PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

June 26, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

"Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:12-14

In a few short weeks the Hartman Center Homecoming Camp will again return to our former camp for a week of camping fellowship and fun in God's open (and some air conditioned) spaces. Our Bible times each day will focus on how we are "Linked by Love."

Folks have a habit of throwing around that word, "love," like it is an easy thing to do. We all know in reality that it can be quite challenging to choose love. Our campers will spend their week immersed in just 6 of the teachings in scripture about God's love. I have spilled much ink, as have many preachers, on this very subject. (Including Pastor Bill in his message to our siblings in PSEC this week.) "Love one another" Jesus tells us. "They'll know we are Christians by our love" we sing in our pews and around campfires.

Throughout the week, campers will explore how we are linked to God in the ways that we share God's love in the world. Each day's study will give specific examples of this love: love that accepts (Lk 10:38-42), love that is fully present (Job 2:11-13), love that extends grace and forgiveness (Lk 15:11-32), love that tells the truth (Ex 18:5-24), love that changes us (Philemon. 1:8-17), and love that makes us community (1 Jn 4:7-9, 19). Each day campers will be charged to choose kindness, to help one another, and to make harmony in our time set apart from their daily lives. There will be camp experiences that cannot be replicated when they return home, but the lessons on how to love will hopefully stay in their hearts and be borne out in their living. (Join us with a personal study of these passages.)

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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, East Earl

Trinity UCC, East Petersburg

Christ Church UCC, Elizabethtown

Salem UCC, Elizabethville



Here in the letter to the Colossian Church that campers will read on the first day, Paul gives very clear instructions for what love looks like in the world. It looks like kindness and humility, helping one another, compassion and forgiveness. In our divided society right now it feels more and more challenging to love, in these ways, those with whom I have strong disagreements. Daily I am reminded that love is the yoke I have chosen, and so I dig in to find the spark of compassion or kindness that will show love, the act that will be kind, even if I am still working out the feeling in my spirit.

I am God's beloved. All who read these words are God's beloved. Friends, choose love even when it is the harder path in this day. Intentionally clothe yourself for this time and these battles in ways that outwardly exhibit love over judgement, kindness over brutality, even if you and God are still working it out in your heart. God dwells there beloveds, and God is love.

Our unity in God's realm is promised, our unity in the midst of God's created world is ours to make real. Unity is found in living out the love that Jesus taught us. May we truly love one another and show it daily.

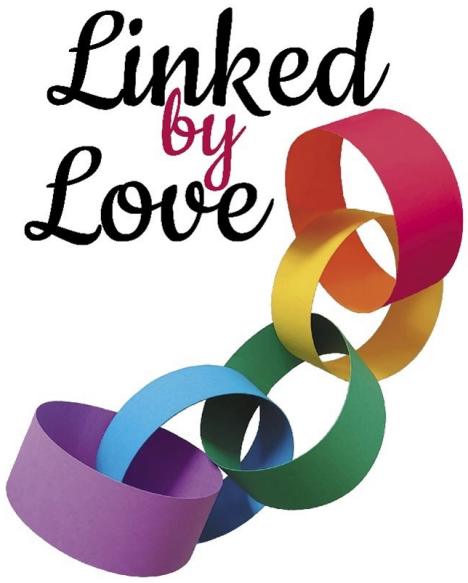
Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference



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/

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE