Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

**Friends and Family Service** 5 pm, in the Sanctuary
This early service, with communion, is a time of familiar carols and a re-telling of the Christmas story, shaped for people of all ages. Come share in this time of Christmas cheer and good news, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf.

**Candlelight Service** 11 pm, in the Sanctuary
Within the hush of evening, gather for a time of wonder, beauty, and joy as the birth of Christ is celebrated. The sacrament of communion, familiar scripture readings, and music of the season make this one of the most memorable services of the year. Special prelude music begins at 10:30 pm. Worship is led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

---

The Gifts We Cherish  
*by Eddie and Jen Willson*

During this season of giving, we’ve been reflecting as a family on the gifts we’ve received since joining ELPC one year ago. One of the most important gifts is that our children have a church family to watch over them—a place to grow into their faith.

The afghan we received from the Deacons’ Afghan Ministry when Eleanor was baptized last spring is a perfect symbol of this spiritual gift. When we first saw the beautiful blanket, we knew that ELPC was home, that Eleanor was already loved by so many people, that she was seen as a special and unique child of God, and, most importantly, that she had a family bigger than we could dream of to love and support her always. This simple blanket touched our hearts and inspired us to figure out how we could provide that same sense of comfort to others through the church.

As we enter the coldest months of the year, we are grateful for the warmth provided by ELPC, especially the Deacons’ Afghan Ministry and all those who share their incredible talents and time to embrace the children of the church in the warm glow of their Christian family right from the start.

---

Editor’s Note
This month’s theme is *Bringing Gifts to Christ*. Look for articles related to this theme, identified by this symbol.

---

Sunday Morning Services
*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

**Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am**
Liturgist: George Rivers
Dec. 2* Rev. Chad Collins, Pastor, Valley View Presbyterian Church
Dec. 9 Rev. John Creasy, Associate Pastor, The Open Door
Dec. 16 Rev. Michael Stanton, Director, Open Hand Ministries
Dec. 23 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
Dec. 30 Rev. Dr. Suzanne Bennett, Honorably Retired United Methodist Minister

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**
Dec. 2* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Dec. 9 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Dec. 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Dec. 23 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**
Dec. 2* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Dec. 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Dec. 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Dec. 23 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Dec. 30 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Labyrinth Prayer Walk**
Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

**Taizé Prayer Service**
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

Notes: There will not be a Taizé Prayer Service on Wed., Dec. 26. Please see our after-Taizé class schedule on page 6.

---

East Liberty Presbyterian Church • 116 South Highland Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • www.CathedralOfHope.org
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Long ago, God set something wonderful in motion. Into a world of economic inequality, political oppression, marginalized families, and despair for the future, God choose to give the world a special gift. It involved the movement of the Spirit, so that the hopes and dreams of past generations might sweep over the people of Palestine as a fresh breeze. It involved the willing collaboration of a young girl, who would agree to a role out of keeping with her cultural background and inclination. It involved a man stepping away from patterns of patriarchy and misogyny to welcome a bride expecting a child that wasn't his own. And it involved a growing cast of characters—from far palaces and lonely shepherds' fields—who would take part in both receiving and sharing God's special gift.

God’s gift involved more than just the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. It was a twofold gift—a child born on the margins who would be heralded as the King of Kings; an infant born under the shadow of Herod’s vengeful decree and Rome’s military might who would be honored as the Prince of Peace; a poor infant born to a poor family who became the generous giver of light, bread, water, and love for a hurting world. This is what makes the seasons of Advent and Christmas so special. The birth of Jesus Christ is a double blessing, with every aspect of his life, death and resurrection pointing to a double meaning—a gift for us as individuals, and an inspirational gift for us as communities and nations under God.

During the four Sundays of Advent, we are reminded to prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child born on Christmas Eve. In the sanctuary worship services, the themes for those weeks will each have a twofold perspective that I hope you will contemplate throughout December. What does it mean to bring bread to Christ when so many hunger in the world? Is there a way that a lit candle for the infant Jesus can become a light that restores relationships broken by prison walls and violent crime? How might the teachings of the Prince of Peace change our national reliance on weapons of war? Is it possible for the simple gift of water to remind us how precious each child is in the eyes of God?

Think about the gifts you receive from God, as well as the gifts you bring to the manger for the Christ Child born on Christmas Day. See beyond the immediate appearances—wrapping paper, bows, cards, and decorated trees—to something larger, deeper, wide enough to stretch to the far horizon. For when you do that, you begin to appreciate what makes God’s gift so incredibly special.

Randy Bush
Reflections from the Border  Part 1 of 3

In October, five ELPC members traveled 2,120 miles to Douglas, Ariz., and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. They engaged in a week-long mission experience with Frontera de Cristo (FDC), referred to as a “Border Immersion Experience.”

As Christians, we often think of immersion in terms of baptism. We certainly were in deep metaphorical waters throughout our week. The ever-present contrast of harshness and beauty surrounded us. We struggled to take deep breaths before immersing ourselves in God’s spirit prior to each new experience.

We walked the desert migration trail; worshipped at Iglesia Presbiteriana Lirio de los Valles; toured the Café Justo roasting plant; worked in a community garden, migrant shelter, and resource center; played with children at Blessed Nuno orphanage; and enjoyed the hospitality of the people of Agua Prieta in their homes, church, and city.

The Christian Good News story starts with God arriving and migrating onto Earth and entering a sinful world. God descends among us to redeem His creation in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Our pilgrimage immersed us into the depth of humanity in Aqua Prieta and the FDC Presbyterian witness. We found kind, faithful, and hopeful Christians working in challenging circumstances. We are grateful for their warm welcome and hospitality. We are grateful for their witness of hope, faith, and love. We continue to keep them in prayer as we discern how to share the border story with others. God is calling us to continue our relationship with this PC(USA) ministry. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!

The Giving Tree

Every year, the Deacons organize the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), as well as our ELPC Mission, Christian Education, and Hope Academy of Music and the Arts ministries.

The Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk on Sun., Nov. 25 and Dec. 2. Select a gift tag between 9:30–11 am, or 12–12:30 pm. Tags also will be available at the Taizé service on Wed., Nov. 28. Deacons will be on hand to assist you.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office by Sun., Dec. 9. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to “ELPC Giving Tree” and deliver it to the church office.

Last year, 115 youth each were provided with two gifts. The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support.

Support the Toymakers’ Holiday Sale

Come shop at the ELPC Toymakers’ Holiday Sale in the McKelvy Room following 11 am worship on Sun., Dec. 9! There will be ornaments and other holiday items, as well as some toys available. Take what you want and pay what you want. Your offerings help provide supplies for the coming year.

We work year-round to produce handmade and hand-painted toys. We are motivated and fueled by the smiles we see on the faces of children from all over the world. Our toys make their way to many nations. Church members on mission trips pack them, as do medical teams from Surgicorps. But the bulk of our toys are distributed right here in Pittsburgh at shelters for women and children.

We meet every other Wednesday, from 9 am–12 pm, in the Sewing Room. We welcome any able body, Diane Jackson and Mike Anderson are happy to talk to anyone interested in our small, but by no means exclusive, ministry.

Charis, ELPC’s Alternative Gift Giving Guide

As Christians, during the Christmas season, we remember the gift we have received—the birth of Jesus. Christmas is the perfect time to reflect on God’s charis—God’s favor, grace and kindness towards us.

With the commercialization of the holiday season, we are sometimes drawn into the hustle and bustle, expense, and abundance of gift giving. The ELPC Mission Board invites you to prayerfully consider giving gifts that express and extend charis by gifting from the suggestions in Charis—An Alternative Gift Giving Guide.

Giving a gift from this guide ensures your gift will bless the receiver, and extend charis to the artisan, organization or mission from whom the gift was purchased (11 local and global mission-related organizations supported by ELPC are featured in the guide). Guides are available at the Information Desk and during Sunday fellowship hour. Call the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30 or for more details.
**Special Reception for Brian Diebold**  
*Sun., Dec. 2, following 11 am Worship*

In the fall of 2007, Brian Diebold began his ministry at ELPC, as an Intern from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary looking for a second internship in a mid-size, urban church. His ministry focused on our Youth and Young Adult Ministry, where he offered dynamic leadership to the youngest children of our church at club one sixteen and Vacation Church School; nurtured the faith of teens as a co-leader of several Confirmation classes, youth events and Mission Trips; and encouraged deeper engagement of young adults through study groups, fellowship events, and service opportunities. Brian also offered Spirit-filled worship leadership at all three of our Sunday services. No matter the realm of his ministry here—or the age of those he has served—Brian has shared the love of Christ with humor, integrity, wisdom and grace.

This fall, Brian left our ELPC ministry team, when his Pastoral position at Verona Presbyterian Church expanded from part-time to full-time, in conjunction with their new ministry and mission goals.

We will miss Brian’s ministry at ELPC, yet we look forward to continued collaboration together.

The Personnel and Youth and Young Adult Committees will host a reception in Brian’s honor on *Sun., Dec. 2,* following our 11 am Worship Service. Join us in the Music Room to give thanks for Brian’s ministry among us, and to pray for God’s continued blessing upon him and his family.

---

**Christian Education**

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

**Notes:** Classes will not meet on *Sun., Dec. 16* (Christmas Pageant), *23,* or *30.* We will resume with an Intergenerational Winter Rally Day Class celebrating Epiphany on *Sun., Jan. 6.* We will gather in the Social Hall from 9:45–10:45 am.

**Contemporaries Class**  
*Second Floor Parlor*  
*Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*

Dec. 2: *Honduras, Tanzania and Other Venues*  
*Led by Lise Levy*

Lise is a teacher who continues to possess a passion for travel and mission. Exciting stories from her experiences in a variety of countries are sure to inspire every listener. A global perspective can present new insights for ministry within local communities. We welcome this opportunity to learn from such a gifted educator.

Dec. 9: *Sharing Our Faith Story Together*  
*Led by Jon and Jackie Walker*

New members, Jon and Jackie, will share the progression of their faith through a reflective dialogue. Their interest in stewardship is a sign of caring for the well-being of our congregation. Any time we can listen to one another across generational lines, everyone benefits from the process.

---

**Journey with Scripture**  
*Second Floor Library; Facilitator: Jan Irvin*


---

**Parenting Circle**  
*Harambe Room; Facilitator: Pam Walaski*

This month, we will move onto holiday celebrations—sharing the traditions and rituals that our families treasure and the ways in which we de-emphasize the commercialism of the holidays to re-center ourselves around the true gifts of the season. Members are encouraged to bring a story, essay or other reading to share.

---

**Seekers**  
*Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

Dec. 2: *Gifts of the Season*

We will follow our tradition when Seekers members and friends share their talents related to the Christmas season.

Dec. 9: *Reconstructionism*

Nancy Levine, president-elect of the Congregation Dor Hadash, will tell us what Reconstructionists believe, how the movement developed, what need it filled, and why someone would choose Reconstructionism, rather than Orthodox, Reformed, or Conservative Judaism. Reconstructionism is a purely American branch of Judaism.

---

**Soul Food**  
*Pastor’s Conference Room*  
*Facilitator: Joe Hajdu*

Dec. 2: *“Abundant Places”*

We will discuss the second part of Chapter 3, “Abundant Places,” of the book *You Gave Me a Wide Place—Holy Places of Our Lives.*

Dec. 9: *Christmas Discussion*

We will discuss the holy and important places in our lives related to Christmas.

---

**Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español**  
*Room 217; Facilitator: Joaquin Anabe Lopez*

Dec. 2–9: *El Viaje a la Tierra Prometida*
**Hope Academy of Music and the Arts**

Linda Addlespurger, Director

**Thurs., Dec. 13: HAT Co to Perform at WYEP’s Holiday Hootenanny! at 7 pm**
Hope Academy's Teen Theater Company band, HAT Co, was selected as one of Pittsburgh’s top five teen bands in WYEP’s Re(imagi)NATION contest last spring. The winners were paired up with local mentor bands to perform in WYEP’s Holiday Hootenanny concert at the New Hazlett Theater on the North Side.

![WYEP's Re(imagi)NATION](image)

**Sat., Dec. 15: Hope Academy Winter Concert at 7 pm**
Please join us for a classical, rock, pop and world music-filled concert featuring Hope Academy students, teaching artists and friends. Featuring EL CEO (East Liberty Community Engagement Orchestra) performing music by Rossini, Messiaen and Ricard Strauss; HAT Co (Hope Academy Teen Theater Company) performing popular and original Christmas songs; plus, Ensemble Ripieno performing the Corelli Christmas Concerto; and special guest artist, the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush. This FREE concert is a great way to kick off the holiday season.

![Hope Academy Winter Concert](image)

**Youth Ministry**

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

**Sat., Dec. 1: A Morning of Mission**
Tweens in grades 4–6 are invited to help make brown-bag lunches for the EECM Men’s Shelter at ELPC from 9–11 am. We will bake cookies, decorate lunch bags and assemble sandwiches. Many hands are needed for this important work. RSVP to Sara Hackett. Text or call 412.673.2926 or email SaraH@coh.net.

**Sun., Dec. 16: Christmas Caroling**
Youth in grades 7–12 will visit Shadyside Nursing Home for an afternoon of Christmas caroling and bingo. We will meet in Room 51 following worship, eat lunch, and review Christmas carols. We will depart ELPC at 1 pm, and return at approximately 3:15 pm.

**Young Adult Ministry**

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

**Fri., Dec. 7: First Friday at Crossroads at 7 pm**
Come out of the cold as we “Bake and Wait” together at Crossroads United Methodist Church (325 North Highland Ave., East Liberty). The evening will consist of a group discussion about what it means to “expectantly wait” in our lives. What is God teaching us through this time of waiting? How can we view this as a time of growth? Also, we will be baking Christmas cookies while we meet; “waiting” on the cookies to bake as we discuss.

**Sun., Dec. 9: RCC Holiday Concert: Warm by the Fire at 7 pm**
Celebrate the season with this annual event of the Renaissance City Choirs. Meet at ELPC for a ride at 6:15 pm, or meet at Carnegie Music Hall (4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh) at 7 pm. See Wil for your ticket.

**Confirmation Class**

Confirmation Class officially kicks off for youth in grades 9 and up (who have not been Confirmed), during an overnight retreat at ELPC from Sat., Dec. 8–9. We will gather at ELPC at 3 pm, on Saturday, and investigate together the question: “Who is God?”

During our time together, we will explore questions ranging from “What/Who exactly is the Trinity?” to “How do you experience God in your own life?” We also will get to know each other, eat, play hide-n-go-seek and have fun! We will wrap up our time together following Sunday’s 8:45 am, Journey Worship.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Pastor Heather.

**YAM is for YOU**

Your friends are always welcome too!

To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, please contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or 412.260.2554.

---

*Reaching Out • December 2012*
**Stewardship Success!**

This year’s stewardship campaign looks to be on target to reach its three goals: support staff and programs of ELPC in the coming year, reduce dependence on endowment savings, and provide additional funds for emerging ministries related to our growing youth and young adult programs and community missions. We anticipate an increase in congregational giving of between 4–7 percent over last year.

**What Do You Think About the Death Penalty?**

The Justice Committee’s series of programs exploring the Death Penalty concludes on Sat., Dec. 8, with the final session, “Faith in a Time of Crisis.”

Participants will explore how one’s faith intersects with life when we are faced with the challenge of justice for self and others. The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, along with another clergy member, will speak. There also will be time for small group discussion following the presentation.

There will be a potluck dinner from 5–6 pm, and the program from 6–8 pm, with retired Judge Justin Johnson facilitating. Child care will be provided by request. Call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22. Everyone is welcome.

**Presbyterian Women**

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

**Tues., Dec. 4: Dispatches to God’s Household**

Join us at 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor as study the General Epistles. Our lesson is entitled The Help and is based on 1 Peter 2:11–25. A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages are provided.

**Classes After Taizé Prayer**

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

**Note:** Classes begin at 8:15 pm. Classes will not meet on Wed., Dec. 5 or 26.

**Wed., Dec. 12: German Advent Celebration!**

We will sing Christmas carols in German and English, make decorations, and share cookies!

**Wed., Dec. 19: Music on the Labyrinth**

Join us after our service as Charles Anderson plays meditative music.

**Spiritual Life**

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

**Gift to Self: Draw Closer to God**

Keeping silence is an essential practice of all contemplative faith traditions. Keeping silence is an act of surrender in order to draw closer to God: surrendering our speaking and doing to hear God more clearly; letting go of our busyness to become aware of the divine in our lives; emptying our minds so that we might focus our full attention on our creator; and becoming still so that we might know the God who is.

To make this practice available in the company of our church family, the Spiritual Life Committee will offer a two-night silent retreat from 5:30 pm, on Fri., Jan. 11, until 12 pm, on Sun., Jan. 13, at the Martina Center, located off Rt. 279 and Perry Highway. Participants will have an opportunity to sign up for an appointment during the weekend with the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan for spiritual direction to discuss your experience.

The cost for two nights of quiet in a lovely setting and five wonderful meals is $150. Some scholarship money is available and space is limited. Call Rev. Callahan 412.441.3800 x41 to reserve a spot or for more information.

God is longing to form a deeper relationship with you. This Christmas, give yourself some time apart to draw closer to God.
EECM Community House Update

Early in the design and development process for EECM’s new Community House, it became apparent that EECM wanted to show respect for the individuals it serves, the people who work in it, and the community at large. It was clear that the new building should serve as the catalyst for this mutual respect.

The building is expected to earn a LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the highest available (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). This environmentally friendly design incorporates healthy systems and building materials, reduces energy and resource use, and contributes to the social and economic vitality of our neighborhood.

The ELPC Session has made a $150,000 financial pledge to be used for EECM Community House construction costs. The project is on schedule for completion in fall 2013. Visit the site at Collins and Penn Circle North and see the progress!

Volunteer with Open Hand Ministries

Drywall is going up in the rehab house in East Liberty on Sat., Dec. 1 and 8! All are invited to help as this house is being transformed into a home for a family with three children. Come use new tools purchased through the generosity of a grant from Beulah Presbyterian Church. There are tasks for all skill levels.

Call Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 to sign up or for more information.

This Season of Giving by Wil Forrest, iSERVE Coordinator

As we leave a season of stewardship and enter the season of Christmas, we change our focus from financial gifts to gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts are brought from afar to the God incarnate, who, even through his birth, offers us the first of many gifts. These earthly presents are what the magi had to offer, but later in the disciples’ acts, we experience the shift from giving treasure to giving time and talents to Jesus and to forward God’s work here on earth.

As the hymn goes (There is a Balm in Gilead), if you cannot preach like Peter and you cannot pray like Paul, just tell of the love of Jesus. This is what we each are called to do as Christians: to witness to the love of God in Jesus. We can do this many ways. Most of us will not stand on the street corner and preach, rather all of us do have other gifts that witness to the love of Christ. What are yours?

This season, I ask that each of you complete an iSERVE Time and Talent Interest Inventory, if you have not already. You can find these on the desk outside the East Transept or the iSERVE webpage. These forms help match the diverse gifts of our congregation with the many service needs at ELPC. It is not a commitment, it is an offering. For our community to thrive, we need to share our gifts so we can forward the mission of this church and bring our gifts to Christ together.

Visit www.CathedralOfHope.org/about/iSERVE.html to print an iSERVE Time and Talent Interest Inventory and read about becoming a member of the WeSERVE list!

ELPC People

Good News

• Congratulations to infants in our faith family who were recently baptized: Sophia Lauren Paul, daughter of Kenny and Loren Paul; and Spencer Lewis Will, son of Regis Will and Colleen Briner.

• We congratulate Marilyn Castle and Dr. Ruth Kuschmierz on their 50th year of membership at ELPC.

• We also congratulate Dana (Pugliano) and Eric Wood, who were married at ELPC in October.

• Lastly, we welcome new ELPC members: Margaret Baco, Martin Marks, and Bob Ross.

Thanks

• Thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers, calls and notes of encouragement during my recent surgery. I am recovering nicely and look forward to returning soon.

– Florence Johnson

• Thank you to all those who donated coats for this year’s Share the Warmth Coat Drive for EECM! Our ELPC community donated winter coats to hundreds of clients in EECM’s Hunger, Homeless, and Children & Youth programs. Without your help, we could not have done this!

Prison Donations

Effective immediately, due to a policy change at the Allegheny County Jail, only paperback books will be collected for distribution. Please discontinue bringing in magazines.

Your generous donations of magazines and books have been greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Barb DeWitt or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.
“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.”

Building Closed: The ELPC office will be closed all day on Tues. and Wed., Dec. 25 and 26, for Christmas, and all day on Tues., Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day.

Look How Far We’ve Come!
Sun., Dec. 16, at 10 am, in the Social Hall

In December, we often feel like we are running in a million different directions: rushing from stores to parties to relatives’ homes. But no matter how far we travel in anticipation of the Christmas holiday season, we remember that others had a far distance to travel on that first Christmas day!

Our children and youth will give us an opportunity to remember, with joy, the journeys to Bethlehem—of Mary and Joseph, the angels, shepherds and magi—and how each one of these journeys allows us to more fully realize the miracle of Christmas and the gift of God’s love for us in Jesus.

Please join for our Christmas Pageant, Look How Far We’ve Come—an original work written by ELPC member Ashley Birt (with some help from Matthew and Luke). There are no Church School classes this day.

Notes: Rehearsal is from 9:30–11 am, on Sat., Dec. 15. Kids should report directly to their classrooms. A Christmas party for the kids follows rehearsal in Rooms 224 and 227.

A Cathedral Christmas
Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 pm, in the Sanctuary

The ELPC Chancel Choir will be joined by the Fox Chapel Area High School Madrigal Singers and Ambassador Orchestra in a holiday celebration featuring the Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Sæns and other seasonal works.

Please invite your friends and family to this joyous program that will include the singing of Christmas carols by all!

Devotional Materials Available

Advent is a special season of preparation. We ready ourselves, not only preparing our homes for the festivities of the Christmas holiday, but preparing our hearts for a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As a gift to you this season, the Christian Education Committee has purchased devotional materials for persons of all ages. We invite you to join in a spiritual practice of preparation. We hope these materials assist you in carving a few moments out of the hustle and bustle to focus on God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. May these devotionals open the door to conversations between you and your loved ones about the true meaning of this season. Devotional materials are available on the Second Floor CE Table.