

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



# PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

## October 2, 2022

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

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

**FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS**

**Thank you to Rev. Gail Pendleton who will be leading today's service.**

## **PRELUDE**

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Give thanks to God, who made us from dust and cares for us as precious treasures.

People: **God's love endures forever!**

Leader: Give thanks to God's only Begotten who lived and died for us, was raised to new life for us, and ever lives to pray for us

People: **God's love endures forever!**

Leader: Give thanks to God the Spirit who breathes into us new life, and calls us all to ministry in Christ's name.

People: **God's love endures forever!**

Leader: Give thanks to the Triune God who summons us together to bear witness with joy.

People: **God's love endures forever!**

## **HYMN #139**

### **Praise To The Lord The Almighty**

#### **Verse 1**

Praise to the Lord the Almighty  
The King of creation  
O my soul praise Him  
For He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

#### **Verse 2**

Praise to the Lord Who over all things  
So wondrously reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings  
Yea so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth

### **Verse 3**

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper  
Thy work and defend thee  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us., But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, we confess our sin to God.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

### **SILENT PRAYER & PERSONAL CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**First Reading:**      Genesis 12:1-9

**Second Reading:**  1 Timothy 2: 1-6a

**MESSAGE**

“Rattling the Gates of Heaven”

Rev. Pendleton

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

LEADER: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**ALL: And grant us your salvation.**

LEADER: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**ALL: Let your people sing with joy.**

LEADER: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**ALL: For only in you can we live in safety.**

LEADER: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**ALL: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

LEADER: Let your way be known upon earth;

**ALL: Your saving health among all nations.**

LEADER: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**ALL: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

LEADER: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**ALL: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **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.**

## **GLORIA PATRI**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (adapted from the Belhar Confession)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,  
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family  
And we believe that this unity of the people of God  
must be manifest and active,  
in that we love one another;  
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,  
that we share one baptism together,  
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,  
that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope.  
which is the height and the breadth and the depth  
and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN#618**

**Let Us Break Bread Together**

**Verse 1**

Let us break bread together on our knees  
Let us break bread together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees  
With my face to the rising sun  
O Lord have mercy on me

**Verse 2**

Let us drink wine together on our knees  
Let us drink wine together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees  
With my face to the rising sun  
O Lord have mercy on me

**Verse 3**

Let us praise God together on our knees  
Let us praise God together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees  
With my face to the rising sun  
O Lord have mercy on me

**INVITATION**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER CONTINUED**

**RESPONSE**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**PRAYER CONTINUED**

**RESPONSE**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

**PRAYER CONTINUED**

**BREAKING THE BREAD**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MINUTES FOR MISSION**

Christian Education

Dan Ledwith

**THE OFFERING**

Ascribe to the Lord and bring honor and gifts unto His name.

**THE DOXOLOGY**

**(unison)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**HYMN #577**

**God Of Grace And God Of Glory**

**Verse 1**

God of grace and God of glory  
On your people pour your pow'r  
Crown your ancient church's story  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r

**Chorus**

Grant us wisdom grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour  
For the living of these days  
That our lives may bring you praise  
Grant us wisdom grant us courage  
Serving God whom we adore  
Let the gift of your salvation  
Be our glory evermore

**Verse 2**

Set our feet on lofty places  
Stir our hearts that we may be  
Ever seeking Christlike graces  
Ever closer Lord to thee

**Verse 3**

While the evil all around us  
Scorns our Christ and mocks his ways  
Our own doubts and fears have bound us  
Free our hearts to work and praise  
Lord free our hearts

**Ending**

Praise the Lord forevermore

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Leader: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Credits:* Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

Music: Praise To The Lord The Almighty CCLI Song # 43073, Catherine Winkworth | Joachim Neander © Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain; Let Us Break Bread Together CCLI Song # 3205952, William Farley Smith © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); God Of Grace And God Of Glory CCLI Song # 7052911, Laura Farnell © 2015 Choristers Guild

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### **Please pray for:**

The Family and Friends of Louise Shepherd (Nikki's friend), Greg Weinrich, Charlie Janz, Desmond Connolly, Lenny & Norma, Steve, Ellen, Stephanie & Ryan, Patrick

We are bringing back our "Noisy Offering" this upcoming Sunday! Our kids are excited to jingle their way through the sanctuary and we encourage all those who join us for worship to empty the cupholders of your cars, search your couch cushions and bring any unused change with you to church. The students will be donating that change collected to a charity focused on making our earth a better place as they are learning this year how God created our earth perfect for us! We thank you all for your support in this endeavor. Dan Ledwith

**Handbell Choir Practices** are now scheduled for 10am on Tuesdays.

PVEC is having its annual **Soup Sale**. Soup can be picked up after services on Sunday, October 16, 2022, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

The **PVEC Youth Squad** will be having their first meeting on Friday, October 14 from 6:30-7:30pm at church. Ages 11-16 are welcome!

**Help is requested for the November Rummage Sale.** Please contact Penny or Cylvia if you can assist. Thank you!



## Upcoming Events

- Sun. 10/2** Communion during Worship Service, Coffee Hour after  
**Sat. 10/8** 9-11am \$5 Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Youth Squad  
(Campership Fundraiser)  
**Fri. 10/14** 6:30-7:30pm Youth Squad Meeting  
**Sun. 10/16** 11am-1pm Fall Soup Sale  
**Sun. 10/30** Trunk or Treat for Sunday School  
**Fri. 11/4** 9am-3pm Fall Rummage Sale/Christmas Boutique/Bake Sale  
**AND** **Looking for helpers & bakers please.**  
**Sat. 11/5** 9am-12pm Donations being accepted on Tue & Thur, 9am-2pm  
**Sat. 11/19 3:30-6:30pm** Family/Friends Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Youth Squad  
All are welcome! RSVP by 11/12/22.

## Update on Financial Condition of PVEC

### Rick Wilson 9/25/22

Cylvia asked me to provide an update on the financial condition of the church. My review is through July because I have not yet seen the August financial statements. At the end of July it had only been one month since Ninabeth left so this review does not reflect much savings of the Minister expenses.

Operating Pledges year-to-date are 11.7% less than July 2021. Our Total Income is slightly ahead of last July because of the increase in Loose Collection and donations for specific purposes such as Vacation Bible School and Altar Flowers.

Expenses are 9.6% higher than July 2021, but as stated earlier we have not yet realized significant savings from the transition from Full-Time Minister to Pulpit Supply.

Our deficit year-to-date through July is \$48,886.38.

As I have reported in the past, we have money in the bank and invested with Wespeth Investments (investment arm of the United Methodist Church). In addition, we have funds committed for specific purposes on our Balance Sheet including Manse, Capital Improvements, Christian Education, Christian Outreach and Sabbatical Leave.

Our Operating Fund is what remains to operate PVEC after all specific committed funds. Our Operating Fund deficit has increased to \$102,844.21. This is not sustainable long-term. I anticipate we will realize additional expense savings as we transition from full-time minister to pulpit supply to part-time minister which I believe the Search Committee is considering. As I mentioned during the congregational budget meeting, we have an income problem and not really an expense problem as our expenses are basic and necessary to run the church.

On a more positive note, we have a significant Endowment Fund, especially for a church of our size. These funds are separate from our bank accounts and funds invested with Wespeth Investments. Our endowment funds are invested with United Church Funds which is the investment arm of the United Church of Christ. As with the overall

investment market the value of these funds has declined this year. Our Endowment Fund is reserved for a specific purpose, and we can only use the interest earned on the principal which has been gifted to PVEC. If anyone has any questions or wants to discuss our financial condition further you can see me after church, call or e-mail me. Thank you.

## **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.

**Guest Preacher:** Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile

**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

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**FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS**