PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

January 10, 2024

Greetings members and friends of Penn Central Conference,

Here we are in 2024. Where did the time go? Along with the celebrations and the parties to bring in the New Year, there is also a bit of apprehension and wonder of what this new year may bring. January can be a time when the dreaded January blues or Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can rear their ugly heads, leaving us with depression and anxiety. I tend to gravitate towards the sun as much as I can during the gray days of January in an attempt to feel the warmth that radiates from that little speck of sun and the effect it has on my wellbeing.

However, Psalm 139:1-13 is another source of light that warms my heart in these gloomy days of January. I take solace in knowing that God knows me intimately:

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

This Psalm brings me so much joy and peace knowing that the God who created the universe and everything in it, is with me, even when I feel the dreaded apprehension and anxiety of not knowing what will come in the new year. But verse 14a is the part that fills my heart with warmth: *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."* Each one of us was created by God,

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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

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...

Trinity UCC, Mountville

Zion Goshert's UCC, Lebanon

Myerstown UCC, Myerstown

Emmanuel UCC, New Berlin



not just as an afterthought, but fearfully and wonderfully made. That is the kind of God we serve and praise. That is the kind of God that knows our thoughts before we think or speak them.

As we enter the new year, whether it's with great celebration or whether it is with the January blues, what is evident is that we serve a God that is the light in the darkness and who walks beside us no matter where we are in our life's journey. May your January and the entire 2024 fill you with the warmth of knowing that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Peace,

Ronnette

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler

Search and Call Associate

Penn Central Conference

Camp Director Pastor Alice shares, "please mark your calendar for next year's **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

Camp makes a great Christmas gift. 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/

Worship Planning for Lay Leaders

Feb 5, 2024, 6:30PM

Many members of consistories and church councils are finding themselves needing to do more with worship planning for their congregation, some are even stepping into the pulpit. Our Penn Central Churches are experiencing longer and longer seasons of transition and interim and supply leadership is just not filling the whole of the growing need. This 90-minute workshop will look at available resources to assist lay leaders with worship development like liturgies, prayers, hymn selection, lectionary passages, and more, as well as touch on sermon preparation for those filling that need. All are welcome, please register.