Help Us Celebrate God’s Love for All

At ELPC, we take great pride in being a welcoming, inclusive congregation. June offers two opportunities for us to show our love for all of God’s people.

Circle of Faith
Join us for the Circle of Faith on Sun., June 5, from 2–3:30 pm, at the Schenley Plaza tent. The Circle of Faith is a public witness by various faith communities to welcome and include LGBTQIA persons, as well as their families and allies. ELPC members are invited to gather together for this event and celebrate our own congregations’ diversity.

PrideFest Equality March and Booth
Join us on Sun., June 12, for PrideFest. We will head downtown together following worship. This year, we will ride in and walk alongside the ELPC van in the Equality March, beginning at 12 pm. Afterward, we will staff the ELPC booth, where we will greet people and tell them all about the amazing things that are happening at our church.

Transportation will be provided to and from each event. For more information on Circle of Faith, contact Carol Chonoska at 724.272.9722 or carolchonoska@gmail.com. To work a shift at the PrideFest booth, contact Liz Gonda at egonda@gmail.com. To reserve a seat in the church van for either event or to help decorate the van for the Equality March, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

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Interested in Getting Involved in Our LGBTQ Ministry?
We meet for monthly Spiritual Gatherings and quarterly Business Meetings. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14 to learn more!

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

So what do Campbell's Soup and the richest person in Pennsylvania have to do with one another and with our faith today? I read an article about a man named David Tepper, whom I'd never heard of before. Evidently he's a very wealthy hedge fund manager who also happens to be the richest person in New Jersey. Mr. Tepper is estimated to be worth more than $10 billion. However, Mr. Tepper recently decided to move from New Jersey to the state of Florida, which has zero personal income tax. His decision sent shudders through the New Jersey state government because they literally lost hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue from this one man's decision. As one analyst put it, an entire state's budget can get sick whenever one super wealthy taxpayer gets a cold.

That story prompted me to wonder, Who is the richest person in the state of Pennsylvania? A quick search brought up the answer: Mary Alice Dorrance Malone. Who is she? Well, back in 1869 Joseph Campbell began his own soup company with a plant in Camden, New Jersey. Thirteen years later, he was joined by a partner named Arthur Dorrance, who within another dozen years took over sole ownership and operation of the "Campbell Soup Company." The company prospered. Andy Warhol painted pictures of their tomato soup cans (1962). And now a descendent of Mr. Dorrance named Mary Alice owns 17% of the entire company and is personally worth about $3.3 billion. She lives outside of Philadelphia, so her tax obligations are a sizeable portion of our state budget.

I find this quite interesting, even if I don't have any solutions to offer on this specific issue. If you choose to tax the wealthiest residents even more, they will simply move to other states with lower tax rates; yet, if we are indifferent to the dependence our state budget has upon a handful of ultra-millionaires or billionaires, we risk putting important projects at the mercy of a small group of residents. At the very least, we all need to become more literate about the economic state of our nation. For example, do a quick Internet search of the phrases "Pew Research Income Inequality" or "Carried Interest Tax Loopholes." Or type in your own question, like "What is the difference between income and wealth?" Learning even a little bit about economics is critical if we are committed to thriving as a democracy and daily living out our Christian values.

Interestingly, as far as I can tell, the word "poor" is never a pejorative word in the bible. The poor are never condemned, but instead are named as fellow human beings who need to be spared, defended and delivered (to cite a few examples). What does that mean? In whatever way we choose to live together as a nation—and to live as citizens in commonwealths alongside Mary Alice Dorrance and David Tepper—we should give the needs of the poor priority over the arguments, tax code machinations, and political rhetoric associated with the most wealthy. There is a place for both groups in God's kingdom, but in terms of biblical justice, the conversation will always be biased towards the poor.

Randy Bush
Stewardship Committee Seeks Members

Are you willing to tell the good news about ELPC to others? Will you assist our congregation to live into its Christian witness through a conscientious, annual commitment of time and financial resources?

The ELPC Stewardship Committee is accepting new members. The time commitment is brief, usually a few meetings from September–November.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Elaine Bellin at embelin@gmail.com.

Session News

The Session held two important meetings in May. The first was a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons, at which time the students in our Confirmation Class were examined and approved for membership. It also was the first official meeting for the incoming officers and youth elders.

The second Session meeting was held one week later and was dedicated to hearing a report from the Renovations Committee. Last June, the Session approved moving from the Schematic Design phase to the Design Development phase of our renovation project. At this recent meeting, the Design Development report was approved with its description of the current project scope and itemization of how it fits within the intended $6 million budget. Many improvements to the plan occurred in this last phase, while also safeguarding a healthy contingency budget for unforeseen project changes.

The next phase involves preparing the construction drawings, with an anticipated project start happening later this fall.

Introducing our Newest Members

We rejoice that seven youth joined our church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, through Profession of Faith and/or Affirmation of Faith. Our newest members are (left to right) Chloe Ferrante, Charlotte Bush, Phoebe Brown, Adylade Krimmel, Isaac Degenholtz, Josh Bellin, and Ramsey Lewand.

Read excerpts from our Confirmands’ Statements of Faith throughout Reaching Out.

“A Message to a Truly Welcoming Faith Family

by D. Mark Blank, seminary intern from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”—Romans 15:7

Hospitality always has been a Christian value, finding its roots in our Jewish heritage. Embracing the stranger, the foreigner, and the outcast is our shared calling as followers of Jesus. I am so grateful to have been met with such a warm welcome at ELPC. As an openly gay seminarian, finding a church community that would wholly accept me was a challenge in pursuing my field education. I feel blessed to have served in a community that truly accepts all of God’s beloved children.

This year has been a year of discernment for me as I explored the many facets and responsibilities of pastoral ministry. I appreciate this community’s patience, guidance, support, and love as I developed a pastoral voice in worship, led Church School classes, enjoyed the fellowship of club one sixteen, and participated in the life of the church for this all too brief time.

As I say “farewell,” know that it is not “goodbye.” This church and its people will remain in my heart. I pray that you will continue to offer this opportunity to seminarians for years to come, and I know that you will welcome them as you have welcomed me.

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

“Through faith, I believe that there is one God, maker of Heaven and Earth, and we were made to live in God’s image.”—Chloe Ferrante
**Last Call for VCS**

ELPC’s Vacation Church School will be held from **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. Registration forms for campers are available online and at our church. Spots are filling up fast, so **register now**!

**Volunteer Training**

There will be a training session for all volunteers following worship on **Sun., June 26**, in Room 234.

We still need youth and adult volunteers to share their time and talents as teachers, arts-and-crafts leaders, recreation leaders, snack leaders, musicians, shepherds, and assistants. If you’re able to volunteer at least three hours of your time, please complete a registration form, which can be found online or at our church.

**Donations Requested**

ELPC offers VCS for **free** thanks to generous gifts from our congregation—those who are able to give the gift of time as volunteers and those who are able to donate supplies. Requested items can be found on the donation board at the foot of the main stairwell. Please consider taking a tag and bringing the items by **Sun., June 12**.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in this important ministry!

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**Christian Education**

*Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.*

**Contemporaries**

*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

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

**June 5: Year-End Review and Planning for Fall**

Join us for a potluck breakfast and fellowship. We will take some time for self-evaluation and plan for the coming year.

**Journey with Scripture**

*Facilitator: Jan Lyle Irvin*

“The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the stranger; he upholds the orphan and the widow... Praise the Lord!”—(Psalm 146: 5–9). Here, near the end of the Psalms, is a litany of God’s fundamental nature in humanity. We give thanks for this good news and for all those who read and pondered Scripture together this past year. Come join us for our last reading!

**June 5:** Kings 17:8–24; Psalm 146:1–10; Galatians 1:11–24; Luke 7:11–17

**Seekers**

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

**June 5: Supporting Newly Arriving Refugee Families**

Jewish Family and Children’s Service Refugee Department has a mission to help vulnerable refugees and immigrants with the support they need to rebuild their lives. Jill Fronk, refugee volunteer coordinator, will discuss the refugees’ journey to the U.S. and what Jewish Family and Children’s Service’s refugee resettlement team does to help them adjust to their new lives in Pittsburgh. We also will hear about volunteer opportunities for supporting our newly arriving refugee families.

**Soul Food**

*Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members*

**June 5: Daily Meditations**

Join us for a discussion of a daily meditation by Richard Rohr and an evaluation and planning session led by Joe Hajdu, Judy Roberts, and Shirley Fair.

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**Thank You, Church School Teachers**

At ELPC, we are blessed to have many Church School teachers who faithfully share their knowledge and love of Christ with our children, youth, young adults, and adult each Sunday. As we break for the summer months, let us all give thanks for our many teachers:

Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Damon & Lora Bethea, Mark Blank, Clare Bochicchio, Michele Bosser, Carmen Blanco, Kristine Conley, Valire Copeland, Sandy Edgecombe, Steve and Mary Evrard, Shirley Fair, Wil Forrest, Barb Fotta, Sara Hackett, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, MeShawn LaVert, Mary Alice Lightle, Roberta London, Nancy Magee, Judy Menk, Beverly Mick, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Peter Murray, Charlie and Rita Nordquist, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Judy Roberts, Carolynn Russ, Vivienne Selia, Kay Shissler, Ron Stone, Lauren Ward, Sel Whitaker, Reed Williams, and Eddie and Jen Willson.
Youth Ministry
Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., June 12: Young at Heart 11 am
Youth in grade 4 and older are needed to help serve at the Young at Heart Luncheon. Youth should wear a white or black shirt and black pants/skirt. Volunteers will receive many thanks and a free lunch! Sign up with Sara Hackett.

Sat., July 9: Working at the Car Wash 9 am–2 pm
Youth will be washing cars at Vento’s Pizza, next to Home Depot. Donations in exchange for a clean car will be greatly appreciated, and will help fund the youth mission trip in Pittsburgh this summer. For more information, email Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sun.–Fri., July 10–15: ELPC Week at Crestfield Camp
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.

Sun.–Sat., July 24–30: Trinity Youth Conference
TYC is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth who have completed grade 9 and up, as well as college-age students, at Living Waters Camp in Shellsburg. The week is full of faith formation, intentional Christian community, play, worship, and thoughtfulness. Information about cost, registration, and schedule can be found at TrinityYouthConference.org.

“God as the Holy Spirit sustains us by giving us strength in times that we are weak, grants us wisdom to help us in times of discernment, and guides us spiritually and internally.”—Adylade Krimmel

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

Fri., June 3: First Friday @ Garfield Community Farm 7 pm
Our summer together will begin with an evening of service at our local ministry partner, Garfield Community Farms. Meet in the ELPC Lobby at 6:45 pm, to travel together. Dress to work in the dirt. Learn more at GarfieldFarm.com.

Sun., June 12: March at PrideFest with ELPC 11:30 am
Come and reflect God’s love to all God’s people at Pittsburgh Pride with our church family as we walk in the Equality March and explore the booths at PrideFest. Sign up with Wil for a seat in the ELPC van. Meet at the Highland Circle following worship. See page 1 for more info. Learn more at PittsburghPride.org.

Wed., June 22: Meditation with Buddhists 6:30 pm
Come spend time meditating with Buddhist monks and with other young adults at the Pittsburgh Buddhist Center in Natrona Heights. Learn more at PittsburghBuddhistCenter.org.

Camp at Crestfield
Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock has a great summer planned for children, youth, and adults!

• Build lasting communities with new and old friends, while enjoying camp activities like canoeing, archery, swamp ball, clay pits, and swimming.

• Learn about the Biblical examples of leaders who stand up against mistrust, injustice, and fear in Bible study.

• Expand your leadership gifts through group building adventures such as the challenge course, high ropes, rock climbing, Bible study, worship, and walking in the labyrinth.

• Explore God’s creation while you’re playing disk golf, orienteering, cooking out over a fire, climbing trees, zip-lining, hiking, and more.

Crestfield provides a sacred place to experience an intentional Christian community that challenges campers to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Camps run from June 19–July 29. For more information, visit Crestfield.net.
Explore Your Spiritual Life

• **Centering Prayer**
  *Tuesdays, at 7 pm*
  Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

• **Cathedral Yoga**
  *Wednesdays, from 6–7 pm*
  Practice prayerful yoga in our beautiful Gothic Sanctuary. Please bring your own mat. Yoga is free, but donations are appreciated.

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

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

• **Silent Saturday**
  *Sat., June 11, 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.

**Presbyterian Women**

_Sherry Anderson and Kelli Booher, Co-Moderators_

**Bible Study Returns in September**
We are looking forward to beginning our new study, _Who is Jesus?_, in September. Plan on joining us at one of our two sessions on the first Monday (7 pm) or first Tuesday (10 am) of each month. A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday morning sessions. Childcare is available by request on Monday evenings.

**Thank You for Supporting Our Diaper Drive**
We thank the congregation for its generous support of the Diaper Drive. At the spring gathering of Presbytery’s PW group, ELPC won the award for most diapers contributed! PW at ELPC will continue its own diaper drive indefinitely, as the need is ongoing. Donations can be dropped off in the church office.

**Notecards to Support Women and Children are Available**
Blank notecards featuring women and children will be on sale all year, benefiting women and children around the world. They are available from Kate Carlson in the office. You may purchase five cards for $10.

“God calls me to care and love everyone, forgive all, and use my gifts to serve our communities and many others.”
—Isaac Degenholtz

**Mission Matters**

_The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries_

**Sat., June 18: The Search for Truth about Islam** 9–11 am
Join Michele Bossers as she leads a book study on Ben Daniel’s _The Search for Truth about Islam_, sponsored by the Justice Committee. The book is available for $10 online, and two copies can be found in the ELPC Library.

In his book, Presbyterian pastor Ben Daniel tackles common stereotypes and misconceptions that tend to define Islam in the popular imagination. Daniel also looks at Christianity’s own history of violence and explores what he calls “the American cult of fear.”

**First Anniversary of The Chapel Market**
The Neighbors Committee and The Chapel Market Team extend their heartfelt thanks to the many donors and volunteers whose generosity made the first year remarkable for The Chapel Market clothing ministry. Open for 90 days this past year, we distributed more than 9,400 donated clothing items for free to men, women, and children in our community.

Interested in participating in this rewarding ministry? Volunteers are needed to assist shoppers on Mondays, 10 am–12 pm, and Thursdays, 6–8 pm, and also to prepare the store on non-shopping days. Email Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or to volunteer or Fran Wilson at TheChapelMarket@gmail.com for more information.
ELPC Elects New Officers

On Sun., April 24, we celebrated the ordination and installation of our new officers. Please join us in congratulating:

- Ordained as Ruling Elders: Margaret Edgecombe, Katie Haas, and Xander Yates
- Ordained as Deacons: Andrea Brown, Liz Gonda, Kathy Kiewra, Julia Lewand, Henry Petrilli, and Susan Spangler
- Installed as Ruling Elders: Mark DeWitt, Jim Eng, Barbara Griffin, Jon Walker, Lenore Williams, Eddie Willson, and Isaiah Wilson
- Installed as Deacon: Paul Miller

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Read more about these events at ELPC.church/events/category/hope-academy.

Wed., June 22: Buzzword Perform & Play 6–7 pm

The Opera Theater of Pittsburgh will present performances for young children, from birth to age 5, and their families. Interactive and child-friendly, these shows are short enough to hold the interest of toddlers and engaging enough for older youth. Food will be served, but space will be limited. RSVP by calling Norma Meyer at 412.441.3800 x11.

Sat., June 25: WYEP’s Summer Music Festival 3–10 pm

Hope Academy’s teen theater company (HAT Co) band will rock out with original songs and popular covers as part of WYEP’s Summer Music Festival at Schenley Plaza. Bring a blanket, some food and have some fun with us at this free, all-day music festival!

HAT Co will perform between 3 and 5 pm.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Reva Ritchey and her fiancé Ryan Wade celebrated the birth of their son, Gianni, on April 29.
- Please welcome our new members and friends who joined in April:
  - New Members: William and Lynn Buchanan, Suzanne Flynn, Nicholas Genger-Boeldt, Nathaniel Hanson, Leigh Halverson, Brittney Krieger, and Lauren Uranker
  - Friends: Heather Eng, David Greenberg, Rita Nordquist, Conrad Seaman, Loretta Shade, and Donnelly Smith

Congratulations to Steve and Mary (Figlar) Evard, who were united in marriage on May 7.

Congratulations to Chloe Ferrante, who was baptized on May 15.

Congratulations to the children who were baptized on May 22:
  - Robert Xavier Gilroy, son of Sean and Crystal Gilroy
  - Walter Anthony Cramer Jones, son of Christopher and Abigail Jones
  - Campbell Miriam Jones, daughter of Christopher and Abigail Jones
  - Joshua Maxwell Odom, son of Dominic Odom

Thanks

- Thank you for all the cards and condolences concerning my daughter’s passing. They were appreciated.
  —Liz Hopkins

Prayers

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

- Tim and Linda Benedict’s sister-in-law, Marilyn Goldsmith Benedict
- Lora Bethea’s aunt Barb
- Marilen Bowser, who was an ELPC member for 14 years
- Tina Calabro’s mother and Mark Steidl’s grandmother, Josie Calabro
- Joel Minnigh’s sister, Miriam Minnigh Marshall

“This is just the start of a long journey, but I have faith in God to help guide me through a troubled world.”
—Charlotte Bush

“Through accepting Jesus’s teachings and sacrifice, we allow ourselves to be molded into the people that God wants us to be.”—Ramsey Lewand
“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.”

Do You Ride a Bike to ELPC?
A bike rack is now available on the Baum Blvd. side of our church!

We’re All Young at Heart
The ELPC Deacons invite you—especially those of you who have celebrated more than a few Easters and Christmases—to our annual Young at Heart Luncheon on Sun., June 12, following Sanctuary worship in the Social Hall. This is a special opportunity to celebrate and honor our senior congregants for their contributions and participation over the years. Lunch will be followed by entertainment that will last about two hours.

The event is free for members who are 65 and over; $10 for all others. Look for your personal invitation in the mail.

If you are willing to share your memories, we will be collecting oral histories about your experiences in the church. To ask questions, make reservations, or share memories, please contact Kate Carlson at KateC@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x16.

PC(USA) General Assembly to Meet
Every two years, our denomination holds its national meeting, called the General Assembly. The 2016 gathering will be held from June 18–25 in Portland, Oregon. Representatives will be present from all 172 presbyteries, as well as from overseas mission fields and other Reformed Church denominations. Pastor Randy will be in attendance in his role as co-moderator for the Covenant Network and Pastor Heather will be a voting commissioner for General Assembly, due to her role as senior vice moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Please keep Pastor Randy, Pastor Heather, and all other commissioners attending the General Assembly in your prayers.

Save the Date to Celebrate
All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on Thurs., Aug. 18, from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard.

To learn more about the iSERVE ministry or to join the weSERVE list, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14, or visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

“Through faith, I believe that God is inclusive, loving and forgiving.”—Phoebe Brown