Holy Week Preview

The last Sunday of March is also the first day of Holy Week. Our worship service on **Sun., March 29**, will feature the annual Palm Sunday procession and remembrance of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then, from **Wed.–Sat., April 1–4**, there will be a Holy Week service at 7 pm, as we process through Taizé sung prayer, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. There also will be a Good Friday service at 12 pm. The season of Lent will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 5, as we celebrate the good news of Christ’s resurrection with services at 8:45 and 11 am.

Journey with us as we remember these important last days of our Savior’s earthly life and ministry.

All-Church Retreat: Register Now

All are invited to attend an intergenerational All-Church Retreat from **Fri.–Sun., May 1–3**, at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. The theme of the retreat is “Family Reunion,” and through worship, workshops, games, service, and simple rest and relaxation together, we will explore what it means to be a part of God’s family.

Registration is **$25/person**, and total cost is determined by room option and age (children 5 and under are free). More information, brochures, and registration forms are available near the Hospitality Desk, on the Second Floor CE table, and at **CathedralOfHope.org**.

Bingo Benefit for the Reese Family

Join us for family friendly bingo on **Sat., March 28**, from 4–6 pm, in the Social Hall. Tickets are **$10**. Win non-cash prizes, eat yummy food, and be entertained. There will be an additional bingo game and an extra chance for a prize for those who pre-register via the website.

Money raised will go to the Reese family, who recently lost their home in a fire. You also can help by donating bingo prizes, such as gift certificates, prize baskets, art pieces, games, services, and other new items. Donations will be collected before **Sun., March 22**, and can be given to Sara Hackett.

The Reese family has been actively involved in our faith family for 10 years through youth programming and Hope Academy. Please join us as we help the Reeses rebuild their lives.

Sunday Services

* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**
- March 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- March 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- March 15 Paul Seif
- March 22 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- March 29 Testimonies

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**
- March 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- March 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- March 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- March 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- March 29 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

**Mondays • 7 am–1 pm**
**Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm**

Centering Prayer

**Wednesdays • 6:15–6:50 pm**

Taizé Prayer Service

**Wednesdays • 7 pm**
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

After Taizé Class Schedule

**Classes begin at 8:15 pm.**
- **March 11:** Extended Time of Prayer and Singing
- **March 18:** Live Music on the Labyrinth
- **March 25:** Celebrations!

Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sun., March 8**. Remember to set your clocks ahead by one hour!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The gospel writers compiled Jesus’ early teachings into long sermons – what we call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) or the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6). But during the season of Lent, we focus on another collection of Jesus’ teaching – something we might call Jesus’ Jerusalem Sermon (Mark 11-13). After Jesus’ triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, he angrily cleanses the temple, has his authority questioned, tells a parable about how wicked tenants will plot to kill the vineyard owner’s son, is interrogated about taxes and the resurrection, and offers a long discourse about the coming days of destruction. There are no “Blessed are the meek” comments in this later sermon. It is a reminder that the tension between “how things are” and “how they should be” according to the will of God is very real and highly conflicted.

Each day we live in a world of competing loyalties. We have obligations to ourselves, our families, our community, our nation, and to the world. Many of these obligations affect more than one “group.” For example, our work life impacts our professional colleagues (Did I get my tasks done responsibly?) as well as our families (Do I have a paycheck to cover the bills, including child care for when work takes me away from home?). Our individual choices affect our community and nation (Do I pay taxes, recycle my trash, support programs that encourage justice?). The question is: Where does religion and faith in God fit into this equation?

For some people, religion is something added on at the end of the equation. They may say, “I go to work, pay my bills, take care of myself and my family, and if I have enough time and energy at the end of the week, then I try to go to church and say my prayers.” More commonly, religion is treated as one factor among many variables in life’s complex equation. This group might say, “I wear many hats. I’m an individual, a family member, a Pennsylvanian, an American, and a Christian. Different situations require me to emphasize different parts of my identity, but I try to keep things in balance.”

After his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus faced a lot of conflict. But amidst the arguments and tensions captured in his “Jerusalem sermon” he had a great conversation with a scribe who asked him to name the greatest commandment. Jesus replied by saying we are to love God with our heart, mind, and soul, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28–34). His answer cut through the tension with a clarity that still shines forth life-giving light today. Faith in God is not the “caboose” on life’s busy “train of events.” Nor is it simply one “card” in the ever-shuffling deck of life priorities. Faith comes first. It is the foundation upon which we stand while we act, react, and interact. It is the canvas upon which our life’s artwork is painted. It is the guide that directs our decisions, shapes our priorities, and encourages us whenever we struggle or go astray.

It is surprising how much clearer the path forward becomes when we choose our itinerary according to the two great commandments. The season of Lent calls us to remember these fundamental principles, taught to us and incarnated for us in Jesus Christ. Easter is when the proof of these principles is gloriously revealed in an empty tomb, a resurrected Savior, and Christ’s promise of abundant, faithful life. This month, trust, believe, and see for yourself!

Randy Bush
Holy Spirit Breakfast Team

The ELPC Holy Spirit Breakfast Team is growing by leaps and bounds! Join us on Sun., March 8, and the second Sunday of each month, as we cook and serve breakfasts for the residents at EECM’s Community House.

To sign up for the Breakfast Team, or for more information about other ELPC Service Teams, contact Susan Spangler at sspanglerlcsw@gmail.com or the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.

Session News

The ELPC Session met twice in February to conduct their usual monthly meeting and to hear updates from the Renovations and Capital Campaign Committees. Because of newsletter deadlines, not all the information can be included in this summary; however, the following can be noted:

• Session received 7 members and 1 friend during worship on Feb. 8. The next New Member class is scheduled for March 14.

• Committee reports and congregational statistics were collected, as part of the materials shared at the Congregational Meeting held on Feb. 22. ELPC ended the year with 706 members and 139 friends/affiliate members.

• For 2014, our church income came in slightly under budget, but our church expenses ended up $60,000 under budget, so the net effect is still positive.

• There were additional, extra-budget expenditures for capital improvements and repairs ($260,000) and a Session-approved gift to Open Hand Ministries’ endowment ($25,000).

• New elders and deacons will have their Officer Training during March, and be ordained and/or installed during worship on April 12.

ELPC Prepares to Launch New Ministry

With God’s help, the Neighbors Committee of ELPC’s Mission Board will launch a pilot ministry this spring, called, the Chapel Market. Scheduled to open in early April, the ministry will make gently worn and new, seasonal clothing available for free. The Market will be located in the Wayfarers’ Chapel (on the ground floor toward Whitfield St.) and will be open twice a week, staffed by volunteers.

Donations of clean, gently worn, spring and summer clothing for infants, children, youth, women, and men—along with hangers and recycled plastic bags—will be received in the first floor Office on Sun., March 8 and 29, before and after the Journey and Sanctuary worship services. Donations also will be accepted in the Market itself, when it is open for guests.

Prayerfully consider joining with others to make the Chapel Market a blessing for our community by donating goods that you would be happy to give to a friend, and by spreading the word. The ministry is being coordinated by Fran Wilson, who is working with volunteers like you who love helping others. Watch for updates on the Mission bulletin board and in the weekly announcements.

Update on Renovation Projects

At this stage, the key tasks of the renovation process involve hiring a capital campaign consultant to assist in raising funds, to scheduling additional meetings with the congregation for feedback on design priorities, and obtaining Session approval on timetables and budgets for both the financial and architectural components moving forward.

During March, a letter outlining many of these details will be sent to congregation members and friends, and will be posted on our website and church bulletin board. The Renovation Committee will strive to keep people informed of the steps ahead and will be meeting regularly with the Property Committee. Feel free to pass on to them any thoughts, questions or concerns you may have.

Community Partnerships

ELPC is partnering with two important community groups to help present timely events on topics of social justice.

On Mon., March 23, at 7 pm, New York Times author Cora Daniels (pictured; photo courtesy of Bruno J. Navarro) will speak at Rodef Shalom synagogue about the themes in her recent book, Impolite Conversations: on Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion.

Then, from Fri.-Sat., March 27–28, the Metro-Urban Institute of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is presenting a workshop entitled Lived Theology: Courageous Faith Transforming Communities. Among the guest speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak, and Pastor Bush will be one of the panelists.

For more information about registration for these events, visit RodefShalom.org and PTS.edu/MetroUrban.
Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor  Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

March 1: The Fruits of Discipleship  Led by Lenore Williams
Living in Christ is a process of continuing conversion, transformation, and sanctification—growing in faith. Through the Holy Spirit, our identity in the living Christ becomes our “second nature.”

Dr. Martin Luther King’s Life, Teachings, and Prophecies
This three-week series will consider the early influences and choices that turned Dr. Martin Luther King into a modern-day prophet. We will examine Dr. King’s prophetic calls for justice to be done, echoing the Biblical message of God’s care for the poor and outcasts of society.

March 8: How Can We Cross Barriers to Make Connections?  Led by Carolyn Russ
Carolyn will discuss how King learned to build community with people of different backgrounds and attitudes.

March 15: Where Is God Calling Us?  Led by Jim Rus
Jim will focus on King’s last book, Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community. King identified White Privilege, Black Power, and Militarism as impediments to true integration and a more just society.

March 22: How Can the Church Heed God’s Call for Justice?  Led by Drew Smith, professor of urban ministries at PTS
Professor Smith will cover Dr. King's view that power, poverty, and income inequality are not just a racial problem, but a justice problem. He will connect these views to contemporary protests against injustice in the political-economic system.

March 29: Palestine Today  Led by Leila Richards
Leila will address the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and explore the impacts of U.S. foreign policy, the media, and religion on the region’s struggle for peace and justice.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library  Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit (Psalm 51:12). Restoration, joy, salvation, sustenance, willingness, and spirit: all these are for the asking—gifts of God in Christ for all. The Lenten readings for March can nourish us and witness to these gifts. Drop in and join us on the journey:

March 1: Genesis 17:1–7,15–16; Psalm 22:23–31; Romans 4:13–25; Mark 8:31–38
March 8: Led by Paul Seif
   Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19;
   1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

Seekers  Room 234  Facilitator: Gwen Puza

March 1: 11 Years Doing Mission Work in Ethiopia  Led by Pat Templin
In 1964, Presbyterians Pat and Carl Templin were sent by UPCUSA to serve in the Anuak Project in Southwest Ethiopia. Pat will share her family’s journey through 11 years, 3 children, and 7 or 8 different cultures, languages, and customs.

March 8 | 15: Screwtape Letters  Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
In 1942, C. S. Lewis’ Christian apologetic novel, Screwtape Letters, was published. Written as an exchange of correspondence between senior Demon Screwtape and his nephew Wormwood, a junior tempter, this satirical novel explores many Christian theological issues, such as temptation and resistance to it, faith, and theodicy. Pastor Heather will discuss this text and the theological themes it addresses.

March 22: West African Religion  Led by Gwen Puza
Before Christianity was introduced into West Africa, animist religion was practiced. Today, people in West Africa maintain these traditions and beliefs, with an emphasis on the importance of spirits, alongside Christianity. Gwen will discuss the religions of the West African countries she visited (Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso), including videos of Voodoo and mask ceremonies, and Christian church services.

March 29: Exploring the Symbol of the Cross  Led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Pastor Randy will lead an exploration of the cross as both a religious item and a theological category, as it communicates, on a deep level, answers to the questions that intrigue all of humanity. This conversation will be guided by Brent Plate’s recent book, A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects.

Soul Food  Room 244 and Pastor’s Conference Room  Facilitator: Joe Hajdu and other class members

March: Wondrous Encounters
We will be using our Lenten text, Wondrous Encounters—Scripture for Lent, featuring daily readings by Richard Rohr. New participants are always welcome!
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**Young Adult Ministry**

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

**Sundays: Faith 101 Series**  
*from 9:45–10:45 am*

Young adults are asked to attend ELPC’s Lenten series, Faith 101. Details can be found in the article on the right.

**Fri., March 6: First Friday @ First Church**  
at 7 pm

Come join the circle at First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh (5401 Centre Avenue in Shadyside, 15232)! Members of the Worship Jam will lead our group with drumming, chanting, circle dancing, and spiritual practices. Just dive in and let the rhythms carry you. Bring your own drum if you have one.

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**Youth Ministry**

*Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

**Sat., March 7 | 14 | 28: Youth Basketball**

Students in grades 9–12 are invited to play basketball in the ELPC Gym. There is no basketball on Sat., March 21.

**Sat., March 21: Tween Scavenger Hunt and Mini Golf**  
*from 6–7:30 pm*

Join us as we explore ELPC while searching for nine holes of mini golf scattered around the church...come and find out if you can be the first person to ever get a hole in one in the church’s tower! For kids in grades 4–6, and their friends are welcome. For details, contact Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

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**Faith 101 Series Begins**

Do you ever feel like you missed something while at church? Do you ever struggle to understand the basics of Christianity that it seems like others already understand?

All inquisitive adults are invited to our Lenten class, as we examine the fundamentals of faith. Classes meet during the Church School hour on Sundays, from 9:45–10:45 am, in the McKelvy Room.

**March 1: Jesus: The Revolution of Love**  
*Led by Damon Bethea*

What might you need to risk in order to live more fully in the revolution of love?

**March 8: Salvation: Abundant Life Now**  
*Led by Jan Irvin*

Are we willing to wake up to the possibility that the 25,550 days we have are actually the main course?

**March 15: Cross: Where God Is**  
*Led by Liz Gonda*

What is it about us that makes us always choose the bedazzled cross and not the actual one?

**March 22: Bible: A Book Like No Other**  
*Led by Paul Seif*

Is it crazy for me to hope that, through years of rereading this Bible, that I might one day get to see a bluer sky?

**March 29: Church: An Imperfect Family**  
*Led by the Rev. Shanea Leonard*

When we call the church a family, do we really mean it? The Rev. Shanea Leonard is the pastor at JUDAH Fellowship Christian Church in the Northside, JudahFellowship.wordpress.com.
Lenten Devotionals
As we enter another sacred season of our liturgical calendar, the Christian Education Committee will provide devotionals for persons of all ages. They will be available on the Second Floor CE table.

Look Around Jerusalem: This devotional invites children to notice the different elements of Jesus’ time in Jerusalem—from Palm Sunday through His resurrection. Each day, children will add a sticker and look for hidden images on the Jerusalem centerpiece as they follow Jesus’ journey through the city, to the cross, and to the empty tomb!

Live Like it’s Lent: This devotional encourages tweens, teens, and college-agers to use their God-given gifts as they live life on Christ’s behalf this season. It includes ideas for faith-filled actions and journaling exercises.

Led by Christ: Actions Begin in the Heart: As we journey toward Easter, this devotional provides an opportunity for families to think and pray about their choices and why they make them. Each devotion offers Scripture, reflection, and a prayer. A discussion question is included for those who wish to share this journey with friends or other family members.

A Wondrous Love: Two of the most widely read spiritual writers of the 20th century, Henri J. M. Nouwen and C. S. Lewis, are together in this daily devotional booklet for adults. Each devotion includes a brief reflection on of their many classic books, accompanied by a brief line of Scripture and a prayer.

LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
Our next spiritual gathering is at 12:30 pm, on Sun., March 22, as we watch a movie and share some lunch. All people are welcome!

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.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Presbyterian Women
Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator
Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians
Tues., March 3 at 10 am  |  Mon., March 9 at 7 pm
Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Our lesson, Economy of Grace, is based on 2 Corinthians 8:1–15. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning study. All are welcome.

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

Thursdays, Feb. 26–April 16: Learn about the Enneagram
Even if you missed our Enneagram Retreat in February, it isn’t too late to learn about the Enneagram. Join Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof and the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan in the Second Floor Library for a study of this ancient tool for self-awareness and healing. Class time is to be determined. Check the weekly announcements and website for updates.

Fri.–Sun., April 17–19: Advanced Enneagram Retreat
Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Advanced Enneagram Retreat at Providence Villa in the North Hills. Learn about using the knowledge gained from studying the Enneagram to guide personal growth and transformation. Please check the website for additional information and registration form.

Fast for Hunger
Our fast brings the evening of Fri., Feb. 27, and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sun., March 1. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board.
Help Wanted
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Each season in the life of the church brings some predictable service needs. Summer requires talented help for Vacation Church School, fall invites us to serve one another at our annual Thanksgiving Feast, and in spring, dedicated workers transform the church grounds into a colorful, manicured scene.

However, there are some service needs that are unanticipated. When these opportunities arise, I turn to a special group of people. I turn to the weSERVE list.

weSERVE list helpers step up as a group of ready, willing, and able servers, who respond to needs in the ELPC community. These folks receive a brief notice when assistance is needed from the iSERVE ministry. These requests are church-, member- and community-related. Often, they are time-sensitive needs that could not previously be advertised or planned in advance.

Get on the list and when an opportunity to serve arises—if it fits your schedule and interest—then help out. If not, do nothing. Consider being part of this important ministry that will enable our congregation to more nimbly and effectively respond to the needs in our church community.

Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE for more information. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 to sign up for the weSERVE list.

OHM and GCF Workday
Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on Sat., March 7 and April 4, for neighborhood mission opportunities with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm. With the advent of spring, there are more opportunities to make a difference in our community, either with the rehab of a home in East Liberty or with the ever-growing community farm.

For more details, contact Emily Rosenthal at 412.963.0139 or ejr116@gmail.com, or the Rev. Patrice Fowler Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30.

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

Listening to Your Health Care Experience
We want to hear from you! How do you feel about the health care you are receiving? Who is on your health care team? How involved are you in your health care? What does your health care provider need to know and do to assure a productive health care visit?

Plan on joining us at 12:30 pm, on Sun., March 8 and 22, in Rooms 224 and 227 for discussion and light refreshments. RSVP to Kate Carlson 412.441.3800 x16 or KateC@coh.net.

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

Good News
• Join us in welcoming our new members, who joined on Sun., Feb. 8: Harold and Linda Deiss, Ronald and Adelia Frye, Abigail Jones, Joseph and Kathleen Kiewra, and Diane Stokan.

• Congratulations to ELPC’s choirs in residence, the Renaissance City Men and Women’s Choirs, who sang for the inauguration of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Nancy Curry, who was an ELPC member ELPC for 22 years;
• Tucker Ferda’s grandfather and grandmother;
• Mary Figlar’s mother, Phyllis Fligger;
• Karen Fraser’s mother, Irene Fraser;
• Katelyn Haas’ cousin, David Caswall Devey; and
• Allen Miller’s sister, Ellen Hardaway.
“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.”

Make a Joyful Noise
Presbyterian Women at ELPC invite all women to welcome spring at an overnight retreat at Camp Crestfield, Fri.–Sat., March 27–28. Led by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, we will explore the Psalms in word, song, and worship. There will be plenty of time for fellowship and rest.

Pick up a registration brochure on the bulletin board outside the Library. Partial scholarships are available.

Vive le Franck!
Our Cathedral Concerts series will continue at 4 pm, on Sun., March 29, with Edward Alan Moore on organ and Nathan Carterette on piano. The Arsenal Duo will perform two of César Franck’s largest works: the Grande Pièce Symphonique for organ and the Prélude, Chorale, and Fugue for piano.

The concert is free, but a free will offering will be accepted.

It’s Time to Make Plans for VCS
Mark your calendars for ELPC’s annual Vacation Church School, which will run from 9 am–3 pm, Mon.–Fri., June 22–26. Our theme this summer is Message Received: Hearing God’s Call. The curriculum leads us through Old and New Testament stories, where men and women answered God’s call, and invites us to explore how God calls us, today. We will engage the Bible stories through worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and special activities.

VCS serves children ages 3½ (must have turned 3 by Jan. 1, 2015) through those who have completed grade 5. Youth in grades 6–12, and adults, are invited to prayerfully discern if God is calling them to volunteer for VCS this summer.

Camper registration forms and volunteer application forms will be available on our website by Sun., March 15.