



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

July 2016

Commissioning Our Youth



Join us in worship on **Sun., July 10**, as we pray for and commission our youth for their mission trips. Our Junior High Mission Trip team will be serving at the Food Bank, visiting nursing homes, and helping with children's outreach programs in Slippery Rock while staying at Crestfield Camp in July. Our Senior High Mission Trip Team will be serving around Pittsburgh and staying at ELPC in August.

We ask that you continue to hold these two groups in your prayers as they experience God's grace and call in our world and in their own lives.

Platin Scala Presents Elias David Moncado



Rising violin star Elias David Moncado will perform at ELPC on **Fri., July 15**, at 7 pm, as part of a cultural exchange with New Castle's Eintracht Maennerchor and Platin Scala of Wenden, Germany. The 15-year-old phenom is one of the top violinists of his age in the world.

Join us in welcoming this incredibly talented young man to America. Tickets are \$10; \$8 for seniors/students; \$5 for children. Visit ELPC.church for details.



International Partnership Gala

A special gala celebration will be held at ELPC on **Sun., July 31**, at 4:30 pm, to celebrate 25 years of partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and Malawi Presbyterians (as well as more recent connections with the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan).

Register online at bit.do/gala2016 or by contacting Kate Carlson in the church office. Tickets are \$25. The gala dinner will be followed by a worship service held in our Sanctuary at 7 pm, to which all are invited.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Summer Worship • 10 am

In the Courtyard, weather permitting, and broadcast in the Music Room

July 3*	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 10	Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 17	Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
July 24	Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
July 31	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

Explore Your Spiritual Life

- **Centering Prayer**
Tuesdays, at 7 pm
Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room
- **Cathedral Yoga**
Wednesdays, from 6–7 pm
Practice prayerful yoga in our beautiful Gothic Sanctuary. Please bring your own mat. Yoga is free, but donations are appreciated.
- **Contemplative Prayer**
Wednesdays, from 8–8:20 pm
Join us at the front of the Chapel after our Taizé prayer service to sit together in silence for 20 minutes. No experience is necessary.
- **Mindfulness Meditation**
Thursdays, from 7–8:30 pm
Join Susan Spangler in the Prayer and Meditation Room as we engage in this ancient prayer form together. Both those who are new to meditation and those with experience are heartily welcome.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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



At a recent staff retreat, an interesting detail of our common ministry became clear. The ELPC staff shows incredible dedication in ministering to and coordinating programs with our church membership. Yet a significant part of all our time also is spent embodying those same values with non-members and people in the community. Every day, Patrice is in touch with people from our community who need rent assistance or emergency support. Pam coordinates countless meetings and special events for both ELPC groups and community partners.

Heather, Sara, and Wil connect with kids who are (not yet) part of our church family through club one sixteen and Food 4 Thought, as well as through the youth mission activities and partnership with Rodef Shalom. Linda's work with Hope Academy links her to families and organizations spread out across Pittsburgh. Ed interacts with visitors who come in to see our Sanctuary while he's practicing, as well as his contacts through the *Cathedral Concerts* series. Mary Lynn's Spiritual Life programs and Taizé sung prayer services touch lives of many non-members every week. And my responsibilities include pastoral care for the congregation, as well as ecumenical outreach, leadership with the Covenant Network, and community activism that keep me engaged both inside our church and outside in service to the larger church.

This outward-focused ministry is a definite strength of our congregation. It is a sign of vitality, in that—through our work outside the church walls—new people are constantly being introduced to the love of Christ and the program offerings available at ELPC. It is a resource for evangelism and healthy church growth. It also is a reflection of our priorities, believing that Christ has called us, not to introspective, parochial ministry, but to go forth into the harvest of the fields around us, spreading the good news of Christ far and wide.

We are blessed to have such a capable and committed program staff at ELPC, along with amazing administrative assistants, bookkeeping, housekeeping, maintenance, and security personnel. Do keep us in your prayers, that we can find a healthy balance in our church-based, community-oriented "double" ministry. And during these summer months, look at the balance in your own life. May Christ open you to a routine that balances care for yourself and care for others in ways that nurtures your identity as a beloved child of God.

General Assembly Notes

From June 18–25, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly was held in Portland, Oregon. Pastor Heather was a voting commissioner and Pastor Randy attended as an observer. You can read more about this national gathering at PC-Biz.org; a short summary will be included in next month's *Reaching Out*.

Pastor Heather Continues her Sabbatical



Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, after eight years of pastoral ministry at ELPC (13 years of ministry here in total!), I began a three-month sabbatical in November, splitting up my time away because of my responsibilities as Sr. Vice Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery. This summer, I will conclude my sabbatical and be out of the office from July 2–September 10. This time away is a tremendous gift—from the congregation, Session, and my colleagues who will be offering additional support to the congregation in my absence.

As my husband and I have worked to make plans for this time off, we have not identified one exciting destination for the summer months as we had originally hoped. Rather, for this time of rejuvenation, we have claimed a focus of trying new things, finding everyday adventure in new experiences and opportunities together. Summer plans include visits with extended family and friends from college, opportunities for learning and reflection, and a list of doing things I have not done before—from a Ducky Tour to a Broadway show.

I know I will miss being a part of the ELPC family for the summer months, but I look forward—with joy—to returning on Rally Day Sunday with renewed energy and a fresh vision for ministry here. Know that you will be in my prayers while I am away—and know that I welcome your prayers: for safety, for rejuvenation, and for God's blessing in the simple adventures of life.

Pastor Heather

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



On **Fri., July 8**, we will serve dinner at Shepherd Wellness Community on behalf of ELPC. Everyone is welcome to sign up and help.

Then, we will reconnect and share stories at our next Spiritual Gathering on **Sat., July 16**, at 4 pm.

Lastly, we will welcome Black Pride Pittsburgh to ELPC on **Sat., July 30**, from 1–4 pm, as they have their "Family Affair" Game Day!

All ELPC friends and members are welcome and needed to fully demonstrate that ELPC is a place for all of God's people! To learn more about these events or to get involved in ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x14**.

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

Renovation Update

At its May meeting, the Session approved moving from the Design Development phase to the Construction Document phase of our renovation project. In the coming months, it is our hope to move toward construction contracts and final Session approval prior to commencing work this fall.

The congregation is invited to attend Project Update Presentations on **Sun., July 10**, either at 8:30 am, or following worship at 11:30 am, held in the Chapel. More information is available on the bulletin board and website.



Join us for a Workday

Join us on **Sat., July 9**, from 9 am–3 pm, for neighborhood mission opportunities with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. For more details, contact Emily Rosenthal at **412.963.0139** or Pastor Patrice at **412.441.3800 x30**.

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Tai Chi Tuesdays, from 10–11 am; 6–7 pm
Classes will run through Tues., July 26. Experience flowing movements and a relaxing workout. The cost is **\$3/session**. Please pre-register with Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x16**.

JourneyDance Fri., July 8, from 7–8 pm
Use movement to celebrate your inner strengths. Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation from the heart is appreciated.

Mission Matters

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

Update on Childhood Nutrition Reauthorization Bill

Last June, many of you wrote letters urging Congress to reauthorize the Childhood Nutrition Act of 2010, which funds school breakfast and lunch programs, summer feeding programs, and WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children). Reauthorization is important to expand access and improve the programs. The following is a progress update from the Neighbors Committee.

- The Senate Agricultural Committee approved—with a bipartisan vote—**The Integrity and Access Act** in January 2016. This bill provided increased access and important new resources to fight childhood hunger.

- In April 2016, a partisan bill, **Improving Child Nutrition Act of 2016**, was released by the House. According to our PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, this bill would reduce access to school meals and fails to address summer programs. It urges the committee to reconsider this legislation in order to expand access and participation.

Advocacy is needed to ensure a strong final child-nutrition bill in 2016. Our Washington office asks everyone to contact their representative and urge them to strengthen the House bill by increasing investments in children's nutrition.

ELPC Mission Board Announces the 2016 Summer Film Series

Sun., July 10: *Just Eat It. A food waste story*

75 minutes | Hosted by the Neighbors Committee



We all love food. As a society, we devour countless cooking shows, culinary magazines and foodie blogs. So how could we be throwing nearly 50% of it in the trash?

Filmmakers and food lovers Jen and Grant dive into the issue of waste from the farm, through retail, and all the way to the back of their own fridge. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, they quit grocery shopping and survive only on discarded food. What they find is truly shocking.

Sun., July 17: *The Canary Effect*

65 minutes | Hosted by the Justice Committee



An acclaimed documentary, *The Canary Effect*, is a 2010 work directed by Robin Davey and Yellow Thunder Woman, which seeks to expose the often misunderstood

and frequently overlooked historic realities of the American Indian. This experience may cause feelings of outrage, heartache, sympathy, and any number of other emotions, and challenge you to see American history in a new light. You also may want to assess the role the U.S. Government has played in the challenges and continues to do so today.

Sun., July 24: *The Imitation Game*

114 minutes | Hosted by the Justice Committee

This Academy Award-nominated movie is based on the true story of mathematician, cryptanalyst, nerd, and social misfit Alan Turing and how he led a team of geniuses to help win World War II, only to be rewarded by the nation he served with disgrace and death because of his sexual orientation. It deals with the challenges of those who are *different*, yet

extremely gifted and committed to a cause. This movie will challenge you to examine the motives of those who make decisions on behalf of those they govern, for good or ill.



Sun., July 31: *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA*

103 minutes | Hosted by the Peace Committee

Every day, more than 80 Americans are shot and killed. This film documents how gun manufacturers are profiting from the violence sweeping America. It features the heart-breaking stories of those affected by gun violence and exposes how gun companies, the NRA, and their political beneficiaries block legislation that could prevent thousands

of deaths and injuries, in order to maintain billions of dollars in profits. The film is a rally cry for us to come together and push for common-sense gun regulation and a safer America.



Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Get Involved in PW

PW invites all women at ELPC to prayerfully consider having a role in our activities. We are excited to meet and greet each of you!

- We have blank note cards (5 cards for \$10) that reflect mission efforts and serve to assist women all over the world. Contact Kate Carlson for details.
- We are preparing a second order for our PW T-shirts. They cost \$10 and are lilac with navy lettering. See Kelli Booher or Sherry Anderson if you are interested in purchasing one.
- PW Bible Study will resume in September. Our topic will be *Who is Jesus?* We invite you to join us and also to discern becoming a facilitator for one of the lessons over the year's course.
- Leadership team positions will be available beginning in October. Keep a look out for more details.

Diaper Drive Continues

Each day, 77,000 diapers are needed in Allegheny County. Your generosity is especially appreciated since government programs do not provide diapers. Please continue supporting the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank with donations.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., July 9: Working at the Car Wash 9 am–2 pm

Youth will be washing cars at Vento's Pizza, next to Home Depot. Donations in exchange for a clean car will be greatly appreciated, and will help fund the youth mission trip in Pittsburgh this summer. For more information, email Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., July 1: First Friday @ Hindu Jain Temple 7 pm

Come as we have a tour of the Hindu Jain Temple in Monroeville and observe the 8 pm Aarti Service. Meet at the Temple or contact Wil for a ride (leaving ELPC at 6:30 pm). Learn more at HinduJainTemple.org.

Sat., July 16: Understanding Islam 10:30 am

Come get a personalized tour of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh in Oakland and learn more about Islam and how to be an ally to our Muslim sisters and brothers. Learn more at ICP-Pgh.org.

Sun., July 24: Worship with Society of Friends 10:30 am

Come wait for the Spirit as we attend a weekly Quaker meeting service. Learn more at Quaker.org/pghpamm.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Congratulations to **Jon & Cami** (Needle) **Teacoach**, who were united in marriage on May 21.
- Congratulations to **Hollen Barner** and **Miranda Crotsley**, who were united in marriage on May 28.

Prayers

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

- Joe Kennedy's uncle

Calling All Graduates

We acknowledge that many people from within our faith family have graduated from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc. We would like to celebrate these achievements by honoring our graduates in our August newsletter.

Please submit the graduate's name—along with degree earned and school attended—to Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x22.



For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.



“...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

ELPC will be closed all day on **Mon., July 4**, in observance of Independence Day.

Service Spotlight: F4T Meal Team

In May, we concluded the second full year of our Food 4 Thought (F4T) mentor program. While our mentors and mentees spent time engaging in activities and building relationships in one room, our F4T meal team was in the next room over. Each week, the meal team prepared a healthy dinner for the entire group, making it possible for us to have energy and live into our name and mission, as we provided “food for thought.”



Thank you to our talented meal team: **Michele Bossers, Linda Harrington, David Phillips, Jackie Walker, and Jennifer Willson.**

Do you want to impact a young person’s life in a substantial and meaningful way? Talk with Wil Forrest about serving as a mentor or as a member of the meal team this fall.

To learn more about the iSERVE ministry or to join the weSERVE list, contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x14**, or visit **ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE**.

Crafter’s Gathering

On **Sat., July 23**, from 10 am–3 pm, ELPC will host a free gathering for those who use their sewing, knitting, crochet or other skills to give comfort and joy to others. Our guests will include visitors from some of our sister churches in the area. We will share ideas, project patterns, plans, and contact information for distribution to those who need our help.

A light lunch will be served. Please call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** to ask questions, volunteer to help, or sign up to attend. RSVP by **Mon., July 18**.

Save the Date to Celebrate

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on **Thurs., Aug. 18**, from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time.



Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you may bring a side dish or dessert to share (please label the container with your name). No serving utensils are needed.