



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## A Message from PCC

**December 11, 2019**

Dear friends of Penn Central Conference,

I love the old German tale retold by Helen Steiner Rice, The Christmas Guest. When I was a child, my family would read the little book about Conrad and Jesus over and over this time of year. I really liked how dedicated Conrad was to preparing his home for the Lord's visit; yet he always had time for those that stopped by his shop needing love, needing hope, needing peace and joy.

This past Sunday was Lessons and Carols at Christ Church in Elizabethtown. One reader said "along with Mary we are all expecting." Whew! I almost doubled over with the punch to the gut from the teenager at the mic. I looked around to see if I had audibly made that "oophh" sound that I hoped I had made in my head. No one was staring at me, so I quickly assumed I had remained silent in my Advent epiphany.

But I was awestruck by the power of that moment. I don't think that I had spiritually arrived in this Advent season until that moment! Am I expecting, I wondered. The kids had sung something about would I have seen the star or had room if I were there.

Would I? Will I?

Here we are right in the middle of this season of expectancy and preparation. There are near constant reminders of what to expect beneath the tree in a couple weeks. What reminders do we have as individuals and the Church, for preparing ourselves and our communities for hope and peace, the Advent candles already burning? This Sunday, we ignite joy. Are we ready for joy? Is there room in our lives for true joy? Sweeping out fear and doubt, we can prepare space for hope.

*Continues on back*

## Hartman Center

### Upcoming Retreats:

**Men's Retreat: Seasons of a Man's Life** Friday, January 17, 2020 at 7PM - Sunday January 19, 2020 at 1PM register online

**The PCC Confirmation Retreat** will be held March 27 - 29, 2020 at Hartman Center. This weekend is always a great opportunity for our confirmands to explore "Being The Church" and to connect with other youth.

Penn Central Conference is excited to announce the hiring of our new Coordinator for Camps and Retreats - Zoë D'heedene! Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

"Greetings members of the Penn Central Conference! My name is Zoë D'heedene and I am thrilled to announce that I will be joining the staff of the PCC in the role of Coordinator of Camps and Retreats. I am in the last stretch of my seminary education, am a member in discernment of the York Association, and a proud member of Dover UCC. I have been blessed to experience some of the wonderful variety our conference has to offer throughout my life as a youth and one new to ministry. Before even officially beginning in this role, I have felt the tremendous support of our conference and the passion surrounding our outdoor ministries program. I look forward to working with all of you to see what God has in store. Blessings and Shalom!"

## 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 Union (Dry Valley) UCC, Winfield**

**Emmanuel UCC, York**

**Faith UCC, York**

**Hayshire UCC, York**

## Message from the Conference cont'

Getting rid of clutter and turning off the gadgets that cry out for our time, we make space for peace in our hearts and lives.

Moving out of melancholy and despair helps to create the space needed for joy to live in and through us.

Friends, God's love is about to be born anew in each of us! Use this season of preparation and expectancy to ensure that you have space for all of the hope, and peace and joy that the arrival of that love promises. Yes, God's love is about to be born anew in each and every one of us! Friends, that is reason enough to be about our homes, our lives, preparing for the Lord to come.

Start a conversation today about your preparation or expectancy. Who will you talk to? What will you say about God's love coming again? Or the hope, peace and joy that its arrival promises? Do you see the star? Have you made room? God's love is coming anew.

Get ready!

**Shalom,**

**Nora**

### **Hot Artic, Cold Strategic Calculations**

On Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 PM at the West Shore Country Club, Camp Hill, PA, Heather A. Conley, Senior Vice-President for Europe, Eurasia and the Arctic and Director of the European Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, will discuss climate change and its effect on the Arctic and on international relations.

Ms. Conley is the daughter of The Rev. Herbert L. and Melba Bomberger and former member of St. Paul's in Mechanicsburg.

For more biographical and programmatic information, go to [www.fpaharrisburg.org](http://www.fpaharrisburg.org)

The program is free and open to the public. Ms. Conley will also be interviewed live on WITF Smart Talk on Wednesday, December 18 from 9:00 to 9:35 AM.

## Upcoming Events

### **Planning Ahead:**

ONA Winter Gathering at Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg PA - February 22, 2020

Annual Meeting - June 12-13, 2020

Event with Bishop Robert Schnase - September 19, 2020 (info to come!)

### **Check out other upcoming events on our web-site:**

<https://pccucc.org/calendar/>

### **Read our full weekly eNews:**

<https://pccucc.org/enews-archive/>

### **Sign up for our weekly eNews:**

Link at bottom of any page on [www.pccucc.org](http://www.pccucc.org)

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## Contact us!

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