



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

July 2019

Worship All Summer Long

During the summer months, our regular Journey and Sanctuary worship services are combined into one lively and engaging Summer worship service that begins at 10 am. This early service will continue through Labor Day weekend and will feature monthly communion.

Worship will be held in the Sanctuary throughout July. In August and on the first Sunday in September, the service will be held in our Courtyard—weather permitting. Additional seating is available in the Courtyard Overlook Room, where the services are projected onto a screen.



Now Streaming

If you're out of town or unable to attend our worship in person, we hope you consider joining our faith family in spirit. Services are livestreamed each week so that you can tune in no matter where your journey has taken you. Make sure

to subscribe to our **YouTube** channel or follow us on **Facebook** to receive a notification when streaming begins. Past services also are archived on our website in case you've missed one. For details, visit tiny.cc/elpc-stream.

This summer, no matter your vacation or travel plans, strive to continue the good habit of worshipping with our faith family each week to praise and offer prayers to our gracious God and Creator.

Putting Your Special Gifts to Use

Did you know that you can make an online donation to benefit our various ministries, as well as a number of local/national/international missions that we support?

During July, gifts donated online will support our ongoing church property work—including additional bathroom upgrades—and our support of Open Hand Ministries' housing renovation work in the East End.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Visit ELPC.church/donate and help out with a special gift!

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Summer Worship | 10 am

July 7* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

July 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

July 21 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

July 28 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

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

Nurture Your Spirit This Summer

While many of our regular activities go on vacation during the summer months, the Spiritual Life Committee would like to remind you that we can always find time for prayer.

Stop by the **Prayer and Meditation Room** any time the building is open to enjoy a quiet space to color a mandala, gaze at an icon, or to just be still. A **labyrinth** is available for prayerful walking every Monday, 8 am–1 pm, and Wednesday, 8 am–9 pm, in the Courtyard (weather permitting).

Looking for something more active? Join us for **Cathedral Yoga** on Wednesdays, 6 pm, and then stay for our **Taizé prayer service**.

In the midst of your busy summer, take the time to tend to your spirit!

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

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



How “open” a person are you? By that I mean, what topics are you comfortable talking about with others? The answer to that question depends on the person to whom you’re speaking. If you are talking to your best friend, you will likely share more information than what you’re comfortable discussing with someone at the bus stop. That is understandable, but considering this scenario in a bit more detail can be a healthy spiritual discipline.

Picture yourself seated next to someone who smiles and starts up a conversation about what great weather we’ve been having lately. What topics are you comfortable bringing up in response? Would you talk about your job, family, and health? Would you talk about how expensive gas is; how taking the bus is a good option for people worried about climate change? Would you talk about the mayor, school superintendent, or the president? (Here’s the hard one.) Would you bring up the subject of prayer, of where you go to church, or what gives you spiritual strength during hard times?

Where would you draw the line in terms of possible conversation topics? Then ask yourself “why.” Maybe you are a private person, uncomfortable in situations of TMI—“too much information.” Maybe you are afraid of offending someone else and so you avoid controversial topics. That’s all perfectly understandable; but sometimes we need to speak up and “step over the line” in conversations—because that is what it means to be a person of faith.

We often evaluate conversations in terms of “social niceties.” These etiquette rules guide us as we consider which topics are appropriate to mention and how much information it is proper to share with strangers. But sometimes we are called to engage with others as “people of faith.” First, from this perspective, we see others, not as strangers, but as peers and companions on a shared journey in life. Second, we are willing to initiate appropriate social interactions—whether that is just a smile or wishing someone “good morning” and taking the time to ask how their day is going. Something as simple as that can help another person feel affirmed, less alone and isolated in this busy world.

Third, it is worth noting that the biggest factor shaping which things we like is whether our friends also like them. (Studies have shown that this extends to friends of friends—that we are influenced by “three degrees of separation.”) If a friend notes that she likes a certain bank, a new ice cream store or TV show, we are much more prone to stop by, purchase, or watch that same thing. Now imagine if our conversations with others named that we enjoy being part of a church, acknowledged that we hope for a more just world, and included prayer as one way we choose to respond to people in need. Those intentional spiritual references can open the way for deeper conversations between two people. It can easily tip the balance on whether a person visits our church or begins to think in a fresh way about God and faith.

As a minister, I have lots of random “faith conversations” with people I meet once they learn what I do for a living. But people expect me to talk about God. However, every one of you can have a much greater impact than me if God, church, or faith works its way into your conversations. Don’t hide your light under a bushel! Open up and see how the love of Christ can change your conversations today!

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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

Mission Board Committee's 2019 Summer Film Festival

Each year, the ELPC Mission Board and Mission Committees sponsor and host a summer film series. This year's themes are a continuation of our ongoing focus on facing systemic racism. Everyone is invited to stay after worship on **Sun., July 14, Aug. 4, and Aug. 18**, and join us in the Good Samaritan Room to view the movies, discuss the themes, and enjoy a light lunch together.

July 14 | Won't You Be My Neighbor?



This documentary paints a portrait of the philosophy and work of cardigan-wearing children's entertainer Fred Rogers, star of the popular show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. A former minister, Fred Rogers creatively communicated themes of empathy and acceptance, race relations, kindness, and tolerance using a colorful cast of puppets and friends for more than 30 years. Along with archival footage, Rogers' contemporaries and cast-mates reflect on his legacy.

Sponsored by the Neighbors Committee | 94 minutes

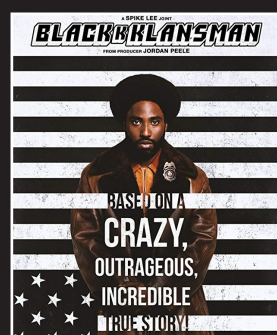
August 4 | Urban Roots

Once an industrial powerhouse of a lost American era, Detroit has been devastated by the loss of half its population due to the collapse of manufacturing. By the looks of it, the city has died. But now, in the empty lots, in the old factory yards, and in-between the sagging blocks of housing, seeds of change are taking root. Dedicated citizens have started an urban environmental movement with the potential to transform not just a city after its collapse, but also a country after the end of its industrial age. *Urban Roots* shows Detroiters working to fulfill their vision for locally-grown, sustainably farmed food in a city where people—as in much of the county—have found themselves cut off from real food.

Sponsored by the Justice Committee | 94 minutes



August 18 | BlacKkKlansman



From visionary filmmaker Spike Lee comes the incredible true story of an American hero. African-American detective Ron Stallworth sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan with the aid of a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman. Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as the organization aims to sanitize its violent rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream.

Sponsored by the Peace Committee | 134 minutes

Tip from the ELPC Environmental Team

Planting Native Plants and Trees

According to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), there are approximately 2,100 plants that are native to Pennsylvania—including varieties of ferns, mosses, grasses, sedges, rushes, wildflowers, woody trees, and shrubs. In recent years, conservationists have increasingly recognized the value of choosing native plants for home landscaping for two reasons: to preserve biodiversity and to support wildlife, particularly bird populations.

Although adult birds feast upon nuts, fruits, and seeds, most birds feed their baby birds with insects and insect larva. Recent research has shown that many of the insects needed to nourish baby birds—such as moths and butterflies—can only survive in the presence of certain native plants and trees. For example, a common, native oak tree's leaves, bark, and acorns support more than 500 other species of insects. On the other hand, a Bradford pear (a common, non-native, urban street tree), supports fewer than 100 species of insects. Native trees that are especially attractive to these important insects are white oaks, willows, black cherries, birches, and poplars.

Additional Considerations

Deep-rooted, native plants tend to be drought resistant and also provide erosion control in rainy seasons. If you replace grassy lawn with native plants, you can double your environmental impact. Mowers and weedwackers burn more than 800 million gallons of gasoline per year, contributing to the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change.

Need More Information?

Sylvania Natives on Ira Way in Squirrel Hill has a great selection of native plants. Other resources include dcnr.pa.gov, audubon.org, and panativeplantsociety.org.

ELPC Session Updates

The June Session meeting included a joint gathering with the Board of Deacons to review the year just past, and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

Additional items discussed included:

- Approval of the most recent church audit;
- Election of corporate officers for ELPC;
- Report from the May 23 Presbytery meeting; and
- Celebration of commissioning of Malawi missionaries and Pastor Patrice's study travel to South Africa (June 16), as well as preparing to welcome the latest class of new members who were received on June 23.

ELPC Staff Changes

This summer will see some transition with the ELPC staff:

- **Jim DiGiorgio** has left his role as the friendly, helpful person at the front desk mid-days and from leading the iSERVE Ministry. **Kelli Booher** will be stepping up on an interim basis to lead our volunteer ministry.
- After graduating with her degree in accounting this spring, **Karly Threets** will be departing her role as administrative support for church financials and for Hope Academy of Music and the Arts.
- After 18 years of dedicated service in working with ELPC youth, **Anthony Williams** will be leaving to take on a new position as the Head of School at the Neighborhood Academy.

Please share your gratitude to these fine folks for their dedicated and faithful service, and continue to hold them in prayer!

Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

July 7–12: Middle School Mission Trip

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

July 21–27: Trinity Youth Conference

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

Aug. 4–9: High School Mission Trip

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

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Tues., July 16: Tuesdays in the Park 5:30–7 pm

This summer—one Tuesday a month—we are visiting lesser-known Pittsburgh parks to enjoy a picnic, explore nature, and expand our faith in fellowship through scripture and dialogue. This month, we'll visit West End – Elliott Overlook Park (Marlow St., 15205). Pack your dinner, bring a chair/blanket, and let's explore! If you need a ride, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**.



Fall Planning is Underway

Fall planning for our Young Adult Ministry is underway and we want to hear from you! Do you have an idea for a Church School topic? Community service project idea? Or any other unique fellowship idea that will build community? If so, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**. Be sure to also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ELPCYoungAdults. We hope to see you this summer!

Mark Your Calendars

Montreat College Conference

- Who** | Anyone 18–23 (you do not need to be actively enrolled in college)
- What** | Montreat College Conference
- Where** | Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina
- When** | January 2–5, 2020

The 2020 College Conference at Montreat will explore the ways Sabbath influences our faith, impacts our personal well-being, and promotes justice and care for our neighbors and surrounding creation. This is a Pittsburgh Presbytery-wide trip, but we would love for ELPC young adults to join! For more information, visit tiny.cc/elpc-montreat. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry



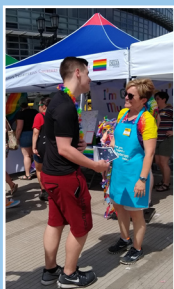
Sun., July 14: Spiritual Gathering 11:30 am
Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to attend our next monthly spiritual gathering. We will begin with lunch and then the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan will guide us for an experience on the new rainbow labyrinth.

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.**

Showing Love, Peace, and Justice at Pride

In June, our faith family joined our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters at the annual Pittsburgh Pride events. This year, events included Delta's PrideFest and Pride Equality March, as well as Peoples Pride of the Ages and Pride Parade.



Last Call for Graduates

We would like to celebrate the achievements of those who graduated from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc., by honoring them 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 8**.

Congratulations, Sonya-Marie

Sonya-Marie Morley was awarded her Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry through the Metro-Urban Institute (MUI) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). For the past nine months, Sonya-Marie has been an MUI Fellow at the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, Zone 5.

In addition, Sonya-Marie has completed her internship at the United Presbyterian Church of Rennerdale and will be providing pulpit supply this summer at First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights while Pastor David Carver is on sabbatical.

Sonya-Marie will graduate from PTS with her Master of Divinity in May 2020.



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:

- Kathleen Kyle's mother, Susie Miller
- Linda Benedict's mother, Lois Stephens
- Herma Stewart's mother

“...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 Office Closure

The ELPC office will be closed **Thurs.–Fri., July 4–5**, in observance of **Independence Day**.



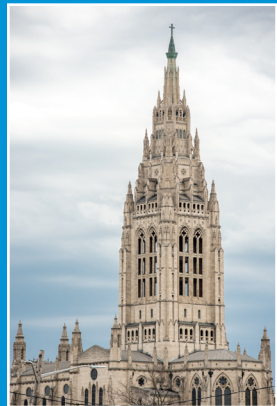
Tour ELPC this July

Sun., July 14: Sanctuary and Chapel Tour

Join us after worship for an architectural tour of our beautiful, Gothic Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel. Our guide will discuss these architectural styles, as well as the history and symbolism of these unique spaces. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary following worship.



Sun., July 28: Tower Tour



Join our tour guide following worship to climb the heights of our church's landmark central tower, and gain insights into its history and construction. 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 Highland entrance following worship.

Hope Academy's Year in Review

Hope Academy students performed in front of thousands of people this year. From a Light Up Night performance with One Big World, to our Shakespeare preliminary and final round participants at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, to five music recitals, two shows for the 20-25-50-200 Anniversary Celebration at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and the showcase performance of “Still Life with Iris” (pictured), our young artists had opportunities to learn and grow both as individuals and as part of a larger community. Visit tiny.cc/ha-2018-2019 to flip through photos and watch videos from the past year.

