

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. During this time, you are asked to sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to the person seated next to you so we can recognize each other and greet each other by name.

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



Photo by Retha Ferguson from Pexels

When we celebrate abundance for all, God must surely smile "

September 20, 2020

10:00 AM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

GENEROUS GRACE

PRELUDE

As The Deer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Even in times of hardship, we yearn to be faithful and true.

Help us receive your gifts,

even when we are tempted to grumble and complain.

Help us notice your generosity, even when we are envious of others.

Help us receive your abundant love with gratitude,

even when the world tells us we have much to begrudge.

Help us accept your generous grace,

that we may embrace the fullness of life that is ours,

through your generous love. Amen.

Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah's Anger at the Lord's Compassion

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant[a] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." ¹⁰But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

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Daniel Mullens
Martin Nystrom

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW*The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard*

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷“Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ ⁹The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16**SERMON**

“But God, It’s Not Fair!”

Rev. Alice Batcher

MUSICAL OFFERING

Redeemer

PASTORAL PRAYER

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**

Generous God of abundant love, receive our gifts this day.

**By your blessing, may these gifts feed hungry souls
and quench the world’s thirst for your presence.**

In your grace and love, we pray. Amen.

***BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EXIT MUSIC

Life Isn’t Fair

Smooth Hound Smith

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

Dominick and Sandra Colotta placed the flowers on the altar this morning in celebration of their grandson Robbie’s birthday on the 18th of September and celebration of their daughter and son-in-law’s anniversary on the 24th of September.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST PREACHER THIS MORNING: REV. ALICE BATCHER

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC, Rev. Alice was ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA. Later she sought privilege of call with the United Church of Christ. Alice has served as a local Pastor, and has done much Pulpit Supply for UCC and Presbyterian churches on Long Island and New Jersey. For the last year and a half, Alice’s weekday job has been as a Hospice Chaplain in Southern New Jersey. When not at work, Alice has been primarily sheltering in place with her two little dogs.

We are glad that you are worshipping with us this morning. Anyone who may not want to walk through the parking lot or climb the steps is encouraged to use the Mountainside entrance. If you need assistance, please notify an usher.

Food Pantry Donations Sunday, October 4: Your donations help meet the needs of Wayne families. **Next month we will collect cleaning and/or laundry products.** Throughout the year there is always a need for food store gift cards to continue the church's ongoing support to our Wayne families. Contributions can be mailed to the church or given to Martha Edgar for the food pantry, or Melissa Kaus for Angel's Calling. Checks made payable to Wayne Interfaith Network or Packanack Community Church with a memo indicating your preference for where the donation should go.

Flower schedule for the altar-If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please email the date and your dedication to office@packanack.com or call the office at 973-694-0608. Your flower dedication will appear on the Sunday announcement sheet. Dates available are: 9/27, 11/8, 11/29, 12/27.

Prayer Concerns

Ed Safer
Elfriede Schlumpf
Jessica DeHaan
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Ashley, Joan Rlley's niece and husband
Pam Sastre, Marge Smith's daughter
Karen Butler, Claire Butler's daughter
The Family of Wilma Nydam
The Family of Carol Olsen
Jim Klein
Ray and Diane Bosma
James Gould, Virginia Gould's son
Wendy Simon, Barbara Nebeling's daughter
Nicholas Serenkov-Son of Eugeniy and Marina Serenkov, Manse Tenants
Nicole Fini, friend of Joan Riley

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<https://twitter.com/packanackchurch>

<https://www.instagram.com/packanackcommunitychurch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PackanackCommunityChurch>

To sign up for “This Week at a Glance,” our weekly e-newsletter
send a request to office@packanack.com.