PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

November 1, 2023

Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,

As Halloween has become a day of great pretending, All Saints Day continues to be the day our masks are removed, and we again examine who we are truly meant to become. The appointed lesson for this day is St. Matthew 5:1-12, what we refer to as the Beatitudes. I believe these short verses to be both prescriptive and aspirational. Otherwise, if they were statements of attainment, the word ALL would not apply. It would simply read Saints Day.

Striving to develop positive moral traits of action and focused upon what we should be doing as followers of Christ is understood as a lifelong pursuit. The lives of the Apostles demonstrate that abundantly. Paul's own words describe the difficulty involved in these pursuits. (For I do not do what I want, but the very thing I hate.) Perhaps this is the very reason Jesus began the Beatitudes with "Bless are the poor in Spirit". He begins with a blessing upon those keenly aware of their need for Grace and Mercy.

Upon such awareness the foundation for discipleship is formed. Those we recall today, and we today continue to build on that foundation. Far from perfect, we nonetheless possess the blessing which empowers us to grow in spirit and in truth. As with our predecessors, we too will fall short of at given moments. Yet the wideness that is God's mercy continues to abide and leads us anew.

Thus I want to suggest that ALL Saints Day, in addition to recalling those who have gone before us and their legacy of faith, is also a time for us to

Continues on back

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

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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...

Faith United UCC, Ickesburg

Pleasant Hill Chapel UCC, Ono

St. John's UCC, Jonestown

Church of the Apostles UCC, Lancaster



meditate upon how we might follow in the footpaths they set before us. Learning from both the positive examples and the moments of need for repentance, we can recommit ourselves to a deepening faith journey.

Lighting candles, placing wreaths or bouquets at a grave or attending a memorial service on this day are appropriate methods for recalling the departed Saints. But choosing to follow their footsteps in picking our up crosses is the truest means by which to honor their lives and spirits.

Rick

Rev. Rick Luciotti

Coordinator of Clergy Care

Penn Central Conference

Register for the following at https://pccucc.org/register-for-an-event/

PCC Fall Budget Meeting

November 11, 2023 9:30 AM

This year's Annual Meeting included a vote for the Penn Central Conference to have a Budget Meeting in the fall. Each authorized minister is a voting member and each church is allowed two delegates to vote. These can be, but do not have to be, the same delegates as went to Annual Meeting. We do still need to reach quorum.

This meeting will be on Zoom only, and will include a budget presentation and vote. We anticipate it to take no more than 60 - 90 minutes.

Synod Seconds – A Keystone-wide Conversation

Join conference staff and delegates from across the keystone state as we explore implementation of General Synod Resolutions and looks at snap-shots of wider-church life. November 13 from 6:30-8 pm. All are welcome. Please register.

Choose from three in person and one Zoom Town Hall to learn more about the **Keystone Project**, the current working group's assessments and how they are visioning "Together we are stronger: the Keystone Conference."

November 15, 6:30PM - Quentin UCC, Quentin (in-person only)

The Virtual Choir is starting up! The 2023-24 season will begin with a new Christmas Carol by John Rutter for our churches to use during the Christmas season! Contact Julie Holm, bvfofmusic@gmail.com to be part of the fun! Tracks will be available by November 5, and orientation sessions will be held the week before.

PCC is hiring!

Position: Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families

The Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families is a part-time position (25 hours per week). This person will be responsible for assessing and responding to pastoral care needs of clergy and clergy families in coordination with a team of pastoral chaplains throughout the Penn Central Conference.

This person is hired and supervised by the Conference Minister.

See attached job description.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2023

Please send clergy profile with references or a CV with references
to penncentralconferenceucc@gmail.com