

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.



A Message from PCC

April 20, 2022

Dear Friends and Members of Penn Central Conference,

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you." John 20:21a

*"If your heart is full of **fear**, you won't **seek truth**; you'll **seek security**. If a heart is full of love, it will have a limbering effect on the mind." William Sloane Coffin*

Fear was all around the disciples in the days following Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Fear is still common among us today as the world sees war, hunger, homelessness, illness, plain ol' ill, and so much more running rampant in so many places. It is interesting to me how in the face of very real fear among the disciples, Jesus did not come to them in their locked room and offer safety and security, he gave peace and presence through the Holy Spirit - Peace to still their hearts and minds and invite them to think more clearly in the face of fear, a Presence to be with them always.

There is indeed plenty to be fearful of in our world today. Fear, though, is a distraction from our calling to share Christ and love one another. Fear can stun us, overwhelm us, and paralyze our actions. And just like with the fearful disciples of the first century, we scared disciples today often lock ourselves up in our sanctuaries and talk amongst ourselves about what it is that is going on in the world.

Just a few days ago our congregations gathered in gardens, parking lots, on computer screens, and in sanctuaries celebrating the empty tomb at sunrise. We heard sermons about resurrection, God's power to bring life where there was only death, and something new for our communities today. How we doing in that bright resurrection light? Are

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.

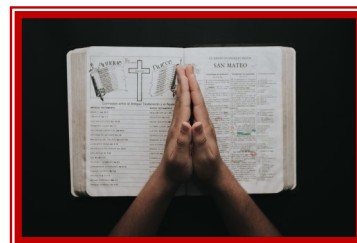
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

Trinity Reformed UCC, Mountville

Zion (Gosherts) UCC, Lebanon

Myerstown UCC, Myerstown

Emmanuel UCC, New Berlin



the possibilities overwhelming? Are there simply too many options for where to get started? Has fear set in like it did for the disciples as you ponder what the resurrection might mean anew?

Friends, Christ knew this was a joyous and fear-filled calling. And still, he brought only peace and presence. Security and safety are not the promise. May Christ move among us again in this Easter Season, bringing peace and presence for the limbering of our minds, and reminding us of the call to love one another. Put love into action this Easter Season.

Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Nora Foust
Associate Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference

Ways to Support the People of Ukraine

Please see the two links below for some specific information about ways we can assist those in Ukraine. The Global Ministries staff at the national UCC setting has worked diligently to make connections with mission partners in the area and there are several opportunities for giving as well as joining in prayer.

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

PCC's 60th Annual Meeting

"Mission In Focus"

"See, the former things have come to pass and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them." - Isaiah 42:9

Opening Plenary: 6:30PM, June 6, 2022

Workshops: 6:30PM, June 7-9, 2022

Business & Worship: 9:30AM, June 11, 2022

<https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/penn-central-conference-annual-meeting-2022>

Earth Day Celebration: Sunday, April 24 from 2-6 p.m. at Kirchenwald

[https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/earth-day-celebration-2022/HC Spirit Week](https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/earth-day-celebration-2022/HC%20Spirit%20Week)

Men's Retreat: Friday, April 29-Saturday, April 30 at Kirchenwald

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/mens-retreat-2022/>

The Growing Project Volunteer Days at The Wittel Farm begins on Saturday, April 2!

For April 30: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/volunteer-days-at-the-wittel-farm-04-30/>

For May 2: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/volunteer-days-at-the-wittel-farm-05-07/>

HC Spirit Week - What's in a Name?

"Naming and Claiming Who God Made Us to Be"

Saturday, August 6 through Friday, August 12

Camp Mt. Luther

<https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hc-spirit-week>

