Sunday Services
*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Journey Worship** • 8:45 am
*Theme: Disruption*
- April 2  Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- April 9  Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 16*  Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- April 23  Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- April 30  Sharron Boddy, seminary intern from PTS

**Sanctuary Worship** • 11 am
- April 2  Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- April 9  Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 16*  Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 23  Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 30  Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
**Mondays** • 7 am–1 pm
**Wednesdays** • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service
**Wednesdays** • 7 pm
Live stream available at ELPC.church
Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Holy Week & Easter Services
The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**Wed., April 12: Taizé, Stations of the Cross**
- 7 pm, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

**Thurs., April 13: Maundy Thursday** (Communion)
- 7 pm, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Fri., April 14: Good Friday**
- 12 pm, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- 7 pm, led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Sat., April 15: Saturday Vigil**
- 7 pm, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

**Sun., April 16: Easter Sunday** (Communion)
- 8:45 am, led by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- 11 am, led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Celebrating the Gifts of Women
On **Sun., April 2**, Sanctuary worship will include a special celebration of the *Gifts of Women*. Each year, in partnership with Presbyterian Women, ELPC selects a Sunday close to International Women’s Day (March 8), during which we lift up the gifts of women and acknowledge the challenges that women throughout the world continue to face.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach and her sermon will be titled “Unfaithful Phrases: You’re Unlovable.” Our service will include women liturgists, ushers, and greeters, as well as music from *The Color Purple*, a Tony Award winning musical.

Worship with a Touch of Jazz
The Sunday after Easter is definitely not a “low Sunday” at ELPC! Mike Tomaro returns with his jazz combo to lead worship at our Sanctuary worship service on **Sun., April 23**. Joining the combo on vocals will be Mike’s daughter, Natalie Tomaro. Please invite your friends and neighbors!
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

After Ash Wednesday services, I always walk away with a darkly smudged thumb on my hand. That is because I have pressed that finger into the ashes several dozen times—and then wiped the ashes on people’s foreheads while reminding them that they are of dust and to dust they shall return. There is something wonderfully vulnerable and personal about applying ashes on Ash Wednesday—literally touching the foreheads of friends and strangers alike and doing so out of a shared commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Seeing my smudged thumb later reminds me of that faith connection. It is a mark of honor, stubbornly ground into the literal whorls and lines of my thumbprint.

After Palm Sunday, there are invariably palm branches lying around the church. Before that special day, palm branches are mailed to the church in packaging awaiting someone to patiently separate them and prepare them for distribution. You can picture the children waving them; you can imagine the adults carefully folding the leaves into crosses. Palm branches serve as lingering reminders of that day when people cried out to Jesus as their Savior, seeking his help. Every year a few branches make it into my office. Others are kept by our housekeeping staff to be burnt for next year’s Ash Wednesday ashes. They all remind me of how we are part of the Palm Sunday story—part of the crowd calling out to Jesus, seeking to find our place in the larger story of faith with Christ at its center.

By contrast, there isn’t anything tangible that I take away from the Easter services. Yes, there are lilies and spring flowers that decorate the sanctuary, but they are somewhat tangential to the larger message of resurrection. There are Easter eggs and jelly beans and chocolate bunnies, but they are obvious secular appropriations of the religious holiday and more of a distraction than a spiritual discipline. There is the Easter service itself—with communion that is shared, with uplifting hymns and music and fellowship. As wonderful as that all is, it doesn’t linger as long as one might hope. We move past Easter Sunday to regular ol’ Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and soon enough find ourselves simply living out our mid-April, uneventful routines.

But there are two things that do linger from Easter and remind us of Christ’s resurrection long after Easter services are done. The first is sunshine itself, especially when seen near the horizon just after sunrise. The primary image for Easter is that of sunlight breaking over a cemetery landscape—breaking into the darkness and despair of grieving women disciples—and illuminating a wonderful, unimaginable, bright new reality. The one who was dead is now alive! That reminder should not be limited to Easter mornings. It is one that should come to mind every time we marvel at a bright, sunny day or pause to reflect on the colors and beauty of an early morning sunrise.

The second persistent reminder is Sunday morning. We gather to worship on Sundays, as opposed to other days or evenings of the week, solely because of Easter. Because Christ was raised on that day, we gather each Sunday to remember that good news and look for him in the faces around us, the sacraments we share, and the worship we offer. Each Sunday is Easter Sunday. By holding onto that perspective, every week becomes one inaugurated and invigorated by the Easter good news. So hold onto these Easter reminders for the weeks ahead: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!
Mission Matters
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

Sat., April 1: Workday with OHM 9 am–3 pm
All ages and skill levels are welcome—on the first Saturday of every month—to help Open Hand Ministries rehab an abandoned house into a quality, affordable home for a family. For details, email Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com or Henry Petrilli at HLP615@gmail.com.

Sun., April 2 & 9: One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
“You shall be called repairers of the breach.”—Isaiah 58
The liturgical season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food, and devoting ourselves to prayer. However, this isn’t the only type of fasting talked about in the sacred texts. Isaiah 58 describes a new fast, not to give up bread, but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “loose the bonds of injustice,” “let the oppressed go free,” “share bread with the hungry,” and “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to help those in need and to restore those who have been broken down. More than ever, as God’s people, we are “called to be repairers of the breach” of the brokenness, division, and need in this world by giving of our gifts, time, talent, and treasure.

When we support the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we join congregations all over the country as we seek to answer God’s call and support the lives of many people through Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Presbyterian Hunger Programs. ELPC will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Sun., April 2, and Palm Sunday, April 9. Please give generously.

Sun., April 30: Help for Caregivers 12:30 pm
Are you helping an older loved one with tasks like grocery shopping, managing medications, bathing/dressing or getting around? If so, you are a family caregiver! Care coaches from the United Way’s Caregivers First Initiative will offer a guide to finding community resources, getting started with problem-solving, and managing the stress of trying to help a loved one. We’ll especially focus on ways to keep calm in difficult circumstances and to help yourself relax throughout the day.

We’ll meet in Room 234. Light refreshments will be served.

Pastor Randy’s Preaching Invitations
Twice this month, Pastor Randy has been invited to be the guest preacher at East End congregations, which coincidentally are both named after the elder brother of Jesus, St. James.

On Tues., April 4, as part of a Lenten Preaching Series organized by the local Episcopal Churches, Pastor Randy will preach at St. James Episcopal Church (11524 Frankstown Rd., Penn Hills). A simple supper will begin at 6 pm, followed by the Eucharist worship service at 7 pm. The overall theme for this weekly preaching series is Reconciliation.

Then on Fri., April 14, Pastor Randy will join with the congregation of St. James AME Church (444 Lincoln Ave., Pittsburgh) for their Good Friday service from 12–3 pm. He will preach on the second word Jesus spoke from the cross, “Today you will be with me in paradise”—Luke 23:43.

Consider supporting these ecumenical worship services!

Register for our All-Church Retreat
Join us at our All-Church Retreat at Crestfield Camp from Fri.–Sun., May 5–7 (Pittsburgh Marathon weekend). Our theme is Road Trip: Our Journey Together.

Travel is an important theme in scripture—from Abram and Sarai’s journey to Egypt, to the Risen Christ walking with his disciples on the Road to Emmaus. We are reminded continually that our life of faith does not simply play out within the walls of our cathedral, but also as we travel through life together—literally and metaphorically. As a family of faith, walking alongside one another, we seek to follow and serve God. Through worship, workshops, Bible study, games, fellowship, and the enjoyment of God’s beautiful creation, we will continue our journey together!

Registration is now open and rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Transportation and partial scholarships are available upon request. Registration forms are available at ELPC.church and throughout the church.

The Chapel Market is Reopening Soon
The Chapel Market will reopen on Mon., April 24 and resume its regular days and hours: Mondays from 10 am–12 pm; Thursdays from 6–8 pm.

New volunteers are welcomed and needed to staff the store during open hours, sort clothing, and stock the store. Clothing donations will not be accepted until further notice.

To volunteer or ask questions, please email Ron Frye at frye77@gmail.com or Pastor Patrice at Patricefs@coh.net.
Contemporaries  Second Floor Parlor  Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

April 2 & 9: What It Means to be Free in Christ
We live in a time in which we are again concerned to protect our rights and freedoms as Americans. But Christian faith offers us freedom even when external circumstances are oppressive. We will explore the nature of Christian freedom and how we can find it. Lessons from great Christians—past and present—will guide us. Dr. John Burgess, professor at PTS, will lead us.

April 23: Living Faithfully in a News Driven Age—The Church as Sanctuary
When the government wants to deport undocumented immigrants, those immigrants sometimes seek sanctuary in churches and live there for periods of time. We will explore the history of sanctuary in the Bible, how churches have offered sanctuary in the past, and what the legal status of a sanctuary is today. Mark Roth and Pastor Randy will lead us.

April 30: Reformed Faith and Politics
The Reformed Protestant tradition from John Calvin to the present follows certain broad trajectories for politics, which are refined for each age and situation. The PC(USA) has a major statement on the role of Presbyterianism in American politics: “Reformed Faith and Politics” (1980) and a resolution on voter rights, “Lift Every Voice” (2008). Ron Stone, who participated in both projects, will lead the class on these actions.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

“If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered”—Psalm 130:3–4. Perhaps the above verses interpret the movement from Lent to Easter. Join us this month as we ponder journey, cross, tomb, garden, and locked room.

April 2: Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6–11; John 11:1–45
April 9: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Philippians 2:5–11; Matthew 21:1–11
April 23: Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

Seekers  Room 234
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

April 2: Lazarus and the Miracle of Resurrections
The language of resurrection is ancient and complex, going far beyond the Easter story of Jesus Christ. Is it an individual or collective act—an awakening from sleep or a movement from true death to eternal life? Pastor Randy will help us look at stories involving Elijah, Lazarus, and Jesus, as we seek to gain a fuller, faithful understanding of the miracle of resurrection.

April 9: The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
On Palm Sunday, Christians celebrate Jesus’ “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem. While the four Gospels give different accounts of the event, it’s clear upon close reading that each Evangelist has crafted this scene to carry a particular theological message about Jesus’ identity, the character of the crowds, and the future. Tucker Ferda will lead us as we look at each of these accounts in detail, and attempt to understand the theological message being conveyed.

April 23: Growing up as an Undocumented Immigrant
Giselle Fetterman, wife of Braddock’s Mayor John Fetterman, will tell us her moving story of growing up as an undocumented, migrant child, and what brought her to Braddock as an adult. She also will tell us about the projects she inspired to help her community, and her projects that grew into other Pittsburgh communities, including ours.

April 30: Allegheny County Immigrant Integration Plan
Implementation of a countywide immigrant integration plan is being led by Betty Cruz, who founded Change Agency in September 2016 to further such civic initiatives. Previously, Betty was deputy chief of special initiatives for Mayor William Peduto. Originally from Miami, Betty is the daughter of Cuban immigrants. She will talk about the efforts she is leading in Allegheny County, and how this work is impacted by today’s political climate.

Soul Food  Third Floor Music Room
Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu

April: Open the Door
We will continue discussing Joyce Rupp’s book, Open the Door, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

Young Adults  Pastor’s Conference Room
Facilitator: Wil Forrest

April 2 & 9: Discussion and Prayer Series
Our Lenten church school sessions will begin with discussions and then we will explore a different style of prayer each week. See Wil if you want to lead a discussion or prayer time, and/or provide breakfast.
Youth Ministry

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

**Sat., April 1 & 8: Youth Basketball 5–8 pm**
Boys in grades 9–12 are welcome to join us to play basketball! April 8 will be our last day of basketball until November. Questions? Contact Anthony Williams.

**Sun., April 2: DG2! @ Good Deeds Day 12:15–3:15 pm**
ELPC and Rodef Shalom youth in grades 4–12 will be showing acts of loving-kindness by assisting in the coordination of a “Classic Hollywood” themed Senior Prom for the residents of Charles Morris Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Meet in the Harambe Room for lunch immediately following Sanctuary worship. We will return to ELPC at 3:15 pm.

**Fri.–Sat., April 21–22: Mission Overnight**
Youth in grades 8–12, who are interested in attending the Sr. High Mission Trip to New York City this summer, are required to attend this Mission Overnight. Beginning at 7 pm on Friday night, we will learn about mission, play group building games, and worship together. On Saturday, we will complete mission work and plan for our upcoming mission trip until 7 pm. For more info about the mission overnight or summer mission trip, talk to Sara Hackett.

**Sat.–Sun., April 29–30: Tween Retreat**
Our Tween Retreat at Crestfield Camp for youth in grades 4–6, is a time to join tweens from around Pittsburgh 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.

Please RSVP to Sara Hackett by **Wed., April 19**. We’ll leave ELPC together on Sat., April 29, at 9 am; return on Sun., April 30, at 12 pm. More information including cost, scholarship information, and permission slip can be found on our Youth Calendar at ELPC.church.

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Food for Thought

*For youth in grades 4–6*

**Thursdays, 4:30–6:30 pm**

**Note:** We will not meet on **April 13**.

Our mentors and mentees have been cooking foods from the main food groups—fruits, vegetables, proteins, and grains! We also have been learning how to follow recipes and the differences between chop, dice, mince, purée, and zest.

Interested in getting involved? Visit ELPC.church for more information.

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Young Adult Ministry

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

**Fri., April 7: First Friday @ Games with Friends 7 pm**
Spend your Friday night playing games with Friends at Quaker Meeting House in Shadyside! Bring a board game to share. Learn more at Quaker.org/pghpamm.

YAM is for you, and your friends are welcome too! For details, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.
VCS 2017 Registration is Now Open
It’s not too early to start making plans for our 2017 Vacation Church School, which will run daily Mon.–Fri., June 26–30, from 9 am–3 pm!

This year’s theme will be Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed, and we will explore the spiritual treasure of Jesus’ teachings to us through the stories he tells his disciples, called parables. Our days will be filled with worship, games, Bible study, art, reflection and lots of fun!

Children, ages 4–grade 5 (completed), are invited to attend as campers. Registration forms for campers are available at ELPC.church and on the Christian Education bulletin boards. Register early; spots fill up fast!

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 (grade 7+) 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? Complete a registration form, which can be found at ELPC.church and on the Christian Education bulletin boards.

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

Bible Study: Who is Jesus?  Second Floor Parlor
Mon., April 3  7 pm | Tues., April 4  10 am
Join us as we continue our study with: Who is Jesus according to the Other Abrahamic Faiths? A potluck lunch follows the Tuesday study, with soup and beverages provided. Please bring your own table setting and soup bowl, as well as a side to share. Childcare is available by request for the Tuesday study.

PW 2017–18 Leadership Team Announced

Moderator: Sherry Anderson
Secretary: Peta Harrington Cole
Treasurer: Kay Shissler/Pat Krimmel

Members at Large: Sue Bailey, Sonya Marie Morley, Elaine Phillips, Cami Teacoach, and Evelynn Welling.

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

Thurs., April 6 & 20: Book and Video Study  6:30–8 pm
Continued on Thurs., May 4 & 18, and June 1
Evolution, Creation, Black Holes, and Incarnation! Oh My! Join us for our ongoing conversation as we explore the connections between science and religion. We are reading Teilhard’s Mysticism: Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution by Kathleen Duffy (Orbis Books, 2014), and watching videos by Ilia Delio and Brian Swimme as the basis for our conversation. Haven’t read the book? No worries! Come anyway!

Fri.–Sun., June 16–18: Teilhard’s Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ
Mark your calendar now for a retreat guided by Teilhard’s Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ. Our retreat will be led by Dr. Kathleen Duffy—a Sister of St. Joseph (S.S.J.) and a professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, where she directs the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and the Institute for Religion and Science. More information will be available soon!

Explore Your Spiritual Life at ELPC

Centering Prayer
Tuesdays, 7–7:20 pm
Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this prayer method is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room.

Contemplative Prayer
Wednesdays, 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.

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

Mindfulness Meditation
Thursdays, 7–8 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.
ELPC Session Updates

- Session did not have a called meeting in March.
- Officer Training was held for all the incoming elders and deacons.
- Important Session meetings will be held in April, in which new officers will be examined and approved for ordination, and updates will be given related to contracts, bids, and timetables associated with ELPC’s renovation project.
- Regarding the renovation work, significant progress has been made in working with our owner’s representative (Craig Stevenson) and our general contractor (Landau Construction). More will be reported in next month’s Reaching Out.

ELPC People

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

Good News


Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
- Carol Chonoska’s father, David Krehbiel
- Jan Irvin’s mother, Betty Irvin
- William Nicholson’s mother

Better Choices, Better Health

Are you an adult who is experiencing on-going health issues, or a caregiver who is responsible for taking care of family or friends? If so, the Membership and Outreach Committee is offering a new Better Choices, Better Health workshop in the mornings of Tuesdays, May 2–June 6. Attendees can learn workable techniques in managing their day-to-day responsibilities.

The six-week workshop is free. To register, call Carla Coles at 412.661.1363.

Service Spotlight: Donation Team

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

For the past couple years, our local Trader Joe’s has graciously provided overstocked food items to us, including fresh veggies and fruits, frozen meat, prepared salads, and more. Once a week, our faithful donation team members would pick up crates of food and bring them to ELPC so we could find the best way to utilize them. Then, we would send the food to local families through different partnerships, or use it at the church for youth and other programs.

While changing corporate policies at Trader Joe’s recently required an end to this relationship, we are thankful for years of generous donations and are re-tooling this ministry so we may continue honoring established partnerships and feeding our hungry neighbors.

Thank you to our hard-working donation team: Diana Bloss, Mary Evrard, Steve Evrard, Liz Hopkins, Nate Morley, Sonya Morley, and Laura Ristau. Michele Bossers faithfully and skillfully coordinates donation collection, management, and re-distribution.

Do you want to help feed hungry families in our community? Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14. Visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE to read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities!
Touring ELPC Below Ground

Do you ever wonder what keeps our cathedral warm during the winter months? Join ELPC member Regis Will in the hospitality area (Highland Ave. entrance) immediately after Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 23, to tour ELPC’s lowest level. Discover the huge boilers and see the blowers that feed air to the more than 7,000 organ pipes! Please allow 30–45 minutes for the tour.

Building Closed

ELPC will be closed on Mon., April 17, in celebration of Easter.

The Great Exchange: Travel

Following Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 23, folks of all ages are invited to an interactive event where we—across the generations—will explore fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of travel. Join us in the Social Hall as we share a simple lunch and our stories. No preparation is necessary, just come and enjoy!

Mother’s Day Cards are Available

Honor your mother or another beloved woman in your life with a special Mother’s Day card that will transform lives of women and children around the world. Your gift will help promote the health, education, and development in impoverished communities.

Mother’s Day cards are offered by Presbyterian Women and will be available for purchase on Sun., April 23 & 30, 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 until Mother’s Day.