PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

July 10, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

"And God said. 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give lights upon the earth.' And it was so." (Genesis 1:14-15 (NRSVUE)

Let me start by saying this is a shameless plug for an upcoming event this weekend sponsored by PCC. However, that event (Painting with Spirit) happens to connect, in my mind, with the opening chapters of Genesis. Stick with me here.

First, you may have heard in a UCC liturgy the assertion that humans are "co-creators" with God. This is said about our ability to create – through art, music, theater, language, technology, and more. We are, without a doubt, a creative species, making things that would not exist without our hands, minds, imagination, or spirits. We are not true CO-creators with God, because we will never be equal partners. I cannot, after all, create an evolutionary process that results in the human brain. However, I like to think that in some tiny degree (the size of a greeting card, usually) I can create something of beauty.

So, I was excited to try Fluid Art as a new means of creation. My initial experience surprised me for several reasons. First, I discovered that the exact moment when the paint was released onto the canvas reminded me immediately of Genesis and the birth of the universe. You must see it to experience it (see a photo below) but everyone in the room met that moment with a slight gasp of awe. [Okay, they might have said, "Wow, how cool!" but I consider that awe.] What was released in that first moment had nothing to do with me – I may have chosen the colors – but the result was completely mysterious and not of my own making. That moment was humbling.

What was even more humbling, however, was the end result. The final piece was not as I had ex-

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...

Bethany UCC, Ephrata

St. John's UCC, Spring Mill

Trinity UCC, Fort Loudon

St. John's UCC, Fredricksburg



pected. Okay, I wasn't sure I liked it. Why? Because it did not come out as I had expected it to! And therein lay the most valuable lesson. This is a creative medium that does not allow for complete control. The paint, mixed with physics, chemistry, and gravity, goes where it will. I can suggest a direction by tilting my canvas, but ultimately the mix of colors, where certain colors appear and others recede, is a mystery. A personal insight: apparently, I like having control over things. (Who knew? Please imagine me laughing.) A good reminder from God of my limitations.

A lesson in humility while being part of a beautiful creative process that reminds me of Genesis and thus of my Creator? I can't think of anything more spiritual for a Sunday afternoon. Seriously.

Please consider joining us. We even have financial aid! Two classes remain:

Sunday July 14 in Lancaster 3:00-6:00 PM

Sunday August 4 in Harrisburg 3:00-6:00 PM.

Register for either or both here: https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/painting-with-spirit

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference





Penn Central Conference Registration is now open for **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-2024

Check out the summer options from our partners at Lutheran Camping Corporation's Kirchenwald (and Nawakwa)

https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/youth-summer-programs/