



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry

A Message from PCC

August 31, 2022

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

In the gospel lesson for Sunday Jesus is walking with the crowd when he tells them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26) This is always a shock to read because for many of us, family is simply our priority. We are bold to declare our commitment to "faith & family".

When I was working at a Roman Catholic College family was a consistent emphasis. The concept of the nuclear family was intertwined with ideas about church and there was an unspoken assumption that they belonged together. This is the assumption of many protestant churches and believers as well. Yet it is an unhelpful and sometimes damaging one. I have known believers for whom family was the largest impediment to finding and following Jesus. Families who did not nurture faith or who used it as a means of control and domination of their children. While the church as an institution may focus on the family, discipleship and family cannot be fused together. Our discipleship moves beyond the family.

So, what did Jesus mean by saying this? Reading it feels like a scandal. Taken with the following sentence about bearing a cross in Luke 14:27, shocked listeners might be prompted to ask, who then can be a disciple?

This is one of the hard sayings of Jesus. It has no easy out, no soft touch, no conciliatory exception. Jesus is demanding full loyalty, making our relationship with God and our following of him our high-

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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.

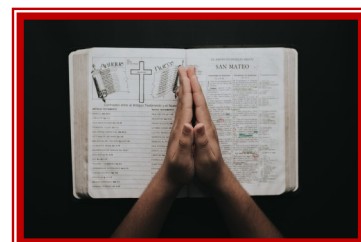
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

St. John's UCC, Bellefonte

Peace UCC, Berrysburg

Zion UCC, Blain

St. John's UCC, Boalsburg



est calling. As with other passages that seem to set up an impossible challenge (see Luke 14 and the great banquet), the purpose of the passage may be to shock us into examining what gets in the way of our discipleship, especially when it comes to human relationships. In Luke, Jesus teaches about how possessions, wealth, status, and social position can corrupt and block believers from true communion with God. Why are we surprised to hear him say the same of human relationships? Even our closest ones?

Thousands of ascetics in the early church followed Jesus' call to the letter and left family for lives of isolation and prayer in the desert. Many of them found wisdom and had disciples of their own. That particular call many not be ours. Yet Jesus' words may give us the shake-up we need to reexamine our own discipleship in the harsh light of its true cost.

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

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.

