

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

*Theme: Joy*

Dec. 3\* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
 Dec. 10 Rev. Randy Bush  
 Dec. 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
 Dec. 24 No worship service  
 Dec. 31 No worship service

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Dec. 3\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
 Dec. 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
 Dec. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
 Dec. 24 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
 Dec. 31 Kalyn Stevwing,  
 seminary intern

### 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](http://ELPC.church)*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

### Church School Updates

There will be no Church School classes on **Sun., Dec. 10, 24, or 31**, so that we all can enjoy the Christmas Pageant and take a holiday break.

Classes will resume on **Winter Rally Day, Sun., Jan. 7**. A light breakfast will be provided.

### Holiday Closures

The ELPC office will be closed in celebration of Christmas on **Mon. & Tues., Dec. 25 & 26**, and for New Year's on **Mon., Jan. 1**.



## The Pageant of Peace

All people are invited to enjoy our annual Christmas pageant on **Sun., Dec. 10**, 10 am, as the children and middle school youth of ELPC reenact the story of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

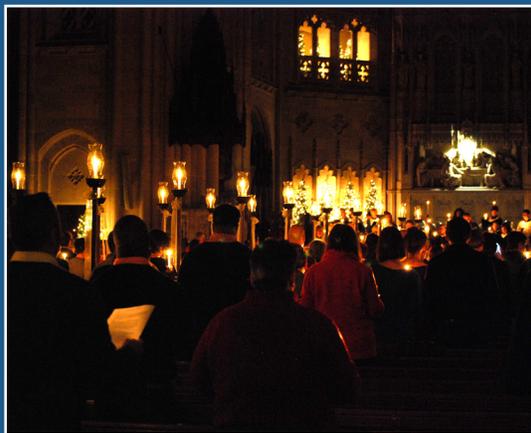
May we all be inspired by this familiar story to share the peace of Christ with others, and be peacemakers in our world.

This year's pageant will be authored by Ashley Birt. There will be a rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 9**, 9:30 am, followed by a brief Christmas party for participants. All children and youth in grade 8 and under are invited to participate. Youth in grades 6–8 are asked to attend Church School on **Sun., Dec. 3**, or let Sara Hackett know that you will be participating, so that a speaking part can be set aside for you.

## Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child

Join us in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship on **Sun., Dec. 24**. Both services will feature the celebration of the Lord's Supper and candle lighting.

- **Friends & Family Service** will be at 5 pm. Pastor Heather will preach.
- **Candlelight Service** will be at 11 pm, with prelude music at 10:30 pm. Pastor Randy will preach.



## 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](http://www.ELPC.church)

### Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
*Pastor*

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
*Associate Pastor for Educational 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*

Kalyn Stevwing  
*Seminary Intern*

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*



Back in the 1930s, the Rev. Thornwell Jacobs (what a great name!) was president of a Presbyterian college in Atlanta called Oglethorpe University. Rev. Jacobs got an idea intended to get Oglethorpe University in the national news. He decided to prepare a massive time capsule and seal it in the basement of the campus administration building. He called it a “Crypt of Civilization” and received a hearty endorsement for his plan from *Scientific American*. This special room was meant to record life in the early 20th century by sealing up encyclopedias, newspapers preserved

on microfilm, miniature models of cars, and a complete model of the U.S. Capitol Building. Along with these things, Jacobs wanted to include everyday items, like a set of Lincoln Logs toys, a sheet of aluminum foil, model trains, chewing gum, and phonograph records bearing the voices of world leaders like Franklin Roosevelt and King Edward VIII.

On May 25, 1940, the crypt was loaded, dedicated, and had its stainless-steel door welded shut. The plan was to keep this time capsule closed until the year 8113. Why that date? It’s a convoluted story; suffice to say that Jacobs treated his idea as the midpoint of all human history and decided that all the years that had already elapsed (based on ancient Egyptian calendars) should be added to his current date, meaning the time capsule would be opened again at the end of history in 8113.

Even if you are skeptical about the feasibility of Rev. Jacobs’ plan, you have to admire his sheer visionary thinking. When was the last time you thought about the year 8000 AD? When was the last time you thought about the 22nd century, something only 83 years in the future? In our fast-paced world today, I’d wager that we have trouble thinking about next year or next month, much less spending any time contemplating the next millennia!

We do a disservice to the Christian season of Advent if we think it is only meant to help us focus on Christmas Day in late December. The purple-hued, candle-commemorated, four weeks of Advent were never intended as countdowns to Christmas. This season encourages us to lift our eyes to a distant horizon—to hear again the ancient promise that Christ, the One who came once upon this earth has promised to come again.

That theological idea shouldn’t prompt us to pull out our calculators, and like Rev. Jacobs, try to determine when God will pull down the final curtain on human history. Advent isn’t about tucking away things in a time capsule until the vaults of civilization can be unsealed and we step into God’s future with the baggage, knickknacks and trinkets of our day and age. Advent is about a promised change that finally frees us from our past and moves us into a new reality—an eternity shaped by God’s love, Christ’s compassion, and the Spirit’s joyful creativity. It builds on the good news of Christmas (God made flesh), Easter (Christ defeating death), and Pentecost (Spirit leading us into communities of love) and then goes further. Further than we can see or imagine. So take time this month to look towards a very far horizon. And know that the God of “there” is also the God of “here and now.” No need to wait for time capsules to be unsealed. Let the journey of faith begin today!

*Randy Bush*

# Mission Matters

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



## Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be set up on **Sun., Dec. 3 and 10**, as well as on **Wed., Dec. 6**. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on **Sun., Dec. 17**. To make a monetary donation, please make your check out to “ELPC Giving Tree” and deliver it to the church office.

The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this important ministry, which benefits children and families from our faith family and beyond.

## Affordable Housing Update in East Liberty

As you drive down Broad St., passing Target, you will notice a huge, empty lot where the East Liberty Gardens apartment complex formerly stood. For many years, ELPC leadership, members, and friends participated in East Liberty Garden’s annual Community Day celebration and served on their board of directors.

What happened to the more than 100 families that lived there? Where did they go?

All of the families received support through the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative—including relocation assistance, employment services, health and wellness support, and education advocacy. The program’s goal is to help families move back if they choose to do so.

- 52 families remained in East Liberty
- 34 families moved into **new** housing on Larimer Ave., two blocks away
- 25 families moved to the Hill District and Homewood
- 25 families moved to neighborhoods within 8 miles of East Liberty

In addition, the new housing being built on the site will have 65 units earmarked for previous East Liberty Gardens residents, and 21 other East Liberty sites are near completion, which also will provide housing for former residents.

If you have questions about the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, or about relocation efforts for the former residents, call Becky Gloninger, ELPC Elder and Choice Neighborhoods senior project manager, at **412.520.4160**.

## Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee

Have you switched from incandescent lights to LED (light-emitting diode)?

Their initial purchase price is higher, but they offer significant advantages and savings. Quality LED lights use 75% less energy, last 25x longer, emit less heat, and have a smaller profile. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, if you replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs in the most used fixtures in your home, you could save \$75 in energy costs each year. The benefits of LEDs also apply to holiday lights, so consider updating your festive lights as well.

At ELPC, our Sanctuary now features LED lights, and corridors are in progress. In renovated areas, new LED lamps are being installed with occupancy sensors. In total, ELPC is expected to save 30% on energy costs thanks to all renovations—of that, 25–30% will come from LED lighting upgrades.

## Pastor Patrice is Going Back to School

Pastor Patrice was recently accepted into the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program, Urban Change focus.

She will begin with a two-week, on-campus intensive, Jan. 12–26, with others in her cohort.

Please keep Pastor Patrice in your thoughts and prayers as she begins this next journey in her education, ministry and self-enrichment.



## Support OHM’s Marathon Team

Are you already thinking about a New Year’s resolution and springtime? Open Hand Ministries (OHM) invites you to consider participating in OHM’s 2018 Marathon Fundraising Event, as a runner, relay team member, pasta party supporter, or financial sponsor! If you want to run as an individual, you can register now.

For details about how to raise money for OHM by running in the 2018 Pittsburgh Marathon, email Zoe Hooley at [zoe.hooley@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.hooley@gmail.com) or Emily Rosenthal at [EJR116@gmail.com](mailto:EJR116@gmail.com).

Look for more information about OHM’s Marathon kick-off party at Wallace Tap at Hotel Indigo in East Liberty, on **Sat., Jan. 20!**

## Advent Devotionals

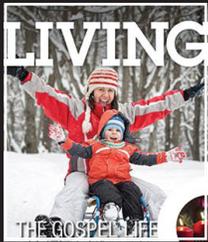
The Christian Education Committee is pleased to offer Advent devotionals to help you reflect on God's love for us in Christ.

## Pop-Up Advent Calendar

Each day of Advent, **children** can open a new window and reflect on a part of the special story about God's love that came to us when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



## Living the Gospel Life

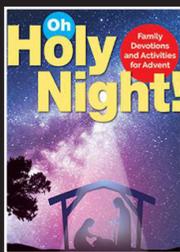


This pocket-size devotional for **teens and adults** offers reflections, scripture passages, and a daily challenge to encourage persons

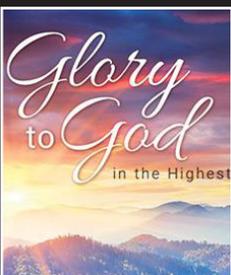
to partner with Jesus on his mission to proclaim the good news of release, healing, and love for the world.

## Oh Holy Night

This devotional takes **families** on a prayer journey preparing for the arrival of the newborn Savior, offering a prayer, reflection, and activity for each day of the season.



## Glory to God in the Highest



Echoing the song of the angels, this booklet for **adults** explores how God's glory was revealed through the birth of Christ our Savior.

# Christian Education

**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.

*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

## Contemporaries *Harambe Room*

*Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle*

### Dec. 3 | 17: Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited

#### Dec. 3: Mary's Call in the Annunciation

The annunciation of Jesus' birth to a small-town girl tells us much about God's desires for the world. Kalyn Stevwing will lead us as we listen anew to this courageous young woman's call from God, and Zechariah's chat with Gabriel, guided by Luke 1:5–38.

#### Dec. 17: The Joy of Elizabeth and Mary

We will savor the joy of both Elizabeth and Mary before turning to Mary's song of praise. This hymn of justice and liberation sets our course to celebrate the birth of the Savior and reminds us that we are called to a ministry of God's work. Fran Wilson will lead our lesson, based on Luke 1:39–56.

## Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

*Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin*

John the Baptist testified to the coming of Christ by saying: "Among you stands one whom you do not know." The revelation of God in Christ is not readily transparent or recognizable. Yet ironically, in Christ, we may come to know strangers, foreigners, and even enemies with such intimacy that they may become dear friends. Join us for these Advent readings:

**Dec. 3:** Isaiah 64:1–9; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:24–37

**Dec. 17:** Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24;  
John 1:6–8, 19–28

## Seekers *Chapel*

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

### Dec. 3: Christmas Stories: Re-learning the Gospel with Matthew and Luke

Many of us know "the Christmas story" in the Gospels, but unfortunately, we often read it selectively. Dr. Tucker Ferda, visiting assistant professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead our examination of Matthew's and Luke's theological messages concerning Christ's birth. We also will compare their stories to highlight their distinctive approach to the mission and person of Jesus.

### Dec. 17: Gifts of the Season

Join us as we share talents, thoughts, and family customs that commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to enjoy music, poems, readings and personal reflections that hopefully will enrich your own holiday.

## Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

*Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu*

### Dec. 3 | 17: *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr

**Dec. 3:** The Rev. Joe Hajdu, Shirley Fair, and Michelle Bard, will lead a beginning discussion of chapter 6.

**Dec. 17:** The Rev. Joe Hajdu, Linda Harrington, and Michele Bossers will lead us as we conclude our study.

## Young Adults *Room 224*

*Facilitator: Wil Forrest*

### Dec. 17: A Christmas Event

Join us as we celebrate the season with breakfast, scripture, and friends.

# Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

## Doing Good Together!, Twice in December

**Sun., Dec. 3** 12–2:30 pm | **Thurs., Dec. 28** 3–8 pm

Students in grades 4–12 are invited to join Doing Good Together! (DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—to work on service projects in our community. A permission slip is required and can be found on the youth calendar page at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

**Sat., Dec. 9: Jr. High Service Project** 11:30 am–2:30 pm

Following our Christmas Pageant rehearsal, youth in grades 6–8 will spend the afternoon shopping for Christmas gifts for children who are in foster care through Project STAR, a program of the Children’s Institute. Lunch will be provided.

**Fri., Dec. 15: Tween Night** 5:30–7:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to join us for dinner, Christmas crafts and Christmas baking in celebration of the Christmas season. This is a great time to make a gift or treat for someone you love. Families are welcome to stay for the *Christmas in East Liberty* concert at 7:30 pm.

**Sun., Dec. 17: Confirmation Class** 12:30–3:30 pm

We will meet in the Second Floor Parlor and discuss how participation in worship and exploring scripture helps us follow Jesus. Lunch will be provided.

## College Reunion

College-age young adults are invited to come catch up over dinner and games at Jen and Eddie Wilson’s home during Christmas break.

For details and to RSVP, contact Sara Hackett.



# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



**Fri., Dec. 1: First Friday @ Shadracks** 7 pm

Let’s go driving in a winter wonderland! Meet at ELPC at 7 pm, and we will drive to Butler for the “world’s largest drive-through, fully synchronized, LED Christmas light and music show of its kind.”

Visit [ShadrackChristmas.com/pittsburgh-pa](http://ShadrackChristmas.com/pittsburgh-pa) to learn more. RSVP to Wil to save your seat in the van.

## club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Parents and friends are invited to join us on **Wed., Dec. 13**, 6 pm, for a Christmas drama, put on by youth in grades 1–6. Dinner will be served following the performance.

**Note:** We will not meet on **Wed., Dec. 20, 27, or Jan. 3.**



**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.

Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/ Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5:00 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
  - Older Youth: Bible Study and Gym
  - Younger Youth: Bible Study, Crafts, and Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

## Renovation News

Our renovation project is more than half completed! This month, the remaining work on the first floor's north hallway will be completed. As an early Christmas bonus, we anticipate having both hallways of the first floor available for us during the last half of the holiday month. In early January, work will begin on the McKelvy Room and the east corridor of the first floor. The entire project is still on track to be completed sometime in April 2018.

Continue to pray for the workers, staff, and larger ELPC community, as we all anxiously anticipate how these improvements will enhance the ministry done in our church facility.



## ELPC Session Updates

At recent meetings, the Session:

- Prepared to receive a fifth class of new members and friends in mid-December.
- Reviewed the budget and overall progress of the renovation work, making positive arrangements related to cash flow needs for the project and adjusted internal "traffic patterns" during the final stage of construction.
- Reviewed the church rolls and approved the 2018 budget, celebrating a strong response to our 2017 Stewardship Campaign.

## Toymakers' Annual Sale

The Toymakers' annual sale will be held after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Dec. 3**, in the McKelvy Room. Available will be a sampling of the toys we make for distribution to women's shelters and mission trips, as well as some seasonal goodies.

Thank you for your generosity. This sale enables us to buy wood, paint, and tools that keep us going for the whole year.



## Presbyterian Women

*Sherry Anderson, Moderator*

### The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study

**Mon., Dec. 4 7 pm | Tues., Dec. 5 10 am**

Our next lesson is titled *In Community with God's Messengers*. Monday's session will be in the Harambe Room. Tuesday's session will be followed by a potluck lunch featuring soup and contributions from the group. Please see the weekly bulletin for exact meeting rooms.

## Spiritual Life

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

### Sun., Dec. 17: Advent Mini-Retreat 12-3 pm

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to find a few moments of precious quiet amongst the noise of *consumer* Christmas, to reflect upon the amazing gift of incarnation apart from the madness of *sparkle season*, to come to the stable and kneel at the miracle of love come to life. A light lunch will be served. Treat yourself to a real celebration of Christmas!

## Come Away to the Quiet, Jan. 26-28

Mark your Calendars for the ELPC Silent Retreat and watch the SLC bulletin board for registration forms. After the busyness of Christmas, plan to get away to listen to the silence so that you might discover how the Christ child is being born in your own life!

## Year-End Giving

Contributions to our 2017 Stewardship Campaign, *Rebuilding Bodies and Souls*, will be accepted until **Fri., Dec. 29**, for credit in 2017. Your generous support of our ongoing mission, personnel, and property needs helps us maintain our church's wide range of programs. In addition, your amazing financing of our *Building Our Future* capital campaign thus far has exceeded where we need to be at this time in the five-year pledging cycle.

If you have questions on the status of your giving, please call Deborah Marx, our church bookkeeper, at **412.441.3800 x134**.

## LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



All are welcome to join us at our monthly Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., Dec. 10**, 12 pm.

Interested in getting involved in our LGBTQ Ministry? Contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x114**.

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

## How Do You Serve?

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Over the past few years, ELPC volunteers have been adding links to a large chain of service. Each link represents one way that person serves. Here are some of the good works shared when I asked ELPC friends and members: How do you serve?



Holy Spirit Breakfast Club • Open Hand Ministries • Greeter • Session • Yardwork at church • Liturgist • Tour guide • Welcome table host • Justice Committee • Bread donation delivery • Deacon • Singing in choir • WMA Committee • Volunteer at **club one sixteen** • Crucifer • Teach Church School classes • Ushering • Provide dinner for **club one sixteen** • Mission trips • Help with mailings • Visit shut-ins • Garfield Community Farm • Mentoring • Mission

Board • M&O Committee • Toymakers • Provide rides to church • Peace Committee • Intercessory prayer • Knitters • Handbell Choir • YAYA Committee

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities, visit **ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE**. For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at **Wil@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x114**.

## ELPC People

If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x122.

### Good News

- Please welcome our new members and friends who joined in October:
  - **Jaclyn Martz and Jennifer Rinkevich, Michelle and Josh Bard, Amos Chapman, Gretchen Chapman, Peg Patterson, Leah Pope, Deborah and William Newcomer, and Kurt Summersgill**
- Congratulations and best wishes to **Kara Olson and John Kimicata**, who were married on Oct. 14.

### Thanks

- Presbyterian Women thanks everyone for the generous Diaper Drive donations made at the Fall Social.
- Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who supported our mission partner, Open Hand Ministries, in November, either at the house rehab project in East Liberty or at the Circles dinner. We are blessed by your participation!
  - **Gina Anderson, Frank Bauerle, Josh Bauerle, Michele Bossers, David Brown, Liz Hoyt Brown, David Carl, Gretchen and Boaz Chapman, Mary Nell Cummings, Dick Edgcombe, Ruth Farrell, Libby Ferda, Allison Freeman, Carole Forloines, Sharon Geibel, Gaby and Eric Jester, Jon Nelson, Henry Petrilli, Nancy Phillips, Taylor J. Woods, Sara Rectenwald, Vivienne Selis, and Tiffany Sudar**

### Prayers

Join us in offering prayers and condolences to:

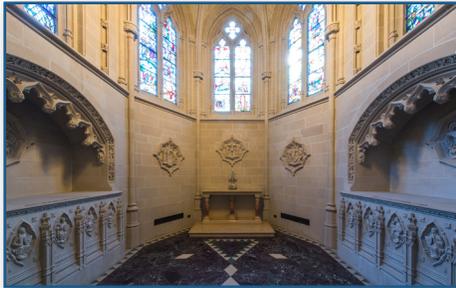
- Tim Benedict on the death of his mother, Fay Benedict
- Kate Carlson on the death of her sister-in-law, Delene Ford
- Richard Hiller on the death of his father, ELPC member Roy Hiller
- Judy Roberts on the death of her brother, Jim Kent
- The Reese family on the death of Melanie Reese



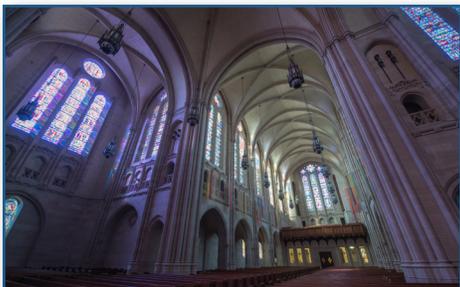
*“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”*

## Discover the Trinity Chapel

Elder Steve Evrard will lead a tour of one of the smallest rooms in our church on **Sun., Dec. 10**, 12 pm. The Trinity Chapel may be small, but it is filled with symbolism and features unique and beautiful stained glass windows. Meet at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.



## Explore the Sanctuary & Chapel



Carla Depperman will lead a tour of the Chapel and Sanctuary on **Sun., Dec. 24**, 12 pm, while they are adorned with decorations of the Christmas season. The tour will include historical, architectural, and symbolic aspects of these amazing spaces. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary following worship.

*Photos courtesy of Chris Litherland*

## Christmas in East Liberty

Join us—and invite your friends and family—as our *Cathedral Concerts* series continues with a joyous performance in the ELPC Sanctuary on **Fri., Dec. 15**, 7:30 pm. The Brass Roots return for another festive concert with the ELPC Chancel Choir and Dr. Edward Alan Moore at the organ. This concert has become an East Liberty tradition and one of the most highly anticipated concerts of the season!

A freewill offering will be received.

