

WPA E-CONNECT



We exist to equip congregations and leadership to help people find and follow Christ.

February 2022

Already 2022 is well underway. We have raced through January and are now heading toward the Lenten season. It seems time is speeding up!

As we look around us we see much chaos and confusion. Internationally, nationally, and locally there are events and conflicts swirling. It is sometimes hard to focus on really important matters because so much is happening. As I have talked with pastors and leaders here in Pennsylvania, I realize people are anxious and angry, fearful and fed-up.

There is little that seems to be in order.

But God is on His throne. God is a God of order – even while He knows what is happening in our chaotic world.

Scripture tells us God sees what we are going through, hears our cries, and continues to be engaged with His people. Nothing escapes God’s notice or God’s love.

Whatever you experienced in 2021, God is still on the job.

It is critical for each of us to take time to pause and just relax with God. Have you ever thought about it like that? Curl up with His Word.....bring a paper and pen....stop and ask questions of the scripture.....talk with God about what you are hearing from Him....let His Spirit wash over you as you submerge yourself in His presence.

No matter what the atmosphere is, we owe our citizenship to a larger and eternal kingdom. Our leader is supreme, and wiser than any other leader ever to have lived. The old hymn says “I know on whom my faith is fixed, I know in whom I trust. I know that Christ abides with me and all His ways are just.” We can be assured of God leading us.

The question is – will we follow His leading?

Today, curl up with THE Good Book and breathe in the Author.

Praying for your refreshing with God!

-Rebecca

BACKGROUND CHECK RENEWAL DUE NOW

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR BACKGROUND CHECKS and Mandated Reporter Training, it is time to update them. Pennsylvania State law requires that they be renewed every 60 months. Those in violation may need to meet with the Credentialing Services Committee.

1. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance
Go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us>
2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
Go to <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
3. FBI Criminal History Report (Fingerprinting)
Go to <https://www.identogo.com>
Service code : 1KG756
4. Mandated Reporter Training
Go to <https://www.reportabusepa.pit.edu>

MENTORING FOR THE WIN!

Have you ever thought it would be helpful to have a mentor... someone with whom you could talk things over and perhaps bounce off ministry ideas? Have you considered that a less experienced minister could benefit from your experience? Would you be willing to mentor another for a specified period?

In ministry, we all have much to offer each other. WPA Ministries is in the process of compiling a list of ministers who would like to enter into a mentoring relationship. If a temporary mentoring opportunity interests you, please contact the office (724-867-9601) and have Jenna put your name on a list. We are stronger together!



360 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

PUNXSUTAWNEY FIRST CHURCH OF
GOD

Bring your leaders and disciples who are
growing in the Lord!

Register online at wpamin.com

CLERGY BENEVOLENCE FUND

The past two years have been difficult for many congregations. With many weeks of remote services, illnesses, and loss of family employment, the Clergy Benevolent Fund has been utilized more than any time in the past ten years. Because of this, we are asking that you consider taking a special offering within your congregation for this fund. 100% of the gifts to this fund are used to support clergy during crisis times, such as these past months.

Please make sure you mark your gift to the Clergy Benevolence Fund, and specify the church, so your congregation can get the credit.

During REFRESH this year, we will also receive a special offering to build up this Benevolent Fund. It is our honor to support other servants as they labor for Him.

CLERGY REFRESH

Don't forget to sign up for REFRESH,
at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center

Tuesday, May 10.

Guest Leader: Rev. Jessica Hall

Register online starting March 1.

The poster features a wooden background. At the top, it says 'REFRESH' in a bold, serif font, flanked by horizontal lines. Below that, it says 'Pastor & Spouse Retreat'. On the left, there is a stack of books, with the top one labeled 'HOLY BIBLE'. The main title 'The Praying Leader' is written in a large, bold, serif font. At the bottom, there is a photograph of two hands clasped in prayer. Below the photo, it says 'One Day Only' and 'May 10, 2022' in a bold, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, it says 'Whitehall Camp and Conference Center—Emlenton, PA' and 'Presented by WPA Ministries' Clergy Team'.

TRANSITIONS:

JEFF BLACKBURN, who has pastored at Portage for the past 6 years, **has resigned and will be moving back to Carlisle**, nearer his children. Pray for Jeff as he adjusts to his new situation and seeks God's direction for the next few years.

BIRTHS:

Elizabeth Lays, born January 27 to Zach and Josie Lays, pastors at New Bethlehem Church of God. Elizabeth weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. Welcome Miss Elizabeth!

DEATHS:

CINDY EMERY, long time Administrative Assistant for WPA Ministries, passed away of January 23, 2022. We grieve the loss of our good friend – a servant of the church who cared for the ministers in such a careful way. Cindy leaves a deep hole in the lives of many.

HERB BAUGH, Loving husband of Rev. Joan Baugh, passed into the arms of Jesus on January 25, 2022. Herb was a minister in his own right, and used his gifted baritone voice and other musical talents to share God's glory and love for His people. Herb will be missed.

CAROLYN MEADOWS, mother of Carolyn Wolford, moved into the full presence of the Lord, February 13, 2022. Pray for her family.

Contact Us:

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Visit us on the web at
www.wpamin.com



**CHURCH
OF GOD**

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 2 - 360 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE –
Punxsutawney FCOG

Tuesday, May 10— REFRESH CLERGY DAY with Rev. Jessica Hall - WHCC

June 30-July 3 - IYC: International Youth Convention - San Antonio

July 16-July 24 - WPA CAMP MEETING with Rev. Kevin Earley - WHCC