

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

February 16, 2022

Dear Friends and Members of Penn Central Conference,

Psalm 121 begins, *"I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."*

The first time I stood atop Peak 8 in Breckenridge Colorado, I paused for quite a long period of time. It was not because I was somewhat short of breath, though I was at over 13,000 feet above sea level. Nor was it entirely because I was intimidated by the thought of skiing down the trail marked by a black diamond warning sign. Though at that moment I somewhat doubted my sanity. No, I was taken by a sight to the southwest. On the opposing mountain side, highlighted by the snow, was a clear zigzag pattern of a trail climbing that slope. The person I was skiing with that day informed me that it was an old miner's pathway leading to a long-abandoned gold mine. The switch back pattern of the trail was the only safe way to lead mules up and down the mountain.

I only pondered the scene briefly prior to heading down the slope. Later, I questioned what thoughts that old miner might have considered on those long, lonely stretches of time with no radio, TV, or other devices for diversion. His evenings would have provided much time to think, not having distractions such as we have in our era.

There is a certain irony that back in previous eras, people only went into such remote and dangerous areas for work or to escape some danger. Today many travel to such locales for vacation and thrill seeking. Little wonder than that in the time of the

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Outdoor Ministries

WINTER FUN DAYS at Kirchenwald

February 20 from 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bring your family or youth group and enjoy an afternoon on Kirchenwald's award-winning toboggan run, ice-skating on the lake, or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge.

For more information and to register, visit:

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/winter-fun-day-feb-2022/>

Lenten Day Apart (March 12 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Wittel Farm)

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/len-ten-day-apart-2022/>

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.

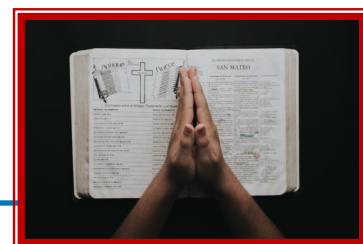
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

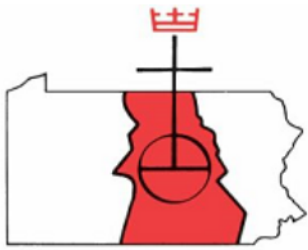
First Reformed UCC, Lancaster

Grace UCC, Lancaster

Hamilton Park UCC, Lancaster

St. Peters UCC, Lancaster





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Psalmist mountains were symbols of mystery and often considered the location of God. Inspiration deriving from time to think and meditate is a gift of God we all too rarely allow ourselves. We are busy and often dominated by schedules and cultural demands. Even attending church must be fit in when time allows many times. But in this Psalm, we are reminded that choosing to take the time to reflect, to think deeply and pray upon God's word is an invitation to grow closer to our Creator. And, as the Psalmist makes clear, it is in such space and time we recall that God is our true help.

The mountain of Transfiguration was such a place wherein the awe, mystery and majesty of God envelope the imagination. As we encounter the more mysterious and wondrous moments of our faith, such as the Transfiguration, an attitude of wonder and not attempted explanation opens our spirit to blessing. We do well to allow a sense of awe to swathe our spirit and inspire our voice to simply declare, "The Heavens are telling the glory of God."

Rick

Rev. Rick Luciotti
Coordinator of Clergy Care
Penn Central Conference



Save the Dates:

PCC's 60th Annual Meeting

Opening Plenary: 6:30PM, June 6, 2022
Workshops: 6:30PM, June 7-9, 2022
Business & Worship: 9:30AM, June 11, 2022

Virtual Choir

The latest Virtual Choir anthem, How Lovely are the Messengers, by Felix Mendelssohn, is available on the PCC YouTube Channel

Contact us!

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