

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

September 18, 2022

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

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

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

Thank you to Rev. Willard Joseph who will be leading today's service.

Thanks to our guest musician, Mike Ventura.

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Loving God, you are greater than we can understand,
But you seek us so that we may know you and be known
by you;

ALL: Open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.

ONE: You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

ALL: Help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we
learn who you have made us to be.

ONE: You are wiser than we can know;

ALL: Still our minds as we worship you, so that we can
understand the things you are saying to us.

ONE: In love, you spoke to us through the Law and the
Prophets;

In love, your Son fulfills all your promises;

In love, your Spirit seals us with your word of life!

ALL: Loving God, we worship and adore you!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of life, by your Word you create and by your Spirit you give life. We worship you with joy and thanksgiving, praising you for the fullness that your presence brings to our lives, and our life together. We praise you that by your word you feed us; we are satisfied, and there is always more. Your goodness is displayed in your wonderful works and in your perfect and steadfast love. Give us eyes to see you and ears to hear you in all things. We praise you and adore you! Amen.
(Inspired by Psalm 107)

HYMN #405

Seek Ye First

Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things
Shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Verse 2

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1

Reading of the Psalms: Psalm 79: 1-9

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Gospel Reading, ALL STAND: Luke 16: 1-13

MESSAGE

“Just Do It”

Rev. Joseph

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.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

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.

ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES FOR MISSION

Finance

Rick Wilson

THE OFFERING

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Set Me Free

Mike Ventura

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.*

OFFERING PRAYER, ALL STAND

Faithful One, you have entrusted us with so many gifts that are more important than worldly possessions. You have called us to be stewards of all that you have created. We strive to fulfill your call to be generous stewards by openly sharing the bounty you have placed under our care. We know that we visibly demonstrate our commitment to your work in this world by giving these tithes and offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (Luke 16:1-13)

HYMN #405

Seek Ye First

Verse 3

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

***Today's Altar Flowers are given by Carol Phillips
in memory of Nick.***

Credits: Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

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Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for:

Greg Weinrich, The McKinnon Family, Pete Mason, Ed Belunger, Renee Lundy-Covid, The Family of Jane Sconzo (Nikki)

Council Enews for 9/11/22, Submitted by Cylvia Ultz, Council Chair

The Council had decided that to address the issue of increased communication, we would write a monthly message to the congregation following our meeting. I missed August (sorry), but here's issue #3.

The Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile has been our guest preacher since July. We are settling in nicely to her services and enjoying her jokes and messages. She truly is a godsend as we navigate our new reality. Jeanette makes us think as we listen to her sermons. A couple of weeks ago, she gave us a very interesting sermon about our ecumenicity. It had some fascinating information for all of us, even those who have been part of PVEC for ages.

We are almost finished giving our Minutes for Mission, highlighting our commissions and their work. All have been incredibly inspiring, so we have been trying to include the written versions in the enews for those unable to hear the messages in person. This is really helpful since we continue to struggle with the recording of the service for some weeks. We will probably get it all figured out about the time a new minister comes on board. Many thanks also to Nikki, who helps us navigate through these problems.

Speaking of a new minister - no, we don't have one yet. But the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC has been working with us and as of 8/19/22 our "call" has been officially posted. We are patiently waiting for interested parties to contact us.

We are set for our fall slate of activities - Sunday School, Bible Study, Soup Sale, and Rummage Sale. Every one of these could use lots of new volunteers, so be ready to speak up if you wish to help.

Bottom line, we are thriving and looking forward to a successful autumn season with Jeanette.

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

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

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FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS