everyone knows we are thinking of them and we are here for anything they may need.

Another committee has been set-up to send regular emails with encouraging thoughts and devotions to members of the congregation.

Fellowship Hour has always been an important part of our Church.

However, many people are uncomfortable with in-person Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall. Therefore, we scheduled a Drive-in Halloween Fellowship Hour in the church parking lot for October 25, 2020 from 11:30-12:30. People are encouraged to come after church service or to just come for Fellowship Hour. Anyone can wear their favorite Halloween costume or come just as they are. Everyone is to park their cars 6' apart; wear a mask; bring their own lawn chair to sit by their car or to sit 6' away from someone they haven't seen in a while; and to bring their own lunch.

Even during the pandemic, the Care & Nurture Commission is reaching out to bring comfort and support to members of our Church and our local communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Lambo, Chairwoman



Christian Education Commission

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ~ Acts 2:42

The Way of Love is ALL ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS

We met once a month, January through March, for dinner, conversation, and worship. This small group is exploring a core set of practices – Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest - that provide guidance, rhythm and inspiration for living a beautiful, meaningful and holy life. Together, as a community of love, support, and accountability, we hope to grow more like Jesus and bear his redeeming love in the world.

The PVEC Book Club is ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

This group meets at Heath village on the second Thursday of every month to discuss a book that the group has chosen to read.

PVEC Sunday School is ALL ABOUT JESUS!

Under Sarah and Dan Ledwith's leadership, our Sunday school embraced a new way of meeting together. Sunday school shifted to an online format. Storytime with Miss Sarah and Mr. Dan on FaceBook was a huge success. We were blessed to hear stories from many of our church members.

In October we began a hybrid format where some kids come to the church while others meet on "Class Dojo".

The Sunday School Newsletter put together by Ashley Washer has been a blessing!

We are super grateful for all of our dedicated Sunday school teachers; Lynne Moore, Bettina Samanns, Linda Trent, Marilyn Schaffer, Donna Weinberg, and Kathy Zinckgraf. And a great big hug goes out to Paedra Corino Cardona, our babysitter, who keeps our little ones happy during Worship!

Vacation Bible School is ALL ABOUT MAKING JESUS REAL

This year we "Discovered God's World Through Nature". We sent activity bags home that were well received.

PVEC Campership is ALL ABOUT DRAWING KIDS CLOSER TO GOD AND GOD'S CREATION

Camp Johnsonburg was closed this summer so we did not offer any scholarships this year.



JR Youth Group is ALL ABOUT ENCOUNTERING JESUS

From volunteering to serving food at our Chicken Dinners and Pancake Breakfasts, and fundraising for our Camperships to Camp Johnsonburg, these kids have fun while learning powerful lessons from the Gospels. We stopped meeting in March and resumed meeting in October.

Our current curriculum is "Be Bold".

For our unit on compassion we participated in Habitat for Humanity's "Sponsor a Stud".

2 studs were purchased from *Habitat For Humanity* and the kids drew prayers and inspirational words blessing the folks who will be living in the house that these studs will be part of.

Did you know that it takes 300 studs to build a Habitat House?

Tracy Freeman spoke to the kids about what Habitat for Humanity does and why he volunteers his time with this organization. We are grateful for the generous donations from the Milelli & Freeman family.



We are thankful for our leaders: Liz Silva, Terrie Newbold, Lori Neely, Carol Phillips, Bettina Samanns, Marilyn Schaffer, and Pastor Ninabeth for their dedication to our youth.

Adult Bible Study is ALL ABOUT GROWING MORE CHRIST LIKE

In March we shifted our Bible studies from meeting in person to meeting on Zoom. In April we added another evening class.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We began Bible Study in the Fall of 2018 and have averaged about 10 participants in each of the 14 studies engaged since then. This has been a great target number allowing easy communication from all the participants while developing a truly significant sharing of personal stories and views of the topics we considered. Of even greater value has been a friendship and an intimate and comfortable sharing of ourselves well beyond the topic under consideration. It has offered us all a strong bond of mutual support.

Titles for 2020 have been: *One Thousand Gifts: Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are* by Amy Voskamp, *The Last Days of Jesus - Deeper Connection Series* by Matt Williams, *Unshakable Hope* by Max Lucado, *The Daniel Dilemma: How to Stand Firm and Love Well in a Culture of Compromise* by Chris Hodges, and *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions* by Rick Warren. For Advent we will study *Light of the World- A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine a continuation of our prior focus. Most, though not all, of our studies have been six-week studies. *Unshakable Hope* was a twelve week study We have wanted to start a Advent Study so we decided to consider topics of the group's choosing to fill the interim period. On November 2 we will discuss forgiveness. A future discussion will center on growth in the church during current health conditions. We'll then begin the Advent program. Since April, we have met by ZOOM and have discussed its continuance so people do not have to rush home or leave home at night. It has been a stimulating process we have all valued. If interested, you are invited to join us by contacting Terrie Newbold.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is led by Pastor Ninabeth. This group utilizes video studies for discussion. Our studies have been: Acts of the Apostles with Matt Skinner, Unafraid; Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times with Adam Hamilton, God is Closer Than You Think, Who Is This Man, and The Me I Want To Be, with John Ortberg. For Advent we will view and discuss Adam Hamilton's "Incarnation".

WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY is led by Ashley Washer and Pastor Ninabeth. We have studied: "What the Woman Saw", Good Gospel, and Present Over Perfect. We will be discussing Adam Hamilton's video series on the names of Jesus: "Incarnation" for Advent.

Commission members: Pastor Ninabeth, chair; Dan Ledwith, Sarah Ledwith, Lynne Moore, Terrie Newbold, Kathy Pflugfelder, Carol Phillips, Bettina Samanns, Marilyn Schaffer, Liz Silva, Linda Trent, Donna Weinberg, Kathy Zinckgraf



Christian Outreach Report

Respectfully submitted by Linda Trent

Our mission statement and goal is to help those in our community, country and world who are struggling to afford their basic needs. It is our hope to ease their burdens by following the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We sponsored a successful Souper Bowl on February 2 and raised \$644. The funds were distributed to Hackettstown Schools, Allamuchy School and Franklin School in Sussex County to help eliminate lunch debt from children in the free and reduced-price lunch programs.

Our Pajama and Book Program was very well supported by the congregation and we were able to donate an abundance of new pajamas and books to our local Social Services Division.

Noisy offerings in January and February helped to support our World Vision Sponsorships. After Worship was changed to virtual in March, Christian Outreach continued to support our sponsorship through our International Mission Fund.

Christian Outreach made a \$200 donation to the Hackettstown Rotary to provide meals to hospital staff. These funds were deducted from our mission account.

We also made a \$500 contribution to help refurbish Johnsonburg Camp. Kathy Zinckgraf and a small group of helpers worked on several projects.

We were not able to continue with our other annual fundraising programs when worship became virtual in March.

Throughout the many changes at PVEC and the surrounding area, the Lord's Pantry continues to remain open and supported our local community. Throughout the rationing and shortages at the beginning of the Pandemic, our shelves were full and we remained open. I placed posters in local business and post offices to advertise and offer our services. The support of our local area has been amazing and gratifying.

At the time of this report, the Commission has received approximately \$7,000 in cash and local gift card donations. In addition, many food donations were received. The Allamuchy PTO donated meal vouchers from the Panther Pub and Village Bagel to help support local businesses as well as offer prepared foods to our Pantry clients.

In April, we received perishable school lunch food from the Allamuchy School. I was able to share with a Hackettstown Group Home, Easter Seals and the Blairstown Food Share.

Anne Ellis donated many Easter baskets to Christian Outreach which we shared with Pantry clients and the Group Home.

Our very successful partnership with the Newton Food Bank has continued to fill our Pantry and help us maintain our budget.

The hard work and commitment of Kathy Zinckgraf to the Lord's Pantry has been extraordinary. The support of our Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Richards, was invaluable. Cynthia made all appointments, distributed the bags of food and stayed in contact with our Lord's Pantry clients.

At the time of this report, we have had 144 pantry calls in 2020. There seems to be an increase in usage in the past few weeks, but the number of call remains to be very difficult to predict.

Cynthia has recently included the PVEC Lord's Pantry in NJ211, a division of United Way, which will refer local people in need to the services of our Pantry.

We remain very grateful to our PVEC congregation and to our local community for their continued support.

Commission members: Linda Trent, chair, Maureen Bloom, Anne Cuff, Mary Lightfoot, Penny Newell, Carol Phillips, Cylvia Ultz and Kathy Zinckgraf.



Worship Commission

Respectfully submitted by Betty Schultheis

The purpose of the Commission is to implement the PVEC covenant through the Programs offered by overseeing and initiating worship practices.

Commission members implement worship practices: coordinate scripture readers, church checkers and ushers weekly and assist the pastor with special requests and arrange for public coverage on any Sunday the pulpit is vacant.

Worship service oversight is provided through the preparation of the sanctuary following the Liturgical calendar by changing banners, paraments and denominational symbols (Now that we are live-streaming our service it is important that the visual arrangement of the banners is taken into consideration.).

We embrace special services such as Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, harvest Sunday, Advent, hanging of the greens and Christmas. We also assist at funerals weddings and baptisms. As we look ahead to next year special adaptations will need to be made for these “special services” as we have had to do since the start of Covid-19. It is our goal to enrich our services to the fullest extent possible to meet the needs of our congregation and serve our community.

The Altar Guild coordinates and prepares Holy Communion monthly and for special occasions and assists the pastor and church council members, past and present in serving the congregation Communion: the Commission offers Communion and in a variety of manners, normally allowing each participant to receive the sacrament according to their individual belief. Due to Pandemic protocols only bread (gluten free) is being offered.

Music: the Commission supports the music Director, Diane Van Dongen as she presents music that is appropriate for our ecumenicity. Due to Pandemic protocols our music program has had to be drastically altered. She also coordinates with Faye Kennedy the handbell choir director.

Accomplishments:

(The pandemic closed down the church the third week in March.) We therefore had to reinvent ourselves to serve the congregation. We transitioned our service to be shown on our website, YouTube, and Facebook. We continued to provide readers for the online worship service. The Worship Commission provided a packet to go to all participants in the congregation in preparation for Palm Sunday, devotions for Holy Week culminating in Communion on Easter Sunday.

We designed a questionnaire to go to all participants in the congregation to identify their Worship needs. It was important to determine; who would be agreeable to attend church in person once the safety protocols were all established, those who would prefer to wait until a vaccine was available to come back to church to worship, those who would prefer to continue to worship online, and to identify those who had no access to a computer or smart phone to view online services and how we might serve them. We also inquired about other interests our members might have in various missions, small groups etc. within the church. Commission meetings were held via

zoom. We provided feedback of the questionnaire to all participants. The various commissions in the church utilize this information as they plan their activities.

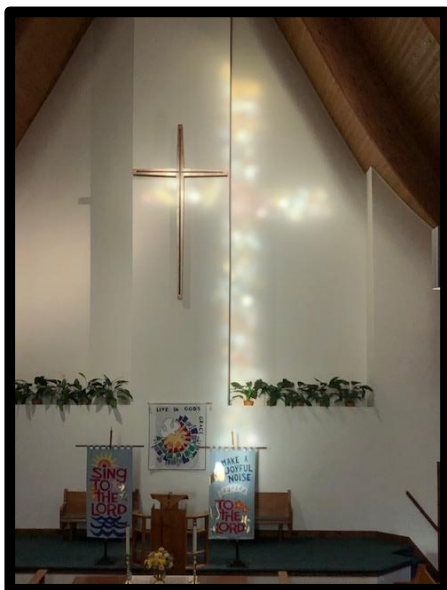
The Commission having received positive feedback regarding the Holy Week packet, delivered a package for Pentecost. This was a very upbeat package that brought a lot of positive feedback.

As we enter the Thanksgiving/harvest season of the year and look forward to Advent and Christmas we have many new and exciting ways to celebrate this joyous season that will look quite different from our past ways.

We continue to see that flowers are part of our worship service each week at the altar.

I want to thank this very active and very involved group of people serving on the commission this year: Anne Cuff, Pam Mancini, Zoe Milelli, Henry Newbold, Carol Phillips, Elsa Todd and Diane Van Dongen and our Auxiliary member, usher coordinator, Rick Wilson.

A special thank you to Pastor Ninabeth for all her inspiration, creativity and boundless energy.



Employee Relations Committee

Respectfully Submitted by Cylvia Ultz

In 2020 the Personnel Committee mostly had meetings via Zoom due to the coronavirus. We focused on updating employee contracts for Pastor Ninabeth, our music director, Diane VanDongen, and our custodian, Liz Silva. We also spent many months meeting with our office administrator, finally resulting in her termination at the end of October. We are in the process of locating a new person to fill that position.

Recently we completed the Methodist Church's clergy evaluation that needs to be submitted annually, recommending that we retain Pastor Ninabeth as our minister.

Committee members: Cylvia Ultz, Chair, Anne Ellis, Joan Gibbs, Penny Newell, and Betty Schultheis.

Gift Card Program

Respectfully Submitted by Penny Newell

Since 1998, PVEC has bolstered its budget by the bulk purchase of food gift cards from area grocery stores, namely ShopRite and Weis. PVEC is able to purchase these cards at a 5% discount. Purchasers receive full face value thereby underwriting PVEC's discount.

The figures below represent income from November 2019 through October 2020

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Total Purchased: | \$3,000.00 |
| Church Received: | \$150.00 |

During COVID the Gift cards are available for purchase after worship. If you are not comfortable attending the in-house worship, please contact Penny Newell. She will be happy to deliver the cards to you.

We welcome anyone who would like to help with the Gift Card sales.

Committee Members: Maureen Bloom, Penny Newell, and Marilyn Schaffer.

By-Laws Committee Report

Respectfully Submitted by Cylvia Ultz

The PVEC By-Laws were approved and accepted in September 2016 by the Council and the congregation. The new Safe Sanctuary policy was voted on at the December 2019 Annual Meeting. The Care and Nurture Commission information has been updated. Anyone wishing to see the complete copy, please speak to Cylvia Ultz, Pastor Ninabeth, or the office Administrative Assistant.

Committee members: Cylvia Ultz, Chair, Joan Gibbs, Charlie Schaffer, and Kathy Zinckgraf.

Finance Committee

Respectfully Submitted by Rick Wilson

The Finance Committee meets periodically to review the monthly financial reports. This year the committee also recommended revisions to simplify some of the finance reports.

The Finance Committee with the Treasurer reviews the proposed annual budget before the budget is sent to the Council and the congregation for vote.

The finance Committee thanks Kathy Pflugfelder for her work as Treasurer and Cynthia Richards for her diligence in preparing and maintaining the finance reports.

Committee Members: Rick Wilson, Chair, Betty Johnson, Treasurer, Josephine Fracasso, Frank Gibbs, Jayne Lambo, Betty Schultheis.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Treasurer's Report as of October 2020

| Account # | Account Name | October 2020 | YTD | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| 410.100 | Operating Pledges | 6,724.94 | 69,439.46 | 78,899.40 |
| 410.200 | Contributions | 1,555.00 | 10,192.50 | 15,038.75 |
| 440.303 | Capital Improvement Pledges | 390.00 | 10,190.00 | 4,924.00 |
| | TOTAL PLEDGE/CONTRIBUTIONS | \$8,669.94 | \$89,821.96 | \$98,862.15 |
| 410.500 | Loose Collection | 137.00 | 536.00 | 3,522.00 |
| 412.200 | Gift Card Income | 0.00 | 150.00 | 1,090.00 |
| 413.000 | Church Use Donations | 0.00 | 395.00 | 2,025.00 |
| 480.375 | Chicken Dinner Donations | 537.00 | 3,237.00 | 3,430.00 |
| | TOTAL OTHER DONATIONS | \$674.00 | \$4,318.00 | \$10,067.00 |
| 420.118 | Campership Donations | 0.00 | 103.00 | 1,680.00 |
| 420.225 | Pancake Breakfast | 0.00 | 297.00 | 730.10 |
| 425.100 | Road Side Cleanup | 0.00 | (179.92) | 550.00 |
| 440.120 | Refrigerator Recycle | 0.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 |
| 450.336 | Youth Group - Jr Donations | 0.00 | 2.00 | 412.00 |
| 460.310 | Food Pantry Donations | 375.00 | 5,880.00 | 865.00 |
| 465.350 | Audio Equipment | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| 468.100 | Stewardship Donations | 0.00 | 145.00 | 0.00 |
| 468.125 | Bea McNallys Event | 0.00 | 40.00 | 600.00 |
| 470.330 | Donations for Handbell Equipment | 0.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 |
| 470.361 | Banner and Altar Cloth Donations | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL FUND DONATIONS | \$3,375.00 | \$9,587.08 | \$4,837.10 |
| 450.100 | Interest Income | 0.00 | 19.18 | 48.93 |
| | TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME | \$0.00 | \$19.18 | \$48.93 |
| 490.100 | UMC Market Cash Back | 0.00 | 6.29 | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL PLEDGES & DONATIONS | \$12,718.94 | \$103,752.51 | \$113,815.18 |
| EXPENSE | | | | |
| 510.100 | Denominational Obligations | 400.00 | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| | DENOMINATIONAL OBLIGATIONS | \$400.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$4,000.00 |
| BULDINGS AND GROUNDS | | | | |
| 520.100 | Garbage Collection | 61.96 | 522.10 | 812.49 |
| 520.150 | Pest Control | 128.46 | 1,276.20 | 1,196.54 |
| 520.300 | Lawn Service | 800.00 | 4,830.00 | 1,700.00 |
| 520.500 | Maintenance | 0.00 | 100.00 | 251.45 |
| 520.525 | Chair Lift Inspection Fee | 0.00 | 182.00 | 182.00 |
| 520.526 | Chair Lift Maintenance | 0.00 | 137.81 | 0.00 |
| 520.700 | Snow Removal | 0.00 | 750.00 | 2,450.00 |
| 520.750 | Boiler Repairs / Maint | 0.00 | 459.95 | 944.95 |
| 520.755 | Service Heat in Educational Wing | 325.00 | 325.00 | 0.00 |
| 520.800 | Buildings and Grounds Supplies | 215.75 | 818.03 | 1,103.20 |
| 520.810 | Church Re-opening Supplies | 228.09 | 228.09 | 0.00 |
| 520.900 | Service Fire Extinguishers and Fire System | 0.00 | 358.00 | 448.00 |
| 520.936 | Driveway Lights | 0.00 | 759.96 | 0.00 |
| 545.320 | Kitchen Supplies | 0.00 | 186.49 | 463.34 |
| | TOTAL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS | \$1,759.26 | \$10,933.63 | \$9,551.97 |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 530.500 | Church School Exp. | 0.00 | 10.65 | 436.00 |
| 530.811 | Youth Group--Sr Expenses | 0.00 | 124.98 | 0.00 |
| 531.600 | Christian Education--Other | 0.00 | 199.61 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | | \$0.00 | \$335.24 | \$436.00 |

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 540.020 | Lord's Pantry | 0.00 | 1,030.27 | 1,543.51 |
| 540.080 | Camp Johnsonburg Mission | 0.00 | 500.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 540.085 | World Vision Sponsorship Donation | 487.40 | 487.40 | 1,000.00 |
| 540.090 | Other Missions Donations | 0.00 | 300.00 | 530.00 |
| TOTAL CHRISTIAN OUTREACH | | \$487.40 | \$2,317.67 | \$4,073.51 |

CARE & NURTURE

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 542.000 | Care & Nurture Expenses | 55.00 | 151.95 | 282.79 |
| TOTAL CARE & NURTURE | | \$55.00 | \$151.95 | \$282.79 |

COMMUNICATION

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 565.310 | Website | 0.00 | 964.00 | 880.00 |
| 565.315 | Printing Costs | 0.00 | 249.61 | 0.00 |
| 565.316 | Road Sign | 0.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL COMMUNICATION | | \$0.00 | \$1,513.61 | \$880.00 |

WORSHIP

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 560.400 | Altar Flowers | 12.50 | 360.00 | 262.00 |
| 560.750 | Devotional Publications | 0.00 | 59.60 | 59.60 |
| 565.400 | Sheet Music | 0.00 | 523.34 | 0.00 |
| 565.415 | CCLI License | 0.00 | 133.00 | 129.00 |
| 569.000 | Worship -- Other | 0.00 | 55.98 | 74.16 |
| 569.100 | Worship Sanctuary Router | 0.00 | 199.99 | 0.00 |
| 570.330 | Purchase Handbell Equipment | 0.00 | 1,901.50 | 0.00 |
| 570.361 | Purchase Banners and Altar Cloth | 2,822.20 | 2,822.20 | 0.00 |
| 582.510 | Offering Envelopes | 0.00 | (16.00) | 0.00 |
| TOTAL WORSHIP | | \$2,834.70 | \$6,039.61 | \$524.76 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 570.000 | Council | 0.00 | 404.00 | 158.80 |
| COUNCIL | | \$0.00 | \$404.00 | \$158.80 |

MINISTER

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 571.500 | Minister -- Fee | 1,373.26 | 13,732.60 | 11,090.00 |
| 572.000 | Manse Exclusion -- Minister | 2,666.66 | 26,666.60 | 27,500.00 |
| 572.500 | Pension -- Minister | 504.99 | 5,049.90 | 3,823.80 |
| 572.600 | Disability Plan - Minister | 121.20 | 1,212.00 | 1,157.70 |
| 572.700 | Health Insurance--Minister | 1,169.16 | 11,691.60 | 11,728.40 |
| TOTAL MINISTER | | \$5,835.27 | \$58,352.70 | \$55,299.90 |

OTHER COMPENSATION

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 575.900 | Compensation -- Other | 0.00 | 150.00 | 110.00 |
| 575.910 | Guest Minister Compensation | 0.00 | 275.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL OTHER COMPENSATION | | \$0.00 | \$425.00 | \$110.00 |

UTILITIES

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 585.100 | Electric Bill | 192.80 | 2,358.17 | 3,466.84 |
| 585.200 | Gas Billing | 88.80 | 2,728.13 | 2,975.47 |
| 585.300 | Phone Billing | 229.70 | 2,219.49 | 2,046.31 |
| TOTAL UTILITIES | | \$511.30 | \$7,305.79 | \$8,488.62 |

LIABILITY AND WORK COMP INS

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 581.100 | Liability Insurance | 0.00 | 5,330.49 | 5,162.25 |
| 581.200 | Worker's Comp Ins | 0.00 | 837.20 | 726.28 |
| TOTAL INSURANCE | | \$0.00 | \$6,167.69 | \$5,888.53 |

SALARIES AND TAXES

| | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 590.100 | Music Director--Organist | 1,666.66 | 14,666.60 | 5,249.98 |
| 590.200 | Custodian | 611.00 | 6,110.00 | 5,975.66 |
| 590.400 | Secretary | 2,150.20 | 19,351.80 | 21,502.00 |
| 591.000 | FICA Tax | 292.00 | 2,755.50 | 2,123.12 |

TOTAL SALARIES AND TAXES**\$4,719.86****\$42,883.90****\$34,850.76*****OFFICE EXPENSES***

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| 582.100 | Bank / Credit Card Charges | 1.75 | 21.96 | 0.00 |
| 582.300 | Copier, Organ & D/W Exp. | (231.85) | 418.15 | 600.00 |
| 582.500 | Paper and Stationery | 65.90 | 240.68 | 513.53 |
| 582.525 | Bank Checks for Computer System | 0.00 | 253.21 | 0.00 |
| 582.530 | Vanco Processing Fees | 26.40 | 297.12 | 268.15 |
| 582.700 | Postage | 55.00 | 264.10 | 215.00 |
| 582.710 | HP Instant Ink | 10.65 | 106.50 | 112.52 |
| 582.899 | Copier Maintenance Agreement | 231.85 | 231.85 | 0.00 |
| 582.900 | Office -- Other | 0.00 | 20.49 | 92.96 |
| 582.905 | Church Windows Suport Renewal | 0.00 | 419.00 | 419.00 |
| 582.907 | Adobe Acrobat Renewal | 0.00 | 191.80 | 191.80 |
| 582.910 | Software Updates | 0.00 | 35.43 | 29.95 |

TOTAL OFFICE**\$159.70****\$2,500.29****\$2,442.91****TOTAL EXPENSE****\$16,762.49****\$143,331.08****\$126,988.55****Difference****(\$4,043.55)****(\$39,578.57)****(\$13,173.37)**



Fund Balance Report

The Committee on Finance is required to make provision for an annual audit of the records of all the financial officers (including the financial secretary or church business manager and treasurers) of the church and all its organizations and shall report to the Charge Conference. Guidelines for handling of an accountability of funds can be found in the 2017-2020 United Methodist Church Financial Records Handbook and in Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: FINANCE available at <http://www.cokesbury.com>, and The Local Church Audit Guide, available at <http://umc.org/gcfa/forms>.

THIS REPORT IS TO BE COMPLETED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND FEB. 1

THIS REPORT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR OTHER CHARGE
CONFERENCE FORMS

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of the committee on finance

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL Church _____ Charge _____
District _____ Annual Conference _____
For the period beginning JANUARY 1, 2019, and ending December 31, 2019

1. Receipts, Disbursements, and Balances (Round to the nearest dollar)

| LOCAL CHURCH FUNDS (Use those applicable to your church.) | | (a) Balance at Beginning of Period | (b) Cash Received and Recorded | *(c) Total Disbursements for Period (-) | *(d) Transfers + (-) | (e) Balance End Of Period |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Fund | | \$25,701 | \$188,285 | <\$204,529> | +\$10,000 | \$19,457 |
| Savings Account | | \$59,990 | \$57 | -0- | <\$10,000> | \$50,047 |
| Building or Improvement Fund | | | | | | |
| Board of Trustees' Fund * | | \$156,347 | \$29,990 | -0- | -0- | \$186,337 |
| United Methodist Women | | | | | | |
| United Methodist Youth Fellowship | | | | | | |
| United Methodist Men | | | | | | |
| Church School | | | | | | |
| Name: | Stewardship US Equity Fund | \$42,148 | \$12,696 | <\$188> | -0- | \$54,656 |
| | Stewardship Inter. Equity Fund | \$25,458 | \$6,585 | <\$109> | -0- | \$31,934 |
| | Manse Fund CD | \$66,027 | \$665 | -0- | -0- | \$66,692 |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | * Recorded at Market Value | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total amount of cash in all treasuries of the church | | \$375,671 | \$238,278 | \$204,826 | -0- | \$409,123 |

2. **The Auditors** ☒ **Auditing Committee** ☐ (check one) has examined the accounts listed on the front side; reviewed procedures of counting and accounting under the current Book of Discipline; has reconciled receipts and disbursements with bank deposits and bank balances; and has found the balances displayed to be correct, procedures proper, and records properly kept, except as noted below (*attach additional pages as needed*):

3. **Recommendations for changes in financial policies and practices** (*attach additional pages as needed*):

Audit met all accounting standards. Staff is to be congratulated on excellent record keeping and diligence to proper accounting. No recommendations at this time.

Jack Scharf, CLM

, Chairperson

, Member

Printed Name: **Jack Scharf, CLM**

Printed Name:

Date: **2/3/2020**

Date:

Fund Balance Report, 2017-2020

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose.



Safe Sanctuaries

safe sanctuaries policy
certificate of compliance

The Safe Sanctuaries Policy of Panther Valley United (Ecumenical)
Methodist Church in Hackettstown, NJ has been reviewed and
approved by the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United
Methodist Church.

Rev. Erica Mikoz

Rev. Erica Mikoz ~ GNJ Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator

3/10/19

Date



Making PPE for the staff at Heath Village!



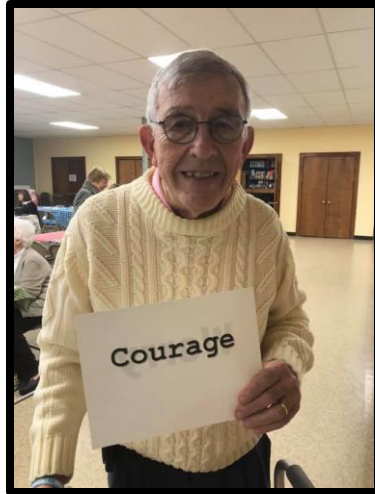
Zoom Fellowship!



Chicken Dinners!



Pajama Drive!



Courage Challenge



Knits for Handbells



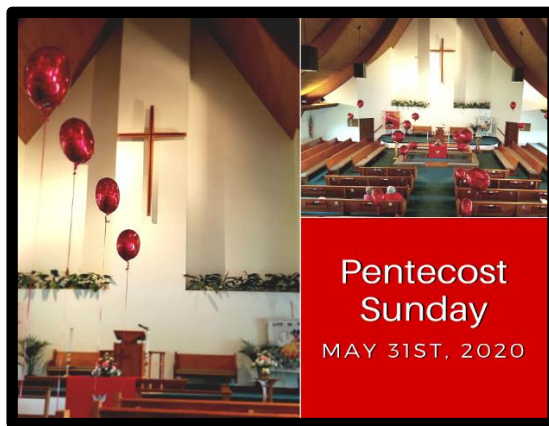
Virtual Easter



Virtual Liturgists



Virtual Communion



Virtual Pentecost