



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

## A Message from PCC

**June 23, 2021**

“But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31 NLT

It has been quite a year and a half, hasn't it? In 2019, I bet no one ever in their wildest imagination would have thought that we would be quarantined to our homes, only to be allowed to emerge when going to the grocery store, work, or emergencies. But it happened, and it was dreadful. But there is hope; there was always hope. I chose the passage from Isaiah because it was something that I read daily throughout the pandemic to remind me of that hope.

In this passage, God speaks through Isaiah to the Israelites, letting them know that their captivity is finally over and they can look forward to returning to their homes. But the walk that they will endure is long. From Babylon to Jerusalem, it is approximately 700 miles. Imagine for a moment walking from New York City to Atlanta, Georgia. That is a lot of steps for sure. Would any of us have the strength to make the trek? Would you be able to do it and not faint or grow weary?

Isaiah 40:31 is a verse that talks about strength, and renewed strength, gaining new strength. Can we walk without becoming faint or run without becoming weary through and beyond this pandemic of 2020/2021? I believe we can by placing our trust in our God. We can look at the pandemic in two ways, negatively, or perhaps we lift and

*Continues on back*

## 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.

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

#### **Hartman Center Spirit Week:**

Week of August 8 at Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg. Learn more here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

## 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...

**Incarnation UCC, Newport**

**Elias UCC, Newmanstown**

**Trinity UCC, Palmyra**

**Jacob's (Reeds Station) UCC, Paxinos**



## Message from the Conference cont'

acknowledge the positive things that came out of this dreadful year and a half. I read this poem by Kitty O'Meara, and it brought me to the realization that there were many blessings in this time of Covid.

### "And the people stayed home"

Kitty O'Meara

And the people stayed home.  
And read books and listened, and rested and exercised,  
and made art and played games,  
and learned new ways of being and were still.  
And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, and some danced.  
Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently.  
And the people healed.  
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways the earth began to heal.  
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,  
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,  
and dreamed new images,  
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,  
as they had been healed.  
We have endured captivity and suffering, but there is hope that through our trust and love of God, we will now have a renewed strength and hopefully a renewed mindset to live our lives differently, better together as one body.

**With many blessings,**

**Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler**

**Coordinator of Clergy Care**

**Penn Central Conference**



## Local Church Events

### Chapel Hill UCC, Lemoyne Open House

July 18 10AM Worship service

Afterwards enjoy Farm Show milk shake from the Dairymen's Assoc. vendor truck and a delicious sandwich from the Bucky's Festival Food truck. We will have games available and will be giving tours of our new facility. This is a community event! Everyone is welcome.

### Northern Cluster Pig Roast and Concert

Sunday June 27 5pm

Northern Cluster of UCC Churches will host a free pig-roast and Seger Family concert at MYO Park in Millersburg.

## Save the date

**UCC's General Synod 33**, "Rooted In Love", will be occurring July 11-18, 2021. Learn more at [general-synod.org](http://general-synod.org)

## Contact us!

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