



From the desk of Bishop Bruce Hill

How do you handle stress? That's something we've all been dealing with for the last year and, I'm afraid to say, we'll continue to deal with as the pandemic and its effects continue. So, how do you handle stress?

The WebMD site tells us some of the signs of stress are depression or anxiety; anger, irritability, or restlessness; feeling overwhelmed, unmotivated, or unfocused; racing thoughts or constant worry.

Those are signs we see all around us, and perhaps even when we take the time to really look at that person in the mirror. According to another website, "Research shows that stress spills over into our relationships, causing a wide range of problems. When people are under a lot of stress, they become distracted, withdrawn and less affectionate."

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How does the stress you've been under effect your relationship with Jesus? Have you become distracted, withdrawn and less affectionate in your discipleship journey? This past summer during a ZOOM workshop, Dr. Doug Buckwalter said something that really got my attention. He encouraged us to allow the stress of the pandemic to draw us deeper into our relationship with Jesus.

Dr. Buckwalter didn't realize it at the time, but he was helping me plan for our 2021 National Conference. Our theme this year is "Know Him Better, Love Him More."



You see, all the stress we have been experiencing will do one of two things in our relationship with Jesus: it will cause us to withdraw and become less affectionate; or it will cause us to want to know him more deeply and love him even more. Think about Job and his wife in the Old Testament. In the course of one day, they lost everything that was precious to them. In the overwhelming stress of loss, when everything was different and lost, and only God remained, the question was: was God enough?

Our world has been turned upside down, shaken and stirred. Today and during our time of National Conference, I trust we allow the stress we've been experiencing to draw us deeper into our relationship with Jesus; to know him better and love him more.

In Christ's service,



"We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments... Those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him.

1 JOHN 2:3,5





National Conference

National Conference 2021, our denomination's National Conference is scheduled for May 26-28, 2021.

Our plan is to once again gather together at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. Obviously, the pandemic has caused us all to be fluid in making plans. Even now, as we plan National Conference, we realize that there are lots of concerns and many questions that are yet to be answered.

We are planning on having three days of worship, educational opportunities, and lots of business. Since Bishop Hill has chosen not to serve another term as Bishop, on Wednesday, May 26, the members of Conference will elect the next Bishop to lead our denomination. The new Bishop's term will not begin until July 1, 2022 so there can be a smooth transition in our national leadership as well as in the congregation the Bishop-elect will be leaving. This will also be the National Conference at which we will be considering amendments to our denomination's book of Discipline. The Amendments Committee has been carefully looking at our Discipline and we will work through their proposals. 2021 is the first step in a two-year process to amend the Discipline so amendments will also be considered for a final vote in 2022. National Conference will once again give pastors and lay delegates the chance to attend workshops on Thursday afternoon. A list of the various workshops will be a part of the online registration process which will be launched in spring. These workshops will provide an opportunity for our local leaders to discover fresh opportunities and new perspectives in ministry both in the local church and the community.

Pre-conference meetings will be held prior to National Conference. All pastors and lay delegates are encouraged to attend one of the meetings that is most convenient.

Tuesday, May 4	Reich's EC Church, Marietta, PA	7:00 PM
Saturday, May 8	Christ EC Church, Allentown, PA	9:00 AM
Tuesday, May 11	Mohn's Hill EC Church, Reading, PA	7:00 PM
Thursday, May 13	Grace EC Church, Schuylkill Haven, PA	7:00 PM



The Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

- 1 PRAY FOR THE WORK OF THE STATIONING COMMITTEE AS WE IDENTIFY PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS WHO CAN "FIT AND FLOURISH."
- 2 ASK THE LORD TO PROVIDE HIS CLEAR DIRECTION AS I PLAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC.
- 3 JOIN WITH ME IN PRAYING FOR THE LORD TO HELP OUR CONGREGATIONS SEE HOW TO CREATIVELY REACH THOSE AROUND US WITH THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS.
- 4 PRAY FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AS THEY CONTINUE TO MEET AND MINISTER DURING THE PANDEMIC.
- 5 PRAY FOR OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEADERS DURING THIS TIME OF GREAT NATIONAL STRESS.
- 6 THANK THE LORD FOR GOOD WEATHER WHICH HAS ALLOWED ME EASY AND SAFE TRAVEL TO PREACH. I LIKE SNOW - BUT NOT ON SUNDAY MORNING!
- 7 PRAISE HIM FOR THE COMMITTED MISSIONARY WORK BEING DONE BY OUR EC MISSIONARIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.
- 8 JOIN ME IN THANKING THE LORD FOR THE EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE WHO SUPPORTS, ENCOURAGES, AND PRAYS FOR ME AS BISHOP.
- 9 THANK THE LORD FOR THE MINISTRY OF OUR DISTRICT FIELD DIRECTORS WHO HELP KEEP OUR DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS ALIVE AND VITAL.
- 10 AS WE CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY, THANK THE LORD FOR THOSE YOU LOVE AND FOR HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US!



Ministerial Development Community News

During the months of February and March, the Ministerial Development Associate, Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, will be observing a sabbatical from local and denominational ministry. If there are items that need the attention of the Ministerial Development Community (pastoral assessment, credentialing, education, coaching, or pastoral health), please contact the Bishop and he will answer your question or will put you in touch with the appropriate community representative.



Rev. Jeffrey Byerly
Ministerial Development Associate

DUE DATES

***Jan. 15** - Disability Payment \$100.00 & Pastor Compensation Forms

***Jan. 25** - Annual Statistical Reports & Ministerial Update Form

If not already done so, please mail to EC Center office or email to office@eccenter.com as soon as possible.

*Workers Compensation Insurance Information due 30 days after receipt of the request for payroll information. **To be in compliance with a new PA Dept. of Workers Compensation regulation, all churches must include their official church name and tax id number on the workers compensation request for payroll information form.**

The deadline to distribute W-2s to employees, including pastors, is February 1, 2021, with the employer filing deadline also February 1, 2021 if filed electronically or on paper.

Social Security Administration's Business Services Online (BSO), www.ssa.gov/bsol, is an easy, convenient method for producing the employee and employer copies of the W-2 on white paper, no forms, and for filing the W-2s electronically with SSA. We encourage all church treasurers that produce their W-2s in-house to use the SSA BSO services.

Please remember that the EC Benefits administrative fee of \$125 is due from churches on April 15, 2021; retirees are not subject to the fee. The 2021 disability premiums were due January 15, 2021. Please remit them as soon as possible. The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC Center website.

Pastor's Compensation forms were also due on January 15, 2021. If you have not done so, please return your compensation forms to Dave King as soon as possible. We will be contacting churches in early February that have not submitted 2021 compensation forms and requesting compliance.

You should have begun using the 2021 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. With the discontinuation of affiliate funding beginning on Jan 1, 2021 there is no need for separate ministry fund forms for the Eastern and Western regions. One ministry fund form will be used for all EC churches in all regions and all districts. Any remaining offerings collected in December 2020 should be remitted on the 2020 Ministry Fund forms.

The Annual Reports and fourth quarter Ministerial Update forms were also both due by January 25, 2021. Reports can be emailed to office@eccenter.com or mailed to the EC Church Center, 100 W Park Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067.

The 2020 Business Mileage Reimbursement decreased to \$.56/mile on January 1, 2021.

Year-end giving statements to donors must include a phrase similar to, or contain the words, "no goods or services were exchanged for these contributions or consisted entirely of a religious nature". The IRS has resources available, www.irs.gov, to assist with charitable contributions: Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations and Publication 526 Charitable Contributions.

Please contact Kevin Henry or David King with any questions.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director
khenny@eccenter.com

David King
Benefits Administrator
dking@eccenter.com

Kingdom Extension Community News

The Art of Neighboring: Connecting with our Local Communities

This hands-on workshop is designed to help you explore how to identify points of intersection between the DNA of your church and that of the surrounding community. With these insights, participants will examine ways to build missional “bridges” between church and community.

The aim of the interactive sessions will be for each church represented to generate action steps to build relationships and ministries with your neighbors.

Three teaching sessions (Who are we? Who are they? What bridges can be created between us?) are followed by hands-on workshops (church teams actually processing the material that was shared).

The final session is designed to leave each church team with solid plans and action steps toward missional connections with their communities.

Let’s talk about how this workshop might fit the needs of your church family (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net); and when a workshop would fit your schedule.



The Art of Conversation Conversation!

When was the last time you started a conversation? With a stranger? Smooth? Awkward? When was the last time a conversation included Jesus?

As Christians, we get to talk about Jesus. Sharing Jesus usually starts with a conversation and a relationship and trust. Consider developing new conversational skills.

This 2- or 3-hour workshop is a conversation about conversations. There is an art to making space for conversations. Discover resources, develop ideas, and practice the art of moving from “hello” to something deeper, even gospel focused.

Deciding to be prepared usually guarantees they will happen. Resources and ideas will address starting conversations, redirecting conversations, and leaving space for future conversations.

Let’s talk about how this workshop might fit the needs of your church family (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net); and when a workshop would fit your schedule.





Global Ministries Community

Our Missionary Family News



Contact information: If you need to contact the Global Ministries office for information regarding missionaries available for speaking, to check addresses, etc., please use the ecglobal@eccenter.com email from this point forward, along with the EC Church Center general number, 717-866-7581.

New Staff: We officially welcome our newest staff member to the Global Ministries office, Denise "Dee" Jaramillo. Dee, a PA Native, returned to the Lancaster County area after having served in the US Army and living in Texas for 26 years. Her son, Alejandro (AJ), and his wife, Alba, are both active-duty Marines stationed in North Carolina. She is a member of Community EC, Sinking Spring, where she serves on the worship team, the Division of Worship, and leads the Women's Mentoring Ministry. We look forward to experiencing how the Lord will use her gifts and graces for the next chapter of life and ministry in the EC Church and the Global Ministries Community.

2021 Missions Directories are available. Please contact Church Center if you would like one emailed to you, either as a PDF or in Word format. If you need a printed copy, one will be mailed to you. We do not put this on our website since some of our missionaries work in restricted access countries or assist those who do so. Thank you for your understanding.

Looking ahead: The VBS project for this year is to raise funds for Nepal. The land where the denominational headquarters is built also houses the orphanage property and a church. If the land next door is sold to a private owner or a business, they would have the right to object to the services and training done at the headquarters. Since Christianity is barely tolerated in this Hindu kingdom, things could be made very difficult for our churches there. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 towards the estimated purchase price of \$30,000. Please pray about this and see if your church, youth group or MMK group would like to help. More information will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Prayer: Pray for our missionaries who are scheduled to travel back to the field following brief visits home in the States in December and January. Travel is still a little tricky with newly instituted COVID-19 testing requirements prior to travel allowance for some airlines and some layover countries still closed to international travel. Pray for smooth travel itineraries and patience during last minute changes.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards, notes and even gifts on the occasion of my retirement. I was overwhelmed by your kind words and well wishes.

As you can imagine, after 33 years with Global Ministries it's taking some time to adjust to a new way of life. However, I am confident that God has something else in store for me by way of serving Him, and I look forward to this next season of service.

It's been a joy to meet so many of you over the years, and I pray God's richest blessings on you as well.

In Christ,
Pat Strain



Rev. Ted Rathman
GMC Associate

Dee Jaramillo
GMC Admin Assistant

ecglobal@eccenter.com
717-866-7581

TWIN PINES

CAMP-CONFERENCE-RETREAT CENTER

What's Happening at Twin Pines in 2021

Winter Thaw 2021

Youth Retreat planned by Twin Pines for church youth groups and individuals. Youth Groups can come and Twin Pines takes care of all the retreat programming. Individuals can come to Winter Thaw-C and Twin Pines will supply cabin counselors. For more information about these retreat weekends, go to bit.ly/2021WT.

Winter Thaw-C: February 12-14
Speaker: Rev. Matt Stoltzfus



2021 Summer Staff Application

The application to be on the 2021 Summer Staff is now available. New this year, you can complete it online: from filling out the application, to getting your references - all from your phone, tablet, or computer. More information about being on summer staff is available at twinpines.org.



Week	Dates	Camp	Camp Code	Age by Grade	Completed	Director
Week 1	6-26-26	Adult Camp	AC	Varied		Rev. Paul Miller, Rev. Gordon Loren
Week 2	6-27-27	Elementary Juniors 1	EJ1	1-2		Rev. Bob Volante, Amy McRoberts
		Senior Camp	SC	18		Karin Logan, Tracy Goodrich
Week 3	7-4-7-10	Letter Level 1	LL1	1-1	Varied	Shawn Hoover, TBA
		Family Camp	FC	Varied		Yvonne Carpenter, Dennis Carr, Rachel Carpenter, Angela Hess
Week 4	7-11-14	1/2 Week Family Camp	FC2	Varied		Rachel Carpenter, Angela Hess
		Young Adult Camp	YAC	18-25		Jason Hornum
		Junior High Juniors 1	JH1	1-2		Rev. Jeff Burger, Julie Sherk
		On the Edge 1	OE1	2-5		Steve Meyer
Week 5	7-11-14	On the Edge 2	OE2	2-5		Mark Logan, Jason Price
		On the Edge 3	OE3	2-5		Mark Logan, Jason Price
		Marital Arts 1	MA1	2-5		Rev. Keri Wolfe
		Marital Arts 2	MA2	2-5		Rev. Keri Wolfe
Week 6	7-11-14	Nite Tent Camp	NTC	For first time 2nd graders		Lauren Long, Tim Engstromski, Scott Kumbel
		1st Camp	1C	Varied		Scott Kumbel
		2nd Camp	2C	Varied		Scott Kumbel
		Letter Level 3	LL3	Varied		Paula Carr, Tamela Carr
Week 7	8-1-3	Elementary Juniors 2	EJ2	2-5		Laura Maturo, Maria Ribera
		Elementary Juniors 3	EJ3	2-5		Laura Maturo
Week 8	8-1-3	Senior Camp	SC	18-25		Rev. Steve Hinkle, TBA
		Days Camp	DC	2-5		Daniel Lindemann, David Lindemann
Week 9	8-1-3	Senior High Juniors 1	SHJ1	Varied		Christy Bower, Sara Klapp
		Senior High Juniors 2	SHJ2	Varied		Rev. Jeff Mowens, Kayla Mowens
Weeks 7, 8, 9	8-1-3	Letter Level 4	LL4	Varied		Rob Kumbel, Kristin Eason
Weeks 7, 8, 9	8-1-3	Staff in Training Program (SIT)	SIT	After 40		Shawn Fitchell, Rev. Sam Yeager
		Staff in Training 2	SIT2	After completion of SIT		Shawn Fitchell

2021 Summer Camp Schedule

Some of you may be able to look out your windows and see snow. And others, although there is no snow, it is still not shorts weather. But, no matter your situation, summer's still a-comin'. And with summer is overnight camps at Twin Pines. The 2021 Summer Camp Schedule is available online.

Check out the schedule and start to plan what camp you will attend and/or send somebody to this summer. There are camps for all ages, and some with a focused interest. Check out the camps and when they are offered at twinpines.org.



FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	6
7 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> Green	8	9 StoneRidge Board Mtg.	10	11	12 Twin Pines Winter Thaw-C	13
14 VALENTINE'S DAY <i>Church Planting Offering</i> Green Twin Pines Winter Thaw-C	15 PRESIDENT'S DAY Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg. Health Insurance Due	16 Benefits Corp. Mtg.	17 ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19	20 EC Leader deadline
21 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Violet	22	23	24 Church Health Community Mtg.	25	26 Twin Pines Winter Thaw-D	27
28 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Violet Twin Pines Winter Thaw-D	Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Insurance Payment: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Church Planting Offering to: E. C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate-Church Planting Offering)					

MARCH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	1	2	3	4	5
					<i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	6
7 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> Violet	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Self-Denial Offering</i> <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> Violet	15 Health Insurance Due	16 Loan & Investment Comm. Mtg.	17 Conference Network Team Mtg.	18 National Ministry Team Mtg.	19	20 EC Leader deadline
				Twin Pines Craft Retreat		
21 PASSION SUNDAY Violet Twin Pines Craft Retreat	22	23	24	25	26	27 Camp ECCO's Fundraising Event @ Wedgewood Park
					Twin Pines Men's Retreat	
28 PALM SUNDAY Violet Twin Pines Men's Retreat	29	30	31	Self-Denial Offering: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Avenue (designate--Self-Denial Offering)		



EC Center Staff and Associates

STAFF

- Rev. Bruce Hill - Bishop: bhill@eccenter.com
- Jodi Earhart - Assistant to the Bishop: jearhart@eccenter.com
- Kevin Henry - Executive Director: khenry@eccenter.com
- David King - Benefits Administrator: dking@eccenter.com
- Denise Jaramillo - NC & GMC Admin Assistant: djaramillo@eccenter.com
- Shirley Long - Business Office Specialist: slong@eccenter.com
- Abigail Zimmerman - Business Office Specialist: azimmerman@eccenter.com

Associates

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- Rev. Ted Rathman - Global Ministries: pastorted@graceecchurch.org
- Rev. Jeffrey Byerly - Ministerial Development: jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org
- Rev. Leslie Cool - Kingdom Extension: revcool@ptd.net



Who We Are

"you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."
1 Peter 2:9