



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

March 31, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

“For I received from the Lord what I handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” (1 Corinthians 11:23 NRSV)

Maundy Thursday has always been special to me. During high school I gathered with my youth group friends at the church for the evening service of hymns, communion, and the bell tolling 33 times at the close of worship. I knew in my bones that the night mattered – that is was a time when I saw a vulnerability appear on the faces of men and women who were normally running the world around me with great confidence. When we sang “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” I saw adults weeping. And while I did not know yet the depths of adult betrayal or the experience of rejection by friends, I knew that something was being remembered and revealed that was different than at other, regular times of worship.

I have been told many times that “You can’t have Easter without Good Friday.” This is true, in the sense that the actual death of Jesus is the foundation. However, the deeper and more difficult truth is that we cannot have Easter without Holy Thursday. The actions of the humans at the table with Jesus are the ligaments that hold the story together. I have had countless conversations with believers who claim confidently, “If I were there I would have stood by him.” Easy for us to say. *Continues on back*

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. There is an early-bird registration discount if you register before April 3. Also, if you attend the Open House, you can get an additional discount.

Summer Staff Recruitment -- GOING ON NOW!

Calling all high school kids, college-age young adults, and adults interested in working at camp this summer! Lutheran Camping Corporation is recruiting now for this summer's camp season.

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.

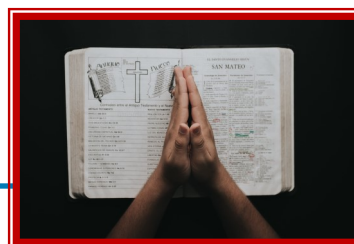
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

St. Paul UCC, Herndon

Zion UCC, Herndon

Church of the Redeemer UCC, Hershey

Emmanuel UCC, Jacksonville



Message from the Conference cont'

Harder for us to admit that we might not have – that we too might have betrayed him, denied him, run away, hidden, or fallen asleep at this critical moment. How much more difficult to see and acknowledge the depths of our ability to reject God in deceptively simple ways.

The acceptance of who we are, in light of the failure of our discipleship, is what is necessary before Easter comes. Which makes the communion meal on Holy Thursday so remarkable. Jesus is sitting with those he already knows will leave him. He knows them well enough by now, loves them enough, to see what will come. They will betray, they will deny, they will turn away. And yet even “on the night of his betrayal” he feeds them. He shares a sacred meal with them in this midst of his own (and their own) deep vulnerability. Love abides at the table, even in the presence of sin. Knowing what swims in the depths of their hearts, he breaks bread. Here at the table is a quiet, nuanced foretaste of the glory of Easter resurrection – the holy power of divine love.

This week my prayer is that may come before the table showing my own vulnerability. Resisting self-deception and pious bravado. And opening myself to know what it means that in the face of all my sin, I will still be fed by Jesus, the one whom God will raise. Divine love breaks bread, and I will eat with thanksgiving.

Peace,

Carrie

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Ph.D

Conference Minister

Penn Central Conference



Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa April 11; 2-4:30 p.m.

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!

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

Virtual Choir

The PCC Virtual Choir has beautiful Lenten musical selections on the Penn Central Conference YouTube page. A new video of “God So Loved the World” was just posted this week! Click on the YouTube icon on the upper right corner of pccucc.org or search “penn central conference ucc” on YouTube.

Contact us!

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