

Ash Wednesday Events

On **Wed., March 1**, the season of Lent will begin with our Ash Wednesday service featuring the imposition of ashes in the Chapel at 12 pm, led by Pastor Patrice.

Following the service, we will welcome Dr. David Esterline, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as our guest speaker in Room 234. A simple lunch will be provided.

Later in the evening, all are welcome to attend a special Taizé prayer service with the imposition of ashes, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan.

Lenten Devotionals are Now Available

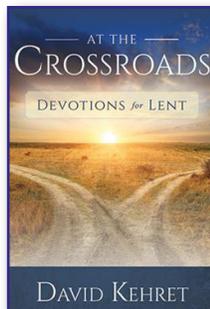
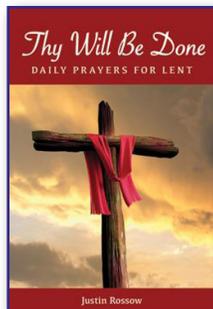
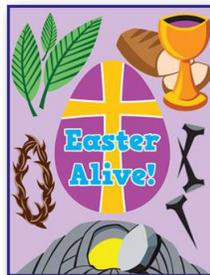
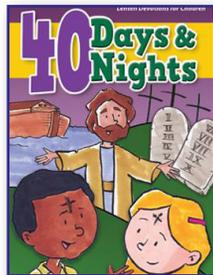
As we begin our Lenten journey together on Ash Wednesday, March 1, Christian Education (CE) is offering Lenten devotionals for people of all ages. Devotionals can be picked up on the table outside of the East Transept and on the Second Floor CE table.

For children:

- 40 Days & Nights Booklet
- Easter Alive Puzzle Magnet

For older youth and adults:

- Greatest Commandment Coin
- Thy Will Be Done
- At the Crossroads



Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: Following

March 5* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 March 12 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 March 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 March 26 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

March 5* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 March 12 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 March 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 March 26 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

*For children and youth in grades 1–12
 Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm*

Senior high youth will continue **asking the big questions**. Questions are an important part of learning, especially as we try to understand ourselves, the world, and God. We will explore questions ranging from: “Do aliens exist?” to “Why do Christians hurt people in the name of God?” to “What do we know about Heaven and Hell?”

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
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800
Fax: 412.441.4422

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



This year the month of March rests firmly in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday literally occurs on the first day of the month, and when we turn over our calendars, we still have 16 days to go until Easter. Lent is a time for us to focus on ourselves and our world in relation to God—the One who knows us completely, calls us to live justly and compassionately, and loves us enough to redeem us by the sacrificial grace of Jesus Christ. It is a season for asking “God, how are we doing?” as well as “What could I do better?”

Given that the good news of Jesus has been with us almost 2,000 years, are we doing a better job today of putting the Gospel into practice than we did yesterday? In many ways, we can answer that question in the affirmative. We have a greater sense of the universal nature of God’s realm and the church of Jesus Christ than we did in centuries past. We are doing better at seeing our missionary work as “service with co-workers of the faith” instead of “converting the heathen masses.” And the nature of the global internet means that people in distant lands can read the same devotional books, listen to the same sermons, and discuss aspects of faith with Christians here in America and around the world.

But are we progressing as a human species as well as people of faith? Robert Gordon recently wrote an interesting book called *The Rise and Fall of American Growth*, in which he argued that the advances from 1870–1970 far overshadow the inventions and advances of the last half century. The late 19th century brought amazing improvements to the quality of life through inventions such as electricity, urban sanitation, and the internal combustion engine. The early 20th century continued this trend through the development of chemicals, medicines, and modern communications. Suddenly electric lights replaced oil lamps, flush toilets replaced outhouses, cars and electric trains replaced horses, and prescription medicine ended the risk of death from common infections.

But in many ways, the great age of inventions is behind us. Air travel and computer technology have connected us more nationally and globally, but it can be argued that, in and of themselves, these advances have not dramatically improved our quality of life. While life expectancies have risen, they have not been evenly distributed across race, gender, and nationality. Surely the investments into wrinkle creams, male baldness cures, and sexual potency drugs could have been better utilized in battling cancer, malaria, and AIDS. Infant mortality remains a troubling issue in both developed and developing nations. Educational standards and workplace improvements are not where we might have hoped, given the great strides made in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Lent is when we recommit ourselves to walk beside Christ in his ministry of healing, protecting, and loving God’s creation. It is done with “Easter” hope, even as we recognize how far we still have to travel to reach the “promised land.” Be prayerful in asking, “Lord, what can we do now as your people in the 21st century to offer good news to this world?” Be it through actions or activism, prayers or moral progress, I am very sure God wants both to hear this question and offer us an answer we can take to heart.

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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



Sat., March 4: Workday with OHM 9 am–3 pm
All ages and skill levels are welcome—on the first Saturday of every month—to help Open Hand Ministries rehab an abandoned house into a quality, affordable home for a family. For details, email Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com or Henry Petrilli at HLP615@gmail.com.

Mon., March 6–April 10: Grief Support Group 6:30–8 pm
ELPC will host a free Grief Support Group facilitated by Susan Spangler and Ted Cmarada, licensed psychotherapists. The group is open to anyone in the community who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Participants should plan to attend all six sessions. If you have questions, please call Susan at **240.285.6507** or Ted at **240.446.4937**.

Sun., March 12: The Disease of Addiction 12:15 pm
Mr. Jenkins, drug and alcohol coordinator at East Liberty Family Health Care Center, will be with us to speak about “The Disease of Addiction.” He will cover the stages of addiction, as well as the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of the disease. Light refreshments will be served.

Tues., March 28: OHM Circles Dinner
Four times a year, ELPC provides dinner for OHM families who are working hard on improving their financial situation and reaching their goals. Consider helping them along the way by donating food and/or serving dinner. The dinner is a simple, yet impactful way to get to know the families. Email Carol Bonner at lobonner@gmail.com with questions.

Supporting Local Families Through OHM



While you may be familiar with Open Hand Ministries (OHM) for its home rehab workdays on the first Saturday of each month, OHM's real focus is on working with families so they can move beyond their fragile economic situations, move out of poverty, become financially stable, and qualify to buy a home.

To help families reach these goals, OHM offers a structured family development program, called Circles. Through the Circles program, a family (Leader) that wants to change the outlook of their finances and life goals, is paired with a supportive “Ally” who assists them.

OHM is currently looking for both Leaders and Allies. Training will begin in the spring! If you are interested in becoming an Ally and would like to chat with current Allies from ELPC, contact Allison Freeman at sneezemd08@gmail.com or Susan Spangler at sspanglerlcs@gmail.com.

For more information about the Circles program, please contact Jodi Salant at jsalant@openhandpittsburgh.org or **412.361.8061**.

Better Choices, Better Health

Do you need support with practical ways of dealing with pain, fatigue, nutrition, exercise, and other issues?

If so, the ELPC Membership and Outreach Committee is offering a new Better Choices, Better Health workshop on **Tuesdays, May 2–June 6**, from 10:30 am–12 pm.

The six-week workshop is free and open to the general public—including adults with a chronic health condition.

To register, call Carla Coles at **412.661.1363**.

ELPC Health Ministry Offers New Resources

Did you know the Health Ministry offers magazines, periodicals, books, and pamphlets on a variety of topics in the ELPC Library?

Looking to learn more about good nutrition and healthy living? Explore the *Nutrition Action Healthletter* newsletter.

Wondering how to stick to a balanced diet while living with diabetes or celiac disease? Flip through *The New Diabetic Cookbook*, 5th Edition, as well as *Diabetic Living* and *Diabetes Self-Management* magazines. Or, browse through a guide for celiacs and the *Cholesterol Control Handbook and Cookbook*.

Are you caring for a loved one or trying to deal with a difficult end-of-life situation? Read through books, such as *The Emotional Survival Guide for Caregivers* and *The Mayo Clinic Guide to Alzheimer's Disease*. There also are pamphlets on palliative care, hospice care, the Patient Care Partnership, and the Allegheny Family Caregiver Resource Guide.

Stop by the Library and take advantage of all the information that is available.

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

Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

This month, we will conclude our exploration of Jesus' words in the Gospel of John as a rich source of theological understanding.

March 5: Bread of Life *Led by Sharron Boddy*

In John 6, Jesus identifies himself with the bread God gives to bring life to the world.

March 12: Good Shepherd *Led by Caitlin Cleaver*

In John 10:1–18, Jesus tells a parable contrasting the shepherd of the sheep with thieves and bandits. Jesus identifies as the gate of the sheepfold and the shepherd of the sheep.

March 19: Resurrection and Life *Led by Charles Nordquist*

In the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11, Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life."

March 26: Passover Offering *Led by Adam Cleaver*

In John 19:13–16, 31–37, Jesus' death is aligned with the slaughter of the Passover offerings.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Jan Lyle Irvin and Lora Bethea

Lent's scripture readings include stories about people called or sent across social, political, and geographical boundaries. There is fear and alienation but also God's abiding presence and grace. Transformations and homecomings are promised and experienced. Love is deepened. Join us as we continue on these paths for our own Lenten and life journeys.

March 5: Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11

March 12: Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17

March 19: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42

March 26: 1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu

March: Open the Door

We will continue discussing Joyce Rupp's book, *Open the Door*, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

March 5: Meeting Lazarus *Led by the Rev. Jim Davidson*

The Rev. Jim Davidson will talk about his pastoral work in the Mon Valley with applicants for the Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbytery. Since the mid-1980s, the private fund has distributed \$2 million in rent and utility payments on behalf of about 10,000 Allegheny County households.

March 12: The Problem of Suffering and Evil in the Christian Tradition *Led by Dr. Heather Vacek*

The attempt to reconcile suffering and evil with the existence of a good God has captured the imaginations of believers and skeptics for centuries. Why does evil exist? How have Christians defined suffering? How have Christians responded? We'll look together at a brief history of Christian insight about suffering and evil, and then ask, "So what?"

Dr. Heather Vacek, of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead us to consider whether our call as Christians is to explore the intricacies of philosophical arguments about the nature of evil, or whether our call as Christians is to form and live in and nurture communities that enable us to survive amidst suffering and evil in the world. How might evil and suffering be resisted, absorbed, or even transformed by Christian communities?

March 19 and 26: "Daring to Doubt"

Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Doubt is a popular theme in Scripture—some, like the disciple Thomas, are even known for their doubt. Often, we judge doubt as an obstacle to faith, but what if doubt was really a stepping stone that led to even deeper faith? Pastor Heather will discuss the important role doubt can play in our life of faith, and lead us in an exploration of how an honest expression of our doubt, questions and skepticism can lead to a more authentic experience of faith—both personally and within community.

Young Adults *Pastor's Conference Room*

Facilitator: Wil Forrest

March: Discussion and Prayer Series

On Sundays during Lent (March 5–April 9), we will engage in a discussion series based on topics selected by our group. We also will explore different styles of prayer each week.

See Wil if you want to lead a discussion, lead prayer time, and/or provide breakfast.

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. We will not meet on Sat., March 4 or 18.

Sun., March 12: DG2! Purim Carnival 9:45 am–1:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 are invited to help host the Purim Carnival at Rodef Shalom. We will leave together, immediately following our Journey worship service. This will be a fun morning of service to children and families, and a great way to learn about the Purim. More info and a permission slip are on the online calendar.

Fri., March 24: Tween Game Night

Youth in grades 4–6, and their friends, are invited to come have dinner and play gym and board games at ELPC.

Youth to Take Part in 30-Hour Famine



Youth in grades 6–12 will spend 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshipping, and learning about global hunger and poverty to raise money in support of Church World Service's work in relocating Syrian refugees in Europe and the U.S.

The fast begins the morning of **Sat., March 4**, (youth should arrive at ELPC at 3:30 pm), and ends with Communion during Journey Worship on **Sun., March 5**.



A permission slip, our schedule, and a packing list can be found on the website calendar. For questions or to RSVP, contact Sara Hackett or Anthony Williams.



Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., March 3: First Friday @ Drum Circle 7 pm

Join us at First United Methodist Church (5401 Centre Ave., Shadyside) to experience a drum circle! Drumming is a great way to throw off the stresses of your day, connect to the spirit and center into community. Just dive in and let the rhythms carry you. Bring your own drum if you have one.

Sat., March 11: Road Trip with a Purpose

Join us as we take a trip to the Bruderhof Christian community in Farmington, Pa., to make new friends and learn about intentional living. We'll leave ELPC together at 2 pm, and return in the evening. Learn more at Bruderhof.com.

Coming Soon for Youth

For complete details, please see the youth calendar at ELPC.church.

DG2! @ Good Deeds Day

Sun., April 2
(Youth in grades 4–12)

Mission Overnight

Fri.–Sat., April 21–22
(Youth in grades 8–12)

Tween Retreat @ Crestfield

Sat.–Sun., April 29–30
(Youth in grades 4–6)

Mark Your Calendars for VCS 2017

It's not too early to start making plans for our 2017 Vacation Church School program from **Mon.–Fri., June 26–30!**



This year's theme will be *Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed*, and we will explore the spiritual treasure of Jesus' teachings to us through the stories he tells his disciples, called parables. Our days will be filled with worship, games, Bible study, art, reflection and lots of fun!

Registration forms for campers and volunteers are available at ELPC.church and on the Christian Education bulletin boards. Register early; spots fill up fast!





We're Having a Baby Shower!

Presbyterian Women invites everyone to a baby shower for Pastor Heather in the Social Hall on **Sun., March 19**, from 1–4 pm. Watch the weekly announcements for more information.

Explore Your Spiritual Life

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays, 7–7:20 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. Those who are new to meditation and those with experience are heartily welcome.

Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson, Moderator

Bible Study: Who is Jesus? *Second Floor Parlor*

Mon., March 6 7 pm | Tues., March 7 10 am

Join us as we continue our study, *Who is Jesus according to the Non-canonical Gospels?* A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday study, with soup and beverages provided. Please bring your own table setting and soup bowl, as well as a side to share. Childcare is available by request for the Tuesday study.

Register Now for the PW Spring Retreat

All women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock from **Fri.–Sat., March 31–April 1**. We will gather Friday evening and return home Saturday evening.

Partial scholarships are available. Look for more information at **ELPC.church** and on the bulletin board outside of the Library.



Spiritual Life

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

Science, Cosmology, Theology, and Mysticism

March marks the beginning of the Spiritual Life Committee's new focus on Science, Cosmology, Theology, and Mysticism. Our journey will be based on the work of Teilhard de Chardin—a 20th Century Jesuit and world-renowned paleontologist. Don't miss any of these exciting opportunities to explore faith, the world, and spirituality.

Sun., March 5: Interfaith Panel on Our Role in the Universe 12:15 pm

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to an Interfaith Panel that will discuss the question, "What is our (human) role in the universe?" Pastor Randy will join representatives from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and more in this intriguing discussion with diverse religious perspectives. A light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP with Kate Carlson by calling **412.441.3800 x16**.

Thurs., March 23: Book and Video Study 6:30–8 pm

Continued on Thurs., April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, and June 1

All are welcome to a study series as we read and discuss Teilhard's *Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution* (Orbis Books, 2014), and watch several videos by other scholars on cosmology and theology. Join the conversation!

Fri.–Sun., June 16–18: Teilhard's Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ

Mark your calendar now for a retreat guided by Teilhard's *Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ*. Our retreat will be led by Dr. Kathleen Duffy—a Sister of St. Joseph (S.S.J.) and a professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, where she directs the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and the Institute for Religion and Science. More information will be available soon!

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



All people are welcome to join us at our next Spiritual Gathering following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., March 12**. During this monthly meeting, we will share food, fellowship, and our stories.

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

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

At Recent Meetings, the ELPC Session:

- Received the first class of new members and friends in 2017;
- Voted to recommend Britney Vokish as a candidate under care of Presbytery as she continues to move toward ordination;
- Considered a request from the Peace Committee of the Mission Board opposing the manufacture and sale of military style weapons to the American public; and
- Made final preparations for the annual Congregational Meeting and officer training sessions.

We Want You!

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



Each season in the life of our church brings some predictable service needs that are typically fulfilled by the iSERVE ministry. However, sometimes there are unanticipated and time-sensitive requests in our faith family and greater community.

When these opportunities arise, a brief notice is sent out and weSERVE list helpers step up as ready, willing, and able servers.

If you feel you are being called to serve, sign on to the weSERVE list and when an opportunity arises that fits your schedule and interest, help out. If not, do nothing. Be a part of this important ministry, enabling us—as a congregation—to more nimbly and effectively respond to the needs in our faith family and community.

Visit the iSERVE webpage at ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE to read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities! Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 to ask questions.

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 and friends who joined in December: **Harvey Adams, Jr., Regina Anderson, Martha Mannix, Kirsten Berger, Patricia Buben, Leigh & Miguel Carlson-Hernandez, Adam & Caitlin Clever, Bill & Bambi Goehring, Marty Gussenhofen, Samantha Levinson, Kathleen Mahin, Alan & Marilyn McIvor, Polly McQueen & Erich Stein, Steven & Gail Mosites, Dorothy Murphy, Phil Parr, Judd Poeske, John Smith, and Christopher Wharton.**



Thanks

- “I would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and kind words regarding the death of my father, George. I ask for your continued prayers for my mother, Mary. Blessings!”—Doris A. Dick

Prayers

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

- Emily Khuu's father, Thomas Khuu
- Steve & Mary Evrard's family member, Ginny Figlar
- Emma Johnson's brother-in-law, Frank Johnson
- Mary Beth Gladis-Johnson's stepfather
- Rob Brown's cousin



“...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.”



Reminder: Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sun., March 12.**

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Exploring ELPC's Architecture



Marvel at the beauty of ELPC's stunning Gothic architecture as Elder Stephen Evrad takes us on a tour of our Sanctuary and Chapel on **Sun., March 5**, following our 11 am service. Gather at the front of the Sanctuary.

Please allow 45 minutes for the tour and wear comfortable shoes.

Photo © Chris Litherland

Register for our All-Church Retreat

Everyone is welcome to join us at our All-Church Retreat at Crestfield Camp from **Fri.–Sun., May 5–7** (Pittsburgh Marathon weekend). Our theme is *Road Trip: Our Journey Together*.

Travel is an important theme in scripture—from Abram and Sarai's journey to Egypt, to the Risen Christ walking with his disciples on the Road to Emmaus. We are reminded continually that our life of faith does not simply play out within the walls of our cathedral, but also as we travel through life together—literally and metaphorically. As a family of faith, walking alongside one another, we seek to follow and serve God. Through worship, workshops, Bible study, games, fellowship, and the enjoyment of God's beautiful creation, we will continue our journey together!



Registration is now open and rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Please note that ALL are welcome. Transportation and partial scholarships are available upon request. Visit **ELPC.church** for complete details.

ELPC Updates in Your Inbox

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

