



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

September 1, 2021

Dear friends and members of Penn Central Conference,

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present[a] help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalms 46: 1-3)*

These words are balm to my aching heart these days. Even when the ground beneath my feet and the sky above my head and the neighbor on my left and right all disrupt my equilibrium and peace, I have the steady assurance that God is indeed my refuge and strength.

It is entirely possible that I have been watching too much news lately as I seek the good news story of the day to break the seeming loop of disaster, calamity, sickness, death, and defeat. In a meeting last week someone suggested a service of lamentations and my mind was immediately lost in planning mode.

But alas, we Christians are a people of hope! And just when I had lost sight of that amid fire, drought, wind, rain, flood and refugees an email came from Global H.O.P.E. Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment. This is a newly defined arm of the national setting's Wider Church Ministries that brings together under one team leader Disaster Ministries, Refugee and Migration Ministries, Volunteer Ministries and Sustainable Development.

While cash remains the most needed commodity right now, Global H.O.P.E. still offers clean-up bucket grants, practical assistance and so much more in just one spot. And for those wanting to help the plane loads of Afghan refugees there is a toolkit on their website and a training session planned for September 11th at 5pm ET.

A special appeal for Haiti assistance is also ongoing after both an earthquake and tropical storm in

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Outdoor Ministries

In partnership with Lutheran Camping Corporation

THE GROWING PROJECT

Volunteer for The Growing Project through October! This project reclaims a portion of the acreage for farming. The crops harvested are donated to assist those in need in Lancaster County.

CAPTURE THE FLAG SPECTACULAR

October 3; 3-5:30 p.m. @ Kirchenwald [Free]
Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance! Campfire worship to follow.

ADULT STUDY RETREAT

October 5-7 @ Nawakwa [\$150/person]
All meals (7) are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Lodging in Zinn-Tozer Lodge.

Learn more here: <https://pccucc.org/outdoor-ministry/>

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. John's UCC, Loganton

St. Paul's UCC, Selingsgrove

Trinity UCC, Watsontown

Apostles UCC, Waynesboro

Message from the Conference cont'

recent weeks.

Lamentations are part of our scriptural canon and should be part of our worship and living for God. Lamentations can help orient us toward God, God turns us toward hope and love, and love moves us to action.

If you or the congregation where you worship is feeling called to action in this season, check out ways to give and act at Global H.O.P.E.

And in the midst of these disasters, both near and far (I write as we are under a flood watch expecting Ida soon), September is National Preparedness Month (#NPM) and I encourage you to sign up for 30 days/30 ways and be prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster! Learn more about #NPM & sign up for 30 Days/30 Ways: ready.pa.gov/30Days30Ways

Shalom Friends!

Nora

Rev. Nora Foust
Associate Conference Minister
Penn Central Conference

Links:

H.O.P.E. <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/>

Clean Up Bucket Grants <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/64870-United-Church-Of-Christ>

Training to help Afghan refugees <https://www.ucc.org/sept-11-webinar-on-welcoming-afghan-sivs/>

Haiti Appeal: <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal/>



Church Events

2021 Old Zion Reformed Church Anniversary Service

Theme: "Don't Join the Cloister"
Sunday, September 12th at 4:00 p.m.

The United Church of Christ is issuing a call to action to help the people of Haiti. A massive 7.2 earthquake on Saturday has killed nearly 1,300 people. Search and rescue efforts are expected to be hampered by Tropical Depression Grace, which came ashore on Monday.

To donate to this appeal, go to www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/ and designate the gift to "Haiti Appeal." One can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Please be sure to note "Haiti Appeal" on your check in the memo section, or in an attached letter.

General Synod

Our Synod delegates met online and in person in July. One of the tasks of the delegates was voting on resolutions. Over the next few weeks, many of your delegates will share a brief overview of resolutions, the action taken at Synod, and if available, some resources for learning more. Some of them may inspire you to learn more! Catch them in the online eNews, to subscribe email pkeller@pccucc.org or at pccucc.org/enews-archiv

Contact us!

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