

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

June 2014



Celebrating Our Youth

On **Sun., June 1**, graduating seniors will deliver the message during our 11 am Worship service and, as a congregation, we will have an opportunity to pray for the seniors as they prepare for the next steps along their journeys of life and faith. Join us in a time of worship in which we give thanks for the gifts of our youth and together celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Completing a Step Along their Journeys

On Pentecost Sunday, **June 8**, nine youth in grades 8 and 9 will join ELPC as members through baptism or affirmation of faith during the celebration of confirmation.



Under the leadership of Pastor Heather, Wil Forrest, and Sara Hackett, they have participated in an extended time of preparation—including monthly classes, retreats, reading through the Gospel of Luke, attending various worship services, and working with their sponsors to write personal *Statements of Faith*.

They are enthusiastic, intelligent, creative, kind, and wise people, whose faith and witness are sure to bless us and the larger church. We rejoice to welcome them into the greater life of the church. Join us in congratulating **Ian Bush, Margaret Edgcombe, Joshua Hodeney, Lynne Irvin, Julia Lewand, Cecilia Novelli, Tyrese Williams, Isaiah Wilson, and Xander Yates.**



Summer Worship Schedule Begins

On **Sun., June 15**, we move to our summer schedule and combine our usual two Sunday services into a 10 am Worship service held in our Sanctuary—and weather permitting, in our Courtyard during July and August. Adjust your alarm clocks and join us for worship and fellowship all month long!

Editor's Note

In this issue, read excerpts from our confirmation class students' personal *Statements of Faith*, sharing their unique understanding of God and how God has been at work in their lives.

Sunday Services

* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Held at the EECM Community House

Liturgist: Mark and Barbara DeWitt

June 1* Rev. Hendrik Bossers,
Honorably Retired
Presbyterian minister

June 8 Rev. George Steffey, *East*
Liberty Family Health
Care Center

June 15 Rev. Michael Stanton,
Open Hand Ministries

June 22 Bible Study

June 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

June 1* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

June 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

June 1* Youth Sunday

June 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 10 am

June 15 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

June 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

June 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule

Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

June 4: No class

June 11: Time of Prayer and Music

June 18: Music on the Labyrinth

June 25: Celebrations!

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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CathedralOfHope.org

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and
Minister of Taizé Prayer*

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator of Young Adult
and Outreach Programs*

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator for Christian Education
and Youth Ministry*

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

The Rev. Barbara McFarland
Parish Associate

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



As is often the case, a couple came to me and shared the good news that they wanted to get married. They were church members well-known to me, active for more than a decade and present most weeks in worship here at ELPC. They have served in a wide range of roles from being on committees to playing in the handbell choir. They are deeply committed in their faith and to one another, so I rejoiced when they shared their news with me.

As is less often the case, the couple who shared their good news with me is sadly barred from being married in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because they are both women. Everything in the conversation we shared was exactly the same as if it had been a man and woman telling me their news in my office—the love, the commitment, the faithfulness, the deep ties to our church family, the desire to celebrate their union before God and a loving congregation—and yet, for legal reasons, a typical wedding service could not be planned. They knew this was the present reality in Pittsburgh, and yet there was no denying the disappointment and deeper level of pastoral sadness that colored our conversation together that day.

We exist in an “in-between place” regarding the institution and consecration of marriage in America today. For centuries, the dominant language around marriage focused on unions of men and women, even though for many people, a marital covenant was not going to be part of their life story. Many people remained single, often happily so. Many other people did not marry because their sexual identity did not coincide with the dominant social model of heterosexual unions. Over the years, though, we have come to recognize the breadth and diversity of “households” and “families.” We have learned to value a single-person household, a single-parent family, a blended family, a family that has navigated necessary seasons of divorce, a multi-generational household, a home built around the love between two men or two women, a family that has been blessed by relationships including bisexual and transgender relatives, and other expressions of covenantal, mutually-committed love. We also have learned that the language and values of Christian faith have a place in each form of married/non-married family life.

Currently 17 states and the District of Columbia have marriage equality for same-gender couples. Several other states have court cases in place, including Pennsylvania, that challenge laws prohibiting same-sex marriage, and it is conceivable that a far-reaching legal response to this imbalance will be completed in the coming 6–12 months. This is both a legal and a pastoral issue, since it affects whether ministers may perform marriages for both heterosexual and homosexual couples in their congregations.

What happened with the engaged couple in my office? Happily, they were married in March in the District of Columbia and then celebrated a “Christian marriage for those previously married in a civil ceremony” [Rite III from our PC(USA) Book of Common Worship] on a Saturday afternoon at ELPC in early May. Above all, it was a faithful moment in which a church family could celebrate a couple’s love and surround them with our prayers as they committed themselves to a married life together. My prayer is that our General Assembly and national courts will soon make this entire process less divided, cumbersome and unjust, by approving marriage equality for all.

Randy Bush



ELPC Tower Tour

Do you want to scale the ELPC steeple and enjoy the tower and the view that it offers? You have an opportunity to do so on **Sun., June 1**, at 12:15 pm.

Architect and ELPC Property Chairman Bruce Pollock will be our host for a climb to the top. Meet at the Hospitality Desk following our 11 am worship service.

Wear slacks and comfortable shoes. The tour will last for an hour, after which, there will be a 45-minute tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel.

Session News

The most recent Session meeting was a joint gathering with the Elders and the Board of Deacons. It served the dual purpose of allowing both groups to share about their ministries and upcoming goals, as well as examine the 2014 confirmation class. Following a meal, the officers met with the students, and then discussed the needs and challenges relating to improvements in our neighborhood.

A special Session meeting will be held on **Tues., June 3**, at which time the Renovations Committee will make a presentation with recommendations. The proposal will include an overview of possible renovations, estimated costs, and a request to explore a capital campaign to begin raising funds for this project. Details will be shared with the congregation and reported in the July *Reaching Out*.

"I believe that God as the Holy Spirit brings people together, and helps people communicate with one another."—Ian Bush

Celebrating Kay Shissler's Ministry at ELPC

The 2013–14 Church School year marks the 50th consecutive year of teaching for ELPC Ruling Elder Kay Shissler.

50 years ago, Ms. Kay was invited by Dave Devy, the director of Christian Education (CE) at the time, to fill in for another teacher. That assignment turned into a foundational ministry at ELPC—with tweens from across the generations learning about God, following Christ, and participating in the life of the church under the leadership of Ms. Kay.

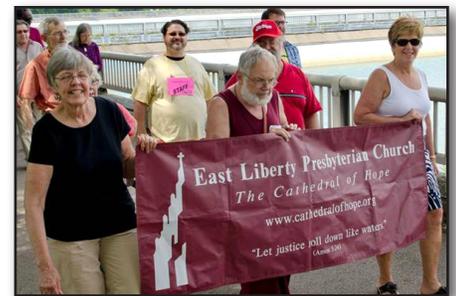
The CE Committee invites you to join us in celebrating Ms. Kay at an all-church reception in the Social Hall, following the 11 am worship on **Sun., June 8**. There will be light refreshments, cake, and a program to honor Kay, as she concludes her 50th year of teaching. We give thanks for her years of ministry—and look forward to many more!



"Our church welcomes all who wish to worship regardless of any label that has been given to who they are. We work for a better world, both directly around us and all around the planet. Being a member of the church is important to me because it is a place where I feel I can be truly myself and never ashamed of anything."—Margaret Edgecombe

Opportunities to Celebrate God's Love for All

On **Sun., June 15**, our congregation will head downtown to march as a church in the annual **Pittsburgh Pride Parade**, and then spend time at the fair afterward. Consider staffing the ELPC booth for an hour with your friends. The church van will leave after our 10 am Worship service, and return at about 3 pm. Sign up for the parade and staffing the booth on **Sun., June 1**, during coffee hour.



On **Sun., June 29**, our congregation will participate in the **Circle of Faith** in Market Square, a public witness by faith communities to welcome and include LGBTQIA persons and their families and allies. The event is for all who believe God's love is inclusive and that all are welcome into the "family circle" of their faith communities. The church van will leave ELPC at 1 pm, and return at 4 pm.

For details on either event, see the bulletin board in the Highland hallway, or speak with Carol Chonoska or contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**.



Stewardship Committee Seeks Members

The Stewardship Committee is recruiting new members. If you are interested in serving, please contact Elaine Bellin at embellin@gmail.com or 412.963.6762.

Our first meeting for the 2014–15 campaign is slated for early June. Check the Sunday bulletin or *Weekly News Flash* for details.

"I think that serving God in the world means to simply believe and have faith, and to try to be a disciple. Following Christ in my everyday life for me means to love, be a good person, and to believe in the Trinity."—Cecilia Novelli

Thank You, Teachers

Sun., June 8, is our last day of Church School for the 2013–14 School Year. We give thanks for the many dedicated teachers who have—with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love—offered their time and talent to God's glory each week through the ministry of teaching. They have shared their faith in Christ as they have nurtured the faith of others.

We say thank you to: **Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Damon Bethea, Valire Copeland, Mary Figlar, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, Mary Ruth Johnson, Vanessa Johnson, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Joe Kennedy, Mary Alice Lightle, Roberta London, Joyce Martinelli, Judy Menk, Nancy Patton, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Christopher Reese, Kay Shissler, Eric and Jennifer Vinsel, Pam Walaski, Candess Ward, Eddie and Jen Willson, and Candice Zawoiski.**



Christian Education

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

June 1: Christian Mission: What It Is/ What It Isn't Part 1 *Led by Paul Seif*
Mission affects every one of us more than we realize. Paul will emphasize the story of Jonah as it pertains to mission. Insights from this account will lead us toward the question, "Who are our Ninevites?" Wherever we may be is an opportunity for the Lord to broaden our perspective regarding mission.

June 8: Christian Mission: What It Is/ What It Isn't Part 2 *Led by Paul Seif*
Mission requires determination and spiritual sensitivity. This presentation explores a challenging question: "How do we serve mission to those who oppress others and those who they oppress?" Paul's mission to the Romans will guide our path toward enlightenment. Let us remember that mission will always be an important pillar within the Christian faith.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

June's readings span the Easter season and Pentecost. The apostle Paul writes, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7). For Paul, the gift of Christ's Spirit is both a public manifestation and a dialogue between solidarity and differentiation. This is gospel (good news) for a world often driven by other means and ends. God's creation arches towards mutuality and towards diversity. It ends in praise. Join us and reflect on Scripture:

June 1: Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11; John 17:1–11

June 8: Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 20:19–23

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

Facilitator: Pam Walaski

Passages from the week's Lectionary readings will be used as the basis to help us discern and explore God's plan for our families. We also will share our joys and struggles of parenting and think about next year's classes. Recent discussions have suggested modifying our format and looking at monthly themes or books to study.

No advance preparation is necessary. We welcome children who may not yet be able to leave their parents during the hour.

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

June 1: ELPC Members Work With Disaster Relief on the Jersey Shore

Henk and Michele Bossers and Carol Chonoska will share their experiences and images from their mission trip to the Jersey Shore. They will talk about their work as a concrete, meaningful ministry among people who have lost so much.

June 8: Sacred Sites in Turkey

Gwen Puza will share images of ancient Christian churches, famous mosques, and other famous historical and cultural sites taken during her recent trip to Turkey.

Soul Food *Pastor's Conference Room*

Facilitator: Joe Hajdu

June 1 and 8: A Collection of Writings on Discernment

We will continue discussing *Discernment*, by Henri Nouwen.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry



Summer Camps at Crestfield

Crestfield Camp, in Slippery Rock, has a great summer planned for children, youth, and adults, based on the curriculum, *Get Real: Finding Your True Self in Jesus*. Campers will explore Scripture, experience a wide variety of activities that develop the *Get Real* theme, and express their love for Jesus through worship and song. Campers will be reminded that we are not created in the image of popular culture, but created in the image of God, who loves us just as we are.

Crestfield provides a sacred place to experience an intentional Christian community that challenges you to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Camps begin the week of **June 15** and end the week of **July 27**. For more information on the available camps, visit Crestfield.net.

Sun., July 27–Wed., Aug. 2: Trinity Youth Conference

TYC is a week-long event for high school youth and college-aged young adults that focuses on spiritual and leadership development, discipleship, and evangelism through daily worship, group activities, and workshops.

TYC will be held at Living Waters Camp and Conference Center in Shellsburg, with the theme, *Community in Christ*. This year, the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Sara Hackett, and ELPC member Paige Shoemaker will be serving as adult leaders.

For more information, visit TrinityYouthConference.org.



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



Fri., June 6: First Friday at GCF at 7 pm

We will spend an evening serving on a reclaimed urban garden lot with local ministry partner Garfield Community Farm (corner of Cornwall and Wicklow Streets in Garfield). Meet in the ELPC lobby to travel together at 6:45 pm, or meet at the farm. Dress to work in the dirt. Learn more at GarfieldFarm.com.

Sun., June 15: Show Your Pride following 10 am Worship

We will march as a church in the annual Pittsburgh LGBTQ Pride Parade, as we do each year to show our support for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Afterward, we can enjoy the booths and entertainment at the street fair. Consider signing up with Wil to work at the ELPC booth for an hour. Read more about the Pride Parade on page 3 or visit PittsburghPride.org.

Wed., June 25: Appe-Taizé meet at 6 pm, at ELPC

Relax after a long summer day as we gather for fellowship and appetizers, and then join the Taizé prayer service. Come for the food and stay for worship!

Spiritual Life

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan,
Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

Sun., June 8, is Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spiritual Life committee invites you to a half-day retreat following our 11 am Worship service, as we experience more deeply the meaning of this gift in our lives. A light lunch will be served.

Fast for Hunger

Join your brothers and sisters in our monthly Fast for Hunger, beginning the evening of **Fri., May 30**, and ending with Communion on **Sun., June 1**. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board.

Then, come to Room 234 after 11 am Worship for a light lunch and program on *Earth Spirituality* presented by Fr. Bernie Tickerhoff.

"I believe that God is my Savior, Redeemer, and Sustainer. God has been a very active part of my life. He has made sure that I have always had enough to eat, people who love me, and also a place where I can call my home."—Isaiah Wilson

Mark Your Calendars: Summer Film Festival

Sundays, July 13–Aug. 10

The Justice, Peace and Poverty Committees of the Mission Board will sponsor the third annual Summer Film Festival at ELPC.

For five consecutive Sundays in July and August, films will be shown after our 10 am Worship service, along with a light potluck lunch in Room 234.

Look for details on the bulletin board and in next month's *Reaching Out!*

"I believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who is not a shadow on an impersonal force, but is a person equal in every way with the Father and Jesus."—Cecilia Novelli

Hope Academy Student Wins Pittsburgh's August Wilson Monologue Competition

Hope Academy student, Lawrence White, went to New York City in May to compete in the national August Wilson Monologue Competition, after winning first place in Pittsburgh's regional contest. Along with the trip to NYC, Lawrence was awarded a cash prize, a scholarship package to Point Park University, and a compendium of all 10 August Wilson plays.

"It was a life-changing experience," Lawrence (pictured on right) said. "I was challenged and inspired and feel blessed that God has given me this opportunity."



While there, actor Denzel Washington (pictured on left) surprised the 26 competitors by awarding each of them an additional \$1,000 scholarship.

Lawrence performed a monologue by Bynum Walker in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, a play set in a boarding house in Pittsburgh's Hill District in 1911, and the second chapter in August Wilson's 10-play cycle of the African-American journey through the 20th century.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director



Sat., June 7: HAT Co Auditions from 9:30 am–12 pm

Hope Academy Theater Company (HAT Co) is an audition-only company that provides an intensive, ensemble- and performance-based experience for students in grades 6–12. HAT Co members are encouraged to make their own work, as they learn to think about and respect dance, theater, and music as art forms—and themselves as artists and creators.



HAT Co is suited for teens who are motivated to study and perform across a range of disciplines as part of an inclusive, supportive, and non-competitive group. Students must make a year-long commitment and sign a contract, indicating their ability and willingness to attend all scheduled classes, private lessons, rehearsals, and performances.

Applications and details are available at CathedralOfHope.org/Hope-Academy.

Sat., June 7: An Open House for Families with Young Children from 1–3:30 pm

Do you have a young child who loves music and/or dance, but you're not sure how to help them get started? Join us for demonstrations, presentations and hands-on activities designed to answer your questions and give you the information you need to get your child ready to begin learning how to sing, dance, or play an instrument.

• Music Program from 1–2:30 pm

Hope Academy's teaching artists will give presentations on piano, strings, flute, guitar, drums/percussion, and voice. Families will be invited to observe a Suzuki violin class in action and learn more about our new Suzuki piano program. Scholarship applications (for fall 2014) will be accepted and interviews will be scheduled.



• Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Dance Program at Hope Academy from 2:30–3:30 pm

An early introduction to dance can foster a lifelong interest in, if not a love for, movement, music, rhythm and dance. To find out about Hope Academy's methods and approaches to dance training for young children, join us for an "open class" for 6- to 8-year-old dancers; and meet Alyssa Herzog Melby from Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.



All events are *free*, but space is limited. Families must RSVP online at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling **412.441.3800 x11**. More information is available at CathedralOfHope.org/Hope-Academy.

"I believe that life as a Christian should be to be the best person you can be and help others and embody God and embrace him. Because of what I believe I promise to help others out and be a person that God would want me to be."—Ian Bush

Gentle Reminders of the Holy Spirit



The good news of Easter morning had extra celebratory character as the Sanctuary was graced with new liturgical banners created by architect, fabric artist, and church member, Stefani Danes—with the assistance of Doug Cooper, Ben Ledewitz, and Laura Ristau. The banners were designed to complement the interplay of light and color coming from our stained glass windows.

As we celebrate Pentecost on Sun., June 8—the church’s “birthday” when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit—may the banners’ gentle movement also remind us of the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, that blows upon us and moves through us in our journeys of faith.

“To me, Jesus Christ is a leader, he is compassionate, and he is human. His life, death, and resurrection are a sort of ideal for us to live by, and to strive for. I want to be able to imitate his willingness to serve no matter the cost, and his confidence and surety that he is doing the right thing.”—Margaret Edgcombe

Service Spotlight: Food for Thought Mentors

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



In May, we concluded our successful Food for Thought pilot mentor program. For eight weeks, our outstanding mentors spent time with their mentees, engaging in a variety of experiences, from sharing healthy meals to taking cooking classes with a professional chef to learning about the food we eat. The mentors and mentees sought to build meaningful intergenerational relationships that are supportive and that challenge them to be the best they can be.

Thank you to our excellent mentors: **Cori Brooks, Peta Harrigan Cole, Jim Eng, Linda Harrington, Sara Heppenstall, Chris Reese, and Carolyn Russ.**

Want to know how you can impact a young person’s life in a substantial and meaningful way? Talk with Wil Forrest about being a mentor for the Food for Thought program starting this October.



Put your love in action by serving in our community. For more information, visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/serve.

Save the Date: Fifth Annual Summer Celebration of Service

Thurs., Aug. 21, from 5:30–7:30 pm, in the Garth

Calling all Grads

Did you graduate this spring or do you have a family member who did? Send details—name, degree earned, post-secondary plans, etc.—to Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net or call **412.441.3800 x22** by **Fri., June 6.**

ELPC People

If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Good News

- Andrew Bartle and Amiena Mahsoob are the proud parents of a baby boy, **Sebastian Mahsoob Bartle**, born on April 7.
- Nico and Emily Slate are the proud parents of a baby boy, **Kai Peter Kimbell Slate**, born on April 7
- Congratulations to **Emily Ruth** (Nordquist) and **Trey Sinclair Perry** who were married on April 18.
- **Calvin Gerhard Laboon**, son of Alison Fromm and Bill Laboon, celebrated his baptism on April 27.
- Congratulations to **Carol Bonner** and **Kathy Callahan**, who celebrated a marriage service on May 3, reaffirming a previous civil ceremony.
- Congratulations to **Elisabeth Heffner** and **Zachary Selekmán**, who were married on May 16.

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:

- Sheila Freeman-Powell’s brother, Alfred Freeman, Jr.;
- Kim Brown-Riley’s brother;
- Nancy Pendleton’s great-granddaughter, Mackenzie Pendleton; and
- Bob Pressley’s grandson and his niece.



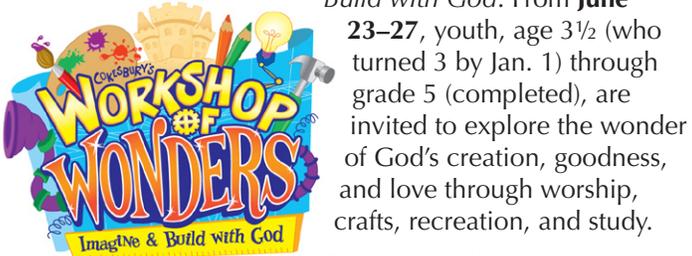
“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

 @EastLibertyPres

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VCS Spots Filling Fast

There is still time to register for our Vacation Church School program, *Workshop of Wonders: Imagine and Build with God*. From **June**



23–27, youth, age 3½ (who turned 3 by Jan. 1) through grade 5 (completed), are invited to explore the wonder of God’s creation, goodness, and love through worship, crafts, recreation, and study.

Spaces are filling up fast. Please register soon to guarantee a spot for your child, as a wait-list is already in place for some classes.

Registration Forms

Registration forms for students and volunteers are available on the ELPC website, the Second Floor CE Table, the CE bulletin board, and at the Front Desk.

Volunteer Training Dates are Set

Adults must attend a training event on **Sun., June 22**, from 11:30 am–1 pm (lunch served).

Youth (who have completed grades 6–12) must attend a training event on **Sun., June 22**, after 10 am Worship.

Unable to Volunteer? Make a Donation!

Stop by the bulletin board by the main stairs and take a tag on **Sun., June 1** or **8**.

General Assembly Agenda Set

The 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) will be held from **June 14–21**, in Detroit. The General Assembly (GA) meets biennially in even-numbered years, and consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. This year, Lenore Williams (pictured) from ELPC is a commissioner from Pittsburgh Presbytery, and Pastor Bush will be attending as the co-moderator for the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.



GA is full of activities, such as business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and local mission tours. Key items before GA this year include overtures related to adjusting the Book of Order (Directory of Worship) to allow ministers to officiate at same-gender weddings, and proposals to divest from American companies supporting the wall dividing Israeli/Palestinian territories.

Please pray for the peace and unity of our denomination as it seeks to live into its covenantal, faithful calling.

“I believe that God is calling me to do great things. I believe that God is calling me to care for the helpless and to heal the injured.”—Isaiah Wilson