



E C LEADER

APRIL 2019

From the Bishop:

Spring is in the air! After a long, cold, sloppy winter there is a sense that something has changed. Maybe it's the first sight of robins returning from their winter vacation. Perhaps we notice the little buds that begin to appear on the tree limbs or the daffodils and crocus emerging from the ground. Around our house we see the huge flocks of snow geese and tundra swans as they pause for a rest on their way back to upper reaches of Canada. Then too, we seem to notice the warmth of the sun; it's stronger than it has been for many months. Whatever the evidence, we know something is different and it feels good.

This time of the year is also accompanied by Easter—the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. We know that Jesus died on the cross; but on the third day he rose from the grave. He conquered sin and death forever! Now that's something to really get excited about.

I'm always amazed at how we talk about the weather with our friends

and neighbors; even with total strangers; but so often we are quiet about the wonderful news of God's grace expressed in Jesus. Jesus is not dead! Jesus is, in fact, alive! And through faith in him we too can have the life he created us to experience.

During this National Conference year I have been talking a lot about how we can be "ALL IN" as followers of Jesus. He wants us to understand, to live out, the life he planned for us from the beginning—to be intimately connected to him, to live out his righteousness in our attitude and actions, to be set apart to live for him, and to love each other and those around us. That's why he came to earth. That's why he died, That's why he rose from the tomb. Jesus offers a full, satisfying and abundant life. Then he says, go and tell others about this too.

I don't mind talking about the budding trees, or the singing birds, the pretty flowers or the warm days. Each one is enjoyable and speaks of something better yet to

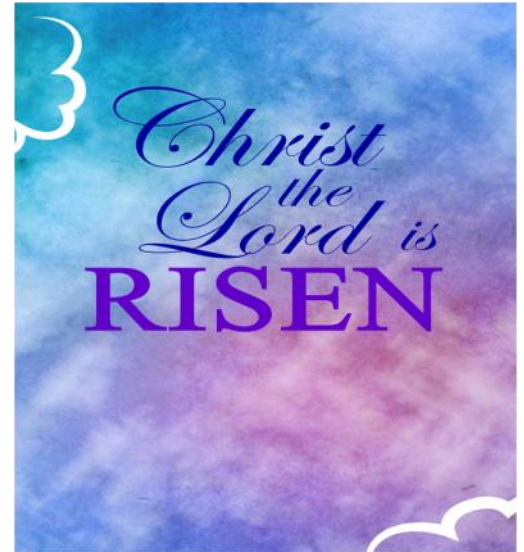
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come. But that's also true of our celebration of Jesus' resurrection—it speaks of something more—life in him! I pray that as we meet and greet people in our communities, as we talk about the changing seasons, when it seems that the earth is springing back to life, we will also let them know about the life that Jesus gives; eternal life. May we develop the relationships where, under the direction of his Holy Spirit, we can touch other people with the Good News of life through faith in the risen and living Jesus!

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List



1. Keep praying for the work of the Stationing Committee, pastors, their families, and congregations who are dealing with change in their lives and ministries.
2. Pray for our upcoming National Conference as final plans are made for the agenda and all the workshops which are planned for Thursday afternoon.
3. Praise the Lord that he continues to provide safety as I travel around the conference.
4. Pray for our camping ministries (Camp ECCO, Twin Pines, and Rock River) as they prepare for the summer camping season.
5. Pray for the students, faculty and staff of Evangelical Seminary as they move closer to the end of a very busy semester.
6. Thank God for the gifted and dedicated individuals who serve our denomination: Church Center staff, Associates, and District Field Directors.
7. Praise God for the victory that is ours through faith in a risen and living Savior!
8. Thank the Lord for opportunities to gather together in worship during Holy Week; he is worthy!
9. I praise the Lord for all the individuals who remind me that they are praying for me. I depend on it! (Don't quit now.)
10. Thank God for all the people who spoke into our denomination's strategic evaluation of our structure.

News from the Executive Director

Thanks to almost everyone for completing the **workers compensation forms** on a timely basis. The workers compensation audit is scheduled and the invoices will be sent to the churches by mid April. Most likely the workers compensation rates will have very little movement, either increase or decrease, from last year. Our claims history is very good however we have no control over any mandated increases from the PA Department of Labor and Industry.

Churches not included in the denominational workers compensation group policy; Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky churches, however your individual state mandates workers compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the church are covered by workers compensation insurance. Per EC Benefits Corporation policy H.3.b, churches not covered by the denomination group workers compensation policy shall submit proof of workers compensation coverage by July 1 of each year. Please submit proof of your workers compensation coverage to:

EC Benefits
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Or fax 717-866-7553 or email dking@eccenter.com

The **annual disability premium** was due January 15 and the **Benefit Corporation administrative fee** is due by April 15, 2019, retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website. Many have remitted the disability fee timely and a few have already submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurers please confirm that you are remitting your **ministry fund** payments on the correct monthly form. In 2019 the ministry fund percentage decreased to 6.05%

To date about 80% of **pastoral compensation forms** have been returned. Thanks to all the church that have responded. We will be reminding non compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save David King some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

As always, please contact Dave King, Benefit Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Executive Director, with any questions or problems, dking@eccenter.com; khenry@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.

Clergy Housing Allowance—A Victory!

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals held that the ministerial housing allowance does not violate the US Constitution reversing the decision of the Wisconsin U.S. District Court. This decision applies to active and retired pastors claiming a housing allowance on their federal tax return. The Freedom From Religion Foundation has a couple of legal options to challenge the decision of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that they must act on within 90 days or most experts agree that a new challenge to the housing allowance will eventually be brought.

Let's thank God for this victory and his continued protection for this vital piece of pastoral compensation.

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



2019 National Conference

May 29-31

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

National Conference Registration

You should have received information and a link to register for the 2019 National Conference (those people without email should have received a registration form in the mail).

Information is also available online at www.eccenter.com.

The registration process this year will hopefully be predominately electronic. Don’t forget that there will be multiple educational sessions on Thursday afternoon this year that will require a second registration process. Below are the significant changes...

- The preferred registration method will be electronic with paper registration only as requested by the attendee.
- There will no longer be “send me an invoice” option upon registering. Payment will be required at the time of registration via a credit card or a check must accompany a paper registration.
- Each attendee will register separately, no combined pastoral or lay delegate registrations.
- Attendees will purchase a meal plan. There will be two meal plans available or purchase individual meals at the time of the National Conference.
- Meals purchased during National Conference must be paid at the time of purchase with a credit card, cash or check. We will not send invoices and multiple reminders.

Please read all registration information carefully and ask any questions.

PLEASE ALSO TAKE NOTE THAT WITH OUR NEW DATABASE SYSTEM EMAILS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT. If you click on the statement at the end of the email concerning removing your name from ALL MASS EMAILS you will no longer receive any information from Church Center. That includes EC LEADER, WINDOW ON THE WORLD, GLOBAL PRAYER GUIDE, NATIONAL NEWS and any other information sent to you concerning the denomination. This statement is a part of the program and we cannot remove it.

Global Ministries Community

- **Kurt G. (and possibly Nancy)** will be in the central PA area in late May/early June. Kurt is available to speak in churches or to Bible study groups, youth groups, etc. about his work with Café 1040. Please call the GMC office if you want to have Kurt bring an update about his work and the exciting progress that's being made.
- **Dan Dixon** would appreciate prayers as he sends out resumes to various schools in search of a teaching or administrative position for the fall. Dan has decided to return to the USA permanently after RVA's graduation in July.
- **David Hershey** and two other advisors took a group of 15 Christian Student Fellowship volunteers to Chicago during spring break last month. A trip is planned each year which involves a service project as well as some time learning and digging deeper into the Scriptures. This year the group will spend a lot of time on the streets, getting to meet people who live in the inner city.
- Congratulations to **David Roof** on finishing his post grad courses and graduating at the end of March. It is never easy to fit in continuing education when you are working full time, especially on a foreign field. Well done, David!
- Please keep **Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe** in prayer as they transition this month from church planters in Japan to working with Japanese expatriates in France. Jessica will be working with her former denomination, while Tomoyuki will be serving as a missionary with OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship). For more information about this new and exciting field of service, read their article in the upcoming Spring/Summer edition of Window on the World.
- **Chris & Deb Bowers** will be in eastern PA from July through December. They have some open dates for speaking; specifically July 21-September 1, and all of December. Call the GMC office if you want to make arrangements for the Bowers to come and share about their aviation ministry.
- The following missionaries have new email addresses: **Dan & MaryLynne Wills**—Dan_wills@wycliffe.org **Jonathan & Kathy Wilson**—Kathy_Wilson@sil.org; Jonathan_Wilson@sil.org

Pre-Conference Meetings

May 7	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Christ EC, Allentown
May 9	Thursday	7:00 pm	Trinity EC, Lititz
May 11	Saturday	9:00 am	Trinity EC, Boyertown
May 14	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Zion EC, Pitman
May 18	Saturday	9:00 am 10:00am	Bethel EC, Dixon, IL Lakeside, Transfer, PA



Kingdom Extension Community

WANTED

The KEC is currently looking for items to be included in future Partners Newsletters. If you have anything that fits the following needs descriptions, please forward your ideas and/or resources to Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net).

- Favorite Books on Missional (outreach) Ministry (and a brief statement why the book is valuable)
- Favorite Resources for Missional (outreach) Ministry (and a brief statement why the resource is valuable)
- Stories of Current or Recent Missional Ministries (or the name and contact info for us to interview the person in charge).

Ministry Conversations by Zoom

The KEC recently ran a series of Zoom conversations focused on a wide variety of missional (outreach), evangelism and discipleship topics. We plan to offer more sessions. You can help us plan wisely by suggesting topics of interest and/or suggesting blocks of time that might fit your schedule. I know this is like looking for a needle in a haystack, but if a few people identify the same windows of time, we might catch more of you in the future. Text or email Les Cool with your responses (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net).

Preparing the Church for Mission

Peers in Ministry,

A funny thing happened at National Conference 2018 as we participated together in our educational experience. No one pressed the "record button." At the time, it did not seem to be a big deal. We came, we learned from one another, we went home. And then someone asked if they could have the video. And someone else. Okay, maybe not a big deal, but the videos are something we now miss.

Over the past few months, I have tweaked the material for print. That material can be found on the EC website under the Kingdom Extension Community. Most recently, I tweaked the material again and video-recorded six shorter sessions. These six sessions are the original material in bite-sized pieces.

These six sessions are on Vimeo for your use. Please make use of them. Use the whole series. Pick the one or two sessions that fit your need. Let me know how I, or the KEC, might be of assistance as you seek to become more for Jesus' Kingdom.

Les Cool

Kingdom Extension Associate

Preparing the Church for Mission

NC 2018 Learning Experience

Six sessions regarding self-identity and self-care, corporate identity and ministry strengths, and mission and community awareness. The goal is to identify what we have to offer that matches what the community needs so we might build relational bridges into the community.

Vimeo Link... <https://vimeo.com/album/5783648>

#1... You Are Who You Are <https://vimeo.com/315374696>

Missional ministry begins with a healthy level of self-awareness. Knowing who we are and what we bring to the table is helpful. Session includes an overview of helpful tools to improve self-awareness.

#2... Selfcare <https://vimeo.com/315377722>

A closer look at selfcare...body, mind and soul. Selfcare is an intentional investment in self to be at the top of our game. Includes a closer look at specific approaches to selfcare.

#3... We Are Who We Are <https://vimeo.com/315383632>

Thinking "we" instead of "me" moves us to consider our corporate identity. Recognizing that we are saved into the Body helps us own the joint ministry entrusted to the church.

#4... Corporate Identity <https://vimeo.com/315385720>

An introduction to an assortment of tools helpful for identifying the strengths and weaknesses, gifts and skills of a team or congregation. Includes a simple tool to survey a congregation.

#5... On Mission With God <https://vimeo.com/315388289>

A brief introduction to the mission the church was created to serve. A discussion regarding the nature of our work as church, from stating conversations to joining in the harvest.

#6...Bridges to the Community <https://vimeo.com/317392164>

The final step in our missional adventure is building bridges to our communities. A simple survey helps us identify community needs that could be at the end of the bridges.

Evangelical Seminary

Wesley Forum

What: Wesley Forum

When: April 4, 2019, 8:30 am—3:00 pm and
7:30—9:00 pm

Presented by: Center for Methodist Studies at Evangelical Seminary

Cost: Main session: \$35 per person, \$25 for Evangelical Seminary Alumni//Evening session is free to all.



REGISTER TODAY!

Every year, the Wesley Forum invites unique and interesting people to share their insights into how Wesleyan theology contributes to a vibrant, intelligent, and authentic faith. The Wesley Forum is presented by the Center for Methodist Studies at Evangelical Seminary.

“Beyond A Way Forward: Leadership for the Future [Methodist] Church” A Discussion with United Methodist Bishops and a Church Historian

Guest Speakers:

- Bishop Peggy A. Johnson of the Philadelphia Episcopal Area
- Bishop Mark J. Webb of the Upper New York Episcopal Area
- Dr. Scott Kisker, Professor of the History of Christianity & Associate Dean at United Theological Seminary

Locations:

- Main session at Hempfield United Methodist Church, 3050 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601
- Evening session at Lancaster First United Methodist Church, 29 E. Walnut St., Lancaster, PA 17602

Schedule:

Main Session:

8:30 am	Registration at Hempfield United Methodist Church
9:00	Opening worship, welcome and devotions
9:30	Bishop Mark Webb: “A call for consistency in the midst of uncertainty”
10:30	Break
10:45	Bishop Peggy Johnson, “Ministry in the margins”
Noon	Lunch hosted by Hempfield UMC
1:00 pm	Dr. Scott Kisker, PhD: “Hope for the Future”
2:00	Panel discussion with all three speakers
3:00	Conclusion

Evening Session:

7:30—9:00 pm Talks by our three guest speakers with a panel discussion that will focus on the results of the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis



What's happening at Twin Pines Camp During the Winter & Spring?

Craft Retreat—April 4-7, 2019



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

Retreat Theme—Se(o)wing for God

[Bit.ly/2019CR](http://bit.ly/2019CR)

Downloadable Promotional Resources

Twin Pines has both posters and a slide image to help promote Summer Camp at your church. The poster can be posted in the foyer, Sunday School rooms, Youth Room, etc. The slide is for use in the church's presentation software to be included with other church announcements.

[Bit.ly/2019CampPromo](http://bit.ly/2019CampPromo)

Spring Fling Children Retreat—April 26-28, 2019



For children in grades 3rd to 5th.

If your ministry includes 6th graders, they may attend as well.

Great for: Sunday School classes; Awana; American Heritage Girls; Trail Life Boys; Children's Ministry Groups

Retreat theme—A Twin Pines Royal Weekend

[Bit.ly/2019SF](http://bit.ly/2019SF)



Spring Spruce Up—May 7-9, 2019



Get away for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast and spiritual guidance materials are provided in the weekend rate. Gather your friends together and enjoy a few days at camp.

[Bit.ly/19SpruceUp](http://bit.ly/19SpruceUp)

For Ladies Only Retreat—May 14-16, 2019



Are exciting mid-week retreat "for ladies only."

Come enjoy fellowship, worship, and in-depth Bible learning as the retreat looks at what it means to be a woman of God. Back by popular demand, musician & speaker, Sue Duffield.

[Bit.ly/2019ladies-retreat](http://bit.ly/2019ladies-retreat)

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Camp Blacktop, Bethlehem, PA

June 8, 2019:

More details coming!

To speak to someone about a retreat, contact Jason Price, Guest Services Coordinator, at 570-236-2737.



Learn more about all of these at

www.twinpines.org

Evangelical Congregational Church

100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581
www.eccenter.com



Fresh Expressions

There is a Fresh Expressions Vision Day in North East Ohio. It is a great way for churches to learn how to start reaching people outside the church that they typically could not reach. Cost of the day, including lunch is \$35. For more information about Fresh Expressions, to discuss the potential impact of Fresh Expressions on your church, or to learn more about what a Vision Day is, please contact Mike Snedeker at mike@communityec.org or 610-698-6482. If money is the only thing that will keep you from attending, please contact Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net). Scholarship money is available.



Evangelical Seminary Praise Dinner

Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm at the Lebanon Expo Center
Guest Speaker—Dr. Tony Blair, President Evangelical Seminary
Entertainment—SANCTUARY/Reunion Concert
For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Rose Walmer at rwalmer@wengers.com



“Pennsylvanians Concerned about Alcohol Problems” is looking for someone interested in a part-time position as an “Alcohol Educator”. This individual will be responsible to contact schools regarding presentations to students about alcohol problems and opioids. Training will be provided. Please contact PCAP at 900 South Arlington Avenue, Suite 160B, Harrisburg, PA 17109 or by phone at 717-652-2517 or by email at contact@pacap.org. Complete details will be provided.



Matt Obarow is the Property Director at Trinity EC Church in Boyertown. He has designed secure, highly functional church websites using Word Press. So he has done trinityboyertown.org and graceecchurch.org. Noticing some of the churches in our denomination have either very dated websites or very basic ones, he is willing to assist in designing newer, more modern looking websites, for a negotiated fee. You can contact Matt at mobarow@trinityboyertown.org or 610-724-2699

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	2
3 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	4	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY	7	8	9
10 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Daylight Savings Begins <i>Self-Denial Offering</i>	11 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg	12	13	14 Global Ministries Community Mtg.	15 Health Insurance Due Finance Comm. Mtg.	16
17 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	18 Info for April EC Leader Due	19 Heritage Comm Mtg. Loan & Investment Comm. Mtg.	20 Conference Network Team Mtg.	21 National Ministry Team	22	23
24 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	25	26	27	28 Delaware Dist Mission Lunch	29	30
31 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT						

Ministry Funds to:
EC Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance Payments to:
Benefits Corp.
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Self-Denial Offering to:
EC Church.
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designated —Self-Denial Offering)

April 2019

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>Passion Sunday</i>	8 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17	18 MAUNDAY THURSDAY	19 GOOD FRIDAY Church Center Closed	20
21 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	22 Info for May EC Leader Due Church Center Closed	23 StoneRidge Board Mtg.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067			