

## Worshipping with Rennerdale

On **Sun., Aug 12**, ELPC will welcome Pastor Jodi Flack and members of First United Presbyterian Church of Rennerdale to worship. Rennerdale, as the church is affectionately known, is the church that Deacon Sonya-Marie Morley, a rising senior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, has served as seminary intern for the past year.

Located in the small, suburban hamlet of Carnegie, Rennerdale is a 115-year-old church that's home to families with deep roots in the community. While Rennerdale and ELPC are different in some ways, they are alike in more important ways, including faithful engagement in their respective communities, mission initiatives with global impact, and gracious hospitality, which has resulted in an invitation to Sonya-Marie to serve another year at Rennerdale!

Join us for worship and see what God is doing in, through, and between our two houses of faith!

## The Great Exchange: The Great Outdoors



Folks of all ages are invited to participate in The Great Exchange following worship on **Sun., Aug. 26**. Together, across the generations, we will explore fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of "nature." We will have a simple lunch while sharing our stories with one another in the Social Hall. No preparation is necessary, just come and enjoy!

## Mark Your Calendars for Rally Day

On Rally Day, **Sun., Sept. 9**, we will resume our regular worship schedule with Journey worship at 8:45 am, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am. We also will begin our new Church School year with classes for people of all ages at 9:45 am. For a complete listing of worship services and class offerings, please visit **ELPC.church**.

## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Summer Worship • 10 am

*Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting; indoor seating available*  
 Aug. 5\* Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
 Aug. 12 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
 Aug. 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
 Aug. 26 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

## 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

## Singing and Ringing

If you would like to learn more about any of our choirs, email Dr. Ed Moore at [EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net).

- **Chancel Choir** sings at our Sanctuary worship service on Sundays at 11 am. The choir rehearses on Thursdays, 7 pm, beginning **Thurs., Sept. 6**.
- **Handbell Choir** rings several times throughout the year at our Sanctuary worship service. The choir rehearses on Tuesdays, 6 pm, beginning on **Tues., Sept. 11**.
- **Journey Praise Team** sings at our Journey worship service on Sundays at 8:45 am. The choir rehearses on Thursdays, 5:30 pm. Beginning date to be determined.



## 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*

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*



“Narrative psychology” is a fancy term for something that all of us do. We all think about the “story of our lives.” We gather at family reunions and tell stories about growing up; we sit together with friends and talk about times gone by; we laugh at dinner tables with our children remembering what it was like when all of us were younger. Telling the story of our lives helps us make sense of our lives. It helps us put things in perspective regarding days long past. And it can give us guidance as to where we are heading in the days yet to come.

As people grow older, narrative psychologists have found that people organize their life stories in one of two ways. Some say “It all came to nothing in the end,” while others conclude “It all came together in the end.” The first story arc is called the contamination narrative, while the second is called the redemption narrative.

The recipe for a “contamination narrative” is pretty straightforward. These are stories that leave a bitter taste in one’s mouth. Grievances are re-lived; offenses are unforgiven; regrets are persistent and still irksome. To come to the end of one’s days believing that “nothing came together” is to have lost the ability to feel gratitude, or (for whatever reason) come to believe one lacks all self-worth and value. It is a sad and lonely place in which to find yourself as you approach the final horizon of life.

The “redemption narrative” is also pretty straightforward. It is a recipe that balances out joys with sorrows, that is realistic about human limitations while still holding onto a sense of wonder about what is actually possible in our mortal lives. It is a perspective that places value on laughter, humor (especially of a self-deprecating sort), curiosity and beauty (in all its varied expressions). It may still acknowledge that life contains imperfections and unaccomplished goals, but overall it is a wild, amazing journey, hopefully with loved ones and friends beside us for the ride. Things “come together” in the end when we still can look forward to what tomorrow holds even as we celebrate the gift of today.

My father-in-law is slowing down, now that he’s reached his mid-80s. A few years ago he was asked what he would think if his life came to an end that day. He grew pensive and, choking up a bit, he simply said, “I’d think how blessed I’ve been.”

The gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly a redemption narrative. It reminds us that all of life is held in the embrace of a loving God and, yes, things do come together in the end. There are resurrection miracles every day that help us hold on to the wonder inherent in the gift of life, even as the big “resurrection miracle” of Easter reassures us of a final “resurrection miracle” at the close of the ages. That good news lovingly seeks to counter the “contamination narrative” of more worldly storytellers. So as you think about your own “narrative psychology,” may you find a God-blessed awareness in your own story that concludes with a basic affirmation of faith that says, “Yes, how blessed I’ve been.”

*Randy Bush*

# Mission Matters

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

## Summer Mission Opportunities with Open Hand Ministries

Please join us for one or both of these opportunities to serve in our church neighborhood with Open Hand Ministries (OHM), be in fellowship, and have fun!

### Sat., Aug. 4: OHM Workday 9 am–3 pm

OHM is currently working on rehabbing two houses in Garfield. No special skills needed! Please contact Emily Rosenthal at [ejr116@gmail.com](mailto:ejr116@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice at **412.441.3800 x130** for details.

### Tues., Aug. 7: OHM Circles Dinner

Donate food, serve dinner, or help with both! This is a great chance to meet the OHM families that are working on goals of homeownership. Food donations needed are side dishes, salads, and desserts. Please contact Gina Anderson at **503.956.4736** or [regina@wholechoice.net](mailto:regina@wholechoice.net) for more information.

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## Extended Session Volunteer Team

Extended Session is the program that ministers to children in preschool through first grade during the second half of our weekly Sanctuary worship service. A complement to our 11 am service, Extended Session includes time for worship and time for play. Christian Education is assembling a volunteer team to assist our staff with this important ministry on a rotational basis. If you have a heart for nurturing the faith of children, reach out to Sara Hackett for more details.

Please note that all adults who work with children or youth at ELPC must receive their criminal background and Act 33/34 clearances, as well as complete training in our ELPC Child Safety Policy and the state's mandatory reporter online training.

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## 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](http://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.

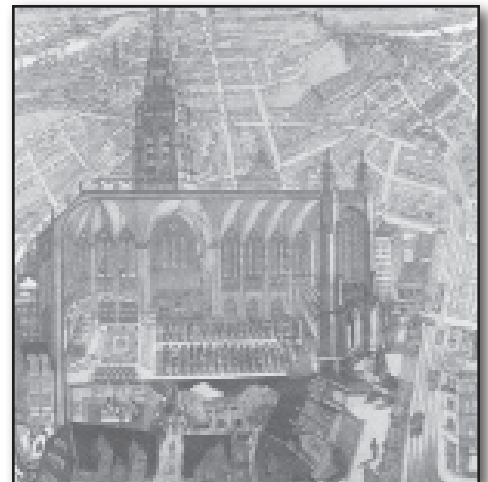


## New Art Exhibit Explores "Sanctuary"

ELPC members Doug Cooper and Stefani Danes—husband-and-wife architecture professors at Carnegie Mellon University—recently completed a new art exhibit, titled "Sanctuary: Sacred Space in a Secular World." Through charcoal drawings and abstract quilt work, the exhibit depicts interpretations of sanctuary and explores the personal and emblematic nature of the sacred.

The mural is on display at Concept Art Gallery (1031 S Braddock Ave., Regent Square) on Thursdays, 10 am–8 pm, and Saturdays, 10 am–3 pm, through the end of August. The exhibit will then be permanently installed at ELPC.

Read more about the exhibit at [tiny.cc/cooper-danes](http://tiny.cc/cooper-danes), and browse photos at [ConceptGallery.com](http://ConceptGallery.com).





# Thank You for Making VCS a Success!

The Christian Education Committee and ELPC staff would like to thank everyone who helped make Vacation Church School a success this year. Together, we learned about how Jesus taught about God's love through parables, and engaged the story of our faith through worship, crafts, prayer, recreation, songwriting, storytelling, gardening, and eating! God is good!

We thank God for the many folks who helped to make VCS a success:

## Adult Volunteers and Staff

Sherry Anderson, Mike Anderson, Linda Benedict, Amy Bialek, Trish Buben, Beth Bush, Pastor Randy Bush, Marilyn Castle, Peta Harrigan Cole, Gabe D'Abruzzo, Barbara DeWitt, jim DiGiorgio, Sandy Edgecombe, Dwayne Elliott, Wil Forrest, Misia Goodson, Barbara Griffin, Sara Hackett, Myrna Hiller, Carol Hoehn, Keith Irvin, Lynne Irvin, Ing Kalchthaler, Cheryl Lynn Khylllep, Gloria Knopp, Julia Lewand, Taylor Lewand, Mary Alice Lightle, Patricia McClung, Madison Morrissey, David Phillips, Elaine Phillips, Olivia Rialtio, Pastor Heather Schoenewolf, Paul Seif, Kay Shissler, Kalyn Stevving, John Tunney, Mary Beth Van Fleet, Evelyn Welling, Reed Williams

## Youth Volunteers

Adwoa Ababio, Janyiah Anthony, Annabel Degenholtz, Sonia Degenholtz, Dylan Geibel, Corvagn Hardy, Corvay Hardy, Logan Hardy, Bola-Kelani, Christian Lewand, Ramsey Lewand, Devan McNamee, Anastasia Morin-Hutty, Kira Mukogosi, Ore Olaore, Tomi Olaore, Antoinette Robinson, Anna Sabilla, Ashwin Srinivasan, Elliott Stephany, Oliver Stephany, Juli Valencheck, Harris Michael Woodward, Dominik Wrage



# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

## **Fri., Aug. 3: First Friday @ Arsenal with Sanctuary 7 pm**

Join us at Arsenal Bowl (4310 Butler St., Lawrenceville) and make some new friends! We will gather there with folks from Sanctuary Faith Community to share fun and conversation. Visit [SanctuaryPgh.org](http://SanctuaryPgh.org) to learn more.

## **Sun., Aug. 12: Mystery Outdoor Adventure 11:30 am**

We will choose between three different mystery options of how we will spend our afternoon together. All you need to know is to come dressed to be outside and to bring your sense of adventure. Bring money for lunch or who knows what. Meet in the Second Floor Parlor.

# LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

## **Sun., Aug. 19: Attend Our Spiritual Gathering 11:30 am–1:30 pm**

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



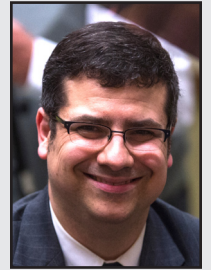
**God created you.  
God loves you.  
Be yourself.**



In July, our Junior High Mission Trip Team attended Mission Possible at Crestfield Camp. The group enjoyed fun, service, and fellowship with other youth from around the region.

# Remembering Gabriel D'Abruzzo

It is with great sadness and regret that we share the news that a beloved member of our ELPC staff and church family, Gabe D'Abruzzo, died on Mon., July 9.



Tragically, Gabe, 42, drowned while on vacation with his family near Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Gabe served as ELPC's Music Associate since September 2010. He blessed our congregation with his extraordinary musicianship in a variety of capacities, as well as many choirs throughout the Pittsburgh area. He also served as adjunct faculty at both Duquesne University and St. Vincent College.

We give thanks for the gift of Gabe's presence among us. He touched many lives—not only with his exceptional talent, but also with his kind heart.

Please hold Gabe's wife Rachel, and his whole family in your prayers during this difficult time, along with all who mourn his sudden death. May God comfort all who grieve, and give us hope in the promise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

# ELPC People

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

## Prayers

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

- Gabriel D'Abruzzo
- Garland Hawkins
- Joe Heckel
- Mary Anne Kirby's mother
- Bobby Egelston's mother
- Alysha Carroll's grandmother
- Julianne McAdoo's mother

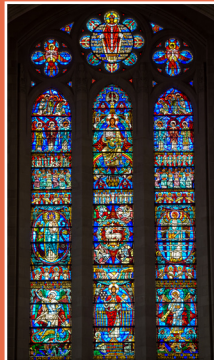


*“As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God—the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.”*

## Hidden Stories in Our Stained Glass

Join tour guide Penn Hackney following worship on **Sun., Aug. 5**, for an in-depth tour of the stained glass in our Sanctuary and Chapel. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.

Designed and created by eight Pittsburgh stained glass shops during the 1930s, the windows tell the history of Presbyterianism and our faith, as well as many Biblical stories, including the amazing depiction of Revelation in the balcony.



## Unparalleled Views from Our Tower

Join tour guide Steve Evrard following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Aug. 19**, 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.



*Photos courtesy of Chris Litherland*

## Celebrate Service Together

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers on **Thurs., Aug. 23**, 6–7:30 pm, in the Courtyard (rain location in the Social Hall). Come for 15 minutes or stay the entire time.

Please bring a side or a dessert to share. No serving utensils are needed. Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and drinks will be provided.

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

