PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

A Message from PCC

April 10, 2024

Greetings friends and members of Penn Central,

"Peace be with you."

It's interesting how a simple phrase like "Peace be with you" can have such a profound impact on a group of people. It's a reminder to slow down, take a deep breath, and be present in the moment. It's a message that's especially relevant in today's world where we're constantly bombarded by distractions and noise. It's comforting to know that this phrase is not only found in our Gospel readings from last week and this week but also in other texts as well, reinforcing the importance of peace and stillness in our lives.

I remember in Seminary, one of the professors would enter the room, and the first thing that he would say was "Peace be with you." The classroom immediately changed from loud and chaotic, to a sense of calm reminding us all to take a deep breath and prepare ourselves for class.

This phrase "Peace be with you" appears again in this week's Gospel reading. Last week the disciples were hiding behind locked doors, afraid of what might happen to them after Jesus' death. Suddenly, Jesus appears among them and says, "Peace be with you." Jesus reassured them that it was him and showed them his wounds to prove it. It's a powerful moment that shows the disciples that Jesus has overcome death and that there's nothing to fear. This week we are again experiencing the power of Jesus' words as he suddenly appears and stands among a group of people. It's no wonder they were startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! But Jesus reassured them through this small phrase that there was nothing to fear.

The message, "Peace be with you" is just as relevant today as it was back then - a reminder that even in the face of fear and uncertainty, we can still find peace and comfort in our faith.

Continues on back

Contact us!

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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, Lewisburg

New Covenant UCC, Williamsport

Willow Street UCC, Willow Street

St. John's Union UCC, Winfield



This Sunday I went hiking in a beautiful spot in the Susquehanna River Land State Park. As I walked this amazing trail, I began thinking of the impact the phrase "Peace be with you" had on the disciples when they were fearful. Those four little words brought an amazing amount of peace in the most terrifying time. But what about us? We live in a world where unfortunately we can find ourselves hiding behind the locked doors and windows of our hearts, paralyzed with fear. Information that causes us fear is everywhere. It's in the daily news, social media, in our communities. Could these four simple words bring us the same peace that it brought the disciples? I believe it can. Placing all our fears at the feet of Jesus releases our need to hide from ours. It allows us the blessing of knowing that we are not in control but someone much more powerful than we is in control. Not the government, not society, not our communities, only God. As you go through this week remember these four simple words **"Peace be with you."** I pray that they bring you the peace you need the same peace that it brought the disciples.

Ronnette

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler

Search & Call Associate

Penn Central Conference

62nd Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference

For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a shared Annual Meeting on June 7-9, 2024 at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting.

We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who will be preaching during closing worship on Sunday. All four conferences will be hosting a reception with her on Saturday evening as well. Register by clicking the Annual Meeting tab on pccucc.org

Registration is now open for **HC Spirit camp at Hartman Center Campground and Retreat Center** - Sunday, July 28th through Saturday, August 3rd, 2024.

https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-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/