



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

September 22, 2021

Dear friends and members of Penn Central Conference,

This past Saturday my family participated in a mission day at Wittle Farm with a group from our church, Christ UCC in Elizabethtown. We harvested hundreds of pounds of bell peppers, jalapenos, and potatoes. One group rebuilt a 90 year old wagon while others took down some trees that will be chipped in to mulch on our next service day. We also cleaned a large corner of the barn in order to prepare for the new walk-in refrigerator installation.

Wittle Farm is part of the Lutheran Camping Corporation with whom Penn Central Conference has a partnership to provide outdoor ministry opportunities throughout the conference. Christ Church designated Wittle Farm for their Vacation Thank Offering this summer and in addition to financial gifts (some of which bought a cultivator tractor), members harvested hundreds of pounds of produce that was donated to local food banks, planted spring and fall crops, tended the pollinator garden, completed a number of farm projects and collected almost 800 pounds of compost.

Steve Stouffer, Consistory President and member of the Mission Team said, "When the idea (of partnering with Wittle Farm) was raised back in the early spring it seemed like a 'no brainer'. It was local. It was needed. It was something we are equipped to do with many members who can build (just about anything) and are hard workers who don't mind getting their hands and shoes dirty!"

Associate Pastor Fa Lane noted, "We are grateful that Wittle Farm has opened up this ministry opportunity for Christ Church who has a three-year mission structure: local, national, international. Because of this alliance, Christ Church was able to do local mission this year! It started from a contact with our Green Team to encourage local gardening and fresh produce to address food insecurity. Then the mission team decided to sign on

Continues on back

Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation

THE GROWING PROJECT

Volunteer for The Growing Project through October! This project reclaims a portion of the acreage for farming. The crops harvested are donated to assist those in need in Lancaster County.

CAPTURE THE FLAG SPECTACULAR

October 3; 3-5:30 p.m. @ Kirchenwald [Free]
Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance! Campfire worship to follow.

ADULT STUDY RETREAT

October 5-7 @ Nawakwa [\$150/person]
All meals (7) are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Lodging in Zinn-Tozer Lodge.

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

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 UCC, York

Hayshire UCC, York

Heidelberg UCC, York

Locust Grove UCC, York

Message from the Conference cont'

too!"

We all know what it's like to put a plan together and have it go astray when new Covid guidelines come along. "Because it's been outside, we have been able to plan and execute and follow-through without continual changes in response to Covid", added Steve.

Our Conference Minister mentioned church gardens at the annual meeting and reading about some of the growing projects, food donations and church gardens has been a real treat as some of you share stories with us about your local work. Is food insecurity or creation care a passion for your congregation? Think about ways that your church might look at land use policies to meet local needs or partner with other groups in doing so.

We are building a "how-to" session for starting church gardens, please let us know if you are interested in exploring this type of ministry at your church.

**Shalom,
Nora**

Rev. Nora Foust
Associate Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference

Members of Christ Church UCC in Elizabethtown will continue to work to repair, update, and create new items for the Wittel Farm. Penn Central Conference of the UCC is in partnership with the Lutheran Camping Corporation which includes Wittel Farm. The Growing Project, at Wittel Farm, is a ministry to the community providing fresh produce to local food distribution centers for needy families.

Despite Covid restrictions, Christ Church is able to accomplish their local mission trip this year through this local outlet. Many fund-raising events and donations produced funds that will pay for the materials for the projects. Volunteers are welcome to help accomplish the work and projects which the Project Director, Pastor Matt Lenahan, provided.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 2. Work will begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers who are able to work less than the 7 hours are welcome. Give what time you are able.

Your help will enable Wittel Farm to continue to produce

Wider Church

fresh vegetables for distribution to the food pantries in Lancaster County. Thank you.

The United Church of Christ is issuing a call to action to help the people of Haiti. A massive 7.2 earthquake on Saturday has killed nearly 1,300 people. Search and rescue efforts are expected to be hampered by Tropical Depression Grace, which came ashore on Monday.

To donate to this appeal, go to www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/ and designate the gift to "Haiti Appeal." One can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Please be sure to note "Haiti Appeal" on your check in the memo section, or in an attached letter.

General Synod

Our Synod delegates met online and in person in July. One of the tasks of the delegates was voting on resolutions. Over the next few weeks, many of your delegates will share a brief overview of resolutions, the action taken at Synod, and if available, some resources for learning more. Some of them may inspire you to learn more! Catch them in the online eNews, to subscribe email pkeller@pccucc.org or at pccucc.org/enews-archive

Contact us!

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