

General Assembly News

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly held in June in Portland was a positive time of faithful gathering, decision-making, and planning for the future.



The Rev. Denise Anderson (left) and the Rev. Jan Edmiston were elected as the first-ever co-moderators at the 222nd General Assembly.

While it is true that some churches have left the denomination (about 350 out of 11,000), the remaining churches are actively seeking positive dialogue and mutual goals of justice and Christian mission. The incoming co-moderators are both women (The Rev. Denise Anderson and the Rev. Jan Edmiston). The new stated clerk of the General Assembly is the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, who preached at ELPC earlier this year. And the anti-racism, South African document—the *Confession of Belhar*—was added to our denomination’s *Book of Confessions*.

Continue to pray that God’s Spirit guides and nurtures our church in the years ahead.

Celebrate Our Service

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our seventh annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers from 6–7:30 pm, on **Thurs., Aug. 18**, in the Courtyard. Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you may bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please label any containers with your name if you want it back. No serving utensils are needed. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time!



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

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

Journey Prayer • 8:45 am

Held in the Social Hall through Sept. 4

Aug. 7 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 Aug. 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Aug. 21 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 Aug. 28 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Summer Worship • 10 am

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

Aug. 7* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 Aug. 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Aug. 21 Brian Ellison, executive director, Covenant Network
 Aug. 28 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Mark Your Calendars

Rally Day

On **Sun., Sept. 11**, we will return to our regular Sunday schedule with Journey worship at 8:45 am, Church School classes at 9:45 am, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am.

Church Life Sampler

Explore everything ELPC has to offer following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Sept. 18**.

Church Picnic

Join us on **Sun., Sept. 25**, following Sanctuary worship for our annual Church Picnic. Food will be served in the Social Hall, and seating will be available in the Social Hall and Courtyard. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or salad to share.

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



In January 1945, my father, Richard Bush, enlisted in the Navy halfway through his senior year in high school. He was 17, so his parents had to sign for him when he registered. He eventually became a signalman on an old Liberty ship called the USS Rotanin. (Dad said they called her the “Rotten Annie.”) Dad used to talk about standing watch at night and seeing the dim outline of a ship in the distance. He’d been taught not to stare at it directly, because if you looked just above the ship, the rods in your eyes will help bring the ship’s silhouette into focus so that you can identify it as a friend or a foe.

As I write this essay, there are a lot of different topics I could focus on. There are the political conventions, the Olympics in Rio, the continued aftershocks from the Orlando shootings in a gay nightclub, the sad details of more police killings of black men plus the sniper attack in Dallas, and a host of global issues from Brexit to bombings in Bangladesh. Any one of those topics merits our direct attention. Many of them should evoke in us prayers of confession, spirits of contrition, and a spiritual re-commitment to work for justice for all.

The news media and social media remind us of all the things we should focus on and seek to make right in our troubled world. But at some point we need to lift our gaze just slightly higher—above the horizon, heavenward—so that we can see farther and clearer. We are to look at what’s before us against the backdrop of what is yet to come—allowing our gaze to extend toward the horizon of God’s realm of peace and justice. We do this, not to avoid the hard reality of today, but to compare it against the promised kingdom of God’s righteousness, so that we can clearly understand what still needs to be done today. Doing so helps us remember that black lives matter, that justice delayed is justice denied, and that as we have done to the least of these in Christ’s family, we have done it to Him.

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth”—Psalm 121. In our trouble world, there is much we need to look at directly, so that we can repent of what must no longer be allowed to continue. But by lifting our gaze slightly, seeking the One who is our strength and our salvation, we will see more clearly what must be done in this life, even as we prepare for the life to come. Thanks be to God!

Randy Bush

Session News

At its June meeting, Session celebrated our church’s recent award for inclusion from the Islamic Center, heard a report from the recent Presbytery meeting, and acted to follow up with numerous inactive members of our congregation. A large class of new members and friends was received on July 10.

There will be no Session meeting in August, but an update from the Renovations Committee regarding budget, project scope, and contracts will be part of the September Session meeting.

Mission Matters

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

Sun., Aug. 21: Sunday Worship with Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

The ELPC Mission Board has entered into a collaborative interfaith relationship of learning and friendship with the members of the local Muslim community. Many of the gatherings have been offered at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (ICP), where people of all faiths have been greeted with warm hospitality and a genuine desire to get to know and support one another.

Now, we have an opportunity to return the same radical hospitality that we have received from our sisters and brothers at ICP. On **Sun., Aug. 21**, members of ICP will join us for worship in the Courtyard and lunch in the Social Hall. Following lunch, Kelcey Sharkas, outreach coordinator at ICP, will facilitate a seminar, entitled "How to Be a Muslim Ally."

The Mission Board cordially invites and encourages all ELPC members and friends to offer a warm, radically hospitable welcome to our guests and to extend their Sunday at church by participating in lunch and the seminar.

For more information, contact Michele Bossers or Pastor Patrice.

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."—1 John 4:16

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Join us at our next quarterly Business Meeting on **Sun., Aug. 14**, at 11 am, in Room 234. We will review the summer's events and plan our fall schedule. At noon, we will have lunch and begin our monthly Spiritual Gathering.

All people are welcome! 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.**



In June, the local LGBTQ community and allies joined together to hold a vigil for the victims of the Orlando shooting. Pastor Patrice delivered a prayer, which can be read at ELPC.church/news/prayer-orlando-victims.

Congratulations, Graduates

We rejoice that many people in our faith family graduated this year. Join us in offering congratulations and well-wishes to:

- **Katie Benedict Bookwalter** graduated with a M.Ed. from George Mason University. Katie's parents are Tim and Linda Benedict.
- **Camara Nicole Copeland** graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.S. in exercise science and sports management. Camara's mother is Valire Carr Copeland.
- **Camden Melissa Copeland** graduated from University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in urban studies. Camden's mother is Valire Carr Copeland.
- **Jason Ferrante** graduated from Pittsburgh Sci-Tech Academy with highest honors. He will be attending Allegheny College in the fall, studying environmental science. Jason's mother is Pam Walaski.
- **Erich Harkema** graduated from Allegheny College with a B.A. in communication arts: media studies. Erich's dad is Elmer Harkema.
- **Josh Lawrence** graduated from the University of Richmond with a B.A. in history. Josh's parents are Bryan and Heather Lawrence.
- **Joan Mukogosi** graduated from Winchester Thurston High School. She will be attending New York University in the fall. Joan's parents are Barbara Griffin and Jeff Mukogosi.
- **Alma Bartnik**
- **Jazmier Branch**
- **Darlajia Farrell**
- **Madison Morrissey**
- **Webster Neely**
- **Barbara Olvis**
- **Charlotte Rasmusson**
- **Cori Reese**



VCS 2016 was a Joyful Success

Sand and yarn mandalas, water balloons, scavenger hunts, songs, skits, prayers, and so much more came together to make the good news of Jesus' surprising love come to life for **87 children** during Vacation Church School at ELPC.

We thank everyone who helped make our time together a success—from the **maintenance staff** who set up the rooms to the **volunteers** who worked directly with the kids each day. Thank you also to **congregation members** who donated supplies—which the kids used to make Birthday Blessing Bags for families at local food pantries containing cake, icing, and decorations to celebrate a child's birthday; dog treats for an animal shelter in West Virginia that lost everything in recent floods; and sun catchers for area nursing home residents. Lastly, we offer a special word of thanks to those who ministered to the children as **leaders, teachers, snack coordinators, and shepherds.**

All of us offer our sincere thanks to:

Adult Volunteers

Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Amy Bialek, Mark Blank, Patricia Buben, Beth Bush, Randy Bush, Marilyn Castle, Carol Chonoska, Peta Harrigan Cole, Kristine Conley, Carla Depperman, Brian Diebold, Sandy Edgecombe, Dwayne Elliott, Wil Forrest, Richard Frederick, Sharon Geibel, Misia Goodson, Jane Hackett, Sara Hackett, Carol Hoehn, Keith Irvin, Gloria Knopp, Pat Krimmel, Heather Lawrence, MeShawn LeVert, Mary Alice Lightle, Margaret McCaulley, Patricia McClung, Jeffrey McLaren, Beverly Mick, Hannah Moon, Libby Parker, Lisa Petrilli, Elaine Phillips, Heather Schoenewolf, Paul Seif, Kay Shissler, John Tunney, Evalynn Welling, Larry White, Eddie Willson, and Frances Wilson.

Youth Volunteers

Charlotte Bush, Ian Bush, Elisa Chapman, Issac Degenholtz, Ben Douglas, Keyona Farrell, Lynne Irvin, Bola Kelani, Julia Lewand, Ramsey Lewand, Anastasia Morin-Hutty, McKenzie Morrissey, Kira Mukogosi, Ore Olaore, Tomi Olaore, Duncan Rieger, Mya Swain, Akil Turner, Lucy Ursin, Isaiah Wilson, Dominik Wrage, and Xander Yates.



Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Get to Know Presbyterian Women

If you are a woman who participates in our faith community, then you are a member of PW! Get to know us, share your faith, and create friendships.

Bible Study Returns in September

Our Bible study generally occurs on the first Monday and first Tuesday of each month from September through May. We will begin on **Tues., Sept. 6**, at 10 am, and **Mon., Sept. 12**, at 7 pm. The title of this year's study is *Who is Jesus?* Tuesday's study is followed by lunch and child care can be requested for Monday evenings.

Diaper Drive Reminder

We are committed to supplying diapers for needy families throughout 2016. This is a serious issue for babies and their families. We appreciate our church family's response since last fall and anticipate your continued support. Thank you!

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Please Keep the Senior High Mission Trip Team in Your Prayers

The senior high mission trip team will be staying at ELPC and serving around Pittsburgh from Aug. 7–12. The team will be doing a variety of mission projects, including serving dinner and providing activities at the Ronald McDonald house, as well as volunteering at World Vision and Northside Common Ministries.



Sun., Aug. 14: Mission Trip Recaps

Join us as our youth mission trip teams share stories and pictures from their trips during worship at 10 am, and then help host the fellowship hour following the service. Youth and parents should plan to attend.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Congratulations to **Antwone Wright**, who was baptized on July 10.
- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends who joined on July 10 (pictured): **John Bavaro, Kate Dillon, Mike Dillon, Scott Eckes, Patti Fountain, Nancy Fultz, Nancy Gippert, Ida Joiner, Aaron McConnell, Tony Richardson, Joseph Robinson,** and **Antwone Wright**.



Prayers

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

- Nancy Wright's sister, Betsy Anderson
- Ray Anthony's brother, Arnell Anthony

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Aug. 5: First Friday @ Hebrew Chant 7 pm

Connect with the Divine and with each other as we join our voices in Hebrew Chant at ELPC in the Courtyard, weather permitting. Led by David Goldstein, we will experience this form of meditation that opens the door of our heart.

Tues., Aug. 23: Latin Mass 7 pm

Join us at Saint John XXIII Parish on the Northside and experience the age-old tradition of worshipping God as Christians did for centuries—entirely in Latin. Learn more at stjohnxxiiiparish.org.





“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.”

Explore Your Spiritual Life

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays, 7 pm

Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this prayer method is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

Cathedral Yoga

Wednesdays, 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, 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, 7–8 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.

Feeling Crafty?

New helpers of all skill levels are always welcomed. Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** or dnjcks@verizon.net.

Knitting Group

Tues., Aug. 2

1–3 pm

Room 244

Toy Makers

Wed., Aug. 3, 17, 31

9 am–12 pm

Sewing Room

Sewing Group

Mon., Aug. 15

2:30–6 pm

Sewing Room

Help Make Worship Happen

Each week, dozens of volunteers are needed to help make worship happen. You just need to be present and have a servant’s heart to be one of these wonderful volunteers!

Interested in learning how to help? Join us in the Chapel following worship on **Sun., Aug. 28**, for a brief informational meeting. We will review the ways in which you can volunteer on any given Sunday. Come learn and maybe serve.



ELPC member Judy Menk often serves as a lay leader during worship.