



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

January 01, 2020

Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference -

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)

New Year's Day is unique. There is no other day of our year that serves as such a gate between the old and the new. Ask most individuals and you will find that they have plans for their new year – resolutions, projects, goals, or deadlines for important decisions. The celebration of a New Year is considered a universal practice – which is quite rare in human society – and we use different dates and traditions in the celebration. Usually some sort of display is required, such as fireworks, or dance rituals, or special activities that serve to sweep away old spirits, habits, concerns, grudges, and failures.

Psychologists agree that the desire for a New Year celebration is largely about control. The need for recognition of the day stems from our desire to exert control over our world, which explains why we set so many resolutions, even though over 80% of us don't follow them! In some cultures the New Year's celebration is an open acknowledgement of our desire to escape death – to recognize that we have "made it" another year and escaped the grim reaper.

The idea of a new start is attractive for many of us. A variety of religious traditions celebrate the New Year by letting go of grudges, making amends, increasing prayers, or returning items borrowed from neighbors. Something in these rituals satisfies our desire for balance and for spiritual reconciliation.

Western Christianity celebrates the New Year as set by the Gregorian calendar (based on

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Hartman Center

Upcoming Retreats:

Men's Retreat: Seasons of a Man's Life Friday, January 17, 2020 at 7PM - Sunday January 19, 2020 at 1PM register online

The PCC Confirmation Retreat will be held March 27 - 29, 2020 at Hartman Center. This weekend is always a great opportunity for our confirmands to explore "Being The Church" and to connect with other youth.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Early bird pricing for those who pay in full before March 31, 2020.

Learn more and register at
<https://hartmancenter.com/summer-camp/>

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. Pete's UCC, Aaronsburg

Salem (Spring Mills) UCC, Spring Mills

Emmanuel UCC, Abbottstown

Christ UCC, Annville



Message from the Conference cont'

the one established by Rome), which established January 1st as the beginning of the year. Meanwhile in Judaism and Islam the New Year is celebrated on different days, having been established deep within their scriptures and traditions. However, Christian perspectives vary on the celebration these days. But the time and date is not in question. Instead some Christian groups shun the celebration because of its pagan roots or the tendency to engage in questionable moral practices, such as exuberant alcohol consumption!

Still, the experience of a fresh start can be both liberating and humbling. The Christian is offered this opportunity on a daily basis, since our regeneration in Christ has already happened and we live into new life on a daily basis. We have been redeemed and yet we experience regeneration continually when we live in communion with the Holy Spirit. Unlike secular celebrations of the New Year, our sense of newness can stay with us daily through the passage of time.

May this New Year be one of blessing and refreshment in our new life in Christ!

Peace,

Carrie

Year End OCWM

Thank you for your gifts to OCWM. All 2019 donations (OCWM or others) must be received at the Penn Central Conference Office by Friday, January 17, 2020. Any money received after that date will be counted as 2020 donations. Please clearly mark your donations at 2019.

Upcoming Town Halls w/ Rev. Carrie Call

January 12 - York Association Town Hall - Mt. Zion UCC, York - 2:00PM

February 3 - Harrisburg Association Town Hall - Chapel Hill UCC, Camp Hill - 6:00PM

Upcoming Events

"As He Did Unto Others" Music Sundays - Dr. Robert Horton - LTS Santee Chapel - January 5, 4:00PM

Planning Ahead:

ONA Winter Gathering at Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg PA - February 22, 2020

Annual Meeting - June 12-13, 2020

Event with Bishop Robert Schnase - September 19, 2020 (info to come!)

Check out other upcoming events on our website:

<https://pccucc.org/calendar/>

Read our full weekly eNews:

<https://pccucc.org/enews-archive/>

Sign up for our weekly eNews:

Link at bottom of any page on www.pccucc.org

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD - Transitional Conference Minister
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 12

Rev. Nora Driver Foust - Associate Conference Minister
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 13

Zoë D'heedene - Coordinator of Camps/Retreats
email: program@hartmancenter.com

Scott Watts - Facilitator of Care to Clergy & Clergy Families
email: swatts@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 15

C. Paul Keller - Office Manager
email: pkeller@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 14

Laura Dalton - Administrative Assistant/Search & Call Assistant
email: ldalton@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-652-1560 ex. 10