



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

...equipping and empowering congregations and clergy for the declaration and demonstration of the courageous love of Christ!

A Message from PCC

Hartman Center

September 4, 2019

Dear friends of Penn Central Conference, The church talks a great deal about change. When I attend conferences and workshops, we often discuss the changing landscape of religion in America. We talk about how churches must change with the times. We lament the lack of change. We make jokes about how the only one who likes change is a baby with a wet diaper. Yet we rarely discuss why change is so hard for us.

Over time I've come to understand some of the reasons behind our desire for same-ness. One of the most poignant learning experiences came from a church in rural Indiana that had been gifted with a pastor who was a trained musician. After discussing an idea with the consistory and gaining their approval, she moved the piano from the room next to the sanctuary into the sanctuary. This way she could accompany them on hymns and share her love of music. However, the congregation was furious with this decision. It took a year for them to move past this change to their interior landscape. Now you may laugh at this story and think "those people are ridiculous." But instead I invite you to reflect on your own personal landscape. Where are the places that you hope will remain the same? What are some things in your own life that you would hate to have "moved"? Have you ever had anyone move the furniture in your own home? What if instead of judging them those who resisted we instead ask, "What kind of a situation results in people who feel so strongly about this particular type of change?"

We are resistant to change in degrees. The balance between the two differs by individual. There is a spectrum in human behavior regarding openness to novelty. Part of the reason behind our resistance is inbred. Change can be dangerous when it has no pattern or

Forgiveness: A Path for Healing

Monday, September 23, 2019 at 2 p.m. - Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 3 p.m. register online.

A Marriage Enrichment Weekend - "It's a Wonderful Life"

Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7 p.m. - Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 3 p.m. register online.

COMING IN NOVEMBER: The FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

is planned for Nov. 15-17. (Friday the 15th at 7 p.m. to Sunday the 17th at 11 a.m.) Leaders will be Sue D'heedene and Winnie Kowalik.

COMING IN JANUARY 2020: The FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT January 17-19 Planned by pastors and laymen of the Conference. Possible theme: Seasons of a Man's Life. Watch for details this fall.

Thank you for your continued generosity!! We have just exceeded our \$7000 goal for the Craft Shop remodel!

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...

Elias UCC, Newmanstown

Saint Paul's UCC (Millbach), Newmanstown

Zion UCC of New Providence

Trinity UCC, Palmyra



Continued from front...

we are unable to make meaning from it. Change that is predictable is easier to handle (the changing of the seasons) even if we mourn it (the change in age of our children). Change involves gain and loss. And loss is one thing we do not like, even when it's necessary.

Same-ness offers us a sense of security, even when it's a false sense. Even when we know that we are delaying the inevitable, we cling to same-ness. It provides comfort. And sometimes that is because the rest of the world is changing so rapidly. After all, how many of us have thought, upon returning to a childhood place, "I'm so glad it hasn't changed!?" We all have aspects of our lives we do not want to change. For many people church is the definition of sameness and comfort in a sea of uncertainty and change.

So as we move into conversations about change in our churches, I invite you to take a deep breath. Whether you are the person who is clamoring for change or you are the one who thinks things are good the way they are, we occupy the same spaces in the church. In order to make decisions about our futures, we will need to sit and listen to one another. Hear about what has meaning, listen for what is valuable, what we don't want to lose, and what we think we might gain. We can be curious with one another about what's behind our resistance to change as well as what drives our eagerness for change. When we are around the table and listening we can find new and compassionate pathways through change to adaptation.

Scripture for reflection: "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

Peace,
Carrie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anniversary Service
Sunday, September 8, 2019 4:00 p.m.
Old Zion German Reformed Church
187 Reifsnnyder Rd, Lititz, PA 17543

Upcoming Events continued

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
Annual Meeting
Hafer Center, second floor of Schaff Library
Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA
September 21, 2019
All Welcome to presentations: 2:00PM-3:30PM

Installation of Rev. Tony Fields, Sr.
Christ Church UCC, Annville
September 22, 2019 3:00 PM

Drag Queen Bingo Fundraiser
Hummelstown UCC
September 28th
7:00PM (Doors Open @ 6:30PM)

St. Paul's UCC Chicken Pot Pie Dinner, Bazaar,
Craft Sale & Flea Market
Friday, October 4, 2019
9 AM - 7 PM
St. Paul's UCC
626 Williams Grove Rd,
Mechanicsburg, PA

Check out other upcoming events on our website:
<https://pccucc.org/calendar/>

Register for events online:
<https://pccucc.org/register-for-an-event/>
Or call the office - 717-652-1560

Read our full weekly eNews:
<https://pccucc.org/enews-archive/>

Contact us!

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