

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Sunday June 13, 2021

*Connecting with the Community,
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

We invite you to begin your personal preparation at the beginning of the prelude.

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Who has the Lord called to serve?

ALL: Is it the great and mighty?

ONE: In whom has the Lord found favor?

ALL: Is it those with power and prestige?

ONE: In each one of us, God has found favor?

ALL: Let us serve the Lord with gladness and joy. AMEN.

GATHERING PRAYER

O God, we gather in your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with YOU, eager to hear your word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of your word be scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher, and our Lord. AMEN.

HYMN

Hymn of Promise #707

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of love and power, we listen to the stories of miracles and doubt that these things can happen today. We look at the waves of misfortune, distress, misery, distrust, and anger and we wonder how we can still those waves. We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives, threatening to drown us and wonder where you are. Forgive us for the littleness of our faith. Forgive us for our doubts. Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus. Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. **AMEN.**

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Fear not! God is with us, stilling the storms and raging fears in our lives. Ready to plant seeds in us to grow us into the Christians we are called to be. Place your trust in God that he will always water our roots. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 CEB

It is good to praise the Lord
and make music to your name, O most high,
proclaiming your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
to the music of a ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
proclaiming, "The lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Romans Mark 4:26-34 CEB

Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvest time."

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

MESSAGE *Spread*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God,

Your son Jesus Christ has promised that you hear us when we ask in faith: receive these prayers we pray. We give thanks and pray for the nations. Guide with your wisdom and power the leaders of the nations, so that everyone may live in peace and mutual trust, sharing with justice the resources of the earth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for the church:

Send out light and truth of your gospel like seeds that all people everywhere know and love you. Enable those who minister us to commend your truth by their example and teaching. Let them be the water to our roots. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for those in need:

We commend to your fatherly care, merciful God, all who are in sorrow, sickness, discouragement, or any other trouble. Those whose leaves are wilted, water them and provide the sunlight they need to join us in the fruit of your loving ways. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
**who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

We invite you to take this time to express your gratitude to God for all that you
have been given by dedicating your time, talents, witness, service, and resources.
The gifts you give are helping God build the community of love in this place and in
our world.

We offer several ways that you can give your fiscal pledge: in person by placing
your offering in the "church mailbox" in the narthex, dropping it off at the office, by
mail, through our website www.panthervalleychurch.org, or add PVEC to your
online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

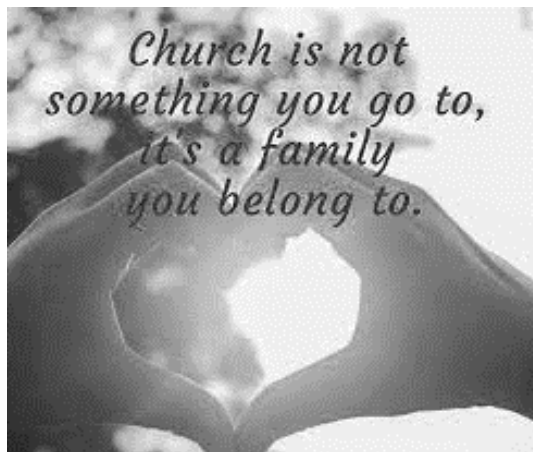
**God of all creation, thank you that your promises are sure, you are faithful,
we can rely on you. Your word says that we will find joy in offering our
time, talents, and money to meet the needs of others. Help us to give freely,
sacrificially, and cheerfully towards the work of your kingdom. May you
cause the seeds that we sow to the ground into well-watered, fruitful trees
of life. Lord bless us and keep us, make your face shine upon us. Turn your
face towards us as plants turn towards the sun. Give us peace, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, AMEN.**

BENEDICTION

Scatter amongst this community as seeds scatter. Water those roots which are dry and need reminding of the love that is Christ. Do good works to grow fruitful disciples and a plentiful harvest of Christians doing God's work. Give love to others, give love to yourself, be love because you are loved.

Be an influence in the world today. Let Christ guide you in this mission. Be well. Be loved. Be you. Amen.

POSTLUDE



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for: Giselle, Carolyn, Jayne, Judy, Catherine, Marianne, Betty, Jane Cirotti, Jane S., Barbara McConnell Family, The Sass Family, The Washburn Family - medical tests, Adam - open heart surgery, Samantha - medical tests & surgeries, for those struggling with loss, Zoe's nephew Rich Pearson who had his heart transplant and for the family who lost a loved one so he may live.

Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf is on vacation through Monday, June 14th.

Anne Ellis will be hosting the **6/13 Book Study**; Love is the Way.

The **next date of communion** is Sunday, June 20th.

The Worship Commission, instead of presenting boutonnieres to the fathers on Father's Day will instead be contributing \$25 toward a campership in honor of the fathers of PVEC.

Rummage Sale transport help is needed. Boxes of unsold items are packed and ready for transport at your convenience. If you can pick some up by car or truck and take them to ReStore in Washington, we would be very appreciative. You will find them in Fellowship Hall. Contact Penny with questions at 908-619-8119.

Vacation Bible School 2021 has been cancelled.

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

1490 Route 517 Hackettstown, NJ 07840

~Welcome—we were built for you!~

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a multi-denominational church serving northwest New Jersey since 1969. We are formally affiliated with:

The Episcopal Church, The United Church of Christ,
The Presbyterian Church USA, and The United Methodist Church.

We are a congregation of many Christian traditions who worship together in accordance with Christ's prayer: "that they may all be one."

May God's Blessing go with you this week.

Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf

Email: pvecpastor@gmail.com

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Nikki Nicinski

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Website: <http://www.panthervalleychurch.org>

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: panthervalleychurch@gmail.com

Friends • Family • Faith