



# **PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE**



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## **A Message from PCC**

**April 7, 2021**

### **Members and friends of Penn Central Conference -**

*Psalm 133:1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*

*Acts 4:32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul...*

Once upon a time in the land of Penn Central Conference I traveled about from church to church meeting with congregations and pastors discussing the life and health of their churches. I was reminded of those travels this week as I began looking at the lectionary passages for this coming Sunday as so often those visits were invited because of multiple hearts, minds and souls.

The lectionary passage from Acts this week both reminds us of our call to give “testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (v. 33), but also this statement about how the community was of “one heart and soul” about possessions. There is argument to be made that this is the church at its best – the Beloved Community! But I won’t make this about communal property so much as about how effective a community can be when it is of one heart and soul. The psalmist called it unity.

Part of my work with churches then and now is to help each find unity around a project or issue that needs attention. Seeking one heart and soul is so often the hardest of the hard work in community.

In this last year when space has so separated us and ideology has seemed to make that space even more distant for some, what will one heart

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## **Outdoor Ministries**

**In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation**

### **Summer Camp: REGISTER ANYTIME!**

The 2021 summer camp schedule is set! There are camps for all ages and interests at both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. Check out what is offered online.

PCC is covering half of camp registration for members! To learn more email

Anne Rankin at [annerankin524@gmail.com](mailto:annerankin524@gmail.com)

or Paul at [pkeller@pccucc.org](mailto:pkeller@pccucc.org)

### **Summer Staff Recruitment -- GOING ON NOW!**

Calling all high school kids, college-age young adults, and adults interested in working at

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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.*

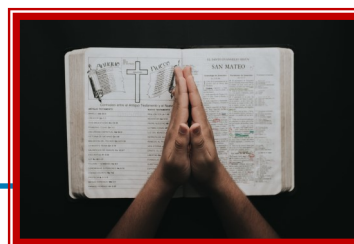
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**St. John's UCC, Jonestown**

**Church of the Apostles UCC, Lancaster**

**Faith UCC, Lancaster**

**First Reformed UCC, Lancaster**



## Message from the Conference cont'

and soul look like for your congregation moving forward? How will your congregation seek this biblical unity as you all work together on mission and worship in-person again (and probably online, still)? What will emerge as the one thing that can bring you together in ministry?

A good place to start is in rallying around love. While there is usually a bit of work involved in finding that one thing that can move a congregation together in unity, seeking the place where love is needed is generally a strong launching pad. Weekend food backpacks for local school children, a transportation program for local veterans to the VA clinic 90 minutes away, a Saturday Bingo program at the local nursing home, or annual activities on Earth Day with monthly green initiatives for the church – all of these are possibilities that I have seen congregations rally around in unity of purpose because of their experiences of the love of God.

Proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus points one to love. Ask where love is needed in your community and as you pray and ponder in search of the unity of heart and soul that Christ prays for among us, new life and passion will be found.

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!

*Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*

**Shalom,**

**Nora**

Rev. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference



## Outdoor Ministries cont'

camp this summer! Lutheran Camping Corporation is recruiting now for this summer's camp season.

**The Growing Project at The Wittel Farm Season Kick-Off; April 10: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon**

**Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa** April 11; 2-4:30 p.m.

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!

**Outdoor Ministries: Men's Retreat at Kirchenwald** April 30 - May 1 Need a weekend with the guys? Come on out to Kirchenwald for a retreat that's sure to put hair on your chest. \$85

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

## Contact us!

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