PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

May 01 2024

Greetings friends and members of Penn Central,

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

In America, Anna Jarvis is credited with the origins of our modern Mother's Day celebration. While Anna remained unmarried and did not bear children, she was moved to honor her own mother for the sacrifices Ann Reeves Jarvis had made as her mother. What was to be a small celebration in a Methodist church in West Virginia gained momentum when a Philadelphia based department store owner helped back Jarvis' idea. That first celebration in May of 1908 saw thousands gather in John Wannamaker's stores across Philadelphia.

Jarvis began a letter-writing campaign to have a holiday designated and in 1912 President Woodrow Wilson established the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. While it is not a church holiday and does not have designated readings in the lectionary, I know that it will be observed by many this coming Sunday.

I realize this can be a challenging day for many women. I don't want to draw attention to that pain, nor do I want to minimize it with my musings. As a mother of two children not of my womb, I want to share a number of ways that may make for meaningful Mother's Day observances.

I tend to approach this day as one to share gratitude for all of the church mothers that helped to teach me about scripture and faithful living. Church mothers offer wisdom, guidance, and support to their congregations. They often serve as pillars of strength, nurturing the spiritual growth of so many around them and fostering a sense of community within the church. Their dedication and commitment are truly admirable, shaping the character of their faith communities for generations to come. Perhaps this Sunday can offer a moment for you to reflect with gratitude

Continues on back

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...

Salem (Spring Mills) UCC, Spring Mills

Emmanuel UCC, Abbottstown

Christ Church UCC, Annville

Zion UCC, Arendtsville



for church mothers that nurtured or supported you along your own faith journey. (I'll use this space to name Sandy, Jeanneine, Loyce, Roberta, Janis, Jo, among others…)

Gratitude is a practice that can help you connect with the original spirit of the holiday honoring the sacrifices a mother makes. Founder Anna Jarvis was not a fan of the national holiday that she helped found as those seeking to turn a profit quickly took over. Jarvis intended the day to be one of recognition for a mother's sacrifice and one need not be a mother to have experienced a mother's love expressed in the home or in the church.

Turn to gratitude this mother's day. I'll start by thanking my mom who often laments that I am not mushy enough. Love you mom! I am grateful for all you do! I am also grateful for the church moms that nurtured me in the faith and sojourned with me a little along the way.

Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

LTS Honors PCC Clergy with Meck Award

The Meck Award honors the memory of Allen S. Meck '11 president of Lancaster Theological Seminary from 1947-57. It is presented for distinguished service in the practice of pastoral ministry.

2024 recipients include Rev. Curtis Zemencik '87. Rev. Zemencik has been pastoring rural congregations since 1987. He has served St. Paul's UCC, Scramento, St. Matthew's UCC, Spring Glen and the Stone Valley Parish (Salem-Zion Church, Pillow and Zion Stone Valley, Dalmatia), as well as serving on the UCC National Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. While at Salem-Zion Church, he was instrumental in forming the Carpenter's Hands Outreach Ministry which is still a vital ministry of that church.

Penn Central congratulates Rev. Zemencik on this award!

Penn Central Conference62nd Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference

For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a shared Annual Meeting on June 7-9, 2024 at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting.

We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who will be preaching during closing worship on Sunday. All four conferences will be hosting a reception with her on Saturday evening as well. Register by clicking the Annual Meeting tab on pccucc.org

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

Camp makes a great Christmas gift. 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/