



EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church

In this edition:

From the Desk

pages 1-2

Bishop's Praise & Prayer

page 3

National Conference 2022

page 4

Executive Director News

page 5

Global Ministries

page 6

Kingdom Extension

pages 7-8

Calendars & Contact Info

pages 9-10



FROM THE DESK

Bishop Bruce Hill



I have often said the changing of the seasons is continual evidence of the faithfulness of God. Some winters are colder than others, some snowier, but winter is pretty much what we expect. March, then, is the month that signals change. The thing I think of with March is wind; it just seems like it's always windy.

That makes me think about what Jesus said in John 3:8 as He described the wonderful mystery of being born again to a man named Nicodemus. Jesus described the work of the Holy Spirit this way,

"The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain, how people are born of the Spirit."

The work of the Holy Spirit in salvation is real, it is felt, experienced; but unpredictable.

FROM THE DESK

continued...



It seems like the Holy Spirit has always moved in ways we would not have predicted. Why would He empower an Augustinian Friar named Martin Luther to write his 95 Theses and nail it to a church door in 1517? Luther's understanding that salvation is the gift of God by faith led to the Reformation. Who would have thought that an Anglican pastor and missionary to America would return to London, attend a Moravian meeting on Aldersgate Street where Martin Luther's introduction to the book of Romans was being read, and his ministry would be forever changed? John Wesley wrote, **"I felt my heart strangely warmed."** Then in 1790 in the middle of a crisis of faith, Jacob Albright, a Lancaster County farmer/tile-maker, attended a small Bible study where the message of salvation by faith in Jesus suddenly made sense. Jacob Albright would later be regarded as the founder of what would eventually be called the Evangelical Congregational Church. (That's us!)



I think it's because of the unpredictability of the wind, the movement of the Holy Spirit, that Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy,

*"Preach the word of God. Be prepared,
whether the time is favorable or not."*

That is true of all followers of Jesus. About the time I'm ready to give up sharing my faith with a friend, suddenly the wind shifts, the Spirit moves, and a heart is opened to the Gospel.

So, as you experience the windy days of March remember that the Holy Spirit is on the move. We can't predict how or where, so be ready. Live out your faith, share your faith, because you just never know when the opportunity to lead a friend to Jesus will come. The Spirit is moving.

In Christ's service,

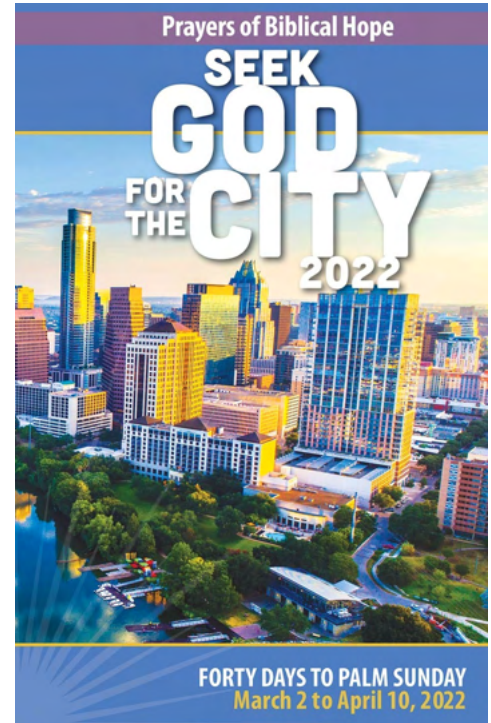
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoya'.



Praise & Prayer

1. Please pray for Bishop-elect Randy & Carla Sizemore as they end their ministry at Bethel EC Church in Dixon, IL the end of March, and move to Lebanon in preparation for becoming our next Bishop.
2. Ask the Lord to lead our communities, committees, and the National Ministry Team as they meet this month.
3. Pray for all the details that still need to be settled as we prepare for our National Conference in May.
4. Ask the Lord for safety as Randy and I travel to Atlanta to participate in the National Association of Evangelicals Board meeting.
5. Pray for safety for Gloria and me as we travel to Kentucky to visit with the Canyon Falls congregation.
6. Praise the Lord for our congregations who faithfully support the work of our denomination through the donation of ministry funds.
7. Thank the Lord for the opportunities I have to visit local churches for times of worship and fellowship.
8. Praise the Lord for the men who have responded to God's call and are seeking credentials with the EC Church.
9. Join me in praising God for the committed individuals who volunteer to serve in local church ministries.
10. Thank God that through the weeks of Lent we worship and even celebrate a suffering Savior who gave His all that we may have life in its fullness.

GROW YOUR HOPE IN GOD'S GREAT PROMISES!



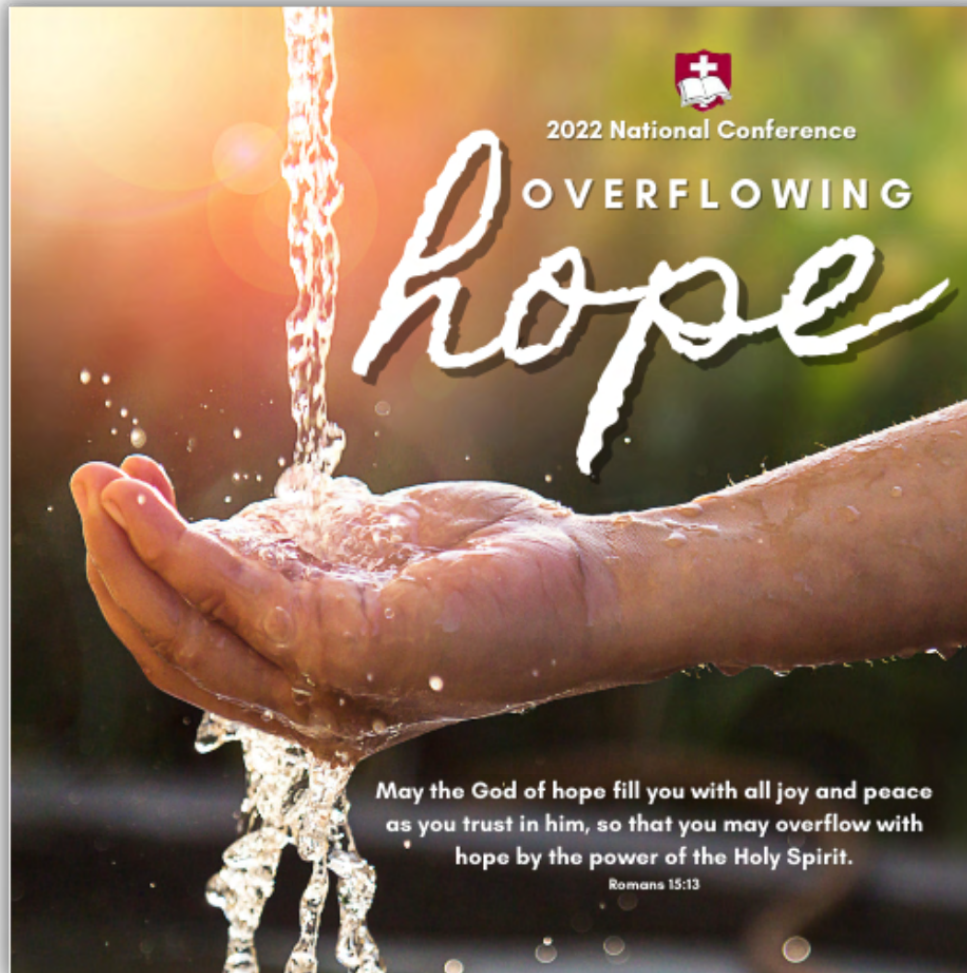
The 2022 edition of Seek God for the City is designed to re-ignite desires for Christ that may have gone dormant, so that our hope in Christ and His kingdom will rise again. The forty days from March 2 to Palm Sunday, April 10, makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer. www.waymakers.com



Bishop-elect Randy & Carla Sizemore

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

Pre-conference Meetings Schedule



Tuesday, May 3

Susquehanna Region at Reich's Church, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 7

Delaware Region at Allentown Christ Church, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 10

Susquehanna Region at Mohn's Hill, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12

Delaware region at Pitman Zion, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14

Great Lakes Region at Lakeside w/ Dixon Bethel via video, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (EST)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS

KEVIN HENRY

Past Due Dates

*please remit as soon as possible
if not already done so*

- +Disability Payment - \$100
- +Pastors Compensation Forms
- +Annual Statistical Reports
- +Workers Compensation Insurance Information

As always, please email:

David King
Benefits Administrator
dking@eccenter.com

Kevin Henry
Executive Director
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 return rate for the second year in a row is very good.** It is important that we receive all the salary information to obtain an accurate worker's compensation billing. Missing information will be estimated and most likely estimated higher than actual, resulting in a higher bill. Please help yourself and other EC Churches by returning the Worker's Compensation audit forms.

+ Since we are on the topic of the annual Workers Compensation audit, be prepared next year, 2023, for an earlier deadline in late January 2023 and more information will be requested. The Commonwealth of PA and other states have increased the complexity of Worker's Compensation audits which will require the EC denomination to provide more information sooner. The new audit rules do not fit the unique structure of church denominations and group workers compensation policies. It will be almost impossible for us, and most other church denominations, to comply with the new audit rules. Our insurer, Church Mutual, understands the dilemma faced by church groups, but the Commonwealth of PA does not understand. Currently, exactly what information we will be required to provide is not known. Church Mutual is hoping churches will receive some regulatory relief.

+ The annual disability premium, \$100, was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee, \$125, is due by April 15, 2020 (*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 submitted the administrative fee, and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

+ Treasurers, please begin using the 2022 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2021 should be remitted on the 2021 Ministry Fund forms.

+ Pastors and churches are permitted to obtain health insurance outside of the denominational sponsored plan. If you have obtained health insurance outside of the denominational plan, please be aware of the possible tax consequences and be diligent in the compliance requirements.

Pastoral Compensation Forms

To date, only about 50% of pastoral compensation forms have been returned. We will be reminding non-compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save Dave King some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

GMC

Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church



Spotlight on our Board & Member Care Team Members!



Rev. Ted Rathman



Rev. Tim Sanger



Buster & Judi Killinger



Dee Jaramillo



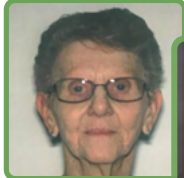
Joel & Charity Hildebrand



Glenda Dunbar



Rev. Carlos Kelly



Nancie Young



Rev. John Friedlund



Rev. Dan & Kim Blank



Pat Strain



Rev. Tim & Christe King



Brenda Custer



Scott Brady



Rev. Dan Dixon



Click [HERE](#) for a special video message from Rev. Rick Sergi, GMC Board Member.



FROM THE DESK

Rev. J. Ted Rathman, Global Ministries Associate

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

We believe a healthy church places a high priority on proclaiming the gospel and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to a hurting world beyond its immediate neighborhood. This outward focus compels the church to cross cultures and to cross borders in an effort to fulfill the Great Commission to the ends of the earth.

The GMC Board and Member Care Team members are pastors, leaders, and compassionate men and women dedicated to serving as senders - propelling the vision of the Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

If you want to help local EC churches build this into their DNA then [CONTACT US](#) about being part of the team we call the GMC.

To know how your church can partner directly with an International EC Church, call the GMC office at 717-866-7581 or email ecglobal@eccenter.com.

Ted Rathman



Kingdom Extension Community News

Leadership does not just happen! It takes planning and training. It takes the right person in the right role for the right reason. Let us help you excel.

Preparing New Leaders and Developing Your Team

Most days, you just need somebody to do that thing or to serve in that role. Why? The job must get done. Or at least, that's the theory.

But the reality is, is that the right person in the right role for the right reason will not only get the job done; they will also thrive. That means they will continue to serve long after the job is done.

How do you know who is best for which role? You start with helping your leaders, potential and existing, identify their spiritual gifts and personality. Add gift development, and they are ready to deploy into long-term ministry roles.

A Leadership Grip or Grip-Birkman workshop would provide insights on building a better church leadership team, as well as help you equip your congregation for powerful ministries. And save someone from burnout!

Let's talk about how this workshop might fit the needs of your church family (717-951-8433 or revlescool@gmail.com), and when a workshop would fit your schedule



Need help turning a good idea or a recent training experience into action and meaningful ministry? The KEC would like to help you realize more out of your ideas and training. Let's talk. Maybe a coach is what you need.

Coaching Toward a New Tomorrow

Great ideas sometimes need coaching support in order for you to hit the target. Coaching keeps you on task, enables you to play at the top of your game. Coaching enables you to achieve more. Let's talk!

The Kingdom Extension Community (KEC) would like to partner with you (pastor) or your leadership team or congregation to make sure your next great idea becomes your next ministry success. The KEC would like to help pay for up to six months of coaching attached to training and a new ministry that is missional or Kingdom-focused. That is, we would like to pay for coaching designed to help you make use of new learning that moves you and your church family out of the building to develop a ministry not attached to what happens in your sanctuary.

What might that look like? A church plant. A dinner church. A fresh expression of church. This is about creating a ministry that didn't exist for people not yet reached.

Interested? Let's talk. Contact Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revlescool@gmail.com).

Kingdom Extension Community News

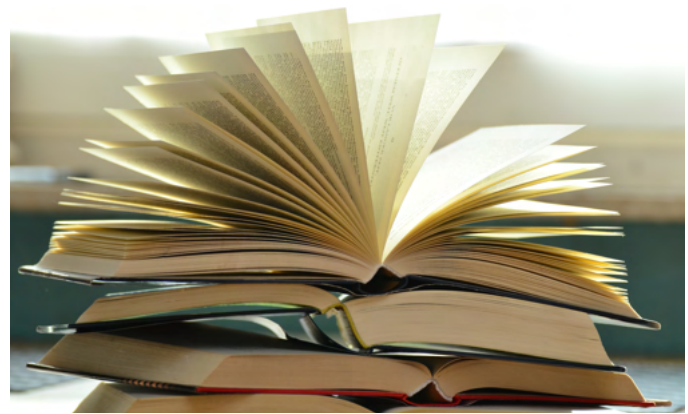
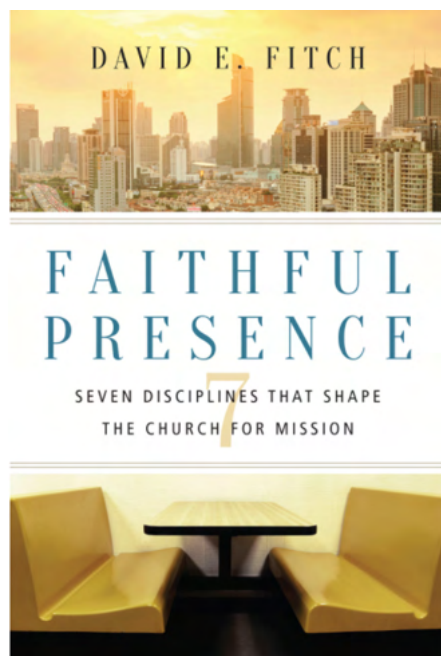
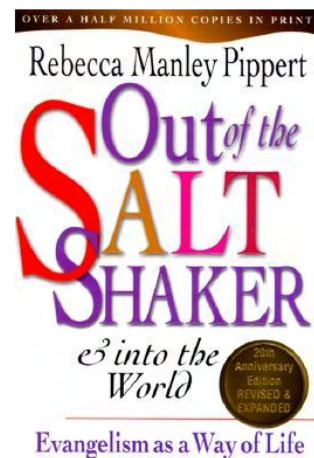
**If NOT a Workshop . . .
Read a Good Book Together!**

**Out of the Saltshaker & Into the World:
Evangelism as a Way of Life**
By Rebecca Manley Pippert

This is NOT a new book; it's a classic. But it still speaks into our lives as witnesses. Pippert assumes we are all uptight about evangelism and clears away some of the fog of what need to do. This is an easy read filled with helpful ideas.

**Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that
Shape the Church for Mission**
By David Fitch

Fitch explains that we live in a post Christian world. He also notes that we need to plan to be effective witnesses. This doesn't just happen. Rather than simply giving up, we should choose to be intentional.

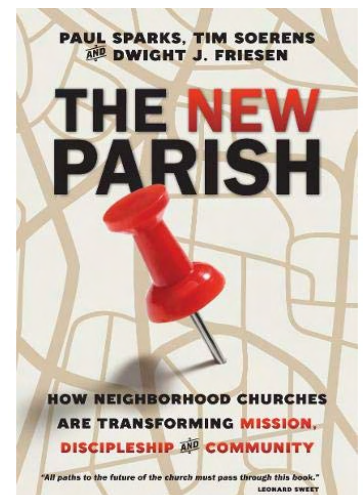
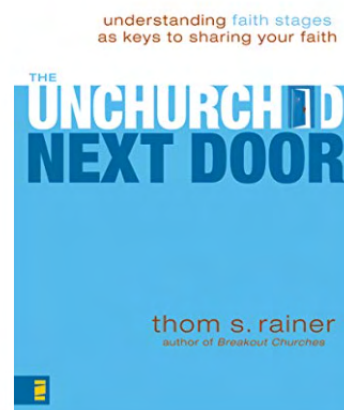


The Unchurched Next Door
By Thom Rainer

Rainer helps us think about our neighbors so we might learn about our neighbors. Can we think about what they think? Rainer discusses the stages of responsiveness and how to walk with people in each stage. He notes that there is no ONE way to reach the unsaved.

**The New Parish: How Neighborhood
Churches Are Transforming Mission,
Discipleship and Community**
By Paul Sparks, Tim Soerens, and Dwight J. Friesen

What if faith communities came together? What if this larger community loved their neighborhood? What if the gospel became visible and tangible? Sound familiar? No! Then check out this book!

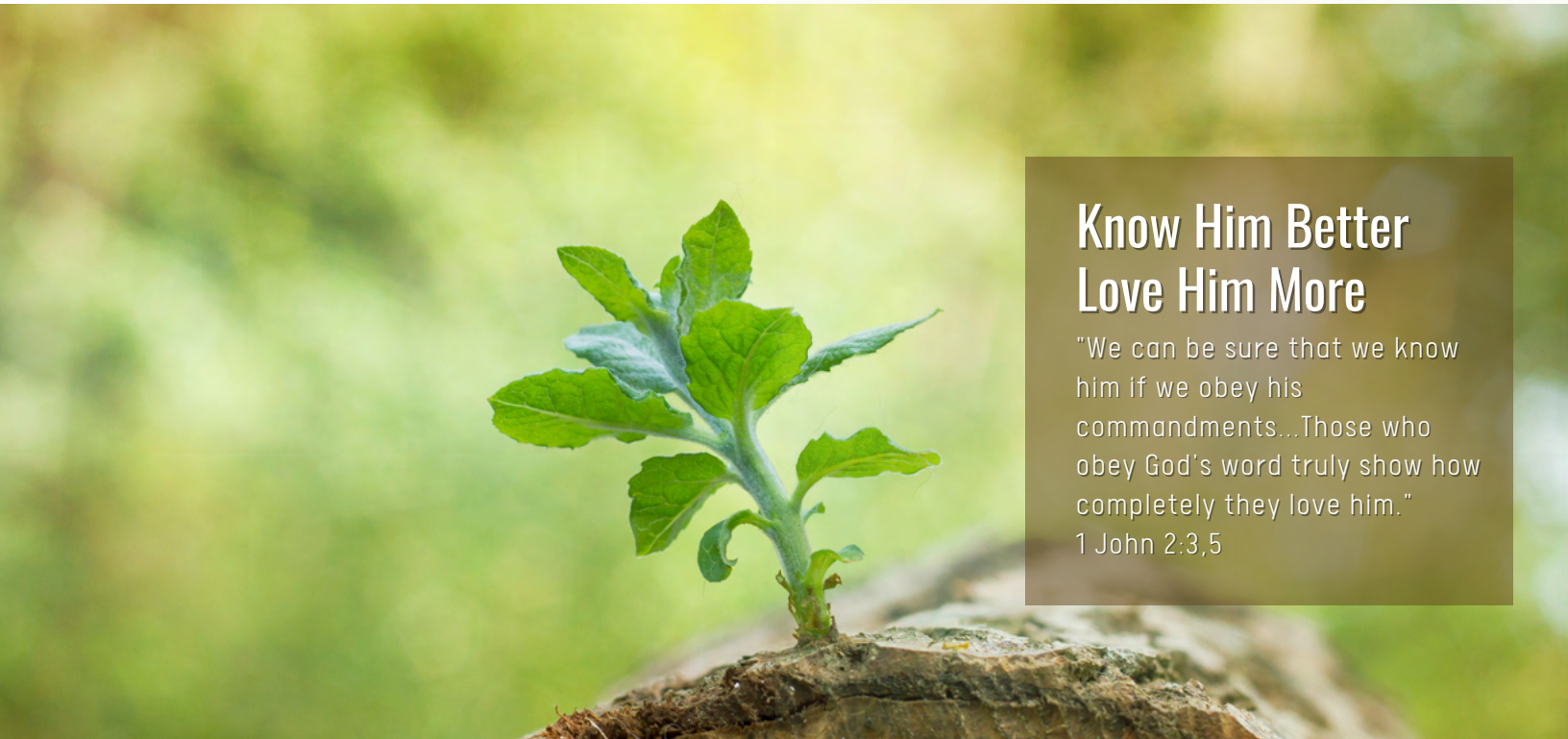


MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY	3	4 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	5
6 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> Violet	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Self-Denial Offering</i> <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> Violet	14	15 GMC Board Mtg. Loan & Investment Committee Mtg. Health Insurance Due	16 Conference Network Team Mtg.	17 National Ministry Team Mtg.	18 EC History & Polity Twin Pines Craft Retreat	19 Camp ECCO Fundraising Event @ Wedgewood Park
20 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT EC Leader deadline Violet Twin Pines Craft Retreat	21	22	23	24	25 Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat @ the Castle, Franklin, PA	26
27 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Violet Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat @ the Castle, Franklin, PA	28	29	30	31	Self-Denial Offering: E.C. Church Center 100 W. Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate—Self-Denial Offering)	

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 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	2 Twin Pines Adult Weekend
3 PASSION SUNDAY <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> Violet Twin Pines Adult Weekend	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY Violet	11	12	13	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY	15 GOOD FRIDAY Church Center Closed Health Insurance Due	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY White	18 Church Center Closed	19	20 EC Leader Deadline (May/June Edition)	21	22 Twin Pines Spring Fling: Children's Retreat	23
White Twin Pines Spring Fling: Children's Retreat	25	26 Benefits Corporation Meeting	27 Administrative Professionals Day	28	29	30

APRIL 2022



Know Him Better Love Him More

"We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments...Those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him."
1 John 2:3,5

Evangelical Congregational Church Center
100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581
office@eccenter.com / www.eccenter.com
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Contributors

Bishop Bruce Hill

Rev. Randy Sizemore, Bishop-elect

Kevin Henry

Rev. J. Ted Rathman

Rev. Les Cool

Denise Jaramillo

Editor/Art Design
NC Administrative Assistant

STAFF

Rev. Bruce Hill - Bishop
bhill@eccenter.com

Rev. Randy Sizemore - Bishop-elect
rsizemore@eccenter.com

Jodi Earhart - Assistant to the Bishop
jearhart@eccenter.com

Kevin Henry - Executive Director
khenry@eccenter.com

David King - Benefits Administrator
dking@eccenter.com

Denise Jaramillo - NC & GMC Admin Assistant;
djaramillo@eccenter.com

Shirley Long - Business Office Specialist
slong@eccenter.com

Abigail Zimmerman - Business Office Specialist;
azimmerman@eccenter.com

Associates

Rev. Gary Kuehner - Church Health
gkuehner@eccenter.com

Rev. J. Ted Rathman - Global Ministries
pastorted@graceecchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Byerly - Ministerial Development;
jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org

Rev. Leslie Cool - Kingdom Extension
revlescool@gmail.com