

Worship in the Great Outdoors



In July and August, we gather for our Summer worship service, 10 am, in our beautiful Courtyard (weather permitting). During this time together, we worship, sing, pray, and hear sermonic teaching for all ages. Additional seating is available on the Chapel Balcony, as well as in the Courtyard Overlook Room, where the services are projected onto a screen.

This summer, strive to continue the good habit of gathering in church each week to praise and offer prayers to our gracious God and Creator.

July Sermon Series

This July, our Summer worship services will feature a sermon theme called “Thou Shalt, Thou Shalt Not.” Each of our pastors will be preaching on one of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. They will present the commandment’s admonition of what should be avoided, while also looking at what positive exhortations are included in these words of ancient wisdom. Please join us for this month-long, multi-voiced sermon series!

Commissioning Our Mission Trip Teams



Join us for worship on **Sun., July 8**, as we pray for and commission our youth for their upcoming mission trips. Our Junior High Mission Trip Team will be serving in the Slippery Rock and New Castle communities, July 8–13. Our Senior High Mission Trip Team will be doing mission work in Hampden, West Virginia, Aug. 4–10.

We ask that you continue to hold these two groups in your prayers as they experience God’s grace and call in our world and in their own lives.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

Summer Worship • 10 am

Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting; indoor seating available

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

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 7 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Live stream available at ELPC.church

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Note: There will be no Taizé prayer service on **Independence Day, July 4.**

Explore Your Spiritual Life

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays, 7–7:20 pm

Drawn from the ancient Christian contemplative tradition, this prayer method is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

Cathedral Yoga

Wednesdays, 6–7 pm

Practice prayerful yoga in our beautiful Gothic Sanctuary. Please bring your own mat. Yoga is free, but donations are appreciated.

Mindful Thursdays

Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm

Join us in the Prayer and Meditation Room for Qi Gong, 6:30 pm, and then experience Mindfulness Meditation, 7–8 pm, with Susan Spangler. Those who are new and those with experience are heartily welcome.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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

Craig Cannon
*Interim Executive 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

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



I stumbled onto a book review recently that not only pulled me into the story but hit me with a poignant reminder about how we are all called to see the world through Christ-guided eyes of faith. It was a biography of Chang and Eng Bunker, Siamese twin brothers literally from Siam (now known as Thailand). They were born in 1811 and lived with their family until a Scottish businessman named Robert Hunter eventually won the king's permission and the mother's acquiescence to take the boys to England. They left Siam in 1829 for a "five-year tour" that ended up lasting more than 45 years. The young men were put on display all over Europe and North America, where they were poked and prodded, laughed at as freaks and monsters. But they refused to play the role of sideshow oddities. Within a few years, they broke free of their manager and eventually made enough money to retire to a house in Mount Airy, North Carolina. There, to widespread consternation, they married two Southern sisters and eventually fathered 21 children.

The story grows more complex, though. For despite their strong courage and determination to persevere, the Siamese brothers lived as devout Confederates during the Civil War. They bought and sold slaves, despite their own experience of having been sold into indentured servitude and treated as something less than human. The five-inch band of flesh that connected them (as well as part of their sternum and liver) was never able to be severed. The brothers never achieved full freedom. Sadly, while they lived, they were complicit in inflicting a similar, if not worse, level of captivity upon the slaves that were under their control.

In reflecting on the incongruity of the captive twins holding others captive as slaves, the reviewer (Candice Millard) ended her essay with this powerful statement: "Perhaps what makes us human is not our ability to look the part but our willingness to see ourselves in someone else."

Scripture often reminds us of the truth in those words. When Samuel was hesitant to anoint the young boy David as the next king of Israel, God reminded him that he shouldn't look only at the outward appearance, because "the Lord looks on the heart." And Jesus often quoted the prophet Isaiah, complaining that people honor God with their lips but their hearts are far from the Lord.

There are lots of ways we can "look the part" of good citizens (caring for our nation's needs over other nations), good providers (making sure our family's needs are met first), and even good church-folk. But our real humanity comes through, not in how we appear to others, but rather in how well we are able to see a reflection of ourselves (and of God's love for this world) in the face of others. Escaping from slavery is only truly noble if it guides us to work for the freedom of those still held captive. Working for peace and nuclear disarmament (e.g., with North Korea) can only be laudable if others at risk or in prison are also granted the same chance to live in peace and freedom. As we celebrate another anniversary of this great nation's historic founding, may we ever see ourselves in the "others" around us through the eyes of Christ, upholding both the principles of our democracy and the priorities of our living faith.

Randy Bush

Mission Board Presents 2018 Summer Film Series

Each year in July, the Mission Board and mission committees sponsor a film series. The themes of this year's documentaries and movies are a continuation of our ongoing systemic racism series. Join us in the Social Hall following worship to view the movies, discuss the themes, and enjoy lunch together.

Sun., July 8: *Fenceline: A Company Town Divided*

Hosted by the Justice Committee | 1 hour



Fenceline: A Company Town Divided documents African-American residents in Norco, Louisiana, who believe that increasing pollution is negatively impacting their health, demand to be relocated from under the shadow of a Shell oil refinery. Thaddeus Popovich, co-founder of Allegheny County Clean Air Now will lead our discussion.

Sun., July 15: *The White Man's Burden*

Hosted by the Peace Committee | 1.5 hours

In an alternate universe, successful African-Americans live in gated communities, while impoverished Caucasians populate crime-ridden inner-city ghettos. When African-American mogul Thaddeus Thomas (Harry Belafonte) wrongly accuses Caucasian Louis Pinnock (John Travolta) of being a Peeping Tom, Pinnock loses his job and watches as his family falls apart. In a desperate attempt to repair his life, Pinnock takes Thomas hostage and demands reinstatement at the factory where he once worked.



Sun., July 22: *We Wear The Mask: The Hidden Face of Women in Poverty*

Hosted by the Neighbors Committee | 1 hour



The psychological effects of poverty are far-reaching, and statistically, women are more likely to feel the impact. Dominique, Venecia, and Lou Ann lead vastly different lives, yet their stories intersect and parallel in surprising ways. *We Wear the Masks*, which was filmed in Pittsburgh, digs deeply into the psychology

of poverty to shine a spotlight on an often underestimated segment of society. Tammy Thompson, the film's producer and executive director of Circles of Greater Pittsburgh, will lead our discussion afterwards.

Sun., July 29: *The Canary Effect*

Hosted by the Mission Board | 1 hour

The Canary Effect is a 2006 documentary that looks into the effects that the U.S. and its policies have on the Indigenous peoples (Native Americans). Delving deeply into the historic realities of the American Indian, this film details the genocidal practices of our government and its effects on present-day Indian country. Featuring interviews with the leading scholars and experts on Indian issues, the film brings together the past and present in a way never before captured so eloquently and boldly on film.



Three Energy-Saving Tips for Summer

The Justice Committee offers these tips to keep your energy costs under control.

1. Consider a New Thermostat

Cooling homes at a constant temperature is far less efficient than bringing the temperature back to a comfortable point when needed. Programmable thermostats can be set so that the indoor temperature is 5–10 degrees higher when you're not at home, which can cut cooling costs by up to 20%. Installing a programmable thermostat takes about 30 minutes, or having someone install it for you costs about \$165 (including the thermostat).

2. Research Air Conditioners

When replacing an air conditioner, consider the following factors:

- Efficiency of units is coded as a "SEER" (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) or "ERR" (Energy Efficiency Ratio) number. For example, a SEER of 13 is 30% more efficient than a SEER of 10. Seek as high of a SEER or ERR value as you can afford, as this will have long term consequences for energy use and costs.
- Hire a reputable contractor rather than the least-expensive—there is a lot riding on it. Correct size/capacity, variable motor speed, balancing, sealing of ducts, and insulating ducts all have substantial impacts on performance.
- Consider wall-mounted "mini-splits" (ductless heat pumps) to upgrade from window AC units.

3. Hang Clothes Out to Dry

Did you know that a clothes dryer is the third-most energy-hungry appliance in most households? In fact, you may be paying more than \$100 worth of electricity a year to use it. Consider setting up a clothes line or rack to dry your clothes.

Looking for More Tips?

Visit Energy.gov/energysaver to learn about helpful ways to reduce energy consumption and curb emissions.

Cannon Joins Hope Academy as Interim Executive Director

We are pleased to introduce Craig Cannon as Hope Academy's interim executive director.



Cannon currently serves as artistic director of Belle Voci, an intergenerational women's choir that he founded in 2012. Under his leadership, Belle Voci has grown to 52 members, ranging in age from 20–73 years old, and hosts an artistic staff of four directors.

In his new role, Cannon will guide Hope Academy over the next 18 months in preparing a long-term strategic plan, exploring additional financial support from local foundations, and work closely with Program Director Linda Addlespurger to expand the culturally diverse offerings for Pittsburgh young people.

ELPC Session Updates

At their last meeting, the Board of Deacons and Session met together to review their respective ministries over the past year and begin to think collegially about the year to come. The following items were included in that evening's meeting:

- Preliminary plans for the 2019 ELPC Bicentennial were reviewed.
- Continuing Education/training occurred on the use of Preferred Pronouns in church meetings.
- A summary of the building renovation project was presented along with a request for two additional items to be added to the scope (related to lighting the church tower and renovating the narthex bathrooms).

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Registration is Open for Hope Academy's Fall Term

Find out more about Hope Academy's fall term of dance, theater, and music at HopeAcademyArts.com. Download a course brochure, register online or apply for a scholarship. We've added two Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes and a new African Dance and Drumming class, in partnership with Balafon West African Dance Ensemble. Classes fill quickly and half of our spots are reserved for minority and low-income students.



Summer Camps in Partnership with Hope Academy

Pittsburgh Girls Choir Co-Ed Musical Scenes Camp

Mon.–Fri., July 9–13 | 9 am–4 pm
@ ELPC

Hip-Hop Orchestra Summer Music Camp

Mon.–Sat., July 23–28 | 9 am–3 pm
@ ELPC

Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute 2018

Sun., Aug. 5 | 4–6 pm
Mon.–Fri., Aug. 6–10 | 10 am–12 pm
@ Winchester-Thurston School

This is a special program for current Hope Academy violin, viola, cello and piano students.



Scholarships are Available

For more information, visit bit.ly/HopeSummerCamps.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Fri., July 6: First Friday @ The Courtyard 7 pm

Enjoy an evening in the Courtyard as we share fellowship and watch a movie together around the firepit. Smores are included. Feel free to bring movie options.

Sun., July 15: Day at the Movies 11 am

Join other young adults and congregation members in the Social Hall as we break bread, watch a justice-themed movie, and engage in conversation during the Mission Board's Summer Film Series. See details on page 3.

Sat., July 28: Fun and Games at Black Pride Pittsburgh 1-5 pm

Families from all over Pittsburgh come to ELPC each year for this fun afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship. Join us as we help co-host this event to welcome folks to ELPC, and enjoy playing games with kids and adults alike!

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

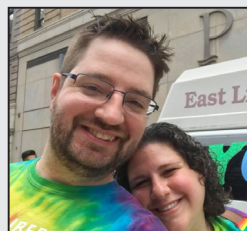
Sat., July 7: Attend Our Spiritual Gathering 1-3 pm

All LGBTQ folks and allies are welcome to join us at our monthly Spiritual Gathering. To learn more about our diverse LGBTQ Ministry or to get involved, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

Sat., July 28: Help Us Celebrate Black Pride Pittsburgh 1-5 pm

Continue celebrating LGBTQ pride this July! Volunteers and participants are needed as ELPC co-sponsors Black Pride Pittsburgh's Family Game Day. All are welcome to attend this family-friendly annual event. We need a volunteer team of 3-5 people to lead games and manage snacks. Contact Jim DiGiorgio at digiorgiojj@yahoo.com or 412.818.6903 to help.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.



ELPC People

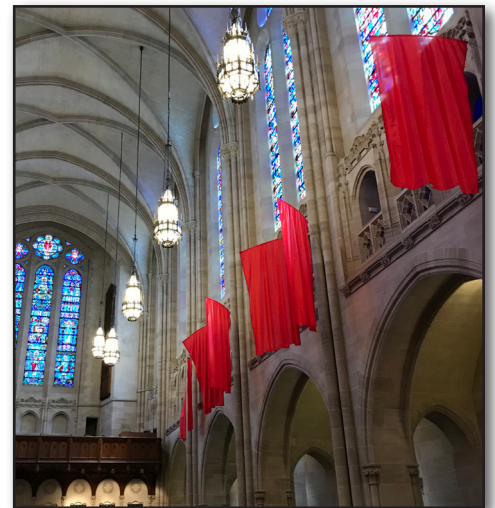
If you have news to share, please call Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x122.

Good News

- Congratulations to Crystal and Sean Gilroy, who recently celebrated the birth of their son, **Parker Gilroy**.

Thanks

- At the All-Church Retreat, more than 23 birthday bags were assembled for Beverly's Birthdays! Thank you for your generosity!
—Doris Dick
- During the weeks around Pentecost Sunday, the Sanctuary was ablaze with color, thanks to the artistic skills of Stefani Danes. She stitched together the bright red Pentecost banners that adorned our Sanctuary space for several weeks during that season. Stefani also is the artist behind the multi-colored banners that hang in the Sanctuary the rest of the year. Thank you, Stefani!



Prayers

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

- Harold Deiss' brother, Walter Deiss
- Beverly Kreger's granddaughter, Krista Kreger
- Carol Hickman's brother, Bruce Thomas
- Jean Thomas' brother, Bill Waters
- Cami Teacoach's dad, Bill Needle



"...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."

Building Closure

ELPC will be closed on Independence Day, **Wed., July 4.**



Explore ELPC Below Ground



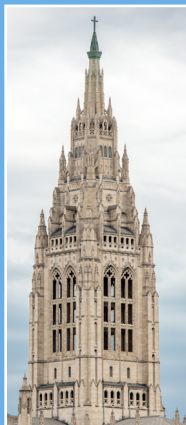
Follow our tour guides in an exploration of ELPC's lowest level following Summer worship on **Sun., July 8.** Discover the huge boilers and see the blowers that feed air to our more than 7,000 organ pipes!

Gather at the Highland entrance following worship and allow 30–45 minutes for the tour.

Tour the Tower, See the View

Join our tour guide to climb the heights of our church's central tower following Summer worship on **Sun., July 22.** 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 comfortable pants and shoes. The tour will take 45–60 minutes and is not ideal for small children.



In the Past Year, Have You...

Served as a greeter and/or usher? Sang in a choir? Served with Open Hand Ministries? Mentored or provided meals at Food 4 Thought? Helped with church yardwork? Taught at Church School? Gave your time or talent in any way?

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**, 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 service opportunities, visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

