



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

June 12, 2022  
CHRISTIAN UNITY

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

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website  
[PantherValleyChurch.org](http://PantherValleyChurch.org)*

**FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH**



## **PRELUDE**

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

## **BELLS**      *Simple Gifts*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** We are the body of Christ!

**ALL:** **The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing, justice seeking, hymn singing, love making, bread breaking, risk taking Body of Christ!**

**ONE:** Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body.

**All:** **Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.**

**None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."**

**For only together can we find wholeness.**

**None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."**

**For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers; we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!**

**ONE:** Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

### **PRAYER OF INVITATION**

**No special qualifications needed;**

**No particular connections or exclusive memberships required;**

**No secret passwords or unique attributes expected;**

**No campaigning or canvassing,**

**no examinations or reference checks;**

**Just an amazing invitation to a feast;**

**to find our place at Your table,**

**Alongside these other unworthy ones,**

**these other beloved ones;**

**these others humble enough to accept the invitation**

**without asking who else will be there.**

**Well, Jesus, Lord of the Feast,**

**with thankful and open hearts,**

**we accept Your amazing invitation.**

## HYMN

### We Are the Church

#### *Refrain*

I am the church  
You are the church  
We are the church together  
All who follow Jesus  
All around the world  
Yes we're the church together

The church is not a building  
The church is not a steeple  
The church is not a resting place  
The church is a people

#### *Refrain*

We're many kinds of people  
With many kinds of faces  
All colors and all ages too  
From all times and places

#### *Refrain*

Sometimes the church is marching  
Sometimes it's bravely burning  
Sometimes it's riding sometimes hiding  
Always it's learning

#### *Refrain*

And when the people gather  
There's singing and there's praying  
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes  
All of it saying

#### *Refrain*

**LITANY OF CONFESSION** (inspired by passages Ephesians 2:14, John 17, Galatians 3:28, Romans 12:5)

ONE: God, we believe you have called us to unity, but often we have isolated ourselves from others,

**ALL: God, forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on those who are different.**

ONE: God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body,

**ALL: God, forgive us for the times we have created division within your worldwide church.**

ONE: God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others,

**ALL: God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.**

ONE: God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name,

**ALL: Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.**

ONE: God, we believe you call us to be one even as you are one,

**ALL: Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one.**

*Pause to offer up prayers for unity within the church*

ONE: God and Creator of all humankind, your son Jesus Christ prayed that your church might be one even as you our God are one.

May you renew our minds and rekindle your love in our hearts, so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that you intend for us.

**ALL: God, may we see in your Oneness our need for unity,  
God, may we see in your Three-ness our need for community.  
God, may we see in your creativity our need for diversity,  
God, may we see in your Self our need to love each other.  
Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

John 17:20-23

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

“I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

1 Peter 4:10-11

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

## **MESSAGE**

### **PVEC COVENANT**

**We, a gathering of the people of God, celebrating the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, seeking in faithfulness to unite under the Gospel for Christ’s mission and service to the world, covenant to seek the development of Christian unity and community.**

**In joining together in this covenant we take upon ourselves these responsibilities:**

- **to be involved in this ministry through participation in its program,**
- **underwriting its support with our substance,**
- **and through the commitment of our abilities to its mission;**
- **to grow in a living, working faith so that we will be sensitive to each other’s needs and equipped to meet them;**
- **to be sensitive to new forms of worship and ministry;**
- **to involve ourselves in the most pressing needs of our society, thereby making real the redemptive role of Christ’s Church;**
- **to include in our vision the world-wide concerns of the Christian faith;**
- **to welcome to our fellowship all people whatever their race, condition, ethnic origin, or religious denomination;**
- **to witness corporately and individually to our faith in Jesus Christ.**

**We assume these responsibilities to the end that the Lord Jesus Christ, who made us one body under one covenant, sealed by his own blood, may have his prayer answered, “That they may all be one. . .”**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**Bless us, O God. That we may, here in this place, construct more than a building. That we may build a church, a community of faith, which stands as a haven for those that live in darkness; as a place of healing for those who are afflicted; as a beacon sounding forth; a note of hope and joy and love; that comes from you because of the gift of your son. For we pray in His name. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*We invite you to pray the prayer in the language you are used to speaking. Today we are highlighting the prayer in the Ecumenical Text which was developed in contemporary language by the English Language Liturgical Consultation in 1988.*

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours Now and for ever. 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: dropping it into the "church" located in the Narthex, by mail, through our website, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.**

## **LITANY OF FARWELL**

I thank you, the members and friends of *Panther Valley Ecumenical Church*, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere.**

**We express our gratitude for your time among us.**

**We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.**

**Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

I release you from turning to me and depending on me.

I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you, for your supply pastor, and for your new pastor.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Go now into the world, inspired by the extravagant love of God.

Live generously, with open hands, loving one another as if your lives depended on it. Be good stewards of the gifts you have received, so that God may be glorified in all that you say and do.

And may the abundant love of God surround you, may the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ sustain you, and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit inspire and encourage you in every good deed and word. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**



*Credits:* Call to Worship is written by Ann B. Day.  
Prayer of Invitation is written by John van de Laar.  
Litany of Confession is written by Christine Sine.  
Prayer of the People is written by Dr. William H. McGregor for the groundbreaking for Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry Church Building July 16, 1978.  
Prayer of Dedication is written by Joanna Harder.  
Litany of Farwell is from the Book of Worship.

Hymn: We Are the Church, CCLI #18510, 1972 Hope Publishing Company.

### **Stewardship Snippet (Trinity Sunday - Year C) June 12, 2022**

#### **John 16:12-15**

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Trinity, Our Mystery of Faith - The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the ways and the means by which our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men, and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin."

And to you God's children, listen closely, for I'm about to tell you a mystery: What does "Trinity" mean? It means, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so..."  
Donna Weinberg

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

The Ukrainian People & Our World, Refugees Everywhere, A fond farewell & best wishes to Ninabeth & The Metcalf Family, Betty, Don, Steve, Ellen, Stephanie & Ryan

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|-------------|---|
| 6/12        | Pastor Ninabeth's last day leading worship is today.<br>There is a celebration for her following service. |
| 6/18        | Fish & Chips Dinner next Sat. from 5-7pm.   |
| 6/19 & 6/26 | Dan Ledwith will preach.  |
| 7/3         | Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile with begin leading worship as guest preacher.                                   |

## **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](mailto:pvecpastor@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Nikki Nicinski

Email: [pvecsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pvecsecretary@gmail.com)

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

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

Tel: 908-852-5444

Email: [panthervalleychurch@gmail.com](mailto:panthervalleychurch@gmail.com)

**FAMILY ~ FAITH ~ FRIENDS**