PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

October 18, 2023

Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,

"So, give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22: 21

Jesus' answer to the Pharisee attempting to trap him is as relevant to our age as it was when first spoken. Who among us wants to pay taxes and does not seek ways to avoid or at least limit the amount needing to be paid?

Like the Pharisee posing the initial question, many today continue to echo in a variety of expressions. "Is it right to pay the Imperial tax?" The basic flaw with this question, then as now, lies in the reality that those speaking critically of the tax nonetheless partake in the benefits of the society to whom the tax is paid. The religious leaders, while raising objections to Roman rule, still enjoyed positions of privilege and had the protection of Rome.

Anyone of any age can raise questions concerning accountability for and responsible use of taxes levied. Such are reasonable exercises of citizenship, but to seek excuses for not paying, while making full use of governmental programs is at best short sighted.

As an example, I hear many persons express critique of school taxes sighting that they no longer have children attending school and demanding to know what benefit received for the tax they pay. But though they may no longer have children attending school, there are still many benefits. Most emergency service personnel are products of the public schools, as are many workers providing services to all citizens of our communities.

Continues on back

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

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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 UCC, Harrisburg

Trinity UCC, Hallam

David's UCC, Herndon

St. Paul's UCC, Herndon



The question posed by the Pharisee was deceitful and aimed at finding a reason to discredit Jesus by citing religious or moral objections. But throughout the ages many believers have utilized similar ploys to line their pockets, while at the same time hiding behind noble sounding religious chatter. Yes, loyalty to God is to be our priority. It can be confusing to know when to stand on principle as we consider the many issues and causes demanding our attention and loyalty. But such should never be utilized as a means of economic expediency.

Jesus makes clear that a time for decision will be required, but we must weigh that call with great care. We must be diligent in prayer and study to discern whether it is the call of Christ or our own selfish desire to avoid paying by finding fault with authority. Daily we encounter situations wherein we must choose how to express our loyalty and live accordingly. Discerning where and how to place our loyalty requires our complete spiritual focus and practice. So may we attend more fully on how it is we determine what and how we will honor our God and how we will responsibly participate in our social contacts.

Rick

Rev. Rick Luciotti

Coordinator of Clergy Care

Penn Central Conference

Register for the following at https://pccucc.org/register-for-an-event/

PCC Fall Budget Meeting

November 11, 2023 9:30 AM

This year's Annual Meeting included a vote for the Penn Central Conference to have a Budget Meeting in the fall. Each authorized minister is a voting member and each church is allowed two delegates to vote. These can be, but do not have to be, the same delegates as went to Annual Meeting. We do still need to reach quorum.

This meeting will be on Zoom only, and will include a budget presentation and vote. We anticipate it to take no more than 60 - 90 minutes.

Synod Seconds – A Keystone-wide Conversation

Join conference staff and delegates from across the keystone state as we explore implementation of General Synod Resolutions and looks at snap-shots of wider-church life. We'll be starting with 3 zooms this fall, September 11, October 16, and November 13 from 6:30-8 pm. All are welcome. Please register.

Choose from three in person and one Zoom Town Hall to learn more about the **Keystone Project**, the current working group's assessments and how they are visioning "Together we are stronger: the Keystone Conference."

October 18, 6:30PM - St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg (in-person only)

November 1, 6:30PM - Zoom Only

November 14, 6:30PM - Quentin UCC, Quentin (in-person only)