



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry

A Message from PCC

July 20, 2022

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

“So, I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Luke 11:9 NRSV)

Luke’s rendition of the Lord’s Prayer in chapter 11 is beautiful. (I encourage you to re-read it since Luke’s version is different than what we say on Sunday.)

I have said the prayer more often in the past 2 years than ever. While the prayer is simple enough in language, the spiritual posture behind it is not. The opening words push me to remember that God is God, and I am a creature. God’s sacredness is both imminent and transcendent, yet also completely mysterious. Immediately I am in a posture of humility and must acknowledge that I am not in control. Despite my desire to sway the world in my own preferred direction, the opening words remind me of my dependence and (very) limited control.

The same happens when I pray for God’s kingdom to come. The Greek verb is in the imperative tense, so I am, in essence, demanding that the kingdom come. I can only do that from a position of humility since it reinforces the nature of the kingdom as being God’s and not my own. I have my own ideas of what the kingdom looks like, or should look like, but the kingdom is God’s and once again I am encouraged to release my own desire to control the outcome and trust God.

Then I am in a posture to ask for bread. I think of bread as “that which I need” or “that which feeds me”. But again, I am challenged to ask myself exactly what that is – and is not. Food, *Continues on back*

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD - Conference Minister
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-3196

Rev. Dr. Nora Driver Foust - Associate Conference Minister
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-2587

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D. - Associate Conference Minister
email: mlaviola@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-3564

Rev. Rick Luciotti - Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families
email: rluciotti@gmail.com / Phone: 717-433-6306

C. Paul Keller - Office Manager
email: pkeller@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560

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...

- Apostles UCC, Waynesboro**
- Trinity UCC, Waynesboro**
- Mazappa Union UCC, Lewisburg**
- St. Paul's UCC, West Milton**



yes, and water certainly. What else is truly needful? Light, breath, relationship, shelter? Clothing, cars, books? The focus on bread encourages me to meditate on my most basic needs that God meets.

The next part is the real challenge. Asking God's forgiveness can be difficult. But how much more difficult to forgive those who are indebted to me? That means they owe me something. I am rightfully angry or hurt or withholding because they have damaged me. Yet Jesus is clear that forgiveness of me by God is tied directly to my forgiveness of others. If I have gotten this far in the prayer, then I hope I can speak this line truthfully – that I can be in a posture of humility before God having truly forgiven others.

And finally, the plea to be saved from the time of trial. What irony for Jesus to speak these words. We ask for this and yet there is no guarantee that we will be protected from trial. In our day, as in the time of Jesus, the time of trial is now for many of us. From daily pain of disease or illness to broken and frayed relationships, to acts of violence and times of fear.

Our time of trial is why I have been thinking of the Lord's Prayer as more of a circle than a linear piece. By the time I reach the request for protection, I need to start again to remind myself of God's mystery, design, and providence. I need the hope of the holy God as the one who broods over the creation and who ultimately, sweeps us up into God's life, despite our trials in all their forms.

Jesus' words, "For everyone who asks, receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened" grant the hope we need. May our asking, receiving, and searching bring us to unexpected places where God waits, with bread.

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference

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>

Learn more about camping opportunities

here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

"Making All Things New"

General Synod 2023

"Making All Things New" will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30–July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ will get back to business a year from now. And it will do so in person.

After an all-virtual experience in 2021, the UCC's biennial national meeting will require all voting delegates to be in Indianapolis in 2023. That's according to the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, the associate general minister who serves as Synod administrator.

Delegates and visitors will meet June 30 through July 4 at the Indianapolis Convention Center.