

Welcome to the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

We are glad you are worshiping with us today!



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

January 29, 2023

Worship in the Episcopal Tradition

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

Our Worship can be viewed on our website

PantherValleyChurch.org

FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS

PRELUDE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN #451 “Be Thou My Vision”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

LEADER: Lord, open our lips.

ALL: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

LEADER: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.
Let us now say together:

JUBILATE Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

COLLECT (see insert)

THE LESSONS

LEADER: The first lesson is from Old Testament: Micah 6:1-8 (see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15 (see insert)

LEADER: The second lesson is from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (see insert)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: ALL STAND, Matthew 5:1-12 (see insert)

LEADER: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

ALL: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

LEADER: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;***

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.***

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

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.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYER OF ST.FRANCIS

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we

are born to eternal life. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

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 #708 "Rejoice in God's Saints"

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE – *Please remain seated and quiet until the end of the postlude.*

Credits: Image by Ninabeth Metcalf.

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Announcements & Upcoming Events

Please pray for:

Brittany, Rob & Cecelia, Susan Magnotta, Kat, Cindy, Family of Alan Quick, Chris, and for those who lost their lives at the LA Dance Club & at the farm in California

Please plan on attending the **Congregational Meeting for the 2023 Budget today.** (There are still copies of the budget in the narthex.) And afterwards, please join us for a coffee hour to say thank you to Jeanette for all she has done for us!

Donation Statements are in the narthex to be picked up. If you need yours mailed, please call the office to let us know.

Council Enews for 1/15/23

Submitted by Cylvia Ultz, Council Chair

The Council is continuing to address the issue of increased communication. Here is the latest news in issue #6.

Happy New Year! And what a good year 2023 is turning out to be! Sadly, our amazing administrative assistant, Nikki, is leaving us to move out of state. But we have hired her replacement who will be starting next week, training alongside Nikki. So if you get a chance, stop in the office during the last week of January to wish Nikki all the best and welcome Judy Cataldi to PVEC. Same as Nikki, Judi will be working 4 days per week. We will let you know which day will be open. We are trying to find several volunteers to man the office that one day. If we can get 4 people, only one day a month would be needed from each person. Give Cylvia a call if you can help.

Next, there's also good news on the pastor search. Our UCC contact, Rev. Craig Peterson, has been working diligently to get our name out to interested clergy across multiple denominations. Two candidates have expressed an interest in PVEC, so they are currently being vetted. Once that hurdle is cleared, we will be given more information. Stay tuned!

We owe a huge thank you to Rev. Deacon Jeanette Hile for preaching in our pulpit for 7 months. She has given us a strong sense of stability during these months, as well as MANY words of wisdom to live by. We wish her well as she returns to her own small church. She deserves the rest; after all, she is retired!

As far as preaching is concerned, we have the pulpit covered through the end of March with many familiar faces. Mel Prestamo, Rev. Mike Atzert, and Darasue Braun will be returning, as well as our own Dan Ledwith, to grace our sanctuary with their inspiring words. And we are working on Palm Sunday and Easter, just in case we still don't have someone permanently in place by April.

One problem that you may have noticed (actually, I don't know how you could have missed it) has been our internet. We have had office, phone, recording, Church Windows, and zoom issues for several months. Hopefully a new router, once it's installed, will clear up most of these problems, so we can once again be part of the online action. Keep praying.

We are set for our winter and spring slate of activities - Sunday School, Bible Study, "Souper" Bowl 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. And finally, listen for the newest Stewardship campaign that Anne Ellis will be spearheading. It should be exciting, informative, and fun.

Peace and blessings to everyone. Please keep PVEC and our church family in your prayers. God is working miracles here.

THE SOUPER BOWL SOUP SALE IS BACK!

PLACE YOUR ORDER BY: Sunday, February 5th

ORDER PICK UP: February 12, Noon through 2 p.m.

Gourmet Soups: \$9 per Quart, \$5 per Pint

Soup List:

Bean & Bacon

Celery

Chicken Noodle

Corn & Crab

Cream of Broccoli

Creamy Tortellini

Hamburger

Italian Wedding

Lentil

Manhattan Clam Chowder

Potato Leek

Split Pea

Squash

Tomato Orzo

Vegetarian

Veggie & Beef

*Each order comes with sliced Italian bread.

Call the office to place your order.

(908) 852-5444 Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

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: Judy Jepsen

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

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

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FAITH ~ FAMILY ~ FRIENDS