# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

## A Message from PCC

**May 24, 2023**

### Greetings members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

*Colossians 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they become discouraged."*

*Psalm 133 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."*

*Isaiah 1: 18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow."*

I believe that these three references from scripture not only interrelate, but that in taking them together, they offer a positive pathway forward for effectively coping with the tensions impacting our culture.

A few years ago, I sat with a family embroiled and embittered with one another. The oldest child was viewed as a challenge (to put it mildly) and causing the family fabric to be ripped apart. Criticisms and yelling had become the primary means of communicating. Parents and child were viewing each other as hating each other. As their rancor unfolded in front of me, I found myself saying to them, "The intensity of your emotions says to me that you love each other very much. You would not be so upset if you did not desperately want to feel the joy of such love. My only question is, 'how is the manner in which you are expressing your love working for you?'

Their yelling and criticisms were only driving them further apart. This question brought all of them to silence, and in that moment, I quietly gave God thanks for that inspiration. It took a while, and several more times referring to that question, but each began

*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: 717-433-2587

**Rev. Rick Luciotti** - *Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families*
email: rluciotti@gmail.com / Phone: 717-433-6306

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

## 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...

**First Reformed UCC, Sunbury**

**Peace UCC, Denver**

**Paradise UCC, Milton**

**Trinity UCC, Turbotville**



to consider questions regarding and suggestions for how they might more peacefully express their concerns, needs and wants from each other.

It is my thinking that the scripture references cited previously call us to understand that teaching and encouragement are superior to criticism and yelling in helping others to develop positive relationships. Criticizing and loudly expressing disapproval of either actions, opinions or ideas may seem more time efficient methods for correcting what we view as wrong, but ultimately only serve to widen distrust and cause damage to relationships.

The Isaiah text offers a method for the pathway to unity the Psalmist proclaims as God's intent for relatedness. The tensions within our culture have at the core, I believe, a desire to not only have others do things and think our way, but to resolve problems quickly by use of force. But in relationships, at all levels, the adage 'Haste makes waste,' applies.

Reasoning together is a process and worth the effort. It may take patience and compromise and the willingness on all parties' part to make changes in approach to matters. But as we are all children of God and not God ourselves, is it not worth the time and effort to do so.

Criticizing may feel good momentarily, but when expressed in a judgmental manner it rarely if ever produces positive results. The receiver of such critique may briefly comply, but resentment will linger. We cannot make others bend to our will. If they comply, it is only due to their seeing some brief benefit in so doing. But ultimately the relationship will be damaged.

Choosing to reason together is allowing God to take us by the hand and so join our hand with the hand of the other.

**Rick**

Rev. Rick Luciotti

Coordinator of Clergy Care

Penn Central Conference

## "Renewing The Covenant We Share" PCC 61st Annual Meeting - June 9-10, 2023 at Double-Tree Hotel in Willow Street (Lancaster)

Registration now open! https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/penn-central-conference-annual-meeting-2023

## "Making All Things New" General Synod 2023

"Making All Things New" will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30–July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis.

## Hartman Center Homecoming week

July 31 through August 5, 2023

We will be returning to Hartman Center Campgroun d in Milroy, PA as guests. Camping experiences for all ages, including intergenerational camps.

2 night camps Monday, July 31 at 4PM through Wedn esday, August 2 at 4PM

Getting Started - Grades 1 and 2 ($125)

Intergenerational Camp ($125)

3 night camps Wednesday, August 2 at 4PM through Saturday, August 5 at 11AM

Intergenerational Camp ($190)

Camp of the Heart ($250)

5 night camps Monday, 07/31/2023 at 4PM through S aturday, 08/05/2023 at 11AM

Elementary - Grades 3 - 5 ($300)

Junior High - Grades 6 - 8 ($300)

Senior High - Grades 9 - 12 plus ($300)

Leadership - Grades 9 - 12 plus ($300)

For more information, contact
Rev. Alice Rauch alirauch07@gmail.com (director) or Rev. Amelia Price aashivers@gmail.com (registrar)

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week