



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

March 2015



Holy Week Preview

The last Sunday of March is also the first day of Holy Week. Our worship service on **Sun., March 29**, will feature the annual Palm Sunday procession and remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then, from **Wed.–Sat., April 1–4**, there will be a Holy Week service at 7 pm, as we process through Taizé sung prayer, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. There also will be a Good Friday service at 12 pm. The season of Lent will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 5, as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection with services at 8:45 and 11 am.

Journey with us as we remember these important last days of our Savior's earthly life and ministry.

All-Church Retreat: Register Now

All are invited to attend an intergenerational All-Church Retreat from **Fri.–Sun., May 1–3**, at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. The theme of the retreat is "Family Reunion," and through worship, workshops, games, service, and simple rest and relaxation together, we will explore what it means to be a part of God's family.

Registration is **\$25/person**, and total cost is determined by room option and age (children 5 and under are *free*). More information, brochures, and registration forms are available near the Hospitality Desk, on the Second Floor CE table, and at CathedralOfHope.org.

Bingo Benefit for the Reese Family

Join us for family friendly bingo on **Sat., March 28**, from 4–6 pm, in the Social Hall. Tickets are **\$10**. Win non-cash prizes, eat yummy food, and be entertained. There will be an additional bingo game and an extra chance for a prize for those who pre-register via the website.

Money raised will go to the Reese family, who recently lost their home in a fire. You also can help by donating bingo prizes, such as gift certificates, prize baskets, art pieces, games, services, and other new items. Donations will be collected before **Sun., March 22**, and can be given to Sara Hackett.

The Reese family has been actively involved in our faith family for 10 years through youth programming and Hope Academy. Please join us as we help the Reeses rebuild their lives.

Sunday Services

** Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

March 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 15 Paul Seif
March 22 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
March 29 Testimonies

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

March 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Centering Prayer

Wednesdays • 6:15–6:50 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule

Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

March 11: Extended Time of Prayer and Singing

March 18: Live Music on the Labyrinth

March 25: Celebrations!



Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sun., March 8**. Remember to set your clocks ahead by one hour!

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
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CathedralOfHope.org

Staff Leadership

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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

Paul Seif
Seminary Intern

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



The gospel writers compiled Jesus' early teachings into long sermons – what we call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) or the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6). But during the season of Lent, we focus on another collection of Jesus' teaching – something we might call Jesus' Jerusalem Sermon (Mark 11-13). After Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, he angrily cleanses the temple, has his authority questioned, tells a parable about how wicked tenants will plot to kill the vineyard owner's son, is interrogated about taxes and the resurrection, and offers a long discourse about the coming

days of destruction. There are no "Blessed are the meek" comments in this later sermon. It is a reminder that the tension between "how things are" and "how they should be" according to the will of God is very real and highly conflicted.

Each day we live in a world of competing loyalties. We have obligations to ourselves, our families, our community, our nation, and to the world. Many of these obligations affect more than one "group." For example, our work life impacts our professional colleagues (Did I get my tasks done responsibly?) as well as our families (Do I have a paycheck to cover the bills, including child care for when work takes me away from home?). Our individual choices affect our community and nation (Do I pay taxes, recycle my trash, support programs that encourage justice?). The question is: Where does religion and faith in God fit into this equation?

For some people, religion is something added on at the end of the equation. They may say, "I go to work, pay my bills, take care of myself and my family, and if I have enough time and energy at the end of the week, then I try to go to church and say my prayers." More commonly, religion is treated as one factor among many variables in life's complex equation. This group might say, "I wear many hats. I'm an individual, a family member, a Pennsylvanian, an American, and a Christian. Different situations require me to emphasize different parts of my identity, but I try to keep things in balance."

After his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus faced a lot of conflict. But amidst the arguments and tensions captured in his "Jerusalem sermon" he had a great conversation with a scribe who asked him to name the greatest commandment. Jesus replied by saying we are to love God with our heart, mind, and soul, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28-34). His answer cut through the tension with a clarity that still shines forth life-giving light today. Faith in God is not the "caboose" on life's busy "train of events." Nor is it simply one "card" in the ever-shuffling deck of life priorities. Faith comes first. It is the foundation upon which we stand while we act, react, and interact. It is the canvas upon which our life's artwork is painted. It is the guide that directs our decisions, shapes our priorities, and encourages us whenever we struggle or go astray.

It is surprising how much clearer the path forward becomes when we choose our itinerary according to the two great commandments. The season of Lent calls us to remember these fundamental principles, taught to us and incarnated for us in Jesus Christ. Easter is when the proof of these principles is gloriously revealed in an empty tomb, a resurrected Savior, and Christ's promise of abundant, faithful life. This month, trust, believe, and see for yourself!

Randy Bush

Christian Education

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Contemporaries *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

March 1: The Fruits of Discipleship *Led by Lenore Williams*
Living in Christ is a process of continuing conversion, transformation, and sanctification—growing in faith. Through the Holy Spirit, our identity in the living Christ becomes our “second nature.”

Dr. Martin Luther King’s Life, Teachings, and Prophecies

This three-week series will consider the early influences and choices that turned Dr. Martin Luther King into a modern-day prophet. We will examine Dr. King’s prophetic calls for justice to be done, echoing the Biblical message of God’s care for the poor and outcasts of society.

March 8: How Can We Cross Barriers to Make Connections?

Led by Carolyn Russ

Carolyn will discuss how King learned to build community with people of different backgrounds and attitudes.

March 15: Where Is God Calling Us? *Led by Jim Russ*

Jim will focus on King’s last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. King identified White Privilege, Black Power, and Militarism as impediments to true integration and a more just society.

March 22: How Can the Church Heed God’s Call for Justice?

Led by Drew Smith, professor of urban ministries at PTS
Professor Smith will cover Dr. King’s view that power, poverty, and income inequality are not just a racial problem, but a justice problem. He will connect these views to contemporary protests against injustice in the political-economic system.

March 29: Palestine Today *Led by Leila Richards*

Leila will address the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and explore the impacts of U.S. foreign policy, the media, and religion on the region’s struggle for peace and justice.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit (Psalm 51:12). Restoration, joy, salvation, sustenance, willingness, and spirit; all these are for the asking—gifts of God in Christ for all. The Lenten readings for March can nourish us and witness to these gifts. Drop in and join us on the journey:

March 1: Genesis 17:1–7,15–16; Psalm 22:23–31;
Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38

March 8: *Led by Paul Seif*

Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

March 15: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22;
Hebrews 5:5–10; John 12:20–33

March 22: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12;
1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

March 29: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16;
Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

March 1: 11 Years Doing Mission Work in Ethiopia

Led by Pat Templin

In 1964, Presbyterians Pat and Carl Templin were sent by UPCUSA to serve in the Anuak Project in Southwest Ethiopia. Pat will share her family’s journey through 11 years, 3 children, and 7 or 8 different cultures, languages, and customs.

March 8 | 15: Screwtape Letters

Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

In 1942, C. S. Lewis’ Christian apologetic novel, *Screwtape Letters*, was published. Written as an exchange of correspondence between senior Demon Screwtape and his nephew Wormwood, a junior tempter, this satirical novel explores many Christian theological issues, such as temptation and resistance to it, faith, and theodicy. Pastor Heather will discuss this text and the theological themes it addresses.

March 22: West African Religion

Led by Gwen Puza

Before Christianity was introduced into West Africa, animist religion was practiced. Today, people in West Africa maintain these traditions and beliefs, with an emphasis on the importance of spirits, alongside Christianity. Gwen will discuss the religions of the West African countries she visited (Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso), including videos of Voodoo and mask ceremonies, and Christian church services.

March 29: Exploring the Symbol of the Cross

Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Pastor Randy will lead an exploration of the cross as both a religious item and a theological category, as it communicates, on a deep level, answers to the questions that intrigue all of humanity. This conversation will be guided by Brent Plate’s recent book, *A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects*.

Soul Food *Room 244 and Pastor’s Conference Room*

Facilitator: Joe Hajdu and other class members

March: Wondrous Encounters

We will be using our Lenten text, *Wondrous Encounters—Scripture for Lent*, featuring daily readings by Richard Rohr. New participants are always welcome!

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Sat., March 28: Spring Music Festival

Hope Academy's young singers and musicians are presenting an entire day of recitals and performances. Recitals (instrumental and vocal) will take place throughout the ELPC building from 10 am–4 pm. HAT Co (Hope Academy Teen Theater Company) singers and band will perform a concert featuring classical, rock, pop, blues, and original songs at 7 pm.

Please check the calendar on the ELPC website for details.



Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., March 7 | 14 | 28: Youth Basketball

Students in grades 9–12 are invited to play basketball in the ELPC Gym. There is no basketball on Sat., March 21.

Sat., March 21: Tween Scavenger Hunt and Mini Golf from 6–7:30 pm

Join us as we explore ELPC while searching for nine holes of mini golf scattered around the church...come and find out if you can be the first person to ever get a hole in one in the church's tower! For kids in grades 4–6, and their friends are welcome. For details, contact Sara Hackett at **412.673.2926** or **SaraH@coh.net**.

club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Note: We will not meet on **April 1**.

This month, we will explore the arc of Jesus' story—his life, teachings, death, and resurrection. We will look at modern day prophets who were influenced by Christ's message, and explore how Jesus' story transforms our stories.

club life: service projects

We will share Christ's love through a variety of hands on service projects that show our neighbors we care!



Faith 101 Series Begins

Do you ever feel like you missed something while at church? Do you ever struggle to understand the basics of Christianity that it seems like others already understand?

All inquisitive adults are invited to our Lenten class, as we examine the fundamentals of faith. Classes meet during the Church School hour on Sundays, from 9:45–10:45 am, in the McKelvy Room.

March 1: Jesus: The Revolution of Love Led by Damon Bethea

What might you need to risk in order to live more fully in the revolution of love?

March 8: Salvation: Abundant Life Now Led by Jan Irvin

Are we willing to wake up to the possibility that the 25,550 days we have are actually the main course?

March 15: Cross: Where God Is Led by Liz Gonda

What is it about us that makes us always choose the bedazzled cross and not the actual one?

March 22: Bible: A Book Like No Other Led by Paul Seif

Is it crazy for me to hope that, through years of rereading this Bible, that I might one day get to see a bluer sky?

March 29: Church: An Imperfect Family Led by the Rev. Shanea Leonard

When we call the church a family, do we really mean it? The Rev. Shanea Leonard is the pastor at JUDAH Fellowship Christian Church in the Northside, JudahFellowship.wordpress.com.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sundays: Faith 101 Series from 9:45–10:45 am

Young adults are asked to attend ELPC's Lenten series, Faith 101. Details can be found in the article on the right.

Fri., March 6: First Friday @ First Church at 7 pm

Come join the circle at First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh (5401 Centre Avenue in Shadyside, 15232)! Members of the **Worship Jam** will lead our group with drumming, chanting, circle dancing, and spiritual practices. Just dive in and let the rhythms carry you. Bring your own drum if you have one.

Lenten Devotionals

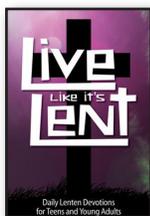
As we enter another sacred season of our liturgical calendar, the Christian Education Committee will provide devotionals for persons of all ages. They will be available on the Second Floor CE table.

Look Around Jerusalem: This devotional invites **children** to notice the different elements of Jesus' time in Jerusalem—from Palm Sunday through His resurrection. Each day, children will add a sticker and look for hidden images on the Jerusalem centerpiece as they follow

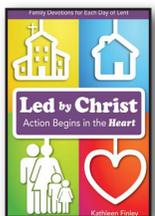


Jesus' journey through the city, to the cross, and to the empty tomb!

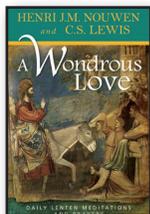
Live Like it's Lent: This devotional encourages **tweens, teens, and college-agers** to use their God-given gifts as they live life on Christ's behalf this season. It includes ideas for faith-filled actions and journaling exercises.



Led by Christ: Actions Begin in the Heart: As we journey toward Easter, this devotional provides an opportunity for **families** to think and pray about their choices and why they make them. Each devotion offers Scripture, reflection, and a prayer. A discussion question is included for those who wish to share this journey with friends or other family members.



A Wondrous Love: Two of the most widely read spiritual writers of the 20th century, Henri J. M. Nouwen and C. S. Lewis, are together in this daily devotional booklet for **adults**. Each devotion includes a brief reflection on one of their many classic books, accompanied by a brief line of Scripture and a prayer.



LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Our next spiritual gathering is at 12:30 pm, on **Sun., March 22**, as we watch a movie and share some lunch. All people are welcome!

To learn more about, or to get involved with, ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.



**God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.**

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians
Tues., March 3 at 10 am | Mon., March 9 at 7 pm

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Our lesson, *Economy of Grace*, is based on 2 Corinthians 8:1–15. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning study. All are welcome.

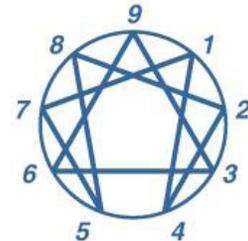


Spiritual Life

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

Thursdays, Feb. 26–April 16: Learn about the Enneagram

Even if you missed our Enneagram Retreat in February, it isn't too late to learn about the Enneagram. Join Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof and the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan in the Second Floor Library for a study of this ancient tool for self awareness and healing. Class time is to be determined. Check the weekly announcements and website for updates.



Fri.–Sun., April 17–19: Advanced Enneagram Retreat

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Advanced Enneagram Retreat at Providence Villa in the North Hills. Learn about using the knowledge gained from studying the Enneagram to guide personal growth and transformation. Please check the website for additional information and registration form.

Fast for Hunger

Our fast brings the evening of **Fri., Feb. 27**, and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on **Sun., March 1**. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.

OHM and GCF Workday

Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on **Sat., March 7** and **April 4**, for neighborhood mission opportunities with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. With the advent of spring, there are more opportunities to make a difference in our community, either with the rehab of a home in East Liberty or with the ever-growing community farm.

For more details, contact Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or **ejr116@gmail.com**, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at **412.441.3800 x30**.



OHM and ELPC volunteers recently moved a family of four into the transitional rental property that has been the focus of our rehab activities for many months. Thank you to all the ELPC volunteers that helped to make this possible by participating in the rehab work days throughout the year.



Help Wanted

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Each season in the life of the church brings some predictable service needs. Summer requires talented help for Vacation Church School, fall invites us to serve one another at our annual Thanksgiving Feast, and in spring, dedicated workers transform the church grounds into a colorful, manicured scene.



However, there are some service needs that are unanticipated. When these opportunities arise, I turn to a special group of people. I turn to the weSERVE list.

weSERVE list helpers step up as a group of ready, willing, and able servers, who respond to needs in the ELPC community. These folks receive a brief notice when assistance is needed from the iSERVE ministry. These requests are church-, member- and

community-related. Often, they are time-sensitive needs that could not previously be advertised or planned in advance.

Get on the list and when an opportunity to serve arises—if it fits your schedule and interest—then help out. If not, do nothing. Consider being part of this important ministry that will enable our congregation to more nimbly and effectively respond to the needs in our church community.

Visit **CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE** for more information. Contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14** to sign up for the weSERVE list.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Listening to Your Health Care Experience

We want to hear from you! How do you feel about the health care you are receiving? Who is on your health care team? How involved are you in your health care? What does your health care provider need to know and do to assure a productive health care visit?



Plan on joining us at 12:30 pm, on **Sun., March 8** and **22**, in Rooms 224 and 227 for discussion and light refreshments. RSVP to Kate Carlson **412.441.3800 x16** or **KateC@coh.net**.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Join us in welcoming our new members, who joined on Sun., Feb. 8: **Harold** and **Linda Deiss**, **Ronald** and **Adelia Frye**, **Abigail Jones**, **Joseph** and **Kathleen Kiewra**, and **Diane Stokan**.
- Congratulations to ELPC's choirs in residence, the Renaissance City Men and Women's Choirs, who sang for the inauguration of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

Prayers

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

- Nancy Curry, who was an ELPC member ELPC for 22 years;
- Tucker Ferda's grandfather and grandmother;
- Mary Figlar's mother, Phyllis Fligger;
- Karen Fraser's mother, Irene Fraser;
- Katelyn Haas' cousin, David Caswall Devey; and
- Allen Miller's sister, Ellen Hardaway.



“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”



Make a Joyful Noise

Presbyterian Women at ELPC invite all women to welcome spring at an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield, **Fri.–Sat., March 27–28**. Led by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, we will

explore the Psalms in word, song, and worship. There will be plenty of time for fellowship and rest.

Pick up a registration brochure on the bulletin board outside the Library. Partial scholarships are available.

It’s Time to Make Plans for VCS

Mark your calendars for ELPC’s annual Vacation Church School, which will run from 9 am–3 pm, **Mon.–Fri., June 22–26**. Our theme this summer is *Message Received: Hearing God’s Call*. The curriculum leads us through Old and New Testament stories, where men and women answered God’s call, and invites us to explore how God calls us, today. We will engage the Bible stories through worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and special activities.



MESSAGE RECEIVED

HEARING GOD’S CALL

VCS serves children ages 3½ (must have turned 3 by Jan. 1, 2015) through those who have completed grade 5. Youth in grades 6–12, and adults, are invited to prayerfully discern if God is calling them to volunteer for VCS this summer.

Camper registration forms and volunteer application forms will be available on our website by **Sun., March 15**.



Vive le Franck!

Our *Cathedral Concerts* series will continue at 4 pm, on **Sun., March 29**, with Edward Alan Moore on organ and Nathan Carterette on piano. The Arsenal Duo will perform two of César Franck’s largest works: the *Grande Pièce Symphonique* for organ and the *Prélude, Chorale, and Fugue* for piano.

The concert is free, but a free will offering will be accepted.

