



PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering churches to proclaim the reconciling love of Christ.

A Message from PCC

March 03, 2021

Members and friends of Penn Central Conference-

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." - Matthew 25:35

As part of my Lenten devotional practice, I read from a devotion book titled: The Living Gospel by Theresa Rickard. I like these devotions because each devotion is broken down into sections to give the reader a full devotional experience. Typically, I do all of the sections and I continue on with my day. However, one of the devotional passages from Matthew continued to surface in my mind throughout the day. Why would this verse in Matthew have such an effect on me? After all it is not like it's the first time, I've read it. Perhaps it was the story that was included in the devotional.

The story was called "Surprised by a Sheep." It was about a priest from India that was asked to do a wake in the United States. He did not know the deceased and he was not given any information about the man or his family. The priest chose a "generic" scripture to use at the wake. As he entered the funeral home, he ran into the deceased man's brother. The brother asked if the Lions Club could conduct their service first. The deceased was not a church goer but was very committed to the Lions Club. The priest agreed to let them go first.

The priest took a seat as the Lion's Club representative began to speak. He talked about how inspirational the man was to them. He volunteered at a soup kitchen, collected eyeglasses for the poor and elderly and he had helped many of his brothers and their families in their club.

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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...

Grace UCC, Greencastle

Emmanuel UCC, Hanover

Grace UCC, Hanover

St. David's (Sherman's) UCC, Hanover



Message from the Conference cont'

Immediately, the priest changed his scripture to the one about the sheep and the goats. (Matthew 25:31-46) When the priest had entered the funeral home, he thought the man might have been a goat but quickly changed his mind after he heard the man's accolades. Now the priest believed that man was indeed a sheep and made the connection between the man's life and the words that Jesus spoke. "Whatever you did for one of these least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I wondered how many times we jump to judgement about people we do not really know. How many times we ignore or ostracize someone just because of the way that they look or the way we think they must be. It really changes our perspective when we put Jesus in the place of the person that we dismiss. What practice could we do as part of our Lenten journey to change this trajectory?

Perhaps we can try to do something that could make a difference in someone's life. This does not have to be something difficult. It could be as simple as taking the time to send a "Thinking about you card" to a neighbor that you haven't seen in some time. Or giving someone a phone call from your church family that you really don't know in an attempt to get to know them. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness make the biggest impact in someone's life.

What practices have become part of your Lenten journey? How can these practices make an impact on your spiritual well-being and at the same time have a positive impact on someone else's life?

Blessings and Peace,

Ronnette

Rev. Dr. Ronnette Comfort-Butler
Coordinator of Care to Clergy
and Clergy Families
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
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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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