



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

November 2020



Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 8

In order to continue the celebratory experience of stewardship and our annual EECM food drive during quarantine, we invite you to drive by ELPC on **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 8**, 1:30–3 pm, and personally (and safely) give your pledge card and food donations to volunteers.

One of the marks of being a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church is to work to eradicate systemic poverty. Your donation of canned fruit, tuna, pasta, and instant potatoes for our fall EECM food drive will help mitigate and address food insufficiency, one

of the devastating consequences of systemic poverty that so many of our neighbors are experiencing in this season.

If you are unable to come to the church, volunteers will pick up your gifts at your home on **Sun., Nov. 15**, so that everyone can enjoy the celebration. You also may mail your pledge to the church or submit it at **ELPC.church**.

Thank you to everyone who has continued honoring their pledges. Our pledges keep our church functioning—and we are grateful for the extra effort many have summoned to keep their pledges current.

Church Building News & Updates

As of the writing of this update, the church building remains closed to the public, but is incrementally and intentionally reopening in stages.

In May, staff returned to work with a modified schedule. In June, we began allowing pre-approved, in-person events that followed special, safer guidelines. In August, we allowed small congregational attendance at a few outdoor services to test safety protocols for worship. In September, we began welcoming back some long-time partners to do small, pre-approved meetings in the building. In October, we began welcoming back small numbers of worshippers to the 11am service in the Sanctuary.

As federal, state, local, and church authorities advise, we will open our building more to members, friends, and visitors for additional events. The new normal at ELPC will follow governmental guidelines and good common sense procedures to keep our staff, visitors, and community safe.

Watch for updates at **ELPC.church** for specific dates and guidelines. We appreciate your continued patience during this unprecedented time.

Livestream Services

Our services are being livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. For more details, visit **ELPC.church**.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: Harvest

Nov. 1* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Nov. 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 15 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Nov. 22 Kathryn Ophardt

Nov. 29 Rev. BJ Woodworth

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

Nov. 1* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 8 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 15 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Nov. 22 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Nov. 29 Rev. BJ Woodworth

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Planning Our Annual Christmas Pageant

ELPC is making plans to put on a virtual Christmas Pageant this year, so that our kids will still have an opportunity to tell the story about the good news of Christ's birth. Keep your eyes open for details.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

Staff Leadership

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Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



So many things are now upon us, just because we've entered the month of November. Although I'm composing this essay in mid-October, you will be reading it around the time of our national election. Then, on November 8, we will commemorate Stewardship Sunday—the annual ritual of commitment and goal-setting for another year. Later in this month, we'll celebrate Thanksgiving and then step into the pre-Christmas season with the first Sunday of Advent on November 29. Plus, November will mark the eighth month of significant restrictions due to the coronavirus.

Throughout the crazy seasons of 2020, we have been simply trying to get by—trying to find some balance between the unusual demands of this year, coupled with maintaining some semblance of normalcy in our work-home-life routines. Given that so much of this year has been unprecedented, and due to the requirements of quarantines and social isolation, we've largely had to rely upon our own resources. We've had to find creative ways to fill the days and try to be as self-sufficient as possible.

Yet, is self-sufficiency truly the best course of action? Despite staying close to home for the past months, we have depended on lots of other people for our basic needs. The recent election reminds us that democracy is predicated upon the idea of working for the common good. Thanksgiving is a holiday typically seen through rose-colored glasses, but nonetheless built on an idea of mutual support and hospitality toward others. And within the life of the church, stewardship is not about self-sufficiency, but a faithful sharing of resources, trusting in a generous God who provides for all abundantly.

A recently finished a book by Willie James Jennings, a Yale professor of theology and Africana studies, titled *After Whiteness*. In it he included a short poem he wrote about self-sufficiency:

*Could self-sufficiency be redeemed? But who would
want such a thing?*

*Certainly not one who asked Mary for life, or one
who needed friends along the way of discipleship, or
one who called on an Abba-God, or one
who fell onto God's Spirit like a limp body in need of support
just to face the morning sun,
or one who said, "This is my body and my blood,
eat me because you need me in you."*

*Certainly not one who on a cross killed the illusion of
self-sufficiency.*

Jennings wisely went on to say, "We exist inside an overturning that is the turning the world right side up by God." Perhaps the movement from self-sufficiency to Christ-dependency is the direction we need to orient ourselves this month. May this November allow us to replace an illusion of sufficiency with a reality of daily, healing, heaven-sent grace.

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

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

Being a Matthew 25 Church | Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Eradicating Systemic Poverty is the third component of being a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church, as well as our mission and ministry theme this month. As we enter into Advent and the holiday season—and people are still unemployed and struggling financially as a result of COVID-19—more than ever, we are aware of and concerned for our members, neighbors, and friends who are experiencing systemic poverty and financial instability.

As Christians, we are called to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith may come alive and we may wake up to new possibilities. To do so, it is imperative that we understand the causes and effects of systemic poverty, and engage in activities that mitigate and—in time—will eradicate it.

Systemic poverty is the economic exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices, and systems that perpetuate impoverished status. These factors all but guarantee that people who are living in poverty will stay that way. Did you know that one-in-six children in the U.S. lives in poverty? Did you know that poverty is one of the greatest threats to the healthy development of children and that the long-lasting, negative consequences include: inadequate quantity and quality of food, exposure to violence, underfunded and inadequate schools, lack of early childhood education, frequent housing instability, exposure to pollution and other health risks? And did you know that living in poverty results in a lack of access to the social goods that are essential for education, as well as deficits in other measures of dignity, freedom, and participation in communal life?

ELPC has walked with the most vulnerable members of our community and are known to be a justice-seeking congregation—and we have remained so during this pandemic. To that end, we will provide gift cards to our financially vulnerable members and neighbors to assist with Thanksgiving and Christmas, even as we continue to provide rent, utility, clothing, and other assistance. And as we become aware, we will encourage you to write our government officials to call them to task and reiterate our collective responsibility to care for the financial stability and health of our vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Contact Pastor Patrice at PatriceFS@coh.net for details on our Holiday Assistance Ministries. For more information on the debilitating, long-term, negative effects of systemic poverty, visit PresbyterianMission.org/ministries/matthew-25.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering on Zoom

Join us on **Sun., Nov. 15, 12:30 pm**, to meet and share fellowship at our LGBTQ Ministry's next spiritual gathering. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. For details, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x118**.



**God Created You.
God Loves You.
Be Yourself.**

Session News

At its last meeting, the ELPC Session:

- Heard updates on the 2021 Stewardship campaign
- Reflected on recent in-person worship services and plans to expand the number of those able to attend on Sundays
- Celebrated the October 25 ordination of former ELPC member, Carol Sharp
- Prepared for our second outreach conversation with Session members of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople



ELPC is pleased to announce that a new cross will be suspended from our Sanctuary ceiling as we journey through Advent. Join us in giving thanks to Scott Smith—a local artist, designer, and craftsman—for his creativity and craftsmanship in creating this beautiful, white oak cross!

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Online Church School Class Offerings

Children and youth classes will meet on Sunday afternoons on Zoom. Links to adult classes will be included in the *Worship at ELPC* email news flashes each Friday. If you do not receive the news flash, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x122. Adult classes will meet on Sundays, 9:45 am, on Zoom.

Journey with Scripture

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

“Look! On the mountains the feet of one who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!”—Nahum 1:15

Seemingly out of the blue, in a vision of the downfall of the Assyrian oppressors of a wayward Israel, the prophet Nahum proclaims an unexpected, inaugural event that transcends just the one-time freeing of a captive people. Our readings explore this surprising grace given for all people. We also complete the “Year D” scripture readings and start new readings and reflections for Advent. Join us on the journey!

Nov. 1: Nahum 1:1–13, 15; Psalm 59;
Romans 9:6–33; Acts 22:1–29

Nov. 8: Nehemiah 1:1–11; Psalm 35;
2 Corinthians 11:1–31; Acts 26:1–32

Nov. 15: 2 Kings 17:1–24; Psalm 28;
Galatians 2:1–14; Acts 27:1–44

Nov. 22: 1 Samuel 10:17–27; Psalm 21;
Revelation 10:1–11; Acts 28:17–31

Nov. 29: To be determined.

Parenting Circle

Facilitators: Trish Buben

This month, we will continue discussing excerpts from Lauren Burdette’s book, *This Life that is Ours*, and how her insights connect to our unique perspectives and experiences of parenthood. Each class will have time for personal sharing and reflection on brief readings from the book. All people involved in parenting are welcome to join us, even if you haven’t read the book. For a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Heather.

Soul Food

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

November: Falling Upward

During November, we will be discussing chapters 3, 4, and 5 of *Falling Upward*, by Fr. Richard Rohr. New participants are welcome, online or by phone, and may contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net.

Seekers

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Nov. 1: The Language of God

Francis Collins is a geneticist, physician, and past director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. He also founded The BioLogos Foundation, which promotes discourse on the relationship between science and religion. This year, he received the *Templeton Prize* for his work to reconcile science and religion.

However, Collins was an atheist when he entered medical school. A patient—who was facing death with faith, peace, and courage—asked him, “What do you believe?” As a scientist, he set out to find evidence of the existence of God. We will watch a video of Collins presenting his findings.

Nov. 8 & 15: Finding God in Uncertain Times

When the circumstances of life seem unsure, how can we be certain about God? Uncertainty is a part of everyday life—from weather changes to traffic jams to unexpected news. Most days, we have a capacity to forge ahead through the unknown and trust that God is with us. Yet some experiences—personally and communally—stretch our capacity to sit with uncertainty and raise questions about where God is and what God is up to in the midst of our unsettled present. As we remain in a season of uncertainty brought about by pandemic, political discord, and racial tensions (and the ups and downs of our own lives!), we may find ourselves wrestling with questions and worries—as people of faith have done for millennia before. We long to find sure footing on Christ, the rock of our faith. But how?

Pastor Heather will join us for two weeks to discuss God’s promises, our experiences, and practices of our faith that might help us find God in uncertain times.

Nov. 22 & 29: Radical Reformations: Puritans and Quakers in New England and Old

In the 17th century, the Puritans came to New England to worship in freedom, but they notoriously persecuted Quaker missionaries. How and why? Answers can be found in their mutual origins in English conflict with authority in church and state in pursuit of meaningful reformation of church and society. We will hear this from Peter Gilmore, who is a lecturer in history at various universities in the Pittsburgh region, and a ruling elder at Sixth Presbyterian Church.

Nov. 22: We will consider who the Puritans actually were, what they believed, and how they organized church and society in Massachusetts.

Nov. 29: We will consider the origins of the Religious Society of Friends, what they believed, and why the Puritans reacted negatively to the Quakers in New England.



The More Things Change... The More They Stay The Same

As the need for “virtual” ministry has continued longer than hoped or expected, ELPC is pleased to welcome back Kelli Booher as our Interim Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries (YAMs).

Kelli’s love for and knowledge of our YAMs—coupled with her creative ability to nurture community and foster spiritual growth in person and across a wide range of virtual platforms—have put her in a unique position “for such a time as this” (to quote the book of Esther).

We are grateful for her willingness to shepherd our YAMs until we can consistently gather in person, and resume the search for a permanent YAM coordinator.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Interim Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries

November Instagram Takeovers

Follow [@elpcyoungadults](#) on Instagram to check out a day in the life of ELPC’s young adults. To ask questions, email Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net.

Mon., Nov. 2: Present for the Future 12–1:15 pm and/or 6–7:15 pm
“When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”—Matthew 18:20. Join anytime to be present with other YAM members in the presence of God as we share and hold each other’s hopes and concerns in prayer.

Wed., Nov. 4: Do the Write Thing 8–9 pm
Join us for a monthly event where the “write thing” takes on a new perspective. This month, we will learn how writing as a meditation practice can be helpful in times when we are struggling to quiet our minds. Whether you write, type, voice text, use communication symbols, or draw, please join us!

Sat., Nov. 14: Movie Night 7 pm
You’re invited to a Netflix Party! Netflix Party synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to Netflix shows and movies (not available on phone). We will vote on three different movies a week before the party. To ask questions or if you do not have a Netflix subscription, contact Kelli.

Sun., Nov. 22: Friendsgiving & Game Night 5:30 pm
While we can’t gather in person for our annual Friendsgiving Dinner, we will gather virtually to enjoy a Friendsgiving meal and game night. Meals will be \$10 (assistance is available if needed) and will be available for pickup or delivery. Contact Kelli by **Wed., Nov. 11**, for further details.

Thurs., Nov. 26: YAMS by YAMS
For those of us who may not be gathering with others on Thanksgiving, but want to give thanks for others in our community, we have a safe and fun way to do so for everyone! Contact Kelli to sign up or for more details.

Fri., Nov. 27: Virtual Craft Night 7 pm
Surprise craft night! RSVP to Kelli so that your crafting kit can be prepared for pickup or delivery. (Kits may be picked up/delivered with Friendsgiving meals.)

Youth Mission Project Baking for Our Neighbors

Youth in grades 6–12 will gather via Zoom on **Sun., Nov. 8**, 12:30–1:30 pm, to bake cookies for ELPC’s neighbors. Register with Sara to receive Zoom information, recipe ideas, and ingredients if needed.

club one sixteen

Note: We will not meet on **Nov. 11** or **25** in observance of **Veterans Day** and **Thanksgiving**.

Grades 1-3

Thurs., Nov. 5 | 6 pm

Join us for Bible study, activities, and prayer on Zoom!

Grades 4-7

Wed., Nov. 4 & 18 | 4:30-5:15 pm

Join us via Zoom for Bible study on **Nov. 4**, and art on **Nov. 18**.

Grades 7-12

Wed., Nov. 4 & 18 | 5:30-6:30 pm

This month, we will enjoy some “mini retreats” together, as we practice pausing to notice and experience God’s grace in the midst of our daily lives. For a retreat activity box and Zoom information, please register at [ELPC.church](#).

Connecting with Our Kids

ELPC continues to offer ministries to kids of all ages and their families—Church School activities, Kid’s Zoom, and opportunities to connect to worship. For up-to-date information, sign up for our “Kids Newsflash” or visit [ELPC.church](#).

Are You Interested in Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is the practice of accompanying another in their own attentiveness to the movement of God, the Sacred or the Holy within themselves and their everyday, ordinary lives. The practice involves silence, listening, reflection and discernment. In spiritual direction, the directee is the authority and holds the wisdom to their own spiritual life and journey; learning to attend to and trust their inner teacher (Jeremiah 31:33–34; John 14:26).

Personally, I love the image of the “Third Chair,” where God—the Spirit, the Divine, and the Holy—is the true director in our time together.

If you think you might be interested in this or are just curious about the possibility of spiritual direction, contact me, Rev. BJ Woodworth, at BJW@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x141**.

Presbyterian Women

PW Virtual Bible Study: Women’s Lament

Mon., Nov. 2 7–8 pm | **Tues., Nov. 10** 10 am–12 pm

In scripture and tradition, women have carried much of the burden of lament for society. All of the following women have been mocked, praised, and dismissed.

Hannah, Sarah, Rachel, Elizabeth, and other biblical sisters offer very public and vocal examples of lamenting for their children. In our own time, Emmett Till’s mother changed the trajectory of the civil rights movement when she made the world see the brutalized body of her 14-year-old son. Lamenting the abuse of women’s bodies, Tarana Burke founded the #MeToo movement in 2006, but the movement did not take off for a decade. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenager, speaks for many who lament for the fate of the earth.



Zoom information for our Bible Study will be emailed on **Fri., Oct. 30**. For more information, contact PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Tues., Nov. 17: Sharing Lament 12–1 pm

All women are invited to join us as we discuss contemporary laments of women.

Wait Upon the Lord, a Virtual Advent Retreat

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a virtual retreat for Advent, themed *Wait Upon the Lord*. The retreat will take place **Fri.–Sun., Nov. 20–22**. The cost is \$25. All supplies will be sent to you in advance. RSVP by **Fri., Nov. 6**, to Norma Meyer at Norma@coh.net. Contact the Rev. BJ Woodworth with questions at BJW@coh.net. For complete details, visit ELPC.church.

Why Retreat? Amidst all that is happening and will be happening in mid-November, why would one go on a 24-hour retreat. Let me offer one metaphor from Ruth Haley Barton’s book, *Invitation to Retreat*:

“Going on retreat is like a boat entering into the lock in order to rise to new heights. When I don’t enter into the locks at regular intervals my life will just keep sinking to the level of the culture around me and to the level of my own unexamined inner world. However, when I entered the lock, that is retreat, when I allow the doors to close behind me and wait quietly for my soul to be lifted by the presence of God, I find that almost imperceptibly I am buoyed to new levels. When I emerge, I may not be able to say exactly what happened, but I know that I have been lifted to new heights and my sails are straight and ready to catch the wind of the Spirit as it fills my sails.”

Perhaps what we all need after nine months of a pandemic, continued racial injustice, and increasing political division and unrest is to take 24 hours to pull into the locks, rest, be still, attend to our breath, grieve, lament, light a candle, and find our strength in quietness and trust for the continued journey.

Secondly, a retreat at this time helps us prepare for Advent, a season in which we remind ourselves and get in touch with our longings and desires for the coming of God’s kingdom in fullness. It is a season about imagining and seeing what God’s dream is for us and the world. What are you longing, waiting, and hoping for this Advent? A retreat creates space to ponder and prepare our lives for the new thing God may want to birth in and through you.

Refuge of the Heart

ELPC is happy to announce the beginning of a new ministry, called Refuge of the Heart!

Refuge of the Heart is a bilingual Spanish-English meditation group that will be held on Tuesday nights, beginning Nov. 10, 7 pm, via Zoom. Each meditation will be shared in Spanish and in English.

In partnership with Casa San José, we hope to unite our communities and share a sacred moment, trusting that God’s voice transcends the boundaries of language. Inspired by contemplative prayer, this time of meditation hopes to offer space to rest, reflect, and explore God’s presence in our lives.

More information to come! If you’re interested in participating, please contact Kathryn Ophardt at kophardt@pts.edu or the Rev. BJ Woodworth at BJW@coh.net.



= \$2,490

Thank you to everyone who donated to Vintage Center for Active Adults in honor of Pastor Randy's 60th birthday! Together, our faith family donated cash, checks, food donations, and gift cards valued at \$2,490! In October, Vintage held a food distribution event for their seniors, who were thrilled with—and thankful for—your generosity and kindness.



Mike O'Donnell Retires

After almost 35 years at ELPC, Mike O'Donnell retired in October from his overnight facilities position.

Mike has given much time and care for our building and our community as he kept it clean, safe, and ready to use each morning. Sadly, we cannot come together to celebrate him due to the pandemic restrictions, but please join in gratitude for the many years of his dedication and in prayers for a happy, healthy path ahead for Mike.

Valley View Presbyterian Church is Going Solar



ELPC has a long-standing relationship with our neighboring Presbyterian congregations: Open Door and Valley View of Garfield. We have helped in the past with funds for Garfield Farm and also sponsored Valley View's roof upgrades—among other things.

More recently, ELPC's Environmental Team has been working with Valley View on their renewable energy initiative. With a good, sunny roof, Valley View leadership embarked on a quest to install a solar array to offset the church's energy use with green and clean, solar energy.

Their project is already 80% funded. If you are able, please help them reach their goal. Even small contributions make a difference...it all adds up! Contribute at [GoFundMe.com/f/going-solar-at-valley-view-church](https://www.gofundme.com/f/going-solar-at-valley-view-church).

ELPC People

If you have news to share, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x122.

Good News

- Congratulations to Stephanie Creasy, who recently celebrated her baptism.
- Congratulations to **Matthew Battifarano** and **Meghan Bogema**, who were married on September 26.
- In October, ELPC was named the 2020 *Place of Worship/Church* at the LGBTQIA Pittsburgh's BEST: Award Ceremony by SisTers PGH.

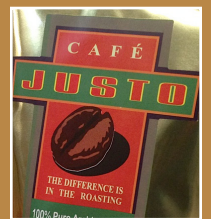
Prayers

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

- Beth Buchwach and Don Breitbarth on the passing of Beth's mother, Ellen Troiano
- The Egelston family on the passing of Dave's father
- The Forloines family on the passing of Bob's brother, Andy
- The Lewand family on the passing of Lee's mother
- Andrew Wilkinson on the passing of his mother, Leslie Wilkinson

Café Justo is Back!


We're pleased to continue offering both ground and whole bean varieties of regular, strong, 50/50 blend, and decaf Café Justo coffee! Stop by the driveway on Highland Ave. on **Wed., Nov. 11 & 18, 1 pm**, to make a purchase. The cost is \$10 per bag, paid in cash or by check made out to ELPC with "coffee" on the memo line.



If you're unable to make it in person, please email Ryan Booher at rabooherco@gmail.com or Liz Hopkins at elizabethvhopkins@hotmail.com.



www.ELPC.church

 116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Search: EastLibertyPresbyterian

“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 for Veterans Day on **Wed., Nov. 11**, and for Thanksgiving on **Nov. 26 & 27**.

The Christmas Giving Tree

The holidays are almost here! As in years past, the ELPC Deacons are organizing the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from ELPC’s Mission, Christian Education, and Hope Academy ministries, East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), and Casa San José.

This year’s Giving Tree will be different. There will be no physical gifts, only \$25 gift cards to stores like Target and Walmart. Instead of having the Giving Tree signup before or after our worship services, we will be using SignUpGenius.

When the gift requests are all complete, we will send out a link to the sign-up form, where you will be able to select that you will purchase a gift card. You also could choose to send donations, in any amount, for the purchase of a gift card. Both gift cards and donations will need to be sent to the church by **Fri., Nov. 20**. You can mail the gift cards or drop them off at the church’s front desk. Donations can be sent in via checks made out to “ELPC Giving Tree” or through the “Donate” button at ELPC.church. Please designate that your donation is for the “Giving Tree.”

If you are not computer savvy, but would like to help out with the Giving Tree gifts, please contact Trish Buben at **tab190@gmail.com** or **410.504.2561** or Pastor Patrice at **PatriceFS@coh.net** or **412.441.3800 x130**.

The ELPC Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

The season of Advent and Christmas is a time of joy and celebration. And while we may not be able to worship in person on **Christmas Eve, Thurs., Dec. 24**, we will livestream our services. Join us virtually for our Friends & Family service at 5 pm, and our Candlelight service at 10 pm.

Participate In Our Christmas Eve Friends & Family Service

On **Christmas Eve, Thurs., Dec. 24**, 5 pm, we will worship together at our Friends & Family service from the comfort of our own homes! Our service will be an intergenerational celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, including hymns, scripture, prayer, Communion, and the candlelight singing of *Silent Night*. We hope to include as many people as possible in our service, so that we can enjoy this experience in community together. We are looking for participants to:

- Sing in an Intergenerational Choir (film yourself singing a part of a Christmas carol that we will edit together)
- Lift a lit candle as part of the singing of *Silent Night*
- Serve as a liturgist (read scripture or lead a prayer)

If you and your family are interested in being part of this service, please contact Pastor Heather for details.