

# EC LEADER

JANUARY 2020

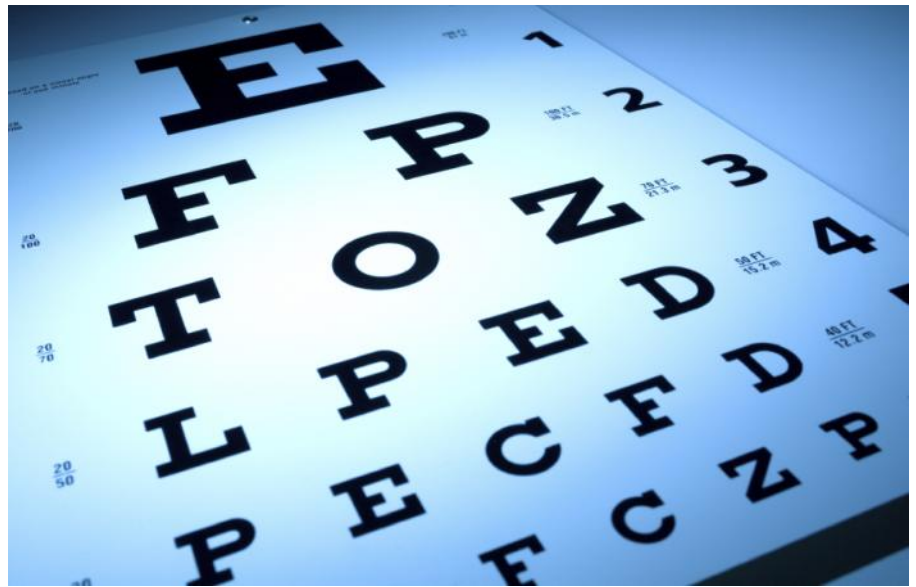
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### Who We Are

"... 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



### *From the Bishop:*

Welcome to the year 2020! What do you think of when you hear those numbers: 20/20? One of the first things that comes to mind is vision. Did you ever wonder what 20/20 vision means? According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, "A person with 20/20 vision can see what an average individual can see on an eye chart when they are standing 20 feet away. An eye chart measures visual acuity, which is the clarity or sharpness of vision. The top number refers to your distance in feet from the chart. The bottom number indicates the distance at which a person with normal eyesight can read the same line. For example, if you have 20/30 vision, it means your vision is worse than average. When you are standing 20 feet from the chart, you can read letters that most people see when they are 30 feet away." I really don't know what my vision is "by the numbers" but I can tell you that if I'm not wearing my contact lenses or glasses, I'd be bumping into walls!

When we think of visionary leaders in the Bible, David must be near the top of the list. He was a man chosen by God to lead God's people into a new era. It was David who received the vision of a grand house of worship, the Temple. But in 1 Samuel 27 we find David, anointed to be the next king of Israel, running for his life and saying "Someday Saul is going to get me." He doesn't sound like the same person who boldly challenged and defeated Goliath. Where is his vision now?

David had lost his vision because he had forgotten God's promises and stopped believing in God's power to protect him. Fortunately, in 1 Samuel 30, when David was at his lowest, he turned and "found strength in the Lord his God." He prayed a simple prayer, basically saying "Lord, what do you want me to do? Show me your will, revive my vision." And the Lord did that and more, he led David and gave him the victory.

*(continued on page 2)*

I pray that as we enter this New Year our vision would be clear, 20/20. May each one of us fix our eyes, our vision on Jesus, our Savior and Lord, and trust in his Word, his will and his way. May he lead each one of us, as leaders, and our congregations as we faithfully serve him throughout the year. Welcome, again, to 2020!

In Christ's service,

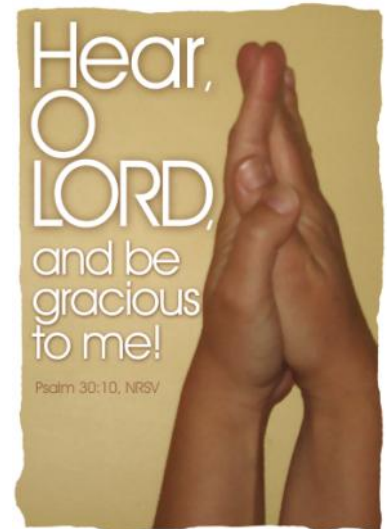


Rev. Bruce D. Hill  
Bishop



## Bishop's Top 10 Prayer & Praise

1. Join me in praying for the Lord's peace and love to fill the hearts of Dottie Moyer and her family as they mourn the passing of Bishop Emeritus John E. Moyer.
2. Ask the Lord to bless the Stationing Committee as they continue to work while also beginning a "new season" of assigning pastors and congregations that fit and flourish.
3. Be in prayer for the annual Pastoral Assessment Center as couples seek to understand the Lord's calling on their lives.
4. Please ask the Lord to guide the Episcopal Nominating Committee as they prepare the ballot for the election of the next Bishop who will take office July 1, 2021.
5. Pray for the Lord's leading as I spend more time planning and preparing for sessions of the National Conference 2020.
6. Praise the Lord for times with family and friends during the recent Christmas season.
7. Join me in thanking the Lord for the love and support of my wife, Gloria, as we celebrate our 44th Anniversary this month.
8. Praise the Lord for all the people who came to special Christmas services and celebrations—and for the opportunity to follow-up with them in the New Year.
9. Join me in praising God for having the assurance of his leading and watchful care as we enter into a new year of service for him and his church.
10. Praise God for dedicated District Field Directors who lovingly and authentically care for our pastors and churches. They really do care; and I praise God for that.





***Bishop Emeritus John E. Moyer***, 87, passed away peacefully at his home in Myerstown on December 4, 2019. The son of the late Howard E. and Esther (Waltz) Moyer. He was born in the home of his parents in Allentown, on the first day of May, 1932. John is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Dorothy A. (Berger) Moyer; sons John, David, and Timothy; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John graduated from Allentown High School in 1950 and Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA where he received a Baccalaureate of Arts degree in 1954. In the fall of that year, he attended the newly established Evangelical Congregational School of Theology in Myerstown, PA. Two years later, he was granted the degree of Bachelor in Sacred Theology from Temple University School of Theology in Philadelphia, PA.

Concurrent with his studies, John served his first appointments in pastoral ministry. He served one year at St. John's E.C. Church in Catasauqua. He also served for five years at Grace E.C. Church, Columbia, Lancaster County. Following his time in Lancaster, he was transferred to Trinity E.C. Church in Pottstown, PA. During this time, he began to assume denominational responsibilities such as conference director of Vacation Bible School and also as a staff member of one of the summer youth camps of the church near Stroudsburg, PA. In 1964, the church assigned John to St. Matthew's E.C. Church in Emmaus, PA. In this community, they found a ministry that was flourishing. During the next nine years, the church continued to grow.

In 1973, John was elected to serve as the Superintendent of the Western District of the Eastern Conference. John was also elected to assist in the Board of Publications as its Secretary and as a Trustee of the Evangelical School of Theology. For five years, he was President of the Board of Trustees. In 1979, he was chosen to serve as Bishop, a position he held for two four-year terms. During these years, the denomination carefully assessed its structure, endeavoring to provide more effective guidance for the local congregations.

In 1980, Moravian College granted Bishop Moyer an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. When his second term in his office was completed in 1987, the Trustees of the Evangelical School of Theology invited him to take a position on the faculty of the school. He taught in the Practical Theology Department for the next 11 years. When he assumed this responsibility, he started working on a Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. The degree with a concentration in Church Growth was awarded to him in 1995. While serving on the faculty in Myerstown, he and three other members of the Historical Society, coauthored a book on the history of the Evangelical Congregational Church entitled, "Evangelical from the Beginning." In May of 1998, he retired from the career of pastoral ministry, administration and teaching.

At the time of his death he was an active member of New Life E.C. Church of Shillington, PA. The Evangelical Congregational Church, is thankful to the Lord for the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Bishop John E. Moyer.



# News from the Executive Director

❄ The 2020 mileage reimbursement has not been released at the writing of this article.

❄ Active pastor health insurance premiums will increase on January 1, 2020 to:

Single	\$ 845
Couple	\$1,790
Employer & Child(ren)	\$1,690
Family	\$2,230

The first payment of the new year is due December 15, 2019. Please see [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com) for the current rates.

❄ The deadline to submit HRA reimbursements for the October 2018—September 2019 plan year is December 29, 2019. this is a federally mandated deadline that cannot be changed.

❄ Church contributions to the 403(b) pension plan will increase on January 1 to \$300 for full time pastors and \$150 for part time pastors.

❄ EC Benefits Corp services fee will increase to \$125 payable on April 15, 2020.

❄ W-2s and 1099-MISC forms are due to the recipient's by January 31, 2020 and the respective Federal, State or Local taxing authorities by January 31, 2020. Please refer to the specific taxing authority regulations for due dates. All full time and part time Pastors should receive a W-2 from their church.

❄ Due Dates: Disability Payment \$100.00 due Jan. 15  
Annual Statistical Reports due Jan. 15  
Workers Compensation Insurance Information due 30 days after receipt  
Pastors Compensation Forms Jan. 15

Please see the 2020 Treasurer's Guide located on [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com), for additional due dates, current amounts due and ministry fund percentage.

❄ Remember to add the following phrase (or something close to it) to all tax deductible giving receipts issued by a church or ministry, "No goods or services were exchanged for these contributions or they consisted of an intangible religious benefit." All year end contributions to a church must be received at the church on December 31 or have a postmark of December 31 or earlier. Electronic giving adds a layer of complexity to the year end giving deadlines. There are extra entities involved e.g., credit card processors, banks and internet gateways, that are involved in the processing of an electronic charitable contribution that churches and donors cannot control. The amount of time from the donor making a contribution until the church receives the funds can be a couple of days to a week or more. Church treasurers should carefully review the processing statements received to note what day a contribution was processed.

IRS Guidance that has been released states that contributions made by credit card in 2019 are considered 2019 contributions, regardless if the donor does not make a payment on the credit card until 2020 or with normal credit card processing times the church does not receive the funds until 2020. The same is true for donation made via an ACH transfer. A donor that initiates an ACH transaction in 2019 with the funds debited from the donor's bank account should be counted as a 2019 donation. Even though, the church will not receive the funds until 2020 with normal bank processing times.

As always please contact David King, Benefits Administrator, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com) or myself [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) with any questions, 1-800-866-7581.

Kevin Henry  
Executive Director

David King  
Benefits Administrator



# Global Ministries Community

- ❄️ **Jonathan & Kathy Wilson** will be heading out to their village of Nindeware again in mid-January to continue work on translating the scriptures into the Binandere language. Keep them in prayer for safe travels, good health while in the village, and that they and the native translators can make much progress.
- ❄️ **GMA Rev. Ted Rathman and Rev. Rick Sergi** will be traveling to Liberia from January 28th to February 9th. They will take part in the annual conference of the EC Church of Liberia, as well as visit and preach in several churches. Please keep them in prayer for safe travels and good health while overseas.
- ❄️ **Rev. Ken Sears** will finish his six-month furlough and return to Ukraine around January 12th. He spent the Christmas holiday in Texas with his parents and will leave from there to return to Zaporozhye.
- ❄️ Congratulations to **Dan Quigley**, who was approved as a missionary in the fall Global Ministries Community meeting. Dan serves in Nicaragua, working with at risk children in the capital city of Managua. Tentative plans are to commission him in spring at his home church of Brownstown Ebenezer EC.
- ❄️ **Brenda Anderson** had gall bladder surgery schedule for December 16th. Keep her in prayer that all (goes) went well, and that she will be able to enjoy at least some Christmas goodies!
- ❄️ **Cassie Wells** has moved again. Her new address, effectively immediately, is 2321 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104. She is excited to have a Christian landlord, who was even involved in Disciple Makers (her mission agency) when he was in college. Praise!
- ❄️ **Dave Hershey**, who serves as a campus minister with Christian Student Fellowship at the Berks campus of Penn State, is also filling in at the Brandywine campus right now. He feels they need their own full time campus minister and has asked for prayers for that issue.
- ❄️ Congratulations to **Ivy Limbert**, who finished her master's degree in mid-December. It was a hectic couple of years, but she hung in there. Good job, Ivy!
- ❄️ **Ron Anderson** spent much of December either meeting with international ECMI leaders throughout Europe, or hosting Christian leaders from other countries when they visited Spain. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work throughout Europe!
- ❄️ **Brian & Missy Wagner** were grateful for the opportunity to spend the holidays with their three children and extended family this year. Keep them in prayer as they continue to travel to do deputation throughout the winter months.
- ❄️ **BJ & Rachel Whitaker** were invited in November to share about Thanksgiving with daughter Laura's second grade class. Of course, they were expected to bring some American style goodies as well!
- ❄️ Please keep **Kurt and Nancy G.** in prayer for health concerns. Kurt shared that Nancy is still recovering from breast cancer and skin cancer, while he is dealing with heart challenges as well as some other health issues.
- ❄️ **GMA Emeritus Rev. Randy Sizemore and his wife Carla** spent Thanksgiving in India, speaking at Evangelical College of Theology. They were invited by Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate, the principal. Randy and Lalrosiem worked together for many years.
- ❄️ The bulletin inserts and envelopes for the Christmas Missions Offering were mailed out last month. If your church did not receive yours, please contact the Global Ministries office immediately. The offering date is Sunday, December 22nd.



# Kingdom Extension Community

## Item #1

### Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2020

- Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 9:00 AM—Friday, April 3, 2020, 12:30 PM
- Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill road, Reston, VA 20191
- Cost... \$149/person
- Register... <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fresh-expressions-national-gathering-2020-tickets-67103346917>

#### Description

This is a moment of hopeful opportunity for the Church in America. Perhaps you feel the pain of a dwindling congregation or denomination. Perhaps this makes you concerned for the future. But we have evidence that God is at work future-fitting the church. We see the unfolding of Present Future Church that is breathing life and hope into existing congregations and the neighborhoods and networks around them.

This gathering will reconnect you with hope for the Church.

- Hope for facing tomorrow's difficulties with 2,000 years of missionary experience
- Hope from practitioners who have blended new and inherited forms of Church

Three days of immersive learning, expert advice and missional inspiration, including:

- Introductory training for people who are new to fresh expressions
- Advanced, strategic training for those who have already begun to pioneer new expressions of Church
- Immersive experiences that model what a fresh expression can look like
- Peer-level meetups to learn from others who have similar needs
- And much more!

Join us and catch the vision for a church that is filled with hope and anticipation as we journey into the mission landscape where God's Spirit beckons us.

## Item #2

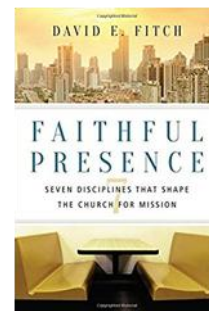
### Good Reads that Prompt Kingdom Thinking

The following books are worth reading! They turn our attention toward our mission, "go and make disciples." These books are of greatest value when read with others—allowing the read to guide conversations which might become action.

#### Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission

By David Fitch

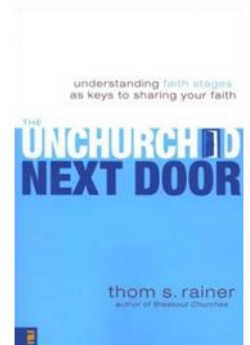
- Note—we live in a post Christian world.
- Note—we need to plan to be effective witnesses.
- We should not throw in the towel.
- We should work to be missional.



#### The Unchurched Next Door

By Thom Rainer

- Thinking about our neighbors.
- Learning who our neighbors might be.
- Thinking about what they think.
- Stages of responsiveness and how to work with people in each stage.
- Acknowledging that there is no ONE way to reach the unsaved.



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# Kingdom Extension Community

## Dinner Church: Building Bridges by Breaking Bread

### The Dinner Church Handbook

By Verlon Fosner

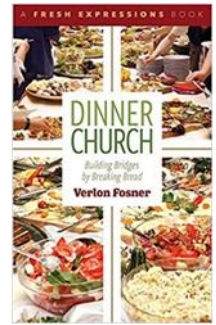
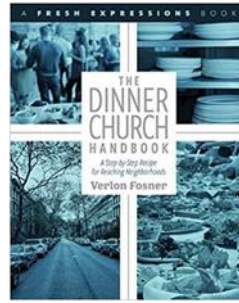
People love to gather over/around food.

Weave church into and around a meal.

Dinner church.

For people who might not do church.

Or church buildings.



Contact Les Cool (717-951-8433 or [revcool@ptd.net](mailto:revcool@ptd.net)) for more information or to schedule an event for your church, district, or community (local congregations).

January 24th is the deadline for all annual reports. The reports, both manual and auto-fill can be found on the EC Church website—[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com). Please help us by completing the reports and submitting them on time. Thank you!!

**January 1 is an important date for more reasons than it being the first day of a new year! January 1 is also the deadline for:**

- ❄️ **Any pastor, elder, deacon or deaconess who decides to retire, transfer to the Superannuated or Supernumerary status effective the end of the National Conference year (June 30, 2020) must make his/her intention known by written notification to the Bishop office.**
- ❄️ **January 1 is also the deadline for churches and pastors to submit written requests for a stationing change to the Stationing Committee in care of the Bishop.**

**These dates went into effect a couple of years ago but is important enough to call to your attention now. If you are making one of these decisions, and you haven't already contacted the Bishop's office, please do so immediately. Your cooperation will help us as we sincerely look for opportunities for both pastors and congregations to "fit and flourish." Thank you!**



# Twin Pines Camp 2020 Winter & Spring Happenings



## Winter Thaw A—January 17-19

Speaker: Jana Grant  
This weekend is filled. Please choose to attend Winter Thaw B or Winter Thaw C.



## Winter Thaw B—January 31-February 2

Speaker: Justin Watkins  
Space is available for your group to register for this weekend.



## Winter Thaw C—February 14-16

Speaker: Jonny Radcliff  
Music: On The Way from Cairn University.  
This week is over 3/4 full. Register your group soon to reserve enough space for this weekend.

\*\* Teens without a youth group attending Winter Thaw may register as an individual for this weekend. Twin Pines provides supervision for these teens.



## Craft Retreat—March 19-22

Enjoy a laid-back weekend of fellowship and Bible study while working on your crafts. Fellowship as you work on things you have put off, such as knitting, quilting, scrap-books, crocheting, etc.



## Men's Weekend—March 27-29

Speaker: Eli Tyler  
Eli is the Pocono/Slate Belt Ministry Coordinator for Youth For Christ. Men will appreciate a weekend together with other men to focus on strengthening their relationship and discipleship of Jesus Christ.



## Spring Fling—April 24-26

Theme: A Rootin' Tootin' Weekend  
A weekend retreat focused on children currently in grades 3-5. Come and enjoy Twin Pines Camp and learn about some Biblical outlaws.

Participating groups must provide chaperones for the weekend.



## Spring Spruce-Up—May 6-8

Join other volunteers for a mid-week volunteer opportunity to help the ministry "spruce-up" camp and prepare for summer ministry! Projects include both indoor and outdoor spruce-up. There are always tasks for volunteers of any skill level!



## For Ladies Only Retreat—May 13-15

Speaker: Sue Duffield  
A relaxing and laugh-filled mid-week retreat "for ladies only." Enjoy fellowship, worship, and in-depth Bible sessions.



## Summer Camp—June 14-August 8

The summer starts with a week for Adults, who are matched with summer staff as prayer partners. The summer continues with 7 weeks of a variety of camps for a range of ages and interests. Check out the list of camps offered during Summer 2020 at [bit.ly/20SumSchedule](http://bit.ly/20SumSchedule). Then choose which camp you will attend and/or send someone to.



**TWIN  
PINES**

CAMP, CONFERENCE  
& RETREAT CENTER

[www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)



## Evangelical Congregational Church

100 West Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-7581  
[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)



### 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



## 7th Annual Four Chaplains Scholarship Run

February 1, 2020 (Rain, snow or shine)

10:00 AM

### We Honor Their Sacrifice

4 Mile Run/Walk

1.5 Mile Fun Run/Walk

*In the early morning of February 3, 1943 the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank in the icy North Atlantic. Only 230 men out of the 902 on board the Dorchester survived. Of those that perished that night were four Chaplains: Methodist Pastor George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Reformed Pastor Clark V. Poling and Father John P. Washington. These chaplains gave up their life jackets and encouraged others as they made the ultimate sacrifice for other service men. Witnesses told stories of how the chaplains joined arms, said prayers and sang hymns as the Dorchester sank beneath them.*

*Each Chaplain was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross on December 19, 1944. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.*

*Evangelical Seminary's Four Chaplains Scholarship program provides a tuition free Master of Divinity degree to military chaplain candidates. All registration fees from the race will be used to fund scholarships for military chaplain candidates.*

### Pre-Registration

Deadline: January 18, 2020  
\$25 for 4 Mile Run/Walk (includes t-shirt)  
\$10 for 1.5 Mile Fun Run/Walk (no t-shirt)

### Online registration is available at:

[www.evangelical.edu/4chap](http://www.evangelical.edu/4chap)  
[www.pretzelcitysports.com](http://www.pretzelcitysports.com)

If you have trouble registering online or questions about the event, please contact Kevin Henry at  
[khenry@evangelical.edu](mailto:khenry@evangelical.edu)

### Same Day Registration

Race Day Registration begins at 9:00 am at Evangelical Seminary

For more information visit <https://evangelical.edu/events/four-chaplains-run/>



# January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>	<p>Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>		<p><b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY Stationing Request Deadline Church Center Closed</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</p>	<p><b>6</b> EPIPHANY</p>		<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Health Insurance Due Pastoral Comp. Forms Due</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> Twin Pines Winter Thaw-A</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> Info for the February EC Leader is due Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg</p>		<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 2019 Annual Report Due</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> Twin Pines Winter Thaw-A</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg</p>	<p><b>31</b> Ministerial Development Community Mtg Twin Pines Winter Thaw-B</p>	

# February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>	<p>Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>					<p><b>1</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Twin Pines Winter Thaw-B</div>
<p><b>2</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Twin Pines Winter Thaw-B</div> <p>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> StoneRidge Retirement Living Board Mtg</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Twin Pines Board Mtg</p> <p>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> Church Planting Offering</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> VALENTINE'S DAY Health Insurance Due</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Twin Pines Winter Thaw-C</div>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Twin Pines Winter Thaw-C</div>	<p><b>17</b> PRESIDENT'S DAY Info for the March EC Leader is due Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg</p>	<p><b>18</b> Benefits Corp Mtg</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> ASH WEDNESDAY Church Health Community Mtg</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>