

Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

October 2019

Celebrate & Commemorate Mission

October is Mission Month at ELPC, and each Sunday, special themes will be lifted up during and following our Sanctuary worship services. Together, we'll learn more about our church and how we are "reaching out" into our community and the world. See the Mission Matters section on pg. 3 for more mission-related articles!



Sun., Oct. 6: World Communion Sunday | Peace & Global Witness Offering | Immigrant Justice

ELPC will join sibling congregations around the world to celebrate our oneness in Christ as we partake of the bread and cup at the Table, receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and focus on justice for migrants seeking a better life in the U.S. Following our Sanctuary worship service, the ELPC Board of Deacons will host an International Fellowship, featuring foods and treats from a variety of countries and ethnicities. Come and enjoy.

Sun., Oct. 13: Full Inclusion Sunday | Gender Justice Sunday

We will continue lifting up our unity and uniqueness in Christ during Sanctuary worship by celebrating all of God's people, seeking justice for everyone. The Renaissance City Choir—Western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQA choral group—will be with us. You also are invited to join the Peace Committee, the International Partnership of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, and Crossroads Presbyterian Church for the 7th Annual Forum on Sudan and South Sudan, 1:30 pm, which will honor Congressman Mike Doyle, Esther Sprague, and the Enough Project.

Sun., Oct. 20: Economic Justice Sunday

Following Sanctuary worship, the Facing Systemic Racism Team of the ELPC Mission Board will sponsor a Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation in partnership with Open Hand Ministries. This interactive event will help us understand the connection between poverty, wealth, racial equity, and federal policy. Together, we will explore 13 U.S. federal policies that created and perpetuated structural and institutional inequity. The social impact of these policies continues today—affecting education, hunger, income, and property ownership. A light lunch will be served.

Sun., Oct. 27: Environmental Justice Sunday

Join the Justice Committee's Environmental Team for a summary and celebration of the Earth Care Challenge. Everyone who pledged is encouraged to come and share what you accomplished (small or large) and your experience. A basket of sustainable household articles will be raffled off. All are welcome, even if you have not yet made a pledge to reduce your energy or meat consumption, or plastic usage. It's not too late to join the effort to avoid climate crisis. Lunch will be served.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Just Christians

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

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

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

Oct. 6* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Oct. 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Oct. 20 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Oct. 27 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

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

Taizé All Saints Procession

Join us for a special Taizé service on **Wed., Oct. 30**, 7 pm, for a contemplative procession through the Sanctuary and Trinity Chapel (crypt) as we remember those who have gone before us. Don't miss this touching prayer experience of our unity and eternity in God.



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, iSERVE Ministry*

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

Rev. Terri Pennybaker
Intern, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



Somewhere on my desk, amidst the “ever shifting piles of paper” (as my wife lovingly refers to it), can invariably be found a “To Do” list. It is usually on a notecard, since I’ve found that long lists on legal pads are simply too overwhelming to be practical. The beauty of these lists is that they both prioritize and motivate. They are steady reminders of what I have personally decided needs to be done and not-so-subtle prods to tackle even the unpleasant items, since that is the only way I can get the satisfaction of crossing it off the list!

A “To Do” list is also a lens into one’s personal value system. Whatever is on that list is something that I’ve chosen worthy of spending time doing out of the precious few hours I’m granted each day and relatively short period I’m here on this earth. Some tasks are simply part of the administrative work that goes along with being a pastor—reviewing committee agendas, returning phone calls, writing newsletter articles like this one. Some are more spontaneous tasks, such as following up when a person ends up in the hospital, a baby is born, or a shut-in member now needs hospice care. Sadly, I’m too often remiss about intentionally including on my list items like taking time for daily prayer or doing some devotional reading while outside, away from my desk.

How we spend our days is how we spend our lives. And what ends up on our “To Do” lists is frequently the way we prioritize how to spend those brief days. Yuval Harari, in his book *Sapiens*, made this comment:

“One of history’s few iron laws is that luxuries tend to become necessities and to spawn new obligations. Once people get used to a certain luxury, they begin to count on it. Finally they reach a point where they can’t live without it.”

Over time, we have convinced ourselves that devices once considered luxuries—washing machines, dishwashers, computers, cellphones—are absolute necessities. Therefore our lives become shaped around practices that ensure we have the money and living space for these “necessities.” And yet, if those things are on the top of our “Must Have” list, what has been left off by this prioritization? How might we spend our time, and spend our days, if we weren’t so convinced that these particular comforts have to take priority?

The month of October always has a Mission focus to it. We pause to remember how our faith calls us to be people seeking God’s justice in our relationships with one another and this planet. We will consider topics like environmental and economic justice, full inclusion of all sexual identities, and being global citizens. Those are big topics to add to any “To Do” list, but Christianity has never been afraid of big topics. (What could be bigger than “resurrection” or living “on earth as it is in heaven”?) Use this month to re-prioritize and find fresh motivations for following the example of Christ! I plan to add it to my “To Do” list; I know it’s here, somewhere among the shifting piles of paper...

Randy Bush

2020 Stewardship Campaign: IMPACT

You make a difference. Every time you put money in the offering plate, write a check for your pledge, or arrange for your electronic funds transfer to ELPC, you have an effect on our church, our community, the world. Our stewardship theme for 2020 is **IMPACT**. We are uplifting the impact of your generous gifts, and asking you to continue making an impact with future pledges and gifts.

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." When we gather with children at Vacation Church School, God is with us. When we offer help to Open Hand Ministries, God is with us. When we support our ministry in Malawi, God is with us. When we gather to celebrate PRIDE! week, God is with us. When we work to pay every employee at ELPC a living wage, God is with us.

Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 10, is a time when we will celebrate the **IMPACT** of God's presence through pledging to ELPC. Our hope is that each of you will be prayerful about God's presence in your life and how you might continue to **IMPACT** ELPC and the world through your pledges.

Introducing the Rev. Terri Pennybaker



The ELPC Mission Ministry and Pastor Patrice will have the honor of supervising the Rev. Terri Pennybaker's seminary field education experience from Fall 2019–Spring 2020.

A native of Pittsburgh, the Rev. Pennybaker was licensed to preach the gospel in 2004 and became an ordained minister under the leadership of her pastor and husband, the Rev. Nathaniel Pennybaker, at Triedstone Baptist Church in Rankin, Pennsylvania, in December 2005.

The Rev. Pennybaker is currently pursuing her M.A. in Pastoral Studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She

is a graduate of American Baptist Theological Seminary, Harty Bible School, The Center for Urban Biblical Ministries, and Geneva College.

At the Triedstone Baptist Church, she serves as associate minister, spiritual leader of the Woman's Ministry, and a new member's teacher. She and her husband also serve as spiritual facilitators for an Encouragement Ministry that the Holy Spirit has birthed for pastors and their spouses.

Please welcome and encourage Terri as a new "member" of our faith family.

Mission Matters

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

Sat., Oct. 5 & 12: A Racial Autobiography Workshop 5:30–7 pm

Join us for an intergenerational writing workshop, where our individual experiences with race will be reflected upon, shared, and developed into a racial autobiography. The workshop is open to all who are high school age or older. Writing materials are provided. It is optional to bring photos. Please bring a dish for our potluck meal. Reserve childcare by calling **412.441.3800 x140**.

Upcoming Retirement

Our church is blessed with a significant number of long-tenured staff members. Their expertise and commitment to the ministry of ELPC are big parts of our ongoing success.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement in late January 2020 of Deborah Marx, our financial administrator.



Deborah started at ELPC 18 years ago, first as an administrative assistant to Pamela Kimmel, our business administrator at the time. Six years later, Deborah was promoted to be the church's bookkeeper. This role expanded two years ago into the broader position of ELPC financial administrator.

Deborah is a tremendous asset to our church. Her exceptional accounting and administrative skills—coupled with her trusted relationship with so many church members over the years—will be very hard to replace.

We will be recognizing her service in the coming months, but ask that you hold Deborah in your grateful prayers for her many years of service at ELPC.

October Church Tours

On **Sun., Oct. 6**, join Jo Ellen Aleshire for a tour of ELPC's Sanctuary and Chapel. Then on **Sun., Oct. 20**, join Bob Starzinski 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

Oct. 6: The Bible | What's In, What's Out, Who Decided?

What is included in the Hebrew Bible? Why are there differences between the Catholic and Protestant Bibles? Who decided what to include? Why aren't the Gnostic Gospels included? The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes will present fascinating insights into the history of the book we refer to as "the Bible."

Oct. 13: Our Brothers and Sisters in South Sudan

As Christians, we have a particular obligation to be aware of the welfare of Christians in other parts of the world. To coincide with the 7th Annual Forum on Sudan and South Sudan, which will take place at ELPC later in the day, we have invited Benedict Killang, a Sudanese Pittsburgher to share with us his knowledge and insights on fellow Christians and their journey in South Sudan.

Oct. 20: Telling Our Stories Through Art: Stained Glass

ELPC tour guide Penn Hackney will present photos of our stained glass windows and describe their stories.

Oct. 27: Telling Our Stories Through Art: The Book of Tobit

If you've never heard of the Book of Tobit, now is your chance. Russ Walker will tell you Tobit's story using a version he has illustrated with artwork by Rembrandt.

Journey with Scripture *Highland Room*

Facilitators: Lora Bethea, Samantha Lowery, Jan Lyle Irvin

Alas! Lonely sits the city... Thus begins this month's readings that interpret Israel's crisis of national defeat and exile to Babylon in 587 BCE. This Lamentations reading is the first part of the book's five poems of loss and confession. On a different tack, the prophet Jeremiah counsels the exiles to actively seek the welfare of their new foreign city. In the gospel readings of Luke, Jesus proclaims a similar defenseless wisdom; the despised ill foreigner, the tax collector, and the humble display of faith. They get upheld and healed. The rich, the great, get last. October's readings address dislocation and the radically re-oriented life of the commonwealth of God. Can scripture readings be any timelier? Come join us as scripture grows with it readers!

Oct. 6: Lamentations 1:1–6; Psalm 137:1–9;
2 Timothy 1:1–14; Luke 17:5–10

Oct. 13: Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7; Psalm 66:1–12;
2 Timothy 2:8–15; Luke 17:11–19

Oct. 20: Jeremiah 31:27–34; Psalm 119: 97–104;
2 Timothy 3:14–4:5; Luke 18:1–8

Oct. 27: Joel 2:23–32; Psalm 65:1–13;
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Oct. 6: Insights from Malawi

Annabel Degenholtz and Eddie Willson will discuss their recent pilgrimage to Malawi. They will share their pictures, observations, experiences, and questions, as well as what they learned about the people. We also will hear about the awe-inspiring hospitality they experienced in Malawi.

Oct. 13: Lessons from South Africa

Pastor Patrice will share information about South Africa post-Apartheid, from her recent trip there. Learn about the history, changes, challenges, opportunities, continued oppression of the people, and how we as Christians can respond faithfully from across the globe.

Oct. 20: Unaccompanied Children Program at the Holy Family Institute

Yamuna Morgenstern will speak about the Holy Family Institute's Journey of Hope program, which serves unaccompanied minors who are awaiting sponsorship in the U.S., as well as the Office of Refugee Resettlement, as they work to address this challenge. Yamuna serves as training and recruitment specialist for the Journey of Hope program.

Oct. 27: Global Humanities Aid from Cuban Doctors

We will view a film about the Cuban health care system, which supports humanitarian relief efforts during disasters, and provides health care in rural areas across 65 countries. 400,000 Cuban doctors have served abroad, and they are currently fighting Ebola in the Congo. What can we learn from these Cuban doctors? Why are they so popular in other countries? Hear about the philosophy and values of the Cuban health care system.

Soul Food *Good Samaritan Room*

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

October: Inspired | Deliverance Stories and War Stories

We will discuss the chapters on Deliverance Stories and War Stories from *Inspired—Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, by Rachel Held Evans. New participants are always welcome and books are available.

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

Sun., Oct. 6: Family Music Time | Connect, Laugh, Play, Breathe, Smile 9:45 am

Experience the love and connection that a musical community brings to you and your young children as you learn and grow together. Join Kindermusik educator Christa Beck for a family musical experience for parents/caregivers and their young children (from infancy through age 3) during the Church School hour. We will gather in the Harambe Room at 9:45 am, but class will begin at 10 am. For more information, contact Pastor Heather.

Sun., Oct. 6: Training for Youth Worship Leaders 9:45–10:10 am

Any youth in grades 4–12 who is interested in serving as an acolyte, crucifer, or usher during Sanctuary worship may attend this training session in the Sanctuary.

Sun., Oct. 13: DG2! 12–3:30pm

Doing Good Together!—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—is a monthly interfaith service group for youth in grades 4–12. Following Sanctuary worship, we will meet in the Harambe Room and head over to Rodef Shalom for lunch, fun, and a variety of service projects. The next DG2! will be at ELPC on Sun., Nov. 10. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett. A permission slip is required.

Fri., Oct. 25: Tween Night | Pumpkin Carving and Face Painting 6–8 pm

Youth in grades 4–6 are getting together for pizza, pumpkin carving, and face painting. Friends are always welcome at this monthly time of fellowship and fun!

Sat., Nov. 2: OHM Workday 9 am–12 pm

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join in the Open Hand Ministries work day to help rehab homes in our community. Work could be inside or out, so dress for the weather and to work. RSVP to Sara Hackett. A permission slip is required.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Fri., Oct. 4: First Fall Friday @ Arsenal Cider House 7–9 pm

We will gather at this local cider house for some fall cider and great conversation. Bring money to try some of the house beverages, as well as an engaging question for the group to discuss! Seating is outdoors. Learn more about the venue at arsenalciderhouse.com.

Sat., Oct. 19: Train Trip through the Fall Foliage 9:45 am–8:30 pm

We will enjoy fellowship with the Happy Wanderers group and enjoy a relaxing three-hour round-trip through beautiful Oil Creek State Park to view nature's colorful display! We will leave ELPC at 9:45 am, travel to Titusville, eat lunch at a nearby restaurant, enjoy train ride at 3 pm, and then travel back to ELPC. YAM tickets are \$20, Happy Wanderer tickets are \$18. Bring money for lunch and train snacks. We need to buy tickets soon, so please RSVP to Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114 by **Fri., Oct 4!**

Sun., Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: Church School 9:45 am

We will continue joining the Soul Food class, reading and discussing the book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, by Rachel Held Evans. If you haven't attended a previous class that's okay, you can join us at any time. If you need assistance with purchasing the book contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

Confirmation Class

Sun., Oct. 6: Informational Meeting

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 following Sanctuary worship. Parents/guardians are welcome. RSVP to Pastor Heather.

Sat.–Sun., Oct. 19–20: Overnight

Confirmation Class will begin with an overnight retreat at ELPC as we explore the question "Who is God?" We will discuss the three persons of the trinity and our ability to relate to God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We will meet at ELPC on Saturday, 3 pm, and conclude our time together at the end of the Journey worship on Sunday. RSVP to Sara Hackett.

YAM's Just Engagement

Want to learn how to have a courageous voice to hold our leaders accountable for how their decisions affect the vulnerable?

On **Mon., Oct. 7, 21, and 28**, 6–8 pm, we will continue with sessions 5, 6, and 7 of our 8-week study, *Just Engagement: The Power to Change*. This study includes grounding in Scripture, reflection on past and present social movements, wisdom from community advocates, tools for successful advocacy, and resources to support us for the long haul as we actively impact social change.

Two books are required: *Faith Rooted Organizing* by Alexia Salvatierra and 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

ELPC Donates Toys for Guatemalan Children

ELPC member Tim VanFleet will be traveling to Guatemala with a group of medical doctors, nurses, and support people to hold medical clinics at multiple sites in the indigenous areas



Tim VanFleet (left) and Mike Anderson of ELPC's Toymakers Group preparing hand-made toys.

of the country. Tim will be taking with him hand-made toys that were crafted by the ELPC Toymakers Group. The toys will occupy children while they wait for care. Some of the toys will be left at each site.

The ELPC Toymakers Group hopes the toys exhibit love and concern for children in other parts of the world.

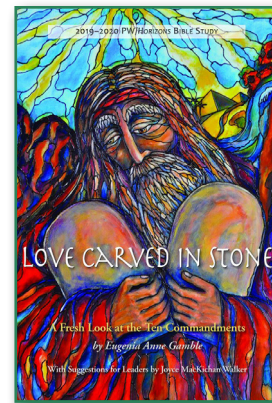
Presbyterian Women

Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone

Tues., Oct. 1 10 am | Mon., Oct. 7 7 pm

Presbyterian Women invite you to join us for our bible study, titled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Commandments*. This month's session will explore *Words of Love: Don't Trivialize My Name*.

Tuesday's group meets 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

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 11–13: Silent Retreat

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a Silent Retreat at The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center on Babcock Blvd. (formerly Providence Villa and Cardinal Wright Center).



We will gather for conversation and dinner on Friday, 6 pm, followed by Compline when we will enter into silence. Silence will be broken during worship on Sunday morning, followed by conversation over brunch before we depart. Included with the retreat is the opportunity to meet with the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan as spiritual director.

The cost is **\$120**, which includes accommodations for two nights, dinner Friday evening, three meals on Saturday, and brunch on Sunday. Scholarship assistance is available. Registration forms are available at the church or at tiny.cc/silent-retreat.

Please contact the Rev. Callahan at **412.441.3800 x141** for more information or to discuss whether this opportunity might be just what you are needing!

Sun., Oct. 20: Heretics, Doubters, & Other Saints 12–2:30 pm

What do/don't we believe/think/know about the Bible? If you have questions or doubts join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we talk about the book often referred to as "the Word of God." Nearly all of the "big" church controversies come down to a difference in the way that people understand the Bible: literally, symbolically, spiritually, and even as history. So, what do you think? All ideas and questions are welcome! Lunch will be served.

Mark Your Calendars: Sun., Nov. 3

Science & Theology: A Look at Consciousness

In anticipation of the production of *The De Chardin Project* play on Sat., Nov. 23, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you to spend time reviewing the life and theology of Teilhard de Chardin following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Nov. 3. Lunch will be provided.

Feeling Crafty?

Knitting Group

The afternoon Knitting Group meets following the PW Bible study, on the first Tuesday of each month. The evening group meets on Mondays at 6 pm. For details, email Diane Jackson, dnjcks@verizon.net, or Tony Richardson-Eckes, overthepond_50@hotmail.com.

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group meets on the third Monday of each month, 2:30–6 pm. Drop by for fellowship and creativity. For more information, email Diane Jackson dnjcks@verizon.net.

Toymakers Group

The Toymakers Group crafts wooden toys for children on alternate Wednesdays, 9 am–12 pm. We share the tasks of cutting, sanding, and painting while we enjoy fellowship. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to help spread some happiness. Contact Mike Anderson for more information.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry



Attend Our Spiritual Gathering

Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering on **Sun., Oct. 13**, 12 pm. We will share lunch and fellowship while we celebrate National Coming Out Day together.

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.

Save the Date: Sun., Nov. 24

A New Approach to Giving Thanks

Our "Giving Thanks" Feast will be held following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 24**. This year, to break from the incomplete and false narrative that is often told of Thanksgiving, let's celebrate it from a different perspective, giving thanks to the land we are on! We are all indigenous to somewhere, so let us give thanks and celebrate those places that are a part of our story by bringing a dish that is representative of each of us. A main course and salad will be provided.

iSERVE Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of iSERVE Ministry

Volunteer Needs

- ELPC's Audio/Visual Team is looking for volunteers to help out on Sundays. If you have an experience—or an interest—in AV, we would love and appreciate your gifts!
- Want to provide meals for some awesome youth? **club one sixteen**, our after school program is back in gear and we are in need of meals on Wednesday nights. If cooking for 50 youth sounds overwhelming, gather a group of your friends and sign up for a Wednesday this fall or spring! You can sign up for entrée/sides, desserts, or both. Prepare ahead of time, drop it off at the church—and if you'd like—serve and meet our wonderful youth!
- As we are always striving and growing into becoming more eco-friendly here at ELPC, we would like to reduce the use of disposable plates and utensils by using our own dishes. This is where you come in! The more people we have trained on how to operate the dishwasher, the easier it is for us to be friendlier to the environment. We can always use your help for cleaning up, bussing dishes and washing them after meals here at ELPC.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

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 Sebastian**, who was born on Aug. 8.
- Congratulations to Kalyn Stevwing & Felix Rivera on the birth of their son **Miguel Rivera-Stevwing**. We rejoice to have celebrated his baptism on Sept. 22 and pray for God's blessing to be upon their whole family.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Ron Stone** for receiving the 2019 *Unitas Distinguished Alumni* award from Union Theological Seminary in NYC.

Our Thanks

Thank you to all of our food donors and volunteers who made our hosting of Open Hand Ministries' Circles dinner in August such a success! We shared fellowship and great food with the families, staff, and allies working with Open Hand Ministries' family development programs. We will be hosting another OHM Circles dinner on Tues., Nov. 5. We invite you to join us or help us plan the event. It is a great way to get to know more about the programs and people involved with our mission partner, OHM! For more details, email Frank Bauerle at frbauerle@yahoo.com.

Thank yous go out to: **Diana Armstrong, Frank Bauerle, Beth Bush, Barb DeWitt, Doris Dick, Carol Forloines, Jessica Giannotta, Heather Lawrence, Henry Petrilli, Kate Powell, Emily Rosenthal, and Nancy Wright.**

Our Prayers

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

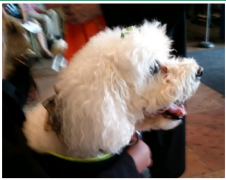
- Jane Krisel, who passed away on Sept. 1.
- Jane Sampson, who passed away on Aug. 15.
- Susan Spangler's mother

“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.”

ELPC Building Closure

The ELPC building will be closed on **Mon., Oct. 14**, in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Blessing of the Animals Service



Join us for our special Blessing of the Animals service on **Sat., Oct. 5**, 3 pm, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and the Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes. Please bring your pets (on leashes!) to the steps on Penn Ave (Narthex if raining). A part

of the service will be devoted to our pets who are no longer with us, but remain in our hearts and at our sides. You are encouraged to bring a collar or toy to be blessed.

We look forward to welcoming you and your companions! Water will be provided.

Terrell Thomas to Guest Speak

All are invited to hear Terrell Thomas speak on **Mon., Oct. 7**, 6:30 pm. He will be on hand as a guest speaker for the Young Adult Ministry’s *Just Engagement* study series.

Terrell currently serves as senior field organizer for the ACLU of Pennsylvania’s Smart Justice Campaign in Allegheny County, and has an extensive background in organizing, advocating and creating social change. He will share his experiences working in advocacy and organizing, as well as his work in reducing Pennsylvania’s jail and prison population while combating racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Long Life, Loose Fit Presentation

ELPC members Jan Irvin and Stefani Danes will join architects Rob Pfaffmann and Greg George of Pfaffmann + Associates for a presentation, titled *Long Life, Loose Fit*, which will explore ELPC’s recent renovation. The free presentation will be held at ELPC on **Fri., Oct. 4**, sponsored by the East Liberty Valley Historical Society.

Cathedral Concerts Presents: Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem

Our *Cathedral Concerts* series continues with the ELPC Chancel Choir performing Gabriel Fauré’s serene and uplifting *Requiem* on **Sun., Nov. 3**, 3 pm, accompanied by strings, horns, harp, and organ.



The seven parts of *Requiem* include some of the most beautiful melodies Fauré ever composed, including the sublime *Pie Jesu* for soprano solo.

The concert is *free*, but a freewill offering will be received.