July Sermon Series
The book of Genesis contains some fascinating family stories. This month, the worship sermons will highlight the Old Testament patriarch Isaac. Born to the aged Sarah and Abraham (Genesis 21), he came close to being sacrificed on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22). Later, he marries Rebekah and has two sons of his own, Jacob and Esau (Genesis 24–25), whose own stories remind us of how God's faithfulness overcomes our flawed human character (Genesis 27). Join us for these reflections on Abraham’s son, Isaac.

Join us on Mentor Sunday
During and after worship on Sun, July 13, we will celebrate the important role that mentors play in the lives of children and youth.

At ELPC, we believe that we are called to minister holistically to young people, and that mentoring can make an impactful difference in their lives. While many adults from ELPC are mentors through Hope Academy, confirmation, and our Christian Education programming, we are excited to share stories and pictures from our new Food for Thought program.

Food for Thought is for youth in grades 4–8 and centers around the importance of a shared meal—a theme which runs deep in our Christian tradition and is modeled by Jesus throughout his ministry. Mentor/mentee pairs use food-related activities to explore food science, ethics, healthy eating, creativity, the importance of service, cultural studies, spirituality, math skills, writing skills, and dreaming and planning for the future. But most importantly, mentors befriend, support, and celebrate their mentees as beloved Children of God.

We encourage you to come hear, see, and taste what has been happening at Food for Thought, and to pray about how you might be able to participate in or support our exciting new ministry. If you know someone who might be interested in participating as a mentor or mentee, invite them to worship on Mentor Sunday, or talk to Sara Hackett or Wil Forrest for more information.

Confirmation Class
In this issue, read excerpts from five of our confirmation class students’ personal Statements of Faith, sharing their unique understanding of God and how God has been at work in their lives. (June’s issue featured excerpts from the other four students.)

Sunday Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
Courtyard Worship • 10 am
Held in the Garth, weather permitting, and also broadcast in the Music Room.
July 6* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
July 20 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 27 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
Mondays • 7 am–1 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm.
July 2: No Class
July 9: Extended Time of Prayer and Music
July 16: Music on the Labyrinth
July 23: No Class
July 30: Celebrations!

Food for Thought mentor and mentee making gnocchi.
East Liberty Presbyterian Church

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

Tel: 412.441.3800
Fax: 412.441.4422

CathedralOfHope.org

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
Coordinator of Young Adult
and Outreach Programs

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Sara Hackett
Coordinator for Christian Education
and Youth Ministry

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

The Rev. Barbara McFarland
Parish Associate

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The church’s front yard is different now. The rain garden project is basically finished. After the hard winter we had last year, we are making sure that the newly planted grass plugs, bushes, and trees have taken hold. So far, the rainfall absorption system seems to be working well, which is good since that means far less rainwater flows into the city sewage system. But the difference in the front yard is not just about the new plantings.

The prior landscaping on Penn Avenue consisted of a formal yard trimmed with a solid stone border. It looked postcard-perfect from a distance, but it was functionally unwelcoming up close. Now we have broken that stone border with a series of benches and tables. As people wait for the bus or simply pause on their way up and down Penn Avenue, they can sit on benches provided for them. They talk; they eat; they interact with other passersby. Most importantly, they transform the church’s front yard into a community space. Our building now has a living, active link to the neighborhood, modeling a renewed and faithful spirit of hospitality.

We may not meet the people who pause in our front yard, but I trust they will enjoy the plantings around them and I hope that they will look kindly upon our building as a place that valued them and literally offered them a seat in the shadow of our cathedral walls.

A few weeks ago, the Renovations Committee made a presentation to the Session, Property Committee and staff, suggesting seven areas in which we should consider changes in order to make our church “radically hospitable.” These initiatives touched on a wide range of improvements. They included ideas ranging from lighting the exterior and installing glass doors at three of our entrances, to creating new meeting spaces on the first floor and a new entrance and central lobby on the ground floor. Some drawings and early cost estimates also were presented, and there is much more work that needs to be done in the coming months before anything close to a final proposal is ready to be considered by the Session and congregation.

But the best part of the presentation was how it helps us think about the church space differently. It causes us to look around and really see the beauty of Cram’s gothic architectural masterpiece that we get to call our spiritual “home.” It causes us to imagine how guests and strangers encounter our long hallways and scattered meeting spaces, and to picture how we might re-orient things so that no one feels pushed off to a corner or assigned to an unwelcoming space far from the entrances.

Overall, the changes being considered are not major interventions—just as the benches and tables were not huge alterations in our front yard. But seeking to be faithful in the little details of church life can make a big difference. The movement of the Holy Spirit is almost always more of a nudge than a shove. (Remember, God came into the world as a baby, not an army.) So I encourage you to be sensitive to God’s Holy nudges this summer—both in your own life and in your faith journey as part of our church family.
Congratulations to our Confirmands

In June, nine students joined ELPC through baptism and profession of faith. We rejoice that God has called to our faith community these dynamic, wise, and engaged young men and women.

Join us in congratulating Ian Bush, Margaret Edgecombe, Joshua Hodeney, Lynne Irvin, Julia Lewand, Cecilia Novelli, Tyrese Williams, Isaiah Wilson, and Xander Yates.

Wishing you the Best
We rejoice that many in our faith family have graduated from high school this year. Join us in congratulating: Cori Brooks, Divine Henry, Taylor Lewand, Anna Jane Lowe, Lydia Massey, Nadine Mazingi, Rony Perez, Christopher Reese, and Lawrence White.

“I believe that God sees good in all of us.”—Joshua Hodeny

Session News
A special Session meeting was held in June, to hear a report from the Renovations Committee. Church elders, staff and members of the Property Committee listened to a presentation about seven initiatives that would strengthen our commitments to radical hospitality, community mission, and Christian outreach. Renovation suggestions with cost estimates were shared for parts of the ELPC Ground, First and Second floors, including external improvements such as exterior lighting, glass doors, and a new Whitfield Street entrance lobby.

The Session approved the scope of the plan as presented, and authorized the Renovations Committee to continue working to prioritize possible projects and to assess the feasibility of raising necessary funds to finance any work.

The committee’s recommendations will be presented to Session at a meeting in early fall. We will schedule times for committee members to hear congregational feedback.

Please keep this committee’s work in your prayers.

Good Samaritan Worship Service on Hiatus

Thirty years ago, our Good Samaritan Worship service began as a simple act of hospitality. It provided a time of fellowship and worship on Sundays mornings for the community and residents of the men’s shelter housed in ELPC. Over the years, church members and shelter guests accompanied one another’s spiritual journeys through prayer, praise, laughter, and Christian affection.

Last November, when the men’s shelter moved to the new EECM Community House, Good Samaritan Worship began being offered in the Community House Chapel. We continued to establish meaningful relationships with residents as we shared in conversation, fellowship, and worship. However, after prayerful reflection, the Good Samaritan Worship planning committee decided to put this service on hiatus for the summer and explore alternative options, while EECM looks to hire its new executive director.

ELPC will continue to be engaged through monthly breakfasts at Community House, as well as through our volunteer service teams and meal groups.

Please remember the Community House residents and staff in your prayers.

“Through faith I believe God has been active all throughout my life.”
—Tyrese Williams

“Our church is alive. It has a song that it sings. It sings of love and faith, of God and Jesus, of life and heaven.”—Julia Lewand

“Good Samaritan Worship Service on Hiatus

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—Tyrese Williams

“I believe that God sees good in all of us.”—Joshua Hodeny
**Behind the Scenes at ELPC: Housekeeping**

Have you ever wondered who’s working behind the scenes to make sure our building is clean and in tip-top condition for a wide variety of uses, not only on Sunday, but every day?

The full-time housekeeping staff of Carol Chontos, Mary Kane, Nancy Pendleton, and Robert Polk (pictured left to right), and part-timer Gerald McClendon, take care of our worship spaces, classrooms, restrooms, meeting spaces, and hallways. On their watch, ELPC is always looking good.

Please say a word of thanks for their faithful and diligent work when you next see a member of our housekeeping team.

![Housekeeping Team](image)

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

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**Third Annual Summer Film Festival Set to Begin**

The Justice, Peace, and Poverty Committees of the Mission Board are teaming up to sponsor our Summer Film Festival. Films are as follows:

**July 13:** **Lemon Tree** 106 min
The Peace Committee brings us the story of a Palestinian widow who must defend her lemon tree field when a new Israeli Defense Minister moves in next door and threatens to have her lemon grove torn down.

**July 20:** **The Redemption of the Prosecutor** 22 min
This documentary, presented by the Justice Committee, asserts that sometimes it’s not the prisoner who needs forgiveness. When devout Christian and prosecutor Preston Shipp began teaching in a Nashville prison, he never thought he would be the one to be schooled.

**July 27:** **The Stranger** 45 min
The Justice Committee will screen this documentary created to introduce Christians to the stories and lives of immigrants living in our country. Interviews with pastors, Christian leaders, and policy experts examine the immigration challenges that our country faces. The film, commissioned by the Evangelical Immigration Table, was produced by Emmy-award-winning producer Linda Midgett.

**Aug. 3:** **A Place at the Table** 84 min
Presented by the Poverty Committee, this film looks at hunger and proposed solutions. 50 million Americans (1-in-4 children) don’t know where their next meal is coming from. This documentary follows three people who maintain their dignity as they struggle to eat. This riveting journey will forever change how you think about the hungry.

**Aug. 10:** **The End of Poverty** 106 min
The aphorism, “The poor are always with us,” dates back to the New Testament. But while the phrase is still sadly apt today, few seem to be able to explain why poverty is so widespread. Presented by the Poverty Committee, this film is a phenomenal discourse on why poverty exists when there is so much wealth in the world. A must-see for anyone wanting to understand, not only the U.S. economic system, but the foundations of today’s global economy.

Films will be shown after our Courtyard Worship service, along with a light potluck lunch in Room 234.

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**LGBTQ Ministry**

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Are you interested in learning more about, or getting involved in ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry? Please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 for more info, or see the bulletin board in the hallway. All people are welcome!
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., July 6: Commissioning of Mission Trip Teams
Youth participating in the junior high mission trip to Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock, and the senior high mission trip to Washington, D.C., will be commissioned during our worship service at 10 am.

The junior high team will serve at Crestfield from July 6–11. Please keep Charlotte, Chloe, Isaac, Josh, Kayla, Kiara, Ramsey, Damon, Wil, and Sara in your prayers.

Sun., July 20: Summer Fun beginning at 11 am
Youth (who have completed grades 6–12) should plan on keeping the afternoon open for doing something fun...with cool people. The only thing for certain is their will be food and a van ride. More details and a permission form will appear on the ELPC Youth Facebook page. Stay tuned.

Young Adult Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., July 4: First Friday® Fireworks Leaving ELPC at 7 pm
As a group, we will head to a choice location to experience the fireworks display and celebrate Independence Day. Meet at ELPC so that we can travel together.

Sat., July 12: Progressive Lunch and Discussion Leaving ELPC at 12 pm
Our one unified meal is back by popular demand. We will meet at ELPC and travel together between locations for different courses and discussion topics. Please consider hosting a course at your place, or a discussion topic at one of the locations. RSVP to Wil by Tues., July 1, with the following information:
• For hosting a course: Your address and preferred meal (appetizers, salad, main course, or dessert)
• For discussion topic: Your topic and the course during which you’d prefer to discuss the topic

Wed., July 23: Cinema in the Park Leaving ELPC at 8 pm
Gather at Flagstaff Hill at dusk, or come early to ELPC, and we will enjoy a fun summer tradition—a free outdoor movie in Schenley Park. The Hunger Games: Catching Fire will be shown, and there also will be a Frank Sinatra tribute concert. Learn more at PittsburghPa.gov/citiparks/cinema-schenley.

Health Ministry
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Tai Chi
Tuesdays, from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm
The last session is on Tues., July 15. The cost is $3/session. Pre-register with Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

Yoga
Thursdays, from 7:15–8:45 pm

JourneyDance
Mondays, from 6:30–7:30 pm; and Fri., July 11, from 7–8 pm

“I feel like God is calling me to defend the good in the world and stand against any evil I come across.”—Xander Yates

“Telling that God is a constant. God will be there for me, all throughout my life.”—Lynne Irvin

YAM is for YOU
Your friends are always welcome too! To RSVP, ask questions, or simply to talk, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.
New Opportunities to Make an Impact

The East End has changed for many with the advent of new commercial and residential development. However, the poverty rate has remained at almost 30 percent. Over the past decade, research has shown that the root cause of generational poverty is social isolation: low-income families are isolated from the networks and access of the middle class. Several neighborhood groups—East Liberty Development, Inc., EECM, Repair the World, the Veterans Administration, and OHM—are partnering to respond to this axis of wealth and poverty by implementing a national program called Circles.

Circles pairs “leaders”—a low-income individual or couple—with at least two middle- or upper-middle-income “allies” for two years, to work on budgeting, asset growth, workforce, and educational priorities. It is the belief that Circles can connect our low-income neighbors to the boom of business, jobs, and real estate in our community, and help ensure equitable access to economic prosperity.

You can get involved! OHM will be implementing the Circles model as part of its Family Care program. Training will be offered in September for volunteer allies. The Circles partnership also will plan a poverty simulation for potential allies and other community members at the end of July or early August.

For more information, please contact Akirah Robinson, Family Care coordinator at OHM, at 412.254.3038 or arobinson@openhandpittsburgh.org.
Join an ELPC Volunteer Service Team Today

There are still opportunities to join ELPC Volunteer Service Teams. These teams work to respond to the needs of our neighbors, while also forming joyful friendships through soulful service. Current teams include:

- **Holy Spirit Breakfast Club**, which prepares and serves breakfast for the residents at EECM Community House on the second Sunday of each month;
- **ELPC Dinner team**, which prepares and serves dinner for residents of EECM Community House; and
- **Dynamic Tutoring Team**, which helps our East Liberty youth thrive and prosper.

New teams are forming to help in the Food Pantry, and also to assist adults in the EECM I.M.P.A.C.T.S. program with resume writing, interview skills, computer literacy, and confidence building, as they ready themselves for seeking employment and independent living.

If you are feeling called to offer your talents for the benefit of others while growing with others through service, please consider joining a team. For more information, contact the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Seeley at PatriceFS@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x30, or Susan Spangler at sspanglerlcsw@gmail.com or 240.285.6507.

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**God’s love has no bounds.**
—Xander Yates

**ELPC People**

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

**Good News**

- Congratulations to Alicia and Jesse Melnick on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Melnick, who was born on May 25.
- Congratulations to Sara Fest (member) and Andrea Kamouyourou, who were married on May 31.
- Congratulations to the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan and the Rev. Al Valentine, who were married on May 31.

**Thanks**

- Dear ELPC family,
  Thank you for your prayers and concern for my son-in-law, Patrick. He had a successful liver transplant just before Easter. He’s home and doing well.
  God bless you!
  – Ruth Henderson and family
- The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make VCS 2014 a tremendous success. Once again, registration was full and we served 95 students throughout the week with the help of dedicated adult and youth volunteers, and ELPC staff. The August issue of the Reaching Out will have a full list of volunteers and pictures from our wonderful week together.

**Prayers**

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

- Ted Cmarada’s mother, Nenette Cmarada;
- Gloria Knopp’s father, Kenneth Rohm; and
- Liz Hopkins’ father, Roger Veatch.

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Service Spotlight: Food for Thought Meal Team

*by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs*

In May, we concluded a successful eight-week pilot of our Food for Thought mentor program. While our mentors and mentees spent time doing activities and building relationships in one room, our Food for Thought meal team was preparing healthy, home-cooked meals next door. Each week, the meal team skillfully and loving prepared dinner for the entire group (from scratch), making it possible for us to have energy and for us to live into our name and mission, as we provided Food for Thought.

Thank you to our talented meal team: Barbara DeWitt, Sandy Edgecombe, Cathie Hajdu, and Sel Whitaker.

**“To be a Christian means to bring peace, love, and warmth wherever you go, and also to love and bring peace to the community.”**—Joshua Hodeny

**“To be a Christian means to bring peace, love, and warmth wherever you go, and also to love and bring peace to the community.”**—Joshua Hodeny

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**Want to know how you can impact a young person’s life in a substantial and meaningful way?** Talk with Wil Forrest about serving as a mentor, as a member of the meal team, or as a coach for our Food for Thought program.

For more information and to read about other service opportunities, please visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE.
“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.”

Malawi Visitors Set to Arrive
On Thurs., July 17, 19 visitors from Malawi and two from South Sudan (as part of a new partnership) will arrive at Pittsburgh International Airport. Two people from our sister church in Balaka, Malawi, will be at ELPC from July 22–29.

Please consider spending some time with them by hosting someone in your home, having a dinner party to introduce them to your friends, take them shopping, or to do other activities that you participate in.

Look for more information on the bulletin board or call Kay Shissler at 412.681.2047.

GCF Farmers’ Market is Open
Fresh fruit and vegetables from Garfield Community Farm are available each Wednesday from 3–7 pm, at Valley View Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Aiken Ave. Stop by and support agriculture in our neighborhood!

Want to Volunteer at the Farm?
On Thursdays from 6–8 pm, come to the farm for some gardening and liturgical prayer time in the spiral garden. For details, please contact the Rev. John Creasy at 412.979.7764 or John@pghopendoor.org.

CE Classes on Break
There will be no Church School classes throughout July and August. Classes for persons of all ages will resume on Rally Day, Sun., Sept. 7.

Building Closed: The building will be closed all day on Fri., July 4, in observance of Independence Day.