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.

PrideFest and Equality March
Everyone is invited to join us at ELPC’s PrideFest Booth on Sat., June 10, from 12–5 pm, and Sun., June 11, from 1–7 pm, as we welcome folks to the ELPC table and tell them about our church and God’s love. Following worship on Sun., June 11, we will head downtown together for the Equality March. This year, we will ride in—and walk alongside—the ELPC van. The Equality March will begin at 12:30 pm, and start near PPG Paints Arena. Come be a public witness with your church family to God’s love for all people!

Transportation will be provided to and from the Equality March. To work a shift at the PrideFest booth, contact Liz Gonda at edgonda@yahoo.com. To reserve a ride or to help decorate the van for the Equality March, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

Post-Pride Meet and Greet
Plan on joining us on Thurs., June 15, from 6–8 pm, at 5801 (5801 Ellsworth Ave.), where we hope to see some of our new friends we met at PrideFest again.

Summer Worship Schedule
From the first Sunday in July through Labor Day weekend, we follow our special two-part summer worship schedule at ELPC. Each Sunday morning at 8:45 am, there will be a 30-minute Journey Prayer Time held in the Social Hall, consisting of a few songs, an extended prayer time, and a shared reflection on a bible passage. Afterward, we will hold our Summer worship service at 10 am in the Courtyard (weather permitting), with monthly communion, lively music, and opportunities for both sun-worshipers and shade-seekers as we worship outdoors.

Make Sundays at ELPC a consistent part of your summer routine!

Interested in Getting Involved in ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry?
All people are welcome to join us! We meet for monthly Spiritual Gatherings and other Pride and fun events. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

I have too many books. Maybe the trouble is that I have too many bookcases. Having so many places to put books—at home, in my office, in our living room, on my bedside table—means that I have no reason to restrict the number of books I accumulate over the years. Most of them I’ve read, so there have been both functional and pleasurable aspects associated with owning all these books. But in the end, there are simply too many of them.

In an interview with a British author (with the wonderful name of Penelope Lively) it was noted that she has lots of books, lined up in shelves and stacked on tables, and that she can’t bear to part with any of them. She said, “Your books tell you where you’ve been—they’re the story of your own mind. Getting rid of them would be like getting rid of that [story].” There is truth in this remark. By looking at the bindings of books squeezed into my shelves, I remember a bit of what it felt like to read each of them—what they taught me. It’s true; they are a representation of the story of my mind.

I find this topic analogous to why we go to church regularly and why we still enfold our life story in the story of scripture, even when it speaks to us from 2000 year old texts. If you attend church regularly, over the course of a year you will move through a range of stories each highlighting different life lessons. There’s Advent (anticipation), Christmas (humility and surprises), Lent (confession), Easter (God’s persistent Yes to the world’s No), Pentecost (spiritual gifts and creative fires), and then the long-stretch of Ordinary Time (grace-tinged routines, the persistence of life and hope and love). The seasons of the church year “tell you where you’ve been,” tell you who you are, and remind you of much you might have forgotten.

The same is true with scripture—the 66 books of the bible lined up neatly as if on a library reference shelf, offering a wide range of reading and learning options. There are the creation stories in Genesis, the tales of Abraham, Moses and desert wanderings totally dependent on God, the wonders of judges, the stern lectures of prophets, the honest poetry of the Psalms, the wonderful stories of Ruth, Esther, Jonah and others. Then we move into the condensed historical record of the New Testament—gospel accounts of Jesus, full of parables and passion, epistolary exhortations by Paul to toddler-aged Christian communities, apostle Acts, sermons from James and in Hebrews, expansive visions in Revelation. They all are reference points for the stages of our life—stories of redemption, grace and power that give order to our ever-changing days.

I need to give away some of my books, and I promise to do so someday. But some things I’ll hold onto, just as I’ll hold on to the rhythm of the church year. The saga of Genesis to Revelation. The Word made flesh in Christ and (in some pale way) in me, by God’s grace and timeless scripture. May the same be said of all of us.
Mission Matters

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

Sun., June 4: Pentecost Offering to be Received

“For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all.”—Acts 2:39

Acts 2 tells the story of the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples as tongues of fire, and casts them from their place of contemplation and fear, out into the streets, preaching in languages they couldn’t understand for the benefit of all the people gathered there. This was the beginning of faith formation, meant to inspire and encourage all who gathered into a lifetime of faith.

When we gather for worship on Sun., June 4, we will receive the Pentecost Offering. Forty percent of the offering will be used to support a local youth ministry. The remaining 60 percent will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support national initiatives of our denomination that are focused on helping children, youth, and young adults develop their life of faith through supportive communities, caring mentors, and faith-related nurture and service.

The Pentecost Offering makes a difference for the life of the whole church and for congregations like ours. Please give freely.

Sun., June 4: The Consumer Health Coalition Presentation 12:30 pm

The Consumer Health Coalition will provide a presentation that briefly overviews what breast and cervical cancers are, how they may affect each individual personally, and what one can do to act on the risk factors in their own life. The focus will be on the resources available for different types of individuals, who may be struggling to afford care, to access services for screening and treatment. Individual assistance will be available for those who need help getting insurance or paying for screenings or treatments.

Save the Dates for our Summer Film Series

This year, our Summer Film Series will be held on Sun., July 9, 16, 23, and 30. Keep a look out for more information.

ELPC Session Updates

• A joint meeting between the Session and Deacons was held on May 16, at which time the previous year was reviewed and upcoming challenges and opportunities for our church were discussed.
• The faithful work of retiring elders and deacons was celebrated and uplifted in prayer.
• The Session is reading a book together titled Race in a Post-Obama America as part of their shared commitment to anti-racism work.
• They also are hosting the Session from Calvin Presbyterian Church (Zelienople) for a continued conversation on how to live faithfully in a divided America today.
• ELPC member Tony Richardson was approved for candidacy as he continues to move toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination.
• In the clerk’s report, 6 new members and friends were received in May and two baptisms were approved.

VCS has been Cancelled

It is with regret that we have to cancel this summer’s Vacation Church School at ELPC. We are entering an exciting time of renovations to our church building, but unfortunately it has become clear that the renovation work will prevent us from freely using the Second Floor and Ground Floor spaces. While we could accommodate a smaller number kids, having children around an active construction site did not seem like a wise or safe option.

We know that canceling this program will be burdensome to many families who were counting on VCS as a summer opportunity for their kids. We are working on alternative ways that ELPC children, youth and adults can gather as a community and explore our faith together this summer. Information will be available soon.
Join the Stewardship Committee
The Stewardship Committee is looking to expand! During this exciting time of member growth, we anticipate many emerging initiatives coming to life at ELPC. The time commitment is minimal—starting with a kickoff meeting in August and culminating in November on Stewardship Sunday. If you are willing to serve on the committee, contact Elaine Bellin at embellin@gmail.com.

Thank You from the Neighbors Committee
The Neighbors Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with two important events in May.

- **OHM's Circles Dinner**: Families involved in OHM's Circles program meet to share a meal while working on attaining their goals. Thank you to Gina Anderson, Frank Bauerle, Pam Donnelly, Allison Freeman, Liz Gonda, and Nancy Phillips.

- **OHM's 2017 Marathon Fundraiser**: ELPC folks supported this event as marathon runners and volunteers at the fun and delicious pasta party! This year, 75 people participated in the marathon for OHM, including OHM Circles families and their allies. And, OHM exceeded their fundraising goals! Thank you to the runners and fundraisers: Deborah Brower, John Buckley, Andy Collins, Mark DeWitt, Jason Elias, Tim Englehardt, Julia Kocherzat, Cecilia Novelli, David Phillips, and Caterina Rosano. Thank you also to the awesome pasta party supporters: Deborah Brower, Frank and Paula Bauerle, Nancy Heastings, Kirk Palmer, and Robert Plemme, and Colleen Vermillion.

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

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

**June 4: Year-End Celebration and Breakfast**  
Join us for breakfast, a discussion of our class year, and maybe even a hymn sing!

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

The apostle Paul writes “To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.” For Paul, the gift of Christ's spirit is a publicly manifested force striving towards the unity of social justice and individual freedom. We are created and called to work for the “Commonwealth” beyond arbitrary borders. This is good news. Please join us for our last class.

**June 4**:  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

**Seekers**  
Room 234  
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**June 4: Thanking our Iraqi and Afghan Translators by Resettling them in the U.S.**  
“I’m alive today because of my translator”—a quote from the No One Left Behind website, NoOneLeft.org. This organization helps with the resettlement and transition of Iraqi and Afghan translators and interpreters, who have worked with American soldiers in their war-torn countries. They work to bridge the gap between our State Dept. and the current refugee programs. Joel Laudenslage, director of operations at No One Left Behind, will be with us to talk about their mission, and opportunities for us to get involved.

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

**June 4: Discussing Meditations**  
We will conclude our class year with a discussion of a meditation on the Holy Spirit and prayer by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Judy Roberts, and Linda Harrington.

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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 adults 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, Carmen Blanco, Clare Bochicchio, Kristine Conley, Valire Copeland, Sandy Edgecombe, Mary Evrard, Wil Forrest, 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, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Judy Roberts, Kay Shissler, Lauren Ward, Sel Whitaker, Reed Williams, and Eddie and Jen Willson.
Youth Ministry
*Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

**Sun., June 25: 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.

**Summer Camps at Crestfield**
If you are still looking for ways that your elementary, middle, and high school students can grow in their faith, experience a caring Christian community, and enjoy creation, you are invited to check out Crestfield Camp’s summer schedule at [CrestfieldCC.org](http://CrestfieldCC.org). Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, and the Junior High Mission Trip team will be up at camp the week of July 9–14, if your kids would enjoy seeing some familiar faces at worship and meals.

**Sun.–Sat., July 23–29: Trinity Youth Conference**
TYC is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth who have completed grade 9 through college-age students at Living Waters Camp in Schellsburg, Pa. The week will be full of faith formation, intentional Christian community, play, worship, and thoughtfulness. Information about cost, workshops, registration, and schedule can be found at [TrinityYouthConference.org](http://TrinityYouthConference.org).

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

**Fri., June 2: First Friday @ KBOX Karaoke House** **7 pm**
Come sing the night away at KBOX Karaoke House (214 S Craig Street, 15213)! RSVP to Wil by Fri., May 26, so we can get the right size room for us to have our own private karaoke room. Learn more at [KBKTV.com](http://KBKTV.com).

**Sun., June 11: Show Your Pride** **11:15 am**
Meet at Highland Circle for a ride in the church van. We will head down together to march in Pittsburgh’s annual Pride Parade, as our church does each year to show our support for our LGBTQ siblings. Afterward, we can enjoy the booths and entertainment at the street fair. Sign up to work at the ELPC booth at PrideFest for an hour (Saturday and Sunday time slots are available). Learn more at [PittsburghPride.org](http://PittsburghPride.org).

**Wed., June 21: Faith: Head & Heart** *meet at ELPC at 7 pm*
After a long summer day, we will relax at the Taizé prayer service. Then, we will gather in the Second Floor Parlor to discuss how we have understood our faith through the years into today with our guest facilitator Jan Irvin. Wrap your heart in worship and head around theology.

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**New Sanctuary Lights**
Recently, you may have noticed a new brightness in the Sanctuary. Our maintenance staff recently replaced all the light bulbs in the chandeliers with energy-efficient LED bulbs! For the first time in many years, every light bulb is functional in the Sanctuary!

There are 22 chandeliers in the Sanctuary, and each one contains 24 bulbs! The estimated energy usage for each chandelier will drop from 800 watts to 200 watts with the new bulbs. In addition, the 8 smaller fixtures along the side aisles in the sanctuary were also fitted with the new bulbs.
People of Prayer
As we head into summer, remember that as Christians, we are a people of prayer, a people in deep communion with God. Here are some opportunities to share your prayer with others:

Prayer and Meditation Room
Available anytime the Church is open
Experience the quiet of our Prayer and Meditation Room. Color a mandala, gaze at an icon, or just be still.

Mindfulness Meditation
Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm
Susan Spangler leads us as we learn about Mindfulness Meditation and engage in this ancient prayer form together. Mindfulness is the moment-to-moment awareness of our experience with an accepting, non-judgmental, kind attention. We begin with Qi Gong and move into meditation instruction, guided meditations, and practices for supporting mindfulness in everyday life.

Centering Prayer
Tuesdays, 7–7:20 pm
Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer—prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Yoga
Wednesdays, 6–7 pm
Practice this ancient prayer form in ELPC’s beautiful Gothic Sanctuary! Yoga (with childcare) is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring your own mat.

Labyrinth
Mondays, 7 am–1 pm;
Wednesdays, 7 am–9 pm
The labyrinth is an ancient symbol found in many religious traditions. The winding path into the center and back out again is a metaphor for the journeys of life and faith. Unlike a maze, which has many paths and is a puzzle to solve, the labyrinth is a single path in and out, designed to quiet the mind for prayer and meditation.

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

Looking Forward to Fall
Presbyterian Women are looking forward to fall when we will enter into a study of the book of Hebrews. Study guides will be available later in the summer. We hope you will be able to join us, either on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm, or on the first Tuesday at 10 am, with a luncheon to follow. Please note that in September, plan on bringing your own lunch in a “brown bag,” since we do not know what the renovation impact will be at that time. Beverages will be available.

Have a blessed summer!

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

Fri.–Sun., June 16–18: Teilhard’s Mysticism—Spiraling into the Cosmic Christ
In an early essay, Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin provides us with a road map into the intensely mystical environment in which he lived and moved. He describes the stages of his mystical growth in terms of five concentric circles. They help us trace his growth and development as he plunged ever more deeply into the heart of matter and into the heart of God, where he found the radiance of a loving, cosmic Person—the God for evolution. Through input, prayer, song, film, contemplative activities, and sharing, we follow Teilhard as he travels ever more deeply from Circle to Circle into the arms of the Cosmic Christ.

Registration and Retreat Hours: Registration forms are available online and on the Spiritual Life bulletin board. The retreat will take place on Friday from 6–9 pm, Saturday from 9 am–5 pm, and Sunday from 1–5 pm.

About Our Leader: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD
Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, is professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, where she directs the Interdisciplinary Honors Program and the Institute for Religion and Science. She is editor of Teilhard Studies and serves on the Advisory Boards of the American Teilhard Association as well as Cosmos and Creation.

Seeking Spiritual Direction?
Spiritual Direction is the term used to describe a relationship in which one person walks along the spiritual path with another: helping to listen for the movement of God in the other person’s life, and offering suggestions of practices or reading that may enhance the journey/the prayer life of the other.

As a part of her calling here at ELPC, the Rev. Callahan is available to provide Spiritual Direction for individuals in our faith family.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan at 412.441.3800 x41 or at MaryLynn@coh.net.
Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Linda Addlespurger, Director

Hope Academy PA Capital Performance
Hope Academy Theater Company (HAT Co) singers went to Harrisburg to perform during a rally to advocate for afterschool programs. Advocates from across the state—parents, program providers, youth, faith-based leaders, community and business leaders—came together to highlight the importance of afterschool programs in our state.

Hope Academy June Events for HAT Co Band
More details at HopeAcademyArts.com.

Three Rivers Arts Festival
Sun., June 4, at 4 pm
Point State Park

HAT Co Cabaret
Sun., June 11, at 3 pm
James Street Gastropub

“Things That Get Me Up In the Morning/ Things That Keep Me Up at Night”

WYEP Summer Music Festival
Sat., June 24
Schenley Plaza

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

Good News
• Join us in welcoming our new members who joined in April and May: EJ & Luisa Bonavita, Michael & Anne Marie Kuchera, Barbara Mutch, and Malini (Maya) Srinivasan.

• Congratulations to David & the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, who welcomed their son, Noble Martin Schoenewolf, on April 24.

• Congratulations to Darrell & Gloria Knopp, who are once again grandparents. Nathan & Jenni Knopp welcomed a baby girl, Harper Annabel Knopp, on April 24.

Thanks
ELPC’s pastors thank everyone who attended our All-Church Retreat from May 5–7. This annual event provides and excellent opportunity to share fellowship and fun with our faith family.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Doris Dick’s Aunt Kathleen
• Carol Chonoska’s brother, the Rev. Jeff Krehbiel
• Sonya-Marie Morley’s cousin, Wayne Sylvester
• The Rev. Miriam Chamberlain. Miriam was active in the life of ELPC, as a member of our choir, as well as a visitation pastor and guest preacher for our Morning Glory and Samaritan services.
• Chuck Knoles’ mother, Mary Lou Knoles

Save the Date to Celebrate
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on Thurs., Aug. 24 (not Aug. 17 as previously scheduled), from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard. Save the date and plan to share food and fellowship.

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities, visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE. For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.
Tour the Steeple, See the View

Enjoy spectacular views of the East End from ELPC’s landmark steeple on a guided tour led by ELPC member Tim VanFleet on Sun., June 11. Gather at the Hospitality Desk (Highland Ave. entrance) immediately following our Sanctuary worship service. Please wear appropriate apparel, including shoes and pants. Allow 30-40 minutes.

Hannah Price Photo Exhibition

Stop by the Second Floor Parlor daily from 9 am–7 pm, until Fri., June 23, to enjoy photos by Philadelphia artist Hannah Price. Her series, Cursed by Night, focuses on the world of darkness in which African American males are unfortunately restricted and too often cursed. Darkness can distort faces, causing people to be seen as threats or making them invisible. View these works and see how they challenge the power of night.

Calling All Graduates

We acknowledge that many people from within our faith family have graduated or will be graduating from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc. We would like to celebrate these achievements by honoring our graduates in our August newsletter.

Please submit the graduate’s name—along with any applicable degree earned and school attended—to Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x22 by Fri., June 30.