



# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

February 2018



## Rev. Jimmie Hawkins to Visit

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins to ELP on **Sun., Feb. 11**. The Rev. Hawkins will speak at a combined adult Church School class in the Good Samaritan Room (formerly the Small Dining Room), and then lead our Sanctuary service.

The Rev. Hawkins currently serves as director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C.



## Ash Wednesday Events

### Noon Service and Guest Speaker

On **Wed., Feb. 14**, the season of Lent will begin with our Ash Wednesday service at 12 pm, featuring the imposition of ashes, led by Pastor Randy in the Chapel.

Following the service, the Rev. Dr. Heather Hartung Vacek will be with us to discuss "Speaking Faithfully About the Challenge of Mental Illness." Join us in Good Samaritan Room (formerly the Small Dining Room). Lunch provided.

The Rev. Dr. Vacek joined the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2012, and became vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty/associate professor of church history in 2016.

### Ash Wednesday Taizé Service

Lent is a season in the Christian calendar—a time of intentionally looking at our own faith and lives. As you begin your observance of Lent, join us for a special Ash Wednesday Taizé service at 7 pm, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan. The service will offer sung and spoken prayer, scripture reading and silence, an opportunity for individual prayer, anointing, and the imposition of ashes.

## Attend Our Congregational Meeting

All ELP members are encouraged to attend our annual Congregational Meeting following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Feb. 25**, in the Social Hall. Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting in which reports and financial budgets will be reviewed. Nominations for the incoming slate of officers (elders, deacons, Centennial Fund member) also will be voted on.

Copies of our Annual Report will be available on Sun., Feb. 18 and 25.

## Sunday Services

\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

*Theme: Speak the Truth*

- Feb. 4\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Feb. 11 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Feb. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Feb. 4\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 11 Rev. Jimmie Hawkins
- Feb. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Feb. 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

## 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

## It's Time to Make Plans for the All-Church Retreat

Save the date for our annual All-Church Retreat at Crestfield Camp, which will take place **Fri.–Sun., May 4–6** (Pittsburgh Marathon weekend). Our theme will be *We are the Church Together*.

Together, we will look at the Pentecost event and stories of the early church in Acts, while we explore what it means for us to be the church today.

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.

Look for more details in the March issue of *Reaching Out*.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



*The Cathedral of Hope*  
116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800  
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[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 Addlesperger  
*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*



We have a funny, love-hate relationship with money. When we don't have it, we wish we did; when we do have it, we worry that someone else will take it from us or we moan about how quickly it disappears. In church we quote scripture about how the love of money is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10), even as we encourage people to put money in the offering plate since God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Yuval Harari, in his fascinating book *Sapiens*, points out that people may disagree about many things in life—religion, politics, sports—but we universally share common views about money. As he puts it, “Whereas religion asks us to believe in something, money asks us to believe that other people believe in something.” Global trading networks developed long ago only because people from different lands, speaking mutually incomprehensible languages and worshiping distinct gods all shared a common belief in the value of gold and silver coins. So they would trade these bits of metal for silk in China, spices in East Asia, and grain from India. Both parties benefited from this common belief in money.

Harari suggests that money is the only trust system created by humans that can bridge almost any cultural gap and does not discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, race, age, or sexual orientation. What we do with that money can undermine the mutual trust, just as extreme inequities involving money have led to famine, war, and revolutions. But for a moment, it is fitting to give thanks for the simple trust system inherent in money—a system that allows us to travel anywhere in the world (or welcome someone from anywhere in the world) and relate to one another as friends, peers, and citizens of one global economy.

The season of Lent begins later this month. Perhaps it is time for us to break our silence about money. A Lenten discipline might involve spending some time imagining how the money over which we exert control might be used to nurture trust in others (in keeping with its fundamental value as a connector and trust-builder between people). If the simple dollar bill or financial transaction between us and another person is only possible so long as we believe in what that person believes in (namely, money), what other beliefs do we share in common with others that might “earn interest” and bless the common good?

Jesus spoke a fair amount about money. But for this Lenten exercise of ours, call to mind the time when he was asked about paying the temple tax in Jerusalem and was shown a coin engraved with the likeness of Caesar. In that moment he said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). May all our monetary acts be done giving priority to the ways of the Lord and may it evoke the trust that is at the heart of all money—so our resources and our common belief can nurture hope in today’s troubled and distracted world.

*Randy Bush*

## Ashley DeTar Birt to be Ordained at ELPC



Please hold Ashley DeTar Birt in prayer as she prepares to stand her Oral Parts of Trial in the Presbytery of New York on **Tues., Jan. 30**. This is the last step required of Ashley, which will clear her for ordination.

Should the way be clear, Ashley will be serving as the "Pastoral Fellow for Youth and Families" at Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City, and will be ordained at ELPC on **Sun., Feb. 18**, 3 pm.

More details to follow in the bulletin and e-flash.

## Spiritual Life

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

### **Sun., Feb. 11: Jewish Chant 12 pm**

Join us for a time of learning, worship, and community. David Goldstein will be teaching us about and leading us in Jewish Chant. Join us in the Music Room following Sanctuary worship. A light lunch will be served.

## Mission Matters

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

### **Open Hand Ministries: A Home Run**

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) will be participating in the Pittsburgh Marathon in support of OHM's work for justice in our communities. This year, OHM's marathon event will be a "Home Run." We invite you to be a part of it! What better way to warm your heart (and your limbs) than by running to support OHM?

All levels of runners are welcome with options from 3 miles to the whole 26.1-mile marathon. Run as an individual or as part of the ELPC Relay Team! If you prefer supporting from the sidelines, we have plenty of opportunities to volunteer—including joining our cheer station or helping with our pasta party.

If you are interested in being part of the fun and fellowship, contact Emily Rosenthal at [ejr116@gmail.com](mailto:ejr116@gmail.com) or Zoë Huelsman at [zoehuelsman@gmail.com](mailto:zoehuelsman@gmail.com).

## Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee

Does your home need more insulation? It's very likely. According to a Boston University study, 90% of homes in the U.S. are under-insulated.

Adding insulation can dramatically reduce drafts and increase comfort, but that step alone does not stop unwanted air infiltration. If you're adding insulation, remember to seal all gaps, including around doors and windows. Stopping air infiltration is a major component in making an energy-efficient home.

Not ready for a whole-house insulation update? Start in your attic, where adding insulation usually pays for itself within 1–2 years. Just remember to make sure your chosen contractor also seals the gaps around vents, lights, and/or chimney as part of the job!

## Lenten Devotionals Available Sun., Feb. 11

The Christian Education Committee will be providing devotionals to guide us during this Lenten season. The devotionals will be available on **Sun., Feb. 11**. For more information, visit [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) and read the bulletin.

### **Practicing Love: Family Devotions for Lent**

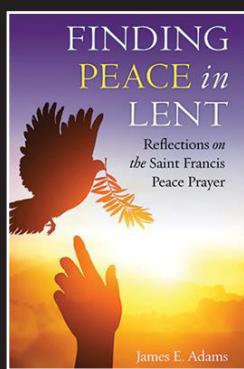
As Christians, we strive to live and love as Jesus did. In order to love well, we need to practice. And practicing as a family helps everyone to grow in their faith together



each day. During Lent, we more sharply reflect upon the Word of God and upon modeling our behaviors after those of our Savior. This booklet is filled with reflections and activities that gently invite the whole family to practice love for Lent, even though love never goes out of season.

### **Finding Peace in Lent**

*Finding Peace in Lent* gives readers the opportunity to enliven their prayer life by reflecting upon and praying the St. Francis Peace Prayer. Readers also will be prepared to put their prayer into action each day of Lent, bringing themselves and others closer to the peace of Christ.



# Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

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

## Feb. 11: Combined Adult Church School Class

The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, our guest from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, will speak at a combined adult Church School class in the Good Samaritan Room (formerly known as the Small Dining Room).

## Contemporaries Harambe Room

Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

### Feb. 4: Africa and the Bible

Traditionally, biblical interpretation has been from a European perspective. Examples of Africa or Africans in the Bible usually have negative connotations and have even been used to justify slavery. We'll consider the curse of Ham and the Ethiopian eunuch from an Afro-centric perspective with Pastor Patrice.

### Feb. 18: The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race

Jan Irvin will introduce Willie James Jennings' book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. One reviewer writes, "There is no study that I know of that traces with such detail, consistency, insight, historical depth, and geographic spread the links between racism, capitalism, and Christian theology."

### Feb. 25: The Psalms, a Lenten Series

What are the Psalms? A vehicle for prayer? Theological statements woven throughout poetry? History woven throughout poetry? Friend to turn to when sad, mad, or glad? What is your experience with the Psalms? Get your spiritual blood going with this Lenten series.

## Journey with Scripture Second Floor Library

Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Jan Lyle Irvin, and Kalyn Stevwing

"The right to rule belongs to the Lord. He rules all nations."—Psalm 22:28.

In the Lenten gospel readings, Jesus sets his face towards an encounter with the unjust rulers of his nation and their disdain for the least. Neither complicit nor complacent with the status quo, he proclaims God's dominion by word and deed. Jesus claims God's right to rule. May we—by the Spirit—be granted such assurance and action.

**Feb. 4:** Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20;

1 Corinthians 9:16–23; Mark 1:29–39

**Feb. 18:** Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10;

1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15

**Feb. 25:** Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31;

Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38

## Seekers Highland Room

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

### Feb. 4: Empowering the Lives of Families and Youth in Homewood

Rashad Byrdsong, founder of the Community Empowerment Association, will tell us about his work with individuals, youth, and families in Homewood (our neighbors to the East). His work includes training and employment, equipping families with the tools toward self-determination, and working toward peace between gang members."

### Feb. 18: Christianity and the Black Experience in America

Pastor Patrice will share her experiences in the Black Baptist tradition, discussing their origin and history, as well as how they live out their faith. She also will discuss the origin and history of the AME church and how their faith is practiced today.

### Feb. 25: My Experience as an African in Pittsburgh

Saihou Njie, born in the Republic of The Gambia, West Africa, is a fine artist, teacher, and peace ambassador. He lived half of his life in The Gambia, and has been living in the U.S. for the second half. Saihou will share his story as an African American living in Pittsburgh.

## Soul Food Third Floor Music Room

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu

### February: The Book of Joy

We will continue discussing *The Book of Joy*, with the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

## Young Adults Room 224

Facilitator: Wil Forrest

### Feb. 25: Lenten Series

These weekly Lenten sessions will begin with discussions led by young adults, with topics of their choosing. See Wil if you'd like to start a discussion and/or provide breakfast.

# Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

## Sun., Feb. 11: Doing Good Together! 12:30–3 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 are encouraged to join us for our monthly service project with Rodef Shalom. A permission slip and more details can be found online.

## Fri., Feb. 16: Middle School Hangout Night 6–8 pm

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited for manicures, masks, and macaroni, as well as general hanging out at ELPC. Bring your favorite nail polish, game, or dessert!

## Fri., Feb. 23: Tween Game Night 6–8 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to come play board games and in the ELPC gym. Dinner will be served and friends are welcome!

## Youth to Participate in 30-Hour Famine

Youth in grades 6–12 will spend 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshiping, and learning about global hunger and poverty to raise money to support the work of Open Hand Ministries in our community.



The fast begins the morning of **Sat., March 3**, (youth should arrive at ELPC at 3:30 pm), and ends following Church School on **Sun., March 4**.

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

## Support the Cause

All family, friends, and members are encouraged to support our youth by sponsoring their fast. Youth will be collecting sponsorships before and after worship on **Sun., Feb. 18 and 25**.

## club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Youth in grades 7–12 will explore the theme: **This I believe...** Together, in our community of respect and trust, we will wrestle with tough questions:

- **What do I believe?**
- **What do Christians believe?**
- **Why don't all Christians believe the same thing?**
- **How can we get along when our beliefs are different?**

**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

# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

## Fri., Feb. 2: First Friday @ The “Moth” 7 pm

Kick back for an evening of personal stories with our friends at Repair the World (6022 Broad St.) and share in the tradition of “The Moth”—centered around the evening’s theme of “second chances.” If you have a five-minute story to share, please contact Wil in advance. Open mic stories will be invited as time allows.

## Fri.–Sun., Feb. 16–18: Retreat @ Crestfield

All young adults are invited to our annual retreat at Crestfield Camp from Fri., Feb. 16, 6 pm, until Sun., Feb. 18, 2 pm. Our time will be spent in our cozy cottage with wonderful people, meditations, nature galore, games, plenty-o-snacks, worship, and much more. Our focus will be our shared narratives through different perspectives.

There is an inclusive **\$50 fee**. Limited scholarships are available. Please RSVP by **Mon., Feb. 1**.



YAM is for you, and your friends are welcome too! For more details, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**.

## ELPC Session Updates

At recent meetings, the Session:

- Reflected on the changes and opportunities before our church as the renovation work moves into its final chapter.
- Celebrated that minority and women participation in our church's renovation workforce is more than 28%.
- Heard updates from our LGBTQ Ministry and Christian Education Ministry leaders.
- Gathered for an overnight retreat (Jan. 26–27) to set goals and name hopes for our church's 2019 bicentennial and beyond.

## Did You Notice?

Over the last few months, you likely saw some large containers outside of our church. The construction team is using them for storage after running out of indoor space.

During the holiday season, ELPC member Jan Irvin added festive red bows to these less-than-ideal outdoor "decorations." Many thanks to Jan for the creative idea!



## Knitting Group

The ELPC Knitting Group will meet on **Tues., Feb. 6**, 1 pm. New helpers of all skill levels are always welcomed.

Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** or [dnjcks@verizon.net](mailto:dnjcks@verizon.net).

## Presbyterian Women

*Sherry Anderson, Moderator*

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

**Mon., Feb. 5 7 pm | Tues., Feb. 6 10 am**

Our next lesson is titled *In Community with the Reality of the Present*. The Tuesday session will be followed by a potluck lunch with soup and contributions from the group. Please bring your own place setting. See the bulletin for meeting rooms.

### **Save the Date for the PW Spring Retreat**

All women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock, **Fri.–Sat., April 6–7**. We will gather Friday evening and return home Saturday evening. Partial scholarships will be available. More details to come.

## Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*

### **Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater**

Forty Hope Academy students will present their monologues and scenes for the preliminary round of the Pittsburgh Public Theater's *Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest* on **Mon., Feb. 12** and **Thurs., Feb. 15**, 3 pm. All competition events will be held at the Pittsburgh Public Theater at the O'Reilly Theater downtown. They are free and open to the public. Come and cheer our young performers on!

Each year, more than 1,200 students from 80 schools in the tri-state area compete in the contest. This field is then winnowed down to about 30 students who compete in the Showcase of Finalists on **Mon., Feb. 19**, 7 pm.

Last year, three Hope Academy students were selected as finalists: **Kira Mukogosi, Zaida**

**Collins and Maya Burley.** In addition, nine Hope Academy students received honorable mentions: **Augustine McDermott, Ariana Gonzalez-Prier, Madeleine Mocker, Clara Swanson, Saniya Mason, Laela Lumsden, Raffaela Carattino, Kira Mukogosi, and Henry Schultz.**



*Top: Kira Mukogosi as the jailer's daughter from "The Two Noble Kinsmen."*

*Left: Zaida Collins and Maya Burley as Titania and Bottom from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."*

# LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



All are welcome to our monthly Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., Feb. 11**, 5 pm. We will start with a potluck dinner and then share time together in conversation and prayer.

Interested in getting involved in our vibrant, diverse LGBTQ Ministry? Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**.

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

## Putting Your Love in Action

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

With Valentine's Day looming this time of year, many folks are often ruminating about love and how to best express our love to others. As people of faith, we gather weekly to celebrate our love for God through prayer and song. How do we put this love in action the other 167 hours a week when we are not in worship?



Our ELPC volunteer ministry is called **iSERVE** and our motto is "Love in Action"—but what does that look like?

Each week, I have the pleasure of being witness to copious amounts of love being put in action by many members of our church family. I see love in action from folks planning Church School lessons or giving a building tour, cooking a meal for folks in the shelter or for the youth at **club one sixteen**, picking up a piece of garbage in the church hallway or packing up an office to prepare for moving, serving on a committee or greeting worshippers, hanging the greens or welcoming a visitor sitting near you, and any of the many other ways folks put their love for God, other people, and our church in action.

No matter what your schedule or skills, you have something to offer...love. An action done in love is one done in service.

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

- Congratulations to Jose Luis and Chenoa Stock Claude on the birth of their baby boy, **Leandro Aiden Claude**, who was born on Jan. 4, in St. Louis, MO.
- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends who joined on Dec. 17: **Francine Bengama, Courtney Chaplin, Timothy Chaplin & Jim DiGiorgio, Lorraine Commeret & Daniel Zander, Katlyn Dougherty, Eric Jester, Mark Motyl, Charles & Janet Stevens, and Hugh & Lucie Van der Veer.**



### Thanks

The ELPC Board of Deacons thanks everyone who participated in the 2017 Giving Tree ministry. ELPC members purchased gifts and supported the ministry financially, making it possible for more than 100 children to receive more than 200 presents this Christmas. The outpouring of your generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Thank you and may God continue to bless each of you.

### Prayers

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

- Valire Copeland's mother
- Titi Ogiri
- Rob Brown, former ELPC hospitality staff person
- Kalyn Stevwing's cousin's daughter's



# East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

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@EastLibertyPres

EastLibertyPresbyterian



*"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."*

## Holiday Closures

The ELPC office will be closed on Presidents' Day, **Mon., Feb. 19**, until 7 pm.

## Cathedral Concerts

Our *Cathedral Concerts* season continues on **Sun., March 4**, 3 pm, with performances by the talented faculty members from ELPC's Hope Academy of Music and the Arts. These artists give private instruction to hundreds of students throughout the year, and now, it's their turn to take the stage as performers!

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



Brittany Trotter



Gizel Rodriguez

## Explore the Sanctuary & Chapel

Join us following worship on **Sun., Feb. 18**, 12 pm, for an architectural tour of our beautiful, Gothic Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel. Our guide will discuss these architectural styles, as well as the history and symbolism of these unique spaces. Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary.



*"Of all the cathedrals and churches I have built, this is my masterpiece. This church has been the most profound spiritual experience of my life."*

—Ralph Adams Cram, ELPC's architect