Ash Wednesday Services

ELPC will offer two reflective Ash Wednesday services on March 5. The first service will be at 12 pm, in the Chapel, and will include prayer, message, and the imposition of ashes. This service will be followed by a simple lunch in Room 234, including a presentation by Johannes Swart, the new associate professor of World Mission and Evangelism at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

A later service of Taizé sung prayer will be at 7 pm, in the Chapel. It will include the imposition of ashes, as well as scriptures, chants, and prayers.

Take part in this traditional beginning of the Lenten season.

“...In my church life, I've been a long-time choir member and always drawn to the beautiful melodies of some of the 19th century hymns. Two of my favorite Lenten hymns are 'What Wondrous Love is This' and 'My Song is Love Unknown.'”—Jim Schleifer, a new ELPC member

Cathedral Concerts Series Continues

Sun., March 2, at 4 pm

Hear soprano Marlissa Hudson and organist Marvin Mills perform as part of the Cathedral Concerts series at ELPC. The event is free, but a freewill offering will be accepted.

Marlissa Hudson is a graduate of Duke University and the Peabody Institute in Baltimore. She has been described as a “superb lyric coloratura” by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Philadelphia native Marvin Mills is an organist in the Washington, D.C., area. He also is the composer of the Toccata on EAM, premiered by Dr. Ed Moore at ELPC in May 2011.

This concert is being offered in memory of long-time ELPC member and supporter, Norma Noden, and is made possible by the Norma Noden Music Fund.

Editor’s Note

In this month's Reaching Out newsletter, look for comments from among our faith family about their favorite Lenten hymns and why they like them so much.

Sunday Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am
Held at the EECM Community House
Liturgist: Karen Fraser
March 2* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 9 Bible Study
March 16 Bible Study
March 23 Mac McMahon, Director of Homeless Assistance Programs, Community Human Services Corp.
March 30 Bible Study

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
March 2* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
March 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 16 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 23 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
March 30 Eric Vinsel, Seminary Intern

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
March 2* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 23 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 30 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule
Classes begin at 8:15 pm. There will be no class on Wed., March 5.
March 12: To be announced
March 19: Music on the Labyrinth
March 26: Celebrations!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Our worship theme during the season of Lent will focus on a wide range of African-American spirituals. Some of these pieces are familiar, such as “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” or “Were You There.” Others are perhaps lesser known, such as “He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word” or “Follow the Drinking Gourd.” Yet all of them touch on strong qualities of faith, struggle, and a hope that no human power or prejudice can destroy.

During each worship service, we will hear or sing at least two spirituals. Some of them will remind us about our abiding hope in a new heaven and a new earth. Some will encourage us to persevere in our walk of faith. Some will point to the gospel admonition to be as “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16) in that the spirituals used coded language to give important instructions on how to escape the slaveowners’ unjust rule. Through them all, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, the fullness of our faith will be presented anew by words and songs.

It is important to sing these songs regularly, for they are an important part of our shared faith tradition. They are songs that speak universally about the brokenness and pain that marks much of human life, as well as speak specifically about the injustice of racism and slavery in our ongoing national history. I’m grateful too that many schools, during African American History Month, take time to teach spirituals to young people, so that the melodies and power of these songs can become part of their personal experience. Pairing “This Little Light of Mine” with “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” gives children the necessary balance that is an important part of a mature, grounded faith.

I sometimes wonder about our spiritual legacy—about the lessons we teach our children. I sometimes worry that the stories of the bible and promises of scripture are not being passed on faithfully to the coming generation. And yet, as I listen to the conversations of our church kids and confirmation students, I am gratified to hear that they know the “spirit” of faith and the core values of inclusion, love, and justice that mark the gospel preached at ELPC by word and deed. I trust that they are taking all they see and hear (and sing) at church to heart as they travel their own spiritual path in the world, under the watchful eye of a loving God and risen Savior.

I recently read an interview with a young woman, who was a writer just as her mother before her had been a writer. The interviewer asked, “How does it feel to be in your mother’s shadow?” To which the woman replied, “I’m not in my mother’s shadow. I’m in my mother’s light.”

The language and music of faith is not something that belongs to prior generations and casts a burdensome “shadow” upon us. Rather it is the light that shines brightly as a guide for our own journeys; it is the foundation that has been time-tested and to which we trust our life goals and priorities. Spirituals are part of that “light.” As we move toward Easter, may they shine brightly in our weekdays and worship-days.

Randy Bush
Bible 116

*Wednesdays, March 5–April 9*

During the season of Lent, Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather will share leadership during an informal time of fellowship and Bible study. Bible 116 sessions will be held in the Second Floor Parlor from 5:30–6:30 pm.

Soup and bread will be available, with the sessions concluding in time for people to attend the Wednesday evening Taizé worship services.


Interested in getting involved with the new LGBTQ Ministry forming at ELPC? We are in the process of beginning two regular monthly meetings. One is a spiritual gathering where we will focus on relationship, education and spiritual growth, while the other is a business meeting to continue the work we have started in prayerfully and intentionally forming this new ministry.

Our next spiritual gathering will be at 2 pm, on Sat., March 8, in the Second Floor Lounge (before the RCC Cabaret). Our next business meeting will be at 12:30 pm, on Sun., March 30, in the Pastor’s Conference Room.

Please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 for more info, to get on the distribution list and/or to come to any of our meetings in March.

Session News

At recent Session meetings, the elders heard an update about a proposed Youth Mentoring program at ELPC, formally approved the communion dates and budget for 2014, heard from the Renovations Committee about the engineering survey/LEED certification examination being done on our church building, and followed up on topics raised at the Congregational Meeting in February.

Officer Installation

During worship on Sun., March 30, we are pleased to ordain and install the following members as our incoming class of church officers. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in these offices and share their gifts for the larger ministry of ELPC.

- **Deacons:** Ray Anthony, Karen Beasley, George A. Clark, Tucker Ferda, Vanessa Johnson, Judy Roberts, Matt Stufft, and Margaret Edgecombe (Youth Deacon)
- **Elders:** Sherry Anderson, Diana Bloss, Carol Chonoska, Stefani Danes, Stuart Hutchison, Jean Kennedy, Charles Krimmel, Frances Wilson, and Isaiah Wilson (Youth Elder)

In addition to these people, Sandy Edgecombe will be the congregational representative on the Centennial Fund committee.

"My favorite Lenten hymns are ones I learned from *The Pilgrim Hymnal* in the 80s. I appreciate the balance of text and music in ‘In the Cross of Christ I Glory’ as well as the lively ¾ time of ‘O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High.’"

—Sandy Edgecombe

Dr. Ed to Perform

Dr. Ed Moore will be featured in an organ/piano concert with pianist Nathan Carterette at Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown, Ohio, at 4 pm, on Sun., March 30. Featured in the program will be Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*. For more information contact Dr. Ed or visit StambaughAuditorium.com

"I love the Lenten hymn ‘Lift High the Cross’ because it reflects great strength musically. Furthermore the hymn verbally challenges Christians to demonstrate Christ’s love and to witness to his sacrifice on our behalf."

—Carla Depperman
Christian Education
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

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

March 2: Meet Your Millennials  Led by Jeff Schooley, Shadyside Presbyterian Church
Millennials are the generation born between 1980–2000. This study explores the history, present-day situation, and future of this gifted generation.

March 9: Trauma, Grace, and Memory  Led by Jeff Schooley
Bombs go off. Bodies are assaulted. Lives are wrecked. However, the truly nefarious nature of trauma is what it does to our memories and how it forces its victims to re-live the trauma again and again. Explore the inner-workings of trauma and how grace can begin to heal memories.

March 16 and March 23: Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself  Led by Dr. Polly Mattila
God is the potter and has intentionally designed each of us to fill a special place in the Kingdom. Our task is to love our neighbor as ourselves, but that is not always as easy as it sounds. We are challenged to start by loving ourselves, which then allows us to truly love our neighbors.

March 30–April 13: How Do We Know Who God Is?  Led by Rev. Dr. John Burgess, Pgh. Theological Seminary
As Christians, we regularly use the word “God,” but what do we mean? The question of who God is has become urgent in a time in which people seem to have forgotten God, yet are perhaps seeking God more than ever. This series will examine who God is and how people come to know God.

Parents Circle Harambe Room
Facilitator: Pam Walaski
We will use passages from the Lectionary to help us discern and explore God’s plan for our families, and share our joys and struggles through a facilitated discussion. We welcome children who may not yet be able to leave their parents.

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
March 2: The Lost Years of Jesus  Led by Russ Walker
Where was Jesus from age 12 to the start of his ministry? The Bible does not tell us. We will learn from Elizabeth Prophet’s book, The Lost Years of Jesus, and discuss the credibility of her historical evidence, and our beliefs about her writings.

March 9–30: Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus
In 2013, Reza Aslan’s Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth became a number-one bestseller. In his work, Aslan paints a portrait of Jesus and His message by casting a view through the historical context in which Jesus lived, and the Gospels were written. His analysis invites us to ask: who was Jesus? How did he view Himself? How did the early Christian church shape our current understanding of Jesus?

March 9: An Introduction
Pastor Heather will introduce us to the main arguments in Aslan’s text as we prepare for a deeper analysis.

March 16: The History of the Quest of the Historical Jesus
Tucker Ferda, a PhD candidate in New Testament at the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss trends in the study of Jesus that influence Aslan’s book, and important methodological issues about reconstructing the biography of someone from the ancient past.

March 23: Is it a Convincing Reconstruction of Jesus?
Tucker Ferda will look closely at particular arguments in Aslan’s book and consider whether or not they are cogent.

March 30: A Theological Examination
Pastor Heather will explore Aslan’s arguments from a theological perspective. How do Aslan’s ideas inform or challenge our understanding of who Jesus is in light of the key claims of Christianity? How do his claims inform the “Truth” at the heart of the Gospels? How, if at all, do his arguments impact our collective and individual understandings of who Jesus is—as a man and as a Savior?

Journey with Scripture Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin
Lent’s scripture readings include stories about dislocation, where people travel to (or through) foreign and forbidding places. There is fear, confusion, and deep alienation, but there also is abiding presence, grace, and union. Transformations and homecomings are experienced and promised. Such stories are gifts to us as we travel through Lent. Join us as we ponder such diverse scriptures, seeking—and even perhaps experiencing—transformation.

March 2: Exodus 24:12–18; Psalms 2; 2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9
March 9: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7; Psalms 32; Romans 5:12–19; Matthew 4:1–11
March 16: Genesis 12:1–4a; Psalms 121; Romans 4:1–5, 13–17; John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9
March 23: Exodus 17:1–7; Psalms 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42
March 30: I Samuel 16:1–13; Psalms 23; Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41

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Soul Food Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Joe Hajdu
This month, we will finish and review A Testament of Devotion, by Thomas Kelly, and begin a new spiritual text, soon to be chosen. New participants are always welcome!
The Senior High group will continue with the theme of Jeans and Jesus. We will explore how to live the reality of God’s love for us in Christ in our everyday lives by talking about the impact of our words. We will meet with some special guests who have made intentional choices about the food they eat based on their beliefs about God and God’s creation.

For more information, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.673.2926.

March is the beginning of Lent, a time of prayer and reflection. We will pray with our feet, songs, dance moves and paint...while listening with our hearts.

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All parents and students who plan to, or are thinking about, attending the 2014 Senior High Mission Trip are invited to breakfast after the 30–Hour Famine. We will provide families with all of the pertinent information they will need in order for us to have a great experience this summer. This meeting is mandatory.

This month, we will take a scavenger hunt though the church and explore the various mission and ministries of ELPC. We also will worship at the Taizé service from 7–8 pm. For more information, please contact Pastor Heather.

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”—Virginia Woolf

ELPC and the Youth and Young Adult Committees are pleased to announce a new learning support and enrichment program, piloting this spring. This one-on-one and group mentoring program will reinforce skills known to be necessary for success in and out of school, and will center around food and service learning.

If you are interested in exploring food science, the art of cooking, or the magic of a shared meal...if you want to create real solutions for hunger, health, or sustainable agriculture...if you want to build meaningful relationships that strengthen us for the joys and the struggles of life, then join us and eat. Think. And pass the cauliflower.
World Mission Initiative Conference  
Fri.–Sat., April 4–5, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Presbyterian Women at ELPC invites you to be our guests at the World Mission Initiative Conference, *Beyond the Stained Glass: the Church Sent into the World.* Choose from a variety of workshop topics, network with mission agencies, and connect with others who are passionate about mission. Find out more at [WorldMissionInitiative.org](http://WorldMissionInitiative.org).

Pick up a registration form on the bulletin board outside the Library. Your registration has been paid, but you are responsible for your own meals.

Grief Support Group  
*Thursdays, March 6–April 10, from 6:30–8 pm, in the Second Floor Parlor*

Grieving is a human process and experience that when met with compassion and care, can flow into a renewed and deepened engagement with life. In the shelter and safety of one another’s presence, we can face and move through loss and grief, and find our way to a re-connection with the fullness of living.

This group will offer professional guidance and community support to face the challenges and distress that often accompany loss. The group will provide direction and resources, healing practices, and opportunities for questions, sharing and discussion.

The group is co-facilitated by Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, psychotherapists with over 30 years of experience in accompanying people through the journey of loss and grief. Their work is grounded in experience and seasoned with warm and compassionate presence.

Presbyterian Women  
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

*Tues., March 4: An Abiding Hope* at 10 am

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy.* Our lesson is “Covenant Living” (Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 6:1–9). A potluck lunch will follow. Please bring a salad or snack to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.

Retreat at Camp Crestfield: Fri.–Sun., March 28–29

All women of ELPC are invited to welcome spring at an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield. We will gather Friday evening and return home Saturday evening. We will reflect on manifestations of spring in our lives, through personal and group reflection and creative activities. Jenn Bender—a writer, spiritual seeker, artist and mystic—will lead us. Partial scholarships are available. Pick up a brochure on the bulletin board outside the library for details and registration.

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

*Sun., March 2: First Sunday Event* following 11 am worship

Join us in Room 234 for a light lunch and our First Sunday Program, *Lenten Spirituality.*

*Sat., March 22: A Day of Healing and Wholeness* from 9 am–4 pm

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we experience the healing power of “energy work.” Opportunities for a variety of forms of Healing Touch will be offered, some involve actual touch while others do not. Lunch will be provided.

Fast for Hunger: Fri.–Sun., Feb. 28–March 2

Join us in our Fast for Hunger beginning Friday evening and ending with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper on Sunday. Resources are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board. To enhance your fast, here is a prayer, written by Adam Fischer, a former intern with the Presbyterian Hunger Program:

“My favorite Lenten hymns are old, much loved ones, like ‘There is a Green Hill Far Away’ and ‘In the Cross of Christ I Glory.’ The words are poetic, full of great meaning, and they are set to melodious tunes. It is important for a hymn to be easily ‘singable,’ which all of these are.”—George A. Clark
Kingdom Values
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

The phrase, “What Would Jesus Do?” has always been a frustrating one to me, particularly because it is a tall order for us to behave as Christ did. All too often, I find that I do not measure up to His example.

One way we all can be like Jesus is in serving others. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, modeling to them that as He prepared to leave them and return to His Kingdom, it was important for them to understand that serving others is how we become great by Kingdom values.

The words and actions of Jesus call us to humble ourselves and serve all others as faithful Christians. How might you embrace these Kingdom values today? How might I help you do that? Let’s talk.


Opportunity to Serve with OHM and GCF

Join us on **Sat., March 1**, for the start of a new season of monthly Saturday opportunities to serve our neighbors through our partnerships with Open Hand Ministries (OHM) and Garfield Community Farms (GCF).

- **OHM** is working on rehabbing a house in Garfield that will be a stable, affordable rental property for OHM client families to live in as they prepare their households for the financial and practical demands of homeownership.
- **GCF** is expanding its production and variety of offerings. Come help with cultivation and preparation for the upcoming growing season.

Please join us for fellowship, fun and service! All skill levels and ages are welcome! For more information, contact Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30 or PatriceFS@coh.net.

Volunteer Service Teams are Forming

ELPC is continuing its support of East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) through new Volunteer Service Teams. The teams aid EECM programs that provide food, shelter, mentoring, and nurturing environments for children and families. Hours of service are flexible, and we are happy to include you on a team whether you can volunteer once a day, week, month, or year! Opportunities include:

- **Food Pantry**: (Friday afternoons) Sort donations, register clients, package orders
- **Home Delivered Meals**: Deliver meals to area seniors in teams of two
- **Saturday or Sunday Lunches**: Prepare distribute lunch one day per month
- **Tutoring**: Help school-aged youth

The Volunteer Service Team organizing committee (Suzy Flynn, Becky Gloninger, and Susan Spangler) thanks you in advance for your ready hands and willing hearts. We look forward to joining with you in service! For more information or to sign up, contact Susan Spangler at ssanglerlcsw@gmail.com or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30 or PatriceFS@coh.net.

ELPC People

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

**Good News**
- We celebrate the birth of **Mackenna Patricia Karaczun**, daughter of Alex and Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, who was born on Jan. 24.
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- Congratulations to **Diane George**, who was baptized on Feb. 9.
- Join us in welcoming our new members, who joined on Feb. 9: McKay Bray and Dayna Shelkey, Diane George and Mary Anne Kirby, Katelyn Haas, Linda Harrington, Roberta London, William Royal, Linda Sanders, and Robert Shepherd.

**Prayers**

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

- Jane McClung, wife to John McClung and mother to Michele, Steven, Patricia and Donald McClung, passed away on Jan. 10. Jane was an ELPC member for 33 years.
- Bobby Egelston’s brother, Bill Riethmiller, who passed away on Jan. 13.
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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.”

Daylight Saving Time begins Sun., March 9. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour!

Lenten Devotionals Available
The Christian Education Committee, in partnership with Worship Music and the Arts and the Pastoral Staff, have created Lenten devotionals for persons of all ages. During Lent, the Pastors will connect the Scriptural message to the music of Spirituals, which will be performed or sung in worship. This devotional material will offer questions for reflection and activities to engage the texts of these two powerful witnesses of faith.

Printed copies will be available on Ash Wednesday, as well as online through our ELPC blog and Facebook pages. A recorded version of the Spirituals, as performed in the 11 am Sanctuary worship service, also will be available online following its appearance in worship. In addition, a CD of Spirituals will be available in the Prayer Room for use during personal meditation and prayer, and CDs will be made available for purchase after Easter.

Ringers Needed
There are a few openings in the handbell choir! This fun group rehearses each Tuesday evening at 6 pm. If you would like to learn more, please contact Dr. Ed Moore.

VCS: Workshop of Wonders
As Psalm 77 reminds us, God is a God who works wonders! During our week-long Vacation Church School program, children ages 3 ½ (must have turned 3 by Jan. 1, 2014) through grade five will encounter the wonders of God together. Through an exploration of Biblical passages in both the Old and New Testaments, we will see how God is at work in our lives and our world. We will learn how, with God’s help, we can do and be a part of wonderful things!

VCS will run daily from 8:30 am–3 pm, during the week of June 23–27. Please mark your calendars now!

Registration forms for campers and volunteers will be available online in April. If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact Pastor Heather.