PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

December 11, 2024

Greeting Penn Central Conference friends and members,

In a time where the line between faith and nationalism is increasingly blurred, the church faces an urgent call to action. Christian Nationalism, with its distorted Gospel message, has grown in influence, undermining the church's prophetic voice. This threat demands a faithful response.

In October 2024, members of the United Church of Christ and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) gathered at Camp Daycholah in Wisconsin for the Next Generation Project. Supported by a generous grant from the Penn Central Conference, this gathering brought together pastors and lay leaders committed to resisting the conflation of faith and nationalism and fostering a healthier relationship between religion and democracy.

Camp Daycholah, with its beautiful lakeside setting, offered us a sacred space for reflection and collaboration. Over several days, our group explored the rise of Christian Nationalism, its impact on communities, and how the church can stand against its harmful ideologies in our country and in the greater world. Together we examined how Christian Nationalism distorts the Gospel, turning Christ's call for love, justice, and humility, into a narrative of exclusion and supremacy.

The gathering's highlight was the creation of the Daycholah Declaration, a living covenant to resist Christian Nationalism and uphold the liberating Gospel of Christ. Through small group discussions, we reflected on Christian Nationalism's influence, confessed the Protestant church's complicity, and affirmed a shared vision. We discerned the core themes we wanted to carry forward into our daily ministry settings. The Daycholah Declaration honors the justice and inclusion rooted in our traditions, providing a framework for faithful resistance. It also represents our commitment to proclaim

Continues on back

Contact us!

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Prayers for Penn Central Conference

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

Salona UCC, Mill Hall

St. Paul's UCC, Schaefferstown

St. Paul's UCC, Selinsgrove

Mt. Zion Welsh Congregational, Shamokin



the liberating Gospel of Christ. Readers can request a copy of this document from the PCC office

The PCC's support made this collaboration possible, enabling us to forge relationships across national and denominational lines and to imagine what faithful resistance to Christian Nationalism could look like in the years ahead. As the Next Generation Project continues, we will reconvene in April 2025 in Wuppertal, Germany, to deepen our partnership with the EKD, evaluate our progress, and equip ourselves to address this ongoing challenge.

Moving forward, we are committed to sharing this work with the wider church. Our aim is to equip congregations with tools to recognize and resist Christian Nationalism while embodying the Gospel's message of love and justice. We hope to deepen the partnership between the UCC and EKD in this shared mission as the next generation of church leaders.

We invite the wider Penn Central Conference to join us in this effort. Together, we can reaffirm the church's role as a beacon of hope, standing against ideologies rooted in fear and championing a faith that reflects God's boundless love. As Micah 6:8 reminds us: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Grounded in this call, we remain steadfast, proclaiming the Gospel of liberation and justice for all.

Thank you for supporting this important work.

PCC Representatives of the Next Generation Project of the PCC/EKD Partnership Group: Kelsey O'Brien, Rose Shepley, Adam Shepley

The United Church of Christ has established the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal and the Hurricanes 2024 Appeal.

https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief

Your support for these appeals will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied for years as they rebuild. You can donate through your local church, with your gifts going through the Conference to the Appeal. Gifts can be made through PCC by clicking "DONATE" on pccucc.org. Under "Directed Gifts" choose "Disaster Relief" and notate "Hurricane Relief". And you can always mail a check to the PCC offices with the same notation.

Rock and Roll With It

Hartman Center Winter Youth Retreat

We will be returning to Hartman Center Campground as guests.

5725 Old US Highway 322, Milroy, PA 17063

January 17-19, 2025

Grades 6 through College Grad (or age 22)

Meals and Lodging included

$150 after December 2, 2024

Use coupon code PCC2025 if you would like to use a Penn Central Conference Outdoor Ministries scholarship of 50% off your registration fees.

Register here: https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/rock-roll-with-it-youth-retreat-2025

Christmas Fund Offering is December 22, 2024

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.