PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

October 16, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

"*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*" Psalm 46:1

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St. Teresa of Ávila

In less than two weeks, the southeastern United States has faced two disasters — Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The United Church of Christ continues its longstanding commitment to stand with the affected communities for the full duration of their recovery.

In the time since the storms made landfall, the United Church of Christ Global HOPE team has been in regular communication with conference staff of the Southeast, Southern, and Florida conferences, ecumenical partners in disaster recovery, and response coordination calls with the national network of voluntary organizations active in disasters (VOAD). As the full impact of the storms continues to become realized, the Global HOPE team is helping to connect victims of the storm's devastation with immediate resources as well as preparing to support long-term recovery efforts.

As we continue to pray for and support those who have experienced unimaginable loss, we invite you to support the recovery efforts in the following ways:

1. The best way to help people recover is with a monetary donation. The United Church of Christ has

Continues on back

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

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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...

Maytown Reformed UCC, Maytown

St. James UCC, Littletown

St. Paul's UCC, McConnelsburg

St. John's UCC, McEwensville



established the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal and the Hurricanes 2024 Appeal. 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 here. 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.

2. Crisis Cleanup phone banking: One of the greatest needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic disaster is situational awareness and information gathering. Crisis Cleanup is looking for volunteers to help input cases into their dashboard. This dashboard is used by response organizations to efficiently coordinate and deploy immediate resources. If you are interested in this remote volunteer opportunity, please sign up here.

3. Hygiene and Cleanup Bucket assembly: One of the biggest requests is the need for cleanup buckets. If your congregation is interested in assembling cleanup buckets, you can receive a matching grant through the Global HOPE office. For more information on cleanup buckets and drop-off locations, click here. Mission Central in Mechanicsburg also collects and distributes cleanup buckets, you can learn more about their program here.

4. Volunteer Opportunities. Recovering from the hurricanes will be a long-term process and volunteer help will be needed for months to come. If you want to volunteer, please do not self-deploy. Please contact PCC's Disaster Relief team chairs Bill and Ellen Matten at beathomemd@comcast.net to learn more.

Please take time to prayerfully consider how you can help our neighbors in their time of need.

Blessings,

Penn Central Conference

Special Fall Meeting

November 9, 2024, 9:30AM - 12:30PM

The special fall meeting of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 9:30 am EST. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary of St. Thomas United Church of Christ, 6490 Linglestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17112, and remote participation will be available via ZOOM. Associations within Penn Central Conference will also be hosting remote gatherings at official sites to allow participation in the meeting via ZOOM.

There are three items of business on the agenda for this meeting.

1. Presentation and approval of the proposed 2025 Penn Central Conference budget

2. Presentation and consideration for recognition of the STAR (Small Town and Rural Churches) Coalition as a self-created group within the United Church of Christ

3. Consideration and voting on a motion to create the Keystone Conference out of the four present Conferences of Penn Central, Penn Northeast, Penn West, and Pennsylvania Southeast.

Register here: https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/special-fall-meeting-2024 or go to pccucc.org and click on Annual Meeting