

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
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For Immediate Release:

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Hosts Christian Unity Service

On January 15th at 3:00 p.m., an area wide celebration of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at Panther Valley Ecumenical Church in Allamuchy. The Rev. Galen Goodwin, District Supervisor of the Skylands District of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be preaching. Also participating will be Rev. Bill Saum, Executive Presbyterian of the Newton Presbytery of the Presbyterian church USA, Canon Carter Echols of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, Rev. Sherry Taylor, minister of the New Jersey Association of the United Church of Christ, Very Rev. David Pekola, Dean of the Morris Canal Deanery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, and Rev. Dr. Mary Lou Howson, pastor of Panther Valley Ecumenical Church.

The theme of the service is "Where two or three are gathered in my name," from Matthew 18:15-22. All area clergy are invited to vest and process in the service. Clergy wishing to participate are asked to contact the PVEC church office ahead of time so that appropriate plans can be made. As red will be the color of the day, participating clergy are asked to wear red.

Music for the service will be provided by the Pocono Choral Society. A reception will follow immediately after the service in the church's Fellowship Hall. The public is invited to attend both the community worship service and the reception afterwards.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was initiated in 1908 by the Rev. Paul Wattson, co-founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. Its observance has changed over the years, in concert with developments in the ecumenical movement. The Week of Prayer has grown to become a world-wide celebration of ecumenicity, with the theme and scriptural references for each year's observance chosen by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a unique multi-denominational church 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 and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, contact the church office at (908) 852-5444 or log onto the church website at <http://www.pvem.net>