



October 20, 2019

## PSEC Annual Bookkeeper/Treasurer Training

Saturday, October 26th

9:00 am—Noon

Calvary UCC, Barto



Bring your questions, concerns to this annual gathering of those entrusted with financial processes in the Conference's churches.

Led by Tammie Wisniewski, CPA, CGMA, Finance Operations Manager of the PSEC.

**Register at: <https://psecbooktreas2019.eventbrite.com>**



## Fall Youth Event: Caring For Creation

Nov. 8-10, 2019

*The Registration Deadline is November 1st.*

The event is open to youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



For more information and a link to registration, go to:

<https://psec.org/missions-ministries/youth/>



## 2020 Annual Spring Meeting

June 4-6, 2020

@ Inn at Reading, Wyomissing, PA



## Thankfulness and Offering Thanks

*15Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." Luke 17*

There is an irony I confront anew every harvest season. The more we have, the less likely we are to thank God. We live in a time of extraordinary abundance, but that has not led us to greater thankfulness. In fact, a defining characteristic of our age is that we live with an extraordinary sense of entitlement. The animated character, Bart Simpson, when asked to offer thanks at a family meal, said, "Dear God, we bought all of this stuff with our own money, so thanks for nothing."

No one is born grateful. So it is not surprising, perhaps, that gratitude doesn't always come easily to us and sometimes it doesn't come at all.

The one leper who came back to Jesus gives me regular pause for thought for the way he had his life changed in a way the others seemingly did not. Ten were healed of their disease, but only one was made well — that is, made whole, completed. It is a distinction worth making. You can be cured of a disease and still lead an incomplete or fractured life. You can live with a life crippling disease and still find wholeness. That is the gift that the one who returned to offer thanks was given — the gift of wholeness. There is something about offering thanks that makes us whole.

C. S. Lewis observed that grateful people are emotionally healthy people. "Praise," he said, "almost seems to be inner health made audible." Anne Lamott, in her book on prayer, adds from her own experiences of gratitude this thought: "The movement of grace toward gratitude brings us from the package of self-obsessed madness to a spiritual awakening. Gratitude is peace."

Praise is inner health made audible. Gratitude is peace. To which I can only add, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

May it be so for you and the people you love,

- Bill (Rev. William P. Worley, PSE Conference Minister)