

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

August 2019

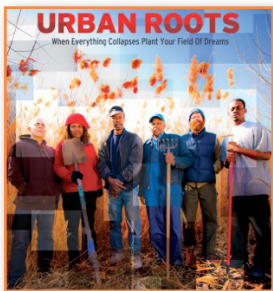
We're Heading Outside for Worship

Beginning on **Sun., Aug. 4**, we will once more move our worship service out into the Courtyard (or "Garth" as its formally known). There is seating in both the Courtyard and in the Garth Overlook Room, where monitors will project the worship service for those watching from inside.

Remember, if you're traveling or away on a Sunday, you can always livestream our service on YouTube and Facebook. Visit tiny.cc/elpc-stream for details. Prior worship services also are available for on-demand viewing.

2019 Summer Film Festival Continues

This year's Summer Film Festival—hosted by the ELPC Mission Board and sponsored by the Mission Committees—continues our ongoing focus on facing systemic racism. Everyone is invited to join us in the Good Samaritan Room to view the movies, discuss the themes, and enjoy a light lunch after worship on the following Sundays.



Sun., Aug. 4: *Urban Roots* | 94 minutes

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. But now, 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*

Sun., Aug. 18: *BlackKlansman* | 134 minutes

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*



VCS in Photos & Words

In this issue of *Reaching Out*, we're revisiting Vacation Church School. You'll find photos from our week together, as well as quotes from campers and volunteers. Enjoy!

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Summer Worship | 10 am

August 4* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
August 11 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
August 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
August 25 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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

Praise, Sing, & Ring!

If you would like to learn more about any of our choirs, email Dr. Ed Moore at EdM@coh.net.

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

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



Author Yuval Harari tells the legend about how the Apollo 11 astronauts trained for their space mission by spending time in the moon-like deserts out west. On one of their training expeditions, they met an old Native American who asked them why they were there. They replied that they were soon going to travel to the moon. The old man fell silent and then asked them to do him a favor. He said, "My people believe that holy spirits live on the moon. I was wondering if you could pass an important message to them from my people."

The astronauts agreed, so the man taught them to say something in his tribal language. He had them repeat it until he was sure they had memorized it correctly. But he wouldn't tell the men what it meant, claiming it was a secret that only the moon spirits were allowed to know.

When the astronauts returned to their base, they searched until they found someone else who understood the native language so they could know the meaning of this secret message. When they repeated what the man had told them, the translator laughed uproariously. When he calmed down, the astronauts asked him what it meant. He said their memorized statement was this: "Don't believe a single word these people are telling you. They have come to steal your lands."

I love both the humor and the poignancy of this anecdote. I love the idea of astronauts like Buzz Aldrin or Neil Armstrong memorizing a phrase to share with moon spirits, even as I'm struck by the desire of this Native American wise man to warn other people about the avarice of American culture—even if these people literally lived on the moon.

We too quickly forget the Native American roots for the Pittsburgh area. Ohio, Aliquippa, and Youghiogheny are all Native American names and this entire region was profoundly shaped by tribal communities—drawn here by the rivers and abundant wildlife. The Adena tribe settled in the McKees Rocks area. Delaware, Shawnee, and Iroquois Indians migrated here after being chased off their lands farther east. Especially prevalent here were the Seneca people, led by their wise Chief Guyasuta. Unfortunately, the French and Indian War of 1754 set in motion land grabs by settlers, who overran the existing villages of Native American people along the three rivers.

It is common for human beings to define themselves by the land upon which they live. But sadly, much of modern history has involved displacing original land residents to make way for new colonies, settlements, and those seeking to claim profits from the God-given natural resources intended for all. So wherever you may travel this summer, strive to walk gently over the face of the earth. Be mindful of those who have gone before you—in many cases, those forcibly removed from the land upon which you stand—and be good stewards on behalf of those who will come after you. Such is the perspective that is in keeping with our faith in the God who was, who is and who will be—the One who is Lord from the rising of the sun until the going down of the same—the Creator and Great Spirit over us all.

Randy Bush

Sung Yoo | Sharing Her Life Story

Originally shared at Sanctuary worship, Sun., June 9, 2019



Thank you so much for inviting me to share my life story with you. Truly, I feel honored to be standing here.

I was born in a Christian family before the Second World War in Pyoung An Buk Do that now belongs to North Korea. But soon after the Second World War, my family had to escape to South Korea because we were Christians and landlords. The North Koreans—who became the communists—came after our family as the first case to purge in my native home.

We escaped to South Korea at night through a demilitarized zone (DMZ), which still exists, trying not to be caught by the North Korean armies. But in South Korea, my life became very harsh because we were refugees. My family experienced humiliation, suffering, and many other difficulties. At that time, I was only nine years old, and I already experienced huge agonies in my life.

With so many painful experiences being a refugee, I did not want to become a Christian. I blamed God for all my sufferings and hardships as well as other agonies in my life. I did not want to believe in Jesus either. I had to go through two wars: The Korean War, which is called the forgotten war; and the Vietnam War, as a nurse.

Then, when I was in my early 40s or so, I had an opportunity for self-reflection and looked at my life journey. I realized that the suffering, pain, and hardship in my life did not come from God nor Jesus. Rather, I learned that God was with me all along through all my life's suffering and disbelief. Even though I was blaming God and not believing in Jesus, God was with me all the way through. Also, God let my family come to America in 1971.

I was able to see myself before God, and I deeply repented for the way I had been. Since that revelation and experiencing God's grace, I started to become more active in the Korean church in Princeton, New Jersey.

Now, I believe in my heart that Jesus is the bread of life. The bread that gives us life and sustains our life is my belief. The bread is translated as 떡 (tteog) in some Korean translations, which means rice cake. 떡 or bread not only satisfies our physical hunger, but also is our life. The true bread of life, Jesus makes us whole. He is the bread of my life as well as yours when you believe in him.

Thank You Very Much.

Mission Matters

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

Sat., Aug. 3: House Rehab Projects

Everyone is invited and no special skills are needed. Questions? Contact Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com or **412.963.0139**.

Tues., Aug. 6: OHM Circles Dinner

This month, ELPC is hosting the OHM Circles Dinner for OHM families. Side dishes and volunteers to serve are needed! Questions? Contact Frank Bauerle at **817.705.6856** or frbauerle@yahoo.com, or Henry Petrilli, HLP615@gmail.com.



My favorite thing about VCS is...

"...hanging with the kids."
—C.H., youth helper

Tip from the ELPC Environmental Team

A Call to Become Carbon Neutral

In 2006, the General Assembly of PC(USA) adopted a resolution calling on every Presbyterian family to become carbon neutral.

What does it mean to be carbon neutral? There are CO₂ emissions associated with our use of electricity, heating, and transportation, as well as the food we eat and products we buy. These emissions can be estimated using online carbon calculators, such as tiny.cc/CO2-calculator. Using your bills and/or approximate dollar amounts spent, one can get a fairly good sense of their carbon footprint.

The PC(USA) *Guide to Going Carbon Neutral*, tiny.cc/carbon-neutral, advises us to aim to reduce what we can of the emissions, and to purchase the offsets for the portion we cannot reduce each year. The need for these actions is even more urgent now, in 2019, than it was in 2006. Please consider what you can do.

Also, the Environmental Team will conduct an educational session on this topic before the end of the summer.



A Look Back at VCS 2019

During the last week in June, children ages 4 and up learned about God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Teenage youth acted out our Bible stories each day—from the story of the Good Samaritan, reminding us that good neighbors are those who help and care for others, to the story of the early church sharing their belongings with one another. We learned more about our neighborhood—exploring places at ELPC many of us have never seen (like the sub-basement!), praying for our neighborhood of East Liberty, serving those who are new to our country, being welcomed by an organization in our neighborhood (Hello Neighbor), and learning more about how to be good neighbors by caring for our planet. We sang songs to praise God, we played games in the gym, we baked cookies for staff at ELPC to say “thank you,” and we made new friends.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers—younger and older. Your talent and joy helped make VCS 2019 a great success! Thank you to:

Sherry Anderson
 Janiyah Anthony
 Sam Arnold
 Josh Bellin
 Amy Bialek
 Carmen Blanco
 Jazmier Branch
 Trish Buben
 Charlotte Bush
 Beth Bush
 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
 Marilyn Castle
 Carol Chonoska
 Rosalina Colon
 Lydia Delp
 Sandy Edgcombe
 Dwayne Elliott
 Luz Esquivel Brigido
 Shayla Esquivel Brigido
 Dylan Geibel
 Jane Hackett
 Sara Hackett
 Corey Hardy

Corvay Hardy
 Peta Harrigan Cole
 Myrna Hiller
 Carol Hoehn
 Liz Hopkins
 Imani Howard
 Keith Irvin
 Lynne Irvin
 Aura Jirau
 Gloria Knopp
 Pat Krimmel
 Linda Lane
 Heather Lawrence
 Christian Lewand
 Julia Lewand
 Mary Alice Lightle
 Samantha Lowery
 Devan McNamee
 Beverly Mick
 Nico Mizell
 Madison Morrissey
 Kira Mukogosi
 Tobi Olaore

Elaine Phillips
 Jack Phillips
 Jan Pressman
 Anthony Robinson
 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Paul Seif
 Kay Shissler
 Karen Sloan
 Elliot Stephany
 Oliver Stephany
 Kalyn Stevwing
 Tiffany Sudar
 Hannah Travali-Peacock
 John Tunney
 Evalynn Welling
 Reed Williams
 Isaiah Wilson
 Janiyah West
 Dominik Wrage
 Oliver Wrage
 Xander Yates



This week, I had the most fun...

"...with yoga and sprinklers."
 —Anonymous





This week, I had the most fun...

"...music!"
—J.H., adult volunteer



This week, I had the most fun...

"...playing hide-and-seek."
—E.W., 3rd grade



My favorite thing about VCS is...

"...everything."
—M.T., 3rd grade

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Fri., Aug. 2: Outdoor Labyrinth 7 pm

You may have walked the labyrinth at ELPC before but let's explore some outdoor ones in Pittsburgh! Afterward, we will go out for dessert, so bring money if you would like to join us for that as well. RSVP to Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114** by **Wed., July 31**.

Tues., Aug. 20: Tuesdays in the Park 5:30–7 pm

Our last Tuesday in the Park gathering was not voted on by the time this newsletter was printed. For complete details, email KelliB@coh.net, visit ELPC.church, or check the Sunday announcements.

Fri., Aug. 30: Drive-In Movie Time 6:30 pm

Let's take a trip back in time and experience the movies outdoors at Dependable Drive In Theater (549 Moon Clinton Rd., Moon). We will meet at ELPC and leave at 6:30 pm. Bring money for the concession stands or snacks of your own! We will decide which movie to watch as we get closer to the date. RSVP to Kelli at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114** so we can plan on how many spaces/chairs we need, and arrange transportation.

Mark Your Calendars for Our Fall Study



Are you frustrated by the issues in the world, but don't know how to call yourself to action? This September and October, we'll take a look through the lens of the Christian faith with *Just Engagement: The Power to Change*. Developed by Just Faith Ministries, this eight-week module includes grounding in scripture; reflection on past and present social movements; wisdom from

community advocates; tools for successful advocacy; and resources to support you as you discern how your gifts, skills, and passions are best utilized to create social change. Be on the lookout in upcoming announcements for more details!

My favorite thing about VCS is...

"...morning worship, when everyone sings praise to God together."

—C.C., adult volunteer

Tour ELPC in August

On **Sun., Aug. 11**, learn about the many Biblical stories that are depicted in our stained glass windows. Then on **Sun., Aug. 25**, climb the heights of our church's landmark central tower, and gain insights into its history and construction. The tours begin following worship. For a full list of upcoming tours, visit tiny.cc/elpc-tours.



This week, I had the most fun...

"...volunteering. I love to volunteer at VCS because it gives me a chance to give back to the church that has done so much for me."

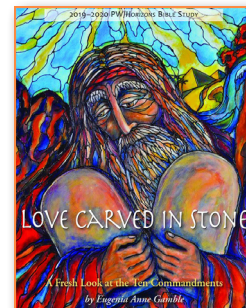
—S.B., youth helper

Presbyterian Women

Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments
Tues., Sept. 3 10 am | Mon., Sept. 9 7 pm

Plan on joining us this September as we begin our 2019–2020 Bible study, titled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble of the PW PC(USA). Eugenia speaks to the study in the following quote:

"The Ten Commandments can be studied fruitfully on many levels. We can take them literally. We can see them as symbols of a way of life or a particular ideology. We can even see them as the basic guiding blocks of our society, building blocks that lie at the core of each of the Abrahamic faiths (Christianity, Judaism and Islam.) In this study, I encourage you to go deeper than you may have thought to go before. I invite you to consider how these commands were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding can unlock fresh insights for our lives today."



Presbyterian Women at ELPC Develop Manifesto

The following manifesto was created by our membership at our Tuesday Bible Study in May 2019. We seek to make these words our guiding principles. We share it in this issue of *Reaching Out* to begin our invitation to all persons who consider themselves women at ELPC. We hope you will join us at Bible Study, as well as any and all special events that PW hosts in the coming year.

I (We) stand for:

- Inclusiveness
- Justice
- Women of faith
- Speaking

I (We) will:

- Help and serve others
- Be responsible, accountable
- Be praying

I am (We are) most called to:

- Bear witness
- Value all people
- Advocate
- Be kind
- Teach truth

I (We) believe:

- In love in God

God is always; So I (we) will:

- Trust God
- Be present for others
- Be true to God's word



My favorite thing about VCS is...

"...making new friends and neighbors."

—C.H., youth helper

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry



Sat., Aug. 17: Spiritual Gathering 11:30 am
Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to attend our next monthly spiritual gathering. We will share a potluck lunch and fellowship time

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

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



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Hope Academy's Fall Term Begins Sept. 21

Visit HopeAcademyArts.com to register, apply for scholarships, RSVP for information sessions, or schedule an audition.

Hope Academy to Perform with Black Violin

Hope Academy violin, viola, and cello students will perform with Black Violin at the Byham Theater on **Thurs., Sept. 26, 7 pm.**



Important Dates for Hope Academy Students

Mon., Aug. 5	Online Registration Open to Returning Families
Wed., Aug. 7	Scholarship Application Deadline
Thurs., Aug. 15	Online Registration Open to New Families
Sat., Aug. 24	2 pm Suzuki Pre-Twinkle Program Info Session (ages 4-7 for violin, cello, flute or guitar)
Tues., Sept. 3	5:30 pm Suzuki Pre-Twinkle Program Info Session (ages 4-7 for violin, cello, flute or guitar)
Thurs., Sept. 5	5:30 pm Suzuki Pre-Twinkle Program Info Session (ages 4-7 for violin, cello, flute or guitar)
Sat., Sept. 7	10 am Triple Threat Scholarship Auditions (Sing, Dance and Act grades 4-6 and 6-9) 10 am Dancewear Recycle, Donate and Swap 1 pm Suzuki Pre-Twinkle Instrument/Teaching Artist Match (ages 4-7 for violin, cello, flute or guitar)

ELPC People

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

Good News

Join us in welcoming our new members who were received on June 23: **Samuel Arnold, Sheryl Austin, John Benedict, Alli & Adam Clevenger, Joshua Diluzio, Bridget Ferris, John & Lis Ormsbee, Mark Statler, and Nathaniel Stephens.**

Prayers

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

- Dinah Adjaye and family on the passing of Joseph Adjaye.
- Mary Lou and Buzz Hutchison, and family, on the passing of Mary Lou's mother, Mary Jane Gettings.
- Tom Sturgill on the passing of his father, Jack Sturgill.
- Tim Sergi on the passing of his mother, Jean Sergi.
- Herma Stewart on the passing of her mother, Edith Stewart.
- David Schoenewolf on the passing of his father, Don Schoenewolf.

“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.”

Congratulations, Graduates!

Join us in congratulating those in our faith family who recently celebrated their graduation from high school:

- **Charlotte Bush**, daughter of Pastor Randy and Beth Bush
- **Chloe Ferrante**, daughter of Pam Walaski
- **Gianna Griffin**, daughter of Elisa Long and James Griffin
- **Brianna Hackett**, daughter of Sara Hackett
- **Aveion LeVert**, daughter of MeShawn LeVert
- **Kenyada Little**, daughter of Leslie Little
- **Robert Starzynski**, son of Bob and Erin Starzynski

We also congratulate **Carol Sharp** and **Kalyn Stewing**, who earned their M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Support Ministries Near & Far

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? Your generosity is greatly appreciated. To help out with a special gift, visit ELPC.church/donate.

During August, gifts donated online will support ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry, as well as the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which is a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole.

Save the Date for a Silent Retreat

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to come away **Fri.–Sun., Oct. 11–13**, at The Ark and The Dove in Gibsonia. In silence, we’ll celebrate the beauty of autumn and draw closer to God. Registration information will be available soon.



My favorite thing about VCS is...

“...that it brings a diverse group of people together for a week of fun.”

—J.L., adult volunteer