



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## A Message from PCC

**April 22, 2020**

### Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference -

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39

*I feel so separated lately.*

Yes, we have been a creative people and many have a day passed that I do not have visitors by Zoom, phone, email or text. But it's not just people that seem distant, it's EVERYTHING!

Yet, scripture is constant and serves as a daily reminder that nothing, NOTHING, can separate any of us from the love of God. I find affirmation in this as there are moments when it feels impossible for God to be in the spaces of sadness and grief and loss and loneliness that I find myself mired in. How about you?

It is through my daily practices -- things like walking or stretching, deep breathing or coloring, that reconnect me to so many of the timeless truths that even this pandemic cannot take away. Truths like NOTHING separates me from God, and that God is doing a new thing in this season. A reminder that God sets before me life should I choose it. By the time my picture is done or my rapid heartbeat settled, Truth has set me free to be fully present in the moment that time finds me.

Friends, here we are in the midst of a global pandemic. We are encouraged to care for one another by staying away from each other, by covering our faces when we must go out, by leaving our buildings empty and striving to find ways to fill our hearts and celebrate God among us in myriad ways. We have family-game nights and hospital visits mediated by technology. Phone trees are alive and well. We have found more worship settings than we might have imagined: Zoom, Facebook live, streaming on YouTube, conference calls and good old-fashioned, hand-written letters.

These are all born out of necessity. All grounded in timeless truths like humanity's desire for connection and God's steadfast love.

These are the moments that I have to dig deep into my practices that connect me to these timeless truths of scripture. What practices do you have that connect you? That grounds you when the Earth shifts beneath your feet?

The link below is a short vlog about some spiritual practices. Perhaps a new one or an adaptation of a familiar one or something tried and true - but each one of us needs to be doing something to stay connected to the One from whom nothing, not even a global pandemic, can separate us.

**Shalom,**

**Nora**

Youtube link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d\\_vj9cANbU&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d_vj9cANbU&t=2s)

## 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...

**Pleasant Hill Chapel UCC, Jonestown**

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

**Church of the Apostles UCC, Lancaster**

**Faith UCC, Lancaster**

