

# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.



## A Message from PCC

**March 02, 2022**

**Dear Friends and Members of Penn Central Conference,**

**“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Liturgy of the Ashes)**

Yesterday on Fat Tuesday I ate an enormous salted-caramel crème-filled donut from Beiler’s as a nod to the tastes and joys of this life. Today, my focus is different. Ash Wednesday is a day when we are forced to face our own finitude. This is a day about death. And that focus has power for the embracing of life.

In earlier days people carried various memento mori (Latin for “remember that you die”) - an item or image that reminded them of the inevitability of death. The idea arose from the philosophy of stoicism and showed up in many places. While in Colonial Williamsburg I saw examples that had been uncovered in the archeological dig. They were small silver coins with images of skulls and the words ‘memento mori’. I have seen others as antique wall tiles that sailors could buy while in port in Sunderland, England, saying “Prepare to meet thy God.” And of course, there is the human skull that shows up in images of medieval desks in fine art. These may seem anachronistic to us these days, especially in a culture in which we avoid talk of and words about death as much as possible.

Yet the focus on death during the Ash Wednesday liturgy can be a place of unexpected liberation and peace. We are reminded that all of us are dust and no matter who we are or what our status in life, we all go to the same end. And in that end, we are gathered to God and remembered by God. The realization of that unity and equality in death puts our earthly striv-

*Continues on back*

## Contact us!

### PCC Office Staff

**Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD** - Conference Minister  
email: ccall@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-3196

**Rev. Nora Driver Foust** - Associate Conference Minister  
email: nfoust@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-2587

**Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D.** - Associate Conference Minister  
email: mlaviola@pccucc.org / Phone: 717-433-3564

**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.*

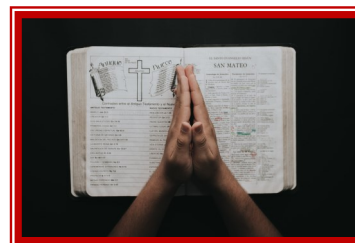
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**St. Mark's UCC, Lebanon**

**St. Paul's UCC, Lemasters**

**Dreisbach UCC, Lewisburg**

**St. John's UCC, Lewisburg**



ings in a different light. It offers us the chance to pause and reconsider our lives. For what am I striving? Where is God within my one and only life? In what ways do I need to turn back to God and render my heart? Today I want to claim Ash Wednesday as a reminder of the end - and the opportunity for a beginning. Lent can be a time of deep inward reflection and a time of listening. It offers the soul a framework for considering where it rests, listening to what God might be saying about our lives, and what might need to change. Lent allows us to embrace repentance – not as something that pushes our face into the dirt, but rather as a way of taking our finitude and our limits seriously. Repentance cleanses our hearts and forgiveness from God can slake a very thirsty soul. Seeing the world with newly refreshed eyes we can move toward our eventual end while also embracing anew the gift of life while we have it.

Both life and death come from our Creator. This is the day to remember both. To hear again of our inevitable end. And then to choose anew repentance, humility, forgiveness, and the blessings of a life lived to God.

**Peace,**

**Carrie**

Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

Conference Minister

### Ways to Support the People of Ukraine

Please see the two links below for some specific information about ways we can assist those in Ukraine. The Global Ministries staff at the national UCC setting has worked diligently to make connections with mission partners in the area and there are several opportunities for giving as well as joining in prayer.

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-appeal-for-ukraine-calls-on-u-s-to-provide-humanitarian-aid/>

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

### Save the Date:

#### PCC's 60th Annual Meeting

Opening Plenary: 6:30PM, June 6, 2022

Workshops: 6:30PM, June 7-9, 2022

Business & Worship: 9:30AM, June 11, 2022

### Outdoor Ministries

**Lenten Day Apart** (March 12 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at The Wittel Farm)

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/lenten-day-apart-2022/>

**Women's Spring Quilting Retreat** (March 18-20 at Kirchenwald)

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/womens-quilting-weekend-2022/>

### HC Spirit Week

Mt. Luther Camp  
August 6—12, 2022

<https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hc-spirit-week>

