

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

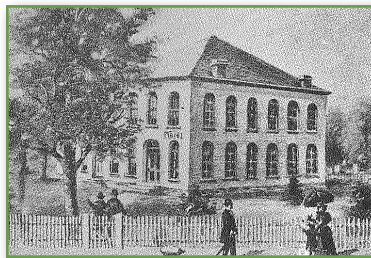
January 2019

Join Us On Winter Rally Day

As we gather for Church School on **Sun., Jan. 6**, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room, beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. Grab a bite to eat on your way to class, and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

Celebrating Our Bicentennial in 2019

On April 12, 1819, a group of donors pledged their contributions for the first church building associated with the East Liberty congregation, along with a gift of land from Jacob and Barbara Ann Negley. A centennial celebration for ELPC was held in April 1919, and plans are underway for a similar series of events to mark our church's 200th anniversary in 2019.



The first church, pictured in 1819



The fourth church, pictured in 1919

More information will be available in the coming months, but help us get ready now for what God has planned for our church for the next 200 years!

Mark your calendars for **May 12–19**. We will have special Sunday services in that week, as well as a gala event on the grounds of Frick Museum on **Sat., May 18**. In addition, we are making plans for a special choir concert on **Sun., March 24**, and other community events, concerts, church tours, ice cream socials, and hopefully a “Light Up Night” celebration when we complete the lighting improvements in our tower.



Our church, the fifth church, present day

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Theme: Transformation

Jan. 6* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Jan. 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Jan. 20 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Jan. 27 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Jan. 6* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
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Jan. 20 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Jan. 27 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*

God Created You. God Loves You. Be Yourself.

All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to our monthly Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., Jan. 20**, 12:30 pm.

To learn more about our LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x118.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
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Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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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
*Director of Church Operations,
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry*

Debbie Banton
Facility Administrator

Kelli Booher
*Coordinator of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries*

Jim DiGiorgio
Coordinator of iSERVE Ministry

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator of Christian Education
and Youth Ministry*

Deborah Marx
Financial Administrator

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



Happy New Year. Now what? The start of 2019 is an opportunity to review your life and set some goals for a positive, fruitful year of existence. What are some guiding principles that can help you in this personal New Year examination?

A lot of attention has been directed to “blue zones”—places in the world where people enjoy longer and healthier lives than anywhere else on earth. The beneficiaries of these places share certain common traits. They all take part in regular physical activity, avoid smoking and limit drinking, eat moderately of a diet

largely vegetarian in nature, stay connected to family members and social groups, and maintain both a clear purpose for living and a strong connection to God. Perhaps your personal New Year’s self-examination would evaluate how you’re doing in each of those categories.

Other studies have focused more on the psychological traits of a healthy and happy life. This research has found that the most important qualities to have in one’s life include three things: meaning, mastery and autonomy. We all need to feel that there is meaning associated with the things we do each day. We also benefit from the ongoing acquisition of new skills and mastery of tasks. And our capacity to navigate adversity is directly tied to our ability to be autonomous—to make choices and decisions about how we live our lives. This type of New Year’s self-examination would ponder whether our lives have meaning, whether we feel in control of our daily choices, and whether we are truly “lifelong learners.”

From the perspective of faith, there are slightly different questions we should ask ourselves: Whom do I trust completely? What do I hope for deeply? And where do I most often find love and joy in my life today? Similar to the other two models, a living faith is based on a sense of trust—believing that this world is held in God’s hands and we are partners with the Lord in the ongoing work of being agents of change and compassion. The New Year gives us the chance to awaken each day and affirm this good news by saying the short prayer, “Lord, I trust you know my needs even before I do. Walk beside me and before me as I rise to face this day.”

A living faith is also honest about what we hope and what we fear. The Easter wonder of Christ’s resurrection and the scripture’s promise of a time when we shall dwell in peace and harmony give us assurance about what is to come. Consider taking time in the middle of the day to pray, “Lord, there is much I don’t fully understand and too often I don’t feel up to the tasks before me. Reassure me now through your love and grace that in time all will be well.”

Lastly, a living faith sees the glass as half-full, optimistic that there is something each day to celebrate and in which we can take pleasure. As we lie down at night, perhaps our evening prayer can be one of gratitude saying, “Lord, thank you for the moments of wonder and joy in the day just past. Every smile, every chuckle, every embrace was a blessing. May tomorrow have even more of the same!” Think on these things and have a happy New Year!

Randy Bush

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

Jan. 6: Faith and Personal Finances

What role does our Christian faith play in how we deal with money—our approach to living, giving, owing, and saving? Could we develop a more faith-filled relationship with our money? We will address the subject from both ends of the age spectrum—both young and old.

Jan. 13: Faith and Church Finances

Our church has a great mission to serve our community, locally and around the world. Who makes the decisions about what funds are available? Where does the money come from? What should we know, as faithful church members, about church finances? How can we make this a subject that reflects who we are as active members of our church family? Class will be led by Gene and Marva Harris.

Jan. 20–27: *Combined with Seekers*

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Jan Irvin, Lora Bethea

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news..."—Luke 4:18

Jesus' public ministry begins with teaching in synagogues, places of faithfulness and memory. The synagogue of his youth is the place where his ministry first becomes interpreted. Through self-acceptance and self-disclosure Jesus "reads" the scripture from the scroll of Isaiah, words made flesh. Scripture reads Jesus and it also reads us. Join our class this Epiphany season and emerging New Year.

Jan. 6: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

Jan. 13: Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–22

Jan. 20: Isaiah 62:1–5; Psalm 36:5–10;
1 Corinthians 12:1–11; John 2:1–11

Jan. 27: Nehemiah 8:1–10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Jan. 6: The Paradoxes of Peace in the Middle East

Over the past 100 years, the tension between the nation of Israel and the historical rights of Palestinian residents has been a persistent and paradoxical challenge for that part of the world. Pastor Randy will explore the range of historical and social issues that continue to make peace in Israel & Palestine such an elusive goal.

Jan. 13: The Christian Roots of Lingering Anti-Semitism

Pastor Randy will share about the problematic Christian interpretations of scripture that have sadly fostered positions of anti-Semitism through the ages, and how we can live into healthier, more just interpretations going forward by faith.

Jan. 20: Freedom Rising

Join us to hear more about *Freedom Rising*—a ministry adopted by our 222 General Assembly to address the worsening plight of the African American male. *Freedom Rising* originated in Pittsburgh and is one of five cities named to pilot this important work. Hear from members of the *Freedom Rising* Steering Team—including the Rev. Dr. Johnnie Monroe, Lenore Williams, and Pastor Heather—about the background of this ministry, Pittsburgh Presbytery's pilot initiative, and what you can do to engage in this important work.

Jan. 27: On Stormy Seas and Wilderness Wanderings: Noticing God's Presence Through Life's Storms and Deserts

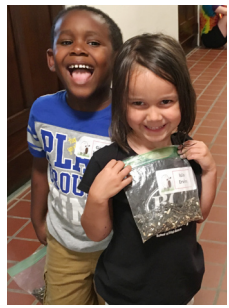
We have all had times in our lives when we have struggled to experience God's presence. Scripture tells us that Christ is with us always, but there are times when it is hard to feel that he is really there. Many of us have wondered where God was in the midst of a struggle, or if seemingly unanswered prayers were even heard. Biblical stories reassure us that these questions are not new, and likewise assure us that God is faithful. Pastor Heather will lead a discussion of these experiences in light of the promises of scripture.

Soul Food *Good Samaritan Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu

Jan. 6–27: Meditations of the Heart Book Discussion

We will continue our discussion of selections from *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman, with additional information about Thurman and African-American spirituality from *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*, by Barbara Holmes. New participants are always welcome and books are quickly available.



Mission Matters

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

Facing Systemic Racism Series: A Review

The Mission Board would like to thank all those who presented, planned, and attended our *Facing Systemic Racism* series. You all were instrumental in making our series such a success.

The purpose of the series was to start conversations at ELPC around systemic racism, in conjunction with efforts of the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Anti-Racism Transformation Team. The series' stated purpose was to acknowledge, understand, and face the existence and challenges of systemic racism in our lives. Our conversations started in spring, and continued through summer and fall. Each event was attended by more than 55 diverse people, with the kick-off event welcoming over 90. While most attendees were from ELPC, a significant number also came from other congregations and organizations.

The feedback from the series has been very positive! Folks want to delve deeper into the topics and conversations, and learn more about what we can do. Planning for a continuation of the series will be starting soon! One event under consideration is a Lenten series on the Belhar Confession.

Consider joining the Facing Systemic Racism Planning Team. Contact Pastor Patrice at PatriceFS@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x130** for details.

Environmental Book Club

The Justice Committee's Environmental Group invites you to our meeting on **Thurs., Jan. 17, 7 pm**. Bring one of your favorite books or articles about nature or climate change. We will talk about them and choose some for the group to read together in the future.

For details, email Nancy Heastings at N.Heastings@comcast.net.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., Jan. 13: Tween Night | Bowling 4–6 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends!

Doing Good Together!

Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom are making plans for a service project in January. Check the youth calendar for more details.



club one sixteen

Wednesdays, 3:30–7:30 pm

Note: Our regular schedule resumes on **Wed., Jan. 9.**

Food 4 Thought

Thursdays, 4:30–6:30 pm

Note: Our regular schedule resumes on **Thurs., Jan. 10.**

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries



Fri., Jan. 4: "REcipe" First Friday Potluck 7 pm

Yinz come to S'liberty to enjoy a Pittsburgh potluck dinner! Bring popular 'Burgh fare, such as pierogies, salad with fries, brats, pretzel Jello salad, or burnt almond torte; contribute to the cookie table; or get creative with the theme! Our evening will be filled with food, friends, and games—all with Pittsburgh flair. Please RSVP with what you are bringing by calling or leaving a message at **412.441.3800 x114**.

Sun., Jan. 6: "REsolution, REsponsibility, or RELuctance" Class 9:45 am

Money and finances are a big part of adulting, whether we like it or not. We will join the Contemporaries class in the McKelvy Room to discuss faith and finances.

Tues., Jan. 15: "REjoice" Ringing in the New Year with Handbells 7 pm

What better way to ring in the New Year than to literally ring in the New Year? Ever wondered what it's like to play the handbells? Always wanted to play a musical instrument, but didn't think you could? Want to get together with some fun people and try your hand at something new? Join us as Dr. Ed Moore leads an introductory handbell lesson in Room 318. Absolutely no experience is required.

Sun., Jan. 27: "REflect" Stained Glass and Mosaic Class 12:30 pm

Learn, create, and reflect! Following Sanctuary worship, we'll join a church tour to learn about the stained glass windows in our church. Afterward, we'll gather in the Maker's Space to create glass mosaics with instruction by artist Debbie from Mosaic Glass Creations and Songbird Artistry. Contact Kelli Booher by calling or leaving a message at **412.441.3800 x114**.





Please Welcome Debbie Banton

It is a pleasure to welcome Debbie Banton as ELPC's new facility administrator. A native of Jamaica, Debbie has lived the past 17 years in Harrisburg, where she has worked for many years in the hotel and hospitality industry.

She will work closely with Wil Forrest, director of church operations; Paul Martin, project manager; and Allen Miller, lead engineer; as well as our hospitality, security, and

housekeeping staff to ensure ELPC is well-kept, well-organized, and well-prepared for the wide range of ministries and events that take place within our church.

Take time to welcome Debbie to our faith family as you see her!

Presbyterian Women

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

Mon., Jan. 7 7 pm | Tues. Jan. 8 10 am

All women at ELPC are welcome to join us as we continue our Bible study in the New Year. This month's lesson is titled "God With Us When We're Powerless." 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.

Presbyterian Women Diaper Drive Begins

Families with limited income and resources have great difficulty providing for the diapering needs of their infants and toddlers. When children are inadequately diapered, negative social responses can be damaging to the growth of healthy minds and bodies. Our faith family has been generous in its response to this need. We thank you for your renewed commitment. Look for a donation box near the Highland entrance.

iSERVE Ministry

Jim DiGiorgio, Coordinator of iSERVE Ministry

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has—or ever will have—something inside that is unique to all time."
—Mr. Rogers

The Gifts You Serve

God gives us all unique gifts of skills and abilities, which become our natural talents and strengths. What gifts do you have that can help others? How can you use your gifts to help others realize how rare and valuable they are?

Here at ELPC, we have many diverse opportunities to serve our community with the gifts that we each have been given. Contact Jim DiGiorgio at JimD@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x139** to find out how you can use your gifts to serve. To read about other service opportunities, visit ELPC.church/programs/iSERVE.

Honoring Gail Noden

Several friends of Gail Noden contributed to a gift in her honor, adding her name to the plaque in the Garth in thanksgiving of her memory, with remaining funds donated to the *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC. For those who couldn't attend the service in celebration of Gail's life, a video is available. Contact Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net for details.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Congratulations to Amy and Drew Simpson on the adoption of their son, Ethan.
- Congratulations to Katie and Matt Sebastian on the adoption of their children, Olivia and Russell.
- Congratulations to those in our faith family who were recently baptized:
 - **Ali Margaret Carpenter**
 - **Noah Canavezi Knies**, son of Ryan and Ana Knies
 - **Jack Alan Overholt**, son of Trey and Alanna Overholt

Thanks

- Presbyterian Women's group thank the congregation for its generous contributions to the 2018 Thank Offering. We raised **more than \$2,000**, which will support programs that lift up the lives of women and children around the world.
- The Toy Makers thank the ELPC faith family for reaffirming its reputation for generosity by supporting our recent sale. The money we received will provide supplies for the year.

Prayers

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

- Aidevo Hughes-Ihonde's mother
- Karen Overfield's mother, Ruth Goodwill



“...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.”

ELPC Holiday Closures

The ELPC office will be closed all day on New Year’s Day, **Tues., Jan. 1**, as well as on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **Mon., Jan. 21**, until 7 pm.

Presenting a Pittsburgh Treasure

The eighth season of ELPC’s *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on **Sat., Jan. 5**, 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.

Church Tour Opportunities

Join our tour guides following Sanctuary worship to tour our Sanctuary and Chapel on **Sun., Jan. 6**, or learn about our beautiful stained glass windows on **Sun., Jan. 27**.

Does Science Threaten Belief?

Plan on joining us for an opportunity to look more closely at your faith as we spend the day with ELPC member Dr. Kevin Seybold on **Sat., Jan. 26**, 9 am–4:30 pm.

Kevin will lead us through a day of study and reflection based on a video series that uses interviews with world renowned theologians and scientists to explore the question, “Test of Faith: Does Science Threaten Belief?”



Feeling Crafty?

Consider joining one of our “hands on” groups to use your skills to care for others. We share lots of fellowship, along with our patterns, problems, and projects. All ages and skills are welcome. Questions? Contact Diane Jackson at dnjcks@verizon.net or 412.441.6021.

Knitting Group
Tues., Jan. 8
1–3 pm
Maker’s Space

Toy Makers
Wed., Jan. 9, 23
9 am–12 pm
Maker’s Space

Sewing Group
Mon., Jan. 28
2:30–6 pm
Sewing Space