



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

February 24, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

Numbers 21:4-5 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

This passage isn't in the lectionary for a couple more weeks, but it's one I've been thinking about a lot as we entered Lent. This church year feels like we've already been in Lent for 12 months. We've given up the "normal" ways of life at church, at work, at the grocery store and even at home.

For myself, patience is like manna - I hope I get a fresh supply each morning because it did not keep from yesterday's store. There are many days when I'm impatient, I'm angry and I'm scared at the ways things have changed. I'm impatient for how long it's taking to get back to "normal". I see my loved ones mourn friends and family members lost to Covid and I see those who survive it struggle to return to full health. I see businesses close and people struggle with loss of income. And some days I grumble. I ask God, "why have you brought us here to die?"

In the journey of this pandemic, we've become different people. We've adapted to the changes in ways both big and small. I grew a beard. I learned how to go live on Facebook and so much more about Zoom than I thought possible. I carry extra masks in my car, leave one at the office and have a stash of "fancy dress" masks for when I want to dress to impress.

When I think about this story from

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. *Continues on back*

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.

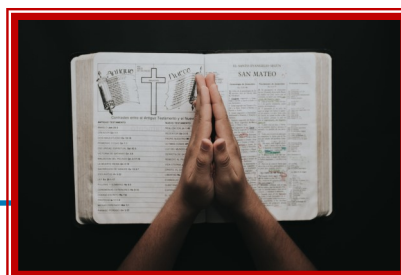
This week, we pray for each other as we continue to live into God's calling...

Trinity UCC, Glen Rock

New Hope (Fissel's) UCC, Glen Rock

St. Paul's UCC, Gowen City

Faith UCC, Grantville



Message from the Conference cont'

Numbers, I think about this song by Sara Groves called "Painting Pictures of Egypt". In it she sings

I'm painting pictures of Egypt and leaving out what it lacks

The future looks so hard and I wanna go back

But the places that used to fit me

Cannot hold the things I've learned

And those roads were closed off to me while my back was turned.

I want to go back. Go back to the way things were. Hugging people after church on Sunday and dancing with friends on a Saturday night.

Friends - we've learned so much in this past year. We've learned that maybe "the way things were" wasn't working for everyone. We've learned that businesses can thrive while employees work from home, which opens the doors for folks with disabilities who have been asking for that for years. We've moved church services online and reached people who would never be able to join in person. We've seen the cracks in the healthcare industry and have the opportunities to fix them. We cannot go back to the way things were, and that's a blessing not a curse.

We know how this chapter in the story of the children of Israel ends. They make it to the Promised Land. They settle there and build a nation. But in that moment of hunger and frustration and impatience they couldn't see it. It's okay if we don't see it either, as long as we keep moving forward. The roads back are closed anyway.

Lenten Blessings,

Paul

C. Paul Keller

Office Manager

Penn Central Conference



Outdoor Ministries cont'

Lenten Day Apart at the Wittel Farm; March 13, 9-4 p.m.; \$15

Lenten Day Apart sessions will include restorative spiritual practices and restorative soil work. We will learn about the soil on the farm and how we can improve its health. We will plant seeds in our greenhouse in the afternoon.

Learn more: www.lutherancamping.org / 717-677-8211
lcc@lutherancamping.org

Or contact Anne Rankin, Outdoor Ministries liaison
annerankin524@gmail.com / phone: 717-945-4585

PCC Virtual Choir

The PCC Virtual Choir has beautiful Lenten musical selections on the Penn Central Conference YouTube page. 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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