



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

December 2019



The Pageant of “Why?”

Every year, it's the same thing: Advent, pageant, Christmas. But...why? Why do we do this? Why do we wait? Why is this time so important to us? Join us in the Sanctuary on **Sun., Dec. 15**, 10 am, as we consider the reason for the season in terms of our faith and our lives.

Notes: Dress rehearsal for all participants is on **Sat., Dec. 14**, 9:30–11 am, followed by a Christmas party. If a student cannot

attend rehearsal, but will be here for the pageant, they are most welcome! Just let your student's Church School teacher know.

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. Whether 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. The service will help people hold onto the nativity message of hope. Come and be lifted up. Light refreshments will be served after.

Celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child



Join us for Christmas Eve worship on **Tues., Dec. 24**. Both services will be held in the Sanctuary and feature the celebration of the Lord's Supper and candle lighting.

Friends & Family Service 5 pm
Pastor Heather will preach.

Candlelight Service 10 pm
Pastor Randy will preach. Special prelude music begins at 9:30 pm.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Rejoice Again

Dec. 1* Samantha Coggins

Dec. 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 15 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Dec. 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Dec. 29 No service

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

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

Dec. 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 8 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Dec. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 22 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 29 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

Note: There will be no Taizé prayer service on **Wed., Dec. 25** or **Jan. 1**.

Sing in our All-Ages Choir on Christmas Eve

An all-ages choir will sing a simple anthem at our Christmas Eve Friends & Family service on **Tues., Dec. 24**, 5 pm, under the direction of Dr. Ed. We will rehearse after Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Dec. 22**, for 30–45 minutes. Persons of all ages and experience levels are welcome, but children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Dr. Ed at EdM@coh.net. The musical selection along with a recording will be sent to all singers in advance.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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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, 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



I'm sure most of you have heard about the Rosetta Stone. It's a large piece of black basalt that was found by Napoleon's soldiers in North Africa back in 1799. It contained a long passage written in three different languages, including Greek (which was well-known) and Egyptian hieroglyphics (which had never been translated). That stone became the key to unlock a wealth of information, allowing scholars finally to read the messages left by the ancient Pharaohs in their picture-hieroglyphs from centuries before.

A similar story comes from the 1830s when British soldiers in Persia saw a famous inscription carved high on the face of a mountain cliff. It's known as the Behistun Inscription, and it used cuneiform script to proclaim a message in three languages: Old Persian, Elamite and Babylonian. Again, decoding the Persian section unlocked the door to understanding the other two, never-before-translated languages. Suddenly the world of Sumerian traders and Babylonian bureaucrats could be studied at last.

In a real way, the season of Advent plays a similar role to that of the Rosetta Stone and the Behistun Inscription. The biggest questions that confront us during our lives are topics like "Who exactly is God? Does the universe care about us? Is history moving toward a hopeful future or stumbling aimlessly toward a grim finish line?" Grappling with these religious-philosophical quandaries requires a "key" to unlock the door and show us a path forward.

As was seen in the two examples I mentioned earlier, great learning often comes from surprising sources. The Rosetta Stone and the Behistun Inscription didn't contain marvelous information in and of themselves. The former describes a tax policy of Ptolemy V and the latter is a tedious description of Darius' war victory over a rival king. What was so brilliant about these carvings is that they used everyday language to open up new worlds of insight.

In the same way, Advent points us to two great mysteries—the promise that God is the Lord of today and all our tomorrows and that the eternal God has drawn near to us through God's incarnation in a child born in a Bethlehem. That birth gives us the "key" to understand the meaning of life. It focuses us on one particular moment in history that is specifically designed to open our hearts and minds to good news that is true for all eternity. And through the birth of a helpless, marginalized, Palestinian Jew, we come to understand how the Creator of heaven and earth refuses to remain aloof from creation or be disinterested in the pain, suffering and challenges of life on earth. Rather, unto us a child is born, a Savior is given so that all people—especially the least, the poor, those on the margins as well as in palaces and mansions—may come to know themselves as siblings in Christ and inheritors of God's kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

May this year's Advent season be the key that opens to you a deeper, richer faith!

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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

Mon., Dec. 2: Holiday Shopping in the Name of Love! 6–8 pm

Get your Christmas shopping started early at Ten Thousand Villages (5820 Forbes Ave.)—an independent nonprofit organization that supports artisans from around the globe by establishing a sustainable market for their products in North America. This special shopping event supports these artisans far away, as well as the ELPC Thanksgiving Food Ministry, which supports those in our midst who are in need.

We need the congregation's help to make this event a success! ELPC Deacons will be present to offer snacks and refreshments to shoppers. We have had great turnout for this event over the past several years, and we look forward to another busy night. If you have questions, contact deacon Tucker Ferda at **406.249.9811**.

Sun., Dec. 15: ELPC to Receive The Christmas Joy Offering

We are all too aware that Christmas is fast approaching, and soon we will be in search of perfect gifts that communicate to friends and family how much we know and love them. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing, as the New Testament letter of James says, "every generous act of giving...is from above."

The only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ, and **The Christmas Joy Offering** celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the "perfect gift" from a gracious God. **The Christmas Joy Offering**, helps us respond to God's gift by generously supporting retired, present, and future church leaders, and provides financial assistance to survivors of catastrophic events—such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and the forest fires in California.

We can never match God's perfect gift in Jesus, but can testify to who we have known God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above, and our gifts reflect our generous God by supporting church leaders and responding to people in need. So, prayerfully consider giving generously on **Sun., Dec. 15**.

Environmental Tip from the Justice Committee

There are many small things you can do to save energy during the winter months. Most of them will save energy in the summer, too. Here is a short list:

Turn it Off | Turn off all lights and electronics when they are not in use. If you are going away on vacation, unplug your electronics and appliances.

Use Power Strips | If you have multiple electronics or appliances that require an electrical outlet, plug them into a power strip. When they are not in use, you can switch them all off at once.

Lower your Thermostat | Some people say wearing a hat indoors reduces heat loss and helps them feel comfortable at lower temperatures.

Be a Star | When buying appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR® label—it details energy-efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Make Laundry Efficient | Wash your clothes in cold water and hang them to dry. Clothes hung on racks indoors help to humidify dry, heated air in cold months and also save fossil fuels that are needed for mechanical drying!

Plant a Tree | Rather than giving traditional gifts to your relatives, plant a tree in their name instead. Planting trees reduces energy consumption by eliminating the need for materials that would be used for traditional gifts and wrapping paper, and is also great for the environment. Visit fs.fed.us to learn about the USDA Forest Service's Plant-A-Tree program.

Being a Matthew 25 Congregation

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

—Matthew 25:40

In a nutshell, that's what being a Matthew 25 congregation means—actively engaging in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and wakes up to new ministry possibilities; acting boldly and compassionately serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. The PC(USA) Mission Agency identifies three marks of a Matthew 25 church as:

1. Building Congregational Vitality
2. Dismantling Structural Racism
3. Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Over the coming months, we will first explore the three Matthew 25 markers and later identify ways in which ELPC is currently engaging in the community and world. Our next feature will focus on **Building Congregational Vitality**.

ELPC's Jail Ministry

There's a new Jail Ministry that you're welcome to participate. Join us in giving men and women at Allegheny County Jail the opportunity to have something to do during their days there.

In cooperation with the Chaplain's Office at the jail, we are collecting magazines, paperback books, dictionaries, Bibles, and calendars, as well as puzzle books like crosswords, word searches, and sudoku for the inmates. Spiral bound books and books on military or weaponry will not be accepted. Please remove your name, address, and any other personal information from all donations, and make sure the items are in good condition.

Donations may be left in the designated box near the Highland Entrance. Questions? Contact Judith Mancini at **412.299.6160** or mancinijs@gmail.com.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

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

No Church School on Sun., Dec. 15 or 29

There will be no Church School classes on **Sun., Dec. 15**, so that we can enjoy the Christmas Pageant, or **Sun., Dec. 29**.

Contemporaries McKelvy Room

Facilitator: Carolyn Russ, Steering Committee Chair

Dec. 1: The Messianic Psalms

Although David penned some of the Messianic Psalms 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, those Psalms give us powerful glimpses into the life of Christ. That is the beauty of fulfilled prophecy—one of the most convincing proofs of the veracity of God's Word. Join us as we look at some of these wonderful Messianic Psalms together.

Dec. 8: You'll Never Guess What's in the Bible

The Bible is full of interesting stories. Come and learn about passages we do not often hear in worship. Taught by the Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes.

Dec. 22: Keeping Christ in Christmas

It's a challenge, isn't it, to create a Christmas celebration for our family and friends that leaves space for the miracle of the incarnated Christ. Diana Armstrong and Aura Sofia Jirau will lead a discussion about traditions that work, and those that don't, what we all might do differently this year, and what we'll change.

Journey with Scripture Highland Room

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."
—Romans 15:4

This Advent begins a new three-year cycle of lectionary readings that will eventually span the whole Bible (by 2022). Each week's scriptures are selected from both Testaments: the Torah, Prophets, Writings, Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles, and Revelation. In December's readings, the Hebrew prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of Matthew foretell the coming of one who initiates a new kind of world. The apostle Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, reflects on the coming of Christ: the deep joy, hope, peace, and grace made possible to all people. An abundant life oriented in love to neighbor and God.

Dec. 1: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:36–44

Dec. 8: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

Dec. 22: Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

Seekers Garth Overlook Room

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Dec. 1: The Challenges of a Spiritual Coordinator Doing Hospice Work

The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes will talk about his work as the spiritual coordinator for the Healthcare at Home hospice program for Allegheny Health Network. Chaplain Tony is a 2012 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Dec. 8 & 22: The Birth of Christ Then and Now

We know the story of Jesus' birth, but the incarnation is about more than just his birth. The Bible tells us that Christ was a presence even before his life on earth—and that he remains a presence now. Join us as we explore the Incarnation and what it means for the world, for us, and for daily life.

We will be led by the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, executive director of Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, Consulting. He is the author of eight books on spirituality and congregational transformation, an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a spiritual director and clergy coach, and—for 22 years—was pastor of an congregation that pioneered a spiritual approach to church.

Soul Food Good Samaritan Room

Facilitator: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

Dec. 1 & 8: Inspired | Fish and Church Stories

We will discuss Fish and Church Stories from *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans.

Dec. 22: Gospel Stories of Jesus' Origin

We will discuss Gospel Stories of Jesus's Origin from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Children & 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

Young Adults McKelvy Room

Dec. 22: Keeping Christ in Christmas

We will be attending the Contemporaries class for an intergenerational panel discussing how you do (or don't) keep Christ in Christmas.

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x120 to RSVP.

Fri., Dec. 6: Tween Night | Craft Night 6–8 pm

Tweens in grades 4–6 are invited to enjoy crafts and pizza. If you are working on a project, bring it with you. There also will be craft supplies here—some of which will make great Christmas gifts. Friends are welcome! RSVP required.

Sun., Dec. 8: Confirmation Class 12:30–3:30 pm

Our Confirmation Class will meet to discuss how participation in worship and the exploration of scripture helps us to live as Christ's disciples.

Sat., Dec. 14: Middle School Mission Project @ Target 11:30 am–2:30 pm

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to go shopping and help choose gifts for children who are spending the holiday season in foster care. We will eat lunch together after pageant rehearsal and then walk together to Target. Permission slip required.

Sun., Dec. 26: DG2! @ EECM 3–8 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather to make and serve dinner to the residents at EECM. We will meet at ELPC, travel to Rodef Shalom to cook, and then go to EECM to serve dinner. Permission slip and RSVP required.

club one sixteen Wednesdays, 3:30–7:30 pm

Parents and families are invited to join us for dinner and a **christmas play** on **Wed., Dec. 11**, 6 pm. Youth should still arrive at the regular time after school.

Note: club one sixteen will not meet on **Wed., Dec. 18, Dec. 25, or Jan. 1.**

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x114 to RSVP.

Fri., Dec. 6: Dinner 6:30 pm

Young Adults, we are invited to a dinner hosted by Pastor Randy at the manse. You're welcome to bring along a dessert or cider to share! Come join in a time of conversation, fellowship and good food. RSVP by **Tues., Dec. 3.**

Mon., Dec. 9: Book'em Volunteer Night 6–8 pm

Volunteers at Book'em read letters from prisoners requesting books and search the shelves of their library. Once they have found two or three books, they complete an invoice and wrap the books in brown paper for shipping. YAMs will sponsor a packing session—covering the cost of packing materials and postage—and help pack and send the books! Meet up at the Thomas Merton Center (5129 Penn Ave.).



Sun., Dec. 15: Holiday Lights at Kennywood 5 pm

Our annual light trip will be local! Kennywood decks its halls (and rides) with nearly two million twinkling lights—topped off with the tallest Christmas tree in Pennsylvania. We will enjoy holiday performances, see spectacular light shows, check out the activities going on, and (some of us) will ride the rides! Tickets will be \$17–\$19. We will leave ELPC at 4:30 pm. RSVP by **Fri., Dec. 13.**

Join Our Advent Journey

The Children and Family Ministry invites you to travel to Bethlehem with us this Advent season! Through multicultural photos and images, we'll explore what the journey might look like through the eyes of various cultures and global communities. Spoiler alert: Jesus wasn't white. Starting **Sun., Dec. 1**, view these images in the second floor hallways—directions and reflection questions will be printed in the weekly announcements. Images will be added each week, as the shepherds and magi lead us to the Madonna and Child, that we too may kneel at the manger.

In addition, the Children and Family Ministry is pleased to offer devotional resources for your Advent journey. They will be available on tables outside of each worship service, on the first floor below the monitor heading into the East Transept, and on the second floor Christian Education Table. May this season of anticipation draw you nearer to the Christ Child and deepen your awareness of God's love with you, now. Devotionals include:

I Wonder as I Wander

The carol "I Wonder as I Wander" launches this devotional for older **teens and adults**, using scripture's themes of seeking and being found by God. The journey captures the surprise, truth, and wonder of God's pursuit of each one of us.

On the Road to Bethlehem

God sent Jesus into an empty world—a world in need of the love, forgiveness, and salvation that could only come from God. The people waited expectantly to see the child for themselves, to see the answer to God's promise. The good news we celebrate at Christmas is that Jesus came to fill our emptiness. Each day of December, **children of all ages** can open a numbered window to reveal a surprising message and an image of something or someone who journeyed the roads to Bethlehem to see God's gift with their own eyes.

Your IMPACT is Felt

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

—Matthew 18:20

We celebrated Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 10 at ELPC; many were gathered in God's name and we could feel God's presence. The Stewardship committee, on behalf of Session, would like to thank so many who are impacting God's work by pledging and sharing financial gifts. The **IMPACT** of those gifts will begin inside our church by assuring that all employees make a living wage. The gifts will **IMPACT** our children and youth as they learn to live God's love. Those gifts will **IMPACT** countless programs in our community and in our world. The **IMPACT** of the gifts is great; it is joyous to contribute to the spreading of God's word.

If you have not yet pledged, please consider impacting our world with your gifts. You can find pledge cards in the pews, or you can find them at our website at elpc.church/pledge.

If you are inclined to give your gift at the end of the year, please prayerfully consider giving as generously as you are able to ELPC as we continue to do God's work.

ELPC's Wholistic Wellness Ministry



Looking for a healthy alternative to soda pop? Join the "Kefir Chicks" in the McKelvy Room following

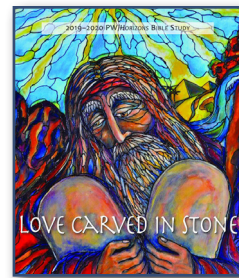
Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Dec. 1**, to learn about a fermented beverage called "water kefir." You also will have an opportunity to sample the different flavors of this natural probiotic.

Presbyterian Women

Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone

Mon., Dec. 2 7 pm | Tues., Dec. 3 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 is *Words of Love: Honor the Life-givers*. Gracious God, heavenly parent, help us to learn the ways of honoring that which, and those who, are honorable.



Sung Yoo will lead Monday's group in the Trustees Room. Diane Harbison will lead the Tuesday group in the Second Floor Parlor, which will wrap up with lunch featuring soup and sides provided by attendees. We look forward to seeing you!

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

December Activities

In December, we will be attending the RCC Holiday concert together on **Sat., Dec. 14**, 7:30 pm, as well as holding our annual Advent retreat. All are welcome to join us. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x118** for more details or to attend either event.



Attend Our Next Spiritual Gathering

Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering on **Sun., Jan. 12**, 12:30 pm, to share lunch and fellowship.

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Spiritual Life

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

Sun., Dec. 15: Heretics, Doubters, & Other Saints 12–3 pm

Incarnation? Virgin birth? Angels from the realms of glory? The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to our next Heretics, Doubters, and Other Saints gathering. This time, we'll explore what do/don't we think/believe about Christmas? Join us in the Second Floor Parlor for an open conversation where all ideas and questions will be welcome! A festive Lunch will be provided.

Mark Your Calendars | Sat., Jan. 18, 9 am–4 pm

Day Retreat on the Enneagram

Plan ahead to join us for a day retreat at which we'll explore the Enneagram—an ancient and mysterious means for better understanding ourselves, exploring our motivations, and discovering ways in which we can move toward wholeness. Lunch will be provided.



Welcome John Ormsbee to Staff

With the upcoming retirement of Deborah Marx, ELPC's financial administrator, at the end of January 2020, we are pleased to announce the hiring of John Ormsbee to fill the position.

As there is much knowledge to impart, John has already started working part-time with Deborah, but will take over the role fully after Deborah departs in February 2020.

John and his wife, Lis, recently joined the church as members earlier this year. Please welcome John to the ELPC staff!

Also, we look forward celebrating Deborah's years of faithful service in January.

Gloria Knopp Readies for Retirement

After more than 17 years of service and countless hours of administrative, logistical, and faithful ministry on behalf of ELPC, Gloria Knopp will be retiring as of February 28, 2020.



She has served as the administrative assistant for both Pastor Randy and Pastor Heather, and supported the committees and programs of these pastors' ministry areas. This has involved everything from printing out copies of sermons, assisting with Vacation Church School registrations, and helping new members find a home at ELPC to coordinating Bibles for young kids, confirmation retreats for older youth, and registrations for older members going on Happy Wanderers' excursions. It is impossible to catalog the many things Gloria has done for ELPC.

As a former Presbytery employee and a pastor's wife, she has brought tremendous gifts to our church. As a woman of faith and deep compassion, she has touched the lives of many in our faith family.

A reception to honor Gloria and offer our thanks to her will be planned in the New Year, but keep Gloria and her husband Darrell in your prayers as her retirement season draws near!

iSERVE Ministry

Kelli Booher, Coordinator of iSERVE Ministry

Sign up for Our **club one sixteen** Spring Meal Team

First, thank you to everyone who helped cook for **club one sixteen** on Wednesdays this past fall! Thanks to you, we were able to fill every slot, except for one week, allowing us to put our budgeted resources to other parts of our youth ministry!

There are a lot of slots available for **club one sixteen's** upcoming spring term (January–May). Please consider cooking a meal one Wednesday. For more details, contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x114**.

Piano Donations

ELPC has been blessed with the donation of two "new" pianos.

The first piano now resides in the Social Hall and is the generous gift of an anonymous donor. It is a 6'1" Kawai Model KG-3D grand piano built in 1985, and has a high gloss ebony finish. It can be heard regularly on Sundays during Journey worship, as well as at other special events.

In the Chapel, we now have a 5'10" Steinway Model O built in 1908 with a mahogany finish. This piano is given by Jamee and Tom Todd in memory of Betty and Bill Todd, longtime and active ELPC members.

These beautiful instruments are wonderful additions to our Music Ministry.

ELPC People News

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

Our Blessings

- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends who joined our faith family on Oct. 20: **Sarah Campbell, Diana Donnelly, Jerry Johnson, Linda Lane & Coleman Lane, Kay & Allen Slagle, Andrew & Molly Swagler, Lance & Melanie White, Annabelle Javier & Jason Wilburn.**
- ELPC member **Stefani Danes** received the *Charles W. Pruitt-Mary Anne Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Southwest Pennsylvania Partnership on Aging.

Our Prayers

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

- Lois S. Fetzer, who was 102 years old and an ELPC member for 70 years
- Judy Menk's husband, the Rev. Tom Menk
- Pam Walaski's father, Don Bour
- Ing Kalchthaler's mother

“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

ELPC Building Closures

- Christmas | Wed.–Thurs., Dec. 25–26
- New Year’s Day | Wed., Jan. 1

Tour ELPC in December

- Underground | Sun., Dec. 8, 12 pm
- Sanctuary & Chapel | Sun., Dec. 22, 12 pm

Support the Giving Tree

The ELPC Deacon Board organizes the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry, ELPC’s Mission and Christian Education Ministries, and—for the first time—Casa San José. Our faith family has been wonderful in its support of this ministry through gift buying and monetary donations.



On **Sun., Dec. 1** and **8**, the Giving Tree will be in the Social Hall during Journey worship, and by the Information Desk, 9:30 am–12:30 pm. The Giving Tree also will be available during our Taizé prayer service on **Wed., Dec. 4**. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number, along with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags attached, are due by noon on **Sun., Dec. 15**. If you would like to participate by donating money, make your check out to “ELPC Giving Tree” and deliver it to the church office or Pastor Patrice. The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

Toymakers’ Toy Sale

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.



Christmas in East Liberty

Our *Cathedral Concerts* series continues with *Christmas in East Liberty* on, **Fri., Dec. 13**, 7:30 pm. The Brass Roots, conductor Lance LaDuke, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and the ELPC Chancel Choir will combine for an East Liberty tradition, featuring holiday favorites for brass, organ, choir, and audience! The concert is *free*, but a freewill offering will be received.

