The Great Exchange: Holidays

Members of the Health and Young Adult Ministries invite folks of all ages to this fun, interactive event on Sun., April 17, following Sanctuary worship in the Social Hall. Together, across the generations, we will explore some fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of holidays. We will have a simple lunch and share our stories. No preparation is necessary, just come and enjoy!

VCS is Right Around the Corner

ELPC’s Vacation Church School 2016 will be held Mon.–Fri., June 27–July 1, from 9 am–3 pm. Our theme will be Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus, published by Mennonite Media. Together, we will explore Bible stories that show us that Jesus shows up in surprising ways—as a young boy teaching in a temple; a miracle worker feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread and a couple fish; a risen Lord who taught disciples on the road. With each surprise, people discovered more about Jesus—and together, we will too!

Children, ages 4–grade 5 (completed), are invited to attend as campers. Youth who will have completed grade 6 and up are invited to help as volunteers. Registration forms for both campers and volunteers are available online and at ELPC.

Calling all Volunteers!

Every summer through VCS, ELPC reaches out to nearly 100 of our youngest community members and teaches them about the love and grace of Jesus! Our VCS program is a free, full-day, Christian day-camp. In order for this ministry to be a success, we need at least 40 adult and 20 youth volunteers to share their time and talents as teachers, arts-and-crafts leaders, recreation leaders, snack leaders, musicians, shepherds, and assistants.

Interested in volunteering at least three hours of your time or more? complete a registration form, which can be found online or at our church.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The celebrations of Easter Sunday have just finished. During the season of Eastertide, we will continue to hold onto the good news of Christ's resurrection for the coming six weeks, remembering how this wonderful event long ago continues to ripple positively through our universe even now 2,000 years later.

Several weeks ago, astrophysicists had an “Easter-type reaction” of their own. I will try to describe the event succinctly for you. One hundred years ago, Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity taught us that space itself responds to matter by curving, expanding or contracting depending on the motion of the matter. (Think of it as similar to when a pebble disturbs the smooth surface of a pond.) These disturbances mean that at times the distances between objects slightly increase or decrease. No one had ever measured these variations, though, until quite recently.

Back in the mid-1990s, two giant underground structures (one in Louisiana, one in Washington state) were built by the National Science Foundation. They consisted of two sets of tunnels about 2.5 miles long, down which laser beams were shot precisely measuring the tunnel's length. For 20 years, this work was pursued with no results gained related to ripples in outer space. Over the past few years, the scientists had to turn off the lasers and fine-tune their measuring skills, factoring out things like the vibrations caused in the underground tunnels by large trucks driving overhead. Finally they decided to switch everything back on—and within a few days happened to catch the moment that ripples flowed through our galaxy from the distant collision of two black holes. What they were measuring was so precise, it was the equivalent of measuring the distance between the earth and the nearest star with an accuracy of the width of a human hair. But in the end, the science worked, their patience paid off, and Einstein's theory was proven correct.

When a physicist friend explained this event to me, he was almost giddy with excitement. I too am humbled by the magnitude of skill involved in measuring something that is less than one ten-thousandth the size of a single proton. But even more so, I am humbled by the patience that allowed scientists to build, improve, and persevere with an experiment for more than 20 years. They could see the end goal and never let it out of their sight.

Oh that Christians were as capable of such steadfast, singleness of purpose! From the first announcement by the women at the tomb (“He is risen!”), our universe has been shaken to its core with the good news of Christ's resurrection. This victory of love over sin and of life over death ripples through all of human history. It expresses itself in big events, like church services, mission work, and a global commitment to peace and justice. But it also flows forth in daily moments of grace—times of quiet prayer, words of comfort after a loss, an inner confidence believing that with God all things are possible. Fine-tuning our spiritual life (through prayer, worship, study) helps us measure these ripples of gospel grace as they flow through our daily lives. So, may the example of these astrophysicists remind us to keep our hearts, minds and spirits open to the movement of God that flows through us each day, lest the wonder of Easter become something we forget or take for granted.

Randy Bush
Mission Matters

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

Assisting Refugees

On a recent Sunday, 12 ELPC volunteers awaited the arrival of Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS) attorneys and staff, and refugees who were scheduled to apply for Green Cards.

One of the volunteers expressed the feelings of many when she said, “I’m slightly terrified”—not of the refugees, but that we were the first link to the families being eligible to receive long-term legal status in the United States. What if we misread one of the questions on the 12 pages of three different application forms? Most questions are written in legal terms to capture the wording of the law; some questions are very similar in nature, but with a slightly different focus; and all questions are posed through an interpreter whose first language is not English. Some questions are embarrassing to ask (Have you ever prostituted yourself?) and complex (Tell me the names and purposes of all clubs and organizations you have belonged to since you were 16.). Some are difficult due to our own lack of understanding of the geography and politics of where the refugee lived before (Was your address Refugee Camp Beldengi E 1, 2 or 3 in Damak, Nepal?). Some are culturally sensitive and some questions led to answers that left us in awe—like living in a camp for 22 years and then one day seeing your name posted on the list of those who were finally approved for status and being told, “Get your things, you leave today for Pittsburgh.” This, without even knowing what country that’s in. No choice of where you’re going, but happy that you finally are!

So at the end of the day, there was gratefulness. Gratefulness for our safe homes, for the United Nations, for international and national government refugee agencies, for local groups (usually faith-based) whose mission includes refugee resettlement, for culturally competent professionals who reassure nervous volunteers, and—most of all—for the humble, warm, and gracious refugees who put us at ease. May God be with them and grant them security and peace.

Justice Committee Book Study and Discussion

Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity, explores what it’s like for parents of children who are profoundly different or likely to be stigmatized—children with Down syndrome, deafness, autism, dwarfism, or who are prodigies, become criminals, or are conceived in rape.

Though these experiences can be difficult and isolating for families, Solomon writes about parents who have accepted their children in spite of conditions others might consider tragic. “We all love flawed children and the general assumption that these more extreme flaws make their children somehow unlovable—it wasn’t true of most of my experience,” Solomon tells Fresh Air’s Terry Gross.

Book copies are available in the ELPC Library or bookstores. Read one chapter or all of them, and join us for discussion on Sat., April 30, from 9–11 am. For details, contact Carol Chonoska 724.272.9722 or carolchonoska@gmail.com.

Blessing of the Bikes

Rejoicing in God’s beautiful creation and seeking to promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles, ELPC will host a Blessing of the Bikes service on Sat., April 30, at 1:30 pm.

People are encouraged to ride their bikes to ELPC and gather on the Baum Blvd. side for a time of prayer, dedication, and celebration. (Non-bike riders are welcome!) Participants of all ages can take part in a short ride up to Highland Park and back. There also will be an ice cream social after the blessing service, and representatives from BikePittsburgh and the “Healthy Ride” BikeShare programs will be present.

Join us for this special intergenerational, congregational event.

Health Ministry Notes

Maintaining a Healthy Brain

Join us on Sun., April 10, for a discussion after Sanctuary worship in Room 234. We will learn how making minor changes to our daily routines—adding meaningful movement activities—can contribute to brain health and make a positive difference.

Caterina Rosano, MD, MPH, will share information on the benefits of movement to maintaining brain health; and Jim Eng, PT, DPT, MS, GCS, will show us types of movement that are safe and easily can be done by everyone.

Refreshments will be served.

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**“Cram Jam” Church Tour on Sun., April 16**

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation—in conjunction with ELPC, St. Charles Lawanga Parish at Holy Rosary Church, and Calvary Episcopal Church—invites the public to participate in Cram Jam. The free event offers tours of three area churches designed by renowned architect Ralph Adams Cram. Explore and experience their remarkable beauty.

Please arrive at each church as follows:
- **St. Charles Lawanga Parish at Holy Rosary Church** 1 pm
- **East Liberty Presbyterian Church** 2 pm
- **Calvary Episcopal Church** 3:30 pm

See the website for more information.

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**Christian Education**

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

**Contemporaries** Second Floor Parlor  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

**April 3: What do Easter and Baptism have to do with Each Other?**
Easter points us to the promise of new life that we affirm in every baptism. Dr. John Burgess, Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology at PTS, will help us discover how our baptismal practice can inspire Easter joy.

**April 10: Between Trauma and Triumph**
With the passion and resurrection just past, we will attempt to focus on the pre-resurrection reality—the time after the trauma and before the triumph. Using Shelly Rambo’s *Spirit and Trauma* as a framework, Pete Murray will lead us in a discussion of the emerging “Theology of Trauma” recently mentioned by Professor Ron Stone.

**April 17: Witness to the Church in Israel/Palestine**
Mark Blank recently returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Hear about his experiences living and worshipping with the living stones—Palestinian Christians who struggle to witness to our faith in the land of its birth.

**April 24: Witness to the Church in South East Asia**
Just back from South East Asia, Kelli Booher will lead our class. Come, learn about the ministry challenges among Christian leaders of an unreached people group.

**Seekers** Room 234  
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**April 3–May 8: How acquainted are you with the Holy Spirit?**
Dr. Lois Lang, a spiritual director and a former ELPC staff member, will lead our focus on the Holy Spirit as seen in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Francis Chan, in his book *The Forgotten God*, points out that most people are not as familiar with the third person of the Trinity as with the other two. During our class, short segments of Francis Chan’s DVD will be used to illustrate points and to promote discussion. Bibles will be available, or bring your own.

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

I looked, and there was a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes, and peoples and languages. They cried out in a loud voice saying, “Salvation belongs to our God” (Revelation 7:9–10). April’s Easter readings span time and space, from a few frightened disciples hiding in a locked room to countless rejoicing in heaven. Join us to explore the limitless nature of salvation.

**April 3:** Led by Lora Bethea; Acts 5:27–32; Psalm 118:14–29; Revelation 1:4–8; John 20:19–31

**April 10:** Led by Jan Irvin; Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

**April 17:** Led by Jan Irvin; Acts 9:36–43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9–17; John 10:22–30

**April 24:** Led by Mark Blank; Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1–6; John 13:31–35

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

**April 3 | 10 | 17 | 24: An Altar in the World**
We will complete our discussion of *An Altar in the World* and choose a new focus for the sessions that remain before the summer break. New participants are always welcome.

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

**April 10: Telling Stories of Liberation**
Hear ELPC members share their personal stories of faith, hope, love, and liberation as we reflect upon them, their biblical relevance, and their meanings for our own lives. During this session, we will hear stories of liberation from Roy Hiller’s journey.
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat., April 2 | 9 | 16: Youth Basketball  5–8 pm
Students in grades 9–12 are invited to play basketball in the ELPC Gym. Please note that Sat., April 16, will be the last day of basketball until November.

Sun., April 3: The Faith We Live  12:30–3:15 pm
Youth in grades 9–12 are invited to join us for The Faith We Live: You Don’t Have to be A Minister To Minister event. We will share lunch and travel to Shadyside Presbyterian Church together. There, we will be encouraged to imagine our future vocations without the stress of tests and school, but through the lens of God’s faithfulness and our freedom to serve God in many amazing ways. We will ask, “How does the compassion, commitment to service, and the faith we learn about in Sunday School and church connect with the math, science, and career planning we do at school?”

RSVP and a permission slip are required. For questions, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sun., April 10: DG2! @ Repair the World  following Sanctuary worship
DG2!, a partnership for youth in grades 4–6 from Rodef Shalom and ELPC, will be showing acts of loving kindness by participating in Good Deeds Day at Repair the World. We will be busy working in local gardens around our neighborhood. RSVP and permission slip are required.

Confirmation Class Meetings
Wed., April 13  5–7:30 pm  |  Sun., April 24  12:30–2:30 pm
Please hold the seven youth who are participating in Confirmation Class in your prayers, as they prepare to join the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

Fri.–Sat., April 22–23: Mission Overnight  Friday at 7 pm–Saturday at 7 pm
Youth in grades 8–12 who are interested in attending the Sr. High Mission Trip in Pittsburgh this summer 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 more information, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

30-Hour Famine Recap
Thanks to all who supported our youth’s 30-Hour Famine this year! We appreciate your donations to Team Tassy, prayers, cooking breakfast, and chaperoning.

Here is a photo of the group with Tassy himself! It was an honor to hear his story and be part of the work to bring jobs and hope to Haiti. Also pictured are youth making cookies and lasagna for the EECM shelter, a little over 20 hours into their fast.

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

Fri., April 1: First Friday @ Emmanuel  7 pm
Come act a fool as we spend time playing games and having fun. Try a neighborhood favorite called dart-ball, which draws crowds weekly to this church. Emmanuel United Methodist Church is located at 825 Lorenz Ave. in Crafton. Contact Wil if you would like a ride from ELPC at 6:30 pm.

Sun., April 17: The Great Exchange: Holidays  12:30 pm
All young adults are encouraged to join us. See details on page 1.

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.
5 Simple Ways to Serve
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

1. Invest in other people. Whether you are actively listening, mentoring, or something else, we all benefit when we invest time and love in others.
2. Use your gifts. There is something you are good at. How can you use that to serve your neighbor and church family?
3. Pray. When you cannot serve hands-on, you can fold your hands and ask for God’s just intervention into any situation and for any person in need.
4. Practice radical hospitality. Go beyond simply loving your neighbor in your heart, show it with your hands, too. Anticipate needs. Welcome the stranger.
5. Ask. When you do not know how, when, or where to serve, just ask. There are always unmet needs in our church family and in our community.

For details on the iSERVE ministry or to join the weSERVE list, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14, or visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators

Fri.–Sat., April 1–2: Spring Retreat
Check with Kay Shissler or Elaine Phillips to see if there is still space to sign up for our spring retreat, Grace Alive, with the Rev. Jane Esterline at Crestfield Camp.

Come to the Waters Bible Study  Second Floor Parlor
Mon., April 4  7 pm  |  Tues., April 5  10 am
We continue this month by looking at what we can learn about “Hospitality of Living Water—Compassion” from the apostle John and from Luke with our scripture focus on John 4:1–30, 39–42 and Acts 2:44–47.
Childcare will be available for the Monday evening study. A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday morning study. Bring a snack or salad to share and your own table setting.

Fri.–Sat., April 8–9: World Mission Initiative Conference
PW invites you to be their guests at the World Mission Initiative Conference: Recalibrating the Church for the 21st Century, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Pick up a registration form on the bulletin board outside the Library. Your registration has been paid, meals are included.

Mark Your Calendars for Sat., May 14
Keep your schedule clear for a PW social event! Details are in the works, but plan to come and have fun meeting and socializing with other women from ELPC.

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

Fri.–Sun., April 8–10: A Silent Retreat  @ Martina Spiritual Renewal Center
Come away for a time of silence, peace, and restoration! Taking time apart to slow down, listen deeply, reflect, and savor the presence of the divine is essential to maturing spiritually. Silent retreats are about more than just not talking. They are about allowing your thoughts and body to become quiet so that you might become more aware of the presence of the living God within and all around you. If you have never experienced a silent retreat, give it a try!

The Martina Spiritual Renewal Center is located 20 minutes from ELPC. Each retreatant will have a private room with shared bathroom. The cost is $150, which includes accommodations for two nights; dinner Friday night; breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday; brunch on Sunday; and a spiritual direction appointment. Scholarship money is available. See the Spiritual Life Bulletin Board or check online for more information and a registration form.

Sat., April 23: Images of God: So What?  9–4 pm
Join us in the Parlor for the conclusion of our Images of God series. Titled So What?, this program will explore how your image of God impacts your life and prayer. We will look at ways to practice our faith in a way that is consistent with our image and, yet, encourages us to grow, spiritually. Join us on this final step on our Images of God journey of learning and discovery! There is no fee, but please call Kate Carlson at 412.441.3800 x16 by Wed., April 20, to RSVP.

Session News
Session did not meet during Lent. However, they will gather twice in April—once to hear a report from the architectural firm regarding the Design Development work on the church renovation project, and again for a regular meeting at which the new church officers will be examined and approved for ordained service in our church. Look for more updates on the renovation project both in the Sunday bulletin and on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Sanctuary.
LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sun., April 24: Spiritual Gathering 12:15 pm
Join us as we share some lunch, learning, and conversation. All people are welcome!

To learn more about ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, please 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
• Christopher Jones and Abigail Faulkner-Jones welcomed a baby boy, Walter Jones. Walter is the little brother of Campbell and Juliette.
• Congratulations to Carmen Blanco, ELPC childcare worker, on the birth of her daughter, Isabella.
• Devo and Deborah Hughes-Ihonde welcomed a baby boy, Christopher Tayo Hughes-Ihonde.
• Congratulations to ELPC Deacon Tucker Ferda, who has successfully defended his dissertation and earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies, with a concentration in New Testament, from the Cooperative Doctoral Program in Religion at the University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
• Brian Bonsteel was awarded the Advocates We Love award by the Humane Society of the United States. He was one of 14 people nationwide to receive this award in honor of the “Humane Action in Pittsburgh” program he founded.

Thanks
• Presbyterian Women at ELPC thanks the congregation for its support of the Diaper Drive. So far, you have donated more than 3,900 diapers for families in need in our community. The drive will continue through spring. You can drop off donations in the church office.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Marvin May, who was an ELPC member for 57 years and served as an elder and trustee;
• Dee Alcorn;
• Mark Roth’s mother;
• Sharon Nicholson’s brother, Richard Warren;
• Wil Forrest’s uncle; and
• Lynne Chadwick’s mother-in-law.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Schedule at a Glance
Check the website for more information on each event.

• Thurs., March 31: Kelly Strayhorn Rhythm and Youth Concert 7–8:30 pm
• Thursdays: Interactive Music-Making Workshops—CEEMI Band 7–9 pm
• Sat., April 2: Auditions for Bridge Ballet and Bridge Chorus 9–11 am
• Sun., April 24: Spring Music Recitals 2–6 pm
• Wed., April 27: Buzzword Performance 6–7 pm
• Fri., April 29: Requiem for Rice Concert 7–9 pm

Congratulations, Shakespeare Contest Winners
Over 1,300 students from 80 different schools competed in Pittsburgh Public Theater’s 2016 Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest in February. Of the 30 Hope Academy students who competed, eight were selected as finalists:

Dorothy Crow, Kira Mukogosi, Alice Crow, Francisco Carattino, Candace Burgess, and Mimi O’Malley (one scene in the lower division and two in the upper division). In fact, 20% of the students in the finals were from Hope Academy. Two students, Laela Lumsden and Anna Ungarino, won first place for their scene from Taming of the Shrew. Five other students—Clara Swansan, Esai Aliquo-Varela, Zaida Collins, Laela Lumsden, and Kira Mukogosi—received honorable mentions (representing 10% of all the honorable mentions).

Congratulations to all of the Hope Academy students who competed in the Pittsburgh Public Theater’s Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest. All of the students worked hard and performed brilliantly.
“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.”

ELPC Below Ground
Join Regis Will following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., April 10**, for **ELPC Below Ground**. Wonder at the huge furnaces that heat our building! See the blowers that feed air to the more than 7,000 organ pipes!

Interested? Join Mr. Will in the hospitality area (Highland Ave. entrance) immediately following Sanctuary worship for the 45-minute tour.

Mother’s Day Cards are Available
Honor your mother or other beloved woman in your life with a specially designed Mother’s Day card to transform lives of women and children around the world. Your gift will help promote health, education, and development in impoverished communities.

Mother’s Day cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and may be purchased on **Sun., April 17** and **24**, after Journey worship in the Social Hall and at fellowship time after Sanctuary worship. Cards also may be purchased from Kate Carlson in the church office during the week.

The Arsenal Duo to Perform
Our **Cathedral Concerts** series will continue on **Sat., April 23**, at 7:30 pm, with a collaborative performance between **The Arsenal Duo** and the Point Park University Dance Department.

Comprised of organist Dr. Ed Moore and pianist Nathan Carterette, **The Arsenal Duo** will pair up with one of the country’s finest dance departments to deliver a unique evening of intertwined music and dance, with the soaring architecture of ELPC’s Sanctuary as the backdrop. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be accepted.