



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

May 5, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference -

Your praise will never depart from the hearts of those who remember the power of God. (Judith 13:14 NRSV)

I am surprised by how much power photographs have. Especially old ones. I discovered an app recently that allows me to turn my old film negatives into photographic images that can be edited digitally. I did a substantial amount of B&W film photography years ago and suddenly I'm overwhelmed by the access this digital tool gives me to delve into a former passion. Finding old photographs, especially ones I have not seen in 25+ years, can be jarring. Emotions rise quickly to the surface and generate reflections about time, how I have changed, to whom I was close, and the relationships of my past.

My photographs also remind me that eventually no one will remember any of the names of any of the people in them. Human memory is a web made from gossamer strands that lose their resiliency and tenacity over time. Individual strands can be resurrected for new eyes to see through history and the sharing of stories within families and communities. Much of that work is worthy and enduring, falling within the "never forget" category of human history. However, the vast majority of human memory is eventually lost.

Surprisingly, memory as an abstract concept is not common in the Bible. In the Old Testament the notion of being forgotten is the ultimate insult, and assigned only to enemies. A positive mention of memory (as in remembering someone) happens in wisdom literature and refers to several individuals of outstanding moral righteousness. In the New Testament the word translated as memory turns up only once.

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Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation

Summer Camp: REGISTER ANYTIME!

The 2021 summer camp schedule is set! There are camps for all ages and interests at both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. Check out what is offered online.

PCC is covering half of camp registration for members! To learn more email

Anne Rankin at annerankin524@gmail.com or Paul at pkeller@pccucc.org

Summer Staff Recruitment -- GOING ON NOW!

Calling all high school kids, college-age young adults, and adults interested in working at

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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...

St. Luke's UCC, Lock Haven

St. Luke's UCC, Lititz

Sandy Hill (Kistler) UCC, Ickesburg

St. Peter's UCC, Lykens



Message from the Conference cont'

Remembering, however, is common. The faithful are told to remember specific things: slavery in Egypt, the Exodus, the Commandments, the Covenant promises, and the wonderful works of God. There is much for us to remember and meditate upon. In return God remembers as well. God remembers the covenant made with God's people. God also tells Israel via the prophets that in God's mercy their sins will not be remembered. God's memory of the covenant stands even when humankind forgets.

In the New Testament the act of remembering is limited, yet potent. Jesus does spend some time reminding his disciples of various things he taught them. But more significantly we are left with two key references to remembering: The celebration of the Lord's Supper ("Do this in remembrance of me"); and the brief instruction following the command to baptize in Matthew 28:20 ("And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age".) Simple, yet powerful words. Jesus remains with us always – this is what we are to remember.

Both the Old and New Testament references to remembering provide comfort, especially in light of the eventual end of our own capacity to remember. We are told to remember: God promises presence – in the Supper and in discipleship. God promises to uphold the covenants with God's people made through Abraham, Noah and Jesus. God promises to be with us to the end of the age. God's claim upon us and in relationship to us remains even when our own memories fade. I am convinced that God holds our memories and our souls - as a bird in a hand - even when we cannot. God remembers with love.

**Peace,
Carrie**

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Ph.D
Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference



Outdoor Ministries cont'

camp this summer! Lutheran Camping Corporation is recruiting now for this summer's camp season.

Learn more here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

Save the dates

Penn Central Conference's Annual Meeting will be online again this year. Registration links will be available very soon - save the date of June 12, 2021 for this meeting.

Changes to the conference bylaws will be up for vote at this meeting. Two special meetings via Zoom will happen in June 1st to ask questions about the changes registration links to follow soon as well. If you have not seen the proposed changes, go to pccucc.org and click on the "Annual Meeting" tab for documents.

UCC's General Synod 33, "Rooted In Love", will be occurring July 11-18, 2021. Learn more at general-synod.org

Contact us!

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