



# PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



**Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry**

## A Message from PCC

**July 27, 2022**

### **Members and friends of Penn Central Conference,**

*"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me." Rev. 3:20*

Our lives are filled with the doors that open and close, as we invite God into the center of our hearts, as God beckons us to travel through the door onto new paths of our lifelong journey.

Revelation 3:20 is probably the most well-known scripture about the door that God enters in and oftentimes invites us to walk through. It is attributed to the risen Christ who in chapter 20 is assessing the folks in different churches and how they are faring in their spiritual journey. One thing is made clear in that periscope: for each of us, Christ knocks at the door hoping to enter, but we choose whether or not to open it to bid God in and feed us and nurture us. We experience that fellowship in deep prayer, in holy conversation, in sharing the Lord's supper. And each time, we wait to see if God invites us to walk through that door perhaps to a new journey, a new path, a variation on the path we are already on...

This scripture holds deep meaning for me as God has led me through my vocational journey. Raised Roman Catholic, I quickly fell away from the church after I was confirmed. By the time I was in graduate school in music I heard God knocking and God invited me through the door of beginning a journey that would begin with teaching students at a small Christian College who entrusted me with their deepest wounds, that led me to a helping profession as a practicing psy-

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## 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. 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.*

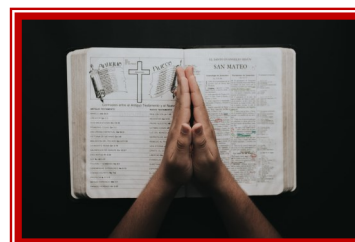
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

**St. Peter's UCC, New Columbia**

**New Covenant UCC, Williamsport**

**Willow Street UCC, Willow Street**

**St. John's (Dry Valley) UCC, Winfield**



chologist all the while serving as lay leader/teacher/preacher in the church, and then brought me on the path to ordained ministry that beautifully married spiritual and emotional healing. Each time God knocked, each time God invited me through that door, it was challenging, and at times I felt unsure. All I knew was that even though I stood uncertain of my future, I knew who held, and continues to hold, every path of my future.

Beloved, consider your own spiritual and vocational journeys. Consider that it is Christ who has knocked on the door of your heart and has come in at your invitation to nurture you, feed you, and deeply bless you. Consider that on any path of your spiritual and vocational journey, God has led you through the door, walked with you, nurtured, and guided you.

As we each look to the unknown future, let us be very sure that God holds our future. And as we read through the prophet Jeremiah in the 29th chapter, verses 11-14, we find and know that future through deep and abiding fellowship with our God:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.”

**Deep and abiding blessings to each and all,**

**Marisa**

**The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola**

**Associate Conference Minister**

**Penn Central Conference**

## **HC Spirit Week - What's in a Name?**

"Naming and Claiming Who God Made Us to Be"

Saturday, August 6 through Friday, August 12

Camp Mt. Luther

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

**Learn more about camping opportunities here:** <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

## **"Making All Things New"**

### **General Synod 2023**

"Making All Things New" will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30–July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ will get back to business a year from now. And it will do so in person.

After an all-virtual experience in 2021, the UCC's biennial national meeting will require all voting delegates to be in Indianapolis in 2023. That's according to the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, the associate general minister who serves as Synod administrator.

Delegates and visitors will meet June 30 through July 4 at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

## **Shaping Generations: Queer Justice and Love in the UCC**

### **2022 National ONA Gathering**

Join us Aug. 5-7 for our first National ONA Gathering since 2019! Our virtual event will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the ONA Coalition and Bill Johnson's ordination as the first openly gay man authorized to serve an historic Christian church as a minister of word and sacrament.

Leaders include the Rev. Rhina Ramos (worship leader), Bishop Yvette Flunder (closing address and charge), the Rev. Bill Johnson and the Rev. Anne Holmes, and the Rev. Andy Lang (State of the ONA Movement).

[https://openandaffirming.networkforgood.com/events/44056-2022-ona-national-gathering?utm\\_campaign=dms\\_email\\_blast\\_1958170](https://openandaffirming.networkforgood.com/events/44056-2022-ona-national-gathering?utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_1958170)