Officer Ordination and Installation

During Sanctuary worship on **Sun., April 22**, the incoming classes of ELPC elders and deacons will be ordained and installed to their new church roles. These officers will help coordinate the many ministries of our church—ranging from our educational and spiritual life programs to our mission outreach—serving young, old, new, and long-time members, guests, visitors, and community members alike. They will grapple with budgets, flesh out new initiatives, and faithfully seek to discern where God is leading our congregation in these changing times. Please keep them in your prayers as they fulfill these important tasks for our faith family and community.

**Elders**
- Isaac Degenholz (youth)
- Steve Evrard
- Nick Genger-Boeldt
- Todd Goss
- Brittney Krieger
- Nate Morley
- Scott Richardson-Eckes
- Tiffany Sudar
- Tim VanFleet

**Deacons**
- Trish Buben
- Peta Harrigan Cole
- David Cowan
- Beth Minnigh
- Sonya-Marie Morley
- Kira Mukogosi (youth)
- Tony Richardson-Eckes
- Erich Stein

Register Now for Our All-Church Retreat

Now is the time to register 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 at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) and in the Whitfield and Highland lobbies.

**Reminder:** There will be no worship services at ELPC on **Sun., May 6**. If you’re not attending our All-Church Retreat, consider visiting a local congregation for worship.

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**Sunday Services**

*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

**Journey Worship • 8:45 am**
**Theme: Reclaiming Our Spirit**
- April 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- April 8 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- April 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 22 Kalyn Stewwing
- April 29 Testimonies

**Sanctuary Worship • 11 am**
- April 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 15 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- April 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- April 29 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**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

**club one sixteen**
**Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm**

**club one sixteen** is our Wednesday night youth group for children and youth in grades 1–12. Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious home-cooked meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study.

Our schedule is as follows:
- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/ Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5:00 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
  - Older Youth: Bible Study and Gym
  - Younger Youth: Bible Study, Crafts, and Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

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East Liberty Presbyterian Church • 116 South Highland Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

What images come to mind when you see the word “web”? Most commonly we think about spiders weaving their silken threads in plants or under eaves. There is the iconic image of Charlotte’s web, spelling out words to save Wilbur the pig in E. B. White’s classic book. Webs are both things of beauty as well as things of interest, particularly in their ability to link together objects not normally connected. This is true both of literal spiders’ webs and metaphorical “connectors” like the internet’s World Wide Web.

Foreign policy expert Anne-Marie Slaughter recently wrote a book called “The Chessboard and the Web: Strategies of Connection in a Networked World.” She noted that for far too long, foreign-policy makers have acted like international relations are a giant game of chess. They have treated issues between countries as if it was a “zero-sum” chess game; either one’s pieces advanced and conquered enemy territory or one’s own realm was at risk from invading pawns, knights, and rooks. This two-dimensional approach to life means that things are literally black and white, my team vs. your team. And every decision either helps advance my foot soldiers to victory or acts to impede our nation’s goals.

By contrast, the reality of contemporary society is that humanity is now interconnected through a global network of industry, information, and technology. Only a portion today of the items sold in our grocery stores come from local, regional, or even American sources. According to Consumer Reports, very few products sold in the U.S. in certain categories, such as consumer electronics and clothing, are actually produced here. That need not be a bad thing; and it should be noted that American manufacturing jobs increased from 2010–2015 in many other industry sectors.

The point is that we live in a society that is more like a web than a chessboard. There are thin threads connecting us to others around us—a web of mutual interdependence that affects the things we buy, the health care we receive, the public safety we value, the energy we use, and the entertainment we enjoy.

All this is relevant in this Easter season when we consider how the good news of Christ’s resurrection was intentionally shared long ago. It wasn’t written on the clouds in order to awe all humanity into faithful submission. It wasn’t emblazoned on military shields so that armies could conquer their enemies in the name of Christ (although 300 years later, Constantine was tempted to try this approach). It wasn’t treated like a secret weapon to help us win the “chess match” of life. The good news of Easter was told to a group of disciples—women and men, moving through the city in the early hours of Easter, timidly gathering in an upper room behind locked doors, grieving followers of Jesus unsure what awaited them.

On Easter they became “thread-weavers,” sewing the good news into their hearts and then stitching it into the fabric of society around them—telling their families, friends, strangers gathered for Pentecost, the people of foreign lands far away. For centuries, Christ’s story has been a global web that connects us one to another—a message of hope that conquers all worldly despair, a promise of resurrection that counters all grief over death. Celebrate that God in Christ calls you into this web-making work. Your task is to live the good news, share the good news, and celebrate the grace of God’s web still going forth into all the world.

Randy Bush
Join us for Fellowship Hour on April 15

You may know that ELPC only serves Café Justo fair trade PLUS coffee…but, do you know why?

Join us for a special fellowship time in the Whitfield Lobby after Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 15, as we welcome Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado (pictured with their children: Cindy Yessenia, Anna Flor, and Nathan)—Café Justo founders and border missionaries. We will learn more about how Café Justo keeps families together and decreases the need for immigration.

Mission Matters

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

Sat., April 7: Workday with OHM  9 am–3 pm
Join us as we rehab houses with Open Hand Ministries. Questions? Email Henry Petrilli at HLP615@gmail.com or Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com.

April 8–22: The Climate Ribbon Project
The ELPC Justice Committee invites you to celebrate Earth Day by participating in The Climate Ribbon Project—an arts ritual to affirm our solidarity as we unite to fight against “climate chaos.” In early April, ribbons will be provided for you to write about what you love most in the environment and want to keep safe for others to enjoy. These ribbons will be collected and used in a processional during Sanctuary worship on Earth Day, Sun., April 22. Then, the ribbons will be on display during fellowship time, where you can read them and choose one or two to take with you as a visual reminder of our shared responsibility to care for our common home. Look for more details at ELPC.church and in the weekly bulletin.

Climate Realities Presentation on April 8

As we bear witness to intensifying fires and floods, storms increasing in fury and frequency, and species disappearing from view, we know that our common home—Earth—needs our collective care and action on behalf of all of God’s creation in order to provide a beautiful future for our children and grandchildren.

On Sun., April 8, 12:15–2 pm, we will come together in the Social Hall as a caring and committed congregation to look deeply into the realities of climate change and answer important questions. Do we need to change? Can we change? Will we change?

This Climate Realities Forum will be facilitated by Lucyna de Barbaro and Susan Spangler, climate reality leaders recently trained by former Vice President Al Gore. Come with your questions, open mind, and caring heart. A light lunch will be provided.

“In my dream
the angel shrugged
and said if we fail this time
it will be a failure of imagination
and then she
placed the world gently
in the palm of my hand…”
—Sandra Ingerman

Facing Systemic Racism

Throughout 2018, ELPC’s Mission Board will be presenting a series of events, titled Facing Systemic Racism. Discussions of racism often involve our personal experiences. What we may not realize is how racism in our social systems and institutions impacts our racial relationships. To tackle racism in our society, we need to acknowledge the systems in our society that create institutional racism and racial privilege.

Please join us for our first program on Sat., April 28, 6–8 pm, as we explore our topic “What is Systemic Racism?” We will be led Laura Mariko Cheifetz, deputy director of systems and sustainability at the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum.

We will share a potluck dinner together, beginning at 5:30 pm. Bring a side or dessert to share.

Mark Your Calendars

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
Note: Classes begin at 9:45 am.

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

Contemporaries  Harambe Room
Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle

April 8: These Living Stones Cry Out
Jerusalem is home to many of our oldest Catholic and Orthodox denominations, as well as several Protestant denominations. But, over the past 50 years of occupation, tens of thousands of Palestinian Christians have left the Holy Land. Tina Whitehead, an advocate for the Palestinian people, will talk about the significance of Jerusalem to the Abrahamic faiths and the recent decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

April 15: Presbyterian Faith-Based Investing
The PC(USA) believes that church investment is “an instrument of mission and includes theological, social, and economic considerations.” Dr. Ron Stone has been active in implementing our denomination’s socially responsible investment policies. He will talk with us about the concerns addressed by the policies.

April 22 & 29: Jesus and Women
Jesus had women disciples who traveled with him and helped to fund the movement. Jesus shaped his teachings to communicate his message as powerfully to women as to men. Class members will lead us as we examine Gospel stories that underscore Jesus’ elevation of women to a place of equality with men in the community he created.

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

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common”—Acts 4:32.

Jesus’ resurrection led initial followers to a new social imagination. Even today, we live in a Commonwealth (believe it or not). Join us for this and other Easter readings of a new life lived for common well-being.

April 8: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

Seekers  Good Samaritan Room
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

April 8 & 15: Jewish Mysticism: An Introduction to Kabbalah
April 8: Medieval Kabbalah  Part 1
Rabbi Doris Dyen, from the Reconstructionist congregation of Dor Hadash in Squirrel Hill, will be with us to discuss Jewish mysticism in Spain during the 11th–15th centuries.

April 15: Lurianic Kabbalah  Part 2
Rabbi Doris Dyen will explore the form of mysticism that arose among Jews in Israel during the 16th and 17th centuries, following their expulsion from Spain in 1492.

April 22 & 29: Meeting Jesus the Christ Again
April 22: Book Discussion  Part 1
Led by Dr. Ron Stone, we will discuss the book Meeting Jesus the Christ Again, by the Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, ELPC pastor emeritus. If you haven’t read the book, join us and learn what it has to offer.

April 29: Meet and Greet with Rev. Dr. Chesnut  Part 2
Everyone is invited to attend our class as the Rev. Dr. Chesnut presents major thoughts from his book, Meeting Jesus the Christ Again. He will highlight some of the theological conflicts between evangelical and progressive Christians, and where he sees the possibility of reaching common ground. Bring your book to have it signed.

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

April: 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

April 15: Breakfast with Café Justo Founders
Over breakfast, we will welcome Café Justo founders and border missionaries Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado. Come with your questions and be ready to learn.

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

Fri.–Sat., April 6–7: Mission Overnight
Youth in grades 8–12, who are interested in attending the Sr. High Mission Trip to West Virginia this summer, are required to attend this Mission Overnight. We will gather Friday night at 7 pm, to learn about mission, play group building games, and worship together. On Saturday, we will work with Open Hand Ministries and plan for our upcoming Mission Trip until 7 pm. Questions? Talk to Sara Hackett.

Sun., April 15: DG2! Good Deeds Day 12:15–3:15 pm
Students in grades 4–12 are invited to join Doing Good Together! (DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—to show acts of loving kindness by participating in Good Deeds Day. We will be assisting in the coordination of a classic 50s themed Senior Prom for the residents of Charles Morris Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Meet at ELCP in the Harambe Room for lunch immediately following Sanctuary worship. We will return at 3:15 pm.

Middle School: July 8–13
Youth in grades 6–8 will be venturing to Crestfiled Camp to participate in Mission Possible. We will complete mission projects in the community, participate in worship, and enjoy games and fellowship.

High School: Aug. 4–10
Youth in grades 8–12 will be travelling to Huntington, West Virginia, to serve with the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. We will be serving the local community by working on home repairs.

Summer Mission Trips
Visit ELPC.church or talk to Sara Hackett and learn more about our summer Mission Trips. Read about the requirements, costs, and expectations. Registration forms and deposits are due in May.

Attend VCS 2018
Registration is now open for our Vacation Church School program, 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 Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., April 6: First Friday @ Games with Friends 7 pm
Spend your Friday night playing games with friends at Quaker Meeting House (4836 Ellsworth Ave., Shadyside). Please bring a board game to share. Visit Quaker.org/pghpamm for more information.

Sat., April 28: YAM @ Art All Night
Join our group as we enjoy this annual Pittsburgh cultural event in Lawrenceville. More details about when and where will be available as we get closer to the date. See ArtAllNight.org for details.

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.
Opportunities to Explore Your Spiritual Life

Introduction to Gregorian Chant
Wed., April 18
Join us for our Taizé prayer service and remain afterward for an introduction to Gregorian Chant led by Justin Weilnau from Duquesne University.

Christian Spirituality & Sound
Sun., April 22
Dr. Edward Alan Moore will be with us to discuss Christian spirituality and sound following Sanctuary worship. A light lunch will be served.

Labyrinth
Mondays, 7 am–1 pm  
Wednesdays, 9 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. It is designed to quiet the mind for prayer and meditation.

Centering Meditation
Wednesdays, 9–9:20 am
Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room (Second Floor Parlor until renovations are complete) to start your day off with peace and joy in the divine presence!

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.

Qi Gong & Mindfulness Meditation
Thursdays, 7–8 pm
We begin with Qi Gong and move into meditation instruction, guided meditations, and practices for supporting mindfulness in our everyday lives, led by Susan Spangler.

Pastor Randy’s Teaching at PTS
During the current term at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pastor Randy will be teaching a “Church & Society” class to a large group of seminarians. This required course runs until late May. Some of the topics to be covered include the interplay of Christ and culture, economic justice, racism, technological changes, women’s issues, gender identity, and Christian faith in a global society.

When asked about this, Pastor Randy said that he “enjoys this opportunity to interact with future leaders of the church and emphasize how important it is to be prepared to speak pastorally and prophetically at all times.”

Presbyterian Women
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study
Tues., April 3  10 am  |  Mon., April 9  7 pm
Our next lesson is titled In Community with the Households of Faith. 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.

Membership and Outreach Committee Hosts Blood Pressure and Healthy Cooking Programs
Beginning this month, the Membership and Outreach Committee will be offering the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Healthy Blood Pressure for All program. This community-based, health-education program empowers participants to take control of their cardiovascular health by combining the AHA’s Check. Change. Control.® tracker and 412 Food Rescue’s Cooking Matters classes. Check. Change. Control. is an evidence-based, self-monitoring program focused on lowering blood pressure. Cooking Matters is a course focused on preparing delicious and nutritious meals on a budget with hands-on cooking, nutrition lessons, a grocery store tour, and take-home groceries each week.

Check. Change. Control. will meet twice-a-month for four months (on the second and fourth Wednesdays), and Cooking Matters will meet on Wednesday for six consecutive weeks. Meetings will be held in the Good Samaritan Room.

The first 10 participants who sign up will receive a free Cooking Matters class! In addition, 10 participants who show the best outcomes (drop in blood pressure, weight loss, etc.) will receive a $25 gift card at the end of the program!

For more information, contact Carla Coles at 412.661.1363 or crlcoles@aol.com.

Wed., April 11  | 10–11 am  
Wed., April 25  | 10–11 am

Cooking Matters
Wednesdays  | 11 am–1 pm  
(April 25–May 30)
Congratulations to the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt

Please join us in congratulating the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt, who was ordained into the PC(USA) at ELPC on Sun., Feb. 18. She is currently serving as pastoral fellow for youth and families at Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City.

As you may know, Ashley grew up as part of our faith family and has remained active in the life of our church, having authored many of our Christmas Pageants through the years.

If you missed Ashley’s ordination service or would like to watch it again, you can find it online at Facebook.com/pg/EastLibertyPresbyterian/videos.

Renovation Update

ELPC’s renovation work is rapidly drawing to a close. It is hoped that the work to create three new gathering and meeting spaces near the Highland Avenue entrance will be finished by late April. Plans are coming together for a celebration and dedication of the newly renovated church spaces, with events likely occurring in mid-May.

More information will be included in next month’s issue of Reaching Out.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All people are welcome to our monthly Spiritual Gathering on Sun., April 14, 1 pm. We will discuss the upcoming Pride events and share fellowship.

To ask questions or get involved in our diverse LGBTQ Ministry, email Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or call 412.441.3800 x114.

God created you. God loves you.
Be yourself.

You are a Host

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

One of the aspects that many of us love about ELPC is how we feel like a family. This sense of comfort does not just happen. An important part of feeling at home is being welcomed and acclimated to our environment. For our new members, an important voice of welcome is that of their host—a current member who can be a friend to a new member in transition while they learn about our church.

ELPC is a big place with lots of people, and we welcome about 50 new folks each year. Helping out as a host by checking in with a new member or sitting with them at a meal helps make our church feel much more welcoming. It is a simple task that means a lot to a new member. Please consider helping out! Contact Wil at wil@coh.net or 412.2441.3800 x114 for details.

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list or other service opportunities, visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

Prayers

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

• Mary Elizabeth “Liz” Alcorn
• Dominic Odom’s brother, Darryl Gunnison Odom

You are a Host

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

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The Art of Song
Our Cathedral Concerts season will continue on Sun., April 8, 3 pm, with a performance by singers from the ELPC Music Ministry. Celebrating the interaction of the visual arts with the vocal arts, our talented singers will take us on an international journey through art and song. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Hidden Stories in Our Stained Glass
Join tour guide Steve Evrard following Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 15, for an in-depth tour of the stained glass in our Sanctuary and Chapel. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.

Unparalleled Views from Our Tower
Join tour guide Steve Evrard following Sanctuary worship on Sun., April 29, 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. 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.

Save the Date: Fri., May 25 | 7:30 pm
Make plans with your family and friends for our final concert this season, titled Back to the Movies. The exciting performance will pair the Brass Roots and organist Edward Alan Moore with Pittsburgh Symphony trombonist James Nova.