

# EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church



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## FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore

### Mindful Leaders

“So like Gaius, and all who come after Gaius, church leaders must be mindful, that is intentionally aware, of our physical, spiritual and emotional health and how that health impacts our ability to lead.”



[Click HERE for the Bishop's April video message](#)



### Speaking Schedule for 2025

Bishop Randy is now scheduling his 2025 preaching schedule. If you would like to schedule him at your church, please contact Bishop Randy directly at [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com).

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

National Conference 2025  
May 21 through 23 at Messiah University

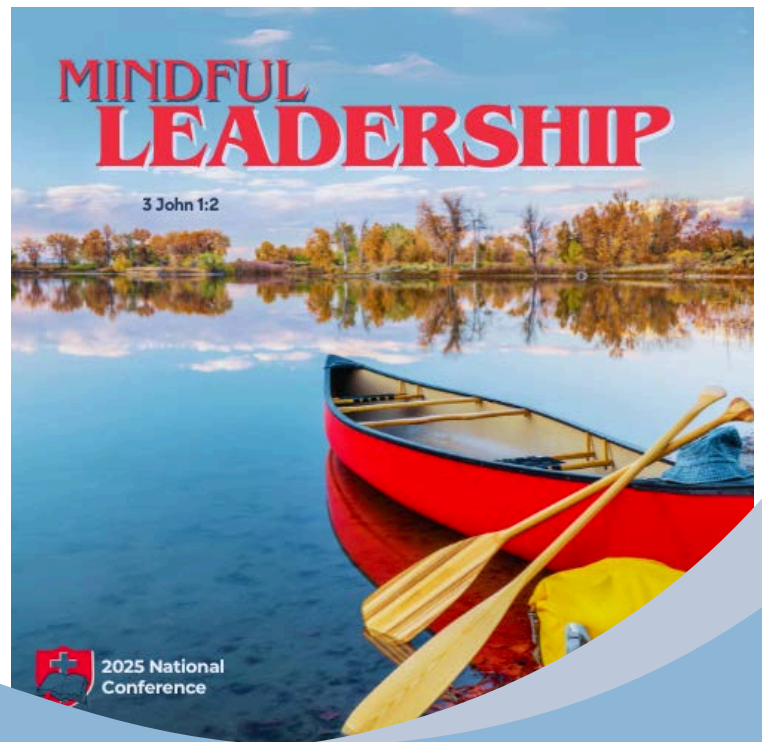
**“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you even as your soul is getting along well.”**

**(3 John 1:2)**

**Registration is now open!**

<https://eccenter.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/eccenter/eventRegistration.jsp?event=28&>

To view the brochure or print a hard copy registration form to be mailed to EC Church Center, go to our website, [eccenter.com](http://eccenter.com). Links for these items may be found near the bottom of our homepage.



## Pre-Conference Meetings

In order to help us prepare for our National Conference celebration, we will be offering three pre-conference meetings for the pastors and lay delegates of our conference. Please note the following important information regarding our meetings.

1. All three meetings will be held online via the Zoom platform.
2. All three meetings will contain the same information so choose the one most convenient for you.
3. **The same Zoom link can be used to access any of the three meetings.**

Topic: EC National Conference Pre-Conference Meetings

Time: Three options to attend, choose one:

Thursday, April 24 at 7 PM

Saturday, April 26 at 9 AM

Monday, April 28 at 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83107892443?pwd=dAOfNhMUtlxXllw9dvFN83mAFYy61D.1>

Meeting ID: 831 0789 2443

Passcode: 486842

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY

**As always, please email:**

**Bethany White**  
**NC Administrative**  
**Assistant / Business**  
**Office and Benefits Corp**  
**Specialist**  
[bwhite@eccenter.com](mailto:bwhite@eccenter.com)

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

**with any questions**  
**or call**  
**717.866.7581**

Thanks to everyone who has returned the Worker's Compensation audit forms in a timely manner. The audit is currently in process, and we hope to have a final bill from Church Mutual soon. Like many insurance policies, I anticipate an increase in the worker's compensation premium. I am hoping the increase will be less than 10%, but I do not have much faith that it will be less than a 10% increase. We get questions from time to time on completing a workers' compensation claim. The process is not complicated, but it is confusing since claims are not filed often. Each church is responsible for filing their own claims at the time of the incident or shortly thereafter. The easiest method is to use Church Mutual's online claim reporting portal, [File a Claim | Church Mutual](#). Fill out the claim form with the best information available; the employer is the local EC church. Each EC church in Pennsylvania and New Jersey is listed on the policy, and the policy number is 07-174436. Please call with any questions.

Churches not included in the denominational worker's compensation group policy - those in Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky - your individual state mandates worker's compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the

church are covered by worker's compensation insurance. Per EC Benefits Corporation policy H.3.b, churches not covered by the denomination group worker's compensation policy shall submit proof of worker's compensation coverage by July 1 of each year. Please submit proof of your worker's compensation coverage to:

EC Benefits  
100 W Park Ave  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
Or fax 717.866.7583 or email [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)

The annual disability premium was due January 15, and the Benefits Corporation administrative fee is due by April 15, 2025; 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 in a timely manner, and a few have already submitted the administrative fee; 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. Although, for 2025 the ministry fund percentage remained at 5.65%, it is easier on us to have the correct form submitted. We have implemented a process to accept ministry fund payments electronically. Electronic payments are not mandatory. If you are interested in remitting your ministry fund payments electronically please contact, Kevin Henry, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com). I can explain the process to you.

To date, about 60% of pastoral compensation forms have been returned. Thanks to all the churches that have responded. We will be reminding non-compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save Bethany White some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

As always please contact Kevin Henry, Executive Director, or Bethany White, EC Benefits Specialist, with any questions or problems: [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or [bwhite@eccenter.com](mailto:bwhite@eccenter.com) or 717.866.7581.





## Church Health Community News

**FROM THE DESK**  
Rev. Wayne Houck, CHC Associate

### Pastors, Take Care of Yourselves

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders,

Thank you for all you do on behalf of your congregation. As Matt Schmucker wrote on the *9marks.org* website (February 26, 2010), "The role of pastor-preacher, if done faithfully, is one of the most taxing jobs in the world. It demands so many skills. It's emotionally taxing. And it's both so regular (that sermon is coming!) and so variable (who can predict funerals, illnesses, or member crises?)" But we answered a sacred calling which we take seriously and can, unfortunately, find it difficult to admit that we need help. Ministry, however, is not a good place to show our independent streak. The Church Health Community encourages pastors to maintain their health in three areas: Body, Mind and Spirit.

To keep our physical bodies functioning, we know that we should eat well, get enough rest and follow prescribed health regimens, as necessary. I recently spoke with someone who had been prescribed a ten-day course of antibiotics for an easily treatable infection. Unfortunately, he stopped after two days because he did not like some of the side effects, and the infection came back, with a vengeance. His medication non-compliance cost him time away from work, his family and the church. Likewise, we sometimes do not rest enough or take the time to exercise or spend silent time with the Lord, but non-compliance in these areas can also lead to something worse. *Soulshepherding.org* recently published the following statistics about pastor's well-being: 75% of pastors report being "extremely stressed" or "highly stressed," 90% work between 55 to 75 hours per week and 90% feel fatigued and worn-out every week. Ministry is hard. As my wife often says, "If it was easy, anyone could do it."

To maintain our emotional health, counseling can be a great resource. Our referrals to ServingLeaders have born fruit in the lives and ministries of some of our pastors, and we trust this group will continue to do so. Developing a healthy rhythm of rest, study, sabbath observation, exercise and recreation can bear fruit in unexpected, but demonstrable, ways. One of the ways we can run the marathon of ministry more effectively is to consider a

# Church Health Community News

## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Wayne Houck, CHC Associate

*continued...*

## Pastors, Take Care of Yourselves

*continued...*

sabbatical. As Schmucker (*9marks.org*) writes, "Sabbaticals are not vacations. We would encourage the pastor to see vacations as time completely away from his regular work (and geography, if financially affordable) and with the focus aimed squarely on his family. Sabbaticals on the other hand are not work-less and not aimed at the benefit of his family. They are specifically aimed at reinvigorating and renewing the mind and heart of the pastor through research, purposeful travel, writing, etc." Let us know how we can help you or your board or ministry council better understand the benefits, not just to the pastor and his family, but to the church as a whole.

When we are suffering physically, emotionally or spiritually, our whole being gets "out of whack." One counseling method I have used for years has proved quite useful. Take a blank piece of paper, turn it to landscape orientation (horizontal) and divide it into three columns. Label the columns Body, Mind and Spirit. Then make a list of things which you know are beneficial for you in each area. For example: a salad for lunch instead of a burger (body), an evening walk with your wife (mind), or reading a Christian leadership book by an author with whom you suspect you disagree (spirit). Then be sure to do at least one thing in each category every day. Remember, your ministry position is one of the most challenging there is, but also one to which God has called you. Sound biblical stewardship can help you run the race well, and the Church Health Community is here to help.

Be blessed today,  
Wayne Houck

Wayne





## Kingdom Extension Community News

***Please continue to pray this month for the following new church planting opportunities that God is raising up:***

**El Shaddai** – The Dominiques and Martial Pierre are well into actively planting a Haitian church in Lancaster, PA. El Shaddai Community has been meeting on Sunday evenings for worship service at Trinity EC Church in Lancaster, PA. They are seeing new families every week and witnessing people come to know Christ and follow Him. Please pray especially for Martial and his family. His wife and children remain in Haiti and are seeking to gain asylum to the U.S.

**Manuel and Luz Arias** – In Lexington, South Carolina, the Arias family is starting a new EC Church. Manuel and Luz continue to develop a team for ministry, as well as to strategize sharing the Gospel in tangible ways. They are currently developing men's and women's ministries at the church. Please pray that God would provide a location for this church to use for worship gatherings. Pray also for wisdom, strength and renewed energy for this couple. Manuel and Luz have especially asked for prayer for their family. They are considering potential changes that would allow them to devote more time to the church. Pray for wisdom for them and their family.

**Tim and Pam Ream** – The Reams moved to Thorn Hill, Tennessee. They are pursuing the opportunity to engage in planting an EC Church in their new community. Pray that God would begin preparing that community to be receptive to His glorious presence. Pray also for the Reams as they begin building relationships and engaging in discipleship relationships through inviting people into their home and engaging individuals in their community.

**Mike Coulson and People's EC Church** – Echo, the name of this church that is meeting in the Virtual Space, is reaching people with the Gospel and making disciples. Pray that the team will continue to develop and grow. People's is also beginning a micro church that will meet at Confessions Bar in Nesquehoning. Pray for this open door to be a Gospel presence where people who need Jesus hang out!

**Zach and Kelsey Van Dyke** – Zach and Kelsey have begun planting a network of house churches in and around Davenport, Iowa. They are currently meeting with a group in their own home weekly and seeking God's plan for their future. They are developing a vision for raising up house church shepherds and developing a discipleship and multiplication strategy. Please pray for Zach and Kelsey as they transition away from shared ministry to fully focus on TACO (The Axios Community Outpost). Also pray for wisdom as they develop discipleship pathways and vision and mission statements.



## CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., Chaplaincy Committee Chair

### Prayer Focus on our Heroes - Our Chaplains

Over the last year we have focused on EC Chaplains serving in fire departments, hospice, military, VA, etc. This month we want to look at the work of one of our pastors, Rev. Keith Miller, who served the denomination in churches at Trappe and Lancaster Faith, then at EC Church Center as the Director of Church Ministries and Director of National Ministries and finally at the Brownstown church before retiring. He also served as chaplain for a local police force for 20 years.

While Rev. Miller has been out of police chaplaincy for a number of years, we want to express appreciation for the time of service he gave and look at another area of EC Chaplaincy. Police chaplaincy was not an area he sought out, but the Lord led him into this service by opening the opportunity. He shared the following words regarding his chaplaincy work.

*I got started when the Chief of Police (Jake Glick) for East Lampeter Township asked me if I would be willing to volunteer some time and effort to working with the men on the force. Chief Glick was a member of Faith EC Church in Lancaster while I was pastoring there – that's how I got to know him.*

*There were not any assigned or specific tasks or duties he wanted me to do, so I sort of created my own role. I began in 1980 and served for the next 20 years until 2000 when I moved out of the area. I thought and prayed about how I could minister to these men and women whose jobs created more than enough stress in their lives. Slowly learning who they were and what was involved with their work, I began to assist in the hiring of officers and was able to do leadership training using some of the tools I used in ministry. I would often ride along with them during their midnight shifts (I did have a day job) and got to know many of them as I spent time with them during their shifts. I must admit that some of it was quite exciting – running through the snow catching a teenager who tried to run away from us*

*(I was much younger then), driving down Route 23 in Leola at 90 miles an hour chasing a speeder, driving a police car and actually pulling someone over with the lights flashing and carrying a night stick into a pizza place where a fight had broken out. I never made any arrests, that was the officer's job, but it was exciting, nonetheless.*

*There were also many difficult and sad times. Watching the ways the stress affected the officers, talking to a father that had just lost his wife and three young children in a trailer fire and going with officers at all hours of the morning to inform parents that their son or daughter was in an accident or overdosed and didn't survive were just some of them.*

*Spending time with them was essential. I was able to develop a closeness with many of them. For some, I had the privilege of doing marriage counseling and then officiating at their wedding. For others, I was privileged to share*



# Ministerial Development Community News

## CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., Chaplaincy Committee Chair

*continued...*

## Prayer Focus on our Heroes - Our Chaplains

*continued...*

*about God's goodness and prayed with them for protection, for family illnesses and many other concerns they shared. All in all, it was a rewarding ministry to a needed group of men and women – to those who daily lived on the edge by not knowing what each day and experience would bring.*

*Times have changed and it may not be quite as easy to get involved in law enforcement chaplaincy as it was for me – I was simply asked to do it and had no training. That was over 40 years ago. But, maybe God wants to use you to touch a specific group of men and women who need someone to walk alongside them. They might need you; they might need Jesus!*

Thanks, Rev. Miller, for your service, the article and the many lives you touched.

As always, the EC Chaplaincy Committee is here to support our chaplains and their work as they seek to touch lives for the Lord.

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., D.Min.

Chaplaincy Endorser and Chair of the Chaplaincy Committee

[ecparson@hotmail.com](mailto:ecparson@hotmail.com)

717.507.2174

## Attention Chaplains!!!

Whether you are a chaplain stationed by the National Conference or a chaplain serving locally in a voluntary or paid position, the Chaplaincy Committee is requesting that if you have a uniform or shirt or some other designation or ID, that you wear it to National Conference on Thursday, May 22, 2025. We will have a time of recognition of our chaplains on that day. Thank you for your cooperation and your service!

Also, when registering for National Conference, please select "Chaplain" as one of your Roles at Conference and indicate where you serve in the Comments / Notes section of your registration. This will help the denomination to keep the record of where all our chaplains are serving up-to-date. Again, thank you!







# TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



We value the relationships of the local church and their continued support of Twin Pines Camp, Conference, & Retreat Center. We are asking for your help to get the word out to bring us together to support the mission to share the Gospel with campers this summer.

There are several opportunities to participate in Summer Camp!

- Attend as a camper! There are opportunities for all ages: [register online today!](#)
- Work on Summer Staff! Consider joining us for several weeks to serve on staff! (email [Sam@twinpines.org](mailto:Sam@twinpines.org) for more info)
- Volunteer for a week of service! As a nurse, kitchen help, senior counselor and more! (email [Sam@twinpines.org](mailto:Sam@twinpines.org) for more info)
- Pray and [give!](#) We need everyone to pray for God's guidance and provision to spread his love this summer!

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in this ministry!

For Ladies Only

Enjoy a refreshing retreat featuring Sue Duffield

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



MAY 13-15




For Ladies Only is a mid-week retreat which starts Tuesday evening and concludes after lunch on Thursday for women of all ages seeking the opportunity to spend time with other Christian women and deepen their relationship with God.

We encourage you to share this great opportunity with women within your churches! It is a great place to bring a friend or attend on your own and meet other women who are also pursuing Christ!

Registration is open! Click [here](#) to see additional event information and register online.




Thank you for your prayers and support in this time of transition for Twin Pines Camp. We continue to rely on the goodness and faithfulness of God and feel the support and prayers of this community!

# CALENDAR

## APRIL 2025

### Wednesday, April 2

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

### Sunday, April 6

Passion Sunday  
Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### Tuesday, April 15

EC Benefits Services Fee Due

### Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

### Friday, April 18

Good Friday  
EC Church Center Closed

### Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday  
Liturgical Color - White

### Monday, April 21

EC Church Center Closed

### Wednesday, April 23

Administrative Professionals Day

### Thursday, April 24

Pre-Conference Meeting (Zoom)

### Friday, April 25

Episcopacy Committee Meeting

### Saturday, April 26

Pre-Conference Meeting (Zoom)

### Sunday, April 27

Liturgical Color - White

### Monday, April 28

Pre-Conference Meeting (Zoom)

## MAY 2025

### Thursday, May 1

National Day of Prayer

### Sunday, May 4

Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension  
Liturgical Color - White

### Wednesday, May 7

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

### Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

### **Mother's Day Offering**

Liturgical Color - White

### Tuesday, May 13

EC Finance Committee Meeting

### Sunday, May 18

Liturgical Color - White

### Wednesday - Friday, May 21 - 23

2025 National Conference

### Sunday, May 25

Liturgical Color - White

### Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

EC Church Center Closed

## Ministry Funds and Insurance & Benefits

### Mail to:

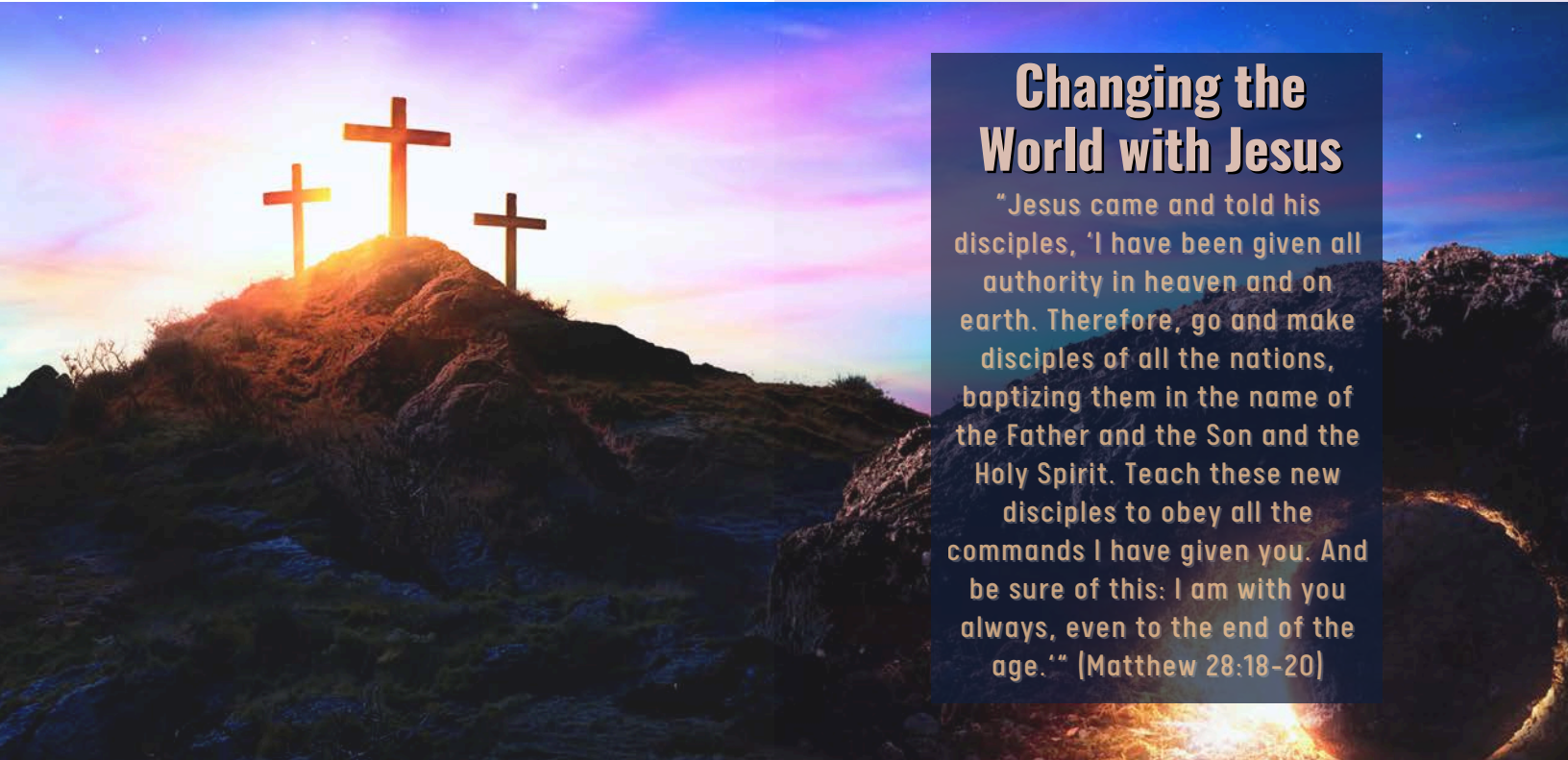
EC Church Center  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067

### Mother's Day Offering

### Mail to:

StoneRidge Retirement Living  
440 E. Lincoln Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067





## Changing the World with Jesus

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” [Matthew 28:18-20]

Evangelical Congregational Church Center  
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717-866-7581

[office@eccenter.com](mailto:office@eccenter.com) / [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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April 2025 Edition - Editor/Art Design

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