PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

April 17, 2024

Greetings friends and members of Penn Central,

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1

It might be the first bible verse I ever memorized. I know it is the only whole Psalm I can recite. I could lead a devotion on this 6 verse Psalm 356 days a year. My focus would shift depending on the day, the news I had read, the circumstances of the life of my congregation, family or even myself.

These familiar words are prayer. When I am not comfortable, I pray for green pastures. When life feels like class XI whitewater level change and chaos, I pray for still waters. There are days that need the rod and others that require the oil. But on everyone of those days, in each and every moment (especially the hard ones), I know that my cup overflows with goodness and mercy, if only I will open my heart to its presence. (This, friends, is the key to my eternal optimism.)

The week after Easter, I saw a brief news story from UCC News that extended an invitation to the church to submit prayers for peace. Our General Minister and President, the Reverend Karen Georgia Thompson, calls the church to a season of prayer noting this campaign as a communal response the continuing escalation of real war, personal and geopolitical conflicts, and injustices among us. This People's Prayers for Peace drive invites a cacophony of prayers from all members of our church.

Over the weekend my Facebook feed was full of Illinois Conference Minister, Rev Molly Carlson's, submission, and her prayer pushed me to think about and compose my own. (It's no Molly, but in hopes of seeing Penn Central prayers filling my feed, I offer this prayer today.) Siblings in Christ, pray with me:

Holy One, you call us to be peacemakers in a world that too often feels devoid of peace.

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

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...

Emmanuel UCC, York

Faith UCC, York

Hayshire UCC, York

Heidelberg UCC, York



***P**repare us for this work with a deep knowledge of your Peace.*

***E**mpower us to stand in the gaps when warring sides are far apart.*

***A**id us in seeing and honoring your image in each face we see.*

***C**ome, Holy Spirit, Come!*

***E**rase the hatred among us and replace that darkness with your light.*

***M**ake our actions sing LOVE in a broken world.*

***A**llow us to be instruments of reconciliation.*

***K**eeping faith in the reality that our unity is found only in Christ Jesus.*

***E**mbolden us to seek peace without ceasing, and*

***R**eveal to us the path of the peacemakers you call us to be.*

For "Blessed are the peacemakers." Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.

You can participate in the people's prayers for peace by reading prayers or even submitting your own at https://www.ucc.org/peoples-prayers-for-peace/#peoplesprayersforpeaceform

Shalom,

Nora

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust

Associate Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference

62nd Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference

For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a shared Annual Meeting on June 7-9, 2024 at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting.

We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who will be preaching during closing worship on Sunday. All four conferences will be hosting a reception with her on Saturday evening as well. Register by clicking the Annual Meeting tab on pccucc.org

Registration is now open for **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-2024

Camp makes a great Christmas gift. Check out the summer options from our partners at Lutheran Camping Corporation's Kirchenwald (and Nawakwa)

https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/youth-summer-programs/