

Winter Rally Day: Proclaim the Good News

As we return to Church School following the Christmas break, our church family will gather for Winter Rally Day—an intergenerational hour of learning and fellowship in lieu of our traditional Church School classes. Join us on the Third Floor from 9:45–10:45 am, on **Sun., Jan. 8**, as we explore the Lectionary Scripture Passages through interactive learning stations for persons of all ages. Our engagement of the Word together will come to life at our Sanctuary service at 11 am.

There also will be opportunities for persons of all ages to participate during our Sanctuary service. A light potluck breakfast will be served as well, so please bring a breakfast bread to share.



Experience a Choral Fantasy

Join us on **Sun., Jan. 29**, at 3 pm, as the Duquesne University Choirs, directed by Dr. Caron Daley, perform with The Arsenal Duo: Nathan Carterette on the piano and Dr. Edward Alan Moore on the organ.

The performance is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Save the Date for the All-Church Retreat



Mark your calendars for ELPC's All-Church Retreat at Crestfield Camp from **Fri.–Sun., May 5–7** (Pittsburgh Marathon weekend). Persons of all ages are invited to participate in this intergenerational retreat, filled with fellowship, worship, service, relaxation, and time to explore our faith together.

Check **ELPC.church** for complete details or call Pastor Heather or Sara Hackett. Pre-registration is required; scholarships are available.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: Starting Over

Jan. 1 *No Journey worship service*
 Jan. 8* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Jan. 15 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 Jan. 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Jan. 29. Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Jan. 1 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
 Jan. 8* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Jan. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Jan. 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Jan. 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Live stream available at ELPC.church

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

club one sixteen returns Jan. 11

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

club one sixteen is our Wednesday night youth group for children and youth in grades 1–12. Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious home-cooked meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study.

Parents, please complete a registration form for your child/children.

Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/
Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
 - Older Youth: Bible Study and Gym
 - Younger Youth: Crafts and Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
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www.ELPC.church

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

Sharron Boddy
Seminary Intern

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 noted African American theologian and pastor Howard Thurman published a short devotional book called *Meditations of the Heart*. In it he shared this brief anecdote:

Years ago, walking along a road outside Rangoon, I noted at intervals along the way a roadside stone with a crock of water and, occasionally, some fruit. Water and fruit were put there by Buddhist priests to comfort and bless any passerby—one's spiritual salutation to another. The fact that I was a traveler from another part of the world, speaking a strange language and practicing a different faith, made no difference. What mattered was the fact that I was walking along the road—what my mission was, who I was—all irrelevant.

There are serendipitous moments in our life that bring us joy—finding a quarter on the sidewalk or money in a jacket pocket; having the sun break through the Pittsburgh clouds and shine all around us; seeing children playing outside or watch a dog chase a tennis ball. Lifting our eyes off the ground (and off our electronic devices!) allows us to catch glimpses of beauty and God's grace around us. But our faith calls us to trust in something more than serendipity. We are also called to be intentional in our acts of comfort, grace and blessing.

The past year is now history. Year-end contribution appeals will likely stop appearing in your mailbox. A new year is dawning with both challenges and opportunities for all of us. It is a perfect time to practice "intentional serendipity." Even though that phrase is an oxymoron, it is still an idea worth considering. How about sending a handwritten note telling one person you value in your life how special they are? Or what about if you notice someone behind you in the grocery store checkout line who has only a couple items and you offer to add it to your total—or if you see someone eating alone at a table beside you in a restaurant and you pick up their tab? First pray that you might be a blessing this month to someone—and then keep your eyes and heart open, trusting that God will provide the opportunity for your "intentional serendipity."

Thurman ended his meditation by asking: *In your own way, do you keep a lantern burning by the roadside with a note saying where you may be found just in case? Do you place a jar of cool water and a bit of fruit under a tree to help the needy traveler? God knows the answer and so do you!* May we each be a blessing this month.

Randy Bush

A Report from the ELPC Session

There were no regularly scheduled Session meetings within the past month, but a special meeting was held on Dec. 18, to receive the latest group of members and friends, bringing our year-to-date total to **70 new congregation members!**

In addition, the 2017 budget was approved, showing a healthy increase in congregational giving and a \$30,000 decrease in our reliance on our endowment.

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

Jan. 15 and 22: Luke—Acts: the Early Church

Tucker Ferda will lead us on a journey from the call of the disciples to the formation of the church. What can today's church learn from the early church?

Jan. 29: The "Fifth Gospel"

As we develop our own theology, we create a composite story of the Jesus we meet in the gospels. Wrestling with the similarities and differences in the gospel accounts can deepen our understanding of Jesus Christ. Class will be led by Mary Alice Lightle.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Jan Lyle Irvin

Epiphany can be a season of emerging consciousness and call. The apostle Paul writes, *For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God* (1 Corinthians 1:18). Such forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace can seem strange. Yet somehow, the reign of God is right at hand. Join us as we reflect on these readings:

Jan. 15: Isaiah 49:1–7; Psalm 40:1–11;
1 Corinthians 1:1–9; John 1:29–42

Jan. 22: Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9;
1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–23

Jan. 29: Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Jan. 15: Introduction to Teilhard de Chardin

Beginning in March, the Spiritual Life Committee will present programs on the 20th century Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. A theologian and evolutionary paleontologist, de Chardin produced a re-understanding of the Christian faith in light of science. His works, silenced by the Vatican during his lifetime, are now being discovered and used as the impetus for a 21st Century Christianity. Join Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan for a sneak peek into this brilliant scholar and his fascinating vision of our faith.

Jan. 22 and 29: The Prophet Amos

The Book of Amos has been one of the least influential of the Biblical canon. It is seldom quoted or alluded to in Jewish or Christian writings, in spite of the fact that Amos is widely accepted as the earliest of the prophetic books, and marks the beginning of a unique tradition in the history of religion. Come explore Amos and explore the man and God's message to Israel with the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.

Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu

Jan. 15: A discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon "Loving Your Enemies," led by Joe Hajdu, Michele Bossers, and Pam Napier-Barnes.

Jan. 22: A discussion of Biblical texts focused on "Feminine Strength—Human and Divine," led by Joe Hajdu, Michelle Bard, and Steve Evrard.

Jan. 29: An introductory discussion of our new text, *Open the Door*, led by Joe Hajdu, Judy Roberts, and Linda Harrington.

Young Adults *Pastor's Conference Room*

Facilitator: Wil Forrest

Jan. 15: Prayer Time

Come connect with other young adults for biblical reflection and group prayer.

Children and Youth

Young Children's Ministry/Infants—age 2 *First Floor Nursery*

Curriculum: "Wee Children at Church"

A denominational curriculum for nursery-age children.

Pre-school/Ages 3–5 *Room 240*

Curriculum: "Gospel Light"

Bible stories are explored through interactive storytelling, prayer, and artistic response.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 *Room 336*

Curriculum: "Godly Play"

Using Godly Play, children are given the opportunity to learn and explore stories of the Bible through storytelling, asking "wondering" questions, and play.

Grades 2–3 *Room 338*

Curriculum: "Godly Play"

Building on the K–1 program, the childrens' concepts of God and faith keep expanding.

Grades 4–5 *Room 335*

Curriculum: "Seasons of the Spirit"

A lectionary-based, hands-on curriculum for tweens.

Junior High (grades 6–8) *Room 341*

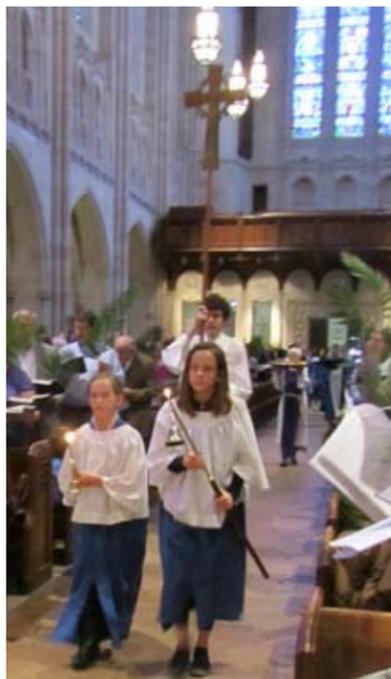
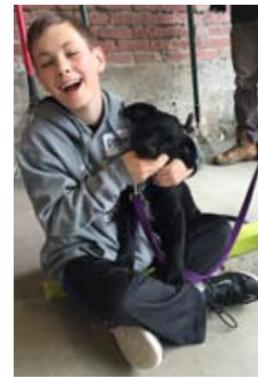
Curriculum: "We Believe—Faith Questions"

The denominational curriculum for youth.

Senior High (grades 9–12) *Room 343*

Curriculum: "Re: Form"

This is a youth faith formation series dealing with tough questions of faith.



Misguided Angels: The Role of the Nervous System in Spiritual Growth

From conception, our brains develop from the bottom up: brain stem, limbic system, and then cortex. The nervous system is the first to develop, with the primary responsibility of protecting us from danger. It operates through approach or avoid—going toward what nurtures us and away from what threatens us. From a young age, we perceived our caregivers as doing both. Our personality becomes hardwired into our nervous system as a survival strategy, setting patterns of thinking, feeling, and behavior. While they served us well in childhood, these patterns limit us in adulthood.

Learn about your individual patterns using the Enneagram as a map, and how to work with the nervous system to expand your capacity for spiritual growth. This class will be taught in two five-week terms:

- **Term 1: Mondays, Feb. 6–March 6**, from 7–9 pm, will focus on understanding the Nervous System and the Enneagram. (suggested donation is \$35)
- **Term 2: Mondays, March 13–April 10**, from 6:30–9 pm, will continue the learning, but will add an experiential element to the academic teaching. You must have completed Term 1 to take Term 2. (suggested donation is \$50)

Required Book: *The Enneagram: Understanding Yourself and the Others In Your Life* by Helen Palmer (available on Amazon). The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan has a limited number of used copies for \$10/each or by scholarship if requested.

Visit ELPC.church or stop by the Spiritual Life Committee's bulletin board for a registration form and information on our instructor, Kerry O'Donnell.



Mission Matters

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

Sat., Jan. 7: Healing Communities Training 1–6 pm

The Justice Committee encourages ELPC members who are interested in helping our church discern the calling to support those in our community who are returning from incarceration—including some that are part of our faith family—to attend a Healing Communities training session at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Following this training, our goal is to evaluate if—and explore how—ELPC might become a “Station of Hope” for those who are returning from incarceration. One recent study noted the most important determinant for the future success of such individuals is a community of loving support they find—not training or a job.

Contact Scilla at Scillahw@gmail.com or **412.361.1581** to register to join us.

Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Bible Study: Who is Jesus? Second Floor Parlor

Tues., Jan. 3 10 am | Mon., Jan. 9 7 pm

Join us as we explore our lesson, *Who is Jesus according to Paul?* Childcare is available by request for the Tuesday study. A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday Bible Study; participants are encouraged to bring their own table setting, including a soup bowl, along with a side to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.

Living in Liberty, a Local Ministry to Trafficked Women

Living in Liberty offers a secure safe house for victims of human sex trafficking and does outreach with victims on the streets, and at three care centers. Founded in 2012, Living in Liberty also educates the public about sex trafficking, as well as its prevalence worldwide and its presence in our communities.

This ministry is the 2016–17 mission project of PW in Pittsburgh Presbytery. Watch for opportunities to support this ministry. For more information, contact Mary Alice Lightle at **412.682.1504** or visit LivingInLiberty.org.

Spiritual Life

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

Fri.–Sun., Jan. 20–22: Silent Retreat

In the midst of winter, it is easier to see the beautiful and intricate pattern of the trees and, in the silence of retreat, it is easier to see the beautiful and intricate pattern of God's presence in our lives. Share the silence with others and begin to trace that pattern for yourself at a retreat from **Fri.–Sun., Jan. 20–22**.

The retreat will be held at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center on the Northside. We will gather for dinner on Friday evening, and depart after brunch on Sunday.

Registration is required and includes an opportunity to meet with a spiritual director. The cost is **\$120** and scholarships are available. Registration forms are available on the SLC bulletin board and at ELPC.church.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Saturdays: Youth Basketball 5–8 pm

Boys in grades 9–12 are welcome to join us to play basketball! Questions? Contact Anthony Williams.

Fri., Jan. 6: Vigil Against LGBTQ Violence 6 pm

High school students are invited to help host the Gay Christian Network Conference's Vigil Against LGBTQ Violence with young adults from ELPC. The conference and vigil will be downtown, outside. We will meet at ELPC at 6 pm.

Sun., Jan. 8: DG2! @ ELPC 12–3 pm

Doing Good Together!—a service based partnership with youth from Rodef Shalom—will meet to do service projects that help feed our neighbors. Youth in grades 4–12 are encouraged to join in the fun and the work!



Fri., Jan. 27: Tween Bowling 6–8 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends!

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Jan. 6: First Friday @ Anti-Violence Vigil 7 pm

Part worship, part mission, all TRAIL! We will help host the Gay Christian Network Conference's Vigil Against LGBTQ Violence at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Come help make the event happen with other TRAIL folks and promote this important cause as more than a thousand attendees will be traveling to Pittsburgh. Volunteers will get free admission to a concert at 8:30 pm, featuring Everyday Sunday and Bobby Jo Valentine! See GayChristian.net for more details.

Fri., Jan. 20: Celebration of Diversity Concert and Gathering

Spend the evening of the Inauguration with friends at a welcoming gathering for all people and enjoy a concert featuring diverse artists. More details coming soon.

Fri.–Sun., Feb. 3–5: Young Adult Peace Retreat

All TRAIL young adults are invited to a retreat at Crestfield Camp! Our time together will be spent in our cozy cottage with wonderful people, meditations, worship, games, plenty-o-snacks, nature galore, and much more as we focus on finding peace in a turbulent world.

The fee is \$50, which includes everything. Limited scholarships are available. Please RSVP to Wil by **Sun., Jan. 22**.



Our Young Adult Ministry is for you, and your friends are welcome too! For details or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- **Christopher Tayo Hughes-Ihonde**, son of Aidevo Ihonde and Deborah Hughes, was recently baptized.
- **Nathan Knopp**, son of Darrell and Gloria Knopp, graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Thanks

- Diane Jackson and family wish to thank everyone for their support and condolences on the death of her mother.
- Presbyterian Women in ELPC thanks the congregation for its generous contributions to the 2016 Thank Offering. These funds support programs that lift up the lives of women and children around the world.
- The Toy Makers' Group would like to express their gratitude for the wonderful generosity at the toy sale.
- The ELPC Deacons want to thank the congregation and community for their generosity and kindness in supporting the Giving Tree Ministry. As a result of your generosity, **232 gifts** were purchased and a record number of **114 children** will receive Christmas gifts!

Prayers

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

- Justin Johnson's brother-in-law, Ricardo Gutzmer
- Jim Cover, ELPC member
- Nancy Thomas, ELPC member and mother of Sarai Thomas, Laura Thomas, and Judith Dixon
- Diane Jackson's mother, Evelyn Fortson
- Margaret Baco's mother
- Sonya-Marie Morley's uncle, James Street
- Doris Dick's father, George Dick
- Kristine Conley's uncle
- David Carl's uncle



“...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.”

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Building Closed

The ELPC office will be closed on **Mon., Jan. 2**, for the New Year's holiday, and on **Mon., Jan. 16**, for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

New Year, New Opportunities

At this time of year, many folks examine their lives and reset priorities. As you examine your life, you may be thinking about a service commitment you have made at ELPC or elsewhere. Does it still fit into your life? Does it edify you? Does it use your God-given gifts? Do you still enjoy it?

The author of Ecclesiastes writes that there is a time to every purpose under heaven.



There is a time to serve, and, I offer to you, there is a time to move on. Review your commitments to see if there is still a fit. Could you or the task be better served by stepping aside so someone else can take it on? Ask yourself if you still enjoy it. Think about what might be next.

Talk with your committee chair or staff member about your current commitment, and discuss if you still feel a fit or if something else is calling you. It may be time to take on new challenges and ways to serve God.

Visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE to read about joining the weSERVE list and other iSERVE opportunities. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 to ask questions.

Feeling Crafty?

New helpers are always welcomed. Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021 or dnjcks@verizon.net.



Knitting Group

Tues., Jan. 3
1–3 pm
Room 244

Toy Makers

Wed., Jan. 11, 25
9 am–12 pm
Sewing Room

Sewing Group

Mon., Jan. 9
2:30–6 pm
Room 78

LGBTQ Ministry Includes You

All people are welcome to join us at our next Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., Jan. 15**, after Sanctuary worship.

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

