**Sunday Services**

*Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

**Journey Worship | 8:45 am**
Theme: Giving Thanks
Nov. 3* Rev. Terri Pennybaker
Nov. 10 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Seary
Nov. 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nov. 24 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

**Sanctuary Worship | 11 am**
Livestream available on YouTube and Facebook, visit tiny.cc/elpc-stream
Nov. 3* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Nov. 10 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Nov. 17 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nov. 24 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

**Christmas Eve Worship**
ELPC will offer new worship times on Christmas Eve, Tues., Dec. 24:
• Friends & Family Service | 5 pm
• Candlelight Service | 10 pm

**Family Music Class**
Families with children who are in grade 3 or younger are welcome to join us for a family music class on Sat., Nov. 2, 4 pm. Taught by Christa Beck, a Kindermusik educator, children and their parents/caregivers will laugh, sing, play, and connect with each other and our community. A potluck dinner will follow at 5 pm. Please RSVP to Gloria Knopp.

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**Stewardship 2020: IMPACT**

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” —Matthew 18:20

Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 10, is our opportunity to offer pledges and gifts that will impact God’s world. Pledging is a discipline of our faith, not unlike the disciplines of regular prayer and worship. Like any discipline, it can take some learning and adjustment to achieve our goals. When we are disciplining ourselves to accomplish a new goal, it is sometimes helpful to start with the end in mind: crossing the finish line, receiving a diploma, attending our own retirement party. That end goal can provide inspiration and also identify what is required of us. A similar vision might be useful when pledging. Sometimes it is helpful to think about God’s generosity and consider the expansive joy of giving in return. We can then rely on discipline and faith to enable us to create a budget and a life that allow us to reach our pledged goal.

This year, we are hoping to increase our pledges by 7%. If you have pledged in the past, we ask that you consider increasing your gift. If you have given to ELPC, but have not pledged, we ask that you consider pledging so that we can plan more responsibly. If you have never pledged or given to ELPC, we invite you to begin this discipline of faith.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge and join us on Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 10 to celebrate God’s abundance. Thank you for your faithfulness.

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**Two Cathedral Concerts in November**

Our Cathedral Concerts series continues with the ELPC Chancel Choir performing Gabriel Fauré’s serene and uplifting Requiem in the Sanctuary 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.

Then on Sat., Nov. 9, 7 pm, Pittsburgh jazz legend Mike Tomaro’s concert will follow a “Sweet Jazz” theme in the Social Hall. Together with his combo, Tomaro will perform jazz favorites while the audience enjoys sweet desserts. Tomaro—an accomplished saxophonist, composer, arranger, and educator—currently serves as director of the Jazz Studies program at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University.

Each concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received.
Pastoral Message
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor

Back in 2012, I was blessed to receive a Lilly Foundation grant that helped underwrite a sabbatical for myself and my family. Charlotte and Ian were in middle school, and we took three months to go live in Auckland, New Zealand. It was a positive, transformative sabbatical for me and for our family. In addition, ELPC recognized that between our very skilled staff and dedicated volunteers, the ministry of our church could thrive without my presence.

I mention this because I am looking toward another sabbatical in 2020. Eight years have elapsed; both kids are now in college. In my almost 14 years here at ELPC, I’ve seen a lot of change and progress happen within our church. There were several initial years of my ministry here in which we had to work at hiring a strong staff, move into more fiscally-responsible spending habits, and rebuild a shared trust and mutual commitment to justice, outreach, and radical hospitality. Then, during the past six years, we put our energies into re-thinking our building and considering needed renovations so that our architecture might fully align with our mission priorities. Having completed this extended season of renovation work and bicentennial celebrations, we are stepping into a new chapter for ELPC. Where is God leading us for the future?

I hope to be around as we consider together the possible answers to that prior question. But to do that, a time of sabbatical serves two important purposes. It allows me to have an extended period for reflection, travel, and “soul nurture,” which are critical components of my self-care and pastoral efficiency. It also allows all of you to have some time reflecting yourselves on what it means to be a Presbyterian church built around a “priesthood of all believers,” committed to ministry that pulls on the gifts of staff and congregation members alike, and is open to where God’s Spirit is leading you both individually and communally.

Our Session recently voted to become a Matthew 25 Congregation. This is a designation that comes from the Presbyterian Mission Agency of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) national offices. It means that we as a church fully commit ourselves to three primary goals: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Many of those goals we are already doing programmatically, yet all of them could benefit from intentional reflection and new initiatives that can bear fruit in the coming years. I hope this will be part of your “sabbatical work” during my absence.

My plans are for Beth and me to travel to Barcelona, Spain, and stay there from January 20 to March 31. We will do some touring around and host some family and friends (including our kids on their spring breaks). But mostly, we hope it is a time to be open to God’s grace while away and nurture a recommitment to Christ’s service for when we return. I am very grateful to have wonderful colleagues in Pastors Heather and Patrice, plus the rest of our church staff, who can shoulder the leadership roles in my absence. And I value your prayers as we prepare for this new adventure, and trust a sabbatical experience will be good for both my family and our entire church family.

Randi Bush
Mission Matters

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

Sat., Nov. 2: Intergenerational OHM Work Day 8:45 am–3 pm
Join ELPC youth as we complete interior and exterior work on a house in Garfield. No special skills are needed! For more information, contact Frank Bauerle at frbauerle@yahoo.com or 817.705.6856.

Tues., Nov. 5: OHM Circles Dinner
Each month, families involved in OHM’s family development program gather to work together on goals and community building. We supply and serve the food, as well as share in the dinner with OHM families and staff. If you are able to donate a side dish or dessert, or help serve the dinner, contact Henry Petrilli at HLP615@gmail.com.

OHM & the 2020 Pittsburgh Marathon
Open Hand Ministries is an official charity of the 2020 Pittsburgh Marathon, which will take place on Sun., May 3. ELPC members will be raising money for OHM by running as individuals in the 5K, half marathon, and full marathon, as well as members of the ELPC relay team! Your registration fee will be paid for if you raise the required minimum dollar amount. For more information, contact Emily Rosenthal at EJR116@gmail.com or 412.963.0139.

Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee
More than one-third of our nation’s available food is lost or wasted according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food waste occurs at all levels of the food supply chain, but the largest source of food waste is by people in their own homes.

According to a 2017 report by the National Resources Defense Council, Americans waste an average of 400 pounds of food per person every year. This food is discarded for being past (or close to) its due date, tossed for minor imperfections, left on our plates, or allowed to rot in our refrigerators. An enormous amount of fossil fuels are consumed to plant, fertilize, harvest, transport, and refrigerate our uneaten food. This makes wasted food a major contributor to climate crisis. According to the NRDC report, each year more greenhouse gases are released in the production and transportation of uneaten food than are produced by 37 million cars.

What can we do? Buy and prepare only the food that we can reasonably eat before it goes bad. Share our concerns with family and friends. Contact 412foodrescue.org to see how we can help rescue perfectly good Pittsburgh food that otherwise would be discarded by stores and restaurants.

ELPC is a Matthew 25 Congregation
On September 10, as proposed by the Mission Board, the ELPC Session approved ELPC to officially become a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Congregation.


Support the Christmas Giving Tree
It's that time of the year again—believe it or not. The deacons are beginning to organize our annual Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from ELPC’s Mission, Christian Education, and Hope Academy Ministries, as well as East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM). This year, we also will provide gifts to families who participate in the Casa San José Ministry at ELPC.

The Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk prior to—and after—our Journey and Sanctuary services on Sun., Dec. 1 and 8, and our Taizé service on Wed., Dec. 4. Deacons will be on hand to help record your name and phone number with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on Sun., Dec.15. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make checks payable to “ELPC Giving Tree” and deliver it to a deacon or Pastor Patrice.

Blue Christmas Service
During the holiday season, there is a constant expectation to be happy and filled with festive joy. Sadly, many of us are struggling spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Through loss, heartache, sadness, or grief, some of us have trouble being in the holiday spirit.

To offer comfort and healing in a time of darkness, the ELPC deacons will host our third annual Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel on Sat., Dec. 21, 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join us and hold onto the nativity message of hope. Please come and be lifted up through this service. Light refreshments will be served after.
Note: Classes are on Sundays, 9:45 am.

**Christian Education**

*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

**Contemporaries  McKelvy Room**
Facilitator: Carolyn Russ, Steering Committee Chair

**Nov. 3: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**
“Pray for us...” is the cry of persecuted Christians around the world. Today across the Earth, more than 100 million of our siblings in Christ are suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. We will welcome the Rev. Bala Khyllep of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as our guest. The Rev. Khyllep, a Presbyterian pastor and native of India, will share about the state of Christianity in India. We also will watch a brief video and receive a prayer card to guide us in our praying.

**Nov. 10: Combined with Seekers**

**Nov. 17: Salvation, Abundant Life Now**
Using a 15-minute video and discussion, we will consider this promise! Presented by Rita and Charlie Nordquist.

**Nov. 24: Monarchy & the Bible**
From the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, Monarchy has played a vital role in Biblical stories. We will look at some of the queens and kings of the Bible, and their impact regarding our faith. This study will be taught by the Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes.

**Journey with Scripture  Highland Room**
Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

*I stand in awe, O LORD, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known.*—Habakkuk 3:2.

November marks the end of the three-year lectionary cycle. It includes readings from the books of the Hebrew prophets Habakkuk and Haggai, a New Testament letter to the Thessalonians, and the Gospel of Luke. Each raise questions on how God is to be known and recognized by succeeding generations. Throughout the readings the Babylonian, Persian, and Roman empires dominate, often through violence. They radically affect or initiate the events depicted and the prophetic responses to them. The last gospel reading of the church calendar is Luke’s account of the crucifixion of Jesus. Strangely, whether recognized or not, God initiates the end of empires to allow a new life and world to emerge.

**Nov. 3:** Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4; Psalm 119:137–144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12; Luke 19:1–10


**Nov. 17:** Isaiah 65:17–25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13; Luke 21:5–19


**Seekers  Garth Overlook Room**
Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**Nov. 3: Zoroastrianism**
Historians say that Zoroastrianism is the world’s oldest monotheistic religion. Veera Siganporia will explain the basic premise of her religion, which revolves around “Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good deeds.” The religion is said to have influenced some of the basic aspects of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

**Nov. 10: Pastor Randy Interviews Jeanne Marie Laskas**
Pennsylvania author Jeanne Marie Laskas will be interviewed by Pastor Randy about her recent books—including her exposé on football injuries (*Concussion*), the range of blue collar jobs in the U.S. (*Hidden America*), and the letters received by President Obama from ordinary citizens (*To Obama: With Love, Joy, Anger, and Hope*). Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, and other places, and the perspective she offers on contemporary American society is fascinating.

**Nov. 17: What Sharia Law Means to an American Muslim**
Aliya Kahn will explain what Sharia law is, how it encompasses the rites and rituals of Islam, and how it influences a Muslim’s life—especially those living in the U.S. Aliya is a member of the Monroeville (Islamic) Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh.

**Nov. 24: The History, Beliefs, and Practice of the Quakers**
The Quakers are a Christian movement, also known as the Religious Society of Friends. Gina Godfrey will talk about the history and practice of Quakers in Pittsburgh and throughout the world. Gina served as clerk of Pittsburgh Meeting (Quakers) from 2016–2018.

**Soul Food  Good Samaritan Room**
Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

**November: Inspired | Wisdom, Resistance, & Gospel Stories**
We will discuss the chapters on Wisdom, Resistance, & Gospel from *Inspired—Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, & 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

Sat., Nov. 2: OHM Workday 9 am–12 pm
Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join with others in our faith family to serve with Open Hand Ministries. Youth will serve from 9 am–12 pm, but the work day will continue until 3 pm. Families are welcome to join us as this is an event for all ages. Permission slips and an Open Hand Ministries’ waiver are required. RSVP to Sara Hackett at 412.673.2926 or SaraH@coh.net.

Sun., Nov. 10: DG2! @ ELPC 12 pm–3 pm
Doing Good Together! is a service-based partnership between Rodef Shalom and ELPC for youth in grades 4–12. This month, we’ll be working on service projects here at ELPC. Lunch provided. RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Fri., Nov. 15: Tween Night 6–8 pm
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to enjoy pizza, bowling, and basketball at ELPC! Friends are welcome too!

Fri.–Sun., Nov. 22–24: Retreat at Crestfield Camp
Youth in grades 6–12 will join youth from other Pittsburgh churches for a retreat sponsored by Crestfield Camp, which includes worship, Bible study, fun, outdoors, and friends—both old and new. This year’s theme is Stand Strong, taken from Ephesians 6:10–13. Chet Fuhrman—father, teacher, and former conditioning coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers—will speak about finding strength in God in the context of school, sports, and relationships. The cost is $105; partial and full scholarships are available. Permission slips, additional information, and scholarship request forms are available online and from Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

To ask any questions or RSVP for an event, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.

Sat., Nov. 2: Workday with Open Hand Ministries 9 am–12 pm
This year, we are connecting with other ministries at ELPC to build community and relationships that we—as young adults—might not get the chance to do with our busy lives. This month, we are participating in the ELPC workday with Open Hand Ministries. We will meet Saturday morning at ELPC and then travel to the worksite together (in either Garfield or East Liberty). Work will be construction-related, yet wide ranging—from demolition to drywall, no experience necessary! We’ll work, share a communal meal, and then return to the church.

Fri., Nov. 22: Friendsgiving Dinner & Game Night 6 pm
Young adults will join together in the Music Room on the third floor for a potluck dinner and board games. There is a sign-up sheet for food, or contact Kelli Booher to let her know what you’re bringing.

Thurs., Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day Movie Night
Need a break from the day’s festivities (or stress)? Looking for something to do on this day? Join your Young Adult friends for a movie night at Waterworks Cinema (930 Freeport Rd., Aspinwall). We will vote on a movie and buy tickets by Mon., Nov. 25, so please RSVP ASAP!

November Book Drive

Book ’Em, a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization, sends reading and educational material to prisoners across Pennsylvania. We are hosting a book drive for them to collect books on these subjects:

- Art and music history
- Arts and crafts/hobbies
- Puzzles
- History
- Automotive/car-related
- Computer science/programming
- Native American/Indigenous authors
- Beginning languages
- Superhero comics
- Small business ideas/self-employment
- Paperback dictionaries

Please do not bring books that have spiral binding or writing/underlining; or are musty, stained, or outdated. Normal-size hardcovers are okay (no heavy hardcovers, except text books).

A collection box is located at the Highland Ave. entrance.
Toymakers’ Toy Sale
The ELPC Toymakers have been busy again this year. Our toys have gone on mission trips to Malawi and Guatemala, and we are getting ready for a December distribution to women’s shelters.

The Toymakers’ annual Toy Sale will be held following Sanctuary worship on Sun., Dec. 8. Our special project this year is a fleet of Noah’s arks, each complete with Mr. and Mrs. Noah, a small herd of animals, and a handy carry-all bag. The sale also will feature some seasonal decorations. We hope to see you then.

Presbyterian Women
Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone
Mon., Nov. 4 7 pm | Tues., Nov. 5 10:15 am
Join us for our bible study, titled Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Commandments. This month’s session will explore the Fourth Commandment, Honor Your Father and Mother.

What does it mean to “honor” parents in the 21st century? What role does forgiveness play in honoring our parents? Does “honor” always mean “obey?” What should we be teaching children about honoring the ones who have helped to raise them? Sara Hackett, ELPC coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, will lead our discussion.

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

Sun., Nov. 3: Science & Theology 12–3 pm
In anticipation of the production of The de Chardin Project, we will watch Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: The Wings of Spirit and spend time reviewing the fascinating life and theology of this 20th century visionary. All are welcome to join us in the Second Floor Parlor. Lunch will be provided.

The de Chardin Project
A Love Story About the Origins of the Universe
The de Chardin Project is a play about Jesuit priest, scientist, and philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955). It won a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play (Independent Category).

Silenced and exiled by the church, de Chardin, a renowned paleontologist, crossed continents searching for the missing link between his love for God and his love of Science. His groundbreaking discoveries in human evolution transcended barriers between Faith and Science. Today, his work is regarded as having changed the conversation about cosmology, evolution, and theology.

In the play, de Chardin, having suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, finds himself beyond the physical world and engaged with a mysterious guide who leads him on the ultimate adventure: the excavation of himself.

We are delighted to be joined by the playwright, Adam Seybold (son of ELPC members Kevin and Virginia Seybold), and his wife, actress Kate Fenton, for a dramatic reading of this fascinating exploration of life, science and faith!

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at tiny.cc/deChardin.
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., Nov. 17, 12:30 pm, to 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.

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

Our Blessings
Join us as we offer congratulations to:
• Rachael Brianne Ammon, who was recently baptised.
• Miguel Rene Rivera-Stevwing, son of Felix Rivera-Merced and Kalyn Stevwing, who was recently baptised.
• Samantha (Lowrey) and Joel Coggins, who were recently married.
• Samantha (Engelhardt) and Ryan Delor, who were recently married.

Our Prayers
We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:
• Liz Hopkins’ mother, Margery
• Norma Meyer’s aunt, Debbie
• Robert Polk’s wife, Paula

Church Tours
On Sun., Nov. 10, join Penn Hackney for a tour of the Trinity Chapel. Then on Sun., Nov. 24, learn about our church’s beautiful stained glass windows with Tom Morton. The tours begin following Sanctuary worship. For a full list of upcoming tours, visit tiny.cc/elpc-tours.

iSERVE Ministry
Kelli Booher, Coordinator

Volunteer at Our Giving Thanks Feast
Our annual fall meal together is one of ELPC’s largest attended meals. We could not host such a great time together without all of you! We need volunteers to help set up, greet, serve, tear down, clean up, and wash dishes.

If you’re able to help on Sun., Nov. 24, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114.
Confirmation Class Updates
ELPC is pleased to announce that 12 youth in grades 8+ are participating in Confirmation Class! They're meeting monthly to ask questions about God, deepen their understanding of and relationship with Jesus, and explore the Spirit's call to membership at ELPC. Our next meeting will be on Sun., Nov. 17, 12:30–3:30 pm. For more information, please contact Sara Hackett or Pastor Heather. Please pray for these youth and this stage of their journey of faith.

Giving Thanks Feast
All are invited to our Giving Thanks Feast 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 for 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. This could be a dish that represents your family heritage, a dish that is specific to an area that you grew up in, or maybe even a secret family recipe. Main course and salad will be provided.

So that we can all celebrate each other as we share a meal together, fill out the card on the left, cut it out, and bring it with your dish on Sun., Nov. 24. It will be displayed next to your dish in the buffet line.

“We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.”—2 Thessalonians 1:3