



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

March 11, 2020

Dear Friends of Penn Central Conference -

With great joy, I announce that on last Saturday, the Penn Central Conference Board of Directors met in a special session and voted to call the Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola (her name is pronounced Ma-REE-sah) as our new Associate Conference Minister for Congregation Transitions. The Search Committee was unanimous in their recommendation to the Board of Directors. The committee consisted of the Michael Gibbs, Linda Vignati, Marilyn Meech from the Board, and the Rev. Dennis Weidler, Rev. Jes Kast and Jerry Thomason. I am deeply grateful to them for their service. They received 11 profiles for the position and interviewed three candidates in person before making their recommendation to the Board. She will be working with the Search and Call Associates and the Church Empowerment Committee as well as develop programs and ways that will benefit all our congregations. I am personally excited about all the gifts and skills she will bring to Penn Central Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Laviola is presently serving in the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ where she actively served in several different roles, in addition to serving 11 years as pastor and teacher of the United Community Church of Morrisville, Vermont. Presently, she is serving as Interim Senior Pastor of The Old Meeting House in East Montpelier, Vermont. During her time at Morrisville, she helped two congregations come together as one - a United Methodist congregation and a United Church of Christ congregation. She enabled them to discover their shared ministry of mission to their community and eventually join together as one congregation, where they have become a focal point of mission to their community.

Marisa holds degrees from Bowling Green State University of Ohio: Bachelor and Master of Music in piano performance and music history. From the University of Kentucky: Ph.D. in Psychology, and from Boston University School of Theology: Master of Divinity. She taught at Asbury College in the early 1980's before transitioning to a career in psychology.

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Outdoor Ministries

Upcoming Retreats:

Confirmation Retreat - March 27 - 29

What is Good Leadership? with Rev. Dr. Carrie Call - April 14 - 15

Learning to See - A Photography Retreat with Nelson Dodson - April 27 - 29

Pride Retreat for LGBTQ Folks & Allies - May 29-31 (details to come)

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/>

Golf Outing Fundraiser - May 9 - Fairview Golf Course - Quentin (Lebanon), PA - Registration Open

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. John's Union UCC, Spring Mills/Farmers Mill

Trinity UCC, Fort Loudon

St. John's UCC, Fredericksburg

St. Paul's of Hamlin UCC, Fredericksburg



Message from the Conference cont'

Prior to her ordination to ministry in 2009, she was a psychologist in clinical practice for over 20 years.

She and her spouse Carol will be moving here in preparation for a June 1 start date. They have two grown children, Kristyn and Kathryn. Kristyn is an assistant store manager for the Kohl's corporation and lives in Vermont and Kathryn is completing her bachelor's degree at Nazareth College in New York.

It's clear Marisa has a passion for helping churches identify their mission for this day and time, no matter what size the congregation or where they may be located. She has an engaging personality and brings a wealth of experience and love for the United Church of Christ. Marisa writes that she is thrilled to join our conference ministry team and is looking forward to getting to know and work in partnership with churches and pastors in our conference. She will begin her ministry with us on June 1, 2020.

Rev. Ann Graves,

Moderator, Penn Central Conference Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Mended Heart Lenten Concert/Potluck - Salem UCC, Elizabethtown - March 15 - 3:00pm

York Association Earth Day Anniversary Weekend w/ Jim Antal - Mt. Zion UCC, York - April 18, 9:00AM

Pastoral Colloquy 2020 "Building a Just Peace in an Unjust World: Learning with and from Our Anabaptist Colleagues" - In collaboration with our German Partners - July 26-30, 2020

Welcome and Hospitality are major themes of our UCC culture. You have the opportunity to provide welcome and hospitality to a guest from Germany during the weekend before and/or after the PCC/UEK Pastoral Colloquy. Hosts are needed throughout the conference to host German visitors, primarily single individuals and couples, from July 24 -26 and/or from July 31 to August 2. If you have a guest room, an open heart and a passion to share yourself with new friends, contact Julie Holm (julie@bvfof.org or 814-349-5515). Join us in providing a warm welcome for our overseas guests.



The Perfect Blend: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations—A day with author Bishop Robert Schnase—Saturday, September 19, 2020—Lancaster Theological Seminary, Santee Chapel—Seating is limited, registration required. Register at pccucc.org/register-for-an-event

PLANNING AHEAD:

Annual Meeting - June 12-13, 2020

Sign up for our eNews—click the link at pccucc.org!

As new cases of the coronavirus (CoVid-19) are reported in the United States and around the world, the church is called to education, caution and common sense. Here are a few basic guidelines for congregations.

- * **Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!**
- * Members, ministers, ushers -wash your hands frequently—with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- * **Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.**
- * Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- * **Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.**
- * Use hand sanitizer.
- * **Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.**
- * Stay home if you are sick.

Contact us!

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