Holy Week Worship Opportunities

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.

On Wed., April 1, we will offer a special Stations of the Cross Taizé service at 7 pm. Join us for this powerful prayer experience as we process with Jesus from the chamber with his friends to the Garden of Gethsemane, from the halls of Pontius Pilate to Golgatha, and into the tomb. Each step of the journey will be accompanied by scripture, prayer, and haunting Taizé chants. Please note that we will process from the Chapel to the Courtyard (weather permitting) to the Sanctuary and back to the Chapel. The procession is wheelchair accessible.

Then from Thurs.–Sat., April 2–4, at 7 pm, there will be a Holy Week service, as we progress through 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 Journey worship at 8:45 am, in the Social Hall, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am.

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

Special Guest Musicians in April

On Sun., April 12, we welcome Mike Tomaro (pictured on the left) and his jazz combo as our guests during Sanctuary worship. Then on Sun., April 19, the Junior Choir from Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, (pictured on the right) will lead Sanctuary worship.

Sunday Services
* Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Journey Worship • 8:45 am
Theme: Mirror Images
April 5* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, in the Social Hall
April 12 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
April 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 26 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
April 5* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 12 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
April 26 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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
April 1: Silent Prayer in the Shadow of the Cross
April 8: Continued Music and Prayer
April 15: Live Music on the Labyrinth
April 29: Celebrations!

Holy Spirit Breakfast Team
Volunteers on the ELPCH Holy Spirit Breakfast Teams cook and serve breakfasts together at the EECM Community House on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

For more information on this or other ELPCH Volunteer Service Teams, contact Patrice Fowler-Searcy at 412.441.3800 x30, or Susan Spangler, sspanglerlcsw@gmail.com.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

When did Easter become so tame? At some point Easter became associated with decorated bonnets, children in new dress clothes, baskets of colored eggs, and families squeezed into church pews for a day of prayer, hymns, and mellifluous liturgists reading about an empty tomb. All of those things are nice (especially the families squeezed into church pews!), but none of these items captures the confusion, messiness, and rush of emotions described in the gospels about that first Easter morning.

For all of our modern orderliness, the first Easter was a study in disorder. Jesus had been executed by the state in a public act of disgraceful crucifixion. His disciples had either fled or gone into hiding, afraid that a similar fate awaited them. The Jewish population of Jerusalem had moved on from the sensationalistic events of Friday morning to honor their usual Sabbath rituals on Saturday and then let everything get back to normal on Sunday. However, early that morning, grieving women had their plans totally disrupted. Soon thereafter, hiding disciples had their worlds upended by the news of an empty tomb. And later that Sunday, behind locked doors, the risen Christ appeared in their midst. As wonderful as all these events were, none of them fit the expected plans for that day. All of Easter was disruptive, disorderly, and provoked disequilibrium.

How could our Presbyterian Easter Sunday service capture this mood? Perhaps we could have everyone enter a totally dark sanctuary, and then when the lights suddenly came on blazingly bright and the organ played a boisterous fanfare, everyone had to find different pews from where they normally sit. (OK, that might be too radical for Presbyterians!)

On a more serious note, consider this quote from theologian Eugene Peterson:

“A holy life isn’t a matter of men and women being polite with God, but of humans who accept and enter into God’s work of shaping salvation out of the unlikely materials of our sin and ignorance, our ambition and waywardness – also our loves, aspirations and nobilities. [It is] never smoothing over our rough edges. Holiness is not polish.”

Jesus, who was resurrected on Easter, comes to us (his modern-day disciples) knowing we are “unlikely materials of sin and ignorance, ambition and waywardness.” The Savior who knew this during his earthly ministry certainly discovered the truth of our rough edges on Good Friday. Yet unto us a Son has been re-born, restored, resurrected. Unto us a Savior has come again into our messy, disordered world. This is not a Savior for whom we have to polish up our manners. This is one with whom we promise to get our hands dirty and tell our good news just a little bit too loud. This is an untamed Messiah. Because God’s love, Christ’s power, and the Holy Spirit’s energy were never designed to be neatly packaged or grudgingly parcelled out to the world. So truly celebrate Easter this year—Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!

Randy Bush
Session News
At its recent meeting, the Session:
- Examined the incoming slate of Elders and Deacons, approving them for ordination and installation as part of our Sanctuary worship service on Sun., April 12;
- Heard a report from the Congregational Care Team about ongoing support for congregation members in times of need or rehabilitation;
- Heard updates from the Mission, Personnel, Spiritual Life and Worship committees; and
- Finalized preparations for our joint meeting with the Deacons in May.

Radical Hospitality at the Border
Soap, a toothbrush, shampoo, shoelaces—everyday items that many of us have in abundance. Yet, these items represent radical hospitality for migrants visiting the Migrants Resource Center (MRC) in the small border town of Aqua Prieta, Mexico.

The MRC is a binational effort of many groups—including Frontera de Christo, a PC(USA) border mission agency—that provides resources for migrants who are considering crossing into the USA, as well as those who are returning to homes in Southern Mexico and Central America. Migrants receive counseling, a warm meal, bus tickets, and help with immediate needs. Those needs often include items for personal hygiene, since many have been in the desert or without access to showers for many days. Shoelaces are particularly helpful for those who have been detained by Border Patrol agents, because detainees must surrender shoelaces, which are not returned.

Small-, sample-, or hotel-sized hygiene items are welcomed so migrants may carry them easily when leaving the resource center. Many of us travel for business and pleasure. When we stop for the night, we often stay at hotels that provide an excess of small soaps and shampoos. We also regularly visit discount stores, which sell shoelaces in all lengths, small tubes of toothpaste, and toothbrushes and Band-Aids.

As you travel and shop, consider extending radical hospitality by collecting these simple items for an unknown neighbor. You may leave the items in the designated box in the front office throughout spring and summer.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”—Hebrews 13:16

Renovation Project Update
March proved to be a busy month for the church renovation planning and design work. After a post-worship presentation on March 8, and a series of congregational feedback sessions, the Pfaffmann & Associates architectural firm began putting together schematic design proposals. These drawings will help determine the full scope, budget, and details of any proposed renovations, as well as make progress on defining the infrastructure improvements ELPC needs (e.g., energy improvements, upgrades in lighting, ventilation, sound systems, etc.).

The Renovations Committee is now having regular meetings with the Property Committee. At the same time, March saw the initiation of structured fundraising efforts that will involve working with a campaign consultant and preparing materials for both foundation funding proposals and congregational support.

Visit CathedralOfHope.org/about-elpc/renovation-projects for more updates.

The Chapel Market Opens
As we prepare for the opening of the Chapel Market on Mon., April 20, from 10 am–12 pm, we ask that you check your closets and drawers for suitable garments and shoes to donate. Donations may be tax deductible, and receipts will be provided upon request. We also will hold a dedication of the Chapel Market following Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 26.

Going forward, volunteers will assist shoppers and only accept donations of clean, new or gently used spring and summer clothes and shoes during regular hours of operation on Mondays, from 10 am–12 pm, and Thursdays, from 6–8 pm.

Matthew 25:40 reminds us that, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.’” In the spirit of that assurance, the Chapel Market Team sends its joyful thanks to everyone who has already donated items to support our free clothing ministry.

For more details, email Fran Wilson at TheChapelMarket@gmail.com.

Early concept drawings for the Chapel include installing flexible seating and a Labyrinth floor.
Church School Mural Dedication

ELPC member Tim Engelhardt designed and painted a mural for the second and third grade Church School classroom (Room 338), which includes many of the characters the students will learn about throughout the year. On Sun., April 12, there will opportunities to view the mural, speak with the artist, and celebrate the mural as a beautiful educational tool.

• Following Journey worship, at about 9:30 am, people are welcome to view the mural and meet the artist.
• At 10 am, students will gather in Room 338 for a combined Church School class to see the mural and ask questions of the artist.
• Then following Sanctuary worship, at 12:30 pm, Christian Education will sponsor our Fellowship Time, which will be held in the Third Floor Music Room. We will dedicate the mural and greet the artist.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.

Contemporaries Second Floor Parlor
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

April 12 | 19 | 26: Enough: God’s Blessing in Abundance
Explore dimensions of what it means to have enough through parables of Jesus and other biblical references. Author Laura Mendenhall encourages students to look at what is really most important to have in life—God’s blessings, which are in abundance for us. This six-week study is part of our Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding series.

Journey with Scripture Second Floor Library
Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin

Peace be with you (John 20:19). In the Gospel of John, shortly after his betrayal, arrest, abandonment, and humiliating public execution, the risen Jesus unexpectedly enters the private, secured space of distressed followers and imparts upon them peace, continued purpose, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus loves them at the very heart of their need—in their alienation and hurt. Can such love be experienced in the distressful spaces of our lives? Join us for an April class of Easter readings:

April 12: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31
April 26: Acts 4:5–12; Ps 23; 1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

Seekers Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

April 12: Global Links’ Work for Healthcare in Haiti
Marisol Wandiga Valentin, program officer of Global Links, will discuss the challenges of re-building Haiti’s Healthcare System, and the hope that emerges from extraordinary projects that are being led by Haitian doctors and supported by Global Links. Global Links is a Pittsburgh company, helping to send supplies and equipment to resource-poor communities, mostly from still-useful surplus that U.S. hospitals would otherwise send to landfills.

April 19: U.S.–Cuba, People–to–People Bridges to Peace
Did you know that we have a sister city in Cuba? Lisa Valenti is founder of the Pittsburgh–Matanzas (Cuba) Sister City Partnership. She has been traveling to Cuba for 26 years with Pastors for Peace. She will discuss the U.S. intention to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba, and what effect that might have for the Cuban people.

April 26: The Templin’s Mission Work in Ethiopia
Presbyterians Pat and Carl Templin will continue telling us about their inspiring 11 years of work among the Anuak people in Ethiopia, and the religions of Ethiopia.

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

April 12 | 19 | 26: Wondrous Encounters
We will finish our Lenten/Easter text, Wondrous Encounters—Scripture for Lent, by Richard Rohr, and resume our sessions with Traveling Your Road to Joy. New participants are always welcome!
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., April 12: DG2! Service Event
In February, ELPC and Rodef Shalom launched an interfaith partnership called DG2! (Doing Good Together!). Throughout spring, youth from these two faith communities engaged in monthly fellowship and service together, so that they might use the gifts that God has given to them to do good together.

Our next service event will be on Sun., April 12, following Sanctuary worship. Keep your eyes open for more details. We look forward to building friendships and care for our community with our brothers and sisters from Rodef Shalom!

Fri.–Sat., April 17–18: Sr. High Mission Overnight from 7 pm–7 pm
Youth in grades 8–12, who are interested in attending this summer’s Sr. High Mission Trip to Maxwellton, West Virginia, to serve with the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps, are required to attend this Mission Overnight. We will learn about mission, play group-building games, and worship together. On Saturday, we will complete mission work and plan for the trip. For details and permission forms, visit the youth page of our website or speak to Sara Hackett.

Fri.–Sat., April 24–25: Tween Retreat at Crestfield Camp
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to join tweens from around Pittsburgh to learn about God’s call in their lives, grow as a church group, learn tools for Biblical exploration, worship, and have fun!

The cost is $65/student; scholarships are available. A completed registration form and $5 deposit are due by Wed., April 15. We will meet at ELPC on Friday at 5 pm; return on Saturday at 8 pm. For details and forms, visit our website or contact Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., April 3: First Friday @ Good Friday at 7 pm, at ELPC
We will meditate on this holy day using our hearts, heads, and bodies as we worship and reflect together. This is a TRAIL event.

Sun., April 26: YAM Church School at 9:45 am, in the Session Room
How do we put in words the nature and the mystery of the Holy?
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will lead our class on Theology: How We Envision God.

Fri., May 1: First Friday @ North Shore at 7 pm, Jerome Bettis’ Grille 36
We will enjoy a delicious meal together at the place voted best sports bar in Pittsburgh since it opened. Come hungry for food and conversation. Learn more at JeromeBettisGrille36.g3restaurants.com. This is a no-host TRAIL event.

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.

Registered for VCS?
ELPC’s annual Vacation Church School, will run from 9 am–3 pm, Mon.–Fri., June 22–26. Our theme 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 4 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.

Camper registration forms and volunteer application forms are available at CathedralOfHope.org.
Grief Support Group

Grieving is a process that, when met with compassion and care, can flow into a renewed and deepened engagement with life.

Beginning in April, Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler, ELPC members and grief counselors, will lead a Grief Support Group for those who are grieving or struggling with loss and change, whether recent, resurfacing, or ongoing.

This six-week group will meet in the Parlor from 5:30–7 pm, on Wednesdays, beginning April 8. The group is free for all.

Memorial Day Retreat for Peace, May 22–25

All are invited to join us for an opportunity to honor those who have died in war by living in peace. Experience silence in community with shared prayer, guided reflections, ritual and worship at Providence Villa Retreat Center in the North Hills. Registration forms are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board and at CathedralOfHope.org.

“We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves.”—The Dalai Lama

“Meditation (Centering Prayer, Contemplative Practice) is a means for each of us to make a powerful, personal contribution to the collective peace and coherence, strengthening life in the way that’s needed most—from within.”—Huffington Post

Health Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Staff Representative

Sat., April 18: Hospice and Palliative Care from 1–3 pm

Join us and hear two experts discuss hospice and palliative care treatment modalities to get a better understanding of what they provide. What lessons can we learn for encouraging greater awareness and benefits of the resources of hospice and palliative care programs?

Our experts are Diane Mead, RN, BSN, ACC, LNC, president, and CEO of Bethany Hospice; and Julie W. Childers, MD, director of Supportive and Palliative Care at UPMC Presbyterian.

Plan on joining us in the Second Floor Parlor. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to Kate Carlson 412.441.3800 x16 or KateC@coh.net.

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians

Tues., April 7 at 10 am | Mon., April 13 at 7 pm

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of 2 Corinthians. Our lesson, Power, Authority, and Honor are not Always what we Might Expect, is based on 2 Corinthians 11:1–32. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning study. All are welcome.

Spiritual Life

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

Mon., April 13: Learn about the Enneagram from 7–8 pm

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. Check the weekly announcements and website for updates.

Fri.–Sun., April 17–19: Advanced Enneagram Retreat

If you attended the Enneagram Workshop in February, have been attending the weekly Enneagram discussions, or have some other experience with the Enneagram, you are invited to Go Deeper with the Advanced Enneagram at Providence Villa Retreat Center in the North Hills. Applications are available on the SLC Bulletin Board and on the website. Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof will be our guide as we continue to explore how this tool can lead us in personal transformation.

Fast for Hunger

Our fast begins the evening of Fri., April 3, and concludes with the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper on Sun., April 5. Materials are available on the Spiritual Life bulletin board.
Looking to Use Your Talents to Serve God?
Visit CathedralOfHope.org/programs/iSERVE to read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities! For more information, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.

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

Good News
• Congratulations to Roberta London and her son Tristan, whose adoption was finalized on March 12.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly’s brother-in-law, Mark R. Tupek, Sr., on Feb. 26;
• Mike Ball’s mother, Caryl Ball;
• Bob Pressley’s wife, Rose Pressley, on Feb. 13; and
• Robert Sampson, former ELPC member, on March 1.

Feeling Crafty?
Beginners are always welcome in each group. For more information, call Diane Jackson at 412.441.6021.

• Knitting and Crocheting Group:
  Join us on Tues., April 7, from 1–3 pm, in Room 244. Yarn donations are appreciated. All are invited to join us, especially beginners.

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.

OHM and GCF Workday
Join us from 9 am–3 pm, on Sat., April 11, 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 farm.

Garfield Community Farm also has volunteer work nights each Thursday, from 5:30 pm–dusk, weather permitting. Children are welcome to come and work with their parents. Bring work gloves and boots. Questions? Contact John Creasy at 412.979.7764 or John@pghopendoor.org.

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.

LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
Our next quarterly business meeting is at 5 pm, on Sat., April 11, and it will be followed by our spiritual gathering at 6 pm. 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.

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“...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.”

The Great Exchange: Dreams
On Sun., April 19, at 12:30 pm, folks of all ages are invited to this fun, interactive event in the Music Room, where we—together across the generations—will explore fun and important discussion questions by exploring our dreams. We will have a simple lunch while sharing our life experiences and stories with one another. No preparation is necessary, just come and enjoy!

Tour our Sanctuary and Chapel
You are invited to join ELPC member Regis Will for a 45–60 minute tour of ELPC Sanctuary and Chapel on Sun., April 12.
Join the tour on the steps at the front of the Sanctuary, following the organ postlude.

All-Church Retreat: Register Now
Register now for ELPC's All-Church Retreat, from Fri.–Sun., May 1–3, at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. Our theme for this weekend is “Family Reunion,” and together, we will explore what it means to be a part of God’s family through worship, workshops, games, fellowship, and a talent show. Persons of all ages are welcome to attend.

Brochures and registration forms are available on the CE table (second floor), CE bulletin board (first floor), and at CathedralOfHope.org. Lodging will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. For more information or to register, call Pastor Heather or Sara Hackett.

Note: This is during Marathon Weekend, so there will be no Sunday services or Church School classes. Let’s worship and learn together at camp!