



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

July 14, 2021

Friends & Members of Penn Central Conference,

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season." Psalm 1:3b

"Rooted in Love" is the theme for this year's special online edition of General Synod. Events have only just begun the weeklong Synod. The Penn Central Delegation along with staff and a thousand or so others from across the wider church have joined via livestream for Opening Worship and Plenary on Sunday evening and a keynote speaker on Monday. We have already passed three resolutions and workshops and other special events fill each one's computer screens.

Knowing that I would be addressing the conference today, I have been listening for quotes that might help share Synod with each of you. For months I have been encouraging any of you to register and participate as a visitor since this Synod is so easy for so many to join. And it is not too late for you to join worship tonight at 8pm or next Sunday at 6pm on the UCC's YouTube channel. You can also sign up for workshop packages for on demand viewing at www.generalsynod.org.

There have been a few lines here and there that are still floating around in my head, but one big idea keeps rising to the top. In Monday night's keynote, Valarie Kaur spoke about love being a "choice we make again and again and again." Valarie is a Sikh activist who seeks to birth the beloved community here in our midst. She spoke with deep emotion that filled our virtual space as she shared stories of the hate that she has witnessed and experienced first-hand. Her address and the revolutionary love that she outlined gave me and all viewers a lot to chew

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Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with **Lutheran Camping Corporation**

Summer Camp: REGISTER ANYTIME!

The 2021 summer camp schedule is set! There are camps for all ages and interests at both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. Check out what is offered online.

Hartman Center Spirit Week:

Week of August 8 at Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg.

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...

Grace UCC, Richland

Tulpehocken UCC, Richland

St. Paul's UCC, Sacramento

Salem - Walmers UCC, Annville



Message from the Conference cont'

on. Her book "See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love" moved quickly onto many reading lists if following the #UCCSynod can be believed.

I agree with her on this point about love as a choice. It is indeed a decision that we must continually make as we go about our daily lives. Admittedly it is often hard for me to choose to love someone who has caused me or others I care about pain, but I do try and I encourage those around me to look for the Divine Presence in each one and to see the image of God in the other. Kaur noted that as long as we see others as others, it is harder to choose love. She acknowledged the real challenge and shared a tool for meeting it.

I was excited to hear her tell us to turn to wonder. This past Sunday I talked with the congregation at Grace in Greencastle about turning to wonder in order to keep our hearts and minds from judgement, specifically regarding Michal in Sunday's scripture. I shared that perhaps we didn't know the whole story that resulted in her change of heart. I wondered if she was sad to be excluded from the celebration or mourning Uzzah's death. I talked about using wonder to try to see things from another's point of view and how this might soften our hearts toward them.

This was Valarie's point too. Wondering will help widen our perspective. And may even open our hearts. It will not happen in an instant but is worth the pursuit.

I have been told that my sermons always take a turn toward living the commandment to love one another. Wonder is yet another tool in the bag to equip us in loving. Just once today, choose love, on purpose and check in on your heart afterwards.

Blessings Friends!

Nora

Rev. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference



Local Church Events

Chapel Hill UCC, Lemoyne Open House

July 18 10AM Worship service

Afterwards enjoy Farm Show milk shake from the Dairymen's Assoc. vendor truck and a delicious sandwich from the Bucky's Festival Food truck. We will have games available and will be giving tours of our new facility. This is a community event! Everyone is welcome.

Go Green Sunday Mt. Zion UCC, York

August 8, 2021, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Jim Antel will join via Zoom for a conversation about climate change, Penn State will share about pollinator gardens and more.

Contact us!

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