



# **PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## **A Message from PCC**

### **Dear Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,**

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends. With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping promises, as some understand slowness." - 2 Peter 3: 8-9

I find this thought a perfect fit for Advent. Observation of Advent is more, for many, an unwanted intrusion into our Christmas preparations than in integral aspect. Everywhere around us songs of the season are playing as shoppers head home with their treasures. The people we meet are mostly cheerier and eager to offer greetings, and even the first snowfall of winter is welcomed by most persons. Persons attending worship anticipate singing the most familiar carols and hear uplifting passages of the familiar and beloved story of Christ's birth.

Advent appears to contradict all that is joyful. Scriptures, particularly this year, have a sharp almost harsh edge to them. Is it any wonder that there are often complaints when the focus is upon the Advent themes? The warnings of John the Baptists and even Jesus' pronouncements, the seemingly crude laments of the Prophets, these are not the sounds of making merry. 'Why do we have to endure Advent? Can't we just get on with celebrating the newborn babe? After all, everybody loves the baby Jesus!

To fully appreciate Christmas, a deeper participation in Advent and its long history is encouraged. Many consider our four season an endurance test, something to get out of the way. Children struggle to only open one square of their Advent calendar each day; we often think we do not have time

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## **Outdoor Ministries**

### **In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation**

#### **ADVENT DAY APART**

December 4 @The Wittel Farm (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Enter into the Advent spirit by participating in a day of Bible study, worship, and prayerful reflection. For more information & to register, go to: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/advent-day-apart-2021/>

#### **"[Every]Body Of Christ" Youth/Confirmation Retreat**

March 18-20 at Camp Nawakwa

Registration link coming soon!

## **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.*

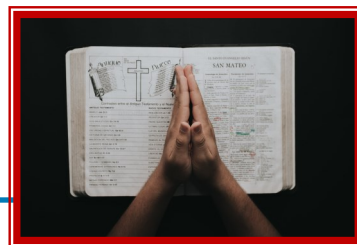
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**Shiloh UCC, Danville**

**St. James (Ridgeville) UCC, Danville**

**Trinity UCC, Danville**

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



## Message from the Conference cont'

for daily devotional time with all the many tasks ahead; and we already know the story, don't we? So many times we those 'some people' Peter referred to in saying, "as some understand slowness."

Perhaps the struggle we face results from a failure to plan for the Advent season. This year I frequently heard the phrase, 'HallowThankMas', describing how Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas all seem to blend together. The intentionality for observing seasons and their meaning has been absorbed by our hectic culture and our impatience with intrusions, particularly the pandemic, incline us to just want to get on with it.

The words of the Prophet need come to us again, "Surely the days are coming when the Lord will cause a righteous branch to spring up..." This becomes our Hope and call to patience, loving discipleship, and mission. Until that day dawns, or until we are willing to recognize and understand its presence is already at hand, many of us will contend with distractions and a fainting of spirit. The counsel of St. Paul becomes a beacon for the time of Advent, "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving, making the most of the time..." Let us, each and everyday live in the awareness and hope of Advent.

**Rick**

**Rev. Rick Luciotti**  
**Clergy Care Coordinator,**  
**Penn Central Conference**

### **The Virtual Choir is back!**

The Virtual Choir, which brought us so much lovely music last year, is back and will be continuing through this year, and probably as an ongoing effort! Our first piece will be And the Glory of the Lord, from Messiah, which we will be recording in late November, and will be available to all churches by December 7 for your Advent/Christmas use.

If you did not receive an email from Pastor Julie Holm, and you want to be part of this group, you can email her at [bvfofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bvfofmusic@gmail.com). If you are a church that would like to be on the mailing list when we have news, you can also email Julie. Of course, you'll get a link in the eNews to any music produced,

## Wider Church

as well.



### **Address Change!**

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**

**Make sure to note new direct numbers for PCC Staff below:**

## Contact us!

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