



Contact

'Future Shock' has arrived in the present!

'O, God, our help in ancient past' sustains us in constancy

Future shock has arrived!

Fifty years after Alvin Toffler's book by that name hit the streets, his description of mass disorientation, confused uncertainty and ambiguous stress seems to have come true.

Toffler and his wife, who co-wrote the best-seller, described a world with so much change that many folks couldn't get a handle on their place in society, the security of their lives and the future for their family.

Not to mention seismic shifts in the workplace, media, popular culture, immigration, government, entertainment venues, politics, health care, public safety, education, recreation, climate, the stock market, retirement savings and, of course, organized religion!

Translate: The "what's next in life?" question is unanswerable. We jokingly talk of the "new normal," but it's not really that funny.

"Society experiences an increasing number of changes with increasing rapidity, while people are losing the familiarity that old institutions (religion, family, national identity, profession) once provided," says Wikipedia about the book.

The present era has been called the "information age" for several decades. Turn on your computer, the radio, television or your smart phone and it seems more like "the disinformation age."

Fake news, alternative facts, colliding ideologies, conflicting science and contradictory beliefs seem to be everywhere.

The Covid-19 pandemic is shocking enough; whoever predicted a sizable backlash labeling it a hoax, government plot or the product of a secret cabal of evil folks?

Civil discourse is really uncivil war!

We don't have disagreements; we have battles. Folks don't get angry; they become enraged. It's not enough to win a debate; you also need to destroy your opponent.

Adding to this sense of unease, fear or perhaps even panic, are all the unknowns about the outcome of the pandemic, the economy, social unrest and climate change.

All the more reason that our faith, our church community and our spirituality are vital. They, as always, are our lifelines in the storm. As I often say, the world is changing, but God is constant!

Prayer, meditation, and guidance from Scripture are critical. If the uncertainties of life are keeping you awake, turn it over to God.

Don't worry about setting aside a solid block of time for prayer or medication; pray while you are doing other things. Trust that God can multi-task better than you.

I find it helpful to engage in open-ended prayers. Rather than seek a specific solution or outcome, I ask God to bring about the best possible outcome in the eyes of the divine.

I like to sprinkle prayers throughout my day like seasoning on a meal to add flavor.

And if answers aren't forthcoming, or seem as murky as our torrid summer weather, remember that God functions differently than we humans. Oh, so differently!

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts," says Isaiah 55:8-9.



By Pastor Tom Caruso, Interim
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Leadership Team Update

By Kim Merkert



A Leadership Team Executive Session was held on August 13, 2020. This voting member only session was a reschedule of an executive session that was planned prior to the Covid-19 closure. Occasionally an executive session is needed to discuss issues that pertain to staffing and administration. As we are currently entering the search phase of our church journey, we were able to begin putting into place some measures that will carry us through the transition of calling our settled pastor.

The Financial Oversight Team and Stewardship Team will be working together to create an accountable reimbursement plan, which will serve as a guideline for travel/business expense spending for our pastor. The conference recommends that all churches should have such a guideline in place, to not only clarify expectations for pastoral expenses, but also to help in defining income and expenses for tax purposes. It is also on our radar that we need to start thinking about exactly what items will be included in the covenant we use when we call our settled pastor. The Leadership Team will continue thinking about this and working on it.

A Pastoral Relations Team will be created, consisting of two laypeople. Dave Stong has agreed to serve, and we will reach out to the congregation to find another volunteer. This team will serve as a communication liaison and advocate between the pastor and the congregation. After a settled pastor is called, we plan to also work with a consultant to help

guide Redeemer in learning methods to effectively communicate and resolve conflicts that arise. The Leadership Team looks at this as a positive opportunity, and thinks it is important to include our settled pastor in this work so that we can all grow together.

The Leadership Team discussed term limits for the current members. Normally, a term is three years, and “classes” of new members are timed so that a few members are being added and rolled off each year. Because of the way the current team is structured, most members are new and would end their terms all in the same year. Leadership Team feels it is important to maintain structure and consistency through the remainder of our interim period and for a period after a settled pastor is called. Therefore, the current leadership team members will remain in place through the calling of our settled pastor, most likely for about 6 months after that time. The exact timeframe will be reevaluated, as necessary. We will continue to try to add about two more members each year to keep acclimating new folks to the workings of the team and ensure that when the current team is finished serving, not all the members will leave at one time.

The Search Committee has begun its work. Redeemer did receive one profile from a prospective candidate, but after thoughtful discussion and prayer, the Search Committee did not feel the candidate was a good match for us at this time. Further updates on the Search Committee’s work will

be shared with the congregation as the process continues.

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Transition, met with the Search Committee. She has offered to preach at Redeemer on Sunday, September 20, and will address the congregation afterward to offer her guidance about the work of the Search Committee. Under Marisa’s guidance, the Leadership Team has looked honestly at its pastoral needs and at our current attendance rate of about 25 congregants per week. We have determined at this time that as we are working toward calling a settled pastor, we no longer need to also have the position of a licensed pastor. We will be updating our profile on the conference’s web site to reflect this change. Pastor Betsy set up the role of licensed pastor prior to her departure in 2016 so we could have someone to perform sacraments during any pastoral gaps in our interim period. We are very appreciative of the work of Judith deChamplain in this role, as she has been very helpful in making sure our pastoral needs were met during all the transitions of our interim period. We welcome Judith’s continued involvement as a church member, and as a member of the leadership team, the choir, and the banner brigade.

Audrey Baker will be spearheading our 2020 Crop Walk, scheduled on October 25. This year’s walk is virtual, so Audrey will be requesting help from others.

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Leadership Team Update cont'd

The Bethesda Mission paper towel drive has been rescheduled for October 4. Jan Stong will organize this effort and offer more information during worship announcements closer to the time.

Our next Leadership Team meeting will be held on September 10 at 7pm. This meeting will include our non-voting leadership team members in our regular format. As always, please reach

out to the Leadership Team if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kim Merkert
Leadership Chair*

Virtual Crop Walk Scheduled for October 25

It has been a summer of transition for many of us! As worship and connection has gone online, or by mail, or by small group, or by other means as you think creatively, our lives have changed. As we continue to navigate the ways that the world is shifting below our feet, sometimes moment by moment, we start to seek out the "things we've always done." CROP Hunger Walk might be one of those things. In an abundance of caution, the decision has been made to make the 2020 CROP Hunger Walk a Virtual Walk this year.

What does that mean?

A virtual walk is one done at your own pace, on your own time. It can mean just a donation online, or it can mean

getting together with a few friends or family members and finding your favorite place to walk, dedicating THAT walk to CROP Hunger Walk and raising awareness of what Church World Service and our area food banks can do with our support.

When will this happen?

Keep your calendars marked for October 25th! I will be sending periodic updates on how you can get engaged with this year's event and will hope to wrap up fundraising and send out a big thank you at the end of October. If you can organize yourself or others to walk ON October 25th, I would encourage it, so that we all walk united, even if we are far apart from each other.

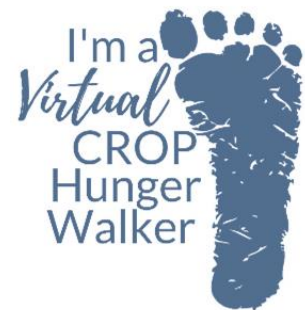
How do we donate?

All are encouraged to put their donations in online:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/hersheypa/Donate> by either

PayPal or Card. However, if a check is your only means of donation, more information will be coming as we get closer to October.

Watch for more information on the walk and how you can be involved this year!



crophungerwalk.org

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



By Pastor Beth Rogers
Hummelstown UCC Church

September Special Celebrations

Birthdays... Have a happy one!

- Betty Showalter
- Melissa Harris
- Terry Thomas

Anniversaries... Congratulations!

- Mr. & Mrs. Wes Bickelman
- Mr. & Mrs. Terry Thomas
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Conrad, Jr.

August 2020 Worship Attendance

August 2020	08/02/20	18	18
	08/09/20	13	13
Average	08/16/20	17	17
16.75	08/23/20	19	19
	08/30/20		



Prayers of Joy for

Bev Patton's daughter, **Ginger Patton**, nominated for an Emmy for the third time.
Melissa Davis (Nancy Kapp's niece) who married Jason Gregg

Prayers of Comfort and Healing for

Naomi Hockenbrough, Lois Woods' sister, who recently broke her hip
Lorraine Lavella, Lorna Davis' former co-worker, healing from extensive surgery
 Bev Patton's son-in-law, **Bill**, who is still hoping for a conclusive diagnosis
Tom Welsh who is experiencing some challenges
Marakay Rogers, Pastor Tom's friend from York, recovering from cancer surgery
Joe Lawruk, as he goes through continued treatment for cancer
Scott Barton, Jorja's son, as he continues to recover from a recent surgery

Prayers of Comfort for

Dan Hottenstein and Family mourning the loss of Dan's brother, Tom, on August 10
The Family of Doris Gingrich, former Redeemer member, who died on August 14
The Family of Jenny Frath, friend of Pam Mangold, who died at the age of 97
The Family of Mark Henninger, friend of Sharon Thomas, who died on August 17

Prayers of support and strength for

- Schools districts, teachers and staff planning school openings
- First responders
- Those suffering in mind, body, and spirit
- Our economy and those who are unemployed
- Our denomination, the association, and conference, and
- Completion of the Profile

Prayers for the Larger Community:

For those who serve and protect; for those in government who make decisions that affect our world, our country, our commonwealth, and our communities.





PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE



Empowering the church to demonstrate and declare the courageous love of Christ!

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings in Peace! I am writing today in relation to the recent violence being reported from Portland during protests there. As you know, a number of our clergy (and national UCC leaders) support the Black Lives Matter movement. This has been an important stance on justice this summer following the death of George Floyd. As the violence has escalated in Portland, there have been questions raised to some Conference Ministers about our clergy's perspective on (and possible support of) such actions. Yesterday I was in communication with our General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer about this topic. He has written a statement and shared it with all Conference Ministers. I share it with you here (below) so that you may know where he stands on these issues.

Let us continue to pray for justice and healing in these troubling times.

Peace,

Rev. Carrie Call, PhD, Transitional Conference Minister



Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today I learned of some recent violence in Portland, OR, specifically the violent beating of a man driving a truck during the protests there. He was reportedly pulled from the truck and beaten by protestors. I want to be very clear - and offer this as a response you are free to share with any church leaders who make such a claim. I will speak for myself. I support with much enthusiasm the Black Lives Matter movement. I have appeared in many of their peaceful protests for years now. I have never witnessed an act of violence to another person by anyone I have been associated with in the BLM movement. I have never once heard from a BLM advocate a call to violence. Quite the contrary - every training I have attended with their leaders, and every action I have been present to, prepared us for non-violent protest. Personally, I am an avowed and long-time practicing pacifist. I have never once called for the use of violence on another human body. I have never inflicted bodily harm to another human being with intent. I do not condone it. In fact, I disavow the use of violence to another human being. I derive my own thoughts about this from the gospel, from the writings of Gandhi, and from the actions and words of Martin Luther King, Jr - all three very important and impactful influences on my theology and my political choices. I have read about the beating of the truck driver in Portland. I do not have any idea who those people were who beat him. I do not condone what they did. I am clear that what happened to that poor man was unwarranted and indefensible. I have never called anyone a "Justice Warrior." That is not a phrase I would ever use and as a pacifist have clear reasons for avoiding language like that. I suspect many of you know this about me, but in case someone raises the same question or concern to you that was raised to another, I wanted you to have this to share with anyone who makes such a statement.

*Shalom, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer General Minister and President
United Church of Christ*

Hummelstown Arts Fest 2020 Cancelled

Sadly, due to Covid-19, this year's event has been cancelled. But, mark your calendars for next year! The festival committee has set the date for Saturday, September 18, 2020 when we will be back on deck with our famous ice cream stand!



Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola to Speak on September 20

Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 20, when we will welcome Dr. Marisa Laviola, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Transition, as our guest speaker. Dr. Marisa was recently appointed to her position with the Penn Central Conference and has been working with our Leadership Chair and Search Team with next steps in our search for a settled pastor.

We welcome and are grateful for Dr. Marisa's expertise and guidance in this process and look forward to her visit with us in September.



Meet Rev. Dr. Marisa ... *'Pastor of everybody'*

Dr. Laviola, Associate Conference Minister for Transitions, provides conference wide ministry for churches and pastors through all the changes in the life of a church, including searching for and calling a new pastor and consulting with congregations who wish to revitalize their ministry, need help with focus and refocus on their ministry, and mentoring of pastors and lay leaders throughout the life of the church. She oversees the Congregational Empowerment Team, a group of volunteers that are trained to help churches know vitality and growth at all stages of a church's life.

Dr. Marisa was raised Catholic. She has felt God's strong call to minister spiritually to people since her late 20's. At the time she was a lay leader in the United Methodist Church that discouraged women from pursuing ordained ministry. So, she sought another way to help people — as a clinical psychologist. After earning a doctorate in psychology from the University of Kentucky, she served over 20 years as a clinical psychologist in hospitals and in group practice.

In the early 2000's she again heard God's call to ordained ministry. By that time, she had married, she and her spouse adopted two girls, and she was an active lay leader in the United Church of Christ. She matriculated into Boston University School of Theology in the Master of Divinity program. Thinking that she would pursue a doctorate in theology and teach, she was surprised to find herself drawn more and more to pastoral ministry in a local church. Dr. Laviola's greatest loves of ministry are preaching, pastoral care, and helping congregations to find their potential as centers of ministry and mission to folks within the four walls of the church and folks in the greater community. Dr. Laviola has felt the call to conference ministry for the past few years and is honored and blessed to join the staff of Penn Central this past June 1. She looks forward to getting to know all of the churches and beloved people of our conference.

Excerpts originally published in News & Citizen, August 15, 2019 <https://www.vtcng.com/users/profile/Caleigh%20Cross>

September



2020

This Month at Redeemer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA	2 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	3 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer	4 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	5 7:00am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
6 9:15 am Worship Communion 14 th Sunday of Pentecost 3pm KISS AA	7 LABOR DAY 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	8 8:30 am Hershey Ministerium Mtg 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA 6:30-10pm VOP	9 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	10 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer 7pm Leadership Team Mtg	11 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	12 7:00am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
13 9:15 am Worship 15 th Sunday of Pentecost 3pm KISS AA 6:30pm IPA	14 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	15 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA	16 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP ORDERS DUE	17 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer	18 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	19 7:00am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
20 9:15 am Worship 16 th Sunday of Pentecost 3pm KISS AA	21 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	22 9am FARA 12pm Nooner AA	23 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA SCRIP ORDER PICKUP	24 12pm Nooner AA 12pm Focused Prayer	25 12pm Nooner AA 6:30pm KISS AA	26 7:00am Sunrise AA 12pm KISS AA
27 9:15 am Worship 17 th Sunday of Pentecost 3pm KISS AA	28 12pm Nooner AA 7:30pm OA	29	30			



Please note that Support Groups that are shown on the calendar are now permitted to hold their meetings in the building. Many of them have indicated that meeting outside and online will continue as long as the weather cooperates, and State Covid-19 mandates are in place. The Life Gospel Chinese Christian Church will continue to hold virtual worship activities for the foreseeable future.

Rev. Carrie Call elected conference minister

Budget trimmed 4 %; PCC staff lauded; clergy milestones celebrated



By a near-unanimous vote, Rev. Carrie Call, PhD, was elected to the position of conference minister by delegates at Penn Central's annual meeting.

Dr. Carrie, who has been serving as transitional conference minister since August 2019, was formally given the title at a "virtual meeting" on Aug. 29. Her position is for a six-year term.

While most delegates and attendees watched the proceedings from their homes via a Zoom audio-visual portal, others attended in person at Mt. Zion UCC in York, where PCC staff gathered.

A smaller contingent showed up at various UCC sites across the conference, including Colonial Park UCC, Harrisburg, where I attended.

Maintaining social distance, wearing masks, and washing our hands periodically, we each had our own table to watch the meeting on a large screen. We also took communion together.

Votes also approved a proposed 2021 conference budget of \$1,027,998, which is \$42,822 less than the current annual budget.

Shirley Keith Knox, a member of St. Paul's UCC/Mechanicsburg, was elected conference moderator, replacing Rev. Ann Graves at the end of her two-year term.

Delegates also heard details of plans to sell Hartman Center in Milroy, which is slated to close on Dec. 31. PCC's Board of Directors voted earlier this year to close it after years of declining use and mounting debts.

Although the pandemic has eliminated virtually all activities there, previous commitments, insurance and staff costs mean the center will still cost the conference nearly \$143,000 to operate this year.

PCC plans to maintain an alternate outdoor ministries program.

Dr. Carrie preached and also addressed the tough challenges of Covid, the economy and social unrest facing organized religion.

Because mainline churches are no longer a major player in modern civic life, she said, it's more important than ever that we galvanize individual churches and members to do the discipleship work.

Just as Moses did when faced with the complaints of the wandering Israelites in the desert, we must ask God's help to unleash the Spirit to empower us.

Dr. Call lauded the PCC staff, which had been demoralized by ongoing staff turnover and management strife. She has won praise for creating a more unified, nurturing, and collegial work setting. The meeting also celebrated clergy service anniversaries.

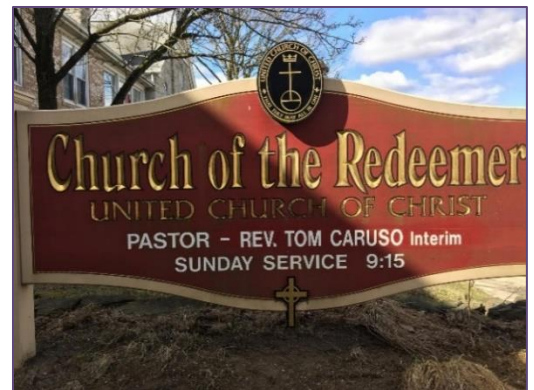
- Pastor Tom

"Share Your Bounty" Paper Towel Drive Set for October 4 to Support Bethesda Mission

Months back, Bethesda Mission reached out to local churches to solicit donations of paper towels. Sadly, we originally planned the drive for May, but something called Covid-19 got in the way... Of course, we all know that paper towels are an essential item in every household. An emergency shelter program is no different!

Unfortunately, paper towels are not easy to come by through emergency food and household goods donation programs, making it difficult for programs to access these items at low cost. **That's where we come in!**

Redeemer will hold its "Share Your Bounty" paper towel collection on Sunday, October 6. Please feel free to donate towels anytime between now and then and place them in the box on the pew in the church lobby. **Bethesda Mission thanks you for your support!**



September's *Contact* is sponsored by Pastor Tom in honor of his late mother, **Palmira "Dolly" Caruso** (1919-1989), who lovingly instilled in him the seeds of his faith, compassion for others and the life-changing power of hospitality.



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Be sure to visit us on Facebook page and our website at www.redeemerchurchucc.org