PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

November 27, 2024

Greeting Penn Central Conference friends and members,

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." ~ 1 Corinthians 13:13

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day and I'm sure many of us have already been working on the plan for the special meal with family or friends, or maybe you're planning a quiet day as you live in to the changing seasons outside and in the church year.

When it comes to the Thanksgiving Day meal, many of us have favorites that without them on the table it would not be a complete Thanksgiving feast. For me, if the cranberry sauce shaped-like-a-can is not present, I'll be the one quietly pouting next to gravy boat.

One year while visiting one of those nostalgia-filled antique co-ops, I even found a special tray and spoon that was specifically designed for that glorious tart gelatinous treat! (see pic) Something I'd never seen before and the only pic of mine ever to go semi-viral on social media, as I was the envy of canned cranberry sauce aficionados around the country! What an addition to our holiday table!

At this point, if you're still reading, you're probably like, umm…Dwight, this isn't really what Thanksgiving is about, is it? And you would be right.

But part of me always tries to embrace the secular, American traditions of the national holiday that is Thanksgiving, because giving thanks should be a regular part of my spiritual practices. We are Christians and we are implored in 1 Thessalonians 5:18a to "give thanks in all circumstances." The truth is remembering to practice that when the world is on unsure footing, and when the rain is only falling on the just, it's okay if our faith umbrella has a few holes in it. Heck, even with Jesus preaching to us on the mount to not worry about our daily needs because God loves us more than the

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: 717-652-1560 x3

C. Paul Keller - *Office Manager*
email: pkeller@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 x1

Rev. Dwight Hein - *Facilitator for Clergy Care*

email: dhein@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-6306

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 UCC, Dalmatia

Quentin UCC, Quentin

Himmels UCC, Dornsife

St. John's UCC, Red Lion



birds and we should trust in that divine providence, it's okay to forgive ourselves when worry for our future overtake us.

When I have to reboot my faith, I try to return to pondering, "what is the nature of that for which I am thankful?" That is where the passage at the top of this column comes. Tucked away at the end of this overused-at-wedding-ceremonies scripture is the answer to my centering question. "Faith, hope and love abide…" These eternals, this trinity of discipleship abides with us always, as they are eternal, sacred gifts. No matter the extent of the rain or our worry for the world, these three abide and should be the foundational nature of all for which we thankful.

As followers of Christ, we shouldn't need a secular holiday to remind us to be thankful to God as the source "from whom all blessings flow." But as a wise pastor once said, "Saying thank-you is something that needs to be taught." So, tomorrow or whenever you have your next special meal, or maybe even the next time you splurge on a Happy Meal because it's your comfort food, remember to stop and give thanks for that which is eternal and abides with us always, even long after the cranberry sauce is gone.

A blessed and peaceful Thanksgiving to all.

Dwight

Rev. Dwight Hein

Facilitator for Clergy Care

Penn Central Conference

The United Church of Christ has established the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal and the Hurricanes 2024 Appeal.

https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief

Your support for these appeals will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied for years as they rebuild. You can donate through your local church, with your gifts going through the Conference to the Appeal. Gifts can be made through PCC by clicking "DONATE" on pccucc.org. Under "Directed Gifts" choose "Disaster Relief" and notate "Hurricane Relief". And you can always mail a check to the PCC offices with the same notation.

Rock and Roll With It

Hartman Center Winter Youth Retreat

We will be returning to Hartman Center Campground as guests.

5725 Old US Highway 322, Milroy, PA 17063

January 17-19, 2025

Grades 6 through College Grad (or age 22)

Meals and Lodging included

$100 until December 2, 2024

$150 after December 2, 2024

Use coupon code PCC2025 if you would like to use a Penn Central Conference Outdoor Ministries scholarship of 50% off your registration fees.

Register here: https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/rock-roll-with-it-youth-retreat-2025