PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

September 11, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

"Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom." James 3:13

I find myself celebrating the congregations that are working their way through James in the lectionary this Fall! This week's lection opens with the above verse asking how we see wisdom in the world. I love the practicality of James. Life is hard (1:2-4). Seek wisdom from God (1:5-8). Live out the teachings of Christ daily, primarily in showing care and love for others, the needy among you (1:22-27). Avoid favoritism (2: 1-9). Be do-ers, not just believers (2:14-26). Watch that tongue, it is fire (3:5) that is used to bless God and curse those made in God's image (3:9). Let your living be filled with works born of the faith you have and the wisdom you seek from God (3:13-18). Practicality is foundational in both church life and discipleship.

There is certainly an element of practicality to the Keystone Conference merger conversations. We are not the church that we were in the 1950s and 60s. It was practical for the four PA Conference Ministers to engage in a shared ministry conversation as we all emerged from the pandemic. We recognized our world had changed and that life from this point on would be different.

Delegates from the four Conferences at the June meeting in State College asked important questions that guided the steps of the Keystone Working Group during the summer months. Four separate bulletin inserts and 12 Fall Town Hall options are the working groups' response as we continue to work toward the vote on November 9th. New information on staffing, mission, financials, and the transition timeline will be shared at Town Halls. While every question cannot be answered prior to a vote, our hope is to offer assurances that concerns are being heard and addressed as much as possible. The November 9th vote in each Conference is an up or down vote. Delegates will vote yes

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Contact us!

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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. Mark's UCC, Lebanon

St. Paul's UCC, Lemasters

Dreisbach UCC, Lewisburg

St. John's UCC, Lewisburg



or no for approval of the Formal Motion that will bring to life ONE Conference where FOUR were previously. The motion can be found at https://psec.org/keystone/ If the motion passes (by 2/3 of each) it will move to General Synod for a vote in July of 2025.

The Fall Town Halls are focused on three of the big topics or questions that came out of the June meeting. The first round of town halls is focusing on staffing and budget, the second round will focus on the proposed mission focus of the combined Conference, and the third round will look at the role of associations. The transition timeline will be discussed at all sessions. Please register for the ones that best fit your schedule. https://psec.org/keystone/

Make your voice heard: questions, concerns, joys, expectations. NOW IS THE TIME.

Our Penn Central Meeting on November 9th will be both in-person at St. Thomas in Harrisburg and online using zoom. Several locations are hosting watch parties. Each church is encouraged to send two delegates and ALL authorized ministers have a vote. Watch for those registration materials next week. The meeting will begin at 10:00. The Keystone vote will be at 11:30 sharp..

Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference

The churches of the Northern Association of the Penn Central Conference are once again hosting an Outreach Mission Event to fight world hunger. The Association is working with the organization "Rise Against Hunger", a group striving to end world hunger in our lifetime. Rise Against Hunger is a program that packages nutritious dehydrated meals of rice, soy, vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. The packaged meals are then sent to areas around the world affected by natural disasters and conflicts as needs dictate.

The Association meal packaging event will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the Centre Hall Lion's Club beginning around 10 am. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please consider contributing to this event by volunteering to package the meals and/or donating to cover the cost (each meal costs 40¢).

This is a great fun activity and no special skill or equipment is required. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers can vary in age from 5 years old to 99 years old. The goal is to package 15,000 to 20,000 meals--meaning we need to raise $6,000 to $8,000 to cover the meal cost. We will also need approximately 60 volunteers. We are looking to run two shifts 10 am to 12 noon; and 1 pm to 3 pm. and 30 volunteers for each shift. If you feel comfortable you can sign up for both shifts. You may register online at http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/Centrehall2024 or you may contact Susan Rudy at 1-303-349-3028 and provide her your information and she will register you. We are also looking for a few strong arms/backs to lift 50-pound bags when the truck arrives to unload. They would need to arrive around 8:30 am that day September 28, 2024.

To sign up to volunteer, again please contact Susan Rudy at 1-303-349-3028 or 814-349-8334 (please leave a message as she works during the day) or go on-line to the site listed above.

To make your tax deductible donation, please make checks payable to Northern Association and mail them to:

Teresa Hockenberry, Treasurer - (please note in memo line "Rise Against Hunger")

117 Green Grove Drive

Spring Mills, PA 16875

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Susan Rudy

President

Northern Association, Penn Central Conference