



# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

June 2018

## Help Us Celebrate God's Love for All



Pittsburgh Pride events are opportunities to celebrate and support Pittsburgh's diverse community of LGBTQ+ people and their allies. ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry members have prayerfully and thoughtfully selected several Pride events sponsored by different Pittsburgh

Pride organizations so that we might reach a wide audience. As people of faith, these are excellent opportunities for us to be a public witness to God's love and justice for all God's people.

All members of our faith family are invited to stand for love and justice this summer. Read about the events below and consider attending and/or volunteering. You're also encouraged to wear ELPC regalia at these events so folks know we are there. We hope to see you at Pittsburgh Pride!

Interested in getting involved in our LGBTQ Ministry? We meet for monthly Spiritual Gatherings, as well as other pride and fun events. Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114** to learn more!

### Delta Pride Booth

Sat., June 9 | 12–5 pm  
Sun., June 10 | 1–7 pm

Shared table with other inclusive Presbyterian churches

Contact Liz Gonda via text at **412.657.7823**

### People's Pride March

Sun., June 10 | 10:30 am–12 pm

Public march to support the diverse LGBTQ+ community

Contact Tony Richardson with any questions or to participate at [Overthepond\\_50@hotmail.com](mailto:Overthepond_50@hotmail.com)

### Pride on the Square

Sun., June 10 | 12–4 pm

Interactive family-friendly event

Contact Brittney Krieger at [Brittney.Krieger@bayer.com](mailto:Brittney.Krieger@bayer.com) or **908.723.5303**

### Delta Equality March

Sun., June 10 | 12:30–1:30 pm

March to support the LGBTQ+ community, ELPC van available

Contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x114**

## Youth Sunday, June 3

On Sun., June 3, our Senior High youth will lead us during Sanctuary worship. This special service is an annual 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 respective 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.

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Prayer • 8:45 am

*Theme: New Harvest*

June 3\* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

June 3\* Youth Sunday

### Summer Worship • 10 am

June 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

June 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

June 24 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](http://ELPC.church)*

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

God created you. God loves you.  
Be yourself.

## 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*



Columnist Paul Krugman once quipped that the federal government is basically an insurance company with an army. (That's because the non-military spending of our Federal budget is dominated by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid costs.) He went on to say that our state and local governments are basically school districts with police and fire departments. (Education costs make up more than half of the state and local workforce.) So we live our lives now surrounded by insurance companies with armies and schools with police forces. As people of faith, it begs the question: What will heaven be like?

Where we spend our money reflects our priorities. Clearly we value educating our youth and providing opportunities for people to better themselves through learning and training. We also value caring for people who are at risk by providing resources to help them in their retirement or with their ongoing medical needs. In the same vein, we prioritize safety, whether defined nationally through our military branches or defined locally through our police forces. Will those same three categories (education, caring for the vulnerable, safety) be important when we move from this life to the life to come?

It's an interesting question to ponder. Former Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) moderator Marj Carpenter tells how a pastor was leading a bible study at her church and asked the gentleman next to her "Do you ever think about the hereafter?" He answered quickly, "Oh yes—every day." The pastor said, "Well, that's wonderful." To which the man replied, "I'm constantly walking around the house asking myself, 'Now what am I here after?'"

Much of the biblical material about heaven focuses on the "host" of heaven, more than on the "guests." It is a place referred to as the kingdom or realm of God—somewhere that has many dwelling places—a time of re-connection, so that where Christ is we too shall be. It is also referred to as a place of completion. Whatever has been left unfinished in this life will find its completion there. Whatever has been marred, damaged, or wounded in this life will be transformed into a wholeness intended from the dawn of time. And as the Easter resurrection event is called in scripture the "first fruits" (1 Corinthians 15), this refers to the promise that what has been done initially for Jesus Christ will also be done for us.

If I had to speculate beyond those promises, I would hope that the priorities of this life would shift a bit in the life to come. I don't think we'll need heavenly "insurance programs," for the God who has known us all the ages long is eternal and steadfast for ages yet to come. I don't think we'll have to worry about armies, police forces or security measures, since the one who is our Good Shepherd, whose rod and staff comforts us, will ever be by our side. But I do hope the education will still be valued in heaven. There is so much to learn and discover about this universe. I hope opportunities for "continued education" are part of the curriculum in God's heavenly realm. But for now, we can only wait and see—speculate and pray—and, occasionally walk around our houses wondering "what am I here after?" Blessings to you all for the summer season!

*Randy Bush*

## Introducing our Newest Members



We rejoice that five youth joined our church on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, through Profession of Faith and/or Affirmation of Faith. Our newest members are (pictured left to right) **Kira Mukogosi, Brianna Hackett, Sonya Degenholtz, Kiara Rockeymore, and Aveion LaVert.**

Read excerpts from our confirmands' *Statements of Faith* throughout this issue of *Reaching Out*.

## Remembering My Time at ELPC

by Kalyn Stewing, pastoral intern from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



My time at ELPC has been incredible. It has been humbling to learn from Pastors Randy, Heather, Patrice, and Mary Lynn, as they fulfill their different roles in the life of the church—calling out injustices, calling for us to walk beside the oppressed, and loving our neighbors and God as we go about our lives.

You all are a fantastic group of people, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve God among and with the ELPC congregation.

I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to teach the Journey with Scripture, Contemporaries, and Seekers Church School classes. Club one sixteen has been a joyful experience; it is hard to miss God's movement among the young people in our church. I was incredibly proud of our young people when I traveled with them down to Washington, D.C., for the "March for Our Lives" event. In addition, I accompanied them to Crestfield's Tween Retreat and participated in their 30-Hour Famine. I also enjoyed singing with the Journey Praise Team and Chancel Choir.

Most of all, I am grateful to ELPC for providing the opportunity to learn and grow in my faith, trust, and love for Christ and God's children. Thank you!

—Kalyn Stewing

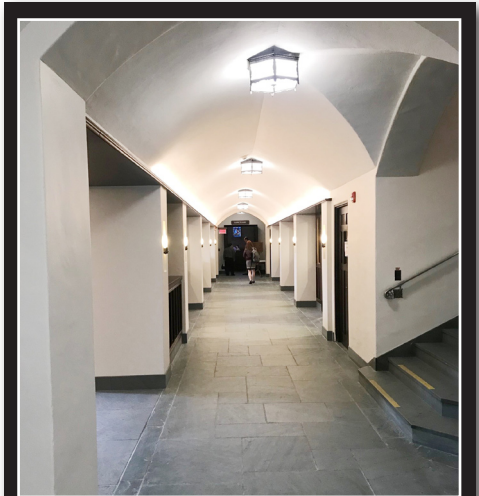


"This church absorbs God's enigmatic message and interprets it in the most loving and inclusive way possible."—Kira Mukogosi

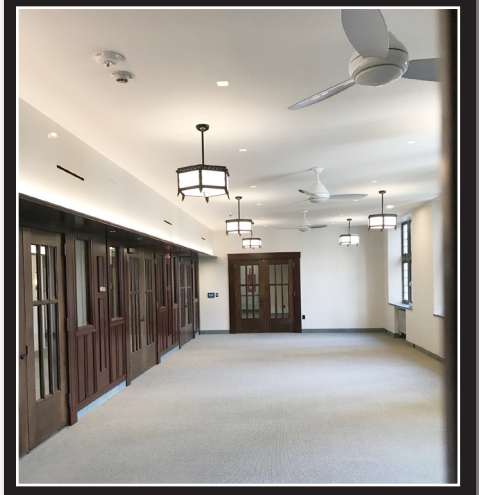
## ELPC Session Updates

At their recent meetings, the elders:

- Welcomed an incoming group of 14 members and friends;
- Examined and approved for membership the five members of our 2018 confirmation class;
- Elected officers of the corporation, Session Clerk, Treasurer, and Centennial Fund Trustee; and
- Made plans for joint Session/Deacons meeting on June 19.



A lot of work was done on the first floor to improve our hospitality, including the creation of new community spaces and a nursery, as well as updated lighting and ADA-compliant restrooms.





“I think I want to join the church because it is Holy and a place to learn about and get closer with Jesus.”  
—Brianna Hackett

## Thank You, Teachers

At ELPC, we are blessed to have many Church School teachers who faithfully share their knowledge and love of Christ with our children, youth, young adults, and adults each Sunday. As we break for the summer months, let us all give thanks for our many teachers:

Sherry Anderson, Clare Azubuiké, Carmen Blanco, Linda Benedict, Damon Bethea, Kristine Conley, Valire Copeland, Mary Evrard, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Rev. Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, MeShawn LeVert, Mary Alice Lightle, Roberta London, Nancy Magee, Judy Menk, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun, Hannah Moon, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, Lauren Ward, and Eddie and Jen Willson.

## General Assembly

The national General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. This year's GA will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 16–23. Among the business being conducted will be reports on re-structuring our national offices, considering overtures calling for divestment from fossil fuel companies, and celebrations of our ecumenical and global mission co-workers.

Please keep our Pittsburgh Presbytery commissioners and this entire assembly in your prayers.

# 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*

### June 3: Christian Contributions to Politics: Freedom and Resistance *Part 2*

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 conclude this two-part series.

## Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

*Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Jan Lyle Irvin, and Kalya Stevving*

“Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.”—2 Corinthians 4:15

An expanding economy of grace and increased shares of thanksgiving! In comparison, our financial markets are penniless. The Journey with Scripture class gives thanks for this past year—for all the scripture read, the reflections shared together around our table, and the grace received.

**June 3:** 1 Samuel 3:1–20; Deuteronomy 5:12–15; 2 Corinthians 4:5–12; Mark 2:23–3:6

## Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

*Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

### June 3: My Life as a Christian in North Korea after WWII

ELPC member Sung Yoo grew up in North Korea before World War II. Her family was Christian. She was seven years old when the communists took over after the war and her family fled to South Korea as refugees in 1948, two years before the Korean War. Sung and her husband came to the U.S. in 1971.

She will tell us her remarkable story about growing up in North Korea, as a Christian, until she and her family needed to escape as refugees.

## Soul Food *McKelvy Room*

*Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu*

### June 3: *The Book of Joy*

We will conclude our discussion of *The Book of Joy*, with the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

## 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

## Summer Camps at Crestfield

Are you looking for ways that your elementary, middle, and high school students can grow in their faith, experience a caring Christian community, and enjoy creation? Check out Crestfield Camp's summer schedule at [CrestfieldCC.org](http://CrestfieldCC.org). ELPC's Junior High Mission Trip team will be up at camp the week of July 8–13, if your kids would enjoy seeing some familiar faces at worship and meals.

## Sun.–Sat., July 22–28: Trinity Youth Conference

Trinity Youth Conference is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth who have completed grade 9 through college-age students at Living Waters Camp in Schellsburg, Pennsylvania. The week will be full of faith formation, intentional Christian community, play, worship, and thoughtfulness. Information about cost, workshops, registration, and schedule can be found at [TrinityYouthConference.org](http://TrinityYouthConference.org).



"In my own opinion, Jesus is God personified. He was and is a teacher who taught everyone that they are capable of love and being loved."—Aveion LaVert

# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



**Fri., June 1: First Friday @ Kavsar 7 pm**  
Join friends for an authentic Uzbek and Russian dinner as we visit Kavsar Halal Restaurant (16 Southern Ave., Mt. Washington). Visit [Kavsar.net](http://Kavsar.net) to explore the delicious menu options. RSVP to Wil before **Fri., June 1**, to make sure we have proper reservations or if you want a ride from ELPC at 6:30 pm.

## Wed., June 13: Serve Dinner at Community 341

Whether you can help cook, serve, or both, this is a great opportunity to help hungry folks in the Brookline neighborhood at St. Mark's Lutheran Church during their weekly community dinner. Cooks will plan a menu and cook at a mutually agreed upon time. Servers will depart ELPC at 4 pm, join worship at 5 pm, and serve dinner at 5:35 pm. How will you help feed God's people?

## Thurs., June 21: Summer Solstice Celebration 6 pm

Officially welcome summer as we examine and celebrate Christianity's ties to creation spirituality and to the seasons. We will begin on the Music Room Balcony to ponder, experience, and move together during this interactive time. Who knows where we will end up?

## 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 children and volunteers are available online at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) and in the Highland and Whitfield lobbies. Please register before **Mon., June 11**. Questions? Call Pastor Heather at **412.441.3800 x121**.



New glass doors were installed at the Penn (shown), Highland, and Whitfield entrances to help create a more inclusive and inviting environment with our community. In addition, a fully accessible access ramp was built at the Whitfield entrance and updated lighting was added in and around the entire building to improve visibility and reduce energy consumption.



## Walk the Labyrinth

As weather allows this summer, the labyrinth will be set up outside in the Courtyard on Wednesdays, 9 am–9 pm. Walk the labyrinth in this beautiful part of creation! It also will be available inside on Mondays, 7 am–1 pm.



“Our church, which is Presbyterian, is the most welcoming church I know of. I think I bring the gift of dedication to the church.”—Kiara Rockeymore

## Mission Matters

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

**Sat., June 9: Facing Systemic Racism 5:30–8 pm**

The next program in our *Facing Systemic Racism* series is titled *Discovering Our Implicit Bias*. Our discussion and activities will explore these questions:

- What exactly is implicit bias?
- How does it work?
- Why is it important to understand and recognize it?
- What can I do about it?



We will share a potluck dinner together at 5:30 pm. Bring a side or dessert to share. Childcare is available with prior registration by calling **412.441.3800 x140**.

## Reduce Your Environmental Impact by Composting

Did you know that food scraps make up one third of the average household's trash? These scraps take up space in landfills and contribute to the production of methane (a greenhouse gas) and toxic leachate (liquid that drains or “leaches”).

The good news is that all plant-based scraps can be decomposed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment through composting.

For instructions on how to compost, please visit [Learn.EarthEasy.com/guides/composting](http://Learn.EarthEasy.com/guides/composting). There also are workshops available through [PRC.org](http://PRC.org), with one at Phipps Garden Center on **Thurs., June 21, 7 pm**.

If you can't tend a pile of your own, but would like to contribute, look into Shadyside Worms. They offer a subscription-based compost exchange program, where they pick up a bucket of your food scraps and leave you a clean bucket each week. Visit [ShadySideWorms.com](http://ShadySideWorms.com) for details.

### What to Compost

- **Carbon-rich matter:** branches, stems, dried leaves, peels, sawdust, brown paper bags, corn stalks, coffee filters, egg shells, etc.
- **Nitrogen-rich matter:** food scraps, lawn clippings, green leaves, manures, etc.



## 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 the August issue of *Reaching Out*.

To be included, please submit name, degree, and school attended to Gloria Knopp at [GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x122 by **Mon., July 2**.



From May 4–6, our faith family traveled to Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock for our annual All-Church Retreat, guided by the theme, *We Are the Church Together*. We examined the Pentecost event and stories of the early church in Acts, while we explored what it means for us to be the church today. People of all ages enjoyed worship, service, fellowship, relaxation, and adventure in the great outdoors.

## Save the Date to Celebrate

by Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our annual Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on **Thurs., Aug. 23**, from 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard. More info will be coming later; just plan to save the date and share food and fellowship.

To read about becoming a member of the weSERVE list and other service opportunities, please visit [ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE](http://ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE).

## ELPC People

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

### Good News

- Congratulations to those who were baptised in May: **Sonya Degenholtz, Delenn Fingerlow, Adell Kitchens, Aveion LaVert.**
- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends, who joined in May: **Elizabeth Albright, Jo Ellen Aleshire, Adrienne Booker, Kristy Borza, Dana Carl, Lynn Clifton, Molly Davidson-Welling, Sarah “Sam” Ditka, Delenn Fingerlow, Emily Fraser, Tim Goodall, Adell Kitchens, Cathleen Malmstrom, and Thomas Morton.**



### Thanks

- The Mission Board thanks the dedicated team members who are planning the many events of our *Facing Systemic Racism* series: **Sherry Anderson, Ray Anthony, Ryan Booher, Kelli Booher, Michele Bossers, Alysha Carroll, Carol Chonoska, Carla Coles, Jim Eng, Becky Gloninger, Derek Harrigan, Peta Harrigan Cole, Jen Hykes-Willson, Hannah Moon, Pam Napier-Barnes, Emily Rosenthal, Jon Walker, Eddie Willson, and Pastor Patrice.**

- Presbyterian Women thanks everyone who contributed cookies to the World Mission Initiative Conference reception. Everyone enjoyed them!

### Prayers

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

- Jean Kennedy’s husband and Joe Kennedy IV’s father, Joe Kennedy III
- Joel Minnigh’s brother, the Rev. Dr. Wendell Minnigh



*“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.”*

### See Our Renovated Spaces

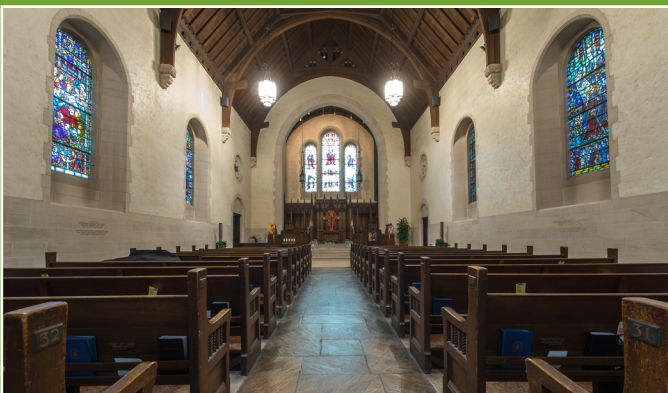
Throughout this issue of *Reaching Out*, look for photos of some of our recently renovated spaces. We hope to see you as we worship, learn, serve, and give thanks for all of God’s gifts in our church home.

## Explore the Sanctuary & Chapel



Join us following worship on **Sun., June 10**, 11 am, as Carla Depperman leads an architectural tour of our Gothic Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel. Our guide will discuss these architectural styles, as well as the history and symbolism of these unique spaces. Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary.

*Photos courtesy of Chris Litherland*



## Climb the Heights of Our Tower

Join Steve Evrard following worship on **Sun., June 24**, 11 am, 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.



“To be a part of the church is to be a part of God.  
To be a part of Christ.  
To be a part of a whole.  
A community.  
A family.  
To be a part of love.”  
—Sonya Degenholtz

