

EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church



In this edition:

From the Desk

page 1

National Conference News

page 2

Executive Director News

page 3

GMC News

page 4

KEC News

page 5

MDC News

page 6

CHC News

page 7

Twin Pines News

page 8

Calendars & Staff List

pages 9-10

FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore



Click [HERE](#) for Bishop's July/August video message.

Now Scheduling

Bishop Randy is now scheduling invitations to visit with our churches and to share his vision for the EC Church. Please contact Bishop Randy at rsizemore@eccenter.com to schedule.



EC National Conference News

Dear EC Family,

Gloria and I would like to thank everyone who helped make the banquet at National Conference such a special evening. The committee did an outstanding job of planning everything, the music moved our spirits, and the words that were shared touched our hearts. A special thank you to the individuals and congregations who donated toward our gifts. You are gracious and generous. Thank you, too, for the cards and letters we have received, they have been very encouraging to us.

We have always said that we depend on the prayers of God's people to support us through the years of ministry as Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

That really is true. Your support and prayers were on full display during the banquet at National Conference.

Thank you for blessing Gloria and me, and our entire family, with your love.



Thank you!



We will miss you, Abi!



It's always a bittersweet announcement to share that a beloved colleague and friend is saying goodbye to the team, but we're happy for Abigail as she steps into full-time motherhood, as well as continuing in full-time church ministry with her husband, Pastor John Zimmerman, at New Life in Christ Church in Bethel, PA.

Abigail has served our denomination for the last 7 years as a Business Office Specialist. Her servant's heart is evident in the way she has often gone above and beyond to assist a pastor, treasurer, missionary, lay leader, a seminary student, and her colleagues here at EC Center – and always with a cheerful smile and caring heart.

Abi and John are expecting their second child in August. We celebrate God's goodness to her and her family, and praise Him for her faithful service. Abigail can be reached here at EC Center through July 27.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS

KEVIN HENRY

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

**Thank-you to all that have
timely paid the worker's
compensation invoices.**

**Payments for the Disability
and Benefit Corp Services
fee were due January 15
and April 15 respectively;
both fees are listed on the
2022 Treasurer's Guide
available on
members.eccenter.com.**

+ The EC Benefits Trustees are monitoring the transition of the 403(b) Retirement plan to Empower Retirement. The sale transaction from Prudential to Empower Retirement was finalized on April 1, 2022, and all of the Prudential accounts have been rebranded with the Empowerment Retirement logo. However, the rebranding of the accounts is not the same as moving the accounts to the Empower Retirement platform. Once the accounts are moved to the Empower Retirement platform there will be additional changes, such as new participant website address and login, customer service phone numbers, and other changes. There has been no official notification from Empower Retirement when those changes will occur, or how voluminous those changes will be. Through unofficial Empower Retirement sources, the movement of the accounts to the Empower Retirement platform will begin in the first quarter of 2023 and continue throughout calendar year 2023. EC Benefits has not received official communication from Empower Retirement since the announcement of the sale transaction in the fall of 2021.

The EC Benefits Trustees are reviewing other pension plan providers, both church-based and non-church based providers, for a possible movement of the retirement plan. The retirement plan may or may not be moved from Empower Retirement. We do not know if Empower Retirement is a good fit for us until we look at other plans and make comparisons of investment performance, fees, plan features and customer service. Hopefully by late fall 2022 a decision can be made.

Quarterly Report Rule 113.1

Rule 113.1 was changed from requiring a quarterly report due 30 days after the end of each quarter to a semi-annual report due within the same 30 day period after the end of the semi-annual period, i.e. July 30 and January 30.

Rules of Conference are normally effective on the day the new rule is approved by National Conference, however it is not practical to change this rule mid-quarter. So, to transition to the new reporting schedule churches will have two options:

- 1.) Complete a quarterly report for the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. Then a semi-annual report from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Two quarterly reports will cover the same time span as a semi-annual report.
- 2.) Complete a semi-annual report, January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. *(A good option for those that did not complete the quarterly reporting ending on March 31, 2022.)*

A new semi-annual report form will be on the members only website, Forms & Resources – Evangelical Congregational Church – Member Login (eccenter.com), shortly after July 1, 2022.

There are no changes to the annual church reporting requirements, rule or reporting form. The annual report asks for some different information than the semi-annual reports. Please contact conference statistician Kevin Henry, khenry@eccenter.com or 717-628-2171 with any questions.

GMC



Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church

Empowering International Churches - Taking the Gospel to the "ends of the earth..."

In continuation of last month, you, the local church, is the hub upon which rests the mobilization, coordination, implementation and evaluation of the total global outreach of your congregation. It is yours not only to embrace local, area, and wider United States outreach, but to go beyond our borders and to circle the globe in obedience to the Biblical mandate.

It is a momentous undertaking, but one which you do not shape nor carry alone. You received "power" when the Holy Spirit came upon you...power to be witnesses, power to take the Good News to the ends of the earth. In doing so, we are partners in the work being done in, and through, the EC Churches around the world.

This month we focus our attention on the EC Church of Nepal.



Baptism Celebration ECCN



Rev. Th. & Mercy Janga; EC Church of Nepal

In terms of where global Christianity is growing the fastest, Nepal remains at the top of the list. The ECCN continues to experience this growth, and so one of the key areas of focus remains the Evangelical Leadership Training Center. As more churches are planted, and new people begin following Jesus, it is important to have leaders trained to equip these new believers, primarily coming from a Hindu background, to learn and grow as disciples. As the Church in Nepal expands and grows many of the people in the villages also desire to have a place to gather to worship. One of the most frequent requests from our international churches to the GMC are for funds to build churches. The GMC seeks to fund some of these efforts, but simply cannot respond to all. The resourcefulness of the local people enables them to create places to worship, but it is always a huge blessing to them when they are able to construct a building that provides shelter from the elements, and a church building to call their own.

Click [HERE](#) to donate now.



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.

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

FROM THE DESK

Rev. Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate

3 Things In 5 Minutes

About one month into my time as the Kingdom Extension Associate, I have been so encouraged by what is happening in the EC Church. It would be easy for us to get discouraged about what seems like annual decline in membership, attendance, and professions of faith. That discouragement could lead to hopelessness and despair, leaving us feel like the future hope of the denomination is bleak at best. That is not at all what I am finding. I am learning of churches and pastors who are looking outside of their walls! They are seeing fields white unto harvest and believing that God has big plans for the future! This positive momentum and belief in God's plans are not just with a the few "big churches" with extensive resources, it is with our medium and small churches as well! God IS ALIVE and He has not given up on His church! He has called us into partnership with Him and as we heard at National Conference, we are His plan A, and there is no plan B.

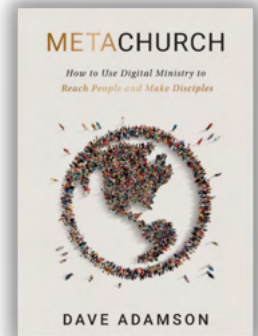
Could you do three things right now, before you finish reading this edition of the EC Leader?

1. Take two minutes to stop and pray. Pray right now that God would open your eyes to the people and needs of your community. Pray that God would give you His vision for how He wants to use your church to impact that community. He has put you there for a reason!
2. Allow yourself to open up, even just a little, to the hope that God wants you to have for the future. I promise you that God is NOT done with this world. He is not done with your community. Start to believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, YOU CAN DO THIS!!!
3. Send me an email. It doesn't have to be long. As a matter of fact, you don't have to put anything in the body of the email. Just a title to your email that says, **"WE CAN DO THIS."** I would love to come along side of you and dream about how the Kingdom Extension Community can help you to reach your community with the Gospel. You can reach me at msnedeker@eccenter.com.

MINISTRY REMINDERS . . .

Digital Ministry

I have to admit, I tend to be skeptical of social media and other technology. More and more however, I have seen the potential and impact of ministry in digital space. We would like to invite you to explore the potential and learn some practical things you and your church can do to reach your community and do valuable ministry using technology.



Addison Roberts, our EC Digital Ministry Consultant, is looking to begin a book/discussion group that will explore Dave Adamson's book,

"METACHURCH – How to Use Digital Ministry to Reach People and Make Disciples". We want to invite you to journey together to discover how we can utilize technology to expand the Kingdom. If you would like to join this group, which would get you a free copy of the book, or if you would like to get a copy of the book for \$10, please contact Addison at aroberts@eccenter.com.

*Know that you are being prayed for!
I believe that God truly wants the EC Church to be a movement that is having a great impact on this world.
In the coming months, we will dream together about how we can impact the neighborhoods around us and how our districts can partner together to have broader impact that helps expand the Kingdom for God's glory.*

Mike



Ministerial Development Community News

The Institute for Church Leadership

The Institute for Church Leadership is excited about our classes for Fall 2022. All of our classes are for seasoned pastors who want to get a refresher, for new pastors just starting out in ministry, and for lay people who want to hone their skills for serving in their congregations.

[Introduction to Ministry, September 6 – October 18; Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.](#)

Instructor: Rev. Kirk Marks

Course Description: *This course will set the stage for what students need to know/be/able to do/see to be effective in pastoral ministry in 21st century America. During the course students will explore the history and theology of calling, pastoral care, and the pastoral office; learn about some tools and strategies to evaluate ministry gifting; learn how to design worship services throughout the Christian year; plan sermon series; learn basic principles for pastoral care and counseling; and more.*

[Pastoral Leadership, November 1 – December 13; Tuesdays, 6:30-9:15 p.m.](#)

Instructor: Rev. James Price

Course Description: *This course will equip pastors with the tools needed to face the unique leadership challenges found within ministry. Attention will be given to both the character and skills necessary to shepherd God's people well, leading to a purposeful, effective, and fulfilling pastoral ministry.*

Please make your congregation aware of these opportunities. Classes are simultaneously in-person and on Zoom. If you wish to enroll, please apply online.

**For more information, please contact Joel Kime at joel.kime@evangelical.edu.
The cost per course, either on campus or online, is \$250 for the 2021-22 school year.**





Church Health Community News

Less Like Hippos, More Like Honeybees *A Strategy for Intentional & Effective Discipleship*

Josh Good



A youth leader in his early 30s sighed deeply while staring into his mocha latte. He had been asking God for a plan to connect with young people and guide them deeper in their relationship with Christ. He read every book he could find on the topic while scouring the internet for tools, insights, or anything God could use in his local church setting. He'd tried out various types of curriculum, events and suggestions shared from experienced youth workers. While positive, none of them produced the deep and lasting results he desired. Desperation was etched upon his face. After listening to his story and thinking for a minute, I shared, ***“the best solution may be to see young people less like hippos and more like honeybees . . .”***

The Hippo is one of the world's largest land animals and is famous for its ravenous appetite. It consumes 110 pounds of vegetation daily, leading to common phrases like, “I'm as hungry as a Hippo!” In many churches, discipleship efforts can reflect this same consumer-based mentality. Close to ninety percent of most church discipleship efforts are passive in nature. Young people are asked to show up, consume a lesson and be entertained by fun events and games. A small-time commitment may be given to carrying out service-related action, but the opportunities are rare and distanced from actual church or youth group functions. People attend and consume. They grow bigger and bigger until they simply get tired or bored enough to leave.

Honeybees, on the other hand, are active individually and interactive with bees across their hive. Each bee carries out an important part of the hive's mission. Tasks include everything from daily growth and survival steps to pollinating two million flowers to make a pound of honey. The honey they create is one of the only food substances that does not spoil. Some say honey could last for eternity. In a similar way, unlocking young people's God-given potential allows them to own and embrace the church today as they actively share the Gospel message- impacting lives for eternity!

Unleashing young people by treating them less like hippos and more like honeybees involves the intersection of the greatest commandment (Mark 12:30) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). First, help young people **COMMIT** to loving God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength by learning a simple covenant to guide their lives 24/7/365. Then, give them the opportunity to **ENGAGE** their faith by carrying out any ministry task they're capable of doing. Tasks include, but are not limited to: event planning, leading prayer and worship, teaching, attendance and follow up, peer mentoring, event or ministry night emcee, outreach efforts, and mission strategizing to help accomplish the overall church's mission.

Over the past two years, a number of EC churches have experienced and implemented this “hippos to honeybees” approach to discipleship. Through an ongoing partnership between Christian Endeavor and the Church Health Community they've accessed specialized resources, tools and coaching. This partnership is allowing these churches to deeply empower their children and youth. Through the Church Health Community, access to Christian Endeavor's resourcing has been an incredible blessing to the churches involved. Adult leaders are equipped, congregations are encouraged and their ministry to the next generation is strengthened. Praise God for how a growing number of EC churches are seeing young people commit deeply to Christ and actively engage in the life of your church as they live “less like hippos and more like honeybees!”

Gary Kuehner, Church Health Community Associate, gkuehner@eccenter.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL AT...

Twin Pines has many things scheduled for the fall. Mark your calendar now and check the website for updates.



Fall Craft Retreat – Sept. 22-25, 2022



Enjoy a laid-back weekend of fellowship and Bible study while working on your crafts. There will also be a particular craft for all to learn.

Youth Ministry Training – October 1, 2022



Twin Pines presents Best of Group's *Life Impacting Youth Ministry Local Training*. Rev. Jeff Berger, a Group Training Ambassador, will facilitate this Re-Ignite training – Re-Discover Your Vision for Life-Changing Youth Ministry. The training begins at 8:30 am at Twin Pines Camp, with the option of lodging the night prior.

Fall Fix-Up – October 4-6, 2022



Help camp to "batten down the hatches" for winter, complete special projects, and extensive cleanup after summer camp! The various projects are both indoor and outdoor. You may choose to participate for all or part of the time, and every skill level is accepted!

Oct. Getaway Weekends – October 2022



Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spending 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.

Women's Weekend – October 7-9, 2022



Women will enjoy the spiritual sessions and group activities planned for this weekend. Come prepared to be challenged and to laugh. Free time will be available for relaxation, socializing,

enjoying nature, or having fun. The weekend will feature a Women's Dinner on Saturday evening.

Celebration Banquet – October 18, 2022



Be part of a special evening celebrating how God has blessed and used the Ministry of Twin Pines over the past year. The banquet is free; however, there is a collection of a free-will offering to support the ministry. NEW Location: Weaver Banquet Facility, Denver, PA.

F.Y.R.E. – November 4-6, 2022



A weekend of experiences for youth groups and individuals to grow in their faith and enjoy a fall retreat.

Summer Ministry Needs

Twin Pines Camp continues to need people to fill ministry roles so campers can become disciples of Jesus Christ during the summer camp programs. Volunteer for a few days or a week by contacting Shawn by phone at 570-629-2411 or by email at shawn@twinpines.org


→ **Summer Staff:** Counselors, Kitchen Help, Lifeguards, Snack Shop and Recreation Staff.



→ **Medical Personnel:** in this role, a person distributes medications, performs basic first aid, and determines health needs.



JULY 2022

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 Church Center Closed Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	2 Camp ECCO Senior Camp
3 Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Green	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church Center Closed 	5	6	7	8 Church Center Closed	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Church Center Closed Health Insurance Due	16
Camp ECCO Intermediate Camp						
17	18	19	20	21	22 Church Center Closed	23 Herndon Camp Meeting
Camp ECCO Junior Camp						
24	25	26	27	28	29 Church Center Closed	30
Herndon Camp Meeting						
31	Herndon Camp Meeting					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Church Center Closed Camp ECCO Pee Wee Camp Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	6 Twin Pines Staff Sing
7 Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Camp ECCO Pee Wee Camp Green	8	9	10	11	12 Church Center Closed	13
14	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17	18	19 Church Center Closed	20 EC Leader deadline
21	22	23	24	25	26 Church Center Closed	27
28 Twin Pines Offering (Voluntary) Green	29	30	31	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		

AUGUST 2022



Overflowing Hope

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may OVERFLOW with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

Evangelical Congregational Church Center
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.



Contributors

Bishop Randy Sizemore
Bishop Emeritus Bruce Hill

Kevin Henry
Rev. J. Ted Rathman
Rev. Mike Snedeker
Rev. Dr. Sam Yeager
Rev. Dr. Joel Kime

Denise Jaramillo
Editor/Art Design
NC Administrative Assistant

STAFF

Rev. Randy Sizemore - Bishop
rsizemore@eccenter.com

Jodi Earhart - Assistant to the Bishop
jearthart@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. Mike Snedeker - Kingdom Extension
msnedeker@eccenter.com