

Ash Wednesday Services & Luncheon

Amidst the gray and darkness of winter, we pause to reflect upon our lives as children of God. This can involve both lighting a candle of hope and offering up prayers of repentance. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the special season of Lent—an important time for thoughtfulness and personal reflection.



To mark this sacred time, a special service will be held at 12 pm, on **Wed., Feb. 10**, in the Chapel. Following this service, a simple lunch of soup and bread will be served in Room 234, and the Rev. Dr. Lisa Thompson of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will be with us to share some reflections on this season. All are welcome!

Attend our Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sun., Feb. 28**, following Sanctuary worship. All are encouraged to attend to hear reports on church programs, receive the 2016 budget, elect the incoming slate of church officers, and hear updates on the renovation projects and other ELPC ministries. A light lunch will be provided.



Chancel Choir Presents Haydn Mass



The ELPC Chancel Choir will present Franz Joseph Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* during our Sanctuary worship service on **Sun., Feb. 28**. Haydn composed this mass in the 1770s in Eisenstadt, Germany.

Accompanying the choir will be a quartet of strings and organ, led by violinist Andrew Fouts from Pittsburgh's own Chatham Baroque.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: Resilience

Feb. 7* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 Feb. 14 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Feb. 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Feb. 28 Mark Blank

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Feb. 7* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Feb. 14 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Feb. 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Feb. 28 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

Notes: On Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 10**, we will have a special Taizé service with the imposition of ashes.



Also, stay with us after our Taizé service on **Wed., Feb. 24**, as we celebrate February birthdays, anniversaries, and good news with cake and conversation!

Explore Your Spiritual Life

Learn more about the Spiritual Life Committee's offerings at ELPC.church.

- **Mindfulness Meditation**
Mondays, from 7–8 pm
- **Cathedral Yoga**
Wednesdays, at 6 pm
- **Centering Prayer**
Wednesdays, at 6:20 pm
- **Contemplative Prayer**
Wednesdays, at 8 pm
- **Silent Saturday**
Sat., Feb. 27, from 9 am–4 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800
Fax: 412.441.4422

CathedralOfHope.org

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

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

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator of Young Adult
and Outreach Programs*

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator of 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

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



The ancient philosophers wisely said “Know thyself.” During the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10) and extends up to Easter (March 27), that adage can be expanded to say “Know thyself spiritually.” Each of us should take time to reflect on our lives and ask whether we are living out the values and qualities of faith we believe as Christians. If asked “How are you?” would we be able to answer in the words of the old hymn *It is Well with My Soul*?

One honest response in a spiritual self-appraisal is to say “I seek to live by Christ’s laws of love, but I know that at times I fall short of those ideals.” That would be a humble admission of fallibility, like when the apostle Paul wrote, “I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do” (Romans 7:19). The comforting news is that you are aware of the difference between good and bad choices and seek (with God’s grace and perseverance) to do the former instead of the latter. Keeping your “eye on the prize” is an important part of doing what is faithful and right in the mundane choices of every day life.

This bit of advice is important not just for us individually, but for us as social and political creatures. The biographer Walter Isaacson pointed out that we like to imagine America’s founders as being leaders with unwavering principles and ideals. But the birth of America’s democracy depended on their ability to see “the big picture” and personally compromise for the greater good. The first major compromise the Constitution’s framers had to make involved balancing out the powers of the states with the responsibilities of the federal government, whose authority was not conferred by sovereign states but rather from “we, the people.” The second compromise involved how decisions should be made in Congress. Thus we ended up with two chambers—one with states having equal representation and one with states having proportional representation. In both cases, the principle of fairness for all overruled any inclination to preserve power in the hands of a privileged few.

Sadly on a different matter, constitutional compromises went too far and fundamental principles were violated. In determining the number of representatives for Congress, population numbers counted slaves as only “three-fifths” of a person—as if that mathematical oddity had any logical basis in reality. Prejudice then became enshrined in our nation’s founding documents.

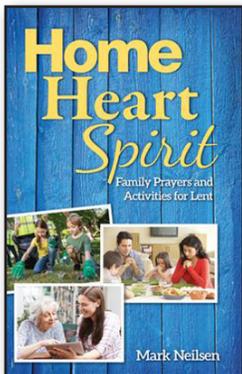
It is always difficult knowing when to do the right thing—when to stand firm on principle or when to compromise and find common ground with others. One guiding rule, though, is to ask whether the principle you’re fighting for only benefits you (your privilege, status, wealth) or whether it serves the common good irrespective of social standing. Christ, though equal to God the Creator, emptied himself and took on our humanity that he might model a sacrificial love committed to working for the good of all. Reflecting on that example and finding ways to compromise that it may be well with all our souls is a worthy Lenten pursuit.

Randy Bush

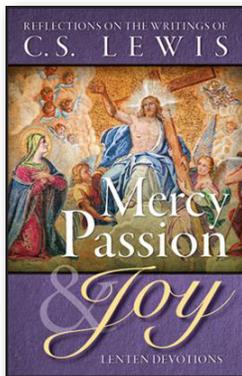
Lenten Devotionals

Lenten devotionals are available for persons of all ages, a gift to you from the Christian Education Committee as we journey through this sacred season of our liturgical calendar together. Choose the devotional booklet that best suits you and your family.

Home, Heart, Spirit—*Family Prayers and Activities for Lent*. This devotional is perfect for family use, for persons of any age. It includes a daily scripture reading, reflection, and prayer, and offers suggestions for Lenten activities to help family members participate in practices of faith together.



Mercy, Passion & Joy—*Reflections on the writings of C.S. Lewis*. This devotional offers daily scripture readings, readings from Lewis' writings and reflections on the mercy of Christ, the passion He suffered, and the astounding joy that is ours because of Christ's great gift to us.



Finally, our pastors will be preaching a sermon series this Lent that will guide us through themes of justice lifted up by the Belhar Confession—the most recent Confession of the PC(USA). A **weekly devotional booklet** will be available as well, providing reflections on the themes addressed in worship, and lead us into a deeper understanding of the confessional nature of our faith and the justice to which we are called.

Session News

At the recent Session meeting, the Session elders:

- Celebrated the successful completion of the stewardship campaign, with amount pledged for 2016 surpassing the total of 2015 pledges;
- Prepared to welcome new members and host the Congregational Meeting in February;
- Celebrated the recent ordination of our new associate pastor, the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy; and
- Rejoiced that the current total of "Building Our Future" capital campaign pledges (\$2,284,000) surpasses our congregational goal of \$2.25 million.



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest

Hope Academy Shakespeare students have been preparing for the 2016 Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest. Every year, more than 1,000 students from across the tri-state area participate in the preliminary round.



Hope Academy students will present their monologues and scenes on **Mon., Feb. 8**, and **Fri., Feb. 12**, at 3 pm. The 30 selected finalists will compete in the Showcase of Finalists on **Mon., Feb. 15**, at 7 pm.

Hope Academy has been well represented with a number of finalists each year. Last year, out of 30 finalists, three were from Hope Academy. All competition events are *free* and open to the public.

Buzzwords Performance Series

Join us from 6–7 pm, on **Wed., Feb. 24**, for six exciting live performances and workshops for young children, from birth to age 5, and their families at ELPC. Interactive and child-friendly, these shows are short enough to hold the interest of toddlers, and engaging enough for their older brothers and sisters. Food will be served and fun will be had!

Space is limited, so please reserve your spot for each session by calling Norma Meyer at **412.441.3800 x11**.

The series is being presented by Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, OTSummerfest.org, and features Hope Academy teaching artist Anqwenique Wingfield.



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

Feb. 7: On the Road to Glory

Attorney Carolyn Russ and funeral director Frank Perman will take a practical approach to dying and death, discussing hospice, calling 911, living wills, dying at home, organ donation, funeral homes, cremation, embalming, green burial, and the laws regarding disposition of bodies.

Feb. 14: Sin as “a Helpful, Hopeful Word”

Join us for a Lenten series on “forgiveness.” Mary Alice Lightle will begin a two-week discussion based on *Speaking of Sin*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor asks, “Why...should we speak of sin anymore?” Can you truly experience forgiveness without knowing what has been forgiven?

Feb. 21: The Lost Language of Salvation

Taylor contends that in recovering the “lost language of salvation,” we have the opportunity to take part in God’s redemption of the world. Mary Alice Lightle will conclude our discussion of *Speaking of Sin*.

Feb. 28: A Biblical and Practical Perspective on Forgiveness

Pete Murray will continue our Lenten series on “forgiveness.” We will use Dr. Kenneth Bailey’s most famous work (on the Prodigal Son parable), and the work of Abraham Twerski, a contemporary local rabbi.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you”—Psalm 63:3. Lent can provide the opportunity to reflect upon the recognition, cost, and ultimate grace of God’s steadfast love. Maturing in such love may even lead us, in midst of loss, to dare give praise. Come journey with us as we read and reflect upon February’s Lenten texts.

Feb. 7: Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28–43

Feb. 14: Deuteronomy 26:1–11; Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16;
Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13

Feb. 21: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35;

Feb. 28: Isaiah 55:1–9; Psalm 63:1–8;
1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9

Young Adults *Pastor’s Conference Room*

Facilitator: Wil Forrest

Feb. 28: Telling Stories of Love

This month, we will hear stories of love from Henk and Michele Bossers, as we reflect upon their stories, biblical relevance, and meanings for our own lives.

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Feb. 7–21: Human Rights, Civil Rights, Black History in Film

For Black History Month, the Rev. Dr. Darrell Knopp will lead discussions on relevant excerpts from important films.

Feb. 7: *Lincoln*

We will examine President Lincoln’s struggles, and the social, political, and military pressures placed upon him as he sought freedom for all black persons on American soil. We also will look at the tension as our nation experienced division of heart and soul regarding racial issues.

Feb. 14: *42*

This film presents the story of Jackie Robinson and his wife as they faced antiquated understandings of what it meant for him to be the first black player to play major league baseball. We will reference *Lincoln* to compare and contrast the progress of black persons from 1865 to 1947.

Feb. 21: *Selma*

This is the story of Martin Luther King’s early civil rights march on the city of Selma, Alabama, on behalf of human rights and civil rights for all of America’s citizens. We also will spend time on the strain that Dr. King’s work placed on the well-being of his wife, Coretta Scott King.

Feb. 28: What Saves Us? *part 1 of 3*

As we approach the cross this Lenten season, Pastor Heather will lead us in a three-part series as we reflect on Christ’s saving work. How does Christ save us? What does Jesus save us from? What does He save us for? Some of the answers we have heard may unsettle us—glorifying violence and raising questions about God’s love and power.

Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker—contemporary feminist theologians—address these questions in their book, *Proverbs of Ashes*. The authors use personal narrative and rich theology to explore the doctrine of the atonement. With sensitivity and candor, they address the problematic theology behind some traditional interpretations of the atonement and encourage readers to dig deeper into scripture and experience in their search for what saves us.

Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

Feb. 7–28: An Altar in the World

We will discuss chapters 8–10 of *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Classes will be led by Joe Hajdu and other class members. Check the weekly e-Flash and bulletin for updates. New participants are always welcome!

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., Feb. 7: DG2! 12:30–3:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 are invited to our monthly interfaith service event with our friends at Rodef Shalom Congregation. We will leave following Sanctuary worship, eat lunch, learn about Purim, and help with Purim carnival preparations.

Wed., Feb. 17: Confirmation Class 5–8 pm

Confirmands and their sponsors will join **club one sixteen** for a discussion of discipleship and an exploration of what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ. We will then attend the Taizé Prayer Service from 7–8 pm.

Fri., Feb. 26: Tween Mini Golf 6–7:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are welcome to 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! Pizza will be provided and your friends are welcome!

Sat., Feb. 27: Senior High Service Day 9:30 am–1:45 pm

We will meet at ELPC and then spend the morning at Computer Reach in Point Breeze, recycling computers for schools and community centers in need around the world. We will finish with lunch. Bring a permission slip and \$10 for lunch.

Sat.–Sun., March 5–6: 30-Hour Famine

Youth in grades 6–12 will spend 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshiping, and learning about global hunger and poverty to raise money for Team Tassy, which provides education, job training, and health care to families in Haiti. We are thankful for the congregation's support and prayers. Look for youth staffing tables on **Sun., Feb. 21** and **28**, to learn more about Team Tassy and to donate.

club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Our theme for winter and spring is **character in christ**. Join us as we begin our journey by examining how character is formed in community. Visit **ELPC.church** for updates and our complete schedule.

Learning Safety First

The Food 4 Thought mentees and mentors wish to thank ELPC member Dan Thompson (of Atomic Celt Bladeworks) and his assistant Emmy for teaching them about the science and art behind making knives and how they can safely use this important kitchen tool!



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Feb. 5: First Friday @ EECM 7 pm

Share in a service opportunity sure to feed body and soul at EECM Community House. Contact Wil to sign up and to let him know what food item you'll bring for the guests in the homeless shelter and other residents. Meet at the Community House kitchen with your prepared food at 7 pm.

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 19–21: Crestfield Retreat

Our annual retreat to Crestfield this year is complete with our cozy cottage, wonderful people, wacky version of pictionary, nature galore, plenty-o-snacks, and much more. Our focus will be on telling our stories. We will leave ELPC on Friday at 6 pm, and return on Sunday at 3 pm.

There is a \$50 fee that covers everything. Limited scholarships are available. Final RSVP is required by **Mon., Feb. 1**.



YAM is for you! Your friends are always welcome, too! To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**.

Diapers are Needed

Presbyterian Women is hosting a Diaper Drive to collect diapers for children in Western Pennsylvania. One in three American moms struggle to provide clean diapers for her children. WIC and food stamps don't cover diapers, and families often are forced to make tough decisions regarding day care and employment because they can't afford diapers.

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank partners with local organizations to distribute free diapers to families in need. Diapers collected at our drive will go to families in our community.

The drive will continue for the next five months. Thank you to all who have already donated! Please drop donations in the box in the Front Office marked "PW Diaper Drive." Check the bulletin for more information.

Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Come to the Waters Bible Study *Second Floor Parlor*
Mon., Feb. 1 7 pm | Tues., Feb. 2 10 am

We will look at what places in our world need the cleansing "Waters of Justice and Righteousness" with our scripture focus on Amos 5:21-24. Because of their shallow worship and sinful living, Amos calls the waters of justice and righteousness to roll down on the Israelites. What places in our world need the cleansing waters of justice and righteousness?



Childcare will be available for the Monday evening study. A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday morning study; please bring a snack or salad to share, and your own table setting.

All women of the Presbyterian Church are invited and welcome to attend; one does not need to be a member of ELPC. If you are a woman and a member of ELPC, then you are already part of Presbyterian Women! We look forward to the next four months of inspiring and challenging lessons taught by our membership, inspired and supported by the Holy Spirit.



Save the Date: Spring Retreat

All women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield from **Fri.-Sat., April 1-2**. We will gather Friday evening and return home Saturday evening. Partial scholarships will be available. Watch for upcoming details in the bulletin and on the bulletin board outside of the Library.

Mission Matters

*The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy,
Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries*

The Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is accepting new or gently used winter clothes on Mondays, from 10 am-12 pm, and Thursdays, from 6-8 pm. Men's casual clothes, shoes, and jackets are needed.

If you would like to volunteer, email TheChapelMarket@gmail.com

or contact Kelli Booher or Fran Wilson. The Market is located by ELPC's Whitfield Street entrance.

**The
Chapel
Market**

Note: The Chapel Market will be closed on **Mon., Feb. 15**.

Spiritual Life

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

Sun., Feb. 7: An Interfaith Look at Images of God 12-3 pm

Join us as ELPC hosts an Interfaith Panel featuring Pastor Randy and other religious leaders in the Second Floor Parlor. Each panelist will share their own image of God and how it has been shaped by their faith tradition. Lunch will be served.

Sat., Feb. 13: Experience Healing Hands 9 am-4 pm

Practitioners of Reiki, Heart Hands, and Therapeutic Massage (all members of ELPC) will be available in the Second Floor Parlor to answer questions about their work and provide an opportunity for participants to experience healing and wholeness through their healing hands.

Tues., Feb. 23: Enneagram Conversation 7-8 pm

If you have been introduced to the Enneagram and are interested in learning more about yourself and others, join us in the Pastor's Conference Room for a monthly discussion group on how we are learning and growing through this highly regarded tool for personal transformation.



LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sat., Feb. 27: Spiritual Gathering 9 am–12 pm

Our next Spiritual Gathering will be a service opportunity at World Vision in Sewickley. We will leave ELPC at 8:15 am, or meet up with us at World Vision at 9 am. All are invited to have lunch out afterward.

To learn more about ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14**. All people are welcome!



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

Love is an Action Verb

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

When we love someone or something, we act upon that feeling. We seek to spend time with those we love. We engage in activities that we love. When we truly love, action is demanded.



In being part of this church over the past decade, I have heard so many of us exclaim how we love ELPC. We love the building. We love the friendliness. We love the commitment to justice. There is so much to love!

So, let's put that love in action. We can demonstrate our love for our beautiful church by serving during work days or by helping clear sidewalks of snow. We can demonstrate our love of our

friendliness by becoming involved in the Connections Dinner, the **club one sixteen** dinner provision, and the greeting/ushering ministries. We can demonstrate our love for our commitment to justice by joining one of our active Mission Committees or by buying Café Justo in the bookstore.

There is much to do to demonstrate your love for our church, our congregation, and our mission. To do this, please talk with me about how I might help you serve in our community. *Put your love in action.*

For more information, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14**. To learn more about serving or becoming a member of the weSERVE list, visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy,
Staff Representative

Tai Chi

Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
The cost is **\$3/session** (or \$25/10 sessions). Please pre-register with Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16**.

Cathedral Yoga

Wednesdays, at 6 pm

JourneyDance

Fri., Feb. 12, from 7–8 pm

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 friends and members who joined on Dec. 20: **Renee Clark, Amy Bialek & Liz Gonda, Francine Bengama, Dominic Odom, and Robert & Carole Forloines.**



Prayers

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

- Pansy Herndon Miles
- Myrna Hiller's father, Thomas Mayernik
- Jackie Walker's grandfather
- Kara Olson's grandmother
- Doris Dick's cousin, Lynda Mack
- Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy's ex-husband, Samuel



“...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.”

Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed all day on **Mon, Feb. 15**, for Presidents' Day

ELPC Updates in your Inbox

Would you like to have updates on ELPC news, events, and worship services delivered to your inbox every Friday? Sign up for our *e-Flash* by visiting www.ELPC.church and entering your email address in the box at the bottom of the homepage. You also can manage your preferences to receive our *Reaching Out* newsletter in your email!

Hear Essence of Joy at ELPC

The next concert in our *Cathedral Concerts* series will be on **Sun., March 6**, when *Essence of Joy* from the Pennsylvania State University returns to ELPC. Under the direction of Dr. Anthony Leach, *Essence of Joy* will sing during Sanctuary worship and then present a full-length concert at 3 pm, in the Sanctuary. Invite your friends and family to hear this fantastic choir!



University Students Tour ELPC

ELPC tour guide Penn Hackney provided a 1.5-hour tour in December for 22 students and a professor from Chatham University. The students were from the countries of Japan, Saudia Arabia, China, and Angola.

The customized tour included a presentation on Christianity and Presbyterianism and how they are reflected in the architecture of ELPC's Sanctuary and Chapel.

Earlier in 2015 private tours were provided for 35 visitors from a local senior residence as well as a tour for 25 students from a local private school. These custom tours were planned and led by Barbara Fotta and Tim VanFleet respectively.

Please contact Business Manager Pam Kimmel at **412.441.3800 x18** if you'd like to schedule a private tour for a group.

