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Emmanuel United Church of Christ welcomes Reverend Kenneth Peterkin as its settled Pastor



HANOVER, PA. (November 17, 2021)

Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 124 Broadway, is overjoyed to announce that Reverend Kenneth Peterkin has accepted our call to become EUCC's settled Pastor on December 1, 2021, with his first service on December 5. Rev. Ken comes to Emmanuel UCC from The First Congregational Church in Essex, CT, where he served as their spiritual leader for 17 years. Rev. Ken felt he was called to serve at EUCC to celebrate and share the congregation's dedication to *Welcoming All* through their Open and Affirming commitment. *"I hope to meet the*

people of Hanover and surrounding areas who aren't afraid to express their love of God even though they may openly question God from time to time, which is entirely natural, and something shared with the great theologians and mystics of the ages. God is of the heart, and I want to share with people of the heart. I think Hanover has a great many people like that and I look forward to sharing and caring, hoping, dreaming, and building together," says Rev. Ken.

Rev. Ken was born and raised in Avon Lake, Ohio where he attended Avon Lake UCC. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and received his Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in 1996. He previously served St. Paul United Church of Christ in Saline, MI, and prior to that served a UCC church in Indianapolis, IN.

An additional joy for the Hanover community is that Rev. Ken's wife, Reverend Suzanne Personette (pictured with Pastor Ken above), whom he met while at seminary, is also an ordained UCC clergy person. Suzanne is an experienced Intentional Interim Minister, having led nine churches through their transitional journeys. Suzanne plans to open herself to interim opportunities within our area once she and Ken are settled in Hanover. Ken and Suzanne have a son, Abraham, who is attending Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

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Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 124 Broadway in Hanover, PA emmanuelucc.org
EUCC has a proud legacy as Hanover's church of "inclusive firsts" – first divorced minister, first female minister, first same sex marriage, first gay minister and first to become Open and Affirming. *No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.* In-person worship service is on Sunday at 10:30 am as well as online.