

# WPA E-CONNECT



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

November 2021

Thursday was one of my favorite holidays of the year. Thanksgiving gives us a perfect opportunity to share our gratefulness for the amazing array of blessings we experience every single day of our lives. No matter how challenging the moment or how dark the situation seems to be, there is always something to be thankful for. Roy T Bennett once said "It is not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy."

Every morning you have a choice: To see the day with all the negative things that come your way or to see the day with all the blessings you are experiencing. It is easy to do both – it is your choice. James said "Count it all joy when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." James 1:2. That doesn't mean every experience makes you happy, but you can have joy in the midst of the most dire situation... because God is walking with you through the crisis.

I am so thankful that God sees me and still wants to use me to share His love with others. What a gift! He has provided everything I have needed, even at my lowest. He has assured me of His presence, even at my loneliest. He has given me mercy, even at my most ill-deserved moments. He has given me love, even when at my unloveliest. For all of these and so much more, I am thankful.

And I am thankful for you. As you minister in the location where God placed you, God is using you to make a difference in the lives of adults, children, teens, the neighborhood, and, in fact, the community. You may not see it, but God sees your ministry and is using it to show people His love for them and His plan for their lives. Through you, God is changing lives. For that I am thankful.

Look around you this season and thank God for all He has given you and for the many ways He is using you!

-Rebecca

## TRANSITIONS:

**Richard Bitner**, President of Whitehall Camp and Conference Center Board, and Representative for WHCC on the Ministries Council, went to be fully with the Lord on Tuesday, November 9. Please pray for his children and family as they adjust to his loss. The memorial service will be held on January 22nd at the Connellsville First Church of God at 11:00 am.

**Rev. Marva Brockinson**, Associate Pastor at New Life Church of God in Pittsburgh, Pa passed into God's arms on Friday, November 19. Please be in prayer for the family and for the congregation as they grieve the loss of this Godly woman.

**Czarina Coutts, wife of Pastor Christian Coutts** of Lighthouse Church of God in Carlisle, passed on Friday, November 12. Pray for Chris and his family as they adjust to their lives without their wife and mother.

## CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Rev. Nelson Confer** who retired this month from the Senior Pastor position at Connellsville First Church of God.

We wish **Rev. Kyle Yates** Godspeed as he and Kylie and Kaleb move to Staunton, Virginia on January 1, where Kyle will become the Senior Pastor.

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECKS UPDATE

Every 60 months (5 years) the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that all clergy and church staff (paid and unpaid) must update their background checks. The Mandatory Reporter Training is required every 2 years. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor.

To comply with the state mandate use the link below, and turn in your results to

[wpaministries1@gmail.com](mailto:wpaministries1@gmail.com) or mail to

WPA Ministries of the Church of God, PO Box 597, Emlenton, Pa 16373, ATTENTION: Credentials, Jenna Beichner.

### LINK for Background Checks:

1. Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report  
Go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us>
2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance  
Go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us>
3. FBI Criminal History Report (Fingerprint—based background check)  
Go to <https://www.identogo.com>
4. Mandated Reporter Training  
Got to <https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu>

### Contact Us:

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.wpamin.com](http://www.wpamin.com)



CHURCH  
OF GOD

### SAVE THESE DATES:

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| Thursday and Friday, February 3,4<br>All WPA Teams and Committees Visioning Retreat   | WCCC               |
| Thursday-Saturday, March 10-12<br>Wesleyan Holiness Womens' Clergy Conference         | Grapevine Texas    |
| Tuesday, May 10<br>Clergy REFRESH<br>Speaker: Rev. Jessica Hall "The Praying Pastor"  | WCCC               |
| Thursday-Saturday, June 30-July 3<br>IYC-Church of God International Youth Convention | San Antonio, Texas |