

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

June 2019

Celebrating the Gifts of Our Youth

On **Sun., June 2**, our Senior High youth will lead us during Sanctuary worship. This special service is a 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 on their journeys.

Wear Red on Pentecost



Pentecost is an annual church event that marks the end of the Easter season and the birth of the early Christian church. On this special day, we remember how the Holy Spirit inspired the first disciples. Join us in worship on **Sun., June 9**, and wear red as a symbol of the fire that touched women and men that day, as we re-commit ourselves to sharing the good news of Christ.

June is Pride Month in Pittsburgh



One of the most public witnesses to God's love for all people and for our strong desire to reflect that love, is our faith family's participation in the LGBTQ Pride events each summer. This year, we will be showing solidarity and sharing a booth with five other Presbyterian churches.

Pride will take place **Sat.–Sun., June 8–9**, in two new locations. Delta's PrideFest will be held on the Andy Warhol Bridge; Peoples Pride will be in West Park, across from Allegheny General Hospital. There also will be two marches to participate in on **Sun., June 9**, standing up for justice and love. Delta's Pride Equality

March will leave from Blvd. of the Allies and end at Liberty Ave. Peoples Pride Parade will leave from Freedom Corner and end at West Park. Maps and more information can be picked up by the information screen behind the welcome desk at the Highland entrance.

To be fully inclusive and reflect our diversity, we need you as allies to join us! Sign up to volunteer at ELPC's booth at PrideFest with Carol Chonoska at carolchonoska@gmail.com or Peoples Pride with Brittney Krieger at brittney.blaine.hope@gmail.com. You do not need to sign up for either march. Visit ELPC.church for more details.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Vitality

June 2* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

June 9 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

June 2* Youth Sunday

June 9 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Summer Worship | 10 am

June 16 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

June 23 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

June 30 Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 8 am–1 pm

Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm

Livestream available at ELPC.church

Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

Summer Worship Schedule

On **Sun., June 16**, we will transition to our summer schedule with one Sunday worship service beginning at 10 am, in the Sanctuary. Later in the summer, we will move outdoors into the Courtyard. This early service will continue through Labor Day weekend, and will feature monthly communion, and lively music. We hope that you make Sundays at ELPC a consistent part of your summer routine!

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
*Director of Church Operations,
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry*

Debbie Banton
Facility Administrator

Kelli Booher
*Coordinator of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries*

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator of Christian Education
and Youth Ministry*

Deborah Marx
Financial Administrator

Allen Miller
Lead Engineer

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've always had a problem with "either/or" equations, especially when the two choices are placed in strict opposition to one another. You are either a "dog person" or a "cat person." (What if I like dogs and cats, as well as rabbits and fish?) You are either a "coffee drinker" or a "tea drinker." (What if I like coffee, tea, soda, and the occasional milkshake?) You are either a Steelers fan or a Patriots fan? (OK, maybe there is only one right answer here...)

Life is too rich and complex to be simplified down into a series of "either/or" choices. Something important is lost when we limit things to only two options. Yet far too often we let ourselves be pulled into discussions in which we are expected to choose one side and absolutely reject the other side. Most recently this has been the pattern in many political discussions; either you are a Republican supporting the current administration without question or you are a Democrat seeking to impede the current administration at all costs. It is tiring and makes us lose heart in the power of civil discourse and lose faith in our political process.

Christianity is also something that pushes back on "either/or" tendencies. It is true that Jesus did at times contrast the choices people make as a way to delineate good deeds from sinful acts. For example, he spoke about "sheep" who cared for those who were hungry, naked, sick or in prison, while the "goats" ignored those in need. But in every case, there is always the chance for redemption. "Goats" can start acting like "sheep."

Yet most of Jesus' ministry involved pushing back on "either/or" divisions. The woman others considered unworthy of being a guest at the table was the one allowed to anoint Jesus with oil and be lifted up as a model of righteousness. The tax collector despised for his complicity with Rome was literally invited by Jesus to become one of his chosen disciples. And in the language of the apostle Paul, it is in Christ that we move beyond all these dichotomies, for in Jesus "there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free."

The month of June contains the wonderful celebration of Pentecost, in which the diversity of the church is remembered in that day of swirling winds, tongues of fire, and a cacophony of languages coming together to tell one special gospel of hope. May Pentecost Spirit be an antidote to the political spirits in America that would try to keep us boxed into oppositional categories. May our first impulse, when confronted by an "either/or" equation, be a faithful response that simply asks "Surely there is more to this issue than just two perspectives? What other voices should be heard in this discussion?" May we learn from our LGBTQ friends that binary approaches to the complexity of human life are seldom fully accurate and rarely entirely helpful.

Our God is one who relates to all of us—who is not confounded by complexity—and whose responses are "far more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Step into the fullness of faith, beyond divisions of "either/or" and thereby live at peace within God's generous embrace.

Randy Bush

Pentecost Offering to Be Received

“O God, from my youth you have taught me.”—Psalm 71:17

Every year, we have the opportunity to support various missions of the national church and local ministries by participating in the PC(USA) denomination-wide offerings. On **Sun., June 9**, we will receive the Pentecost Offering, which helps to shape public education through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* national initiative and to support the work of local congregations and organizations that provide summer enrichment programs for children. The Pentecost Offering makes a difference in—and for—the life of the whole church and for congregations like ours, as well as for children and youth near and far. Please prayerfully consider and give generously this year.

Mission Matters

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

Donations Needed for Medical Supplies

As you may know, more than 1.5 Million people in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe were affected by a devastating cyclone in March. A delegation of travelers from Pittsburgh Presbytery—including ELPC travelers Eddie Willson, Annabel Degenholtz, and Xander Yates—are scheduled to journey to Malawi in July to offer assistance, but they need some help.

The Synod in Blantyre has asked for assistance with obtaining some specific medical supplies and the team plans to take up to 13 suitcases full of the requested materials. We are asking our faith family to help fill at least one suitcase. Because the requests are very specific, and will be more affordable if purchased in bulk, the team plans to purchase multivitamins and parasite medicines specifically requested to help prevent the spread of illness. We are asking for monetary donations to cover the costs of purchasing these important items. Thank you in advance for your help!

Sat., June 29: Juneteenth Celebration 11 am

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19 that Union soldiers notified the city of Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Although this was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation became official on Jan. 1, 1863, the proclamation had little impact on Texans until the war ended. With the surrender of General Lee in April 1865, the Union forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance, freeing all slaves. This news was met with joy and celebration and Juneteenth was born as an annual celebration of emancipation and freedom.



Pittsburgh's 2019 celebration will be held June 28–30. ELPC will participate in the parade, beginning at Freedom Corner, **Sat., June 29**, 11 am. Wear your ELPC t-shirt and put on walking shoes to march behind the ELPC banner to Point State Park, where the festivities will continue throughout the weekend.

Looking for more information? Youth and young adults, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net. Other ages, contact Michele Bossers at michele2285@gmail.com.



Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate and volunteered to serve at our Bicentennial Community Celebration on May 10.

Putting Your Gifts to Use

During June, offerings that come to ELPC through our website's "Donate now" option will be divided between support for our 2019 Vacation Church School program and gifts shared with our sister congregation in Balaka, Malawi.

Visit ELPC.church/donate and help out with a special gift!

ELPC Session Updates

At its last meeting, the ELPC Session:

- Welcomed the new elders to their first official meeting;
- Reviewed the successful events celebrating our bicentennial
- Heard important reports from the Personnel Committee related to our Pension Transition Plan and providing appropriate compensation adjustments; and
- Acted on necessary preparations for the ELPC group traveling to Malawi.



On May 4, our faith family gathered together to show their talents, share a meal, and see our new tower lighting system turn on for the first time!

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 take a break over the summer months, let us all give thanks for our teachers:

Sherry Anderson	Bill Johnson
Linda Benedict	Heather Lawrence
Damon Bethea	MeShawn LeVert
Lora Bethea	Roberta London
Carmen Blanco	Nancy Magee
Kelli Booher	Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun
Valire Copeland	Jan Pressman
Kristine Conley	Gwen Puza
Mary Evrard	Kay Shissler
Wil Forrest	Lauren Ward
Sara Hackett	Eddie Willson
Rev. Joe Hajdu	Jen Willson
Carol Hoehn	Contemporaries Steering Team
Jan Irvin	

Christian Education

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

Junior High (grades 6–8) Room 207

Senior High (grades 9–12) Room 217

Contemporaries *McKelvy Room*

Facilitator: Contemporaries Steering Committee

June 2: Reviewing Our Past Year and Fellowship

Together, we’ll reflect on our past year, while enjoying fellowship.

June 9: Fractures within the Church

When should theological differences trump church unity (and vice versa)?

Jim Russ will apply 1 Corinthians 1–4 in a general discussion, with particular reference to the challenges facing the United Methodist Church.

Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitators: Jan Lyle Irvin, Lora Bethea

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”
—John 14:27

A prayer: Lord, let us recognize and witness your peace as ELPC enters its third century of ministry and mission. Open wide our hearts. Grant us assurance and wisdom to face the challenges ahead with hearts untroubled and unafraid.

Thanks to all class participants this year—for minds enkindled and lives shared.

June 2: Acts 16:16–34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12–21; John 17:20–26

June 9: Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104:24–35; Romans 8:14–17; John 14:8–17, 25–27

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

June 2 and 9: Care of the Earth

Lucy de Barbaro, an ELPC Environmental Team member, will lead a two-week discussion on Care of the Earth. Starting from the Genesis story and explaining Presbyterian Eco Resolution, Lucy will bring our attention to the topic of our responsibility for the Care of the Earth. Focusing on climate change and its impact on ecosystems and peoples, we will explore the current status and projections into the future. What is our response to the “bad news” we hear on the environment? What actions could reverse the course? Will we live up to them? Each session will contain some of these three elements: grounding in faith, description of the problem, and a discussion on what can be done.

Soul Food *Third Floor Music Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

June 2 and 9: Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth

We will wrap up our discussion of *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*. New participants are welcome. We will also begin planning for our fall sessions.

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sun., June 2: High School Mission Trip Planning Meeting 12–2 pm

Youth in grades 8–12 who are planning on participating in our High School Mission Trip are asked to attend this important meeting as we plan our fun activities and devotions, design group t-shirts, and plan meals for the week!

Fri., June 14: Middle School Mission Trip Team Building 5:30–8 pm

Youth planning on attending our Middle School Mission Trip are invited to a team building event.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Sat., June 1: Day Retreat @ Raccoon Creek State Park 8:15 am–6 pm

Let's kickoff summer by spending the day on retreat at Raccoon State Park! We will enjoy hiking, swimming, kayaking/canoeing, cooking out, and enjoying fellowship together. We will leave ELPC at 8:15 am, spend the day at the park, leave by 4 pm, and stop for dinner on the way back. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided, but plan to pay for dinner. Please RSVP by **Wed., May 29**, to Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**.

Fri., June 7: Service Project Night 6 pm

ELPC will celebrate Pride by having tables at and marching in the Delta Pride and Peoples Pride Parades on Sun., June 9. On Friday, we will gather together at ELPC for a night of sign making and preparing gifts to give out during the parades. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Tues., June 18: Tuesdays in the Park 5:30–7 pm

This summer—one Tuesday a month—we will visit lesser known Pittsburgh parks to picnic, explore, and expand our faith in fellowship. You've ridden or driven past it many of times, but have you ever spent time there? Pack your dinner, bring a chair/blanket, and let's explore Frank Curto Park on Bigelow Blvd. If you need a ride, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**.

Sat., June 29: Juneteenth Parade and Celebration 10 am

Pittsburgh's Juneteenth celebration will be held June 28–30. ELPC will join in the celebration by participating in the Saturday morning parade at Freedom Corner (Crawford St. and Centre Ave.). Line up begins at 10 am; parade at 11 am. Let's gather with other ELPC friends to march behind the ELPC banner to Point State Park, where the festivities will continue. YAMs will have a setup in the park with blankets, chairs, and water to spend the afternoon celebrating Juneteenth! Contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114** for more information.

About Our Young Adult Ministry

Our Young Adult Ministry welcomes all adults aged post-high school through about age 40. We are a community of students and professionals; married, single, or partnered; with or without children—and from different races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, backgrounds, and with varied beliefs. Join us at our summer events!

Mission Trip Items Due

Youth participating in the Middle School and High School Mission Trips are asked to turn in permission forms, deposits, and scholarship forms to Sara Hackett by **Sun., June 2**. Forms are available from Sara or online.



Youth, Sign Up Now for Summer Activities

Middle School Mission Trip July 7–12

Youth in grades 6–8 will travel to Crestfield Camp for Mission Possible.

Trinity Youth Conference July 21–27

Youth (grade 9 completed) and college-age students are invited to this Presbyterian leadership conference.
TrinityYouthConference.org

High School Mission Trip Aug. 4–9

Youth in grades 9–12 will be serving around Pittsburgh this summer.

Summer Camps @ Crestfield

Crestfield Camp offers a variety of opportunities for youth in elementary, middle, and high school all summer.
CrestfieldCC.org

A History of Taizé at ELPC

The Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth, the first American Intercontinental Meeting of Taizé, was held in Dayton, Ohio, in May 1992. As the brothers of Taizé began to prepare for that event, they contacted the Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, then senior pastor of ELPC, who had visited Taizé previously, and Steve Steinbeiser of St. Paul's Monastery, and asked them to prepare a prayer service together in Pittsburgh. Thus began the Taizé Ministry at ELPC.

More than 2,000 people—including young adults from ELPC and other area churches—joined in the gathering in Dayton, and the Rev. Gail Ransom was selected to begin a weekly Wednesday evening Taizé prayer service, which remains today—27 years later—an identifying ministry of ELPC in the community, in Pittsburgh, and in the surrounding area.



The distinctive orange banners, reflecting those in Taizé, were added to our Chapel service on March 1, 2000. The Rev. Christiane Dutton became ELPC's second

Minister of Taizé Prayer, followed by the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan.

In the early days, the service often "visited" other churches in the city and over the years many groups from ELPC have made pilgrimage to Taizé, France.

Those interested in traveling to Taizé for themselves may be interested in a Pilgrimage of French Monasticism featuring Taizé conducted by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and led by the Rev. Callahan, which is scheduled for the fall of 2020. Details will follow in future issues of *Reaching Out*, and on both the seminary and church websites.

Our Bicentennial Gala on May 11 was a fantastic event filled with inclusive love, great food, and memorable fellowship.



Spiritual Life

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

June Writing Workshops

Learn and experience resilience through the practice of writing! Join two ELPC writers, Emily Mohn-Slate and Jane McCafferty, on Monday evenings throughout the month of June. Check the bulletin for exact time and room.

Two New Labyrinths at ELPC

On the evening of September 29, 1996, in the Chapel, ELPC conducted a Service of Dedication for its first labyrinth, led by the Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut and the Rev. Hydie Houston, followed by an inaugural opportunity to walk the labyrinth. That evening marked the beginning of a now 22-year Labyrinth Ministry here at ELPC. This ministry has introduced our congregation to the prayerful practice of walking a sacred path, and has also become an outreach ministry to our community, the city of Pittsburgh and the surrounding tri-state area. Acquiring additional labyrinths over the years has allowed us to share them with many churches and organizations, such as Robert Morris University, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC, and at events like the University of Pittsburgh Mindfulness Fair.

For the past several years, we have had four cotton canvas labyrinths in varying sizes. A couple of these are now in well-loved but heavily worn condition. So we have retired one of these labyrinths from our official labyrinth ministry and handed it over to the Children and Youth Ministry to offer opportunities for creative prayer to our young people.

In conjunction with our Bicentennial Celebration, we have been blessed with two new labyrinths. Constructed of poly-vinyl canvas, these new models are washable and lighter. One of these will now be our largest (top photo). It is a 38-foot, 4.5-inch Chartres-style labyrinth with teal lines on a white background. It will be available in the Social Hall on Wednesdays. The other will be our smallest at 21 feet, 9 inches in the St Paul a la Chartres-style with rainbow colors on white. It will be available in the Gym on Monday mornings, and in the Chancel on other occasions.



Come experience these new additions to our Labyrinth Ministry!

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

The Mac Miller Fund Names Hope Academy as Inaugural Grantee

We are pleased to announce that Hope Academy was named one of two inaugural grantees of The Mac Miller Fund.

The \$50,000 grant will enable Hope Academy to expand its Suzuki Music Program by doubling enrollment and adding Suzuki method instruction for guitar and flute to its current offerings of violin and cello. The grant also will help provide additional scholarships, instruments, teachers, recitals, and audition coaching.

Established in memory of Pittsburgh-native and globally renowned musician Malcolm "Mac Miller" McCormick by his parents, Karen Meyers and Mark McCormick, and brother Miller McCormick, the fund continues the rapper's vision of providing underserved youth with opportunities to explore the arts and to have a positive impact on communities across the country.



Photos courtesy of Renee Rosensteel

Tour ELPC in June

This month, ELPC is offering opportunities on **Sun., June 2** and **30**, to tour our landmark tower. Then on **Sun., June 9**, you're welcome to learn more about our beautiful stained glass windows. If you're interested in any of these opportunities, join the tours following Sanctuary worship.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry



Sun., June 30: Spiritual Gathering 11:30 am
People are talking. All are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering. We will be reflecting on the question: What's next? Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome.

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.**

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Congratulations to those who recently celebrated their baptisms:
 - **Zayn Feghali Najjar**, son of Yana G. Najjar and Maisa N. Feghali
 - **Ethan Simpson**, son of Amy and Drew Simpson
 - **Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt**, sons of Stephen and Travis Simpson-Hunt
- Congratulations to **Peta Harrigan Cole** for being awarded a *Certificate of Excellence* in recognition of her 15-year service and outstanding performance as a volunteer class tutor at Pittsburgh Public Schools.
- We welcomed a new class of members and friends on April 28: **Micaela D'Avilar & James Ashton, William & Deborah Newcomer, Rachel Mackey & Chris Piccolo, Nancy Heastings & Colleen Vermillion, Stanley Koepke, Ben & Katie Fitzpatrick, and Nicole & Jared Welty.**



Prayers

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

- Cecil Birt, father of the Rev. Ashley Birt
- Martha Watkins, mother/grandmother of former ELPC employees Carmen Watkins and Marlon Harvey
- Dorothy Youngman



“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.”

We’re Open New Hours



Beginning **Sat., June 1**, our church doors will be open to our faith family, friends, and community **Monday–Friday, 8 am–9 pm**; and **Saturday–Sunday, 7 am–7 pm**.

You can expect to find a friendly, helpful person to greet you as you enter or call during these hours. The building hours will extend for specific previously scheduled events.

Calling All Graduates



We acknowledge that many people from within our faith family have graduated or will be graduating 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, submit name, degree, and school attended to Gloria Knopp at GloriaK@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122** by **Mon., July 1**.

There’s Still Time to Register for VCS

Vacation Church School will take place **June 24–28, 9 am–3pm**. Guided by our theme, *Who is My Neighbor? Learning to Love like Jesus*, children ages 4 through grade 5 will explore God’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Don’t Wait, Register Today

Registration forms for campers and volunteers are available at tiny.cc/vcs2019.



Volunteers Needed

Youth in grades 6–12 and adults of all ages are needed to serve as volunteers. We need folks who can serve all week and even those who can spare a few hours. There is a mandatory training session for all volunteers on **Sun., June 23, 11 am**.

A “Thank You” 200 Years in the Making

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered to make our Bicentennial Potluck, Talent Show, Tower Light-Up Night, Ice Cream Social, Bicentennial Gala and Church Tours successful events and a witness to our community. A special thanks to the Session members who planned and facilitated the events: Stefani Danes, Mark DeWitt, Dee Flaherty, Brittney Krieger, Heather Lawrence, Tiffany Sudar, and Tim VanFleet!