PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

July 10, 2024

Greetings Penn Central members and friends,

"(Jesus) called the twelve and began to send them out two by two…" – Mark 6:7

"Immediately the king sent out a soldier of the guard…" – Mark 6:27

As a country, we find ourselves in the aftermath of another political assassination attempt. We mourn the loss of yet more lives lost to gun violence and yet are grateful that the loss of life wasn't greater this time around. As I'm writing this we don't yet know of any motive for the shooter, while theories abound as fast as our human minds can conjure.

Sadly, being both in the aftermath of a shooting and a political assassination is nothing new. For the former, if this shooting didn't happen at a political rally and the target was not a nominee for president of the United States, it would not have made national news since we are so desensitized to such events. For the latter, it's rare the timing of a scripture in the common lectionary corresponds so well with world events, but it did this past Sunday with the assassination of John the Baptist by Herod Antipas being the gospel reading in Mark 6. Again, and sadly, both events are nothing new for our lives today.

However, in trying to continue to be a non-anxious presence both for those around me and for my own mental stability, I'm reminded of a word study for the 6th Chapter of Mark once again. You may be familiar with it as well. The Greek verb apostello, which means "to send", is used by Mark in this chapter in two ways. The first is when Jesus sends his disciples out in pairs to the surrounding towns. The second is when Herod sends out a soldier to kill John the Baptist being held in prison. Both men send out their followers. One sends to preach and heal. One sends to condemn and kill. Both men have power to do both presumably, but each choose different goals in their sending.

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Contact us!

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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 of Hamlin UCC, Fredericksburg

Trinity UCC, Gettysburg

New Hope (Fissel's) UCC, Glen Rock

Trinity UCC, Glen Rock



Each day, depending on our social status or stage of life, we have varying degrees of power with which to make choices each day. Some sadly have no or little power. But most everyone reading this does have some kind of power since you're reading this freely by your own choosing. Each day we have tools of our choosing with which we can use our power to heal or to harm. Whether it is a gun or a cell phone, while this is truly a false equivalent, how we use the tools in our power tells us who we are and whose we are. And for the latter, we may even choose to say by whom we are sent.

So, as we work through these times where voices are asking us to unify, and I hope that somehow this time will be different, our daily choices will always remain. Do we choose to preach with our words and actions in ways that heal, or do we choose to speak and act in ways that will harm or destroy? I pray we never become desensitized to how important our daily sending out is to the world and to those around us.

Dwight

Rev. Dwight Hein

Facilitator of Clergy Care



Penn Central Conference Penn Central Conference 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/