

SEPTEMBER 2020

# EC LEADER

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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

I recently came across a Tom Rainer blog where he listed things not to say to a pastor after his sermon:

- "You must not have had much time to prepare that sermon."
- "Your subject/verb agreement was incorrect three times in your sermon."
- "Let me tell you what you missed in your sermon."

A couple of years ago, after one of my sermons, someone came up to me and said, "I think our culture is addicted to anger." What amazing insight, and it hasn't gotten any better since that day. In fact, I think it's gotten worse. It seems like a common belief is "if you're not angry about something, something must be wrong with you." Find a topic, inside the church or outside the church, and it won't take long to find someone who's angry about it. We are often a divided people.

Jesus prayed that his followers would be one; that through the ages his followers would experience unity and live it out through love in an angry, fragmented, community-starved world. Think about how important that unity is, expressed in love and action. Jesus said in John 17:21 that the church's unity would be a witness "so that the world will believe you sent me." And then in John 17:23 the church's oneness would be proof "that the world will believe you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." The reality of God's love lived out in our lives proves to the world the reason for Christ's mission – to reveal a loving, redeeming God to his lost and hurting creation. True love is what God is and what we are to share with those around us.

If our culture doesn't see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in us; if they don't see the qualities of God in our lives and, instead, see a political party or a "cause," we have missed the point of the Kingdom.

Paul wrote to the Romans "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." [Romans 12:2a] The original Greek word for "transform" is the same word from which we get our word "metamorphosis"; the amazing change from caterpillar to butterfly.

Don't allow yourself to get sucked into the hole of anger. That's not where God wants you to exist. God's desire for us is know we are transformed and to live out that transformed life that shines like lights in a lost and dark world.

In Christ's Service,



Rev. Bruce D. Hill  
Bishop



# Bishop's Top 10 Prayer & Praise

1. Pray for guidance as we plan for a very important National Ministry Team meeting scheduled for October 22.
2. Ask the Lord to bless all the children, teachers, and administrators who are beginning a very different and difficult school year.
3. Pray for our nation as we continue to deal with the pandemic, racial justice, and the presidential election.
4. Join me in prayer for our pastors and local leadership teams as together they discover how to lead local congregations into the new normal of services, activities, and ministries.
5. Pray for those whose businesses and jobs are still impacted by the pandemic.
6. Praise the Lord that the work of the Stationing Committee has been completed for 2020.
7. Thank the Lord for the faithful stewardship of his people even during the pandemic.
8. Praise God for all the congregations who continue to faithfully support the work of the denomination in prayer and with their giving through Ministry Funds.
9. Praise the Lord for churches and individuals who creatively ministered to their neighborhoods and communities this summer.
10. Thank the Lord for times of refreshment and restoration of our hearts, minds, and bodies.





# News from the Executive Director

On Oct. 1, 2020, we will be switching our health insurance from United Healthcare (UHC) to the Missio Benefits health insurance plan. Missio Benefits offers the CIGNA Open Access Plus PPO plan. The Open Access Plus PPO plan is CIGNA's most inclusive provider network. Health insurance coverage is personal with each participant requiring a different set of services so it is difficult to state the move to CIGNA will be a positive move for every participant. However, we do feel that there will be positives with the move to CIGNA. Each health insurance participant should have received an earlier email announcing the change along with the Statement of Benefits and Coverage.

The impetus for the move was twofold, cost and stability in the EC health insurance benefit. UHC offered a 9% renewal rate increase. By joining with Missio Benefits, we are not raising rates for 2021. Health insurance rates will remain the same. Secondly, Missio Benefits is joining a group of likeminded Great Commission organizations that have similar health insurance struggles. The Missio Benefits plan is a self-funded plan with over 2,000 members and 80 organizations. This means that our group of around 40 members will not be risk rated by ourselves, but we will join a larger group where the risk of all 2,000+ members is rated together. In theory, and we hope, that the annual rate increase will be smaller as the pool of covered lives is larger and has a greater diversity in ages and geographical regions. A self-funded plan always has an overall larger riskiness to it because a few large claims in the same year can lead to higher than market rate increases. However, the chance of multiple large claims occurring in one year is slim, but it is possible. We are also moving from an HMO plan to a PPO plan. Participants that have struggled with the HMO specialist referral system will appreciate losing the referral requirement of a PPO plan, in most situations.

Another scheduled move on Oct 1 is moving the HRA administration away from PrimePay to Benecon. The HRA benefit will remain at the same reimbursement levels; the HRA will reimburse for covered medical expenses, excluding co-pays, after the first \$500 and after the first \$1,800 for prescription drug costs and \$1,800 for outpatient therapy costs (physical, occupational, speech, respiratory, etc.). Benecon is a local firm, Lancaster, PA, and has a lower per member per month processing fee. A potential drawback with Benecon for some is that all HRA claims must be submitted electronically via their employee web portal. No paper HRA reimbursement forms will be accepted by Benecon. Information on submitting electronic HRA claims will be distributed to the health plan participants.

Please remember to submit all your deductible and coinsurance claims to PrimePay for service dates up to Oct 1, 2020. PrimePay is responsible for all claims incurred up to Oct 1 and will pay claims through the normal run out period of Dec 29, 2020. Please do not wait until the last moment to submit claims. Contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions on submitting claims to PrimePay.

The Highmark Freedom Blue renewal was not officially approved by the EC Benefits Trustees, but the rate increase is \$4/month, from \$245 to \$249. It is anticipated that the EC Benefits Trustees will approve the Highmark Freedom Blue plan renewal.

There are several churches that have not remitted the \$100/yr disability insurance premium and the \$100/yr benefit services fee. If the disability premium is not received for the year, the pastor is not covered. The disability premium is listed in the treasurer's guide on the EC website and is due by January 15 of every year. The \$100/yr benefit services fee is due April 15 every year and is due from every church with an assigned pastor.

Please contact Dave King, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com) or Kevin Henry, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) with any questions or problems.

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Kevin Henry  
Executive Director

David King  
Benefits Administrator

# Global Ministries Community

- > **BJ & Rachel Whitaker** have moved to a new location in Spain, closer to Madrid. Their new mailing address is: Calle Salvador Dali, 12; 28880 Meco (Madrid), SPAIN. Keep them in prayer as they adjust to a new neighborhood and the girls to new schools. Pray also for new ministry opportunities.
- > **Major Joshua Metz** and his family have moved back to the east coast with his most recent assignment. Josh is now serving as Brigade Chaplain OC-T for the Army at Ft. Dix, NJ. The family is living in their old home: 840 Riverside Drive, Pasadena, MD 21122.
- > We want to thank **Calvin Cramer**, from our St. David's EC Church in Weigelstown, for his many years of service on our Global Ministries board as well as the GMC Finance Committee. Calvin has decided to step down from these responsibilities at this time. Many thanks for your years of thoughtful advice and service, Calvin.
- > **Dan Quigley** is currently living with his family in Lancaster County, PA while he seeks God's will. The situation with Covid 19 is very bad in Nicaragua, exacerbated by the government's refusal to acknowledge the severity of the problem. The medical facilities are woefully inadequate and overwhelmed. At this time, it is not feasible to have the afterschool programs for children of which Dan was in charge. Dan is seeking to know if, and when he should return to Nicaragua.
- > **Joe Toy** is another missionary whose ministry has been greatly impacted by Covid 19. However, he has had opportunity to do some open air evangelism training with a friend who brought an outreach team with him. Six young men from the ages of fourteen to eighteen joined Joe and Mark for five nights of outreach on the boardwalk of Ocean City, MD. Each day was filled with devotions, prayer, outreach training and sketch board message prep. The evenings were spent with four and a half hours of sketch board preaching and one-to-one conversations. Joe reported many good conversations and open hearts.
- > **REMINDER:** GMC can provide bulk orders of the monthly Global Prayer Guide for any of our churches. Even if you are not back to full capacity but would like to share this information with your people, just let us know. These are printed in house so we can control how many we print. Call the GMC office and tell us how many you would like!
- > Congratulations to **Hannah Wagner**, daughter of Brian & Missy Wagner. Hannah was recently engaged to Jamie White. Hannah will return to Messiah College this fall for her senior year.

- > Retired missionaries **Art & Mary Ellen Davis** were disappointed that they couldn't leave Kenya to attend their granddaughter's wedding in Indiana in July. However, thanks to modern technology, they were able to see the ceremony remotely. Not quite the same, but better than nothing! The Davises are in the SA for August and September to see family and friends.
- > **David & Conce Roof** give praise that the land purchase for a church building along the Moju River has gone through. The Roofs have been working with a missionary couple from southern Brazil, who have come north to help plant a church from the work that the Roofs and their current church have developed. Please keep them in prayer as Pastor Jonas and Virginia live and work among the people who live along this tributary of the Amazon River.
- > **Brian & Missy Wagner** give praise that they were able to return to RVA in Kenya. They will have to self quarantine for two weeks, but will be able to participate in online teaching for the fall semester.

## 2020 National Conference Journal

We did not have the event of National Conference this year, but in response to a request by the National Ministry Team, we have produced a 2020 National Conference Journal. This Journal includes all the updated contact information we have for churches, pastors, lay delegates, missionaries, and others involved in the life of our denomination. It has all the reports which should have been presented at Conference, including the Episcopal Address. What this Journal doesn't have is a final National Conference budget. If you look for it, you will notice a large "proposed" watermark on each page of the 2021 budget. Since we did not meet at Messiah College, the budget we must wait until it can be approved by the National Ministry Team in October. Following that meeting we will publish the final 2021 budget along with the appropriate ministry fund percentage rate. You can watch for those to arrive in your "in box" in late October.

### TO ORDER:

The National Conference Journal is now available for purchase.

**Please note: We are no longer making it available on CD**, but it can be accessed at [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com) under the Log In section, 2020 National Conference Journal, for you to download. In that section there is a link where you will be able to order your Journal(s) and prepay with a credit card **or** print the order form to fill in and mail. Please include your check as all orders must be prepaid.

If you have questions, call us at 1-800-866-7581 or email [office@eccenter.com](mailto:office@eccenter.com).



## Moving into the Top 20

Evangelical Seminary has officially joined the Kairos Project in a merger of resources, courses, and personnel with Sioux Falls and Taylor seminaries and Bible Life Institute. Their collective grouping moves Kairos into the top 20 seminaries in North America. This latest arrangement will also provide our seminary students with new opportunities in education that will be unmatched, while being ATS approved.

Here are some of the exciting advantages our students will gain:

- > **Theologically-Informed Outcome-Based Education** which intersects the contextual experience of one's local ministry more deeply with seminary education. Additionally, students will be evaluated on an educational rubric that combines knowledge, character, and ability toward a more holistic view of their ministry readiness.
- > **Supervision from a Mentor Team** which is composed of three mentors (faculty, professional, and personal) who will speak into the educational goals of the student.
- > **Subscription-Based Tuition** which greatly reduces the cost to students by allowing them to take courses based on one overall monthly subscription cost of \$300/month for most degree programs, including M.Divs.
- > **Kairos Project Course Availability** which provides a network of courses across all participating seminaries and allows for some customization.
- > **Synchronous-Asynchronous Cohort Learning** which allows students to participate within a cohort, while attending class in person, online, or taking part offline during the course offering.

In the coming months, I will provide articles in *The EC Leader* about this exciting revolution in seminary education available to new students. Please take the time to visit <https://evangelical.edu/partnership/> to learn more about this partnership from Dr. Tony Blair and President, Dr. Greg Henson. If you want to learn more about course offerings, I encourage you to visit Evangelical seminary's website or contact Sonya Valentino at 484.269.4314.

Blessings,

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, *Ministerial Development Associate*

National Collection Week  
NOVEMBER 16-23, 2020



# SEND GOOD NEWS

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# What's happening at Twin Pines Camp Fall 2020?

## Fall Craft Retreat – September 24-27



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, scrapbooks, crocheting, etc.  
[bit.ly/2020FallCraft](http://bit.ly/2020FallCraft)

## Fall Fix-Up – October 6-8



Help camp to "batten down the hatches" for winter, complete special projects, and extensive cleanup after summer camp has concluded! The various projects are both indoor and outdoor, amongst nature.  
[bit.ly/2020FallFixup](http://bit.ly/2020FallFixup)

## October Getaway Weekends – October



Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast, and spiritual guidance materials are provided at the weekend rate. You can choose getaways for Family, Couples or a gathering of your Friends.

**NEW**

## Women's Weekend – October 23-25



Women will appreciate this weekend together with others to focus on strengthening one's relationship and discipleship of Jesus Christ while getting away and enjoying God's creation.  
[bit.ly/2020WWknd](http://bit.ly/2020WWknd)  
*(this is different from the spring For Ladies Only Retreat)*

## Jr/Sr High Fall Retreat – November 6-8



This weekend for youth in grades 6-12 is like a mini week of summer camp. Campers get to participate in many of their favorite camp activities, and reunite with camp friends! They will explore their faith in Jesus Christ through group discussion and Bible study. Twin Pines provides staff for this retreat.  
[bit.ly/Jr-SrFallRetreat](http://bit.ly/Jr-SrFallRetreat)

## Men's Weekend – November 13-15



Men will appreciate the weekend together with other men as they focus on strengthening their relationship and discipleship of Jesus Christ.  
[bit.ly/2020MenWknd](http://bit.ly/2020MenWknd)  
*(rescheduled from the Spring)*

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## 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

JODI EARHART • KEVIN HENRY • BISHOP BRUCE HILL •

DAVID KING • SHIRLEY LONG • REV. TED RATHMAN •

PATRICIA STRAIN • PATRICIA WOLFE • ABIGAIL ZIMMERMAN





# September 2020

| SUNDAY                               | MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                     | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                      |  | 1  | 2                             | 3  | 4  | 5  |
|                                      |  |  |                               | Benefits Corp. Mtg.<br>Evangelical Seminary Golf Tournament                      | Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church<br>Church Center CLOSED                              |  |
| 6                                    | 7  | 8  | 9                             | 10   | 11   | 12   |
| Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extensions | LABOR DAY<br>Church Center CLOSED        |  |                               |  |  |  |
| 13                                   | 14                                       | 15   | 16                            | 17   | 18   | 19   |
|                                      |  | Health Insurance Due<br>Loan & Investment Committee Mtg. |                               |  |  |  |
| Student Aid Offering                 |  |  |                               |  |  |  |
| 20                                   | 21                                       | 22   | 23                            | 24   | 25   | 26   |
|                                      | Info. for the October E.C. Leader Is Due |  | Church Health Commission Mtg. | Twin Pines Fall Craft Retreat  |  |  |
| 27                                   | 28                                       | 29   | 30                            |  |  |  |
| Twin Pines Fall Craft Retreat        |  |  |                               | Ministry Funds to:<br>E. C. Church<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067 | Insurance Payments to:<br>Benefits Corp.<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067 | Student Aid Offering to:<br>E. C. Church<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067 |

# October 2020

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| <b>Ministry Funds to:</b><br>E.C. Church<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067  | <b>Insurance Payments to:</b><br>Benefits Corp.<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067 | <b>Kingdom Extensions Offering to:</b><br>E. C. Church<br>100 W. Park Ave.<br>Myerstown,<br>PA 17067 |           | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| <b>4 WORLD WIDE COMMUNION</b><br>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension<br>KEC Special Offering<br>Twin Pines Getaway Weekend                                      | 5   | 6  | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11  | 12  | 13   | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| Twin Pines Getaway Weekend<br>PMT Mtg.<br>COLUMBUS DAY  | 19  | 20   | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 18  | 19  | 20   | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| Twin Pines Getaway Weekend<br>Info. for the November E.C. Leader Is Due<br>CNT Strategic Team Mtg. ZOOM only  | 26  | 27   | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |
| 25  | 26  | 27   | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |
| Twin Pines Women's Getaway Weekend<br>Twin Pines Getaway Weekend  |   |  |           |          |        |          |
| Twin Pines Getaway Weekend<br>Health Insurance Due<br>National Ministry Team Mtg. ZOOM only<br>Twin Pines Women's Getaway Weekend<br>Twin Pines Getaway Weekend |   |  |           |          |        |          |