



June 18, 2023

Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth!

With the addition of Juneteenth to the list of federal holidays, there is a synergy of holidays this time of year that are extremely meaningful to me. Father's Day and Juneteenth fall just days apart and some years they will be celebrated on the same day.

It is meaningful to many black fathers, myself included, that our fatherhood and liberation are celebrated on the same day. This brings to my mind the countless black fathers who watched their wives and children being sold in slavery and prayed for the day when their families would be free. To Jesse James, Sr., the patriarch of my family who was lynched fighting for his family, and countless other black fathers of the era of slavery, reconstruction, and Jim Crow, I say ...

Happy Father's Day and Happy Juneteenth!

Rev. Cean James
PSEC ACM for Congregational Development



From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Words to Ponder

"The greatest enemy of ordinary, daily goodness and joy is not imperfection, but the demand for some supposed perfection."

Richard Rohr, *Eager to Love*, p.73

Conference Minister Recap of PSEC Annual Meeting

Our 2023 Annual Spring Conference Meeting at West Chester University closed Saturday afternoon after spirit filled and thought-provoking conversations about evolving forms of ministry. Thank you Mary Etta Mest, Ben Motz, Kevin Fruchtl, Cean James, Steve Ohnsman and Josh Blakesley for the insights and inspiration you shared! We met the Conference Ministers of our sibling PA Conferences Bonnie Bates (Penn Northeast), Carrie Call (Penn Central) and David Ackerman (Penn West) and joined in conversation about the possibility of a four Conference coming together and potential for a four PA Conference Meeting next summer. We celebrated the significant anniversaries of churches and pastor ordinations. And we recognized the generosity of our congregations who support the Mission of our Wider Church (OCWM) as well as those congregations who make contributions to all four UCC special offerings in addition to OCWM — Thank you for being "5 for 5"!

Our meeting could not have happened without the hard work of our Annual Meeting Planning Team, chaired by John Folk; the Worship Planning Team chaired by Steve Ohnsman; the members of our Tech Team, Zack Jackson and John Folk; and the Conference Staff — especially Susan Creswell. And I want to thank you, my friends, especially those of you who hung in for the duration of both days (both online and in person), and actively participated in conversations with friends old and new. We are stronger together!

Finally, we learned the very sad news that our sister and sibling in faith, Wanda Craner, joined the Saints last Thursday. Wanda served as the Minister of Spiritual Nurture with our Conference staff from 1997-2016. From September 2013 to August 2014, Wanda was our Acting Conference Minister and my immediate predecessor. She spent the last years of her ministry in the practice of Gestalt Pastoral Care (GPC). She was a spiritual director, prayer partner, healer, and teacher for multitudes and a friend and source of holy inspiration to all who knew her. Our prayers for her spirit and her family, husband Steve and daughters Tesia and Michaela continue to ascend. A service to celebrate her life will be held at Good Shepherd UCC, Boyertown on Saturday, July 8, 11:00am. In her departure from us, I am certain Wanda would ask us to remember the words of Jesus, "So you have sorrow now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." (John 16:22).

God bless and keep you now and in the days to come,
Pastor Bill

Rev. Bill Worley, PSE Conference Minister