



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## A Message from PCC

October 27, 2021

**Dear Members & Friends of Penn Central Conference,**

“Dear Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

When I was a child, I attended a small UCC church in Elon College, NC. I was present in Sunday School about every Sunday as my father was the Sunday School Superintendent and the High School Class teacher. Every year as I prepare for All Saints’ Sundays two things come to mind – well several things come to mind but two that I will share in this space: Hebrews 11-12:2 and Sandy.

I am moved every time I read Hebrews 11 and the list of faithful examples in keeping and teaching and acting on their faith in God. I just love the mental images that cross my mind as I remember these stories. “It’s like the Holy Ghost running through”\* me when I read that list of names: Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Rahab...”and what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon and Barak and...” (11:32)

A challenge this week as you think about the cloud of witnesses who taught you faith in Jesus: read Hebrews 11:1-12:2. “Maybe even email me and tell me about your Holy Ghost experience!”

I turn to this reading each fall as the Church approaches All Saints’ Day because it stands as a reminder to me not only of the Biblical witnesses that form and inform my faith but also the witness of the great cloud of so many that have influenced my life with their earthly examples.

Continues on back

## Outdoor Ministries

**In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation**

### ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION

November 7 @ Nawakwa This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the Lutheran Camping Corporation’s Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain LCC’s outdoor ministry activities and programs.

### WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT

November 12-14 @ Nawakwa [\$155/person] Try new techniques, share your latest creations, work on whatever you've been trying to finish, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of camp in the fall. Please register by November 1.

Learn more here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

## 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.*

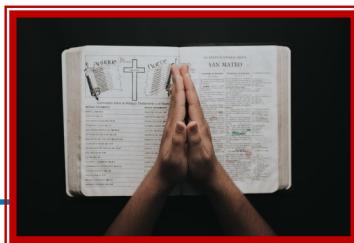
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**Peace UCC, Berrysburg**

**Zion UCC, Blain**

**St. John's UCC, Boalsburg**

**St. Paul's UCC, Bowmansville**



## Message from the Conference cont'

One person in the great cloud for me is Sandy. She was my Sunday School teacher for a lot of years. And she loved Jesus. She taught Jesus' love and example. Then she did the most remarkable thing, she lived it. When I offered remembrances at her funeral several years ago, I noted that I had little knowledge of Catholic saints, but if they were anything like Sandy, their lives did indeed deserve veneration by the masses. She lived a life that was a living example of how we might bring the kingdom of God nearer.

The list of saints in my life grows and the cloud is remembered with great love. I wonder what souls you remember this year, or every year on All Saints' Day. How do you celebrate their witness and legacy? How did they help you look toward Jesus?

**Shalom,  
Nora**

Rev. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

\*Lyrics from "My Church" - songwriters: Maren Morris, busbee

### Address Change!

As you may have been hearing, the PCC offices will be moving in the month of November. Please begin mailing any correspondence to our new PO Box:

**Penn Central Conference**  
**PO Box 6625**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Our physical address starting the week of November 15 (Do not mail letters to this address!)

**St. Thomas UCC**  
**6490 Linglestown Road**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17112**



## Wider Church

The United Church of Christ is issuing a call to action to help the people of Haiti. A massive 7.2 earthquake on Saturday has killed nearly 1,300 people. Search and rescue efforts are expected to be hampered by Tropical Depression Grace, which came ashore on Monday.

To donate to this appeal, go to [www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/](http://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/) and designate the gift to "Haiti Appeal." One can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Please be sure to note "Haiti Appeal" on your check in the memo section, or in an attached letter.

**Grace UCC, Lebanon** has begun to collect the items to fill **CWS buckets** for those affected by disasters like Hurricane Ida. They will be collecting through the end of October. If your church would like to contribute, contact Grace UCC at (717) 272-0831

## Contact us!

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