



July 4, 2021

Our deepest freedom rests.....

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." -Romans 7:15 & 18

"There are two ways of being a prophet. One is to tell the enslaved they can be free. It is the difficult path of Moses. The second is to tell those who think they are free that they are, in fact, enslaved. This is the even more difficult path of Jesus." Richard Rohr

The Apostle Paul and Father Richard Rohr both testify to the simple truth that our deepest freedom rests in our freedom to know and become the person who God wills us to be.

In the United States we celebrate on this Independence Day, the rights and freedoms we have from all manner of restraint. But we pay little attention to the fact that these liberties can only offer us as much freedom as we ourselves have earned from the inside.

If we haven't achieved the inner freedom to give love, to extend grace, to offer mercy, to do justice, we are totally dependent on the outer systems of family, culture and government which, ironically, can never offer the freedoms they promise. You cannot give what you do not have. An elected leader, for instance, who has neither the moral or ethical character on which our form of government relies, will not be given it once elected and cannot offer it once installed. This is true for lay leaders, pastors and parents.

I know that freedom is not a moment in time or place of being it is process of becoming. The signing of the Declaration of Independence was only a moment in the long journey toward exterior freedom. The journey continues. The death and resurrection of Jesus were moments in time in the long journey toward interior, spiritual freedom. That journey, thank God, continues. Perhaps one day when these two paths have crossed, we will know that "thy kingdom has come on earth as it is in heaven." Only then could we claim to be 'one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'

Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill
Rev. Bill Worley, PSE Conference Minister

"PSEC Strong" General Synod Kick-off Event – Walk/Ride Event



General Synod this year will be all virtual, so we are trying to provide some opportunities to have Conference-focused, in-person connection. On Friday, July 9th-Saturday, July 10th we will be hosting a "PSEC Strong" event along the Schuylkill River Trail, a time for fellowship and fun physical activity together. There are opportunities for everyone at every level of physical fitness to participate, and you can participate in all/specific parts of the weekend (see the schedule below for how to "jump in." Hope you can join us!

We'll gather each day from 8:30-9:30 am and 11:00am-1:00pm for a time of fellowship with light refreshments. We recommend bringing your own meals; snacks and drinks will be available. At each gathering point, we'll offer some instructions for the hike or ride ahead. The schedule should give our bikers enough time to get from one gathering point to the next, and our walkers enough time to enjoy a nice hike, return to the parking lot, and drive to the next gathering point to meet the bikers!

At the end of each day there will be fellowship over meals. Friday, July 9th @ 3:30 at Fork & Ale in Douglassville. Meal cost is on the individual but please complete the free registration so we have an accurate headcount for the restaurant. Register at: <https://psecstrongfri.eventbrite.com>

Saturday July 10th @ 5:00 will be the Kick-off meal at Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia. Please complete the free registration so we can give Old first an accurate headcount. Register at: <https://psecstrongsat.eventbrite.com>

For a full schedule and details please go to:
<https://psec.org/general-synod/>