

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
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For Immediate Release:

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Celebrates it's 36th Anniversary

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church will be celebrating its 36th anniversary on Sunday, December 18. The Reverend Dr. Mary Lou Howson will lead the congregation in celebration during its 10:00 a.m. worship service. The congregation will gather after worship to share an anniversary cake and to view scrapbooks dealing with the church's history.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church was created in 1969 to meet the spiritual needs of residents moving into Panther Valley, a development begun in the late 1960's in Allamuchy. As there were no churches in Allamuchy, the developer, Philip Bowers 2nd, thought that one church instead of several would provide a place nearby where the residents of Panther Valley could practice their faith. The New Jersey Council of Churches was consulted and the concept of an ecumenical church was born.

Representatives of the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church, USA, formed a committee to explore the concept of a community church which would accommodate the needs of a variety of denominations. PVEC's first worship service was on December 21, 1969. The congregation moved into its present location at 1490 Route 517 in Allamuchy on Easter Sunday, 1979. Although the church was originally intended to serve the needs of Panther Valley, it has since attracted members from Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon, and Morris counties. The church seeks to build unity in faith and welcomes and includes people of all denominations and traditions.

Arlene Bailey, a long-time member of the church, is contacting former friends and members of the church to invite them to join the anniversary celebration. All are invited to attend the service. For more information on PVEC and its unique history, contact the church office at (908) 852-5444, Arlene Bailey at (908) 852-3140, or log onto the church website at <http://www.pvem.net>