

# EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church



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## FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore



Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) for Bishop's  
**September video message.**

### ***Speaking Schedule***

Bishop Randy is now scheduling invitations to visit with our churches and to share his vision for the EC Church. Please contact Bishop Randy at [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com) to schedule.



# EC National Conference News

## New Phone System at EC Church Center!

EC Center recently switched to a VOIP phone system. Along with a monthly cost savings the new system will increase our communication capabilities. The most notable change is that calls made to the main phone number will be answered by the auto attendant. The caller will then dial an extension, select the dial by name feature, or wait for the receptionist to answer their call. Callers are encouraged to have the extension of the person or department, listed below, available to efficiently move through the auto attendant to have your call answered as quickly as possible. An auto attendant service on a phone system can cause caller frustration. I have experienced that a few times as well. However, the number of misdialed, telemarketing and spam phone calls answered by the Church Center staff has decreased dramatically since the installation of the new telephone system. Not having to stop work to answer an unnecessary phone call has benefited the office workflow. Ministry funds, paid by EC churches, funds Church Center operations, and a more efficient office helps all of us. The new phone system has other features that we are still learning, so please be patient with us if we accidentally disconnect a phone call.

*Kevin Henry, Executive Director*



Phone numbers have not changed.

The main numbers for EC Church Center, answered by the auto attendant, are:

**717-866-7581** or **1-800-866-7581**

Extensions for individual staff members:

	Extension
Bishop Randy Sizemore	1124
Jodi Earhart, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop	1101
Kevin Henry, Executive Director	1121
Dee Jaramillo, Global Ministries Coordinator	1109
David King, Benefits Administrator	1115
Shirley Long, Business Office	1104
Receptionist	1100

*Additionally, Kevin Henry can be reached by voice or text at 717-628-2171.*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY

As always, please email:

**David King**  
Benefits Administrator  
[dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com)

**Kevin Henry**  
Executive Director  
[khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)

with any questions  
or call  
717-866-7581

**Thank-you to all that have timely paid the worker's compensation invoices. Payments for the Disability and Benefit Corp Services fee were due January 15 and April 15 respectively; both fees are listed on the 2022 Treasurer's Guide available on [members.eccenter.com](http://members.eccenter.com).**

+ If you have been following the news, the 2023 Social Security COLA increase is projected to be higher than the 2022 increase. The current internet chatter is estimating the increase at 9% or above. The official release of the Social Security COLA is normally in October, but also seems to be released later and later every year. The Pastoral Compensation Committee annual report approved at the May 2022 National Conference the continued recommendation of awarding pastor salary increases at the Social Security COLA increase.

+ Most likely, there will also be a moderate increase in health insurance premiums effective January 2023. Calendar year 2023 appears to be shaping up to bring some financial challenges to churches. As information becomes available, we will pass it along.

+ The Highmark Freedom Blue 2023 renewal will most likely be approved by the EC Benefits Trustees at the October meeting, with a rate increase of \$0/month. Premiums for the Highmark Freedom Blue plan are not increasing for 2023. The monthly premium will remain at \$255 per month. Participation in the Highmark Freedom Blue plan is voluntary for retirees. Retirees are encouraged to investigate other MC Supplemental plans and choose a plan best for their healthcare needs and cost.

+ There are several churches that have not remitted the \$100/yr disability insurance premium and the \$125/yr benefit services fee. If the disability premium is not received for the year the pastor is not covered. The disability premium is listed in the Treasurer's Guide on the EC website, and is due by January 15 of every year. The \$125/yr benefit services fee is due April 15 every year, and is due from every church with an assigned pastor.





Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church



## Celebrating Faithfulness



It's always a joy to celebrate the faithful service of our missionaries for their years of serving the Lord and others on the mission field. Yet, it's a little bittersweet to have them "graduate" to new adventures that will move them from our Global Ministries Community with the EC Church, and on to the plans the Lord has next for their lives.

This month we say, "thank you" and "well done" to our friends and fellow laborers for the Kingdom Kurt & Nancy Graff, and Ivy Limbert. They have each served the Lord with faith-filled hearts as evidenced by their lasting impact on their respective missions agencies; Cafe 1040 and Teach Beyond.

Kurt and Nancy have officially retired, and Ivy is on to new ministry opportunities back here in the States. It's without a doubt that their experiences and testimonies will continue to encourage and empower all they meet in the days, months, and years to come - helping to ignite the call to missions in the hearts and minds of all they come in contact with.

Thank you to all their supporters over the years for your financial generosity and your faithful prayers. Your partnership in their ministries has helped share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and together, we're on mission with Christ to reach His world.



Click [HERE](#) to view a special message of gratitude and of God's faithfulness from Rev. Paozathang Singson, General Director of the EC Church India.



Global Ministries Community  
Rev. J. Ted Rathman; GMC Associate



To know how your church can partner directly with an International EC Church, call the GMC office at 717-866-7581 x 1109; or email [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com).





Dear EC Family,

In the past, many of you and your churches have been involved in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. Through your partnership, thousands of children and their families have been reached with the Gospel all around the world, through the distribution of shoe box gifts and the teaching of the Greatest Journey. We thank you for your involvement in this ministry.



You may not have been aware that our denomination is, and has been, a National Partner with Operation Christmas Child. The EC Church is recognized by Samaritan's Purse as an official national partner with them in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

In order to strengthen this National Partnership, recently the Global Ministries Community has made Operation Christmas Child a part of their responsibilities and oversight. The GMC has officially endorsed OCC as a part of the mission and disciple-making work of the EC Church. The GMC is recommending OCC as one way that your church can be involved in reaching children with the Gospel all around the world.

Pastor Dan and Kim Blank have been involved with the ministry of Operation Christmas Child in the past, and will now serve on the GMC Board and as our denominational link and connection to the ministry. If you have any questions about the ministry of Operation Christmas Child and how you or your church can become involved, or if you need any materials or ideas, feel free to contact them.

For more specific information about Operation Christmas Child, or to order free resources visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) or contact us personally at [2blanks@centurylink.net](mailto:2blanks@centurylink.net) or (717) 426-1339.

Blessings in Him,

Pastor Dan & Kim Blank

GMC Board Members; EC Church Operation Christmas Child Representatives



Click [HERE](#) for the latest Operation Christmas Child Prayer Update!

# Kingdom Extension

## Community News

### FROM THE DESK

Rev. Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate

#### What Moves You?

Do you remember the last time you were moved to tears? When something happened that caused your eyes to well up or maybe even caused you to break down in tears? Maybe it was a moment of sadness or brokenness, perhaps feeling overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the mountain you face. Or, it may have been something inexpressibly good! You were filled with such joy or an overwhelming sense of the love of the Father that you simply welled up with tears. These are the things that move us.

In the last six months I have found myself repeatedly being directed to Matthew chapter nine where we see what moved Jesus. In context, Jesus is traveling around doing what Jesus did; teaching, evangelizing, and healing. Matthew gives us a glimpse into the heart of Jesus and what moved him in verse 36 when he tells us, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (ESV) The King James Version says he was moved with compassion. When Jesus saw people, he was not overwhelmed with judgement, or anger, or frustration, or disappointment; he was moved with compassion. He recognized the political and religious systems that had confused and misguided the masses. He recognized that they were helpless, and they needed a shepherd, a GOOD shepherd! He was moved to action. He was moved to step into the messes and make a difference.

When I look at the decline of the Evangelical Church in America and specifically the continued decline of the Evangelical Congregational Church, I can't help but wonder if part of our problem is that we are no longer moved with compassion for our communities. We are easily moved with anger at the political and moral shifts we see taking place. We are easily moved with frustration at the lack of involvement in church and the other activities that take place on Sunday mornings in our communities.

We are easily moved with confusion as to why "things are the way they are." We are easily moved with judgement over the standards and behaviors that define the lives of our neighbors. But when was the last time you watched the news, saw your neighbors, interacted with your community and were moved with compassion? When was the last time you saw people who are harassed and helpless because they have nowhere to turn and so they are just trying to figure it out on their own and you were moved with compassion?

What set Jesus apart is that he was willing to step into their brokenness without judgment and meet people where they were. He saw their hurt and their needs and stepped in to meet them. He was moved with compassion. He asked his disciples to be moved in the same way and allow that compassion to drive them to prayer! Pray that God would raise up harvest workers; those who would go out and engage with the harvest field to bring the hope that he was bringing.



*My hope for the EC Church is that we would again be moved with compassion. That we would look at the neighborhoods and communities around our churches and homes and we would see people: hurting people who are harassed and helpless who need shepherds to step in and guide them through relationship. A good shepherd doesn't beat his sheep. he gently leads his sheep. He guides them with love. to where they need to be. For the*



*remainder of this year. would you join me in praying that God would stir us and our congregations to be moved with compassion? A compassion that moves us to action.*

*Mike*

# Ministerial Development Community News

## The Institute for Church Leadership

The Institute for Church Leadership is excited about our classes for Fall 2022. All of our classes are for seasoned pastors who want to get a refresher, for new pastors just starting out in ministry, and for lay people who want to hone their skills for serving in their congregations.

### Introduction to Ministry, September 6 – October 18; Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

#### **Instructor: Rev. Kirk Marks**

Course Description: *This course will set the stage for what students need to know/be/be able to do/see to be effective in pastoral ministry in 21st century America. During the course students will explore the history and theology of calling, pastoral care, and the pastoral office; learn about some tools and strategies to evaluate ministry gifting; learn how to design worship services throughout the Christian year; plan sermon series; learn basic principles for pastoral care and counseling; and more.*

### Pastoral Leadership, November 1 – December 13; Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.

#### **Instructor: Rev. James Price**

Course Description: *This course will equip pastors with the tools needed to face the unique leadership challenges found within ministry. Attention will be given to both the character and skills necessary to shepherd God's people well, leading to a purposeful, effective, and fulfilling pastoral ministry.*

Please make your congregation aware of these opportunities. Classes are simultaneously in-person and on Zoom. If you wish to enroll, please apply online.

**For more information, please contact Joel Kime at [joel.kime@evangelical.edu](mailto:joel.kime@evangelical.edu).  
The cost per course, either on campus or online, is \$250 for the 2021-22 school year.**





# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL AT...

*Twin Pines has many things scheduled for the fall. Mark your calendar now and check the website for updates.*



## **Fall Craft Retreat – Sept. 22-25, 2022**



Enjoy a laid-back weekend of fellowship and Bible study while working on your crafts. There will also be a particular craft for all to learn.

[bit.ly/TP-FallCraftRetreat](http://bit.ly/TP-FallCraftRetreat)

## **Youth Ministry Training – October 1, 2022**



Twin Pines presents Best of Group's Life Impacting Youth Ministry Local Training. Rev. Jeff Berger, a Group Training Ambassador, will facilitate this Re-Ignite training – Re-Discover Your Vision for Life-Changing Youth

Ministry. The training begins at 8:30 am at Twin Pines Camp, with the option of lodging the night prior. [bit.ly/TP-YouthMinistryTraining](http://bit.ly/TP-YouthMinistryTraining)

## **Fall Fix-Up – October 4-6, 2022**



Help camp to "batten down the hatches" for winter, complete special projects, and extensive cleanup after summer camp! The various projects are both indoor and outdoor. You may choose to participate for all or part of the time, and every skill level is accepted! [bit.ly/2022TP\\_FixUp](http://bit.ly/2022TP_FixUp)

## **Oct. Getaway Weekends – October 2022**



Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spending time with God. Housing, breakfast, and spiritual guidance materials are provided at the weekend rate. You can choose getaways for Family, Couples, or a gathering of your Friends. [bit.ly/OGW\\_2022](http://bit.ly/OGW_2022)

## **Women's Weekend – October 7-9, 2022**



Women will enjoy the spiritual sessions and group activities planned for this weekend. Come prepared to be challenged and to laugh. Free time will be available for relaxation, socializing, enjoying nature, or having fun. The weekend will feature a Women's Dinner on Saturday evening. [bit.ly/2022TP-WW](http://bit.ly/2022TP-WW)

## **Celebration Banquet – October 18, 2022**



Be part of a special evening celebrating how God has blessed and used the Ministry of Twin Pines over the past year. The banquet is free; however, there is a collection of a free-will offering to support the ministry. NEW Location: Weaver Banquet Facility, Denver, PA.

## **F.Y.R.E. – November 4-6, 2022**



A weekend of experiences for youth groups and individuals to grow in their faith and enjoy a fall retreat. [bit.ly/TP-FYRE](http://bit.ly/TP-FYRE)

## **COMING IN 2023**



### **Winter Thaw Youth Retreat**

Choose the weekend to have your youth attend Winter Thaw 2023 and put it on your calendars now!

WT-A: January 13-15

WT-B: January 27-29

WT-C: February 17-19

WT-D: February 24-26

More information located at [bit.ly/WT-2023](http://bit.ly/WT-2023)



# SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment to: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067			1	2 Church Center Closed  Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	3
4  Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension  Green	5  LABOR DAY Church Center Closed	6	7	8	9  Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat @ Camp ECCO	10
11  Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat @ Camp ECCO  Green	12	13	14	15  Health Insurance Due	16	17
18  Green	19	20  Benefits Corporation Mtg.  Loan & Investment Committee Mtg.  EC Leader deadline	21  Church Health Community Mtg.	22	Twin Pines Fall Craft Retreat	
25  Twin Pines Fall Craft Retreat  Green	26	27	28	29	30	1  Allegheny/Buckeye Men's Retreat @ Camp ECCO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment to: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Kingdom Extension Offering to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate Kingdom Extension Offering)			30	1  Allegheny/Buckeye Men's Retreat @ Camp ECCO
2  WORLDWIDE COMMUNION Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Kingdom Extension Offering  Allegheny/Buckeye Men's Retreat @ Camp ECCO  Green	3	4	5	6	7  Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church  Twin Pines Women's Weekend	8
9  Twin Pines Women's Weekend  Green	10  COLUMBUS DAY	11	12	13	14  Health Insurance Due	15
16  Green	17	18  Twin Pines Celebration Banquet	19  Conference Network Team Mtg.	20  National Ministry Team Mtg.  EC Leader deadline	21	22
23  Green	24	25	26	27	28	29
30  Green	31					

# OCTOBER 2022



## Overflowing Hope

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may OVERFLOW with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit."  
Romans 15:13

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8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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