



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry

## A Message from PCC

**August 24, 2022**

### Members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

Jesus' usage of this verse from Proverbs 25:6-7 reminds us that though virtually every culture urges a sense of humility, those desirous of attaining status in life at best only pay lip service to the advice. I suspect most everyone has had to wrestle with the temptation of status seeking at some time. Likewise, I suspect we have each been chagrined by moments of our own such personal striving for such status.

It is beguiling to begin thinking that somehow, we are more important than others. What others think of us, our reputation within whatever community to which we are most closely affiliated, too often is more motivating of our actions than are our proclaimed values. Jesus utilizes the perceived seats of honor at the banquet to drive home this point. In this scenario our Lord portrays, seating appears to have been the initial choice of the guests and then the host rearranges in a way they deemed proper. though helpful, it does not eliminate the grumbling or subsequent pay back by those who thought they had been somehow disrespected by the seats assigned to them.

Striving to achieve and/or maintain cultural status is an exhausting and never-ending process. There will always be newer and trendier personalities coming along to challenge our perceived sense of our own importance. Our Lord's admonition is, I believe, to strive always to be of service to others and ready to

*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.*

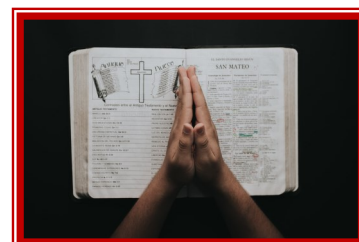
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**Salem (Spring Mills) UCC, Spring Mills**

**Emmanuel UCC, Abbotstown**

**Christ UCC, Annville**

**Zion UCC, Arendtsville**



acknowledge a sense of community wherein everyone is regarded as equal.

Scripture's call for a humbler approach to our days would seem to be a message that should require little commentary. Sadly, even within religious circles we at times witness displays of self-advancement at the expense of our stated mission. I believe it essential for us to maintain a personal vigilance regarding how we promote our faith journeys. The culture is ever more skeptical of religious claims and promotions, which as we can conclude from the text is nothing more than pretentious piety. May we always keep in mind another, similar adage, "Pride goeth before the fall."

And though in our lifetimes we may not experience the elevation of humbleness Jesus proclaims, it remains our calling. Whatever our title may be, may we choose always to understand them as conveying a responsible authority to serve our neighbor.

### **Rick**

Rev. Rick Luciotti

Clergy Care Coordinator

Penn Central Conference

### **Save the date:**

**September 10, 2022, 10:00AM-1:00PM**

Open House to celebrate ACM Marisa Laviola's final month with PCC before moving on to her new position as Conference Minister in the Maine Conference. Refreshments will be served and a presentation will happen at noon. At Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg. 10AM-1PM with presentation and cake at noon.

### **Kayak Vespers (on Land and Lake) at Lake Redman in Jacobus**

Fellow members of the York Association!!

Please join fellow boaters for a 30-minute Vesper Service around 5 pm on September 25 at Lake Redman in Jacobus. Meet at the Muskie Pavilion; then gather for vespers on land or sea. Please bring a snack

to share! Volunteers are needed to plan vespers and read. Boats may be available to rent, if ordered in advance. Please contact Pastor Martha Boyer, St Paul Church at 717 858-2991 for questions or more information! We will be including in prayer those in York County who are continuing to suffer hardship due to damage from Hurricane Ida in 2021.

This event will be live-streamed on the St. Paul Shrewsbury Facebook Page and available later on YouTube!

### **"Making All Things New"**

### **General Synod 2023**

"Making All Things New" will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30–July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ will get back to business a year from now. And it will do so in person.

After an all-virtual experience in 2021, the UCC's biennial national meeting will require all voting delegates to be in Indianapolis in 2023. That's according to the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, the associate general minister who serves as Synod administrator.

Delegates and visitors will meet June 30 through July 4 at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

