



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

September 2019

A Full Month of Activities at ELPC

The five Sundays in September are wonderful opportunities both for worship and deepening your connection with the ministries and people of ELPC.

On **Sun., Sept. 1**, we will have our last 10 am Sunday service in the Courtyard, celebrating communion on that Labor Day weekend.

Rally Day will be on **Sun., Sept. 8**, as we return to our regular Sunday schedule with two worship services, 8:45 am and 11 am, and Church School classes for all ages, 9:45–10:45 am. The Children & Families Ministry Team will host a Rally Day Breakfast in the Fellowship Room, 9:30 am.

Invite a visitor to join us on **Sun., Sept 15**, for our **Church Life Sampler** following worship. Ministries, programs, and fellowship opportunities of our church will be on display in the Social Hall. It's a great chance to learn more about the music, mission, and educational work of ELPC—and for guests to receive a gift from us and learn about our church.

The next week, **Sun., Sept. 22**, we will enjoy our annual **Church Picnic**. ELPC will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, macaroni and potato salads, beverages, and dessert. Please bring a side or salad. Join us as we spend time together as a faith family, enjoying good food and good company.

On the last Sunday of the month, **Sun., Sept. 29**, the **Deanna Witkowski Trio** will provide special music during our Sanctuary worship service. Read more about our musical guest, and their upcoming concert, on page 8.

Plan on joining us each Sunday this month—re-connecting and re-engaging with our church's vibrant educational and worship life!

Church School Offering

Every year, students of all ages in our Church School classes participate in an offering to support an organization doing important work in the world. Last year, we raised \$1,554.38 in support of Casa San José. This year's offering will support **Hello Neighbor**.

Located in East Liberty, Hello Neighbor provides support to refugees who have recently resettled in Pittsburgh. Hello Neighbor matches the families they serve with mentor families to help ease their transition to Pittsburgh, and also administers an advocacy program to assist families in learning and navigating our health care and educational systems.

Offering envelopes will be available in each Church School class. If you are unable to attend class, brown envelopes marked with Hello Neighbor's logo will be available during worship. No contribution is too small (or too big)!

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Summer Worship | 10 am

Held in the Courtyard, weather permitting; indoor seating available
Sept. 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Mirror Images

Sept. 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sept. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 22 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Sept. 29 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

Livestream available on YouTube and Facebook, visit tiny.cc/elpc-stream

Sept. 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Sept. 29 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

Need a Space to Park?

For parking options and details, please visit tiny.cc/elpc-parking.

Also, due to recent changes made in the use of our staff parking lot off of Baum Blvd., we ask that visitors do not park there. We are seeking to use this lot to its best potential and unplanned parkers in this area prohibit us from using the space.

Thank you!

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

Samantha Lowery
Intern, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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



On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your faith right now? Are you moving through your days seeing life as if through a “faith filter”—imagining God is near, Christ is your guide, and goals of justice, compassion and integrity are your motivations? Or is it a less frequent part of your inner thoughts and decision-making processes?

No one is likely a perfect 10 on this scale, except perhaps a Tibetan monk in constant prayer. Nor is a “perfect 10” truly our goal. God put you in the world to engage with the world, using your particular gifts and skills for goodness, reconciliation and peace. That means you will be daily occupied with a wide range of details that do not explicitly have a faith component to them. You will be driving around, buying groceries, talking with friends and strangers alike. You will be keeping up on the news, making plans for the future, and trying to stay healthy. None of those activities is formally religious. But all of these activities involve where God has placed you for “such a time as this” and where God hopes you will be, as best you can, a witness and example of faith.

In his book, *My Bright Abyss*, Christian Wiman wrote that “faith in God is, in the deepest sense, faith in life.” This life is the canvas upon which God has asked you to paint a picture. This life is the stage upon which God has placed us as actors playing roles each day. This community is the garden in which God gives us the grace and encouragement to be someone who plants seeds, pulls weeds, and works side by side with other people of faith. Our faith in God is part and parcel of our faith in life. Right here is where the good news of Christ becomes real—where the promise and healing mercies of the Holy Spirit become tangible.

If you’ve followed my train of thought so far, then here is a second insight. Since life is something that is always changing, faith too is also something that changes and adapts. At times it may be strong and vibrant; other times it may be quiet, distant, even disconnected. That is because we, the receptacle of faith, are always in motion—responding to new challenges, reacting to whatever crisis or adventure comes our way. You shouldn’t have the same faith at fifty as you had at fifteen. You are a different person; you’ve experienced a lot over the years. Hopefully your faith has been a flexible, adaptive companion for your particular life journey. Hopefully you recognize there are times when God seems near and when God seems far away—times when faith doesn’t offer much comfort in the moment, but later you recognized how something good arose from that season of difficulty.

There is no right or wrong answer to the personal inventory about “how strong is your faith today.” It is an answer for one moment in time—an answer that could change tomorrow or next week. Which is how it should be. So be willing to ask regularly “How is my faith shaping my life right now?” Through worship, study, prayer, and compassionate service, you can strengthen your score on this personal survey. More importantly, you will remember that in a changing world, God is with us always and loves us unconditionally. Start September on this path of stronger spiritual connection.

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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

2019 Facing Systemic Racism Series: Writing a Racial Autobiography

Our fall 2019 Facing Systemic Racism series will focus on writing a racial autobiography. Join us for a three-week introspective writing workshop in which we will reflect upon, share, and develop our individual experiences with race to form of a racial autobiography.

The sessions will be held on **Sat., Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Oct. 12**, 5:30–7 pm, with a light meal provided at 6 pm. Visit **ELPC.church** for more details.

Reflections On Our Malawi Pilgrimage

By Eddie Willson

Annabel Degenholtz and I traveled to Malawi with the International Partnership of Pittsburgh Presbytery from July 2–18. We were able to spend three days with our sister church in Balaka, and helped lead three youth conferences around the southern region of Malawi. Youth from both countries compared the experiences of growing up as Christians in today's world, and discussed ways of dealing with the stresses inherent in adolescence, regardless of geography.

During our stay in Balaka, I had the honor of preaching a sermon and cutting the ribbon on a newly built house for an elderly congregant who had lost her home in last year's floods. Annabel had the opportunity at the Kabango Prayer house to teach a clapping game to the Sunday School children, and lead great conversations during the youth conferences.



We had the opportunity to listen to and learn from our brothers and sisters in Malawi, and to experience their grace, hospitality, and love. We learned through experiences like sharing devotionals and climbing Mount Mulanje with friends from Balaka CCAP and other congregations. We saw firsthand some of the

work that the Balaka CCAP congregation has been able to accomplish with the help of resources from ELPC—like the roof that they were able to build on a prayer house, and the Mvano house built by, and for, the Women's Guild in Balaka. We saw the effort and passion put in by all the staff at Mount Mulanje Mission Hospital, dedicated to making a healthier Malawi. God is doing amazing work in Balaka, throughout Malawi, and in the hearts of the ELPC pilgrims.

We will be presenting details about our pilgrimage and discussing more ways for ELPC members to get involved with the partnership during some of the Church School classes this fall. Feel free to reach out to me for more information at willson.eddie@gmail.com.

We are so incredibly grateful to the congregation for all of your support—especially the Mission Board, the Peace Committee, and the Youth and Young Adults Committee. Not only were we able to go on the pilgrimage, but with your help, we were also able to donate 15 suitcases full of medical supplies, handmade toys, and \$400 to the Mulanje Mission hospital.

News from the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee

Attend a Renewable Energy Fair

Do you want to find out how to switch to all renewable electricity? Are you trying to decide whether solar panels would work on your house? Do you know how to measure your carbon footprint?

To find answers to these questions and other energy-use matters, you are invited to attend a Renewable Energy Fair following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Sept. 8**. Representatives from renewable energy suppliers will be available to answer your questions and help you make the switch. There also will be a solar energy advisor. Bring your electric bill.

A light lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.

Environmental Book Club

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to begin reading a book of your choice about nature or climate change. A list of suggested books is available.

We will meet on **Thurs., Sept. 26**, 7 pm, in the Trustees' Meeting Room to discuss highlights and relevant actions. For details, email Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.

Tour ELPC in September

On **Sun., Sept. 8**, join architectural historian Tom Morton for a tour of ELPC's exterior. Then on **Sun., Sept. 22**, join Steve Evrard to 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.

Christian Education

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Contemporaries *McKelvy Room*

Facilitator: Carolyn Russ, Steering Committee Chair

Sept. 8: Getting to Know Us, Getting to Like Us

Get a feel for the mission of the Contemporaries class, hear about the upcoming classes, and learn about Hello, Neighbor, recipient of the Church School offering.

Sept. 15: Exploring the Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos, signifying God's special appointed time, is also the name chosen by the Kairos Prison Ministry. While Kairos Inside ministers to those who are incarcerated, Kairos Outside is a weekend retreat for women who have loved ones who are incarcerated. Jesus particularly asked us to care for these people, so join us to learn about the powerful resources that are available for them. Presented by Michael McGraw of the Kairos Inside ministry.

Sept. 22: What Is The Chapel Market?

The Chapel Market is a vibrant ministry of our church whereby neighbors help neighbors. Although the main assistance is with clothing, the intangible results are significant as well. Please join us as Gerald McClendon, on-site administrator, shares great stories with us.

Sept. 29: Becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation

Pastor Patrice will lead us as we think about what it means to be a "Matthew 25 church." We are invited to answer the call to see Christ in our community and the world, especially by working to dismantle structural racism and to eradicate systemic poverty.

Journey with Scripture *Highland Room*

Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Samantha Lowery, Jan Lyle Irvin

September readings explore the book of the prophet Jeremiah, who proclaims a different message from the prevailing ideology and political powers in Israel. This gets him imprisoned! We will read the whole letter of Philemon—the apostle Paul's shortest letter (from prison), with its controversial subject of slavery. 1 Timothy is the first of two Pastoral letters that reflect a developing, perhaps more orthodox, church setting. Finally, Jesus tells unique, life giving parables that are found only in Luke's gospel. Come join the journey of reading and reflecting on scripture.

Sept. 8: Jeremiah 18:1–11; Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18;
Philemon 1:1–21; Luke 14: 25–33

Sept. 15: Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28; Psalm 14;
1 Timothy 1:12–17; Luke 15:1–10

Sept. 22: Jeremiah 8:18–9:1; Psalm 79:1–9;
1 Timothy 2:1–7; Luke 16:1–13

Sept. 29: Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15; Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16;
1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Sept. 8: Women Empowerment and Health Care in Cuba

Gwen Puza will talk about women empowerment and health care in Cuba, as well as what she learned about during her trip to Cuba this past June with 17 other women from Global Links.

Sept. 15 & 22: Experiencing God Despite Doubts

We all want to experience God in our lives. We all have doubts. Do our doubts get in the way of experience? Does experience do away with doubts? Dr. Graham Standish will explore how our doubts actually help us experience God more in life, and ways to tangibly experience God so that our doubts can lead us down new paths of discovery.

Sept. 29: Teaching Among the Masai and in the Slums of Kenya, and Bringing Water to a Kenyan Village

Gwen Puza will show pictures and discuss her recent time in Kenya. This will be three parts: living with and teaching in the Masai community, teaching in the slums of Nairobi (the largest slums in Africa), and having two wells dug, by hand, to bring water to a water-starved Kenyan tribal village that Gwen stayed in for a few days 10 years ago. We also will discuss Kenya as a Christian nation.

Soul Food *Good Samaritan Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu

Sept. 8: Welcome and Preview Session

Join our Soul Food class as we preview our upcoming year.

Sept. 15: Introduction of Inspired

We will discuss the introduction of our new book, *Inspired—Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, by Rachel Held Evans.

Sept. 22 & 29: Inspired | Origin Stories

As we begin our new book, *Inspired*, we will discuss the first chapter on Origin Stories.

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*

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Sign Up to Receive Our Youth Calendar Each Month

Families, if you would like to receive a printed or emailed copy of ELPC's Youth Calendar, please email Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sat., Sept. 14: 80s Skating Night 7–10:30 pm

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to a fun fall kick-off event: an 80s-themed skating night! Please meet at ELPC and bring \$10. RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Sun., Oct. 6: Confirmation Class Informational Meeting 12 pm

Youth in grades 8–9 (and older), who are interested in deepening their faith, asking questions, and exploring adult membership at ELPC, are invited to attend an informational meeting (with a light lunch!) to learn about our 2019–2020 Confirmation Class in the Second Floor Parlor. Parents/guardians are welcome. Please RSVP to Pastor Heather so that we have enough food for everyone.

Sun., Oct. 6: Music Class for Young Children's Ministry 9:45 am

Kindermusik educator Christa Beck will offer a special music class for children from birth–age 3 and their parent(s) or caregivers in the Harambe Room during the Church School hour. Class will begin at 10 am. Contact Pastor Heather to RSVP or if you have any questions.

club one sixteen begins wed., sept. 11

club one sixteen is our mid-week program for children and youth in grades 1–12. On Wednesdays, 3:30–7 pm, students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Fri., Sept. 6: Coffee Talk 6:30–7 pm

Coffee Talk is an annual event where we meet to drink coffee, relax, and discuss a specific topic. This year's topic is *Grown Up*. Do you consider yourself grown up? Waiting to grow up? What was something you looked forward to as a child when you would think of being a grown up? Bring a story and a dessert to share, Café Justo will be provided. Come hang out and let's brew up some good conversation!

Sun., Sept. 8: Back to (Church) School 9:45–10:45 am

This fall and spring, we will intentionally join ELPC's adult Church School classes to get to know them better. This month, we will attend the Soul Food class, which is reading and discussing Rachel Held Evans' book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. If you would like to continue going this fall, you may do so. We will next check out Contemporaries in January. If you need assistance with purchasing the book, email Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net.

Sun., Sept. 21: Young Adult "Just Engagement" Retreat 9 am–3 pm

Whether or not you are a part of our Monday night study (see article on the right), this retreat is for *all* young adults, so let's retreat! We are setting this day aside to get to know each other and to reflect together on how our Christian faith calls us to work towards change. We will look at our faith/spiritual tradition and explore how it may root us in order to go into the world and care for justice. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net.



The Senior High Mission Trip Team spent a week in August selecting books to send to folks who were incarcerated, serving lunch at Northside Common Ministries and dinner at First Presbyterian Church, and preparing a meal for families at Ronald McDonald House.



YAM's Just Engagement

Are you frustrated by the issues in the world, but don't know how to call yourself to action?

Join us on Mondays in September (9, 16, 23, 30), 6–8 pm, as we study Just Faith Ministries' *Just Engagement: The Power to Change*. This 8-week study 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. Two books are required (financial assistance is available) *Faith Rooted Organizing* by Alexia Salvatierra & Peter Heltzel; and *Live Justly* by Eugene Cho.

Please register with Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Sponsored by the Justice Committee

Make New Connections

ELPC is a BIG place. *Connections* is one way we make it small.

Connections is an informal way to meet and socialize with other people in the church. New groups of 8–12 people are formed each fall, with the next set starting in October. Anyone can join (new or returning), and all are welcome. The point is to get to know others at ELPC and make connections.

The commitment is to gather and participate with your group 4–8 times per year. *Connections* Captains start things off by hosting the first event. After that, others in the group take turns hosting or arranging events. Most popular options include potlucks in homes or at the church after a service, or meeting at a restaurant or park. Hosts have the freedom to create an event they are comfortable hosting. It's very flexible—the point is to get together for casual conversation, often share a meal, get to know more people at ELPC, and connect.

Visit tiny.cc/elpc-connections to join *Connections* in October, or reach out to Elaine Phillips at 412.335-8443 or connectelpc@gmail.com for details.



In July, the Middle School Mission Trip Team enjoyed serving at World Vision and at Crestfield Camp, as well as learning about environmental sustainability at Slippery Rock University.

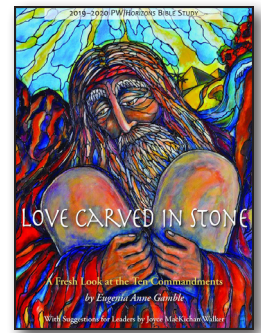
Presbyterian Women

Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone

Tues., Sept. 3 10 am | Mon., Sept. 9 7 pm

Join us for the first lesson in this year's Bible study, titled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

Tuesday's groups meet in the Second Floor Parlor and is wrapped up with a lunch featuring soup and sides provided by the members. Monday's group meets in the Trustees Room. We look forward to seeing you!



Spiritual Life

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

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

Spirituality at its most basic can be described as a growth in one's relationship with what is. It is about who *I* am in relationship with the *Great I AM*, be that God or Creation or the Energy of the Universe or... This is not "New Age" thinking. The reformer from whom Presbyterians derive their theology, John Calvin, began his theological "Institutes of the Christian Religion" with these words:

"Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But as these are connected together by many ties, it is not easy to determine which of the two precedes and gives birth to the other. For, in the first place, no man can survey himself without forthwith turning his thoughts towards the God in whom he lives and moves..."

The Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) invites you to delve into these two intertwined realities: *Knowledge of Self* and *Knowledge of God*. Look for the SLC's brochure with a complete list of programs at the **Church Life Sampler** on **Sun., Sept. 15**.

For now, consider a unique opportunity to explore these connected realities. From late September to mid-May, you are invited to participate in an updated offering of the **Ignatian Spiritual Exercises**. Following the 500-year-old exercises, this experience will be updated using both evolutionary theology (based on the work of Teilhard de Chardin) to enhance our knowledge of God, and the enneagram as a tool for growing in self-knowledge.

Like all opportunities for real growth, these exercises will require a commitment of time and effort. Participants will read and pray daily and meet weekly with the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan. Sometimes these meetings will be with the group or one-on-one. There will be some breaks around holidays.

To ask questions or sign up for this unique opportunity, contact the Rev. Callahan.

Mark Your Calendars

Silent Retreat @ The Ark and The Dove

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.



Introducing Samantha Lowery

You might have noticed Samantha Lowery at ELPC on Sundays this summer, helping out during Extended Session or in worship. ELPC is pleased to introduce Samantha as our new intern from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS).

"I believe God is calling me to ordained ministry in the PC(USA), with a focus on healing and invitation to Christians who have had negative experiences in churches," Samantha says. "To that end, I'm passionate about how God might be challenging us to find creative ways of following Jesus at this

moment in time. I'm also a millennial, a lover of cities, and a journalist-turned-pastor who reveres the art of a well-preached sermon. I am eager to spend this year as a student minister at ELPC, witnessing to how God is moving in the midst of this congregation. Thanks for welcoming me and getting to know me!"

Samantha moved to Pittsburgh from New York City in 2017 to attend PTS, where she is completing the last year of her Master of Divinity program. She lives in Squirrel Hill with her fiancée, Joel—a book designer and Methodist pastor's kid from Cleveland—and they are getting married in October.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Attend Our Spiritual Gathering

Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering on **Sun., Sept. 1**, 11:30 am. We will share lunch and fellowship.

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 Sat., Sept. 21

Visit HopeAcademyArts.com to browse courses, register for classes, RSVP for information sessions, or schedule an audition.



Hope Academy Welcomes Carolyn Hunter

Hope Academy is pleased to welcome Carolyn Hunter as its Public Allies Intern.



Carolyn, an arts-activist from Dayton, Ohio, is a community organizer with a focus in Black advancement and LGBTQ issues. A recent Ohio University graduate, she uses her work to educate and bring awareness to social justice issues.

She has served as the historian for Kaleidoscope, a multicultural performing arts group, and as president of Ohio University's Hip Hop Congress. Her passion for service runs deep, and her experience as a queer woman of color, an artist, and an activist, has taught her a great deal about meeting people where they are and providing them what they need.

Carolyn will be on site for all of Hope Academy's programs and will work on special projects, including our strategic planning process, throughout the year.

ELPC People

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

Our Blessings

- Congratulations to Katie & Matt Sebastian on the birth of their son, **Isaac Anthony**.
- Congratulations to Jaimie & Jon Hanson on the baptism of their daughter, **Emery Annabelle**.

Our Thanks

David and Heather Schoenewolf wish to extend their heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy and support their family received following the death of David's father.

Our Prayers

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

- Mark Motyl on the death of his father
- Jon Nelson on the death of his sister

“...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 on **Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 2.**

Tai Chi Resumes

Tai Chi will be offered for 12 weeks, Sept. 17–Dec. 10. The cost is \$30 prepaid or \$3/session. Questions? Contact Pastor Patrice

Earth Care Challenge Update

From the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee

Seventy-seven people in our faith family pledged to fight the climate crisis by adopting new environmentally conscious actions. Many people have reported early progress. Here are a few examples:

Suzanne Wolfe was “newly energized” to complete a pollinator garden she started last year. Her 11-year-old grandson helped by planting, weeding, and even building a scarecrow. Suzanne says that she has planted memories along with the plants.

Penn Hackney cut his fossil fuel consumption by using his car “rarely and intentionally” (as opposed to thoughtlessly and casually).

Beth Urbaitis helped the Larimer Green Team plant fruit trees on a vacant lot in Larimer. The trees will be tended without pesticides and the fruit will be free to the community. Beth is a descendant of Johnny Appleseed. We think he would be proud!

Yamuna Morgenstern says it was “really cool” to get a statement last month showing her solar panels produced more electricity than her household used (for the first time).

We will highlight more successes next month. A luncheon is being planned for **Sun., Oct. 27**, to celebrate and recognize all participants.

Deanna Witkowski Trio to Perform

The 9th season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series kicks off with an exciting afternoon of jazz featuring the Deanna Witkowski Trio on **Sun., Sept. 29**, 3 pm. The concert is *free*, but a freewill offering will be received.

The trio—comprised of pianist-composer-vocalist Deanna Witkowski, bassist Daniel Foose, bass, and drummer Scott Latzky—will perform a mix of Brazilian, jazz, classical, and sacred music.



Preview the full slate of concerts at tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.



In July and August, ELPC hosted 30 students from China, who were in Pittsburgh as part of a Chatham University summer program that included daily ESL classes at ELPC, as well as experiencing many neighborhoods, sites, and tastes from all over our area.