

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering the church to demonstrate and declare the courageous love of Christ!

Fall 2021 Education Forums

Third Tuesdays

**10am LIVE ONLY at St.Thomas, Linglestown
6pm ZOOM ONLY**

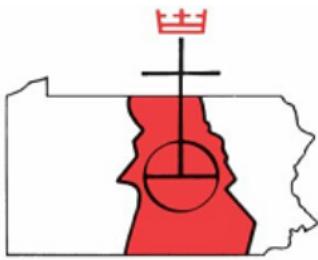
September 21 with Pastor Mark Harris – As a sexual abuse survivor and pastor, Mark will talk with us about **trauma informed pastoral care**. Check out this information from Mark in preparation for our time together at safecommunitiespa.org (2 hours Boundary Training Credit)

10am Live at St.Thomas UCC, Linglestown ([Register](#)); 6pm Zoom ([Register](#))

Pastor Mark writes, “From the ages of 11 to 15, I was progressively groomed and led into a network of pedophile and child pornography by a charismatic man who was well known to my family. He was the director of an Outward Bound type school that worked primarily with adjudicated youth. Through progressive stages, I encountered a dozen men who sexually abused me, and made me the subject of child pornography. In the course of extensive therapy as a young adult, I took part in the prosecution of some of these men. My recovery from trauma took place over the next two decades, although I would hesitate to say that it is ever over. Recently, I graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary, and I am well on my way to being ordained in the United Church of Christ. For now, I am a working Pastor, leading a small church as an authorized minister. I am working on a book about my experiences and see my path in ministry as including working with survivors of child sexual abuse, as well as survivors of other trauma. I feel strongly that the story of Jesus offers much to those who are recovering from traumatic experiences.”

Pastor Mark Harris is the pastor at Salem UCC in Columbia.

October 19 with Rev. India Garnett – Rev. India has been doing webinars with Healing From Racism Programs out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and will bring her expertise and life experience to share with Penn Central clergy. We each come to these sessions with our own stories which are part of the whole of humanity. We are called to love each other as Jesus loves us. In so doing — in following His imperative, there is no room for guilt and shame. Guilt and shame serve no useful purposes and are diametrically opposed to Universal Love — Agape. So, let us gather in the heart attitude of learning more about each other and our perspectives. In Psalm 139:1-18 (NRSV), we are assured that we “are fearfully and wonderfully



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made." Let us, therefore, embark upon this journey with God, learning of the awe and wonder of each other... (2 hours Anti-Racism Credit)

10am LIVE at St. Thomas UCC, Linglestown ([Register](#)); 6pm Zoom ([Register](#))

Rev. India Elaine Garnett has extensive experience in pastoral counseling, mentoring, grief, loss and bereavement counseling, healing from racial discrimination and gender issues, and veterans and community issues. From 1985-2013, she designed, implemented and maintained long -term (one to five years) residential programming at the Bethesda Mission Women's Center, Harrisburg, PA, focusing on services for the whole person -- body, mind and spirit. In her role as Pastor, Counselor and Teacher for the Harrisburg Association, Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC), India established ethical guidelines for staff and residents (guests); spiritual directions and procedures for guests; mandatory reporting procedures; ties with the therapeutic community; relationships with judicial agencies and with local, city and state agencies; policy of requiring State abuse clearances; job descriptions for volunteers; practice of caring for volunteers; procedures and policies for daily operations; screening procedures for children's needs. She also supervised and trained counseling staff and volunteers; instituted Servant Leadership Model of Care, and performed public speaking and officiating roles for life events. India graduated in 1993 from the Masters of Divinity Program at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

November 16 with Rev. Nora Foust – Challenges of Living in Covenant -

There has been a lot of change in the authorization process as well as departure ethics and fitness reviews for authorized ministers in recent years. Join Nora for discussion on nurturing calls in your congregation, mentoring Members in Discernment, connecting with your COM, updated pastoral profiles, navigating the theological breadth of the UCC, and so much more! Nora will also offer an update on the forthcoming Manual on Church. (2 hours Continuing Ed Credit)

10am LIVE at St. Thomas UCC, Linglestown ([Register](#)); 6pm Zoom ([Register](#))

Rev. Nora serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Congregational and Ministerial Excellence in the Penn Central Conference.

Contact Rev. Nora Foust at nfoust@pccucc.org or C. Paul Keller at pkeller@pccucc.org with questions.