**J. Herbert Nelson to Visit**

It is a distinct honor to welcome the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, to ELPC to share his insights about the social justice agenda of our denomination and lead us in worship on **Sun., March 13**.

Dr. Nelson serves as the director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. He lobbies, educates, and strives to implement the justice goals set by our church’s General Assembly. He is a third generation Presbyterian pastor, ordained in 1986, and has served congregations in North Carolina and Tennessee.

On **Sat., March 12**, Dr. Nelson will lead an event for our local branch of the National Black Presbyterians Caucus. Then he will preach at our Sanctuary worship service the following day. As we move through Lent, Dr. Nelson will assuredly encourage us to work for a faith in which justice “rolls down like a mighty river.”

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**Holy Week & Easter Schedule**

It is always a joy to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with strongly attended worship services on Easter morning. Our worship services and fellowship time on **Sun., March 27**, are excellent opportunities to invite our friends and neighbors to find a church home with us at ELPC as we celebrate Easter together. Yet, keep in mind that the good news of Easter is made even more relevant when we couple the empty tomb stories with the passion stories of the Last Supper, Jesus’ arrest in Gethsemane, trial and crucifixion anguish.

During Holy Week, there are five different services you can attend to recall the darkness and light of this church season. Consider worshipping at ELPC and experience all the richness of the Holy Week and Easter faith stories.

**Wed., March 23:** Taizé Sung Prayer
- 7 pm, led by Rev. Callahan

**Thurs., March 24:** Maundy Thursday
- 7 pm, led by Rev. Bush, with Communion

**Fri., March 25:** Good Friday
- 12 pm, led by Rev. Fowler-Searcy
- 12 pm, led by Rev. Bush, at St. James AME Church
- 7 pm, led by Rev. Schoenewolf

**Sat., March 26:** Saturday Vigil
- 7 pm, led by Rev. Callahan

**Sun., March 27:** Easter Sunday
- 8:45 am, led by Rev. Schoenewolf
- 11 am, led by Rev. Bush
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

I have a secret to share: I like to talk with Jehovah’s Witnesses. Several times a year, a group of dedicated souls rings our doorbell. For a while I was hesitant to engage with them and after a few words of greeting, I would send them on their way. But now I am grateful for a chance (and here’s the key part) to dialogue with them and ask them a few questions. Typically a Jehovah’s Witness will greet you at the door and ask an unusual opening question: Do you agree that there is too much violence in the world? Is our world burdened by evil and corruption? Rather than begin a conversation on those subjects, I ask the front-door guests if I might ask them a question or two.

Before I share some sample questions, here’s a bit of background information you should know. Jehovah’s Witnesses originated right here in Pittsburgh. In 1870, Charles Taze Russell began a series of home bible studies and eventually published some materials, naming his new group the Watch Tower Society. He believed the world was in its last days and Christ would return in 1914. Disappointed when the world did not end as planned, Russell died in 1916, although his work was continued by J. F. Rutherford who moved the organization to Brooklyn, NY. Rutherford taught that Christ had been enthroned in heaven in 1914, that Satan was cast down to rule over the earth, that we are still in the “last days,” and that the group be renamed “Jehovah’s Witnesses” after Isaiah 43:10. Unfortunately, the mark of these last days is that all other religious groups have been corrupted by Satan’s influence and therefore Witnesses need to avoid mingling with other churches (while paradoxically working to engage with people of faith to bring them into their denomination).

Most Jehovah’s Witnesses do not know their own history, nor do they have much knowledge of the history of Christianity or the Protestant Reformation. So I will sometimes ask them if they know who Russell and Rutherford are, or I will tell them about a bit about Presbyterian history and doctrines. But more effective is to honestly engage them with a simple faith question: Since I am a baptized person professing faith in Jesus Christ, will I be beside you in God’s kingdom of glory? And if we will be together then, can we worship together and learn from one another here on earth now? The conversations that follow are often quite enlightening. It remains my hope to have a Jehovah’s Witness worship here at ELPC.

Here’s another little secret I’d like to share. Those same questions can be part of conversations we might have with friends, families, or any chatty folks who happen to ring our doorbells. Basically we are called to recognize a spiritual “oneness” with others, and out of that oneness comes a desire to learn from one another’s faith journeys and be a supportive guide when others have questions. That doesn’t mean we have all the answers or can eliminate their doubts. But it does mean we will care, and listen, and not be afraid to mention that the God revealed in Christ (whom we’ve come to know and trust, even imperfectly) already knows us completely, loves us generously, and rejoices when we have these types of conversations with one another.

Last little secret: That’s the good news of Easter, too.

Randy Bush
Session News
At the recent Session meeting, the following items were discussed:

- For the coming 2016–17 year, there would be two Youth Deacons and two Youth Elders.
- New officers would be ordained and installed during worship on Sun., April 24.
- Solutions for Sunday morning parking will be explored, including off-site parking with shuttle service.
- The Design Development plans and Renovations Committee report will be given to Session by the architects on Tues., March 15.

We Want You!
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs
Each season in the life of the church brings some predictable service needs. However, there are some requests that are unanticipated. When these needs arise, weSERVE list helpers step up as ready, willing, and able servers. These folks periodically receive a brief notice when church-, member-, or community-related assistance is requested from the iSERVE ministry.

Get on the list, and when an opportunity arises, help out if it fits your schedule. If not, do nothing. Be a part of this important ministry, which enables us to nimbly and effectively respond to needs in our community.

For details, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14, or visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

Mission Matters
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

Ambassadors of Good Will

- **Learning about Islam**
  The Justice Committee is working on a meaningful response to the Syrian refugee crisis and the backlash against Muslims across the country, spurred by recent ISIS attacks. We recognize that many of us know very little about the religion of Islam, our common ancestry and values, or the Muslim people in our midst.

  We are working with the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh to set up opportunities for education, fellowship, and relationship building. The Center periodically has an open house, and every Saturday, it holds a free class called Islam 101. Visit their website at ICP-Pgh.org to learn more, and keep your eyes open for events here.

- **Sat., March 5: Helping Our Neighbors 9–11 am**
  The Justice Committee will hold a book study on *Neighbors*, by Ben Daniel, about the struggles facing those who are crossing our southern borders. We will learn about the plight of people seeking asylum, safety, and a healthy life in our country. Check the Bulletin and Bulletin Boards for more information.

Health Ministry Notes

- **Sun., March 6: Free Kidney Screening 11 am–2 pm**
  If you have diabetes, high blood pressure, family history of kidney failure, or are over 60, you are at risk for kidney disease. The National Kidney Foundation is offering free kidney screenings through its KEEP Health program at Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg. You will have your blood pressure checked, receive educational materials, and have an opportunity to speak with a healthcare professional. To make an appointment, call 412.261.4115 x12.

- **Sun., March 13: Patients’ Rights and Responsibilities 12:15 pm**
  Being in the hospital, either as a patient or a family member, can be very stressful. Not only are we not at our best, but we typically get information and advice that can be confusing. While healthcare professionals are knowledgable and have the benefit of specialized education, patients and families often feel pressured to agree to plans without a full understanding of their options.

  Join us as Nancy Magee reviews the rights that patients and family members have, and how best to advocate for themselves to direct their care in the way that is most comfortable for them. Light refreshments will be provided.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
As we move through the Lenten season and prepare for Resurrection Sunday, we are grateful for the transformation made possible through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. In places like Malawi; Bolivia; Point Pleasant, N.J.; and Iona, Mich., those most in need are finding hope through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People program, and their partners in ministry. It is easy to become distracted from the reality faced by our brothers and sisters around the world where poverty, disaster, and war cause displacement and suffering.

This is why we continue to give to One Great Hour of Sharing. Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their livelihoods, responding to disasters—these are all ways that your gifts are changing lives, communities, and the world. On **Palm Sunday, March 20**, join Christians all across the country as we tangibly witness to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.
### Contemporaries  
**Second Floor Parlor**  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

**March 6: A Biblical and Practical Perspective on Forgiveness**  
Pete Murray will conclude a two-week discussion on forgiveness. We will use Dr. Kenneth Bailey’s most famous work (on the Prodigal Son parable), and the work of a contemporary local rabbi, Abraham Twerski.

**March 13: Sin and Salvation—Contrasts in Catholic and Protestant Views**  
What do Presbyterians mean by sin and salvation? Are they still relevant words? Dr. John Burgess, Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology, will lead our discussion.

**March 20: Atonement—Did Jesus Have to Die for Our Sins?**  
The reasons for Jesus’ death remain a difficult theological question. Dr. John Burgess discuss several different views.

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

“In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us”—2 Corinthians 5:19. Come join us for March’s Lenten readings, culminating in Easter, to reflect on the unbounded forgiveness of God and to know our own forgiveness so we can forgive others. This is our core happiness, integrity, and daily prayer. Happy Easter!

**March 6:** Led by Jan Irvin; Joshua 5:9–12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

**March 13:** Led by Lora Bethea; Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8


### Seekers  
**Room 234**  
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**March 6 & 13: What Saves Us?**  
Pastor Heather will lead us as we reflect on Christ’s saving work. Often we ask: How does Christ save us? What does He save us for? Some of the answers we have heard since our youth unsettle us—glorifying violence and raising questions about both God’s love and power.

Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker address these questions in their book, *Proverbs of Ashes*. The authors use personal narrative and rich theology to explore the doctrine of the atonement. They address the problematic theology behind some traditional interpretations of the atonement, and encourage readers to dig deeper into Scripture and experience in their search for what saves us.

**March 20: The Unsettling Logic of the Resurrection**  
Pastor Randy will examine essays from *God and the Philosophers* and other resources. We will discuss how the faith proclamation of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead moves people to fresh questions and challenging answers related to life in modern society today.

### Soul Food  
**Third Floor Music Room**  
Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

**March 6 & 13 & 20: An Altar in the World**  
We will discuss chapters 10–11 of *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Classes will be led by Joe Hajdu and other class members. Check the weekly e-Flash and Bulletin for updates. New participants are always welcome!

### Young Adults  
**Pastor’s Conference Room**  
Facilitator: Wil Forrest

**March 13: Personal Stories of Faith—Hope**  
During this session, we will hear stories of hope from Justin & Florence Johnson’s journey.
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat.–Sun., March 5–6: 30-Hour Famine
Youth in grades 6–12 will spend 30 hours fasting, praying, playing, worshiping, and learning about global hunger and poverty to raise money for Team Tassy, which provides education, job training, and health care to families in Haiti. A permission slip and packing list can be found on the website calendar. For questions or to RSVP, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sat., March 12: Youth Basketball 5–8 pm
Students in grades 9–12 are invited to play basketball in the ELPC Gym.

Sat.–Sun., March 12–13: Tween Retreat
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to join tweens from around Pittsburgh at Crestfield Camp to learn about God’s Word and how it relates to everyday life, grow as a church group, have fun in God’s outdoor creation, and worship. RSVP by Wed., March 2, to Sara Hackett. More information—cost, times, scholarship information, and permission slip—can be found on the website calendar.

Sun., March 13: Confirmation 12:30–2:30 pm
Youth and their sponsors will begin working on their Statements of Faith.

Sun., March 20: DG2! @ Empty Bowls
Doing Good Together!, a partnership between the youth of Rodef Shalom and ELPC, will volunteer to help at Empty Bowls. The annual Empty Bowls dinner serves up a simple meal as a reminder that too many people throughout our region face hunger, and benefits the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest. Tickets for the meal are $22 and can be purchased on the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank website. Youth in grades 4–12 who want to volunteer should RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Summer Fun & Mission

• July 10–15: Junior High Mission Trip
  For youth in grades 6–8, at Crestfield.

• July 24–30: Trinity Youth Conference
  For youth in grades 9–college, at Living Waters Camp. Learn more at TrinityYouthConference.org.

• Aug. 7–13: Senior High Mission Trip
  For youth who have completed grades 8–12, serving around Pittsburgh.

• July 10–15: ELPC Week at Crestfield
  While Crestfield Camp has a full summer schedule of camps for kids who have finished grades 3–12, ELPC youth are encouraged to sign up for this week, when Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, and the Junior High Mission Trip team will be at camp, too! It will be fun to worship, eat, and play together. Learn more at Crestfield.net.

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

Fri., March 4: First Friday @ First UMC 7 pm
Drumming is a great way to throw off the stresses of your day, connect to the spirit, and center into community. Join us at First United Methodist Church in Shadyside and dive in; let your hands follow the rhythms and you will be in sync in no time! You will feel confident in minutes, even if you have never drummed before. Bring your own drum if you have one.

Thurs., March 24: Maunday Thursday Experience 6–9 pm
Let’s make a night of it—from dinner and worship, back to time in devotional practice and prayer. Not sure what that means? Come and find out on this holy night. We’ll be in the Second Floor Parlor and Chapel.

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.
Register for the World Mission Initiative Conference

PW invites you to be their guests at the World Mission Initiative Conference: Recalibrating the Church for the 21st Century, Fri.–Sat., April 8–9, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The keynote speaker is Alan Hirsch, the founding director of Forge Mission Training Network. Known for his innovative approach to mission, Alan is considered to be a thought-leader and key mission strategist for churches across the Western world.

Register at WorldMissionInitiative.org by selecting “Individual Registration” and then “Church Group Participant Registration.” Or, pick up a registration form on the bulletin board outside the Library. Your registration has been paid for and meals are included. For more information, visit WorldMissionInitiative.org or contact Kelli Booher at 405.501.0711 or kjbooher@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women

Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Come to the Waters Bible Study  Second Floor Parlor
Tues., March 1  10 am | Mon., March 7  7 pm

We will continue this month by looking at what we can learn about forgiveness and “Streams of Mercy” from the psalmist and from Jesus with our scripture focus on Isaiah 35:1-2, Psalm 51:1–12, and Matthew 6:12. Christians forgive and are forgiven.

A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday morning study; please bring a snack or salad to share, and your own table setting. Childcare will be available for the Monday evening study.

Explore Your Spiritual Life

• Mindfulness Meditation
  Mondays, from 7–8:30 pm, Prayer and Meditation Room
  Join Susan Spangler as we engage in this ancient prayer form together. Both those who are new to meditation and those with experience are heartily welcome.

• Centering Prayer
  Wednesdays, at 6:20–6:40 pm, Prayer and Meditation Room
  Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

• Contemplative Prayer
  Wednesdays, from 8–8:20 pm, Chapel
  Join us after our Taizé prayer service to sit together in silence for 20 minutes. No experience is necessary.

• Silent Saturday
  Sat., March 26, from 9 am–4 pm
  Come and go at any time; participate in shared prayer fully, partially or not at all; and explore creative opportunities, the beauty of the Garth, or the devotion of the Chapel.

Cathedral Yoga

Prayerful Yoga in a Sacred Space
  Wednesdays • 6–7 pm

FREE (Donations Appreciated)
  Bring your own mat

Spiritual Life

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

Sat., March 5: Introductory Enneagram Workshop  9 am–4 pm
The Introductory Enneagram Workshop with Bernie Tickerhoof that got snowed out in February has been rescheduled. Lunch and continental breakfast will be provided. The workshop is free and no registration is required. However, contact the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan for a copy of the book that will be used for this workshop.

Sat., March 19: Advanced Enneagram Workshop  9 am–1 pm
This workshop is open for those who have either taken the Introductory Enneagram Workshop or have done some study on their own.

Tues., March 22: Monthly Enneagram Discussion Group  7–8 pm
If you would like to discuss the Enneagram with others who are learning and trying to practice self awareness, join us for a monthly discussion group on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Pastor’s Conference Room. This is an informal time in which you can bring questions, observations, revelations, and frustrations! We help each other, laugh a lot, and grow together. Join us!
Congratulations to Pastor Patrice, who celebrated her Ordination & Installation Service at ELPC with our faith family on Sun., Jan. 17.

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

Good News
• Emily Mohn-Slate and Nico Slate are the proud parents of a baby girl, Lucia Ann Iona Slate (Lulu), born on Jan. 14.

• Congratulations to high school senior Joan Mukogosi, daughter Jeff Mukogosi and Barb Griffin, who was awarded the Emerging Leader Award at Coro Pittsburgh’s Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Awards—a distinction that was created in her honor. Joan’s work with New Voices Pittsburgh and the Black Lives Matter movement in Pittsburgh was celebrated at the event.

Thanks
• Presbyterian Women at ELPC thanks the congregation for its support of the Diaper Drive. So far, you have donated more than 2,800 diapers for families in need in our community. The drive will continue through spring. You can drop off donations in the church office in the box labeled “PW Diaper Drive.”

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Brian Bonsteel’s father, Terrance Bonsteel
• Rev. Heather Schoenewolf’s second cousin, Janice Doria
• Tanya McClendon-Todd’s sister, Renee McClendon-Marshman.
• Diane George’s aunt

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Wed., March 16: Buzzwords Performance Series 6–7 pm
Join us for six exciting live performances and workshops for young children, from birth to age 5, and their families at ELPC. Interactive and child-friendly, these shows are short enough to hold the interest of toddlers, and engaging enough for their older brothers and sisters. Food will be served and fun will be had! Space is limited, so reserve your spot for each session by calling Norma Meyer at 412.441.3800 x11.

The series is being presented by Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, OTSummerfest.org.

Thurs., March 31: Rhythm & Youth Concert 7–8:30 pm
Hope Academy’s Teen Theater Company band (HAT Co) joins Sankofa Village African Drum and Dance Ensemble, Pittsburgh Obama Academy Steelpan Ensemble, Soundwaves Steelband, and Ben Barson’s The Way of the Saxophone for an inspirational evening of music from Pittsburgh’s young artists at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. Tickets for this event are available at any price. Simply choose the level that makes you happy—or name your own!

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

Sun., March 20: Spiritual Gathering 12:15 pm
All people are welcome to join us as we share some lunch and conversation.

To learn more about ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14. All people are welcome!

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.
...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.”

Download the Sunday Bulletin
The weekly Bulletin will be available to download onto your device at ELPC.church/worship/bulletin. We hope this new option helps reduce the amount of paper copies that are needed each week, as our congregation works towards more sustainable practices together.

Hear Essence of Joy at ELPC
On Sun., March 6, Essence of Joy from the Pennsylvania State University returns to ELPC. Under the direction of Dr. Anthony Leach, Essence of Joy will sing during Sanctuary worship and then present a full-length concert at 3 pm, in the Sanctuary. Invite your friends and family to hear this fantastic choir!

Examine our Stained Glass
Join Elder Penn Hackney following Sanctuary worship on Sun., March 13, for a one-hour tour of the stained glass in the Sanctuary, Chapel, and Session Room. Gather at the front of the Sanctuary immediately following the organ postlude.

During the tour, you will appreciate anew the beauty and significance of ELPC’s incredible windows. Designed and created by three Pittsburgh stained glass shops during the 1930s, the windows tell many of the Biblical stories as well as the history of Presbyterianism and our faith.

Register: Vacation Church School
ELPC’s VCS will be from Mon., June 27–Fri., July 1. This year's theme is Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus, published by Mennonite Media. Together, we will explore God’s love for us in Jesus and discover how we can respond in faith. Children ages 4–grade 5 (completed) are invited to attend as campers. Youth entering grade 7 and up are invited to help as volunteers. Registration forms will be available at ELPC and online by Tues., March 15.