Stations of the Cross
Join us for a very special Stations of the Cross Taizé service during Holy Week on Wed., March 28, 7 pm.

During this moving service, worshippers will be invited to walk through the final hours in the life of Jesus, as we walk from the Chapel to the Garth, Narthex, Sanctuary, Trinity Chapel, and back to the Chapel. This touching reflection on our own brokenness is an embodied prayer service, which will include readings, Taizé songs, silence, and ritual.

Sunday Services
*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
Journey Worship • 8:45 am
Theme: Wilderness
March 4* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
March 11 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 25 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am
March 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
March 18 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
March 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

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

Holy Week Hours
Monday–Friday • 9 am–9 pm
Saturday • 9 am–1 pm

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

Celebrating the Gifts of Women
Please join us for a special Sanctuary worship service on Sun., March 18, as we celebrate the Gifts of Women.

Each year, in partnership with Presbyterian Women, ELPC selects a Sunday close to International Women’s Day (Thurs., 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 “Pathway to Peace: Refusing to be Silenced.” In conjunction with ELPC’s Lenten sermon series on the “Voices of Peace,” Pastor Heather will feature the peacemaking work of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai. Our service will include women liturgists, ushers, and greeters.

Holy Week & Easter Services
The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death. Join us as we complete our Lenten journey with our Holy Week services.

Wed., March 28: Taizé, Stations of the Cross
• 7 pm, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Thurs., March 29: Maundy Thursday (Communion)
• 7 pm, led by the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Fri., March 30: Good Friday
• 12 pm, led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
• 7 pm, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sat., March 31: Saturday Vigil (Communion)
• 7 pm, led by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan and the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sun., April 1: Easter Sunday (Communion)
• 8:45 am, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
• 11 am, led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

The season of Lent is meant to be a time of preparation as we remember the powerful events around the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Typically, this preparation has taken the form of renunciations—of giving up something, fasting, and prayers of repentance asking God’s forgiveness. All of those have value, but preparation need not be limited to disciplines of renunciation. Preparation can also involve disciplines of affirmation.

An affirmation is stating something that gives us joy, peace, and happiness, as well as something that gives us a strong sense of gratitude. This can be done verbally in our conversations with one another (“I really like this about you…”) or less formally when we sincerely thank others for their acts of kindness. This also can be done silently, when we take a moment to picture in our minds those people whom we love and offer an inner word of thanksgiving for the ways they bless and enrich our lives. Affirmations can be spontaneous (“Thank God the sun came out at last!”) or part of our routines of daily prayers (e.g., morning, mealtimes, bedtime). And by addressing God as part of our affirmation, we surround this positive sentiment with a “faith-connection,” giving thanks to Christ for today’s blessings and the ways God gives us the strength to persevere and strive for the best for all people each day.

The columnist Nicholas Kristof recently wrote that amidst all the news about political turmoil and tension in the world, there are actually many things that are positive and worth celebrating. He noted that every day, the number of people around the world living in extreme poverty (defined as earning less than $2 a day) goes down by over 200,000 people. Every day, 325,000 people gain access to electricity and 300,000 gain access to clean drinking water. Fifty years ago, the majority of people globally were illiterate and lived in extreme poverty. Now fewer than 15% are illiterate and extreme poverty is being eradicated.

In the 1950s, the U.S. had legal racial segregation, epidemics of polio, bans on interracial marriage, gay marriage, and birth control. Fortunately, huge strides have been made to bring just standards and positive change in all those areas. In the last century, two-thirds of parents had a child die before age 5; but in recent years, the lives of more than 100 million children have been saved by access to medical care, diarrhea treatment, and vaccinations. The world is seeing remarkable progress in many areas of life. Yes, we still face serious threats in our environmental, social, and political realms. But because of the good news happening around us, we should be emboldened to act in the other realms of concern.

In the end of his letter to the church in Philippi, the apostle Paul wrote these words: “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8). That is not being “Pollyanna” or superficial. Paul is inviting us to explore a discipline of affirmation. If you follow his advice in Lent, you’ll be able to conclude this season with the biggest affirmation of all—the Easter good news “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Randy Bush
Mission Matters

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

Sat., March 3: Workday with OHM  9 am–3 pm
Volunteers of all ages and skills are welcome to rehab houses with Open Hand Ministries. Questions? Email Henry Petrilli at HLP615@gmail.com or Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com.

Sun., April 8: Climate Realities Presentation  12:15 pm
Global warming has been on scientists’ radar for nearly 40 years. In 1979, the National Academy of Sciences explained the phenomena of warming due to an increase in heat trapping gases, and outlined its potential negative consequences. Since then, scientists have been sounding the alarm, calling for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. We’ve been slow to respond.

More than 35 years later, we continue our dependence on the very practices that result in global warming: burning fossil fuels, wasting energy, clearing forests, and relying on industrial agriculture. Scientists now fear that without immediate and dramatic change, we will reach a tipping point with devastating and irreversible impacts. There are actions we can and must take—individually and collectively—to change the course.

Save the date and join us if you’re interested in learning more and engaging in further discussion. Our presentation and discussion will be facilitated by Lucyna de Barbaro and Susan Spangler, Climate Reality Leaders who were recently trained by Al Gore. The ELPC Justice Committee will provide lunch.

Sun., May 6: OHM’s “Home Run” Pittsburgh Marathon Event
ELPC is supporting Open Hand Ministries’ “Home Run” event with a Relay Team during the Pittsburgh Marathon. To participate (distances range from under 4 miles to 6 miles), email Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com. To raise money for OHM by participating in the other marathon races (5k, half or full marathon), contact Zoë Huelsman at zoehuelsman@gmail.com or 402.517.5080.

Last year, 76 runners and walkers participated in OHM’s marathon events, raising $30,000 to support its home rehab projects and Circles family development program. ELPC’s relay team raised more than $3,000 and had a lot of fun doing it!

Save the Dates: Facing Systemic Racism Series
Over the next several months, the ELPC Mission Board will present a special series of programs with guest speakers, informative activities, and movies. All programs include childcare and a shared meal. Visit ELPC.church for more details.

What Is Systemic Racism?
Sat., April 28 | 5:30 pm

Systemic Racism: A Historical Timeline
Sat., May 19 | 5:30 pm

Discovering Our Implicit Bias
Sat., June 9 | 5:30 pm

Special Film Series
Sundays in July | 12 pm

Uncovering Your Racial Autobiography
Sat., Sept. 22 | 5:30 pm

Acknowledging White Privilege
Sat., Oct. 20 | 5:30 pm

ELPC Session Updates
At recent Session meetings, the elders:
• Followed up on the good work from their Officers’ Retreat in January.
• Continued to consider ideas related to goals of congregational diversity, ministry emphasis on wholeness and community connections, and living fully into our renovated spaces.
• Looked ahead to the Congregational Meeting in late February, as well as the upcoming Holy Week and Easter worship services.
• Celebrated the reception of new members in February, and prepared to welcome new friends and members in March who are associated with our Journey worship service.

Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee
Did you know that more than 9 billion tons of plastic has been produced since 1950—and the vast majority of it is still around? Only about 10% of it is recycled and, for the most part, recycling only delays plastics’ inevitable trip to a landfill or ocean.

We also must remember that plastic is a petroleum product. According to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion shopping bags every year. An estimated 12 million barrels of oil is required to make that many plastic bags.

We must reduce our collective footprint, but the good news is that we all can take simple steps to minimize our plastic waste. For example: carry reusable water bottles, take reusable bags when shopping, ask that plastic cutlery and straws be left out of takeout, consider packaging when purchasing, and buy in bulk when possible.

At ELPC, committees and groups are now using dishes instead of disposable items. Many thanks to all of our volunteer dishwashers!
Contemporaries  Harambe Room  
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

**March 4 & 11: Psalms of Lament**
Our series on the Psalms continues as Pastor Heather leads us through an exploration of the Psalms of Lament. Worship often features Psalms of praise and thanksgiving—but how do we understand, learn from, and pray with the Psalms that give voice to feelings of grief, anger, alienation, and despair? Together, we will explore Psalms of Lament and discern their relevance to us today.

**March 18: Psalms of the Abundance of Creation**
Walter Brueggemann calls Psalm 104 “an extended celebration of the goodness and awesome character of the creation.” What does it mean that the Lord is “Creator?” What if we lived out the Psalmist’s vision of abundance in an anxious and despairing world? Mary Alice Lightle will lead us.

**March 25: Psalms and Jesus**
Jesus quoted Psalms more frequently than any other book in the Hebrew Bible. Carolyn Russ will close out our series on the Psalms by reflecting on how they informed and nurtured Jesus and his followers—and continue to inform and nurture us today.

---

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

“I the Lord am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage”—Exodus 20:2.

The initial liberating act of Exodus is paradigmatic for life’s journey with God towards a new identity and terrain. It is costly. Yet we may come to respond, “I trust in you, O Lord; You are my God. My times are in your hand.” Journey with scripture this Lent!

**March 4:** Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22  
**March 11:** Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21  
**March 18:** Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:1–12; Hebrews 5:5–10; John 12:20–33  
**March 25:** Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47

---

**Seekers  Good Samaritan Room**
Facilitator: Gwen Fuza

**March 4: The History of Christianity in South Korea**
Kalyn Stewwing will be with us to discuss her time as a young adult volunteer with the PC(USA) in South Korea. She will trace the history of Christianity and mission on the Korean Peninsula, as well as look at the church as it is today and what we, as American Christians, can learn and do to support our brothers and sisters in North and South Korea.

**March 11 & 18: Living with an Attitude of Gratitude**
Drawing from her latest book,  *Gratefulness: The Habit of a Grace-Filled Life*, Susan Muto will explain how to follow the commandment found in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, to give thanks in all circumstances. She will show why the attitude of gratitude is an absolute necessity to fight our daily battles against distress, anxiety, and discontent.

Susan Muto is executive director of the Epiphany Association and dean of the Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality.

**March 25: Christ and Culture in America Today**
Pastor Randy will lead a discussion around how we can understand the relationship of Jesus Christ to the challenges we face in our modern lives and American culture. As the season of Lent draws to a close and the final week of Jesus’ life is remembered in our Holy Week services, this conversation about Christ and culture will suggest the ways in which we can faithfully worship our crucified and risen Lord today.

---

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

**March: The Book of Joy**
We will continue discussing  *The Book of Joy*, with the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

---

**Young Adults  Room 224**
Facilitator: Wil Forrest

**March: Lenten Series**
These weekly Lenten sessions will begin with discussions led by young adults, with topics of their choosing. See Wil if you’d like to start a discussion and/or provide breakfast.

---

**Children and Youth**

**Young Children's Ministry/Infants–Age 2  Nursery Suite**
Pre-school/Ages 3–5  *Nursery Suite*
Kindergarten and Grade 1  *Room 240*
Grades 2–3  *Room 244*
Grades 4–5  *Room 227*
Junior High (grades 6–8)  *Room 239*
Senior High (grades 9–12)  *Second Floor Parlor*
Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sat.–Sun., March 3–4: 30-Hour Famine
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”—Jesus in Mathew 5:6.

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join the fun, prayer, games, worship, service, and laughter as we fast to raise money to support the work of Open Hand Ministries. Our fast beings Saturday morning at home (youth should arrive at ELPC at 3:30 pm) and ends with communion during our Journey worship service on Sunday. Breakfast will follow.

Contact Sara Hackett to RSVP or for more details. Permission slip, schedule, and packing list can be found at ELPC.church.

Sat., March 10: Tween Retreat @ Crestfield Camp
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to join tweens from around Pittsburgh for a retreat at Crestfield Camp. Learn about God’s Word and how it relates to everyday life, worship, grow as a church group, and have fun in God’s outdoor creation.

RSVP to Sara Hackett by Fri., March 2. More information—including cost, scholarship information, and permission slip—can be found at ELPC.church.

Sun., March 18: Confirmation Class 12:30–3:30 pm
We will explore our spiritual gifts and celebrate God’s call on our lives.

Save the Date for VCS
It’s not too early to start making plans for Vacation Church School, which will run Mon.–Fri., June 25–29, 9 am–3 pm! Children, ages 4–grade 5 (completed), are invited to attend as campers.

This year’s theme will be Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed. Jesus often taught in stories, called parables. We will hear these stories together and dig beneath the surface for the message of good news at the heart of each parable. Our days will be filled with worship, crafts, recreation, Bible study, and fun!

Calling All Volunteers
We need many volunteers to help make VCS a success! Youth who have completed grades 6–12 are invited to serve as assistants, and adults of any age are welcome to volunteer. We need folks who can serve all week and even those who can spare just three hours. We are looking for teachers and assistants, as well as people to help in the lunchroom, lead recreation, teach crafts, and help run special afternoon activities each day.

All volunteers will need to complete Pennsylvania criminal background and Act 33/34 clearance checks, and be trained in ELPC’s child safety policies.

Youth in grades 7–12 will continue exploring our theme: This I believe... Together, in our community of respect and trust, we will wrestle with tough questions.

Note: We will not meet during Holy Week on Wed., March 28.

Youth Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., March 2: First Friday @ Drum Circle 7 pm
Join us at First United Methodist Church (5401 Centre Ave., Shadyside) to experience a drum circle! Drumming is a great way to throw off the stresses of your day, connect to the spirit, and center into community. Just dive in and let the rhythms carry you. Bring your own drum if you have one.

Sat., March 24: Fishy Road Trip
Let’s hit the road together to see one of the most visited sites in all of Pennsylvania: the amazing Pymatuning spillway, where “ducks walk on fish.” Then we just might go out for a yummy fish sandwich. Contact Wil to get your seat in the van. We’ll leave ELPC at 1 pm.
Our Labyrinth Ministry Extends Beyond ELPC
You may be aware that a labyrinth is available at ELPC for prayer and walking on Mondays, 7 am–1 pm, and Wednesdays, 9 am–9 pm. But, did you know this ministry also extends around Pittsburgh and beyond? Here are just a few instances among the many times throughout the year we provide labyrinths for others to use:

- What began several years ago as a one-time use as part of Nurses’ Week at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, has become a quarterly partnership. On those occasions, patients and staff are able to walk the labyrinth, and their chaplains also incorporate it into their worship service.
- For a week every January, the Campus Ministry Association at Robert Morris University places our labyrinth in their Chapel, offering students and faculty an opportunity to pray with it.
- During Lent each year, the Presbyterian Church in Sharon, Pennsylvania, borrows one of our labyrinths for their food drive. They place donated canned and dry goods along the paths and encourage people to pray for those who are hungry.

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study
Mon., March 5  7 pm | Tues., March 6  10 am
Our next lesson is titled In Community with the Hope of the Future. The Tuesday session will be followed by a potluck lunch with soup and contributions from the group. Please bring your own place setting. See the bulletin for meeting rooms.

Register Now for Our PW Spring Retreat
All women of ELPC are invited to an overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock, Fri.–Sat., April 6–7. Our topic will be Race and Gender in our Current Age, led by Kimberly Gonxhe, director of the Metro-Urban Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We will gather Friday evening for dinner and return home Saturday after dinner.

For more details, see the bulletin or call Kay Shissler at 412.681.2047. Partial scholarships are available. Registration forms are available at ELPC.church.

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

Sound and Spirituality: Exploring Traditions
As we continue exploring the role sound plays in our spirituality, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering two interfaith programs in March that focus on sound and its use in worship and prayer. Both programs follow Sanctuary worship and feature a light lunch. Everyone is welcome. No prior experience or musical ability is needed. For complete details on the events and leaders, visit ELPC.church.

- Sun., March 4: Consciousness, Creative Expression, and Physical Morphology
  Michael Dodin will share insights and research into the special nature of sound as it relates to consciousness, creative expression, and physical morphology. You also will have an opportunity to share in musical meditations/prayers using the Names of God in the vibrations of the original biblical languages.

- Sun., March 18: Kirtan
  Ashley O’Hara will lead us as we explore Kirtan, a form of devotion found in the Bhakti tradition of Hinduism. Bhakti Yoga is all about love, service, and surrender to the Divine. Kirtan is mantra meditation that gets you out of your analytical mind and into your heart and into the present moment. Simply put, Kirtan is the practice of singing and chanting the names of the Divine. When we chant together, something magical happens. Experience it for yourself. Join us for an afternoon of Bhakti Yoga philosophy, chanting, and storytelling.
LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All people are welcome to our monthly Spiritual Gathering on Sun., March 11, 12:30 pm. We will share lunch and time together. Then at 3 pm, those who wish to stay will enjoy the Renaissance City Choir’s Cabaret (see article below).

For details or RCC Cabaret tickets, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.

Service Spotlight: Food 4 Thought Mentors

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

In February, we began the fifth year of our Food 4 Thought mentor program, which is a learning-support and enrichment program for youth in grades 5–8. This one-on-one program equips and encourages youth through the exploration and enjoyment of food, while also reinforcing skills that are known to be necessary for success in and out of school. The central themes of food and thinking come to life each week through the time and talent of our dedicated, caring mentors.

Thank you to our current mentors: Gina Anderson, Linda Benedict, Tanya McCleland-Todd, Kelly Meade, Nate Morley, Lisa Petrilli, and Judy Shackney.

Do you want to impact a young person’s life in a substantial and meaningful way? Talk with Wil Forrest about serving as a mentor or as a member of our meal team.

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities, visit ELPC.church/programs/ISERVE. For more information, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

RCC’s 2018 Cabaret @ ELPC: Sing it For the World

Renaissance City Choir—ELPC’s Artists in Residence and Western Pennsylvania’s only LGBTQA+ choral group—invites you to their 2018 Cabaret, Sing it For the World. The concert will feature music to inspire you to stand up, speak out, and sing out for yourself and others. For details, visit RCCPittsburgh.com.

Sat., March 3 & 10 | 7:30 pm
Sun., March 11 | 3 pm

Tucker & Libby Ferda’s Public Lectures at PTS

ELPC members Tucker & Libby Ferda will lead public lectures at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in March. For details, call 412.924.1345 or email ConEd@pts.edu.

• March 11–14: Discipleship
  Led by Tucker Ferda
  PTS.edu/Discipleship_2018

• March 16–17: Word Made Flesh
  Led by Libby Ferda and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Tony Norman
  PTS.edu/word-made-flesh-2018

ELPC People

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

Good News

• Dylan James Davwell, infant son of Lisa Davidson-Welling and Matthew Goebert, was baptized in February.

Thanks

• Presbyterian Women thanks the congregation for donating more than $3,000 to the 2017 Thank Offering.

• The Neighbors Committee thanks all of the volunteers who served with Open Hand Ministries in January and February: Sherry & Mike Anderson, Frank Bauerle, Michele Bossers, Tim Chaplin & James Digiorgio, Katlyn Dougherty, Carol & Bob Forloines, Allison Freeman, Kathy Kiewra, Jon Nelson, Henry Petrilli, Tiffany Sudar, Nancy Wright, the Petrilli Family, Elaine Phillips, and Emily Rosenthal.

Prayers

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

• Robert Brown, Jr., a former security worker at ELPC

• John Buckley’s mother, Blanche Buckley

• Mario Costanzo’s mother, Virginia Costanzo
Explore ELPC Below Ground
Follow tour guide Tim VanFleet in an exploration of ELPC’s lowest level following Sanctuary worship on Sun., March 4. Discover the huge boilers and see the blowers that feed air to our more than 7,000 organ pipes! Gather at the Highland entrance following worship and allow 30–45 minutes for the tour.

Tour the Tower, See the View
Join tour guide Tim VanFleet to climb the heights of our church’s central tower following Sanctuary worship on Sun., March 25. Gain insights into the history and construction of our landmark tower, as you ascend many sets of spiral stairs to enjoy unparalleled views of East Liberty and beyond.

Gather at the Highland entrance following worship. Please wear pants and shoes. The tour will take 45–60 minutes and is not ideal for small children.

Holiday Closures
The ELPC office will be closed all day on Mon., April 2, for Easter.

Cathedral Concerts Continue
Talented faculty members from ELPC’s Hope Academy of Music and the Arts will perform on Sun., March 4, 3 pm. These artists provide private instruction to hundreds of students throughout the year, and now, it’s their turn to take the stage and showcase their skills!

The performance is free; a freewill offering will be received.

Save the Dates: All-Church Retreat
Mark your calendars for our All-Church Retreat at Crestfield Camp, from Fri.–Sun., May 4–6 (Pittsburgh Marathon weekend). Our theme is: We are the Church Together. Join us as we look at the Pentecost event and stories of the early church in Acts, while we explore what it means for us to be the church today.

Persons of all ages are invited to this intergenerational retreat, filled with fellowship, worship, service, relaxation, and time to explore our faith together.

Registration forms are available ELPC.church and in the Whitfield and Highland lobbies.