

PVEC Happenings



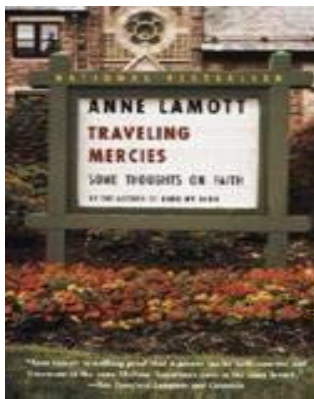
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JOIN THE PVEC SUMMER BOOK CLUB!

Interested in reading and discussing good books this summer? Pastor David will be forming a book club to meet once a month on a Tuesday evening (7PM -8:30PM) during June, July, and August.

The first meeting will be on July 15th at Pam Dougherty's home (East Ave., Hackettstown). Pastor David has recommended Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott for the June meeting. More information to follow.



"Lamott has developed an entirely new genre of religious writing. Gritty, stark, and humorous, she catches the reader by surprise when she points her pen heavenward....Anne Lamott is the patron saint of struggling sinners, a woman who loves God enough to be divinely human."

-Religion News Service

Time to Plan Your Flower Garden

The Christian Education Commission wants to remind you that they will be holding their annual "plant" sale on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Order forms will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin beginning on May 2nd. The funds raised by the plant sale help to fund Christian Ed activities such as Vacation Bible School each year. There will be a wide variety of annuals and some perennials. Doreen Schaffer, our resident plant lady will be selecting the flowers again this year.





The Beloved Community

As your pastor, I am well aware that my approach to ministry will inevitably leave a stamp on the congregation. Each leader brings his or her own personality to the role of personality, and what is important to one may not have been important to another. And when choosing a pastor, a church does its best in selecting someone whose gifts and passions match the needs and direction the church is already hoping to go.

So, now that I've been serving with you all these past eight months, what did you get? ...Besides a ponytail, Philadelphia Phillies paraphernalia, and a whole lot more purple everything, that is. How have I as your pastor sought to leave my mark on you?

I have tried to be intentional not to radically alter our worship life, our leadership style, or to delete any of the great programs and ministries already in place. I am also careful not to use the pulpit as a place of political campaigning or a fundraising platform either.

So where do I push...?

As the sole parish of Christian worship in Allamuchy Township, I believe it is both our civic duty and God's commission on us to serve our community. We are called to step beyond our walls and serve our neighbor to the best stewardship of our resources we can.

You can see it already in the hospitality attitude of our church. Think of the hundreds of families in need we send home every year with food you donated or purchased to share. Think of the community organizations we support by sharing the resource of our building: Alcoholics Anonymous, Hackettstown and Great Meadows Moms' Clubs, and the Girl Scouts to name a few. Finally, think of the witness each and every one of you brings to your friends and neighbors when you share invitation with them on our behalf.

A wonderful place we've also grown this year in our capacity to serve has been in our intentional effort to partner with other communities of faith, social and civic organizations here in our backyard. When we worship together as a local ministerium of churches, partner together as a Presbyterian cluster for the sake of youth fellowship or even invite Allamuchy elementary school to host a fundraiser in our parking lot, we're bearing witness that Christ calls us to serve our community and not only ourselves.

Willam Temple, former Archbishop of the Church of England, wrote in the 1930s, during the fit of a worldwide depression not unlike our own "*The church is the only society on earth which exists for the benefit of its non-members.*" Temple himself, in addition to his service to the Church of England, was a passionate leader in the Ecumenical movement, his efforts contributing to the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1937.

Moving forward, I hope to continue as a church to look past our own walls. Let us strive to remember our primary membership is not to Panther Valley Ecumenical Church but to the Church of Jesus Christ. And let us celebrate that Jesus Christ, our head, has claimed us and called us his own in the unity of the Holy Spirit to be one body in his name.

~Pastor David

WORSHIP COMMISSION NEWS

How you can help

We have need for ushers, greeters, readers, new choir members, new bell ringers, new flower buyers – Contact Evelyn Self at selfevelyn@yahoo.com, or see her at church!

Music is a Blessing

On behalf of the congregation we extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Roy Sergeant, our music director; the handbells and our choir for the music that they presented on Easter Sunday. We continue to get excellent feedback about the music that the groups are performing ongoing.

It is acknowledged that nothing happens without work, so thank you all for giving your time and effort to bring so much joy to our church. We are blessed to have your support.

~The Worship Commission

Worship and Fellowship Suggestions

As we approach the summer season, we move into a fellowship period and many of our usual programs are suspended until September.

We welcome your input and suggestion to consider ways to enhance our Worship and Fellowship. Please share your thoughts.

~Pastor David and Evelyn Self

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH NEWS

The Lord's Pantry continues to help local families during these difficult times. We are averaging about twelve families a month and the food contributions from our congregation and friends have been a big help. In addition to donations from our church members, St. James Episcopal Church in Hackettstown donated funds from their Souper Bowl and Rev. Wright's food drive was a great success and greatly appreciated.

During the month of March, three families were provided with extra weekend meals especially selected for their needs under our Power Pack Program. The proceeds from our Souper Bowl lunch were used. We are currently evaluating options for our next projects as well as helping in the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Warren County. Help in meal preparations and overnight supervision are needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Commission wishes to thank the members of the congregation who attended the Seder on Palm Sunday. A very special thank you to Greg and Ellen Maddock for being our host and hostess. Greg read from the Seder booklet and we were treated to Ellen's chanting from the Haggadah. And a very special thank you to Ron Reece for preparing the traditional Seder

The Time Has Come to Organize Our Library

Bob Zinckgraf just repainted the Library and now this warm, cozy room is even more inviting. We have lots and lots of books and video tapes...but they are crying for organization.

Our goal is to be able to have the Library open every Sunday during coffee hour so that the congregation may check out books. We want to have our lending cart full of children's books available for the children to take home.

In order to be able to do this we need to rearrange the books, categorizing them properly and preparing each book/tape to be signed out. Some materials need to be repaired or even discarded. If you are interested in working on this project, there will be a sign-up form in the Sunday Bulletin next week.

This is a big project and could use many hands.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

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*"In our diversity we find
common ground in Christ"*

*Visit us on the web at
pvem.net*

Recipe Corner

Several congregation members have requested the "Cashew Salad" recipe served at Pastor David's Birthday celebration. Here it is:

Asian Cabbage Salad (serves 8-10)

1 tbs. soy sauce	1 pkg. Top Ramen (chicken flavor)
½ c. salad oil	¼ c. butter
¼ c. red wine vinegar	1 (8 oz.) pkg. Whole cashews unsalted
1/3 c. sugar	
6 green onions or scallions, chopped	
1 large cabbage, shredded or 1 large bag pre-shredded cabbage*	

* You might want to add a small package of shredded red cabbage for color.

Dressing: Mix together soy sauce, salad oil, red wine vinegar and sugar. Make in advance to blend flavors.

Mix cabbage and onions; set aside. Smash noodles and brown in skillet with seasoning packet from noodles, butter and cashews. Cool thoroughly. **Just before serving**, toss cabbage and onion mixture with noodle mixture. Pour all of the dressing over and thoroughly toss.

This is a wonderful salad to make in advance and bring to a picnic – keeping the ingredients separate – and mixing on site. Refrigeration is not necessary! ~Donna Weinberg