

EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church

APRIL 2026



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FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore

Built to Move *Part 2*

“We are built by
God to join in His
movement... but
not alone.”



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



Speaking Schedule for 2026

Bishop Randy is now scheduling his 2026
preaching schedule.
If you would like to schedule him at your church,
please contact Bishop Randy directly at
rsizemore@eccenter.com.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

National Conference 2026

May 20 through 21 at Messiah University

“For in him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

<https://eccenter.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/eccenter/eventRegistration.jsp?event=37&>

To view the brochure or print a hard copy registration form to be mailed to EC Church Center, go to our website, 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.

These meetings are optional, not required. Please note the following important information regarding our meetings.

All three meetings will be held online via the Zoom platform.

All three meetings will contain the same information so choose the one most convenient for you.

The same Zoom link may be used to access any of the three meetings.

Dates and Times:

Thursday, May 7 at 7 PM

Saturday, May 9 at 9 AM

Monday, May 11 at 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

***[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641829716?
pwd=Q4tRdnPzDOH5iRHMvMksbaS3ODIecS.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641829716?pwd=Q4tRdnPzDOH5iRHMvMksbaS3ODIecS.1)***

Meeting ID: 886 4182 9716

Passcode: 279596

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY



Thank you for submitting the workers' compensation forms promptly. The audit is currently underway, and invoices have been distributed to the churches. Occasionally, we receive inquiries regarding the process of filing a workers' compensation claim. While the procedure is relatively straightforward, it may appear confusing due to the infrequency with which claims are filed. Each church is required to submit its own claim at the time of the incident or soon thereafter. The most efficient approach is to utilize Church Mutual's online claim reporting portal, [File a Claim | Church Mutual](#). Complete the form with the most accurate information available; note that the employer should be listed as the local EC church. All Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Iowa EC churches are included on the policy; policy number is 07-174436. Please feel free to contact either Bethany or myself with any questions.

Churches not included in the denominational workers compensation group policy - Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky EC churches - 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 W Park Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067
or fax 717-866-7583 or email khenry@eccenter.com.

The annual disability premium was due on January 15, while the Benefit Corporation administrative fee must be paid by April 15, 2026. Retirees are exempt from the administrative fee. The fee schedule for both may be found in the Treasurer's Guide on the EC website. Many have submitted the disability fee on time; some have already paid the administrative fee. We appreciate your diligence and hard work.

The IRS has announced updated rules for Group Tax Exemptions (Rev. Procedure 2026-8) which took effect in January 2026. The EC Church benefits from a 501(c)3 group tax exemption that covers all EC churches and most related organizations, including camps and camp meetings. According to the new guidelines, group tax exemption holders - such as the National Conference - must verify that each subordinate organization meets both affiliation and supervision requirements. While this may seem concerning, the Finance Committee is currently reviewing the regulations and will provide additional details soon. All group exemption holders are required to complete the affiliation and supervision confirmation for every subordinate by January 22, 2027.

As always please contact Kevin Henry, Executive Director, or Bethany White, EC Benefits Specialist, with any questions or problems, khenry@eccenter.com or bwhite@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

Bethany White
Benefits Corp Specialist

Church Health Community News

FROM THE DESK

Rev. Wayne Houck, CHC Associate



A New Season for Church Health

On March 9 and 10, I participated in a training session to become a Certified Strategic Envisioning Guide through the Malphurs Group (malphursgroup.com).



We will begin offering the Strategic Envisioning process to several churches over the next few months, but, in the meantime, there are things that any church can do to start growing healthier:

1. Assess the health of the ministries of your church. We are ending the use of our in-house Church Health Checkup within days. Instead, for only \$99 dollars you may share the Church Ministry Analysis 2.0 tool from the Malphurs Group with everyone in your congregation and receive a comprehensive report which details the "Six Pillars of Church Health": a Great Commission Focus, Core Values Alignment, Discipleship Pathway Effectiveness, Vision Clarity, Strategy Deployment and Leadership Culture. Just go to <https://malphursgroup.com/cma/> to start the process. When you fill out the form, you will be asked to select a guide from the dropdown list – just click on my picture to add me.
2. Start listening to church revitalization podcasts. Some recommended examples are *The Church Revitalization Podcast*, *The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast*, *Revitalize My Church Podcast*, *The Vanderbloemen Leadership Podcast* and *The Child Discipleship Podcast*. You can find them on Spotify, YouTube or wherever you get your podcasts. While not every topic of discussion may apply to your particular ministry, the concepts and ideas may get the wheels turning, and you can share relevant episodes with your leadership team.
3. Reach out to the Church Health Community. Some of the most productive conversations we have start with "What do you think about...?" Our team is a resource provided for by the EC Church, and we would love to hear how we can help you. Feel free to email me at waynehouck@gmail.com anytime and let me know how we can be of assistance.

Wayne



Be blessed today,
Wayne

Global Ministries Community News

FROM THE DESK

Dee Jaramillo,
GMC Deputy Director

Short-Term Mission Opportunity: Fall 2026

Global Ministries Community



October 12-20, 2026

SPAIN

The GMC is heading to Spain this fall to work alongside EC missionaries, the Whitaker family, and their ministry in Madrid. Applications available upon request at ecglobal@eccenter.com.

Sports Camps
ESL Classes
Work Projects
Prayer Walks
Youth Night

(examples of ministry opportunities while there)



As followers of Christ, many of us feel the tension of full schedules and crowded lives. Yet throughout Scripture we see that God often works through people who intentionally create space to listen, to pray and to step into what He is doing in the world. Building margin in our lives is not about doing less for its own sake - it is about making room for what matters most. When we slow down enough to align our priorities with Christ's heart, we become more aware of His mission around us. The call of Jesus is not only to believe in the Gospel but to participate in His work of bringing that Gospel to the nations. A mission-minded life means recognizing that every believer has a role in God's global purpose, and that our time, energy and attention can be intentionally shaped to serve His kingdom.

This fall, the Global Ministries Community invites you to consider creating that kind of margin - space to grow as a mission-minded follower of Jesus who lives with Kingdom purpose and Gospel-centered focus. Together we will learn how God is at work in His world, pray for the nations and discover practical ways to engage in Christ's mission both locally and globally. When believers gather around the shared values of being mission-minded, Kingdom-purposed, and Gospel-centered, God often enlarges our vision and deepens our impact. If you sense the Lord inviting you to step more intentionally into His mission, this could be a meaningful season to join others who are seeking the same thing: lives shaped by the Gospel and aligned with the heart of Christ for His world.

Trip Cost: \$950.00 + flight(s)

Valid US passport for international travel is required.

There are a limited number of slots available for this team.

Applications* are available upon request at ecglobal@eccenter.com.

Completed applications may be mailed to:

Dee Jaramillo
c/o Community EC Church
51 Green Valley Rd.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

Applications must be submitted and received by **May 1st**, and team selection will be made by May 31st.

Global Ministries Community News

FROM THE DESK

Dee Jaramillo, GMC Deputy Director

Short-Term Mission Opportunity: Fall 2026

continued...

* Your application form will be placed with other applications for the same trip for review. Because we desire to be good stewards of the time and resources required to complete our mission and being mindful of focusing on mission discipleship among all local EC churches, team positions are filled with individuals whose talents and gifts best meet each trip's ministry opportunities, maximizing our effectiveness on the mission field and providing the greatest blessing to those chosen to serve who in turn will foster mission-mindedness in their local church family.

After your application has been reviewed and after we have received the Lord's direction concerning the individuals needed to accomplish the trip's objectives, you will be notified whether or not you have been approved.

Thank you for your desire to win the lost and develop the saved beginning at home and extending around the world.

Dee



**Global
Ministries
Community**

Resourcing and assisting the
local church in cultivating
mission-mindedness.



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 evening for worship service at Trinity EC Church in Lancaster, PA. They are seeing new families every week and seeing people come to know Christ and follow Him. Please pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters. Despite having legal status, there is much fear in the Haitian communities at this time with the increasing deportation measures being taken. This has impacted church attendance and participation. Pray for peace in their hearts and the ability to keep their eyes on and hope in Jesus. Please pray especially for Martial and his family. His wife and children remain in Haiti and are seeking to gain asylum to the US.

Manuel and Luz Arias – Praise the Lord!!! God has provided a church to partner with Casa de Amor to host them on Sunday afternoons and a couple of nights throughout the week. Manuel and Luz have had numerous disappointments as location opportunities have fallen through; this is a major answer to prayer. The Casa de Amor leadership team is working on plans for an official launch date and service. Pray 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 are 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. Zach and Kelsey are actively discipling people through a discipleship multiplication pathway. They have a growing list of individuals they are making regular contact with and are praying for daily.



Ministerial Development Community News



ICL UPDATE

Rev. Adam Roberts, ICL Director

We would like to congratulate our newest graduate of the EC Church's Institute for Church Leadership, Jason Parsons!

Jason was born and raised in Jersey City, NJ, and he and his wife, Amada, call Bushkill, PA home. They have five adult sons spread across PA, NJ, NM and TX. Jason is active in leadership and ministry at Bushkill Community Church, where their mission is to "hope, heal, and help." They are dedicated to community service through acts of love and words of kindness as well as committed to sound doctrine and intentional relationship building.

When asked how the ICL prepared him for his current ministry, Jason shared:

"Every class had its purpose, and nothing hit the cutting room floor; everything was incredibly useful. I learned about Jacob Albright and the origin of the EC Church and what we value most. If I ever doubted my place in the EC [denomination], "Evangelical From The Beginning" demonstrated the value of the lay person, and that really encouraged me."

He added, "Besides the wealth of information, the ICL program gave me the confidence to believe in myself. At one point, I really thought I was done; I really thought I had nothing to offer, but God would not let me quit. He strategically placed people in my life who continually inspire and encourage me."

Congratulations, Jason, on this significant accomplishment!

The Institute for Church Leadership (ICL) provides a range of courses covering Bible, theology, spiritual formation, disciple-making, church history, leadership and more. These courses are designed for anyone seeking spiritual growth and leadership development - no prior education or prerequisites are required, and they do not offer seminary credit. Each class is affordably priced, with a per course fee of \$250 for students and \$50 for auditors.

To learn more about how ICL can serve you and your church, or to register for a course, visit: <https://mdc.eccenter.com/institute-for-church-leadership/>. If you have questions or would like to connect, I would be happy to speak with you - feel free to reach out at aproberts563@gmail.com.



Adam



Ministerial Development Community News

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

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

Chaplains on the Move

The Chaplaincy Committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rev. Bryan Dever, who is currently pastoring our Annville Zion Church, on his acceptance into the CPE Residency Program at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center. His residency begins this summer. Chaplain Clelan is already serving as a chaplain there. Please pray for both of these ministers as they serve the Lord through the VAMC.

We also want to express thanks to the four chaplains currently appointed by the National Conference to chaplaincy service and let you know what is moving in their ministry: Col. Karl (Noel) Blancaflor and Lt. Col. Joshua Metz who both serve our military; Chaplain Evan Clelan at the VAMC and Chaplain Glenn Lambert who serves in community hospice. Below are a few highlights of their activities from just two annual reports that were shared with the EC Church Chaplaincy Committee.

- Provided pastoral care to a team of 17 personnel responsible for the administrative tasks of the Chief of Chaplains.
- Conducted a one-day seminar at the Air Force Chaplain Corps College on leadership philosophy, budget strategy tactics and career development.
- Led counseling sessions on life transition, retirement preparation, transition, grief and second and third order effects of extended furloughs.
- Conducted or signed/reviewed over 1,000 Spiritual Assessments in 12 months.
- Held counseling sessions, groups, and/or consults in 2025 for multiple inpatient wards and outpatients. This also included twice per week chapel services on the hospice unit (average attendance of five) and the Veterans Chapel for Sunday Protestant Service (average attendance of 15).
- Carried position of Chaplain Preceptor for four chaplain residents and three chaplain interns.
- Attended and contributed to weekly interdisciplinary team meetings for the domiciliary, advocating and recommending spiritual development plans to assist in the recovery process of the patients.
- Supported Warrior to Soul Mate workshops, completing one workshop for eight couples.
- Coordinated all aspects of a special chapel event to include planning, advertisement and execution for National Day of Prayer Service (attendance was 33).
- Presided over eight funerals and five graveside services.
- Performed one baptism and one marriage renewal and also provided invocation and benediction to four chapel special events (Resident Graduation, 4 Chaplains' Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day).
- Each week, held three groups preparing a message and leading the groups in conversations about spirituality.
- Held a Moral Injury group with an average attendance of five veterans where discussions of moral injuries were explored, and atonement could be realized and understood through faith. Topics differed weekly and were presented through a Christian lens, examining sin and reconciliation.
- Oversaw Spirituality and Addictions group that met weekly at the domiciliary with an average attendance of 10 veterans. A lesson plan was developed working through the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) to assist the veterans in gaining spiritual resiliency in their recovery.

Ministerial Development Community News

CHAPLAINCY CORNER

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

Chaplains on the Move

continued...

- Facilitated a Chaplaincy Men's group weekly with an average attendance of six veterans. The group reflects on Scripture for encouragement in daily living as men of God. Led the discussion each week through a Christian discipleship model where intimacy was fostered to support and encourage one another as brothers in Christ.
- Conducted over 150 individual counseling sessions with veterans and met weekly with two veterans for an hour and with three veterans biweekly for an hour. These continual care counseling sessions were for Christian discipleship.
- Requested throughout the hospital to meet with veterans and their families for Christian counseling and support through difficult seasons of life.
- Provided counseling to staff, both individually and as a unit, after death and difficult care encounters, and also group counseling on their behavioral health locked ward to assist the department when coverage is needed for the floor.
- Met once a month with the veterans in the transitional residence program that helps assist the veterans in the community to continue in sobriety.

I will share more on the work of the other two chaplains next month.

Please remember to pray for all of our chaplains and the opportunities they have to present the Lord.

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., D.Min, Endorser
717-507-2174
ecparson@hotmail.com



Recognition of Chaplains

To all who are serving or have served as any kind of chaplain:

At our National Conference gathering, Thursday, May 21, is "Wear your uniform to National Conference Day." If you still have any part of your uniform, chaplain ID or another article that identifies you as a present or former chaplain, please wear it to Conference that day.



TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



TONY'S TRAIL NOTES

Built to Move: Summer Camp 2026

Over the past few months, I've had the privilege of traveling, and meeting so many of you who carry a story of Twin Pines. And one thing has become unmistakably clear—this place matters. Deeply. The love for Twin Pines is real, and the impact it has had on lives is lasting. I've heard story after story of life change, of faith sparked, of calling discovered. That is not something we take lightly.

As we look ahead to Summer 2026, we are moving forward with purpose and anticipation. We are working hard to prepare for campers, and we are genuinely excited to welcome each one who will step onto these grounds.

This summer will look a little different than in recent years—but different does not mean diminished. The differences are around date changes and when camps begin. We believe these changes are going to create something powerful: a more unified camp community, filled with greater energy as we gather to celebrate and worship Jesus.

Camp begins July 12, and we encourage you to explore all the session details on our [website](#). This summer will include past favorites:

- My First Camp
- Elementary Igniters
- Junior High Journey
- On the Edge
- Lotsa Love
- Adult Camp
- Moms 'n Gals

And we're adding something new—an **Adventure Camp** (a fun name is still being developed)—an off-site experience (with opening and closing at Twin Pines) that will include camping, hiking, rafting, and unforgettable shared experiences. It's designed to investigate personal faith, build community, and create moments campers will never forget.

We will now be hosting **Family Camp over Labor Day Weekend**—and I encourage you to mark your calendar now and spread the word. Family Camp is more than just a getaway. It's an intentional time to slow down together, reconnect as a family, and center your home on Christ. In a world that constantly pulls families in different directions, this is a space to worship together, laugh together, and build spiritual memories that last far beyond a weekend. If you've never experienced it, this is the year to come.



TWIN PINES
CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

www.twinpines.org
3000 Twin Pines Camp Road,
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570)-629-2411



TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



TONY'S TRAIL NOTES



2026 THEME:

GOD is stronger

Psalm 28:7 The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

At its core, this verse is a declaration—a reminder that our strength does not come from ourselves, but from God alone. He is our protector, our help, and the source of our joy. That truth will shape everything we do this summer.

Twin Pines is “Built to Move”



This theme isn't just for campers – it's for all of us.



God is always at work. The question is: are we moving with Him?

At Twin Pines, we are committed to being a ministry that moves:

- **Moving toward Christ-centered everything:** not just in words, but in how we live, lead, and serve
- **Moving to regain energy and momentum:** rebuilding, refreshing, and stepping into the mission with renewed passion
- **Moving back into a strong connection with the Church**
- **Moving toward faithful stewardship:** digging deep, making wise decisions, and building a sustainable future that honors what God has entrusted to us.



Through all of this, one thing does not change:
Our purpose remains clear:

to make Christ known as the Author of His Word and His World.

These are important days for Twin Pines. With the current world, moving forward with faith, courage, and a willingness to move when God calls.



And that's exactly what we intend to do.



And I'm grateful we get to move forward—together.



TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

www.twinpines.org
3000 Twin Pines Camp Road,
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570)-629-2411

CALENDAR

APRIL 2026

Wednesday, April 1

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3

Good Friday
EC Church Center Closed

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday
Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Community
Liturgical Color - White

Monday, April 6

EC Church Center Closed

Sunday, April 12

Liturgical Color - White

Tuesday, April 14

EC Benefits Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

EC Benefits Services Fee Due

Sunday, April 19

Liturgical Color - White

Wednesday, April 22

Administrative Professionals Day

Friday, April 24

Episcopacy Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 26

Liturgical Color - White

MAY 2026

Sunday, May 3

Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Community
Liturgical Color - White

Wednesday, May 6

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

Thursday, May 7

National Day of Prayer
Zoom Pre-Conference Meeting (7 PM)

Saturday, May 9

Zoom Pre-Conference Meeting (9 AM)

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day
Liturgical Color - White

Monday, May 11

Zoom Pre-Conference Meeting (7 PM)

Wednesday, May 13

Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 17

Liturgical Color - White

Wednesday - Thursday, May 20 - 21

National Conference Gathering at Messiah University

Sunday, May 24

Pentacost
Liturgical Color - Red

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day
EC Church Center Closed

Ministry Funds and Insurance & Benefits

Mail to:

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





Mindful Leadership

“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

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100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581

office@eccenter.com / www.eccenter.com

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



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