

Welcome to The Packanack Community Church

We are proud to be an Open and Affirming Congregation!

We believe the world with all of its diversity was created as a reflection of God's image. Therefore, we celebrate all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, family configurations, education, or spiritual and religious traditions.

At Packanack, we are passionate about family, friendships, and finding our calling in God's unconditional love. Rather than use the Bible as a tool for discrimination and exclusion, we choose to interpret its overall message of love as being inclusive of all people. As a community of faith that reflects God's love, we welcome everyone. We invite you to worship with us and experience the full life, mission, and ministry of our church as we endeavor to embrace inclusion and justice in our world. Jesus did not turn anyone away and neither do we.

In our congregation, you will find acceptance as we explore our faith together. Come and join us in discovering God's radical love as we practice extravagant welcome.



OUR MISSION

The Packanack Community Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ called to "Put God's Love in Motion" by living our faith beyond the walls of our Sanctuary.

We seek to help one another discover our God-given gifts so we can have greater meaning, purpose and direction in our lives.

We work to bring hope, peace, joy and love to other people through ministries of mercy and justice with a spirit of gratitude for all our blessings and a vision of caring for one another's needs.

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER

The congregation is invited to share announcements about our life together as the people of God, including joys that we want to celebrate and concerns to lift up in prayer.

SIGN UP FOR STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Join the growing number of people in our congregation who start their day off with a word from the Lord. The StillSpeaking daily devotionals published by the United Church of Christ are a valuable source of spiritual formation, and can be automatically delivered to your email in-box every morning.

To sign up, please go to the following address: http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

The text of previous daily devotionals can also be found on this page.

THE PACKANACK COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Putting God's Love In Motion"
120 Lake Drive East, Wayne, NJ

October 25, 2020
10:00 AM
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



www.packanack.com
office@packanack.com
(973) 694-0608

What is the first thought that enters your mind when you hear the commandment to love God and your neighbor? What is the first image you picture? Do you notice a physical or emotional reaction? Perhaps it is a new commandment for you or one so familiar that it has lost its meaning, or possibly somewhere in between. Regardless, today we will spend some time sitting with this commandment and explore what it might mean for us today.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION
Love One Another

Daniel Mullens
Janice Detweiler

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to love the Lord our God
We are called to love with all our heart and soul
We are called to love the Lord our God
We are called to love with all our mind and strength
We are called to love the Lord our God
And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.
Come, let us love our God
and share God's love in this time of worship!

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of Light and Love,
help us this day to worship you
with all of our hearts, minds, and bodies.
Shower us with the grace of your Spirit
that we might joyfully receive
the message you have for us today. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Relentless God of love, you have shown us the way to love through the life and teachings of your son Jesus. We have so much to confess when it comes to the way we love. We hear your commandment over and over again to love you, love our neighbor, love ourselves, but again and again we fail in each category. We look around us and know that this radical love that you freely give and invite us to be a part of is what our world needs, especially now with the stark inequality, racism, fear, and hatred that has run rampant all around us. Forgive us God for the ways we are guilty of or complicate in these sins. Forgive us for all of the ways we have fallen short in being your love in our world. Help us to recognize how we can do better. Give us the courage to live your love radically even if it challenges our own comfort and security. We pray this in the name of Jesus, whose love we strive to embody. Amen

(A time for silent confession follows)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

Be Still, My Soul

Daniel Mullens

Jean Sibelius/Katharina von Schlegel

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

READING FROM THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

SERMON

"A Word Upon Which All Else Hangs"

Rev. Juli Bertalan

MUSICAL OFFERING

Love The Lord Your God

Daniel Mullens

Graeme Stewart

PASTORAL PRAYER

(During the Pastoral Prayer, you will be invited to call out the name of someone for whom you are praying.)

Lord, in Your Mercy,

Hear Our Prayer.

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.

*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

With what we give today, God, we demonstrate our deepest love.

Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before you.

May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

** If you can do so comfortably, you are invited to stand for these portions of the service.*

After the service, please stay seated-ushers will dismiss you by row.

Anyone in the sanctuary should leave through the narthex and anyone in Simmons Hall should leave down the stairs.

Please do not congregate in the sanctuary, Simmons Hall or the hallways-you can talk outside.

Photo by freestocks.org from Pexels
Call to Worship written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution
Opening Prayer adapted from prayer by Stephen M. Fearing
Prayer of Gratitude from UCC Worship Ways