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## EAST LIBERTY: Afternoon of Prayer and Meditation for Peace

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**EAST LIBERTY, Pa.** -- An afternoon set aside for prayer and meditation for peace by people all faiths from 2 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, September 11, 2010, will be hosted by the Spiritual Life Committee of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh community is invited to attend this event, according to Dr. Lois Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life. Childcare will be provided and lemonade will be served throughout the event.

Two of the church's labyrinths will be available during the event for those who wish to pray or meditate while walking the labyrinth on behalf of peace in our world. Visitors will have the opportunity to sit quietly, engage in the ancient meditative practice of walking the labyrinth, and come together with others to pray.

Prayers for peace from all of the major religions around the world will be read in this community-wide service which will be held at 4 pm in the main sanctuary of the church. Participants who wish to make or renew their commitment to promote peace in our world will be encouraged to do so at the service.

"Our hope is that this day will be set aside by the entire Pittsburgh community as a day to remember the events of 9/11 and to pray for peace," said Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Randy Bush. "We are inviting people of all faiths to join us for that purpose."

The opportunity to make cranes for peace using traditional Japanese origami, or paper folding, will also be provided all afternoon at the event. Folding paper cranes, which became a world-wide movement to promote peace and healing, was begun by a young Japanese girl, Sadako Sasaki, who experienced the US bombing of her home city of Hiroshima in World War II when she was two years old. After she later fell ill with leukemia and was hospitalized, a nurse brought a chain of folded paper cranes to her. In Japan, cranes are known as a symbol for long life and good fortune. An old Japanese folk tale says that one paper crane represents one thousand years of happiness, and a thousand cranes means one hundred thousand years of happiness. Sadako decided she would fold one thousand paper cranes.

Sadako was able to fold about 1500 paper cranes before she died in 1955 of malignant acute marrow leukemia due to having been exposed to the intense radiation during the American bombing of Hiroshima. After her death, a large, beautiful statue of Sadako holding a crane was erected with these words etched in granite: "This is our cry, this is our prayer: to create peace in the world."