PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

June 26, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. (Mark 5:33, NRSV)

In the fifth chapter of Mark's gospel, Jesus is on his way to heal Jarius's daughter, who has fallen ill. Jesus is walking with a crowd and a sense of urgency pervades the passage. A woman surreptitiously approaches, angling to get close enough to touch his robes. She has heard about Jesus and thinks that "*If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.*" (5:28) This woman had suffered with hemorrhages for 12 years and spent all her money seeking a cure. And yet her condition grew worse. Here now was a chance to be made well by Jesus. She would approach in secret, even while surrounded by others.

The woman comes close to Jesus, touches his cloak, and is healed immediately. She can feel it within her body. And Jesus felt it too – felt power leave his body. He seeks who has touched him and the disciples scoff, looking at the size of the crowd.

Here is the remarkable part of the story to me. The woman could have disappeared into the crowd. She could have taken her secret healing and gone away. After all, no one could see her healing, not like the man with the withered hand. Yet something compelled her – in the midst of her fear – to move toward Jesus instead of away from him. The gospel writer tells us in 5:33, "But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling…" She knew she had been healed and perhaps the truth of that compelled her to come forward, despite her fear.

Not only does she come to Jesus, but she fell down before him and "told him the whole truth," not knowing what his reaction would be or what might happen next. Upon hearing her truth, Jesus says, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your

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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, Denver

Dover UCC, Dover

Salem UCC, Dover

Zwingli UCC, East Berlin



disease."(5:34) Something of significance happens here - her healing is made public by Jesus. Her secret and her isolation are over. He publicly proclaims her healed of her disease. He also restores her dignity by calling her 'daughter.' Neither of these would have happened had she not come forward and "told him the whole truth."

This testimonial reminds me that for some illnesses, especially those of the soul, the heart, or the mind, healing cannot come without the speaking of truth. For the woman, she had to tell her own, secret truth aloud to Jesus, despite her fear. Fear of rejection perhaps or fear of scorn. Yet it is in the telling that her healing becomes complete. Many obstacles to truth-telling exist – shame and fear of consequences are probably two of the most potent. Yet Jesus will receive our truth with love. He may be the only one who hears it – and yet he is the restorer of our dignity, the one who will not reject or heap scorn. Our healing may take time. We may have to turn to him again and again. But do so even in the midst of fear – for he stands now, scanning the crowd, looking for us.

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference Registration is now open for **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-2024

Check out the summer options from our partners at Lutheran Camping Corporation's Kirchenwald (and Nawakwa)

https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/youth-summer-programs/