



# **PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## **A Message from PCC**

**Dear Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,**

On the news this morning I watched a woman from Kentucky. She had a prominent black eye from the bathroom sink, which landed on her as her house collapsed during the recent tornado. She spoke of how she had her 1-year-old son in one arm and her 3-year-old son in the other as everything fell in on them. Her younger child cried, and then stopped. She couldn't turn her head to see her children, could see nothing in the dark, and so she held them fearing both had died. When she was rescued, her younger child was unscathed. The older child had died. The slack-eyed reality of deep trauma and shock were obvious on her face. This is one story among thousands. Not just this week, but in years and decades past when natural disasters have ravaged our landscapes and hearts.

We affirm God as our Creator and we know that all weather, alongside the seas, hills, trees, and birds come from God's hand. When aspects of creation result in immense suffering we are challenged and sometimes we stand mute in confusion and even despair. I know I do.

Into this whirlwind of grief I hear the words of a Methodist pastor from Mayfield, Kentucky who almost lost his life alongside his wife as their church sanctuary collapsed. He stated, "Faith is forged in the crucible of suffering." I trust his words because he spoke from the center of devastation. His congregation stood within the ruins of their church and worshipped on Sunday. I see in their presence a testimony to the power and reality of faith – a testimony that points to the mystery of a good Creator alongside suffering within that creation.

And I trust – somehow – the words of St. Paul that "... suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us." (Romans 5:3b-5 NRSV)

*Continues on back*

## **Outdoor Ministries**

**In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation**

### **4th ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN**

December 19 @ The Wittel Farm (7-8:30 p.m.)

For more information & to register, go to:

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/christmas-in-the-barn-2021/>

### **"[Every]Body Of Christ" Youth/Confirmation Retreat**

March 18-20 at Camp Nawakwa

Registration link coming soon!

## **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.*

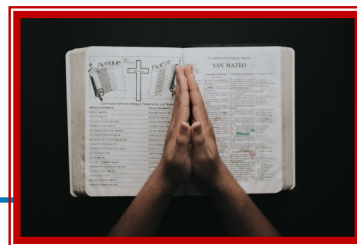
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**St. John's Center UCC, East Earl**

**Trinity UCC, East Petersburg**

**Christ UCC, Elizabethtown**

**Salem UCC, Elizabethtown**



## Message from the Conference cont'

Here are a few organizations that are helping:

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Remember that our church gifts to OGHS join with the gifts from other believers across the country to respond to disaster. You can give on-line or via text message.  
<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

### Church World Service

<https://cwsglobal.org/appeals/situation-report-tornado-response-in-kentucky-and-surrounding-states/>

### American Red Cross

Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 1-800-RED-CROSS or text RED-CROSS to 90999.

### Kentucky Counseling Center

The organization is collecting donations that counselors and social workers in Graves County will distribute to affected families. Donate at [kentuckycounselingcenter.com/mayfield-fund/](http://kentuckycounselingcenter.com/mayfield-fund/)

### Peace, Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call  
Conference Minister, Penn Central Conference



## Wider Church

### The Virtual Choir is back!

Check out our virtual choir's newest video "And The Glory of the Lord" from Messiah on our YouTube channel.

If you like to know more, email Julie Holm at [bvfofmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bvfofmusic@gmail.com)

### Address Change!

Please begin mailing any correspondence to our new PO Box:

**Penn Central Conference**  
**PO Box 6625**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Our physical address starting the week of November 15 (Do not mail letters to this address!)

**St. Thomas UCC**  
**6490 Linglestown Road**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17112**

**Make sure to note new direct numbers for PCC Staff below:**

## Contact us!

### PCC Office Staff

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