



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

April 14, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference -

"Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures..." (Luke 24:45a NRSV)

"For no one will ever be a good teacher if they do not show themselves to be teachable and always ready to learn." (John Calvin, Commentary on I Corinthians 14:31, edited for inclusivity)

The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus are filled with wonder, surprise, fear, pathos and hope. They also include teaching, which we may miss in all of the Easter glory. In the passage at the end of the gospel of Luke, Jesus appears and stands among the disciples, offering them peace. They were "startled and terrified" until he speaks again and shows them his wounds. In showing them his wounds he literally opens himself physically to them, inviting them into his wounded self. Afterward, while they remain joyful and disbelieving, he asks a basic question: "Have you anything here to eat?"

I admit, that line always makes me laugh. The words are so wonderfully basic and simple. I can imagine the disciples fumbling to find the cooked fish and giving it to Jesus to eat as they watch in wonder. After this moment the story transitions into teaching.

Jesus spends years teaching the disciples prior to his death and resurrection. Scriptures relate how they did not always understand his teachings or they tried to stop what he was telling them. The lessons were too difficult or threatening to grasp at times. Their own preconceived notions created filters through which the teachings flowed and some-

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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

or Paul at 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.

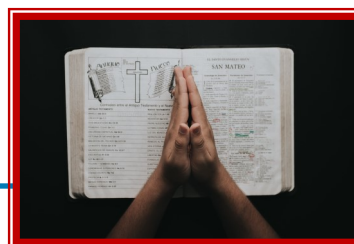
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

Grace UCC, Lancaster

Hamilton Park UCC, Lancaster

Wisdom's Table UCC, Lancaster

Salem (Rohrerstown) UCC, Lancaster



Message from the Conference cont'

times not everything got through. By the end of his life the disciples were perhaps better versed in some aspects of kingdom life, but they were not prepared for the final lesson.

In the post-resurrection stories I see something different happening. The transformation of Jesus and the disciples' direct experience of his transformed presence casts everything they have learned previously into a new light. Now Jesus is able to "open their minds" to his teachings. The foundational claim of the gospel is presented to them "...repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations..." and the disciples grasp and retain it. The disciples are transformed in their encounter with Jesus and that encounter renders them teachable in a way they had not been previously. They take the teaching and run with it.

I think often about how my own encounter with Jesus has made me teachable. Studying psychology has taught me that human beings have an innate need to believe themselves to be correct. In other words, we hate being wrong. This shouldn't surprise any of us. But what does surprise me is how my relationship with Jesus constantly pushes me to question whether I am remaining teachable, or if I'm slipping into the comfort of certainty and dogmatism. The disciples were sure about certain things prior Jesus' death. His resurrection went against everything they thought they knew to be right. Yet their encounter with his new life opened their minds and they were able to receive his teaching in a new way. That teachable spirit allowed them to embrace the gospel (finally) and to make it the center of their lives, even unto death.

Our platitudes, deflections and intellectual certitudes always remain a temptation. How has your encounter with the risen Christ transformed your own mind? Have our spirits become teachable in light of Easter?

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call
Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference



Outdoor Ministries cont'

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

Earth Day Celebration at Kirchenwald April 25
Enjoy an afternoon of environmental activities, games, and crafts at one of your favorites places within God's creation: CAMP! An evening meal is included in the \$10 fee. All ages welcome.

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/>

Free Book

Brooks Berndt's new book "Cathedral on Fire - A Church Handbook For the Climate Crisis" is on it's second printing. He is giving away copies of the first printing while supplies last! Order the book on uccresources.com and use code 2020FREE when it asks for a promo code.

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD - Conference Minister
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 12

Rev. Nora Driver Foust - Associate Conference Minister
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex.13

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D. - Associate Conference Minister
email: mlaviola@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 15

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler - Facilitator of Care to Clergy & Clergy Families / email: rcomfort-butler@pccucc.org / phone: 717-719-1895

Anne Rankin - Outdoor Ministries Liaison
email: annerankin524@gmail.com / phone: 717-945-4585

C. Paul Keller - Office Manager
email: pkeller@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 14