

## Pentecost Renovation Celebration

Pentecost is the annual event in which we celebrate the birth of the early Christian church by remembering how the Holy Spirit inspired the first disciples. We wear red as a symbol of the fire that touched women and men that day and re-commit ourselves to sharing the good news of Christ.

This year, **Pentecost Sunday, May 20**, is extra-special, because we will confirm a group of young people and celebrate the final stage of our year-long building renovation project. The bulk of the work is finally done! While final tests and touch-ups are completed, we will celebrate the excellent renovations and improvements through special words, music, and events. Mike Tomaro and his jazz combo from Duquesne University will be with us during worship, and then there will be opportunities for you to tour the building, hear from hosts at different locations about the improvements, and offer your own prayers for God's architectural blessings.

Join us for this great day as we celebrate our past, rejoice in the present improvements, and look forward to beginning our 200<sup>th</sup> year of ministry in East Liberty!

## Welcoming Our Confirmands

During our Sanctuary worship service on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20**, we will celebrate the Confirmation of five youth who will join ELPC as adult members by baptism and reaffirmation of faith.



Many of these youth have been active in the life of ELPC for years—through Church School, Hope Academy, Mission Trips, **club one sixteen**, worship, and more. Together, they have participated in Confirmation Class during this past school year—an extended season of study, worship, prayer, and fellowship—investigating the tenets of our faith and exploring their spiritual gifts. As they

have matured in their faith, they discerned that God is calling them to the “ministry of membership” here at ELPC, and through their membership here to actively participate in Christ's church.

Please pray for and welcome these youth as they begin the next chapter of their faith journey at ELPC. Excerpts of their Statements of Faith will appear in the June issue of *Reaching Out*.

## No Services on May 6, Marathon Sunday

Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC is unable to offer worship services on **Sun., May 6**. If you are not attending our All-Church Retreat, from May 4–6, you are encouraged to support a local congregation for worship that day.

## Sunday Services

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

*Theme: New Harvest*

May 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 20 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

May 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

May 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 20 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

May 27 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](http://ELPC.church)*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

## Youth Sunday, June 3

Our Senior High youth will lead us during Sanctuary worship on **Sun., June 3**. This special service is a tradition at ELPC, as we celebrate the gifts of our youth, while praising God for the work of the Holy Spirit upon and through them. Our graduating seniors will share their faith stories and receive a blessing as they prepare for the next steps in their life journeys.

This year, students completing third grade will be presented with a Bible as a gift from ELPC, so that they might be nurtured in God's word.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



*The Cathedral of Hope*  
116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800  
Fax: 412.441.4422

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

### Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
*Pastor*

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
*Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and  
Minister of Taizé Prayer*

Linda Addlespurger  
*Director of Hope Academy*

Wil Forrest  
*Coordinator of Young Adult  
and Outreach Programs*

Sara Hackett  
*Coordinator of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministry*

Pamela M. Kimmel  
*Business Administrator*

Paul Martin  
*Facilities Manager*

Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Music Director and Organist*

Kalyn Stevwing  
*Seminary Intern*

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut  
*Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany  
*Music Director Emeritus*

## Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor*



Just about one year ago we officially launched our ELPC “Building our Future” renovation project. There was a short ceremony after worship, a time of prayer, and a cluster of doves released to celebrate this important event in our church’s life. Now the bulk of that work is completed. There are still details like “punch lists,” testing of new air-handling systems, hanging of pictures, and final cleanings to be done. But the project has been successfully navigated, generously funded, and patiently endured by staff and congregation members alike. Thank you!

From the beginning, this renovation work was intended to increase the sense of hospitality that greets anyone who enters our church building. Whether through new glass doors at three of our entrances, new meeting rooms to host community guests, improved restroom facilities, or enhanced lighting on the exterior of our church, this project succeeded in meeting the goal of Christian hospitality. We also wanted all the work to retain the architectural beauty of our church. The renovations needed to honor the “spirit of Gothic architecture” and any changes should primarily be small interventions, respecting the original intent of the 1935 builders, while bringing the facility up to current code and safety requirements. That goal also has been met.

Lastly, the majority of the work involved spaces where church staff works, church programs gather, and where community groups hold their events (as opposed to the worship spaces in our building). The guiding principle for these renovations was “long life, loose fit.” The hope was that our improvements would ensure the church’s rooms are able to accommodate a variety of uses—not just for today’s program needs, but tomorrow’s ministry opportunities. God isn’t done with ELPC yet! We need a building that can respond to the Spirit’s leading and the congregation and community’s needs well into the future. This goal also has been honored.

Now comes the fun part! Now we get to discern through prayer and conversation how to live into our renovated building. Committees are at work even now talking about how to organize the knowledge we’ve gained through this renovation work, so that we have a systematic plan for any future repairs and maintaining this wonderful structure. Subcommittees are working on things like artwork for the walls that reflects our diversity or fresh library resources being available in this age of both print and electronic media. And our Session and Deacons are continuing long-range planning, evaluating current ministries, and asking open-ended questions about what God would have us do next.

You are a big part of this next chapter. We are entering into the year just prior to our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We hope you will continue to invite friends, colleagues, and neighbors to join you at worship or attend an event offering at ELPC. We are thankful for your financial support of our ongoing budget and our special renovation campaign pledges. May this next season be one of expectancy, creativity, and faithful responses to the Lord’s leading of our church. How appropriate that our upcoming renovation celebration is happening on May 20, Pentecost Sunday!

*Randy Bush*

## One Member's Thoughts on Planned Giving

Planned giving is part of how ELPC members and friends help ensure our church's ministry can be sustained for generations to come. It can be done through remembering the church in a will or estate plan, or through other financial means that are described on the new "Planned Giving" pew cards in the Sanctuary. Here's one member's testimony about why he has remembered ELPC in his will.



“ Early in 2011, I relocated to Pittsburgh when my marriage failed. By spring, I was ready to go church hunting. ELPC was my second stop. My memory of a visit many years before was that the church ushers wore formal suit coats. Not this time! I was greeted by a couple of high school youth in ELPC sports shirts!

Pastor Heather gave a good sermon and we sang “Amazing Grace.” I decided to return and the next week Pastor Randy gave another good sermon. The people were friendly; I started to attend the Seekers Church School class. I became a Friend, and then a Member. I had found a church home.

Soon, I will retire and begin a new phase in my life. I have been both fairly fortunate and rather thrifty. Most of what I leave will go to my children. But some of it will be divided up among my favorite places—ELPC among them. The church may not be able to fund a whole new program, but still, it will be useful. And it pleases me to know that I will have helped the mission of ELPC. //

—Russ Walker

## Mission Matters

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

**Sat., May 5: 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](mailto:HLP615@gmail.com) or Emily Rosenthal at [EJR116@gmail.com](mailto:EJR116@gmail.com).

## Single-Use Plastic: Recycle, Re-Use, or Refuse

Single-use plastic packaging—such as disposable bags, food wrap, and bottles—accounts for about 1/3 of all produced plastic. However, less than 20% of single-use plastic is recycled.

According to studies published in *Science Advances*, the oceans have become a “plastic soup” because each year, millions of tons of plastic waste are carried into the water by polluted rivers or dumped directly into the water. As the wind and waves break the plastic into micro particles, toxic chemicals can be released into the water. The particles themselves are ingested by various ocean organisms and ultimately become more concentrated as they move up the food chain to the fish we eat.

### Simple Tips to Reduce Your Impact Now

- Giant Eagle will accept plastic bags to recycle at most of their stores.
- Many liquids can be purchased or stored in glass or metal containers.
- Some stores—such as the East End Co-op and Whole Foods—allow purchase of items in paper bags or containers you bring from home.

## Facing Systemic Racism

Our *Facing Systemic Racism* series will continue with our next program, titled *Systemic Racism: A Historical Timeline*, on **Sat., May 19**, 6–8 pm. We will be led by ELPC members Eddie Wilson and Sherry Anderson, who are part of the Anti-Racism Transformation Team of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

We will share a potluck dinner together at 5:30 pm. Bring a side or dessert to share. Childcare is available with prior registration.

## Upcoming Programs

### 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 | 5:30pm

### Acknowledging White Privilege

Sat., Oct. 20 | 5:30pm

## The Chapel Market Seeks Donations

The Chapel Market is requesting donations of new and/or gently used spring and summer clothing. Men's casual clothing is especially needed (no suits, please). Donations can be dropped off at ELPC at any time.



Volunteers also are needed. The Chapel Market is open on Mondays, 10 am–12 pm, and the first Thursday of each month, 5–7:30 pm.

For more information or to ask questions, email Linda and Harold Deiss at [deissl@consolidated.net](mailto:deissl@consolidated.net) or Pastor Patrice at [Patricefs@coh.net](mailto:Patricefs@coh.net).

# Christian Education

**Note:** Classes begin at 9:45 am.

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

## **Contemporaries** *Harambe Room*

*Facilitator: Mary Alice Lightle*

### **May 13: The Beatitudes: Righteousness, Mercy, Pure Hearts and Peacemakers** *Part 2*

What is righteousness, how do we respond, and what are the consequences? Class members will conclude our two-part study of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:6–12).

### **May 20 : Ask a Theologian**

Throughout the last year, we raised a number of important theological questions. What about “temptation” and “evil” in the Lord’s Prayer? What does it mean to say that scripture is “authoritative?” Pastor Randy will lead us as we wrestle with some of these issues.

### **May 27: Christian Contributions to Politics: Freedom and Resistance** *Part I*

Christianity has contributed two important ideas to Western political thought: 1) the responsibility of the state to respect the freedom of the individual, and 2) the responsibility of the people to resist a totalitarian state. What do these ideas mean for Christian political involvement today? John Burgess, James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead our discussion as we begin a two-part series.

## **Journey with Scripture** *Second Floor Library*

*Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Jan Lyle Irvin, and Kalyn Stevwing*

“Astonished, they asked, ‘how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?’”—Acts 2:7–8

At Pentecost, the witness to the risen Jesus begins with cultural acceptance and intelligibility. Foreigners in Jerusalem hear the gospel in their own language. To be born from the Spirit, is to perceive that the Kingdom of God translates differently to different people. Join us as we read about new perceptions and new worlds—even dare to enter them.

**May 13:** Acts 1:15–17, 21–26; Psalm 1:1–6  
1 John 5:9–13; John 17:6–19

**May 20:** Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34, 35b;  
Romans 8:22–27; John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

**May 27:** Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12–17;  
John 3:1–17

## **Soul Food** *Third Floor Music Room*

*Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu*

### **May: 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.

## **Seekers** *Good Samaritan Room*

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

### **May 13: Religion and the Media**

The Bible is filled with examples of how Jesus and his disciples used all means of communication in the ancient world to spread the good news. We are called to do the same. However, many people of faith believe the media’s coverage of religion is often distorted, even though they recognize its value as a tool for promoting ministries.

The Rev. Jane Duffield will help us to become informed consumers of religious news, explore why the media covers the stories it does, and learn how to work with the press.

### **May 20: Lessons from the Early Church**

A vibrant church is in a constant state of evolution. Yet, many churches in transition long to return to the “good old days” of the 1950s and early 1960s when sanctuaries were filled with people in their “Sunday best” and Church School classes were over-flowing with children. But, the churches in the 50s and 60s were far from ideal.

The Rev. Jane Duffield will reflect on how the utopian vision of the church found in Acts 2:42–47 serves as a better model for today’s churches as they seek to deal with the challenges of an increasingly secular world and their promise of the future as Christ’s body on earth.

### **May 27: Symbols, Icons, and Priestly Faith in America Today**

Pastor Randy will continue our conversation about church and society by discussing how symbols play an enormous role in our common life—especially as they relate to politics, national identity, and community stories. Think about the meanings we attribute to the pledge of allegiance, the national anthem, or the Statue of Liberty. This dynamic is present both outside and inside any church’s walls.

## **Young Adults** *Room 224*

*Facilitator: Wil Forrest*

### **May 20: Celebration and Prayer Time**

Over breakfast, we will celebrate graduations and transitions, and then end with some group prayer time.

## **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

## Wed., May 23: High School Mission Trip Meeting 5–7 pm

Youth in grades 8–12 who are interested in going on the mission trip to Hampden, West Virginia, Aug. 4–10, are asked to attend this meeting. We will be screen-printing t-shirts, planning morning devotionals, and choosing our meals for the week. Talk to Sara Hackett to ask questions about the summer mission trip.

Registration forms and deposits are due on **Wed., May 9.**

## Sun., May 27: Middle School Mission Trip Meeting 12 pm

Parents and youth in grades 6–8 (who are interested in going to Mission Possible at Crestfield Camp, July 8–13), are asked to attend this meeting. Lunch included. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Registration forms and deposits are due on **Sun., June 3.**

## club one sixteen

For children and youth in grades 1–12  
Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Our last day will be **Wed., May 9.** We will celebrate our year together with a picnic for youth and their families. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett so that we have enough food for everyone!



## Are You Ready for VCS?

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.

## Registration Forms

Registration forms for campers and volunteers are available online at **ELPC.church** and in the Highland and Whitfield lobbies. Questions? Call Pastor Heather at **412.441.3800 x121.**

# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

## Fri., May 11: (Not) First Friday @ KBOX Karaoke House 7 pm

Come sing the night away at KBOX Karaoke House (214 S Craig St.)! RSVP to Wil by Fri., May 4, so that we can get our own private karaoke room. Learn more at [kbktv.com](http://kbktv.com).



## Opportunities to Explore Your Spiritual Life

### 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. Unlike a maze, which has many paths and is a puzzle to solve, the labyrinth is a single path in and out, designed to quiet the mind for prayer and meditation.

### Centering Meditation

*Wednesdays, 9–9:20 am*

Start your day with the peace that passes all understanding. Join Jon Nelson in the Prayer and Meditation Room (Second Floor Parlor until renovations are complete) to sit in contemplative prayer. No experience is required. See what a difference it makes 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*

Susan Spangler leads us as we learn about Mindfulness Meditation and engage in this ancient prayer form together. Mindfulness is the moment-to-moment awareness of our experience with an accepting, non-judgmental, kind attention.

We begin with Qi Gong and move into meditation instruction, guided meditations, and practices for supporting mindfulness in our everyday lives.

## ELPC Session Updates

At their recent meeting, the Session:

- Met with and approved the incoming group of elders and deacons.
- Noted that of the nine new elders, five are “young adults” (younger than 40).
- Made plans for the Renovation Celebration on **Sun., May 20**.
- Continued conversation on how to engage with our neighborhood and how to highlight our church as a “center for wholeness.”

## Presbyterian Women

*Sherry Anderson, Moderator*

### The Book of Hebrews: A Cloud of Witnesses Bible Study

**Tues., May 1 10 am | Mon., May 7 7 pm**

Our final lesson this year is titled *In Community with all the Saints*. The Tuesday session will be followed by a potluck lunch with soup and contributions from the group. Please bring your own place setting.

## Spiritual Life

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

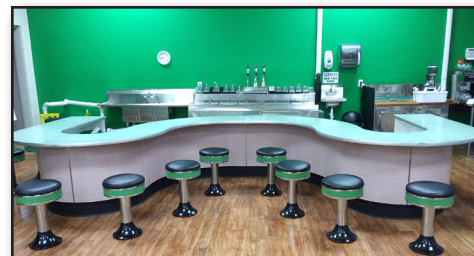
The Spiritual Life Committee regrets that the following programs have been cancelled. Please check for updates in the weekly bulletin.

- **Sun., May 6:** Buddhist Chant
- **Sun., May 20:** Pentecost Half-Day Retreat

## Your Unopened Medication Can Help Others

The Lost and Found Pharmacy and Soda Fountain is a tiny independent drug store in the Penn Hills community. It's a giant, though, in its uniqueness.

One of only four stores of its kind in the nation, Lost and Found is a faith-based, non-profit pharmacy that seeks to extend help to people with little or no health-care insurance. This includes seniors who fall into the Medicare coverage gap and find themselves temporarily without insurance help for costly, but necessary medications. Several tactics are used to keep prices low for everyone, while helping the most vulnerable, such as using generic products, never marking-up prescriptions, and reusing donated products.



Consider donating unopened and unexpired medications—both prescription and over-the-counter—that are in your medicine cabinet. You can be assured your unused medicine will be a blessing to a neighbor. There will be a box marked “Pharmacy Donations” along with more information about Lost and Found Pharmacy in the first floor office.

# LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

All are welcome at our monthly Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., May 27, 12:30 pm.** In addition, keep a look out for the *2018 ELPC Pride Guide*, which will be mailed to homes in May and available at ELPC. You are invited to choose how you'd like to witness to God's love this summer.

To ask questions or get involved in our diverse LGBTQ Ministry, email Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or call **412.441.3800 x114.**



**God created you. God loves you.  
Be yourself.**



(Top) Hope Academy of Music and the Arts chartered a bus to join the national March for Our Lives event on March 24, in Washington, D.C. (Bottom) The ELPC Justice Committee organized a group to represent our faith family in Pittsburgh's march at the City County Building.



## How are You Serving this Summer?

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

With so much happening throughout summer, now is a good time to look at your schedule and think about how you can fit some service in between vacations and working in your own yard. Here are some of this summer's opportunities:



- Witness to God's inclusive love at LGBTQ Pride events with your church family. Look for your copy of the *2018 ELPC Pride Guide* and **pick your event(s).**
- Get your hands dirty as you help our neighbors at workdays with Open Hand Ministries and Garfield Community Farm on the **first Saturday of each month, 9 am–3 pm.**
- Volunteer to help at our Vacation Church School program, **Mon.–Fri., June 25–29.**
- Celebrate your faithful work at the Summer Celebration of Service on **Thurs., Aug. 23.**

Visit [ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE](http://ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE) to read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list and other service opportunities!

## ELPC People

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

### Good News

- **Reagan Audrey Hoehn**, daughter of Michael Hoehn and Arika Steele, and granddaughter of Carol Hoehn, celebrated her baptism on April 15.

### Prayers

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

- Pam Walaski's mother (grandmother to Jason and Chloe Ferrante), Regina Bour
- The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan's husband, the Rev. Al Valentine
- The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy's aunt, Faye Johnson



*“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”*

## Memorial DAY

The ELPC office will be closed on **Mon., May 28**, for Memorial Day.

## Our Cathedral Concerts Series Goes Back to the Movies

The seventh season of our *Cathedral Concerts* season will conclude on **Fri., May 25**, 7:30 pm. The exciting performance will be titled *Back to the Movies* and feature The Brass Roots, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and Pittsburgh Symphony trombonist James Nova.

Invite your family and friends to enjoy what's sure to be a spectacular follow-up to last season's *Space Odyssey*! The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Look for details on our next season in the coming months!



## Climb the Heights of Our Tower

Join tour guide Tim VanFleet following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., May 27**, 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 Highland Ave. entrance following worship.



## Calling All Graduates

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



Please submit name, degree, and school attended to Gloria Knopp at [GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x122.