

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

November 2018

It's Time to Fall Back

As a reminder, Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sun., Nov. 4**. Remember to set your clocks back by one hour.



Reaching Out with Radical Hospitality



Radical Hospitality

It is fitting that this newsletter is called *Reaching Out*, because that is one of the things we do best at ELPC. We attempt to reach out to every person who walks through our doors. We reach out to our community and our city. We reach out to support global issues. We reach out to do God's work.

This year's stewardship theme is *Radical Hospitality*—a practice that spotlights our many ways of reaching out. As we celebrate the completion of our remodeled church, we hope to renew our commitment to using this church to invite everyone into a space filled with the hospitality of God's love.

This year, we hope to increase our overall giving (pledges and contributions) by 5%. We invite you to bring your pledge cards to church on **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 11**, and join in a joyful celebration of giving.

Think prayerfully about pledging, so that we might all reach out together.

Thanksgiving Feast: Come One, Come All

Join us in the Social Hall following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 18**, for a turkey luncheon with all the trimmings.

We also need about 50 volunteers to ensure this event not only successfully feeds ELPC friends and members, but also warmly welcomes members of our community. If you're willing and able to help, sign up in the hallway near the front desk to either set up (9:45–11:45am) or clean up (1–3 pm). You also can sign up to bring side dishes and desserts. All dishes should be labeled with your name. There is no need to bring serving utensils.



Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: Wisdom

Nov. 4* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Nov. 11 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Nov. 18 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Nov. 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Nov. 4* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Nov. 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 25 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

Special Musical Guests

Our resident ensemble, The Brass Roots, will provide special music at Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 18**.



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 think both Steve Jobs and Henry Ford were wrong. There's an apocryphal saying (wrongly) attributed to Henry Ford, in which he says "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said 'Faster horses.'" And there's a real quote from Steve Jobs (*Business Week*, 1997) in which he says, "People don't know what they want until we've shown them." Is it true that people cannot dream any more—that we can no longer leap from present realities into future possibilities because all we know are "horses" and all we want are "faster horses"? Is it true that we lack all imagination and

creative vision so that the only things we truly want are shiny gadgets someone else drops into our field of vision?

Jobs and Ford may have been geniuses, but I hold a higher opinion of the human capacity for wonder and inspiration. To say that our world is limited to wishing for "faster" versions of the status quo is to deny the depth present in the human spirit. We don't just want to minimize the side-effects of disease; we want to eradicate disease all together. We don't just want to win our battles more efficiently; we want to stop all war. We don't just want to see the moon through a bigger telescope; we want to walk on the lunar surface.

And to claim that humans don't know what they really want until some capitalist makes a new product for us flies in the face of how any mother or father will tell you exactly what they want: they long for their child to be safe; or how any citizen of the world can easily tell the difference between a shiny new toy and the lasting beauty of a national park. Something within us is inherently creative as well as genetically capable of appreciating what is beautiful and precious. That ability is God-given. And it needs to be shouted out loud whenever the Jobs or Fords or rich and powerful would try and convince us otherwise.

Every year we lift up the fundamental value of Thanksgiving—of giving thanks for the blessings of life, whether present in family and friends, in healthy bodies or loving hearts, or just because of a great meal of turkey with all the fixings. And during the month of November, the church celebrates Stewardship Sunday—an egalitarian process of helping plan a budget and communally support our congregational ministry, whether it involves widow's mites or a portion of King Midas' treasure. The incentive behind both events is the same: We see what in life is important and we give thanks for it. And we dream grand dreams for today and audacious hopes for tomorrow, which is why we commit our resources to make them possible.

Jesus never talked about "faster horses" or selling people on a better "status quo." Jesus spoke of a grain of wheat becoming a hundred stalks—a mustard seed becoming a thriving bush—and how God's loving mercy far exceeds our very ability to imagine or conceive of it. Thoreau once wrote, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." Remember this with joy: You have been fearfully and wonderfully made by a God with whom all things are possible.

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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

The Christmas Giving Tree Enhances the Season for Little Ones

Every year, the Deacons organize the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry, as well as our Mission Ministry, Christian Education, and Hope Academy. The congregation has been wonderful in its support of this ministry through gift buying and monetary donations.

Stop by the Giving Tree near the Information Desk on **Sun., Dec. 2 and 9**, or **Wed., Dec. 5**, and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to offer assistance. Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on **Sun., Dec. 16**. To participate by donating money, please make checks out to "ELPC Giving Tree" and deliver it to the church office. The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

Holiday Shopping in the Name of Love!

ELPC is again teaming up with Ten Thousand Villages to raise money for the ELPC Thanksgiving Food Ministry. Ten Thousand Villages is an independent nonprofit organization that supports artisans from around the globe by establishing a sustainable market for their products in North America. Without this support, some of these artisans would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

Join us on **Tues., Dec. 4**, 6–8 pm, at Ten Thousand Villages (5820 Forbes Ave.) to get your Christmas shopping started early. This event offers a great opportunity to support these artisans far away and those in our midst who are in need this holiday season. We have had great turnout over the past several years, and we look forward to another busy night. ELPC Deacons will be present to offer snacks and refreshments. Questions? Call ELPC Deacon Tucker Ferda at **406.249.9811**.

Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee

Beef or Beans: What's for Dinner?

Did you know that animal agriculture is on par with the entire transportation sector for the amount of greenhouse gasses it emits? It's also a leading cause of deforestation, habitat loss, animal endangerment, and water pollution. The footprint of our eating habits can weigh quite heavily on our Mother Earth.

The Hidden Footprint of Food

How much water does it take to produce 1 pound of:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Beef | 1,847 gallons |
| Pork | 718 gallons |
| Chicken | 518 gallons |
| Chickpeas | 501 gallons |
| Eggs | 395 gallons |
| Tofu | 302 gallons |
| Soybeans | 257 gallons |

Source: Huffington Post

Consider altering your diet in small ways in an effort to better our planet. Limiting your dependence on cattle is a great place to start. Compared to beef production, poultry has a much lower impact. But ultimately, choosing meals without meat and dairy products a few times a week is a simple way to begin lowering our individual environmental footprints. Meatless Monday is popular practice for many families, and the number of people choosing vegetarian and vegan diets is on the rise.

Interested in getting started? Give this delicious chickpea salad recipe a try: OhSheGlows.com/2015/07/21/chickpea-salad.

Sources: The Environmental Protection Agency, Stanford Report, Environment Journal, and Climate Nexus

ELPC Session Updates

At the recent Session meeting, the elders:

- Celebrated having another new member class join our church on Oct. 21. So far in 2018, we have approximately 43 new members and friends, and have performed 9 baptisms!
- Continued to monitor remaining renovation projects, including repairs on the floors in the McKelvy, Fellowship, and Highland Rooms, and work beginning on the Narthex restroom renovations.
- Heard reports related to our church finances, Stewardship campaign, and Personnel staff changes.

Retirement Reception for Pam Kimmel

Join us after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 11**, as we celebrate Pam Kimmel's nearly 24 years of faithful service here at ELPC.



In her service as our church's business administrator, Pam has coordinated thousands of meetings, navigated logistical needs for hundreds of groups, facilitated scores of building projects, and attended too many meetings to count! This reception will be our opportunity to share with Pam our deep gratitude, affection and best wishes as she begins a new chapter in her life.

Congregation members are invited to bring cookies on this day, so we can present Pam with a traditional Pittsburgh "cookie table."

Christian Education

Note: Classes are on Sundays, 9:45 am.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Children and Youth

Young Children's Ministry/Infants–Age 2 Nursery

Pre-school/Ages 3–5 Room 110 B

Kindergarten–Grade 1 Room 206

Grades 2–3 Room 205

Grades 4–5 Room 211

Middle School (grades 6–8) Room 207

Senior High (grades 9–12) Room 217

Contemporaries *McKelvy Room*

Facilitator: Contemporaries Steering Committee

Nov. 4: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Through video, discussion and prayer, Rita Nordquist will lead us as we learn more about persecution in the Christian Church today and spend time in prayer together.

Nov. 11: A Christian Perspective on the Opioid Crisis

Karen A. Plavan, Ph.D., will lead us in an exploration of the Opioid Crisis from the perspective of our faith. Dr. Plavan is a Certified Family Interventionist and serves as the Director of The Oasis Recover Center and Chair of the Coalition for Leadership Education and Advocacy for Recovery (CLEAR), one of the oldest alcohol/drug coalitions in the U.S.

Nov. 18 | 25: *Combined class with Seekers*

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Jan Lyle Irvin, Lora Bethea, and staff facilitators

“Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

—Revelation 4b–5

We seem to be awash in deceit or half-truths, and truth-seeking communities seem scarce as ideology rules. Yet our year's readings end with deep wisdom and assurance by the One who is both trustworthy and just. One who comes in peace. Come join us as we listen for the Lord's voice.

Nov. 4: Ruth 1:1–18; Psalm 146;
Hebrews 9:11–14; Mark 12:28–34

Nov. 11: Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17; Psalm 127;
Hebrews 9:24–28; Mark 12:38–44

Nov. 18: 1 Samuel 1:4–20; 1 Samuel 2:1–10;
Hebrews 10:11–25; Mark 13:1–8

Nov. 25: 2 Samuel 23:1–7; Psalm 132:1–18;
Revelation 1:4b–8; John 18:33–37

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Nov. 4: Hello Neighbor: Welcoming Pittsburgh's Newest Refugees as Friends

Hello Neighbor is a non-profit organization that started in Pittsburgh in 2017, which welcomes refugees to the area and matches Pittsburgh families with refugee families in a mentoring relationship. So far, Hello Neighbor has matched 50 families! The program is launching its third cohort of families in November. Come and hear about the organization, how it was started, how this organization is welcoming the least of these, and how you can become involved, as families or individuals. Our discussion will be led by Kara Kimicata, program manager for Hello Neighbor.

Nov. 11: Enhanced Christians: Technology or Grace?

Today, technology is used not just to heal us when we are sick, but to enhance us. This is most obvious in sports, with athletes at all levels turning to supplements and drugs to enhance their strength and performance. Ron Cole-Turner, professor of Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will lead us as we examine these questions:

- What is enhancement?
- Do we live in an enhancement culture?
- Does Christianity offer its own pathway to human enhancement?

Nov. 18 | 25: Irish Presbyterians and the Shaping of Western Pennsylvania, 1770–1830

Dr. Gilmore will share his historical study examining the religious culture of Irish immigrants in the early years of the American nation. Despite fractious relations among competing sects, many of these immigrants shared a vision of a renewed Ireland in which their versions of Presbyterianism could flourish free from the domination of landlords and the established church. In the process, they created the institutional foundations for Western Pennsylvanian Presbyterian churches.

Soul Food *Good Samaritan Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu

Nov. 4, 12, 18: Surrender to Love Book Discussion

We will conclude our discussion of *Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality*, by David Benner.

Nov. 25: Meditations of the Heart Book Discussion

We will begin our discussion of *Meditations of the Heart*, by Howard Thurman, with a focus on African-American contemplative spirituality. New participants are always welcome and books are quickly available.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., Nov. 4: Doing Good Together! Service Project 12:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 are welcome to join us for lunch, fun, and a variety of service projects here at ELPC with youth from Rodef Shalom.



Fri.–Sat., Nov. 16–17: Youth Retreat @ Crestfield

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to an overnight retreat filled with games, hikes, crafts, prayer, and reflection on the things for which we are thankful. The cost is \$50; scholarships are available. Permission slip, packing list, and other details are available online.

Fri., Nov. 30: Tween Night | Scavenger Hunt 6–8 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to enjoy dinner and an epic scavenger hunt around the church. Friends are welcome too! RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs



Fri., Nov. 2: First Friday @ Beto's 7 pm

Go out to dinner with friends to try pizza with raw toppings at a Pittsburgh favorite: Beto's Pizza (1473 Banksville Rd., 15216). Bring some money and your appetite. RSVP if you'd like a ride, leaving ELPC at 6:30 pm. Learn more at BetosOriginalPizza.com.

Sat., Nov. 10: Wandering to Glass 11 am–1:30 pm

Let's reconnect with the Happy Wanderers as we visit the Pittsburgh Glass Center for a tour and demonstration, then return to ELPC for lunch in the Garth Overlook Room. The cost is \$10/person, which covers transportation, tour, demonstration, and lunch. Learn more at PittsburghGlassCenter.org.

Fall Food Drive to Benefit EECM

On **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 11**, the Mission Board and Christian Education will once again sponsor a food drive to benefit the Food Pantry at East End Cooperative Ministry. Bags with a shopping list attached will be distributed on **Sun., Nov. 4**.

Please return filled bags on **Sun., Nov. 11**, so they can be brought forth during Sanctuary worship as our offering to assist community members who are in need.

Requested items include:

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned soups and pastas
- Brown and white Rice
- Rice-A-Roni type meals
- Hamburger Helper type meals
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Mac 'n cheese
- Oatmeal
- Ramen noodles

club one sixteen

Wednesdays, from 3:30–7:30 pm

Note: We will not meet on **Nov. 21**.

Students in grades 7–12 will be continuing our theme: **what you know, what you don't know, and what you don't know you don't know!** Each lesson will begin with a student teaching the class about something they know. An adult leader will then teach the lesson and lead a time of response as we explore life and faith together each week.



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 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
 - Older Youth: Bible Study and Gym
 - Younger Youth: Crafts and Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

Thinking About Joining Our Faith Family?

If you've been visiting ELPC and are interested in becoming a member or friend, plan on attending one of our Inquirers' Classes on **Sun., Dec. 2 or 9**, 12:30–2 pm, in the Music Room on the third floor. You'll have an opportunity to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Tour ELPC this Fall

This month, we'll explore ELPC's cavernous basement following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 4.**

You'll be able to see the giant boilers that heat our church home and the blowers that feed air to more than 7,000 organ pipes!



Then following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 11,** you'll have an opportunity to learn about intricate design details in our Sanctuary and Chapel.

Support the Toymakers' Annual Sale

The ELPC Toymakers' annual sale will be held following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Dec. 2,** in the McKelvy Room. Available will be a sampling of the toys we make for distribution to women's shelters and mission trips, as well as some seasonal goodies like ornaments, shelf elves, and Nativity puzzles.

Thanks to congregational generosity, this sale enables us to buy supplies that keep us going for the whole year.



Presbyterian Women

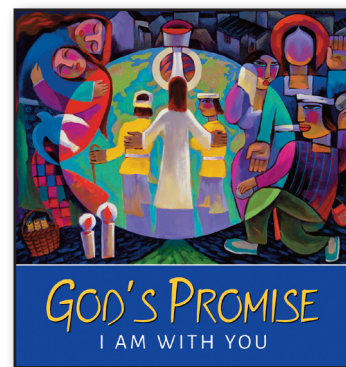
Sherry Anderson, Moderator

Bible Study | God's Promise: I am with You

Mon., Nov. 5 7 pm | Tues., Nov. 6 10 am

All women at ELPC are welcome to join us as we continue our Bible study. This month's lesson is titled "God with us in our Discouragement."

Monday's group will meet for Bible study and fellowship in the Harambe Room. Tuesday's group will meet for Bible study in the Second Floor Parlor, followed by a potluck lunch. Soup will be provided, but please bring a side or salad to share, as well as your own place setting.



Spiritual Life

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

Sun., Nov. 4: Christianity and Buddhism: Tools for Resilience 12 pm

The Spiritual Life Committee is offering a program exploring the common threads and differences between Buddhism and Christianity. We will gather in the Second Floor Parlor to share a light lunch and explore how Buddhism can be used as a resource for deepening our Christianity. Susan Spangler and the Rev. Mary Lynn will be leading our discussion.

Sat., Nov. 10: Invitation to a Retreat 9 am-1 pm

Our Monday evening Insight Meditation group invites both experienced meditators and novices for a time of retreat and renewal—as well as an introduction to meditation if you have not practiced before. The retreat will be in the Second Floor Parlor. Across the breadth of our culture, researchers are telling us the ways in which a meditation practice quiets our minds and brings us home to who we are, who we are created to be. Join us!

Take Note: Musical Happenings Around Pittsburgh

Dr. Edward Alan Moore will be performing at two exciting events in November.

On **Sat., Nov. 3,** 3 pm, he will be one of the featured organists at the 90th birthday celebration for Dr. Charles Huddleston Heaton, former ELPC organist and music director. The celebration will take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (5801 Hampton St., 15206).

Then on **Sun., Nov. 4,** 4 pm, he will be in recital at Glenshaw Presbyterian Church (300 Glenshaw Ave., 15116). His performance will re-dedicate the church's newly rebuilt Austin Organ, Opus 1575, which was originally built in 1928. There will be a light reception following the concert.





A New Role for Wil Forrest

Beginning December 1, Wil Forrest will make the shift from his current church roles to a new one—namely, serving as the ELPC Director of Church Operations. This is a revised position taking some of the responsibilities that were previously covered by Pam Kimmel, while adding in some new tasks related to the long-term maintenance and upkeep of our church facility. Wil will be relinquishing his work with the church's iServe, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries, but will still be the coordinator for our LGBTQ Ministry.

Wil is well-prepared for his new role, not only because of his in-depth familiarity with ELPC and its many programs, but also because of his past work history coordinating university residence hall and facility operations for four different campuses over 15 years.

As he has said, "I am excited to partner in the leadership of the care and use of our beautiful and newly renovated church home, and am honored to serve our wonderful congregation in this new position."

Please extend to Wil your best wishes and heartfelt prayers as he transitions from one ministry area to a new one early next month.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of Young Adult and Outreach Programs

Sat., Nov. 17: Spiritual Gathering 2 pm
All LGBTQ folks and allies are welcome to attend our monthly Spiritual Gathering.

To learn more about our LGBTQ Ministry, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

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



Hanging of the Greens

The season of Advent begins on **Sun., Dec. 2**. To help celebrate this festive time, volunteers are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship to decorate our Sanctuary with the trees, wreaths, and garlands that symbolize the good news of Christ's promised presence in our world.

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to an Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service at Third Presbyterian Church (corner of Fifth and Negley) on **Tues., Nov. 20**, 7:30 pm. Look for more details in the weekly announcements and *e-Flash*.

Celebrating the Life of Gail Noden

Everyone in our faith family is welcome to celebrate the life of longtime ELPC member Gail Noden on **Tues., Nov. 20**, 10 am, on what would have been her birthday.



ELPC People

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

Good News

We congratulate those in our faith family who recently celebrated their baptism at ELPC!

- **Lila Victoria Castle**, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Castle
- **Parker Brian Gilroy**, son of Sean and Crystal Gilroy

Prayers

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

- Larry Richard Orndoff
- Janet Pollard's brother



“...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.”

Holiday Building Closures

- **Veterans Day**
Mon., Nov. 12, until 7 pm
- **Thanksgiving**
Thurs.–Fri., Nov. 22–23, all day
Mon., Nov. 26, until 7 pm

Cathedral Rummage Sale

ELPC is hosting a Cathedral Rummage Sale and Bake Sale in the Social Hall on **Sat., Nov. 3**, 9 am–2 pm.

There will be a great selection of men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing; housewares; small hardware; linens; jewelry; toys; knickknacks; books; records; CDs; DVDs; Christmas items; and more!

Questions? Email Lora at ljazzbo@aol.com or Tony at overthepond_50@hotmail.com.

All proceeds benefit the *Building Our Future* campaign.

Bingo, Bowling, and Games



The Christian Education Committee invites folks of all ages to an evening of fun and fellowship with bowling, Bingo, and a wide collection of board games on **Sat., Nov. 10**, 5:30–7:30 pm.

Pizza will be provided, but please bring a side dish or salad to share.

Presenting a Pittsburgh Treasure

The eighth season of ELPC’s *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on **Sat., Nov. 10**, 8 pm, with a performance by Chatham Baroque in our intimate Chapel.

Regarded as one of the country’s most distinguished period ensembles, Chatham Baroque has excited local, national, and international audiences for nearly 30 years with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th and 18th century music, played on instruments of the time.



A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members from Dr. Edward Alan Moore.

Christmas is Around the Corner

Our highly anticipated concert, *Christmas in East Liberty*, will take place on **Fri., Dec. 14**, 7:30 pm, with performances by The Brass Roots, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Saxophonist Mike Tomaro, and the ELPC Chancel Choir!