**October: A Month of Mission**

### Sun., Oct. 1: Anti-Racism Sunday

The Rev. Dr. David Esterline, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will be our guest preacher at Sanctuary worship. The Peace and Global Witness Offering also will be received, which supports local, mid-council, and global peacemaking efforts—every dollar is utilized to realize God’s kingdom on earth.

### Sun., Oct. 8: Returning Citizens Sunday

Our worship services will have a special focus on returning citizens—those individuals who are returning to society following incarceration. The Justice Committee also will provide a program on welcoming and supporting these individuals at ELPC, featuring a post-release leader from Foundation of HOPE, a returning citizen mentor from ELPC, and a young man recently released from Allegheny County Jail seeking a faith community as a key part of his re-entry. A light lunch will be served.

### Sun., Oct. 15: Full-Inclusion Sunday

The Renaissance City Choir will be our guest musicians during Sanctuary worship. Then at 2 pm, join ELPC and other faith communities at the annual Circle of Faith. See page 8 for more information.

### Sun., Oct. 22: Children’s Sabbath Sunday

This year’s theme is: Moving Forward with Hope: Love and Justice for Every Child. An advocacy opportunity will be available after Sanctuary worship.

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**Celebrating Reformation Sunday**

On the last day of October, 1517, Martin Luther set in motion the Protestant Reformation when he nailed his 95 Theses onto the cathedral door in Wittenberg. That act of theological challenge led to the church movements that birthed the Protestant churches, including the modern Presbyterian Church.

While our roots lie more with Swiss Reformers like Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, the 500th anniversary of Luther’s historic act will be celebrated around the world on Sun., Oct. 29. During Sanctuary worship, we will remember our Reformation roots and celebrate through word and music the legacies of Luther, Calvin, and so many other people of faith. Join us for a special service with bagpipes, readings, and commemorative celebrations.

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**Sunday Services**

*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**

*Theme: Tolerance*

- Oct. 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Oct. 8 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Oct. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Oct. 29 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**

- Oct. 1* Rev. Dr. David Esterline
- Oct. 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Oct. 22 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Oct. 29 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

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**Blessing of the Animals**

All are welcome to join us for a Blessing of the Animals service on Sat., Oct. 7, 4 pm, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu. Please bring your animal friends to this special service, which will be held on the steps at the Sanctuary entrance on Penn Ave. In the event that your pet cannot be there, consider bringing a toy or other item to be blessed.

There also will be a time of remembrance for those pets who are no longer with us.
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

It is worth remembering that most of the things that rule our lives are things we cannot see. Scientists remind us that we are surrounded by magnetic fields, electric currents, radio waves, and the universal force of gravity, which are invisible yet omnipresent in this world. Psychologists point out that interior thoughts, passions, tastes, moods, morals, and decision-making processes also do their work invisibly within our human minds and souls. In so many ways, the invisible world governs the visible world like a shadow government, hidden out of sight within each of us individually and all of us collectively.

Most unseen forces do their work in the present moment. Gravity causes the apple to fall right now. Electromagnetic waves move through us each moment, just as our minds constantly process ideas, thoughts, and emotions in real time. But it is worth noting that some invisible things are focused on the future. And the most important one in this category is the invisible power of hope.

Hebrews 11:1 famously defines faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hope is a key component of faith. It is an assurance and conviction, a power and energy active within us as we look toward the horizon of what is yet to come. Hope energizes us now by allowing us to envision how things ought to be: if not right now, then in the immediate future. It is the invisible image of what we hope for our family and all of God’s creation—which even though unseen, gives us the clear idea of what needs to be done today for the sake of tomorrow.

Christian hope is a powerful force. It is the spirit behind our upcoming mission-oriented worship services during the month of October. We hope for an end to racism, a spirit of reconciliation and welcome for people exiting the criminal justice system, legal safeguards for children and LGBTQ people of all ages, and a renewed commitment to being an inclusive society able to navigate the needs of citizens and immigrants alike. Our hopes allow us to compare what is against what should be, ever guided by the example of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. And as scripture reassures us, faith, hope, and love all abide, therefore we trust the Lord as we walk by faith, if not by sight.

Unseen powers are at work in your life. In your moments of prayer and quiet reflection, open yourself to the invisible, grace-filled activity of God. As you picture what you wish for yourself and those you love, shape your actions today around the mental image Christ has given you of what is to come. Let everything be done in a spirit of hope. For although it may be invisible, it is one of the strongest forces this world has ever seen!
Mission Matters
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

Sat., Oct. 14: Focus on the Environment with a Tour, Hike, and Picnic 11 am
Join us for a tour of Frick Environmental Center—a net-zero energy building that earned LEED Platinum certification. Bring a bag lunch and after the tour we can walk in the park and have fun. We will plan this event for rain or shine, so dress appropriately. RSVP to Linda Harrington at linda0144@gmail.com.

Sat., Oct. 14: Reel Q: LGBT Film Festival at Harris Theater 2:30 pm
The Justice Committee is sponsoring a film called Saturday Church. After the unexpected death of his father, Ulysses, a shy, gender-nonconforming teen, faces a sudden onslaught of painful realities at home. In this coming-of-age drama, Ulysses flees to New York City and finds an inclusive gathering of trans and queer youths who shepherd him into the sanctuary that is Saturday Church. For more information about the film and tickets, call Carol Chonoska at 724.272.9722.

ELPC Session Updates
At its recent meetings, the Session:
- Endorsed Michael Ball’s request to be moved from inquirer to candidate in the process of seeking ordination in the PC(USA);
- Heard how Pittsburgh Presbytery concurred with ELPC’s request to explore a bridge loan mortgage from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program;
- Made preparations for another large class of new members and friends to be welcomed on Oct. 22; and
- Learned about timing of the next stages of our renovation project, especially as it relates to the finishing of the Ground Floor work and the commencement of First Floor north hallway renovations.

Stewardship Campaign Set to Kick Off
Anticipating | Waiting | Expecting | Hoping | Planning | Believing

We, as Christians, are called to “Wait for the Lord,” and we “shall see the goodness of the Lord” (Psalm 27: 13–14).

ELPC’s 2017–2018 Stewardship Campaign is embracing the concept of anticipation. We await all that our church can be as we watch the remodeling of our building. We look forward to the many acts of God’s grace that will bear fruit in our lives. Even so, we know at times there will be strains on our finances and changes to our plans as we travel into our collective future.

Budgeting is an act of faithful anticipation. We consider the costs of enabling our church to serve our members, friends, and the greater world. We use all of the available information so that we can plan finances responsibly and sustainably. Then we open our hearts to faith. We believe that our congregation members will plan for ELPC’s financial needs and follow through on their pledges. We believe that we will be faithful in facing any surprises that arise. Most of all, we have faith that God, loving parent of us all, will be with us and guide us on our journey.

We thank those who have pledged in the past. Your generosity is truly part of what makes our church so effective in its varied ministries. For the coming year, we set a goal of increasing our overall stewardship pledges by 10 percent. If you have not pledged previously, now would be a wonderful time to consider doing so. Although we are grateful for financial gifts that come in any form, the pledges allow us to budget more responsibility and plan for an unknown future. We will be taking less money from our endowment next year, so the requested increase in giving will help cover this adjustment and fully fund our 2018 ministry programs.

On Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 12, plan to bring your completed pledge form to worship. We hope that you will prayerfully consider the request to increase your pledge in anticipation of a bountiful future.

We thank each of you—members, friends, guests, staff, volunteers, contractors, and builders—for all that you bring to our church. Each gift is unique; each contribution is appreciated. As we move together as God’s people, we do so filled with a great anticipation of God’s continued bounty, grace, and love.

Meet Kalyn Stevwing
Please welcome Kalyn Stevwing, our new seminary intern. Kalyn is currently in her third year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and this will be her second internship, after previously interning at a small church in the Mon Valley.

A native of Tarentum, Pa., Kalyn earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa. Prior to attending seminary, Kalyn served as a young adult volunteer for two years through the PC(USA) in New Orleans and South Korea. Kalyn also recently became engaged to Felix, a fellow seminary student.

Make sure to introduce yourself and welcome Kalyn to our faith family.
Combined Adult Class  Chapel  
Oct. 1: Race, Racism, and White Privilege  
led by the Rev. Dr. David Esterline
As Americans, we live in a system in which white people automatically receive benefits and privileges—such as safety and healthcare, wealth and longer lives—that other Americans, people of color, do not receive. By defining the basic aspects of this system we all live in, we will develop a clearer understanding of race and racism, gain some language so that we can talk about it more easily, and discover new resources and tools. We will become less afraid of talking about race and the privileges that those of us who are white have as a matter of course in our society.

Contemporaries  Harambe Room
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle
Oct. 8: Our Sins and Evil
Carolyn Russ will lead us as we conclude our series on the Lord’s Prayer by examining Matthew 6:12–13 and tackling the petitions dealing with forgiveness and trials/evil.

Oct. 15: The Four Freedoms: Religion  Part 1
In January 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt identified four fundamental freedoms that people “everywhere in the world” ought to enjoy—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Professor Ron Stone will lead a four-week series on the theological and ethical basis for these freedoms in light of the current political environment. We will begin with consideration of the freedom of religion.

Professor Ron Stone will discuss what “freedom of speech” means in an era of fake news, disputes over racist symbols, and attempts to define and ban hate speech.

Oct. 29: The Theology of Martin Luther
We will mark the 500th anniversary of the promulgation of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses with an overview of his theology.

Soul Food  Third Floor Music Room
Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu
Oct. 8–29: A discussion of chapters two and three of Everything Belongs, by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

Young Adults  Room 343
Facilitator: Wil Forrest
Oct. 8–29: Combined Classes with Senior High Youth
Together, we will focus on the topic of race as we study the Word and build relationships with senior high youth—our future young adults.

Journey with Scripture  Second Floor Library
Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin
“Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob”—Psalm 99:4. Join us as we seek to understand God’s love of justice and equity: through the journey of the Israelites in the wilderness, psalms of praise and confession, parables of Jesus, and the apostle Paul’s encouragement to new followers in Christ.

Seekers  Chapel
Facilitator: Gwen Puza
Oct. 8: Caring for PTSD and Other Mental Health Issues Among Refugees and Immigrants
Sarah Mauskapf and Carrie Richardson, of the Catholic Charities Refugee Program, will tell us about their programs that address the mental health issues that refugees and immigrants are facing. If you watch TV showing the war-torn homes that they are escaping from, it is no wonder that they would have mental health issues such as PTSD.

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Pastor Patrice will tell us about her experiences from her recent trip to Malawi, including the warm hospitality, ministering to the sick and disabled, and witnessing the Spirit of God among the Malawians.

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Oct. 22: Ahmadiyya, a Different Kind of Islam
Women from the Ahmadiyya Muslim community (of Wilkinsburg) will tell us about their beliefs and how they differ from other Muslim sects. They believe in a messiah and have been persecuted by other Muslims.

Oct. 29: Martin Luther and His Theses  Part 1 of 3
Five hundred years ago, on Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. This is regarded as the birth of the Reformation. How did this one act of defiant exasperation 500 years ago so drastically alter relations among Christians and understanding of the mysteries of faith?

Dr. Peter Gilmore, a university history lecturer and elder at Sixth Presbyterian, will tell us how the Reformation led to a fundamental division within the Western Church.
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Fri., Oct. 13: Tween Mini Golf 6–7:30 pm
Youth in grades 4–6, and their friends, are invited to come have dinner and play mini golf around ELPC.

Sun., Oct. 15: Circle of Faith 2–2:30 pm
Youth are invited to participate in Pittsburgh’s annual Circle of Faith. See page 8 for more details.

Fri., Oct. 20: Tween Mini Golf 6–7:30 pm
We will gather at this local hot spot (300 39th St., 15201) for some good drinks and good conversation. Bring money to try some of the house beverages and an engaging question for the group to discuss. Learn more about the venue at ArsenalCiderHouse.com.

Sun., Oct. 22: DG2! @ ELPC 12:30–3 pm
Doing Good Together!—a service based partnership with youth at Rodef Shalom—is starting back up. Youth in grades 4–12 are encouraged to come and serve in a variety of ways, make new friends, and have fun together—all while exploring this year’s theme of Building Together. Lunch will be served.

Confirmation Class Notes
ELPC will offer Confirmation Class for students in grades 8–9 (or older). Class will meet monthly and students will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Sun., Oct. 1: Confirmation Class Informational Meeting 12:15 pm
Students and parents should join us for this meeting, which will include lunch. RSVP to Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x122.

Sat.–Sun., Oct. 28–29: Confirmation Class Overnight Retreat
We will begin Confirmation Class with an overnight retreat at ELPC from Saturday, 3 pm, until after Journey worship on Sunday. During our time together, we will ask the question “Who Is God?” and discuss the three persons of the Trinity and our ability to relate to God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., Oct. 6: First Friday @ Arsenal Cider House 7 pm
We will gather at this local hot spot (300 39th St., 15201) for some good drinks and good conversation. Bring money to try some of the house beverages and an engaging question for the group to discuss. Learn more about the venue at ArsenalCiderHouse.com.

Our Young Adult Ministry is for you, and your friends are always welcome too! For details, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

Cathedral Concerts to Begin in November

The seventh season of our Cathedral Concerts series will kick off with performances by:

♫ Essence of Joy from the Pennsylvania State University will join the ELPC Chancel Choir to perform on Sun., Nov. 5, 3 pm.

♫ Eastman at East Liberty, co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, will bring Ivan Bosnar, Amanda Mole, Caroline Robinson—three rising star organists from the Eastman School of Music—to perform on Sun., Nov. 19, 3 pm.

Visit ELPC.church/worship/cathedral-concerts to download a season brochure and to learn about supporting our Friends of Music fund.
Presbyterian Women  
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study
Mon., Oct. 2 7 pm | Tues., Oct. 3 10 am
Our next lesson is titled In Community with the Living God. We look forward to seeing everyone at one or the other of these get-togethers. Our Tuesday meeting will be in the Social Hall, and Monday’s will be in the McKelvey Room. Bring a brown bag lunch and your own place setting to the Tuesday session.

A Fun-filled Fall Social Planned for You
Looking for a fun way to start the fall season? PW has just the thing for you! All women and girls—especially mother and daughter pairs of all ages—are invited to our fall social on Sat., Oct. 21, 4:30–6:30 pm, in the Social Hall. Our theme is Celebrating the Stages of Women from Diapers to Golden Years.

There will be prizes for the youngest baby and the oldest mother, and more games and prizes will brighten the afternoon. Everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to PW’s on-going mission projects, the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and Living-in-Liberty, by donating a package of diapers, feminine care products, or adult incontinence products.

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

Thurs., Oct. 26: Faith, Science, and Our Spiritual Life 6:30 pm
Got questions? Not sure what to believe in a scientific world? You are not alone! Join in the conversation on the last Thursday of each month as we consider the possibilities for holding faith and science together.

2017–2018 SLC Focus: Sound & Spirituality
Our Christian life—like that of virtually every other faith—is saturated with sound. Bells call us to worship, we sing our praises to God, and we are moved by beautiful anthems with accompaniment by organ, piano, and other instruments. We clap our appreciation; utter aloud prayers and liturgy; and listen to sermons, teachers, and the scripture being read. We hear these sounds with our ears and reflect on them with brains; but the sound itself also has an effect upon who we are and what and how we believe. Scientists study the actual physical effects of differing sound waves on matter, and mystics have long acknowledged the impact of sound, including the sound of silence, on the open-hearted.

Join the Spiritual Life Committee this year as we explore the science and spiritual dimensions of sound in both our own tradition and that of other faiths. Our study begins on Sun., Oct. 29, following Sanctuary worship, as we are joined by Dr. Elaine Abbott, director of the Music Therapy department at Duquesne University, as she demonstrates the healing effect of music. A light lunch will be served.
LGBTQ Ministry
Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All people are welcome to join us at our next Spiritual Gathering on Sat., Oct. 7, 2 pm. Check the website and weekly bulletin for other fun events!

Also, plan on joining us for the Circle of Faith on Sun., Oct. 15, 2–3:30 pm. See page 8 for more info.

Interested in getting involved in our LGBTQ Ministry? Please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Get Involved in Our Fellowship Ministry
All Over the Burgh, ELPC’s meet-up group, is all about fellowship and fun by exploring free (or mostly free) events around town. It’s an opportunity for everyone to meet others from the ELPC faith family, while enjoying all the Burgh has to offer! Events will be accessible by public transportation.

Watch the weekly bulletins and website for upcoming events. Everyone is welcome!

Words to Serve by...
by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”—Anne Frank

“The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was, ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But the good Samaritan reversed the question and asked, ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”—Martin Luther King, Jr.

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”—Maya Angelou

“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.”—Barack Obama

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 x114.

Join Our New Planned Giving Committee
Here’s your chance to leave your mark for the next generation. Carolyn Russ and Tiffany Sudar invite you to an informational session on the newly formed Planned Giving Committee. We will meet following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Oct. 8 (room to be announced). Anyone who would like to learn more is welcome.

For more information, call Carolyn at 412.421.7630 or Tiffany at 412.527.8804.

ELPC People
If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x122.

Good News
• Happy belated birthday to ELPC member Lois Fetzer, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 17!

• Congratulations and best wishes to:
  – Cami and Jon Teacoach, who welcomed a baby boy, Bennett Teacoach, born on Aug. 17.
  – Nick and Laura Stelitano, who welcomed a baby girl, Francesca Joy Stelitano, born on Aug. 25.
  – Alex Conrad and Katelyn Haas, who were married on Aug. 19.
  – Thomas Hilpisch and Glenna Slaafka, who were married on Sept. 3.

Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Mary Ruth Johnson’s brother, Wayne Nelson.
• Tim Benedict’s aunt, Tina Kachmarek.
• Sonya-Marie Morley’s father’s first cousin, Janice Guthrie, and her father-in-law’s first cousin, John Foster.
“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.”

Building Closed
The ELPC office will be closed all day on Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Mon., Oct. 9.

Tour Our Majestic Tower
Join tour guide Regis Will following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Oct. 1, to climb the heights of our church’s landmark central tower. High above the bustle of the streets below, you will have an opportunity to view the entire East Liberty valley and beyond. The climb requires a bit of stamina and comfortable shoes and pants are suggested. The tour is not recommended for small children. Please gather at the information desk at the Highland Ave. entrance following worship.

Study Our Stained Glass
Join tour guide Steve Evrard following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Oct. 15, for an in-depth tour of the stained glass in our Sanctuary and Chapel. Designed and created by eight Pittsburgh stained glass shops during the 1930s, the windows tell the history of Presbyterianism and our faith, as well as many Biblical stories, including the amazing depiction of Revelations in the balcony. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.

Join us for the Circle of Faith
Join our church family and folks from other houses of worship for Pittsburgh’s annual Circle of Faith on Sun., Oct. 15, 2–3:30 pm, at the Schenley Plaza tent. The Circle of Faith is a public witness by various faith communities, designed 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 congregation’s diversity. Meet there or contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114 to ride in the church van, which will leave ELPC at 1 pm, and return around 4:30 pm.