PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

August 23, 2023

Members and Friends of Penn Central Conference,

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. Matthew 16: 13-21

As a pastor, I try to closely follow the lectionary. So, when I read this passage from Matthew, my mind immediately went into overdrive with topics that I could preach on. Once I calmed down, I began thinking about the sentence where Jesus asks the question; "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" What an odd question for Jesus to ask. Scripture tells us that some people say that he is John the Baptizer. Some people say that he is Elijah and others think that he is Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Maybe in broader terms, some would have said that he was a good man or a Godly man. Maybe some people would have said that he was a teacher or a rabbi. And some of these answers would have been right until they were wrong. *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

Rev. Rick Luciotti - *Facilitator of Care to Clergy and Clergy Families*
email: rluciotti@gmail.com / Phone: 717-433-6306

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

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...

Zion (Stone Valley) UCC, Dalmatia

Shiloh UCC, Danville

St. James (Ridgeville) UCC, Danville

Trinity UCC, Danville



Jesus' teachings and actions were enough to clearly identify who he was. However, in their attempt to guess who he was, they failed. These were the same people who were privy to Jesus' miracles, his teachings, and his explanations. They walked beside him daily, yet their answers were still wrong.

Now, let's jump ahead 2000 plus years and we go out into the streets and ask the same question, what would the answer be? It's unfortunate, but I think some of the answers would still be wrong. The people who have some knowledge of who Jesus is would say that he is love and joy, and he is. But he is also so much more than that. Jesus is the Christ. He is the Anointed One, the King of the universe. He is the living God and the second person in the Trinity. Jesus is all of this and so much more.

There are so many questions that each of us may seek to answer in our lifetime. What is my purpose or why am I here? Even though these questions that we seek personal answers to are heavy, one question tops them all: who is Jesus Christ to you? Who is Jesus when you are filled with fear? Who is Jesus when you feel like you have to give up? Who is Jesus when everyone else has turned their backs on you? Who is Jesus? I once heard a pastor say: "Jesus' identity is revealed in us and in turn our identity is found in Jesus."

As you go through this week, ask yourselves the question, who is Jesus Christ to you?

Ronnette

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler

Search & Call

Penn Central Conference

Hawaii Fires

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal to provide essential items and long-term support to those impacted by wildfires across Hawaii, including the deadly wildfires on the island of Maui. https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires

The Hawaii Conference also shared a link to donate as well as other information and a prayer, you can read here: https://conta.cc/4439NJP

A message from Megan Swope, founder of The Period Project Harrisburg, to Penn Central Conference:

Hello! I want to continue to celebrate the contribution made at the Penn Central Conference Annual Meeting in June to The Period Project Harrisburg. As a result of those efforts, we were able to help MORE PEOPLE this month, spending less than we would have had to on our wholesale order for our Day of Impact 2023. As of August 9, ALL of the products collected by Penn Central Conference have been distributed as part of 1,000 period packs! Thanks to Penn Central Conference UCC, we were able to bless Bethesda Mission, She's Somebody's Daughter, Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope, Hershey Food Pantry, Hummelstown Food Pantry, Harrisburg City Schools, Brethren Housing, and Steelton-Highspire School District! Tonight, a menstruator may not have to suffer a loss of dignity, risk their health, or miss school or work… because of the generosity of Penn Central Conference donors. THANK YOU SO MUCH! I am truly honored and deeply grateful to Penn Central Conference UCC.

Lay Leader Boundary Awareness – Healthy Church Relations – This 90-minute introductory session for lay leaders in the church will introduce issues of power, multiple relationships, church money, social media, and health information sharing practices built around a behavioral covenant. It's sure to be an enlightening and empowering conversation. Please join this important conversation at 6:30pm on September 18th.

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=betijzaab&oeidk=a07ejwrvht8d36a12ef