Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer months, we gather twice each Sunday morning—once in the Social Hall (renovation work permitting!) and once in the Courtyard (weather permitting!).

**Journey Prayer** time at 8:45 am, is a half-hour session with a few songs, an extended time for prayer, a reflection on the day’s bible passage, and Christian fellowship for mutual support and upbuilding.

Our **Summer worship** service at 10 am, provides a time for worshiping, singing, praying, and sermonic teaching for all ages. Additional seating is always available in the Music Room on the Third Floor.

This summer, strive to continue the good habit of gathering in church each week to praise and offer prayers to our gracious God and Creator.

Renovation Work Continues

ELPC’s renovation officially got underway on May 17. The initial stage involves removal of some asbestos and renovation work on the Ground Floor and Second Floor. During the entire summer, those areas will have restricted access as a new entrance is created on the Whitfield St. side of our church, and new offices and classrooms are renovated on the Second Floor. It is hoped that this stage of work will be completed by Sept. 1, in time for our Rally Day and fall church programming.

The next phase will begin in September and focus on renovation work along the First Floor north hallway (from our Highland Ave. entrance heading towards the Chapel).

Continue to pray for the workers and the church staff during this time of extra noise, dust, and disruption.

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**Sunday Services**

*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Journey Prayer** • 8:45 am  
Held in the Social Hall

**Summer Worship** • 10 am  
Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting; indoor seating available  
- July 2* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
- July 9 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
- July 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
- July 23 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
- July 30 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**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

**Explore Your Spiritual Life**

**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.

**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.

**Mindful Thursdays**  
Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm  
Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room for Qi Gong at 6:30 pm, led by Linda Harrington. Then we will experience Mindfulness Meditation from 7–8 pm, with Susan Spangler. Those who are new and those with experience are heartily welcome.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Life is full of unintended consequences, both good and bad. We’ve all had times of serendipity and grace, in which a chance meeting bears rich fruit in the future. Think of those moments when you bump into someone at a store or on the sidewalk, and from that conversation a special blessing later comes your way—a new job opportunity, reconnecting with an old friend, a word of advice that in hindsight makes all the difference in the world. We consider those moments as “lucky breaks” or “chance encounters,” yet it is always appropriate to look for God’s fingerprints in the seemingly mundane events of daily life.

In the same way, we sometimes make decisions today that end up unleashing a host of negative, unintended consequences tomorrow. We give in to an impulse purchase that unknowingly leads to a serious string of bank overdrafts and financial problems. We jump to a conclusion based on incomplete information and set in motion unfortunate events like broken friendships or lost jobs. I recently read how in 1958 Chairman Mao was concerned about the infestation of rats in Chinese granaries. So he encouraged people nationwide over a two-day period to kill every fly, rat and sparrow they could find. The campaign celebrated the death of almost 1 million rats and 1.4 million sparrows. Unfortunately, the sparrows didn’t just eat grain; they also ate a wide range of pests. With their predators removed, these pests ended up destroying the next year’s grain harvest, which led to the death by starvation of millions of people.

We will always act on incomplete information and our actions will always have unintended consequences, both good and bad. We never have absolute certainty before making any decision, nor can we foresee the “ripple effect” that will flow out from the individual choices we make this day. An important daily discipline is to remind yourself that God is near at all times. That awareness can help you keep your “spiritual senses” sharp, so that you can perceive both the times God is moving you in a faithful direction or when God is sending you warnings about a dangerous path you’re on. God’s grace is manifest both in unexpected joys and in hints and “spirit whispers” that redirect you from bad inclinations. But to be aware of both the positive nudges and the warning intimations, you need to follow the advice of Psalm 46:10—“Be still and know that I am God!”

Each of us is a special child of God, beloved by our Lord and Savior. Learning to listen to the still, small voice of God is an important spiritual discipline. Take time to look around each day, giving thanks to the God who is ever near. Hopefully, prayerfully, all the unintended consequences in your life will be positive ones—fruits of a spirit open to the providential leading of our loving God.

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

Tues., Aug. 8: Summer Service and Fellowship
ELPC is providing dinner for the Open Hand Ministries Circles group! We are seeking people to donate salads, side dishes, and desserts, as well as to help serve the meal. This is a great opportunity to support and meet the OHM families who are preparing for home ownership.

If you are available to donate food and/or help serve dinner, contact Henry Petrilli at hlp615@gmail.com or Pastor Patrice at 412.441.3800 x0.

Pastor Patrice is Off to Malawi for Mission Work
Pastor Patrice will be traveling as a member of the Pittsburgh Presbytery delegation to Malawi from July 10–25.

Please keep Pastor Patrice and the entire group in your prayers. We look forward to hear how God is at work in Malawi upon her return.

Mission Board Committee’s Summer Film Festival

Sun., July 9: The Secret Life of Your Clothes
Hosted by the Neighbors Committee | 1 hour

In this revealing film, charismatic paralympian Ade Adepitan tells the fascinating story of the afterlife of our clothes. He follows the trail to Ghana, the biggest importer of our castoffs, where thousands of tons of our old clothes arrive every week. Ade meets the people who make a living from our old clothes, from wholesalers and markets traders to the importers raking in more than the average yearly wage in a single day!

Sun., July 16: A Justice that Heals
Hosted by the Justice Committee | 56 minutes

This documentary explores the aftermath of the senseless murder of 19-year-old Andrew Young by 18-year-old Mario Ramos. It was one of 90 homicides in Chicago that month and, in many ways, was nothing unusual. But, the events that followed were anything but typical. Moving between interviews with Andrew’s family, Mario, his parents and pastor, this documentary reveals the human journey to find redemption and a form of justice that heals.

Sun., July 23: Locked in Box
Hosted by the Justice Committee | 24 minutes

This award-winning short documentary follows the stories of individuals held in the U.S. Immigration detention system and those who visit them. The film traces the lives of individuals who fled their homelands in search of safety and freedom only to end up in U.S. prisons under a mandatory bed quota system run by Immigration Customs & Enforcement (ICE). Since the 1990’s there has been a massive expansion of the immigration detention system up to 34,000 immigrants in detention on any given day in approximately 200 different facilities, many of which are for-profit prisons. “Locked in a Box” helps strip away the political rhetoric to see the human cost of detention.

Sun., July 30: The Brainwashing of My Dad
Hosted by the Peace Committee | Abbreviated version

This documentary film directed by Jen Senko about the transformation of her father, Frank who was originally a “nonpolitical Kennedy Democrat”, but changed into a political Republican since the 1980s. On her father’s three hour or more commute to his place of employment, he listened to talk radio about Republican issues. Senko believes that the talk shows started the change in her father’s personality. The documentary includes Matthew Modine as the narrator and also features Noam Chomsky and Jeff Cohen. British doctor Kathleen Taylor examines how the media changed Frank’s mind, and the minds of people that are similar to him.
Join the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is looking to expand! The time commitment is minimal—starting with a kickoff meeting in August and culminating in November on Stewardship Sunday. For details, contact Elaine Bellin at embellin@gmail.com.

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 provided.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

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. 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.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., July 7: First Friday @ Prayer Walk 7 pm

We will begin and end at ELPC, but spend the rest of our time doing a prayer walk all over the city. While we will ride together to experience, learn about, and pray over different parts of our hometown, we also will do some recreational and contemplative walking. Come ready to walk and pray!

Sat., July 15: Progressive Lunch and Discussion leaving ELPC at 12 pm

We will rotate locations for different courses of our one unified meal. At each location, someone will lead a discussion topic for the group. Consider hosting a course at your place (appetizers, salad, main course, or dessert) or leading a discussion topic for the group at one of the four locations. The church van will leave from ELPC providing a ride for all.

Please RSVP to Wil by Sun., July 2, with the following information:

• For hosting a course: your address and preferred meal course.
• For leading a discussion topic: your discussion topic & the course in which you’d prefer to discuss the topic.

Sat., July 29: Cinema in the Park: The Good Lie meet at ELPC at 7 pm

Gather at ELPC or meet at Observatory Hill so we can share a fun summer Pittsburgh tradition—a free outdoor movie in Riverview Park on the Northside! Learn more at Pittsburghtpa.gov/citiparks/cinema-riverview.
Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Fri., July 14: Hope Academy Teaching Artists to Perform 7 pm

Join us for an evening of flute music featuring Hope Academy teaching artists, as we welcome Brittany Trotter (pictured left) and say goodbye to Kristine Rominski (pictured right). Laura Carmichael will accompany on piano.

ELPC People

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

Good News

• Congratulations to Quinn Poppy Seif, daughter of Paul Seif and Sharla Yates, who was baptized on June 4.
• On May 21, students who had completed third grade were recognized and presented with Bibles from the Christian Education Committee.

The third graders are: Sam Bard, Travis Castle, Annie Cowan, Marley Ervin, Kamin Little, Tatum Marks, Tallulah Rhodes, Quinn Seif, Elijah Stanton, Brooklyn Sykes, Emmaline Thompson, Gianna Watling, and Juliette Young.

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Mark Krauland’s mother, Dolly Krauland
• Chris Wharton’s grandfather, Archie Wharton
• Fran Zalewski’s brother, Joseph Zalewski

Better Choices, Better Health Workshop Recap

After six weeks together, participants in the Better Choices, Better Health Workshop series learned and grew together! The filled class shared positive feedback about their experiences on how to lead more intentionally healthy lives. The class was provided locally by Vintage, Inc.

Participants are planning a reunion in September. Thank you to all who attended and invested in yourself and one another!
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. 24, from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard. Save the date and plan to share food and fellowship.

Visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE to learn more about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities. For more information or to ask questions, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x14.

Celebrate Pride this Summer
All people are invited to celebrate pride this summer with our LGBTQ Ministry! Join us for:

- Spiritual Gathering at ELPC on Sun., July 16, at 11am
- The Allegheny County Bar Association’s LGBT Rights Committee’s Legal Forum will be held on Thurs., July 20
- Black Pride Pittsburgh Family Game Day will be held at ELPC on Sat., July 29, from 1–5 pm

Interested in Getting Involved in Our LGBTQ Ministry? 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.