**Sunday Services**

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**
- Oct. 5: Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Oct. 12: Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 19: Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Oct. 26: Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**
- Oct. 5: Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 12: Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 26: 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.

- Oct. 8: Extended Time for Prayer and Music
- Oct. 15: Live Music on the Labyrinth
- Oct. 29: Celebrations!

---

**Social Ethicists Visit ELPC**

One group annually supported by the ELPC Mission Committee is the PC(USA) Social Ethics Network. This group of religion and ethics professors helps articulate our denomination’s social witness policies. This year, their annual gathering is in Pittsburgh.

On Sun., Oct. 5, two members of their group—Dr. Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Chris Iosso, PC(USA) General Assembly office—will lead a combined adult Church School class on The Challenges of Teaching and Living Out Christian Ethics Today at 9:45 am, in the Chapel.

---

**Fall Stewardship Campaign**

*by Elaine Bellin, Stewardship Chair*

The Stewardship Campaign will kick off on Sun., Oct. 5, and conclude on Stewardship Sunday on Sun., Nov. 9. Our theme for this year is **Opportunity**.

Ephesians 3:20–21 tells us, “Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.”

God’s power is at work here at ELPC. We bring our pledges and offerings to church, which then creates an **opportunity** for ourselves and others through our program ministries, community outreach, social justice activities, music concerts, guest speakers, and mission work—both near and far.

Now is the time to respond to this faithful **opportunity**. ELPC members and friends will receive a letter and pledge card later this month. We ask that you bring the pledge card back to church on Stewardship Sunday or mail it in. We have set a goal to exceed last year’s pledges through increasing existing pledges and receiving new pledges. These funds will be used to cover the necessary costs of church programs, mission programs, children and youth programs, personnel sustenance, and operating costs to maintain our magnificent church building.

The **opportunity** is now to do your part in supporting the abundant ministry of Christ happening here at ELPC!

---

**Accessibility Sunday**

Our church strives to be welcoming and hospitable to all. Yet it must be acknowledged that some barriers to worship still exist when people cannot see, hear, or have full access within the worship space.

On Sun., Oct. 12, we will make some temporary adjustments to our Sanctuary worship space to better accommodate people who currently cannot ascend the marble stairs. We also will have a sign-language interpreter present for those who would benefit from this service.

Through a greater awareness of how all people are to be partners in worship, we can better live into our church commitment to radical hospitality and inclusivity.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

A newspaper columnist, Frank Bruni, recently asked this question: Which comes first, the faith or the feeling of transcendence? By that he meant, do we start with believing in God—and that opens us up to an ongoing awareness of God's Spirit—or do we start with a sense that the spiritual exists in this world—and then go on to explain that “sense” through the language of faith? This seems like another “chicken or the egg” conundrum. Yet, it is precisely this question that is behind many peoples’ assertions that they are “spiritual” but not “religious.”

I think people can be (and should be) both spiritual and religious. I think everyone needs some feeling of “transcendence” in life—the awareness that God is a global, eternal, healing Lord, and that our experiences will never fully grasp the wonder, complexity, and depth of God’s mercy and love. I also think everyone needs some “good ol’ religion”—being part of an imperfect community that isn’t afraid to pray together, share meals with saints and sinners alike, and constantly brush off the dirt of the world as we push onward toward a horizon of God’s peace and justice. Going to church is not the sum total of faith, but neither is God best encountered through private walks in the park on Sunday morning. The richest “opportunity” associated with being human is to sense that God actually is God—and then to struggle with what that means with other men and women while we sit in pews, read the bible, sing, eat, and pray together on a weekly basis.

In that last sentence, I chose the word “opportunity” intentionally. It is possible to live one’s life indifferent to matters of the spirit, just as there are lots of ways we can go through our days avoiding entanglements and obligations with other people. But faith is an opportunity given to us by God in Christ to walk a different path. To step through a door that leads to a richer, truer life. To give of ourselves in such a way that we receive far more in return and life make sense in a fundamental way. (Remember that in John’s gospel when Jesus met his first disciples, they asked him where he was going and his reply was “Come and see.” Jesus daily offers that same opportunity to each of us.)

There’s a reason that this year’s Stewardship Campaign theme is simply the word “opportunity.” It reminds us that all of life is an opportunity on so many levels, such as an opportunity to do good, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God (in the words of the prophet Micah). By our choices, our actions, our intentional stewardship of talents and treasures, we turn a God-given opportunity into a living spiritual/religious reality. This is the day (and the opportunity) that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

New Tour Offered

Join us on Sun., Oct. 19, following the Sanctuary worship service, as we venture on a walking tour of the exterior of ELPC, viewing each of the seven entrances, details that go unnoticed, and the new rain garden. Allow for up to an hour, wear comfortable shoes, and feel free to bring binoculars for some high detail. Please meet at the Hospitality Desk.
CROP Hunger Walk

Join us on Sun., Oct. 12, for an opportunity to walk, be healthy, and help others. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local volunteers to raise funds to end hunger around the world.

The Pittsburgh East Walk is about six miles—from Wilkinsburg to Squirrel Hill and back. The Walk begins and ends at South Avenue Methodist Church (733 South Ave., Wilkinsburg). Some walkers may want to team up and split the distance. Registration is at 1 pm, and the Walk begins at 2 pm.

As a fundraiser, you ask folks to sponsor you for as many miles as you can do. Then, 25 percent of the raised funds will be granted back to Wilkinsburg Community Ministry and East End Cooperative Ministry to help our communities.

For more info, visit CWSGlobal.org, click on the Get Involved tab, and then CROP Hunger Walk.

Church School Offering to Support StARS

Every year, ELPC Church School students (children and adults) participate in an offering to support a Mission Ministry that serves the basic needs of persons, either locally or globally. The offering is one way in which our whole church family can actively engage in mission together, and—through our prayers and our offerings—share God’s love with others. This year, our Church School offering is going to support StARS, a ministry founded by St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo, Egypt.

StARS’ ministry is to improve the quality of life of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants. They currently serve more than 3,000 students and clients who come from many places, including Ethiopia, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Syria. StARS’ ministries are broad and comprehensive, including educational programs for children and adults, a feeding program for children, comprehensive care for unaccompanied minors, psychosocial services, and legal aid for asylum seekers. StARS recently received a grant to extend their Children’s Education Program so that they can offer pre-school educational services to young children. To learn more, visit StARS-Egypt.org.

Throughout the year, we will learn more about life in Egypt and the needs of the refugee and migrant communities through conversations with PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Egypt and members of St. Andrew’s United Church of Cairo.

To participate, bring your Church School Offering to class each week. If you are unable to attend class, you can put your offering in an envelope, mark it “Church School Offering,” and place it in the offering plate during worship or turn it in at the front office. No contribution is too large or too small!

A Mission Affair

Join the Mission Board of ELPC as we welcome our 22 community mission partners to our church from 12:30–3:30 pm, on Sun., Oct. 26. Representatives from these groups, listed below, will host booths in the Social Hall to present their work and promote their mission to our members and friends. For more information, call Becky Gloninger at 412.913.6070.

- Black and White Reunion
- Covenant Network of Presbyterians
- Crestfield Camp
- East End Community Thrift Shop
- East End Cooperative Ministry
- East Liberty Development, Inc.
- East Liberty Family Health Center
- Foundation of HOPE/AC Jail
- Frontera de Cristo
- Garfield Community Farm
- Hope Academy
- Jeremiah’s Place
- Kingsley Association
- Larimer Consensus Group
- More Light Presbyterians
- The Neighborhood Academy
- Open Hand Ministries
- Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Sisters of St. Joseph/Casa San Jose
- The Partnership for Minority AIDS/HIV Prevention
- International Partnership Ministry
- Teams of Pittsburgh Presbytery

Update on Renovations

The Renovations Committee has been diligently working through the summer and fall seasons. The big questions being examined involve possible improvements to the heating, air-conditioning, and ventilation systems in our church. They also are looking at energy-saving improvements, and whether ELPC could qualify for LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Look for more information later this month and in early November.
**Contemporaries Class**  Second Floor Parlor  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle  

Oct. 12: Discipleship: The Way of Jesus Christ  
Who am I in Jesus Christ? Do I live my life differently because I believe and trust in him? What does he require of me? Am I really his disciple? Seminary Intern Paul Seif begins our conversation about *Discipleship: The Way of Jesus*. This series was written by the Rev. Dr. John Burgess, professor of systematic theology at PTS.

Oct. 19: The Call to Discipleship  
How do we become disciples? How do we find the living Christ? We do not see Jesus in the flesh nor directly hear his voice. How can Jesus call to us? Mary Figlar continues our conversation about *Discipleship: The Way of Jesus*.

Oct. 26: Mission at ELPC  
On Reformation Sunday, we will reflect on mission through the centuries and look at the ways in which we carry out our call to mission at ELPC. Michele Bossers, a member of the Mission Board, will lead our discussion.

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

“Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness all the time” (Psalm 106:3). Like the beatitudes of Jesus this one seems as ironic and unachievable. Doing justice can be thankless, even life threatening. Listening, giving, and forgiving is hard work. And happiness appears to lie closer through other pursuits, often at the expense of others or the planet. Join us in October as we seek to understand justice through such formative scripture as the deliverance of the Israelites in Exodus, the apostle Paul’s understanding of salvation, and parables in Matthew’s gospel. God’s grace and law provide a foundation for both just ethics and deep joy. Seek a mindshare of Christ with us.

Oct. 26: Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90:1–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

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

Oct. 12–26: A Collection of Writings on Discernment  
We will continue and possibly conclude our discussion of *Discernment*, by Henri Nouwen.
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., Oct. 4: Volunteer Opportunity at World Vision from 8 am–1 pm
Senior high youth have an opportunity to volunteer at the World Vision distribution warehouse in Sewickley. During this time, youth will prepare donations to be shipped to needy individuals throughout the world. We will leave ELPC at 8 am, and return at approximately 1 pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact Anthony Williams if you have any questions or concerns.

Sun., Oct. 12: BIG FRIZ from 12:30–4:30 pm
Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to go play BIG FRIZ—an ultimate-Frisbee-like game with local churches at Carnegie Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided. A permission form is required and can be found on the church website. RSVP to Sara Hackett at Sarah@coh.net or 412.673.2926.

Youth Ministry

Club one sixteen schedule
Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30
• 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/Homework Help/Open Gym
• 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
• 5 pm: Dinner
• 5:30 pm: Bible Study
• 6:30 pm: Gym (older youth)/club life (younger youth)
• 7:30 pm: Dismissal

Club one sixteen
We will explore how our personal stories intersect with God’s story. Senior high youth will reflect upon the people who impact our stories and how God can work to direct, inspire, and care for us through other people. We will explore the story of Moses and share the stories of our own lives.

Club life: light
We will make things that glow, shine, sparkle, glitter, and glean using art, science, cooking, and our imaginations.

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

Fri., Oct. 3: First Friday @ Northside Common Ministries at 7 pm
Join other area young adults and the residents at the Northside Common Ministries homeless shelter for a simple Taizé worship experience. Afterward, we will have some dinner and refreshments. Learn more about Northside Common Ministries (1601 Brighton Road, 15233) at NCMin.org.

Sun., Oct. 12: YAM Sunday Class at 9:45 am, in Pastor’s Conference Room
Do you have to choose between the Bible and Science? As we continue our theme on Scriptures that challenge us as Christians, PTS professor Dr. Steven Tuell will lead our class as we focus on the interaction between Genesis and science. Café Justo will be served, and childcare will be available in the Nursery.

Fri., Oct. 24–Sun., Oct. 26: Crestfield Retreat
Our annual retreat to Crestfield is complete with a cozy cottage, wonderful people, wacky version of pictionary, nature galore, plenty-o-snacks, and much more. We’ll leave ELPC at 7 pm, on Friday, and return at 2 pm, on Sunday. Our focus will be on exploring what we believe. The fee is $25, which includes everything. Limited scholarships are available. RSVP by Wed., Oct. 1.

Young Adult Ministry
Happy Wanderers to Visit Somerset
For older ELPC members and friends, our Happy Wanderers’ group convenes monthly for fellowship, laughter, and learning. Our next event is a trip to Oakhurst Tea Room and the Somerset area on Tues., Oct. 14.
For more information, call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Mon., Oct. 6: Reconciling Paul at 7 pm
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor, as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Sherry Anderson leads our lesson, Paul in the Context of Ancient Corinth (2 Corinthians 1:1–2:4). All are welcome!

Tues., Oct. 7: Reconciling Paul at 10 am
If you were unable to make the Monday lesson, we are offering another opportunity. A potluck lunch follows this lesson. Please bring a salad or snack to share.

LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
To learn more about, or to get involved with, ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

Our next spiritual gathering is on Sat., Oct. 18, and our next business meeting is on Sat., Nov. 30.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

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

Sun., Oct. 12: Contemplative Practice, Mindfulness Meditation, and Us
Gather in Room 234, from 12:30–3 pm, as the Spiritual Life Committee (SLC), a Buddhist teacher, and a researcher from CMU engage in a conversation on Contemplative Practice, Mindfulness Meditation, and Us. We will watch a film clip on the connection between Buddhism and Christianity, gain an understanding of meditation, look at the common threads in the teaching of Buddha and Jesus, trace the history of contemplative prayer in the Christian church, and learn how our bodies are designed for contemplative practices. We also will throw in lunch!

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19: Silent Healing Retreat
Come away with God for a time of healing and wholeness at Providence Villa in the North Hills from Friday evening to Sunday at noon. Besides silence and worship in community, the retreat offers the opportunity to experience Healing Touch, Reike, Therapeutic Massage, Guided Imagery, and Mindfulness Meditation. Check the SLC Bulletin Board or website for registration forms and more info.

Thurs., Oct. 23–Nov. 27: A Course in Mindfulness Meditation
Learn the practice of Mindfulness Meditation with Susan Spangler in the Second Floor Library, from 7–8:30 pm, on Thursdays. Mindfulness is the moment-to-moment awareness of our experience with an accepting, non-judgmental, kind attention. Explore and deepen your experience of mindfulness through meditation instruction, guided meditations, and practices for supporting mindfulness in everyday life. Those who are new or experienced are welcome to join us.

Susan began practicing Mindfulness Meditation in 1990 with Thich Naht Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist teacher. Her practice has continued to deepen through her study with teachers from various meditation traditions.

Sat., Nov. 15: Day Retreat
Mark your calendars for a Day Retreat with Martin Laird from 8:30–4 pm, in the Chapel. Come to learn from this author and contemporary expert on Christian Contemplative Practice. Additional Information and Registration forms can be found on the SLC Bulletin Board.

Deck the Halls Festival
Sat., Dec. 6, from 3:30–6:30pm
Join us for this intergenerational event as we share a meal, decorate the church for Christmas, and celebrate the season with music and laughter. We also are looking for people who are willing to help oversee part of the decorating, dinner, or fun.

If you are interested in being part of the team, join us for a planning meeting on Sun., Oct. 5, from 12:30–2 pm. RSVP to Kathey Hackney at HackneyK@att.net.

Online Book Discussion
Join the online book discussion of Martin Laird’s Into the Silent Land in preparation for the author’s visit to ELPC on Sat., Nov. 15. Watch the Bulletin and the SLC Bulletin Board for details on how to participate.
Seeking Nominations for Deacon and Elder

Even though it’s only early autumn, the 2015 Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) is at work and needs your help to develop a slate of candidates. We are looking for ELPC members who are committed to our church’s mission, representative of our congregation, and willing to be considered for the office of deacon or elder.

The best suggestion you can make may be yourself! Think about your qualifications and interests, as well as those of people you know from church activities and committees.

Nomination forms are available in the church office. Feel free to speak to any 2015 ONC member: Noel Clive, Valerie Copeland, Mark DeWitt, Doris Dick, James Eng, Libby Ferda, Carol Hoehn, Elizabeth Hopkins, Deacon Jason Ferrante, and Elders Frances Wilson and Eric Young.

Candidates will be presented at ELPC’s Annual Meeting in February.

Good News

• We celebrate the baptism of Sebastian Bartle, son of Amiena Mashoob and Andrew Bartle.
• Congratulations to Chanteera Blackshear on the birth of her daughter, Xyla Blackshear.
• Congratulations to Cara Jones-Harries and Kent Harries on the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Siobhan Harries.

Thanks

• I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the beautiful condolences sent, following the death of my son, Martin. These loving expressions of sympathy were comforting for me and all our family, and we thank you all.
  —Dorothy Autore
• Thank you so much for your recent contribution (Church School Offering 2013–14) in the amount of $1,245 to the UMAVIDA Network in Bolivia. Your support through prayers and financial contributions keeps us motivated to walk with those communities suffering from water contamination from mining, and to seek environmental justice for them. We are grateful for your accompaniment in this struggle, and hope we can continue being carers for God’s Creation.
  —Chenoa Stock

Prayers

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

• Beth Urbaitis’ brother, John Chapman Urbaitis, on Aug. 14.
• Don Wilkins, former interim organist at ELPC (2010), on Sept. 1.
• Rev. Dr. Johannes Swart, associate professor of World Mission and Evangelism at PTS, on Sept. 8.
...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.”

Save the Date
Grab your partner and do-si-do. The All-Church Square Dance is on Sat., Nov. 8.

RACE: Are We So Different?
Sat., Oct. 11, beginning at 10 am
Join the Justice Committee at the Carnegie Museum for a docent-led tour of the RACE: Are We So Different? exhibit. There will be extra time to explore the exhibit before lunch at 12 pm, and a discussion from 1–3 pm.

Our faith and issues of race are of particular significance with recent events in our city, country, and the world. We have invited other congregations to this event so that we can broaden the circle of those at the table and learn more about attitudes, discrimination and justice issues.

The fee is $15, $11 for seniors, or free with a museum membership. Contact Vivienne Selia at VSelia@comcast.net or 412.334.4148 for more info or to RSVP.

Organist Cherry Rhodes to Perform
Sun., Oct. 26, from 4–6 pm, in the Sanctuary
The fourth season of Cathedral Concerts kicks off with internationally renowned organist Cherry Rhodes. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members. Contact Dr. Ed Moore or Norma Meyer for details. Tickets at the door cost $12; $5 for students. A reception follows the concert.

One of the world’s most sought-after musicians, Ms. Rhodes is best-known for being the first American to win an international organ competition—her 1966 victory in Munich. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

Her performance features works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, and Dezso d’Antalffy, before closing the program with Pictures at an Exhibition by Modest Mussorgsky.

This concert is being co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, and presented in memory of ELPC member Sue Whitaker, who died in December 2012.

Visit CathedralOfHope.org/worship/cathedral-concerts or Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian for upcoming concerts.