PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

May 22, 2024

Greetings friends and members of Penn Central,

After I spent a great amount of time working on the Trinity section of my "Credo" paper for my 2nd year theology class in seminary, I was disappointed when it was returned to me with absolutely no comments from my professor on that section. I mean I really put a lot of time into that section with multiple handwritten drafts that wound up eventually crumpled up on the floor around my apartment. So, it really bothered me that I didn't receive any feedback, good or bad or otherwise, from that professor.

Within the week, I saw that professor in the seminary bookstore, and I decided to ask him about this. I explained to him all the time and drafts I went through, ending my little statement with saying how disappointed I was not to have received any comments at all from him. He looked at me with kind eyes and in a soft tone replied, "Dwight, nobody has been able to explain the Trinity in two-thousand years, I don't expect a 2nd year seminarian to do it either." Understood. Ha!

So, I won't make any attempt in these few paragraphs to try to explain the Trinity either, as we prepare for Trinity Sunday. But I will share my pastoral and personal perspective on how I've seen some people connect with the different "persons" of the Trinity. I know people firmly connected with the intimate side of the Creator in a near "Abba" relationship modeled after Jesus. They feel truly enmeshed in every moment of their lives with the Divine that informs their decisions and guides them in their coping with life's challenges.

I've also experienced those who feel deeply engaged with the teachings of Jesus. Their daily lives are grounded in the Jesus of our four gospels, which emboldens them for courageous advocacy ministry with those on the margins. Others I've seen live out this connection through great empathy and compassion, as if responding daily to the needs of those named by Jesus in the Beatitudes.

Continues on back

Contact us!

PCC Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD - *Conference Minister*
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-3196

Rev. Dr. Nora Driver Foust - *Associate Conference Minister*
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-2587

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

Rev. Dwight Hein - *Facilitator for Clergy Care*

email: dhein@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-6306

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. Paul's UCC, Bowmansville

St. Jacob's UCC, Glenville

Salem UCC, Campbelltown

Chapel Hill UCC, Lemoyne



For me, I've always been drawn to and connected deeply with the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:1-5 is a life-passage for me, often resetting to the hope that does not disappoint us, "because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Having a chronic illness, I find comfort in how that experience builds endurance and character, leading to a hope that is flowing daily from the Holy Spirit to our hearts, as Paul suggests.

Maybe that's the beauty of the Trinity? The mystery of the interplay of the three-yet-one gives us a spectrum of ways to connect with the Ancient of Days, as the one who experiences our time beyond time. It's not something to be explained, but to be experienced. It's not something to be put into words, but rather something we open ourselves to be engaged with daily.

So, nowadays in my pastoral journey, I'm less worried about explaining the Trinity than I am excited about the opportunity for hearing of others' experiences with the triune God. The depth and richness of those experiences allow me to ponder, with no academic explanation needed, the variety of pathways into which God invites us to explore our faith. "…Merciful and mighty. God in three persons, blessed Trinity."

In Peace,

Rev. Dwight C. Hein

Facilitator for Clergy Care

62nd Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference

For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a shared Annual Meeting on June 7-9, 2024 at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting.

We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who will be preaching during closing worship on Sunday. All four conferences will be hosting a reception with her on Saturday evening as well. Register by clicking the Annual Meeting tab on pccucc.org

Registration is now open for **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-2024

Check out the summer options from our partners at Lutheran Camping Corporation's Kirchenwald (and Nawakwa)

https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/youth-summer-programs/