

# EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church



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## FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore



Click **HERE** for Bishop's October video message.

### Speaking Schedule

Bishop Randy is now scheduling invitations to visit with our churches. Please contact Bishop Randy at [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com) to schedule.



# EC National Conference News

## Job Opportunities at EC Center!



**EC Church Center has the following open positions:**

**Communications Coordinator** – part time averaging 25 hours/wk, Communications Coordinator Job in Myerstown, PA at National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church ([ziprecruiter.com](http://ziprecruiter.com))

- Improve, optimize, and maintain the denominational website and social media platforms to assure that visitors have a positive experience and receive up-to-date information
- Work with National Conference leadership in developing and facilitating a strategy for social media, coinciding with the denomination's message, brand and culture

**Receptionist** – part time Monday – Thursday, averaging 28 hours/wk

- Provide administrative support to the Bishop and Bishop's office, Executive Director, and Associates as requested
- Working understanding of computer software and hardware. e.g., Microsoft Office Suite of software, Adobe
- Experience with bulk mailing and mail permit regulations

If interested in either position, please contact Kevin Henry, Executive Director, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or 717-628-2171, with any questions or forward a resume to apply.

*Kevin Henry, Executive Director*

## Are you online?

It seems like a given that every church should have a web page or social media account. After all, isn't that what all the "good" churches are doing?

We are led to believe every church should have a Facebook page and should be streaming their services and have witty twitter posts at least three times a week!



I don't know about you, but my head starts to spin when I think about all that I "should" be doing, and all of those things that I am not doing or just don't understand how to do. We want to help!

If you have ever felt overwhelmed by the digital world or perhaps you just want to maximize the efforts you are currently giving, we can help you, and at no cost to you.

If you would like to learn how you can improve your efforts, reach out to me at [msnedeker@eccenter.com](mailto:msnedeker@eccenter.com) or Addison Roberts at [aroberts@eccenter.com](mailto:aroberts@eccenter.com). We would love chat about practical ways your church can increase the effectiveness of your digital space efforts.

*Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate*

# EC National Conference News



Dear National Association of Evangelicals friends:

We trust that you had a good summer. Below is the 2022 information about the NAE Bless Your Pastor program. You can share this with your churches to help them get ready for October Pastor Appreciation Month or year-end appreciation activities.

We are now offering every pastor (senior and associate) access to free and discounted retreat and vacation opportunities when their church completes the 1-2-3 program. All first-time participating churches will earn their senior pastor a \$200 Amazon.com gift card, as well.

Our Bless Your Pastor program is as easy as 1-2-3. You can learn more about our program and how to complete the steps by clicking on the link below. We also have a Spanish and Amharic version.

- English – [blessyourpastor.org/123](http://blessyourpastor.org/123)
- Spanish – [blessyourpastor.org/123spanish](http://blessyourpastor.org/123spanish)
- Ethiopian Amharic – [blessyourpastor.org/123amharic](http://blessyourpastor.org/123amharic)

In addition to the 1-2-3 document, you can use our [promotional materials](#) as you share this opportunity with your denomination. You'll find promotional graphics, logos and videos in this [Dropbox](#) folder.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact us.

Yours for blessing pastors everywhere,

Brian Kluth  
Samantha Conway  
NAE





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY

**As always, please email:**

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

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

+ The active pastor's health insurance plan with Guidestone will see a minimal or no cost increase for 2023. We can only speculate why the increase is what it is when consumer prices have risen dramatically over the last year or so. Nevertheless, we will be thankful and grateful, but will remain cognizant that this year is not typical. Higher increases will be coming.

As reported in the September EC Leader, the Highmark Freedom Blue Medicare supplemental plan rates are NOT increasing for 2023. The premium will remain at \$255/person per month pending EC Benefits Trustee approval. The EC Benefits Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct 4, to approve the 2023 health insurance plan renewals. The health insurance renewal decisions of the trustees will be released shortly after the meeting.

The open enrollment period for the active pastor's health insurance plan with Guidestone begins on Nov 1. If you would like to, or need to, join the Guidestone health insurance plan please contact Kevin Henry or David King prior to Dec 1 for enrollment information. The plan is open to stationed pastors working at least 30 hours per week and under Medicare eligibility age.

+ The process to select a new 403(b) plan provider or confirm the decision to stay with Empower Retirement is underway. Four providers - one of the four is Empower Retirement - have been selected as potential partners and the trustees have, or soon will be, meeting with each of the four firms via Zoom.

We started with a list of ten possible providers along with a list of required services we expected from each potential provider. From that list of ten providers, four remained. The four remaining firms are evenly matched, although each has individual strengths and weaknesses. It will be a difficult decision to choose a new provider. We hope to make a decision at the next trustee meeting on Oct 4, but we are not going to force a decision just to make a decision. When and if a decision is made to move our pension plan provider away from Prudential/Empower Retirement there will be many communications over a multiple month process. It will be a major undertaking to move the pension plan assets. Thanks to Jennifer Buehler and her team for doing the bulk of work on this project. Her expertise and experience were invaluable, and this could not have been done without her and her team. Please pray for the EC Benefits Trustees and their meeting on October 4.

+ The pastoral compensation committee recommends using the Social Security COLA for the 2023 annual pastor salary increase. If the internet prognosticators are correct, the 2023 Social Security COLA will be higher than the 5.9% COLA for 2022. We are all experiencing the same increases in consumer prices and lay leaders may have received wage and salary increases from their employer to offset the increase in consumer prices. Please prayerfully consider an annual salary increase for your pastor in 2023.

The 2023 Pastoral Compensation Forms will be available on the Church Center website shortly, in a few weeks or so. Expect the Social Security Administration to release the 2023 COLA in late October 2022, if we are lucky.



## NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK November 14-21, 2022

### FROM THE DESK

Rev. J. Ted Rathman

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Greetings GMC family,

I know, you're wondering why October's EC Leader page looks a whole lot like Christmas, right? Well, glad you asked.

This month we focus our attention on our partnership with Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The National Collection Week is November 14-21, so we didn't want you to miss the opportunity to be praying for this tremendous ministry and the far-reaching effect it has on children all over the world.

Thank you for joining your hearts and prayers with us as we endeavor to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.

*Ted Rathman*

**Global Ministries Community  
Associate**



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



# Kingdom Extension Community News

## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate

### How well do you know your community?

I'll never forget sitting in a meeting with our Outreach Committee years ago. We were discussing the importance of reaching our community with the Gospel and helping people know they were loved by Jesus. We decided it would be a great idea to hold an event that would show the community generosity and love. After brainstorming, some ideas were suggested and excitement began to grow. However, it didn't take long before the question was asked, "Is this idea something that would meet the needs of actual people in our community?" That question was followed up with, "What do the people of our community ACTUALLY need?"

To be honest, we couldn't answer that. We had many thoughts about what they might need. Most of those ideas were skewed by our traditions and our world views. I'm not talking about their need for Jesus, that was and is foundational to outreach. What I'm talking about is the felt needs and perceived needs of the people in your community that surround your church or your home.

In Mark 10 we read of a blind man named Bartimaeus who learns Jesus is walking by. He starts crying out, "Jesus, Son of David," hoping to get him to stop. Bartimaeus was obviously in need. He is begging on the roadside. He clearly needs food. Does he need money? A place to stay? Maybe some clothing? Sight? Of all people, Jesus should already know! He should (and does) have perfect understanding of Bart's needs. But instead of simply solving his problems, Jesus takes the time to engage Bartimaeus. He actually asks Bartimaeus what he wants him to do! THIS IS HUGE!!!! Jesus asked the hurting man what he longed for!



*"Why don't we do this? Why don't we take the time to get to know our community? The families around us? The real and perceived needs of the community? If we could step into these needs, imagine what a difference the church could make. Imagine the impact it would have on the people of our community if we simply asked the question, 'what is it you need?' They would feel valued, loved and seen. They would know your church actually cares for them."*

Next month we will talk about a great way to get to know your community. It is called prayer walking.

But for now, could we as pastors and lay leaders just simply start asking the people we run into in the grocery store and at the gas station, at schools and in the park, "what is it that you need or that you think this community needs?"

Just listen, learn, and pray!

*Mike*







## The Institute for Church Leadership

In cooperation with Evangelical Seminary's School of Lifelong Learning, the Institute for Church Leadership offers a series of courses in Bible, theology, spiritual formation, discipleship, missional church and more. Anyone can benefit from these opportunities for spiritual enrichment and leadership development.

These non-credit courses are open to all, without any educational prerequisites. They are not seminary level courses and do not earn credit from Evangelical Seminary. The courses comprise the required training for those seeking the Local Elder's License or Lay Preacher's Certification in the Evangelical Congregational Church, and may be applicable to the people in your congregation. Please inform your entire church family about the upcoming course:

### **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.

Now that the seminary has merged with Kairos, we have a new registration process. If you wish to enroll, please subscribe to the \$50/month plan on this [page](#). If you don't have a Pathwright account, you will be prompted to create one. Pathwright is the learning management system where your learning material and course interactions will be based. The cost of the program will be \$50/month for as long as you are enrolled.

**For more information, please contact Joel Kime at [joel.kime@evangelical.edu](mailto:joel.kime@evangelical.edu).**

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## EC Class rescheduled for 2023!

The **EC Ethos** class that is normally offered in the fall has been rescheduled to the fall of 2023. Those who are required to take this class will be notified when the dates and times have been secured.

Please note, the **EC History & Polity Class** is scheduled for March 17-18, 2023.

# 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 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](https://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](https://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. The weekend theme is: *It’s OK to not be OK.* [bit.ly/2022TP-WW](https://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. Reservations Required! Register at [twinpines.org](https://twinpines.org) – register button, or call the office. NEW Location: Weaver Banquet Facility, Denver, PA.

## F.Y.R.E. – November 4-6, 2022



FYRE

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

## A porch swing at

## Twin Pines

Camp is waiting for people to enjoy while having great conversations with friends.

Contact Doug soon to plan a retreat for your small group, Sunday School class, leadership team, youth or children’s group at 570-629-2411 or [retreats@twinpines.org](mailto:retreats@twinpines.org).

## 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](https://bit.ly/WT-2023)

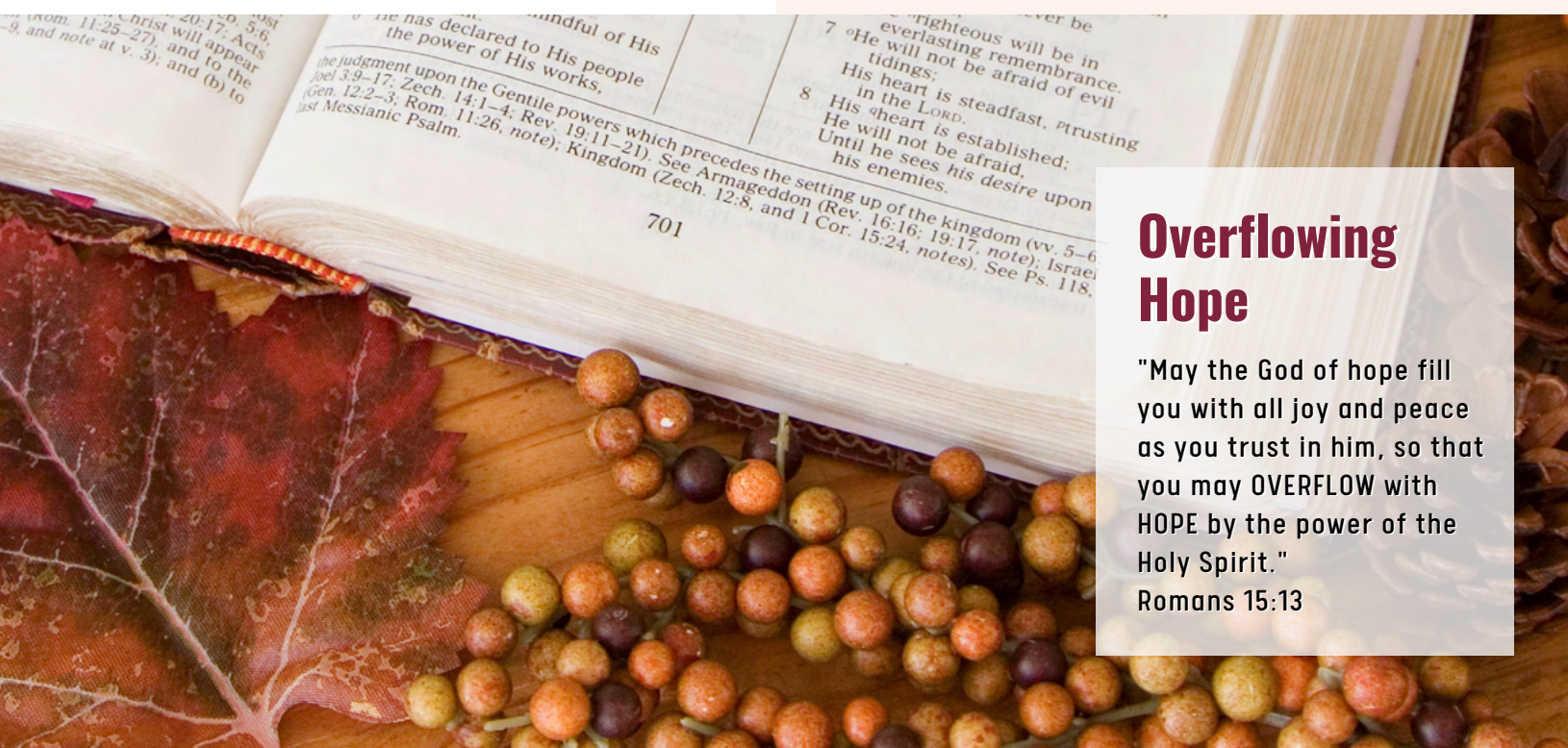


# OCTOBER 2022

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

# NOVEMBER 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	3	4	5
6	7	8 <b>ELECTION DAY</b>	9	10	11 <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	12
Daylight Savings Ends Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Green	Twin Pines Fall Youth Retreat					
13	14	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17	18	19
Green						
20 <b>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b> Thankoffering (voluntary) EC Leader deadline White	21	22	23	24 <b>THANKSGIVING</b> Church Center Closed	25 Church Center Closed	26
						
27 <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> Violet	28	29	30	Thankoffering (Voluntary) to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate: Thankoffering)		



## 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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