

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church  
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**For Immediate Release:**

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Carries on Prayer Shawl Tradition

The Togetherness Circle of Panther Valley Ecumenical Church carries on a rich tradition by distributing Prayer Shawls as symbols of care, solace, and celebration. For centuries, prayer shawls, also known as Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, and Mantles, have been distributed by a variety of religious denominations.

To date, sixteen knitters from the church have knitted sixty-two shawls. The shawls have been distributed to newborn babies, hospital patients, and community members suffering from illness, accident or the loss of a loved one. Prayer shawls are also distributed to those celebrating a happy event.

The knitting of a prayer shawl is steeped in tradition, with the knitter beginning each shawl with prayers and blessings for the intended recipient. Many recipients continue the blessings by passing on the prayer shawl, or through expressions of appreciation and gratitude to the members of Togetherness Circle.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a multi-denominational congregation located at 1490 Route 517 in Allamuchy. Officially, the church is comprised of four denominations: the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church, USA. The church seeks to build unity in faith and welcomes and includes people of all denominations and traditions. For more information on Panther Valley Ecumenical Church, contact the church office at (908) 852-5444 or log onto the church website at [www.pvem.net](http://www.pvem.net).