Editor’s Note
This month’s theme is Just Love. 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: Pete Murray
Feb. 3* Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Chair of Hunger Ministry, Pittsburgh Presbytery
Feb. 10 W. Penn Hackney, Elder, ELPC
Feb. 17 Rev. Saleem Ghubril, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Promise, and Pastor, Mosaic Community Church
Feb. 24 Frank Reeves, Reporter and Editor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
Feb. 3* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Feb. 10 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Feb. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Feb. 24 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
Feb. 3* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Feb. 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Feb. 17 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Feb. 24 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 9 am–1 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

After-Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
Feb. 20: Music on the Labyrinth
Join us after our service as Charles Anderson plays meditative music.
Feb. 27: Celebrations!
If you celebrate a birthday, anniversary or milestone in February, share it with us before we cut the cake!

Ash Wednesday Services
Wed., Feb. 13
The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.
Join us for a quiet service at 12 pm, in the Chapel, filled with prayer, scripture, and the imposition of ashes.

Following the service, all are invited to Rom 234 for a simple lunch as we hear a presentation from the Rev. Darrell Knopp, retired pastor of McKeesport Presbyterian Church, who will speak on “Life’s Transitions and Times of Loss.” This will be a kick-off to our Lenten theme of “Life Lessons.”

Later that evening, the Taizé Prayer Service, at 7 pm, will continue the focus on preparing our spirits and souls for Lenten reflection and quiet self-examination. Our service also will include the imposition of ashes.

Join us as we begin this Lenten season together!

Kelley Hunt to Perform
Fri., Feb. 1, at 8 pm
Join us at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater (5941 Penn Ave.) for an evening of music to benefit Hope Academy of Music and the Arts! This family friendly event will feature Blues/R&B singer-songwriter, Kelley Hunt. HAT Co band will open!

The Buffalo News says Hunt offers “…a great voice and a magnetic stage personality, and leads a rock-solid band. No excess showboating, just a floating bed of groovitude for Hunt’s subtly powerful voice to ride.”

Advanced tickets, at a discounted rate, will be available after our 11 am Worship services, and at www.BrownPaperTickets.com (use the password “ELPC/HA”). Advanced tickets cost: $10 adults; $5 students, seniors 60+ and artists; or $20 per family.

Tickets also will be available at the door on the night of the event: $15 adults; $10 students, seniors 60+, and artists.

For more information, please visit www.HopeAcademyArts.com or call 412.441.3800 x11. Listen to Kelley Hunt’s music at www.KelleyHunt.com.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

We live in an “information age.” If you have cable television, you can view a wide range of programs from around the world. If you have access to a computer, you can type any question that pops into your head and use the Internet to find an answer. The past 25 years have seen a tremendous explosion in the range and depth of information now accessible from our home computers and “smart” devices.

More recently, questions have been raised about who is tracking the questions we ask and the Internet searches we type. Is it troubling when the same GPS device that gives directions from the North Hills to the Liberty Tunnel also tracks where we travel the rest of the day? Is it something to worry about when the questions we ask our computer are collated so as to create an online database about who we are, where we live, our age, income and shopping habits? The most common result from this collected personal data is seen when your “shopper’s card” pumps out a personalized coupon at the grocery store for an item you would likely be interested in, or when the sidebar advertisements appearing on the computer screen reflect causes or organizations you support. None of this may be bad, but it does raise some theological questions.

The theme for this month’s newsletter is “Just Love.” Love is not simply an emotional act or a quality of compassion; its larger goal is to bless the receiver while also serving the common good. To paraphrase the end of the pledge of allegiance, love works for the justice of all. The international growth in the computing world raises two questions about love that is truly just. First, having access to information has become synonymous with power and opportunity. Jobs are advertised online; communication occurs electronically; resources are only available to people with computers. A “just love” will work to ensure that no one is pushed to the margins because they lack access to the tools of today’s information age. Second, it is possible that the electronic choices we make today (the things we search for, the ads or videos we view) subtly shape the electronic choices presented to us tomorrow (the ads we see, the rankings in Google searches). In trying to present us with personally relevant information, our cyber-profile runs the risk of narrowly defining us by our zip code, income bracket, race, gender and age.

Both of these trends run counter to the larger message of the gospel, in which extra effort should always be exerted to ensure no one is left on the margins or barred from access to life-enhancing resources. No one should ever be stereotyped as permanently locked into one category of life, falsely assigned there by our age, race, gender, sexual orientation or wealth. For as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5: “From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view… Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; everything has become new!” The blessing of Christian faith is “just love.” It is a vision of life that transforms our personal, spiritual and technological lives with promises of justice and peace for all.
Reflections from the Border Part 3 of 3

Throughout our trip we learned that small actions can make a big difference. A warm smile and extended hand overcomes language barriers; walking even a short distance through the desert brings deeper understanding and appreciation for Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness; and shoelaces are really important when your feet are your only mode of transportation. We learned that drinking Café Justo helps provide health care for workers and children in Chiapas, Mexico, and putting just 25 cents in the Sunday School offering buys materials for CAINA, the after-school program at Lirio de Las Valles Church.

We also learned that there are good people on both sides of the border, and most just want a better life for their families; that the majority of car seat belts are produced in Aqua Prieta; that a death at the border is painful, whether it’s an undocumented migrant or a border patrol officer shot by his colleague; and that water is a precious resource and a gift to treasure.

We learned that radical hospitality is a lot more than welcoming people. It’s giving your bed to someone who can barely thank you in your own language; preparing a meal for strangers when you have little to feed your children; always having room for one more migrant at the shelter; and crawling under a car in the desert heat and dust to change a tire for “los norteamericanos.” We have a lot to learn about extending hospitality.

Five people from ELPC traveled 2,000 miles for seven days. Lives were changed on both sides of the border. Thanks be to God.

Just Love by the Rev. Dave Carver, moderator, Pittsburgh Presbytery Malawi Partnership Ministry Team

The other day, a friend asked, “Why are you doing this again?”

I sighed and replied simply, “You know, there have been some significant ideas on which members of the Presbyterian family have disagreed in the past couple of years, and they have gotten a lot of publicity. We are eager to demonstrate that feeding the hungry in Jesus’ name is an area of profound agreement.”

That’s the philosophy behind the innovative and surprisingly successful “a-MAIZE-ing Grace” famine relief effort that Pittsburgh Presbytery is spearheading in Malawi. When we heard that the “hungry season” in Malawi would be long and hard this year due to some ill-winds that were related both to political decisions and climactic conditions, the Pittsburgh Presbytery Malawi Partnership Ministry Team and our partners in Blantyre developed this plan to share the love and justice of Christ through the distribution of corn and other supplements.

ELPC has supported this effort in many ways. The Presbyterian Women made a special donation; the Mission Board sent funding; and many individuals purchased the little tokens that signify the gift of 100 pounds of corn. Moreover, ELPC joined a small group of congregations and individuals that helped the Malawi Partnership to dream a little bigger by investing in a historic journey. The Revs. Ken White (Southminster PC) and Jeff Tindall (Stated Clerk of Presbytery/Carnegie PC) joined me and three Malawian leaders on a pilgrimage to Juba, South Sudan in late January. There, we met with representatives of the Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church (South) and considered the implications of a partnership wider and deeper than what we have ever seen.

ELPC, thank you for your faithful witness to the power of Christ’s love.

For more information, please visit www.MalawiPartnership.org.

With God, all things are Possible by Pepo Mazingi

February, with its celebration of Valentine’s Day, reminds me that it is a time to give thanks for loved ones. For the Mazingi family, we thank God for our lovely children, including Emmanuel who turns 21 on Valentine’s Day. Our family story is like an odyssey.

While working here, I had to wait 12 years to bring my family to Pittsburgh from Africa. The Immigration Services kept losing the files and we had to start over and over again. I turned to prayer, reminding myself that “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Finally in January 2009, my wife and three children joined me in Pittsburgh. This was God’s gift to me and ELPC welcomed our family. We were even given a Steeler Towel and that year they won the Super Bowl!

In December 2010, we escaped a fire that burnt our house and all our family belongings. And sadly, three months later, a second fire was accidentally started on our front porch while we slept. Thankfully we have come through these trials healthy and well and we have many people to thank: ELPC church members, the pastors, our friends, and my employer. Praise the Lord! We give thanks this February, remembering that “with God, all things are possible.”
Contemporaries Class  Second Floor Parlor  
Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle  
Feb. 3 and 24: Grief Management  
Led by Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler  
What provides genuine solace in the face of loss? What happens when we grieve? How do we find comfort? If death is not a tragedy, what is the meaning of grief?  
Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, psychotherapists with years of experience working with people facing loss and encountering grief, will lead our discussion to the very heart of what it means to be human and to mourn.  
Feb. 10 and 17: Yoga and Christianity  
Led by Renee Prymus  
Renee will be sharing a wealth of information based upon the research of her new book. Her writing establishes a spiritual partnership between Yoga and Christianity. This inspirational series is reflected through one of her quotes: “Yoga gives me a tangible method for resting in the peace of Christ, for staying my mind on God. I practice yoga and meditation because I trust God.”

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library  
Facilitator: Jan Irvin  
“For now we see in a mirror, dimly...” – 1 Corinthians 13:12. If in January the scripture readings were saturated with the Epiphany themes of light and the kingdom of God, in February the readings shift abruptly. Along with witnesses before us—prophets, patriarchs, and apostles—God calls us to leave shallow understandings and journey towards a mature faith, deep love, and a renewed consciousness. Lent begins. Join us in February as we read these scriptures:  

Soul Food  Pastor’s Conference Room  
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu  
We will discuss Richard Rohr’s book Things Hidden.  
Feb. 3: The first part of Chapter 2  
Feb. 10: The second part of Chapter 2  
Feb. 17: The first part of Chapter 3  
Feb. 24: The second part of Chapter 3

Seekers  Room 234; Facilitator: Gwen Puza  
Feb. 3: Jewish Mystical Traditions  
Rabbi Art Donsky, the spiritual leader of Temple Ohav Shalom (Reform Jewish) congregation in Allison Park, will share insights regarding the roots of the ancient Jewish mystical traditions (Ancient, Medieval, and Modern), and possibly Kabbalah. Judaism has a long and rich history of mystical exploration and practice—from the visions of the Prophet Ezekiel to the first century Judean Rabbis to the Spanish twelfth century author of The Zohar to the Modern Jewish Renewal movement leaders.  
Feb. 10, 17, and 24: An Altar in the World  
Lent is a time when we explore the Spiritual practices that deepen our faith, choosing to clear away some of the clutter in our lives so that we might step with greater intention into the presence of the Divine. But where do we start? As we begin our Lenten journey, Pastor Heather leads a discussion of the best-selling book by renowned preacher and theologian Barbara Brown Taylor, An Altar in the World. In her book, Taylor explores practices within our daily lives and shows us how these acts reveal the sacred, deepening our relationship with God and with one another.  
Feb. 10: Chapters 1–4  
Feb. 17: Chapters 5–8  
Feb. 24: Chapters 9–12

Youth Classes  
Junior High (grades 6–8) Room 341  
Curriculum: “Feasting on the Word”

Senior High (grades 9–12) Room 343  
Curriculum: “We Believe”

Children’s Classes  
Young Children's Ministry/Infants–age 2  Nursery  
Curriculum: “Wee Children at Church”

Pre-school/Ages 3–5  Room 240  
Curriculum: “Gospel Light”

Kindergarten and Grade 1  Room 336  
Curriculum: “Godly Play”

Grades 2–3  Room 338  
Curriculum: “Godly Play”

Grades 4–5  Room 335  
Curriculum: “Seasons of the Spirit”
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Note: For more information on activities for youth and tweens (grades 4–6) or to be added to our mailing list, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Sun., Feb. 10: Senior High Mission Trip Informational Meeting at 12:15 pm
We will have a meeting for all parents and students who plan on attending the 2013 Senior High Mission Trip. Lunch will be provided. We will provide all of the information families will need in order for us to have a great experience this summer. This meeting is mandatory in order for students to participate.

Sat., Feb. 16: Valentine’s Day Party at Canterbury Place
Youth in grades 4–8 are invited to help lead a Valentine’s Day party for the residents at Canterbury Place. By sharing our time through crafts and games, we will help the residents know that they are loved. This event promises to both fun and rewarding.
We will meet at ELPC at 1:30 pm, and return at 4 pm. RSVP to Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

[Images of club one sixteen]

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Fri., Feb. 1: First Friday at the “Shadyside Salon” at 7 pm
Continuing in our tradition of casual, topical conversation with friends, the Young Adult/Grad Student fellowship group from Shadyside Presbyterian Church will host us as we explore the complex, beautiful topic of relationships, love and sex. Come prepared to share your perspective for the good of the group.

Sun., Feb. 17: Sunday YAM Class from 9:45–10:45 am
In our spring-long focus on what happens to us when we die, we will gather in Room 244 to ask the question, “What does the Bible say about Heaven and Hell?” PTS professor Dr. Dale Allison will lead us in examining this area. Bring your copy of Love Wins, your Bible, and your questions. Café Justo will be served.

Sat., Feb. 23: Time with the Ferdas at 7 pm
We will meet at Tucker and Libby’s apartment in Squirrel Hill to enjoy their hospitality and to get to know them better, eat Tucker’s famous waffles and pancakes, and listen to jazz and classic 1970s R&B/funk music. We also might enjoy some poetry and share travel experiences. Contact Wil if you need a ride from ELPC, or directions.

[Images of club one sixteen]

Confirmation Class Meeting Update
Our February Confirmation Class will gather from 12:30–3:30 pm, on Sun., Feb. 3, in the Second Floor Parlor.
Youth in grades 9 and up, who are interested in exploring membership in the life of our congregation, are invited to join us.
RSVP to Pastor Heather, or contact her if you are unable to attend, so that you can schedule an opportunity to catch up on what you’ve missed.
Urban League Sunday
Sun., Feb. 10, at 4 pm, in the Sanctuary
ELPC will host this year’s Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh’s Sunday Service, as they celebrate their 95th year of operation. The guest speaker will be the Rev. E. Dewey Smith, pastor of The Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. Following the service, there will be a reception in the Social Hall, organized by the Urban League.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator
Tues., Feb. 5: Dispatches to God’s Household at 10 am
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study with our lesson, The Elders, based on 1 Peter 5:1–11 and 2 John. A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided.

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

First Sunday Events
Extend your Sabbath experience and deepen your life with God immediately following our Sanctuary Worship service in Room 234. A light lunch will be provided.

Sun., Feb. 3: Exploring the Connection Between Mission and Spirituality
Spirituality is a twofold journey. The inward journey nourishes and strengthens our spirits, heals and transforms our brokenness into wholeness, and gives us insight into who we are created to be and where God is inviting us to serve. While the inward journey is one of preparation, the other half—the outward journey—is one of engagement that leads us into the world in love, compassion, justice and social witness. Either side of the journey by itself is incomplete. Join Judy Menk as she guides us through an exploration of this life- and self-giving, twofold journey!

Sun., March 3: Mandalas and Mysticism
The new year invites us to make resolutions and try to stick to them. Keeping select scriptures in mind as we seek to honor these resolutions is a good spiritual practice for the coming year.

“Rekindle the gift of God within me” – II Timothy 1:6
This particular scripture reading will be our focus as we look at nurturing “relationships,” particularly the one we have with Christ Jesus—our Lord. We will use ancient mystical mandala arts and the inspirational writings/tapes of authors and pioneer theologians.

Join us in probing discussions and challenging discoveries, led by Suzanne Bailey.

Save the Date
Sat., March 9 from 5–8 pm
Chili Dinner and Square Dance
Folks of all ages are invited to ELPC for a Chili Dinner and an evening of side-stepping fun.
Lessons will be included so that together we can learn all the basics.
Please bring a side or dessert to share. Chili will be provided.

Session News
At the January Session meeting, the elders began the new year full of expectancy for opportunities in the coming months. The Session:

• Approved the 2013 budget, which will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Feb. 17.
• Received the report of the Nominating Committee, including their nominees for Youth Deacon and Youth Elder.
• Reviewed the upcoming calendar, which includes scheduling an Officers’ Retreat focusing on building improvements and mission ministries.

Congratulations, Mary Lynn!
One year ago, it was a joy to announce that the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan had agreed to serve as our Interim Director of Spiritual Life ministries at ELPC. In the past months, she has brought a fresh energy to our Spiritual Life program, providing leadership for workshops, retreats and spiritual direction. Mary Lynn has taught, preached, and been a wonderful addition to our church staff.

It is with joy once again to announce that Session and the Personnel Committee have dropped the word “interim” from Rev. Callahan’s job description. As our official Director of Spiritual Life ministries, she is already busy organizing programs, helping coordinate “First Sunday” events, and strengthening our church’s commitment to spiritual growth for all its members. Please welcome Rev. Callahan in her “old/new” role at ELPC!
**Health Ministry**

*The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative*

**What is the Health Ministry Committee?**

We are a group of health professionals and lay people within ELPC that promotes whole person health. Our goals are to provide health education and screenings, referrals, and resources for our ELPC faith family and the surrounding Community.

We offer programs and support aimed at improving health, such as:

- Blood pressure testing on the third Sunday of every month, following Worship;
- Assisting with Blood Drives;
- A Grief Support Group on Thursdays, April 4–May 9, from 6:30–8 pm;
- Seminars on health issues, like an *End of Life Issues* program later this year;
- First-Aid classes for young families;
- A walking path inside ELPC, with maps for those who use the pathway;
- Classes on how to use a defibrillator for staff and other health professionals;
- A volunteer resource list of congregants who are willing to assist with health needs of congregants when needed; and
- A *Senior Resource Guide* and other health pamphlets and disease specific books, which are available in the Library.

Down through the ages, the church has been a place of healing. Today, many churches are reclaiming this ministry. Health professionals and lay people are needed to serve in numerous ways. If you are interested in joining us, please call Pat Krimmel at 412.441.2909.

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**ELPC People**

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

**Good News**

Congratulations to those in our faith family who were recently baptized:

- Madison Elizabeth Walker, daughter of Jon and Jacquelin Walker; and

Join us in welcoming our new ELPC members: Erin Bachman, Paige Shoemaker, and Richard Stoss.

Congratulations to Shoghag Balian for earning her PhD last fall. We offer our prayers as she relocates to Philadelphia.

**Thanks**

Tim and Linda Benedict thank everyone for their cards, visits, and prayers when Tim’s father passed away.

**Prayers**

We offer our condolences to:

- Sel Whitaker, whose wife, Susan, passed away on Dec. 12; and
- Jim Cover, whose mother, Ruth, passed away on Dec. 29.

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**Exercise Classes**

**Tai Chi**

Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm

The cost of this class is $3 per session ($25 for 10 sessions). Pre-register with Kate Carlson at katec@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

**Yoga**

Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation to the instructor is appreciated.

**JourneyDance**

Fri., Feb. 8, from 7–8 pm

Classes are led by Yamuna. A donation from the heart is appreciated.
“...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.”

Find us on Facebook
Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian Church” or scan the QR code below.

**Concert Series Continues**

*Sat., Feb. 9, at 5 pm*

Dr. Ed Moore will be joined by local pianist Nathan Carterette and tenor Joseph Gaines for an Organ Plus concert in the Sanctuary.

This free concert is open to the public, so invite your friends and family to join us for this exciting combination of organ, piano, and voice!

**Lenten Devotionals Available**

Every week, Christian Education will distribute devotional cards during each of our Sunday Worship Services. They also will be available on the Second Floor CE Table following the 11 am service, for those who may wish to pick them up during the week.

These devotionals will include an invitation to pray, reflect, and engage in a spiritual practice that connects with each weekly theme of the Lenten sermon series, entitled *Lenten Life Lessons*.

There also will be an opportunity to engage in meditation, as a prayer station will be set up in the Sanctuary throughout Lent. Learn more about the prayer space in our weekly bulletin.

**Congregational Meeting**

*Sun., Feb. 17, following 11 am Worship*

Join us in the Social Hall for our Annual Congregational Meeting. A simple lunch will be provided, followed by a review of our ministry areas and committee work from the past year.

In addition, the gathered body will be presented with a slate of candidates for Elder, Deacon, Centennial Fund, and Nominating Committee, which they will be asked to consider and vote upon.

**Building Closed**

The ELPC office will be closed all day on *Mon., Feb. 18*, for Presidents’ Day. The building will open for meetings at 7 pm.