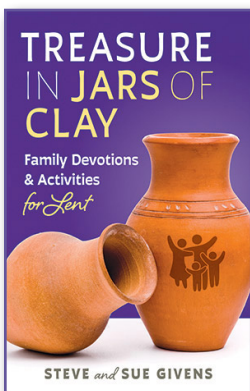


Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

March 2020

Lenten Devotionals Now Available



Once more, the Children and Family Ministries Team has purchased devotional materials to encourage you along your Lenten journey. *Treasures in Jars of Clay* is a devotional created for families of all ages and configurations, but also can be engaged by individuals looking for a personal prayer practice.

Materials will be available outside of each worship service and on the second floor table. There will be additional “supplies” in the Kids Corner for those who may need assistance gathering the hands-on materials that are a part of the devotional exercises. We ask that you take one booklet per family unit.

Your Input is Requested

ELPC’s Facing Systemic Racism Ministry Team invites church members, friends, staff, and community members to complete a short survey. Your responses will help us learn where our congregation stands on its journey to face systemic racism and will help us work to change over time.

You may access the survey online via the QR code or at tiny.cc/ELPCFSR. Paper surveys are available throughout the church. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by **Sun., March 1**.



Confirmands Continue their Faith Journeys



Confirmands and their sponsors will gather in the Second Floor Parlor following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., March 22**, to continue their discussion about what it means to be the church together. We’ll begin to explore the questions of what it means to be disciples of Jesus, and how we might use our gifts as members of Christ’s church.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Giving Up

March 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

March 8 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

March 15 Ralph Lowe,
director of Justice Ministries,
Pittsburgh Presbytery

March 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

March 29 Samantha Lowery

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

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

March 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

March 8 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

March 15 Ralph Lowe

March 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

March 29 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

Holy Week Preview

Our journey through Lent concludes on **Easter Sunday, April 12**, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Yet, keep in mind that the good news of Easter is made even more relevant when we couple the empty tomb stories with the passion stories of the Last Supper, Jesus’ arrest in Gethsemane, trial, and crucifixion. Join us for these special services.

April 8 | Stations of the Cross, 7 pm

April 9 | Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

April 10 | Good Friday, 12 & 7 pm

April 11 | Easter Vigil, 7 pm

April 12 | Easter Sunday, 8:45 & 11 am

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

Wil Forrest
*Director of Church Operations,
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry*

Debbie Banton
Facility Administrator

Sara Hackett
*Coordinator of Christian Education
and Youth Ministry*

Allen Miller
Lead Engineer

Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Music Director and Organist

Samantha Coggins
Intern, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Rev. Terri Pennybaker
Intern, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Pastoral Message

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



I took a class in January titled, “Death and Resurrection: Risk as a Faithful Practice of the Church.” The title, content, and facilitation of the class were provocative and unusual to say the least. The primary class goal was: “To engage students in biblical and theological reflection on what faithful risk looks and feels like.” It became clear to me rather quickly, this class would be unordinary, and would stretch and challenge me in many ways.

Risk-taking is something we typically try to avoid. Through the assigned readings, class discussions, and unconventional activities—like rock climbing—I realized that taking risks and acting faithfully might be two sides to one coin. We take risks and act faithfully every day. When we leave our homes each day, we have no idea what we might encounter on the other side of the door. Getting into our cars and driving is another risk most of us engage in daily. Eating in a restaurant is definitely risky business, because we don’t really know what’s going on in the kitchen. Life is risky and a faith journey.

Individually and collectively, the disciples took life-altering risks when they were called to leave behind everything they had ever known. They left their families, friends, professions, and traditions to follow Jesus. Jesus’ entire life on Earth was risky business. From the very beginning, Jesus’ life was on the line as he was a threat to kings, traditions, cultures, and religious leaders. Knowing that a perfect sacrifice was the only way to redeem humanity back to God, Jesus knew that death and resurrection were the risks he was born to fulfill. There it is. Death and resurrection are the way to living a faithful, God-pleasing life.

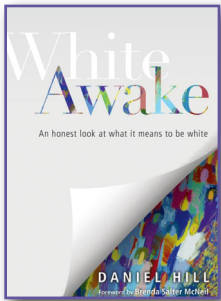
Traditionally, during the Lenten season, we give up or set aside habits or things we perceive as hindrances to spiritual growth and living faithfully. This year, rather than giving something up or setting aside a habit, perhaps the 40 days of Lent might be a time of genuine and deep contemplation and spiritual discernment, a time to stretch beyond our comfort zones, a time of transformation. The 40 days of Lent might be a time of dying for everything that keeps us from living more fully, more faithfully into the person God created us to be—as individuals and as the body of Christ.

One risk we are all invited to take corporately this Lenten season is to come together and participate in reading and discussing *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White* by Daniel Hill (see page 3). Each of the five Sundays in Lent, the Facing Systemic Racism Ministry Team will lead a book study examining Hill’s awakening to the reality of white culture—finding his deepest sense of identity in Christ, breaking free of his implicit racial bias, and working to help others recognize the same within themselves. As we engage in the risky business of prayerful and faithful study and self-examination, may we put to death everything in our lives, comportment, relationships, and Christian witness that are not Christ-like and risk being transformed and resurrected to life anew.

Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Mission Matters

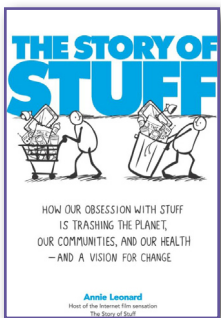
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries



Sun., March 1: Lenten Book Study Begins 12 pm
Lent is a holy time for lament, repentance, and change. Many approach Lent with a commitment to “give up” a special treat, behavior, or habit. As part of our focus on *Facing System Racism*, the Mission Board encourages ELPC members and friends to embrace all aspects of Lent by engaging in an intentional read and weekly discussion of Daniel Hill’s book, *White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to be White*.

In the book, Pastor Hill reflects on a personal journey toward greater recognition of white privilege and white culture, as well as how to effectively seek reconciliation among racial groups. This faith-based resource helps white people come to grips with the reality of privilege and institutional racism within ourselves, our country, and our churches.

Join us in the McKelvy Room as we begin our journey. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and a light lunch will be served. Childcare is available with reservation one week prior. Email Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net for details.



Thurs., March 12: Environmental Book Club 7 pm
The Environment Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health – and a Vision for Change*, by Annie Leonard (2010, 352 pages). We have a problem with stuff. With just 5% of the world’s population, we’re consuming 30% of the world’s resources and creating 30% of the world’s waste. If everyone consumed at U.S. rates, we would need three to five planets! In her sweeping, groundbreaking book, Leonard tracks the life of the stuff we use every day—where our cotton t-shirts, laptop

computers, and aluminum cans come from; how they are produced, distributed, and consumed; and where they go when we throw them out.

We hope you’ll read the book and join us for discussion in the Trustees Room. For more information or to tell us you are coming, contact Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.

Celebrate ELPC’s Switch to Renewable Energy

As of Jan. 1, 2020, ELPC’s electricity is offset by energy generated from a renewable source: wind. It means that our electricity is no longer contributing to pollution or global warming. The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee will lift up this decision during Sanctuary worship on **Sun., March 22**. After the service, you also may learn how to:

- Switch the electricity supplier for your home,
- Engage and encourage family and friends to switch,
- Bring this topic up at your work or school, and
- Set a goal to be 100% renewable or carbon neutral by 2030.

Meatless Monday Spaghetti Dinner

The Justice Committee’s Environment Team invites the congregation to share a meatless spaghetti dinner on **Mon., March 23**, 6 pm, in the Social Hall. The Committee will provide spaghetti and drinks. Please bring a meatless side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome to join us and learn about the movement to help the environment by cutting meat consumption.

Updates from OHM

Thank You for Partnering with OHM

Thank you to all who were able to support Open Hand Ministries’ (OHM) February Circles dinner with food donations and fellowship: Michele Bossers, Kate Busatto, Barb Dewitt, Doris Dick, Jess Duvall, Bob Forloines, Eric Jester, Heather Lawrence, Henry Petrilli, Nancy Phillips, Emily Rosenthal, Tiffany Sudar, Tim Van Fleet, and Nancy Wright.



OHM Circles is a family development ministry that brings local families and allies together as a community to work on goals, including home ownership. ELPC provides dinner for this gathering four times a year. Join us for fellowship and service next time on **Tues., May 5!**

Support OHM in the Marathon

Are you interested in running on a relay team for the Pittsburgh Marathon on **Sun., May 3**, or as an individual in the 10k, half, or full marathon? What about staffing water stations? If you would like to support OHM’s Pittsburgh Marathon fundraiser, contact Molly Davidson Welling at mollydw@yahoo.com or Emily Rosenthal at ejr116@gmail.com for more details on how to be involved.

Christian Education

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Intergenerational Church School Class

March 22: Communion

The Children & Youth and Parenting Circle classes will combine for an intergenerational Church School class to explore the sacrament of Communion through activities and discussions. We will meet in the Second Floor Parlor.

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*

Contemporaries *McKelvy Room*

Facilitator: Carolyn Russ, Steering Committee Chair

All you who are heavy laden, come to me, and I will give you rest. When the stresses of life seem to be too much, Jesus, the Great lover, invites us to find our rest in him. What does that mean? How do we turn ourselves over to him?

March 8: Invitations from Jesus

We have been pondering some of the most familiar invitations from Jesus, but the Bible presents others for our consideration. Class members will be invited to offer and discuss other invitations that have resonated with them.

March 15: Being a Church that Recognizes and Comforts People in Deep Pain

As we joyfully acknowledge church friends and newcomers, is there a space for the individuals among us who are silently suffering emotionally, physically, and spiritually? What can we as a church do to embrace and support those who are suffering among us?

March 22: Living in the Image of God

The God who orders the planets (and the galaxies) and is the Source of Love and Truth has created us—sinful, weak us—in that same God's image. What does it mean to live in the image of God?

March 29: Lazarus and the Rich Man | Luke 16:19–31

We will explore together the gulf between selfishness and love within the context of the gospel and our current social and political life.

Journey with Scripture *Highland Room*

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

“Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter.”—Isaiah 59:14

The prophet Isaiah laments that truth gets tripped up or excluded in community and national life. Mark's Gospel recognizes this reality as Jesus consciously moves toward his public execution. He warns of power-striving political and spiritual leaders. In the book of Revelation, churches are called to account for being lukewarm, even dead. Yet amidst such distress and chaos, God abundantly provides. Does God create such light and darkness, weal and woe? Join us as we reflect on these Lenten texts:

March 1: Ezekiel 18:25–32; Psalm 44;
Romans 1:8–15, 18–25; Mark 8:1–10, 14–21

March 8: Lamentations 3:31–40; Psalm 6;
Revelation 2:1–17; Mark 8:22–26

March 15: Isaiah 45:5–7, 18–25; Psalm 39;
Revelation 3:1–6; Mark 9:9–13

March 22: Isaiah 65:1–10; Psalm 103:13–22;
Revelation 3:14–22; Mark 9:14–29

March 29: Isaiah 59:9–21; Psalm 109;
Revelation 4:1–11; Mark 10: 28–34

Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

Facilitators: Parenting Circle Leadership Team

March: Prayer

Anyone involved in parenting (singles, couples, adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, guardians, mentors, etc.) are welcome to join us in the Harambe Room on Sundays during the Church School hour. Our formal discussion won't start until 10 am, so that families have time to drop off their children at their classes. We share experiences, resources, prayer, and scripture as we explore how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives, as well as nurtures our parent/child relationships. Join us as we learn from one another ways to foster closer family relationships in the context of creating active faith communities.

Christian Education

Continued from previous page

Seekers *Garth Overlook Room*

Facilitator: *Gwen Puza*

March 1: The Center for Victims

ELPC member Valerie Dixon is director of family and community support at the Center for Victims. The Center's mission is "Healing trauma, supporting victims and creating social change for a more peaceful community." They offer a 24-hour crisis hotline and a domestic violence shelter. Valerie will talk about why this work is so important to her. She also will tell us about her work with the Black Political Empowerment Project.

March 8, 15, & 22: Christian Mysticism

The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, executive director of Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, and Consulting, will be with us to lead a three-week series on Christian mysticism. He is the author of numerous books, as well as an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a spiritual director, and a clergy coach. He also served as a pastor for 22 years.

March 8: What Is a Christian Mystic?

We'll gain a general understanding of the history of Christian spirituality and experience.

March 15: The Foundations for a Mystical Life

We'll be introduced to the foundational insights of Christian mysticism; concepts such as faith, humility, surrender, living in the present moment, seeking divine union, prayer, and discernment; and much more.

March 22: Stories of the Mystics

We'll hear about and discuss the experiences of those regarded as mystics of Christian history, and explore how to translate their experiences into our lives.

March 29: Immigrant Stories from Central America

Come hear the stories of several immigrants who will tell us about their journeys from Central America and the challenges they face. The talks will be translated into English. These women are studying English at ELPC through a joint program offered by ELPC and Casa San José.

Soul Food *Good Samaritan Room*

Facilitators: *Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members*

March: Spiritual Pathways

During our Lenten sessions, we will discuss and practice various ways and styles of praying using the *Spiritual Pathways* program.

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Ed. & Youth Ministry

To RSVP for an event or to ask questions, please contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x120.

Sat.–Sun., March 14–15: Tween Retreat @ Crestfield

The Tween Retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock is a time to join other youth in grades 4–6 from around Pittsburgh to learn about God's Word and how it relates to everyday life, grow as a church group, have FUN in God's outdoor creation, and worship. More details including cost, scholarship information, and permission slip can be found online on the church calendar.



Sun., March 29: DG2! @ Good Deeds Day 12–3:30 pm

Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will show acts of loving kindness by participating in Good Deeds Day. Meet in the Harambe Room for lunch immediately following Sanctuary worship. We will return to the church for pick up at 3:30 pm. Check the website during the second week in March for more details about what type of service we will be doing.

club one sixteen

Wednesdays, 3:30–7:30 pm

This month, youth in grades 7–12 will explore the theme **re-pair**. Together, we will see how God calls us to navigate divides in our community and in our world.



club one sixteen is our mid-week program for children and youth in grades 1–12. Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study. Our schedule is as follows:

- 3:30 pm: Gathering Time/ Homework Help/Open Gym
- 4:30 pm: Opening Worship
- 5 pm: Dinner
- 5:30 pm:
 - Older Youth: Bible Study & Gym
 - Younger Youth: Bible Study, Crafts, & Gym
- 7:30 pm: Dismissal

Tour ELPC in March

Throughout the year, ELPC offers a variety of tours for members, friends, and visitors following Sanctuary worship on Sundays.

Sun., March 8: Sanctuary and Chapel



How well do you know the details, large and small, that can be found in our Sanctuary and Chapel? Penn Hackney will tell us more about the history and symbolism of these beautiful, unique spaces.

Sun., March 22: Underground

Descend into the bowels of our Cathedral and explore some of its least seen areas with Tim VanFleet. Wander through the “catacombs” and see the organ bellows, furnace, and more. Please gather at the Highland entrance following worship. Allow 30–45 minutes for the tour and wear comfortable shoes.



Sun., March 29: Tower Tour



Climb the heights of our church’s landmark central tower with Steve Evrad, and gain insights into its history and construction. High above the bustle of the streets below, you will

have an opportunity to view the entire East Liberty valley and beyond.

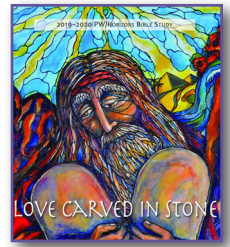
The climb requires a bit of stamina; comfortable shoes and pants are suggested. The tour is not recommended for small children.

Presbyterian Women

Bible Study | Love Carved in Stone

Mon., March 2 7 pm | Tues., March 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: Do Not Steal*. “The wound addressed in this Word is taking the easy way to get what we want at the expense of others.”



Monday’s group will be facilitated by Janet Pollard in the Trustees Room. Linda Lane will lead Tuesday’s group, which meets in the Second Floor Parlor and concludes with a lunch featuring soup and sides provided by members. We look forward to seeing you!

Mark Your Calendars | Fri.–Sat., April 17–18

Annual Spring Retreat for Women

Presbyterian Women invite all women to an overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp. We will gather for dinner on Friday and conclude late Saturday afternoon. Our theme is *Fragrant Wisdom*. Laura Risteau will guide our exploration of faith, wisdom, fragrance, and tall trees. Bring your Bible and adventurous spirit. Watch for more information.



Spiritual Life

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

Fri. & Sat., April 24 & 25: Embodying the Gifts of the Nine Essential Qualities of the Divine and the Enneagram Types

At the core of every human being is the desire to love, be loved, and ultimately BE LOVE. Yet due to the inner experience of feeling separated from the source—from God—our temperament and personality type cling to certain aspects of the divine and reality. We ignore, repress, even disdain other parts to suit our personality’s preference.

One of the most powerful aspects of the Enneagram is its brilliance in showing us that God has nine essential attributes or expressions and that we can be open to all nine and move from a life that is limited by fear and perception to a life of embodied wisdom, love, and presence in every action.

Jessica Dibb will lead us as we learn about and experience the full dimensionality of our authentic, liberated self and the full spectrum of the Divine somatically, emotionally, and cognitively using the brilliant precise map of the Enneagram. We will gather on **Fri., April 24**, 6–9 pm, and **Sat., April 25**, 9 am–6pm.

Registration materials are available online.



Jessica Dibb is founder, spiritual director, and principal teacher of the Inspiration Community & Consciousness School.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

Sun., March 15: Attend Our Next Spiritual Gathering 12:30 pm

All are invited to our LGBTQ Ministry's next spiritual gathering to share lunch and fellowship. LGBTQIA+ folks and allies alike are welcome.

Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x118 for more details.



God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Hope Academy Students Compete at Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest

More than 1,000 students from 110 schools competed in the Pittsburgh Public Theater's 2020 *Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest*. Hope Academy was well represented with 40 students, who performed 40 monologues and 8 scenes.

The field was narrowed down to 13 monologues and 12 scenes for the Showcase of Finalists. Of this group, four Hope Academy students were selected as finalists: **Chloe Baker** (monologue: *Jailer's Daughter*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*), **Angelo Collins** (monologue: *Trinculo*, *The Tempest*), and **Marco Petrucci & Zora Rose** (scene: *Romeo and Juliet*). In addition, nine students were recognized as honorable mentions: **Zaida Collins**, **Shayla Esquivel**, **Bella Gonzales**, **Burke Keener**, **Luca Leisher**, **Saniya Mason**, **Madeleine Mocker**, **Lucia Pelling**, and **Quinn Seif**.

The Showcase of Finalists was held on Mon., Feb. 17. Results were not known in time for the printing of this newsletter.



VCS Registration is Open

Our Vacation Church School program will take place **Mon.–Fri., June 22–26**, 9 am–3 pm, and our theme will be: *Focus: See What Matters Most*. Together, we will explore our relationship with God and focus on how we might share the good news of God's love with others. Registration forms for students and volunteers are available online and at the church.



ELPC Session Updates

In January, ELPC's Session approved a flat budget for 2020, and voted to be an "Earth Care Congregation" of the PC(USA).

ELPC People News

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

Our Prayers

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

- Linda Benedict's aunt, Chris
- Peta Harrigan Cole's uncle, Cecil Harrigan

“...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.”



Spring Forward

It's that time of year again. Daylight saving time begins on **Sun., March 8**. Make sure to set your clocks forward by one hour. We'll see you bright and early for worship!



Did you know there was another part to the Sanctuary pipe organ that is not functional? Follow this link to read more about the antiphonal organ in the back balcony of our Sanctuary. Learn more at tiny.cc/antiphonal-organ.

CMU Wind Ensemble to Perform

The ninth season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on **Sat., March 28**, 4 pm, with a performance by the Carnegie Mellon University Wind Ensemble and organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore in the Sanctuary.

Hear the majestic and unique sounds of winds, brass, percussion, and organ like you've never heard them before in a spectacular setting!

Featured on the program will be a new composition for wind ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh-based composer Nancy Galbraith.

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

To view the full slate of concerts this season, please visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.

