



**PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

*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**



## **PRELUDE**

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, walk in green pastures.

**All: We follow the Shepherd**

One: Come, lie down in green pastures.

**All: We trust the Shepherd**

One: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

**All: We are fed by the Shepherd**

One: Come, dwell in God's house.

**All: We live in the Shepherd's care.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

**AMEN.**

## **HYMN #138**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is (v. 1, 2, & 6)**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Good Shepherd, we take your care for granted. In the midst of your many blessings, we complain of not having enough. In the presence of danger, we fail to trust your abiding love. When you set a table before us, we turn aside from you. Call us back into your care and help us trust your caring presence, that our actions may proclaim your truth. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

God forgives our failures and calls us back into the flock. .

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Acts 2:42-47**

**Psalm 23 \*\* Choral Response \*\***

## **GOSPEL READING**

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

## **MESSAGE**

**Dan Ledwith**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*We invite you to pray the prayer in the language you are used to speaking.*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

God calls us to love one another as God loves us. In this we know the truth of Christ's peace. Share signs of Christ's peace with one another this day.

## **THE OFFERING**

The Shepherd cares for us, providing all that we need in abundance. The Shepherd calls us to love one another in truth and action. May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd's care. May our offerings show our willingness to love on another. 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.

## **OFFERTORY**

**Choir**

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.**

**HYMN#334**

**Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Today's Altar Flowers are given by Betty Schultheis in honor of her daughter, Cindy's, birthday.*

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## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Please pray for:** Our Church, the parishioners of PVEC, our world, our families and friends, John, Anne, Bonnie Sue, Charles, Walter, Myrna, Simon, Helen, Bruce, Keith, & Essance

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sun. 4/30</b> | Dan Ledwith preaching                                       |
| <b>Sun. 5/7</b>  | Rev. David Snyder (UCC) preaching                           |
| <b>Sun. 5/14</b> | Dan Ledwith preaching                                       |
| <b>Sat. 5/20</b> | PVEC Craft Fair & Craft n' Crop                             |
| <b>Sun. 5/21</b> | James Vespoli preaching<br>May Counseling Meeting (11:30am) |
| <b>Sun. 5/28</b> | Dan Ledwith preaching                                       |
| <b>Sat. 6/24</b> | Fish & Chips Dinner   |
| <b>Fri. 7/14</b> | Lifeline Screening  |

# **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:** TBA, transition period

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

**Music Director:** Diane Van Dongen

**Church Administrator:** Melissa Zabriskie

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

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