



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

February 2021

Black History Month Events

Sun., Feb. 7: The Notorious Trial of Joe Thomas 12 pm

In September 2019, Tony Norman and Steve Mellon, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* journalists, ran a series on how a “few carefully chosen words

transformed a black migrant worker into a mythically evil character.” (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 22, 2019).



Join the ELPC Mission Board and Facing Systemic Racism Ministry Team following Sanctuary worship, as Tony and Steve speak about their joint project, “The Notorious Trial of Joe Thomas.” This is the story of events that took place in Pittsburgh in 1922, regarding the treatment of a Black man accused of murdering a white woman. This project illustrates the injustice of our criminal justice system, which has mistreated persons of color for three centuries—and sadly continues today.

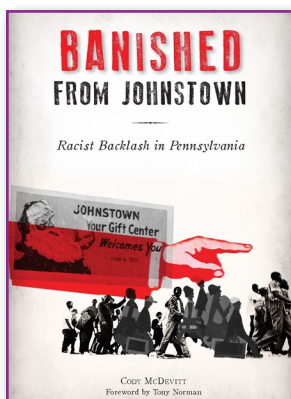
Join us via Zoom at tiny.cc/joe-thomas or by calling in at **301.715.8592**. Enter meeting ID **879 3121 3685** and passcode **852328**.

Sun., Feb. 28: Banished from Johnstown 9:45 am, 12 pm

Author Cody McDevitt will be with us to discuss his book, *Banished from Johnstown: Racist Backlash in Pennsylvania*, which examines one of the worst civil rights injustices in the history of Pennsylvania. Join us for two

opportunities to engage with Cody: once during the adult Church School hour with the Seekers class, and again following Sanctuary worship.

Banished from Johnstown chronicles a virtually unknown, tragic episode in the history of African Americans and Johnstown. Samuel W. Black, director of the African American Program at the Senator John Heinz History Center states, “Recalling the national debate about race and constitutional rights and the willingness to express dictatorial rule over Black lives by white elected officials was not just a scene in large urban areas, but the small, mid-American heartland as well.”



Join the Church School class at tiny.cc/elpc-seekers. Participate in the noon session via Zoom at tiny.cc/banished-from-johnstown or by calling in at **301.715.8592**, and enter meeting ID **876 5634 9138** and passcode **168623**.

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: Healing

Feb. 7* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Feb. 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Feb. 21 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Feb. 28 Rev. Gail Bowman, J.D.

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

Feb. 7* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Feb. 14 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Feb. 21 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Feb. 28 Rev. Gail Bowman, J.D.

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Join us in Welcoming Our Guest Preacher, Rev. Gail Bowman

ELPC is pleased to welcome the Rev. Gail Bowman, J.D., as our guest preacher on **Sun., Feb. 28**. Rev. Bowman has taught and led ministries at Berea College, Dillard University, Spelman College, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She also is the sister of ELPC member Dr. Linda Lane.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

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Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



If you ever think you can't make a difference, or that your input into a conversation doesn't matter, just remember Diane Hartley.

The Citicorp building in New York City opened in 1977. It was the seventh tallest building in the city, recognizable because of the 45-degree angled roof on top. It was even more distinctive because it was built on nine-story tall stilts. At the base of the building was St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which required the Citicorp building to be erected on stilts to avoid the church. But because of the church's location, the stilts had to be placed in the center of the wall's four sides. This required extra internal structures to keep the building stable whenever the wind gusted down the streets of the city. The engineer LeMessurier received many accolades for his innovative design and everything seemed fine until one day a phone call was received by someone in his office. An undergraduate architecture student named Diane Hartley had been fascinated by this building project. But when she did the math, calculating the force of winds hitting the building at its corners, she was sure it would cause it to collapse. LeMessurier re-did his calculations and discovered she was right and that windstorms powerful enough to cause this disaster hit the city with some frequency. This prompted frantic repairs, done quietly in the evening when the offices were empty, until the engineer's error was corrected. The Citicorp building safely stands to this day.

February marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes on February 17, followed by a period of 40+ days intended to be a season of self-reflection, personal examination, and preparation for the good news wrapped up in the Easter miracle. Lent can be observed by repentance (through recognizing the behaviors and grudges we carry around that would be best left behind us)—as well as by re-commitment (dedicating ourselves anew to self-care, compassionate service to others, and being a good steward of the blessings God provides us all). It is important, though, to remember that Lent is not a contest. There are no report cards handed out at the end of 40 days. It is an opportunity to open ourselves daily to God—through acts of spiritual discipline or just quieting down and offering a short “thank you/how can I do better?” prayer up to the heavens.

Even small acts can bear fruit for the realm of God. Now more than ever, deeds of connection—of reaching out to others, helping with errands for those unable to go shopping, writing a note or checking in with a child or calling a neighbor—go a long way. We may not know their full impact, but then that is never the point of doing good deeds. Faith involves seeds sprinkled generously over lots of types of soil. It is words of love and prophetic challenge spoken to crowds or tossed out upon the winds. It is an embrace that enfolds a single person but potentially tries to hug the entire world. It is a hope that lights a candle or quietly sings a song, but which is strong enough to build a life on that will last for generations to come.

Years later, Diane Hartley heard indirectly how her college-level math calculations and her unprompted call of concern to LeMessurier's office literally saved lives and protected a New York City landmark. Thank God she walked through this life with open eyes, with a curious mind, and a willingness to speak up with words of truth. This Lent and for the year to come, may we all strive to do the same.

Randy Bush

Church Membership Updates

ELPC is happy to announce that our congregation grew in 2020.

794
members



We added 41 members,
8 new friends, and 11
confirmation students

147

friends, visitors, and
colleagues in faith



We lost 25 members and
4 friends (4 deaths, and
25 moved or lost contact)

Mission Matters

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

Sun., Feb. 7: Petition Signing Drive-By Event 1:30–3 pm

The Alliance for Police Accountability (APA) is organizing to put two binding ballot questions on the May ballot for Allegheny County and Pittsburgh. The first petition seeks to end solitary confinement in Allegheny County Jail, and the second petition pertains to banning “no-knock” warrants (Breonna’s Law) in Pittsburgh. To be added to the May ballot, these petitions require many thousands of signatures from Allegheny County and/or Pittsburgh residents.

Stop by the Highland semi-circle driveway on **Sun., Feb. 7**, 1:30–3 pm, to sign the petitions. You also can download the petitions and mail them to APA prior to the deadline. Contact Stephanie Creasy at screasy16@gmail.com if you need to coordinate signing at another time.

You must be a registered voter in Allegheny County to sign for the solitary confinement initiative. You must be a registered voter in the City of Pittsburgh to sign for “Breonna’s Law.”

Police Reform and Public Safety Discussion

On **Sun., Feb. 21**, 7 pm, you are invited to a Police Reform and Public Safety online panel discussion, presented by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, and the Commission on Race and Reconciliation of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. The event is co-sponsored by ELPC, the Church of the Redeemer (Squirrel Hill), and a number of other faith groups.

Panelists include **Erika Strassburger**, member of Pittsburgh City Council for District 8, and **Summer Lee**, Representative for Pennsylvania House District 34. The speakers will discuss legislation that has passed, is in progress, and/or will be proposed, as well as respond to questions and comments from the attendees.

Join the discussion via Zoom at tiny.cc/2-21-21-discussion or call **312 626 6799**. Enter meeting ID **875 2350 4622** and passcode **741991** when prompted.

ELPC Session News

At their recent meeting, the Session:

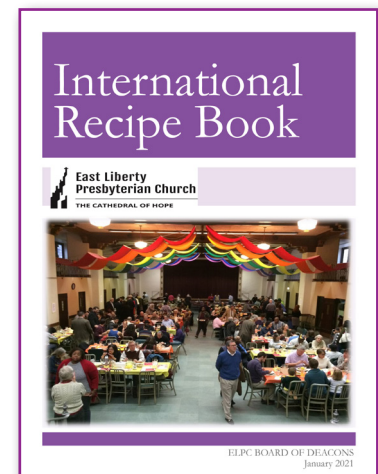
- Reviewed plans for virtual and on-site Ash Wednesday services,
- Discussed and approved the church’s 2021 budget,
- Celebrated the upcoming Inquirers’ Class,
- Continued conversations on building usage, and
- Made preparations for February’s Congregational Meeting.

International Recipe Book Now Available

Traditionally, the Board of Deacons hosts an international coffee hour on World Communion Sunday in October. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so in 2020. To continue our tradition of sharing and breaking bread together with food representing our various cultures or favorite family recipes, the Deacons have collected recipes and compiled a book for you.

Download the ELPC Deacons’ *International Recipe Book* online at ELPC.church or contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122** for a printed copy.

And it isn’t too late to share a recipe. Email your recipe to Megan!



ELPC BOARD OF DEACONS
January 2021

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Note: Adult classes are held on Sundays, 9:45 am, via Zoom.

Combined Adult Class

All adult Church School classes will meet with the Seekers class on **Sun., Feb. 28**. Read details under Seekers.

Children | Preschool–Grade 5

Parents, be sure to register at **ELPC.church** (if you haven't already done so) for a Church School Kit. Over the first three weeks of February, we will focus on our theme, "Part of God's Family: Caring for One Another." Kids also will gather on Zoom on **Sun., Feb. 28**, 10–10:30 am, to explore the theme of "God's Family" together.

Middle School | Grades 6–8

We will meet on **Sun., Feb. 21**, 12:30 pm, via Zoom.

High School | Grades 9–12

We will meet on **Sun., Feb. 28**, 12:30 pm, via Zoom.

Journey with Scripture

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

"Listen to me. You are supposed to be the leaders of the people here in Bethulia. But what you said to the people today was wrong. My friends, we must stand as an example of courage for our whole people."—Judith 8:11,24

Our set of readings, titled *Word Hidden and Revealed – The Apocrypha and The Apocalypse*, continue into Lent. The readings offer plenty of reflections during our season's journey. The heroine Judith challenges authority and takes responsibility upon herself to save the people of Judah. Ben Sira in the Book of Sirach wants readers to know and understand wisdom, that she "is found close by." In Revelation, John's heavenly visions encourage the churches in Asia Minor to be faithful through their present duress. God will "wipe away every tear from their eyes." Join us this Lent on the journey together!

Feb. 7: Psalm 75; Sirach 51:1–30; Revelation 7:1–8:5

Feb. 14: Psalm 78:52–72; Judith 6:1–4; 7:1,19,29–32; 8:4–17,32–36; 9:1,7–14; Revelation 8:6–9:12

Feb. 21: Psalm 73; Judith 10:1–5,11–23; 11:1–8,20–23; 12:10–20; 13:1–11; Revelation 9:13–11:3

Parenting Circle

Facilitator: Trish Buben

February: The Life That Is Ours

We will continue discussing excerpts from Lauren Burdette's book, *This Life That Is Ours*.

Seekers

Facilitator: Gwen Puza | gpuza9@gmail.com

Feb. 7: Reconstruction: America After the Civil War

This video discussion about the truths and misunderstandings of Reconstruction is between professor/historian/filmmaker Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; PBS president and CEO Paula Kerger; and NPR journalist Eric Deggans. References are made to the documentary about Reconstruction on PBS.

Feb. 14: Life and Ministry in South Sudan

Bob and Kristi Rice serve as PC(USA) mission co-workers, working alongside church partners and friends in South Sudan. They will share with us about the challenges and joys they experience with South Sudanese Christian sisters and brothers. They will highlight the need for training leaders and promoting healing and reconciliation in a country that has experienced civil war, displacement, and hunger for many generations.

Feb. 21: Queens, Prophets, and Warriors: Women Leaders in Ancient African History

Dr. Yolanda Covington-Ward will tell us about the powerful women in African history—queens, prophets, and warriors. Dr. Covington-Ward is an associate professor and currently serves as chair of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

Feb. 28: Banished from Johnstown

Cody McDevitt will join us to talk about his book, *Banished from Johnstown*. In response to the fatal shooting of four policemen in 1923, the mayor of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, ordered every African American and Mexican immigrant who had lived in the city for less than seven years to leave. They were given less than a day to move or would face crippling fines or jail time, and were forced out at gunpoint. This is one of the worst civil rights injustices in the history of Western Pennsylvania.

This is a combined class. The usual Seekers link can be used to access this class, or you may join at tiny.cc/elpc-seekers.

Soul Food

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

Feb. 7, 14, and 21: Falling Upward

We will continue discussing *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. New participants are welcome, online or by phone. Contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net for more details.

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Ed. & Youth Ministry

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

Sun., Feb. 7: Youth Mission Project | Random Acts of Kindness 12:30–1:30 pm

Youth in grades 6–12 will gather on Zoom for some random acts of kindness. RSVP to Sara so she can get supplies to you ahead of time.

Fri., Feb. 19: Tween Night | Bingo 7–8 pm

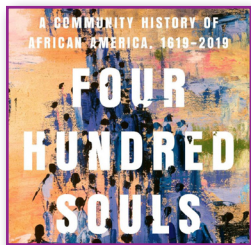
Tweens in grades 3–6 will gather on Zoom to play Bingo and other games.

Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Interim Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries

Contact Kelli Booher at KelliB@coh.net to RSVP for an event or to ask questions. Get YAM text updates by texting “YAM” to 412.612.2594.

Tues., Feb. 2: Historically Speaking: Four Hundred Souls 7–8:30 pm



Join us as we virtually attend *Historically Speaking: Four Hundred Souls – A Conversation with Ibram Kendi and Keisha N. Blain*, presented by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. Following the event, young adults can join a 30-minute Zoom call to discuss among ourselves. The event is free, but registration is recommended, so please RSVP to Kelli as soon as possible or at tiny.cc/four-hundred-souls.

Thurs., Feb. 11: Young Adult Craft Night 7–9 pm

Take a break from the week and get creative. Each of our craft nights require no previous craft experience. It's a time to relax, socialize, and make something. Supplies and materials will be provided, so please RSVP to Kelli by **Mon., Feb. 8**, so that kits can be made. More details will be sent via email or text.

Fri., Feb. 19: Bingo Night 7–9 pm

Play Bingo from the comfort of your own home! Get your virtual daubers ready to have some fun and win some prizes! You will be emailed a link to get your cards, so be on the look out for more details on how to participate.

Sat., Feb. 27: Spring Series | Spiritual Fermentation 6–8 pm

BJ Woodworth, director of Spiritual Life Ministries, will lead this series from February–May, with hopes of an in-person event in June. For centuries, beer has been a means for spiritual growth—from monks embracing the contemplative process of brewing “liquid bread” to the ways it has stimulated meaningful conversations when shared. Fermentation also provides a rich metaphor for the transformation into which the Spirit invites us. Come explore the connections among beer, monastic practice, and “spiritual fermentation.” Each gathering will include a tasting of a particular beer style, a reflection on brewing and our spiritual lives, and a guided prayer practice.

This series is open to young adults, 18–40 years of age, but you must be 21+ to participate in the tasting. RSVP to Kelli by **Sun., Feb. 21**. The cost is **\$5/person**.

club one sixteen notes

This month, youth in grades 6–12 will continue exploring stories of Jesus as we make dinner together.

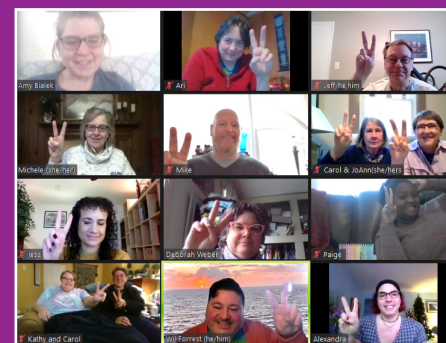
Then, we will begin our Lenten journey together on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17**, by trying to see what new things God can bring out of the wilderness experiences of our lives.

Bags with meal ingredients and supplies will be delivered to the homes of all children who are registered for **club one sixteen**.

If you'd like more information or to ask questions, contact Pastor Heather or Sara Hackett.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to our next monthly Spiritual Gathering on **Sun., Feb. 7, 12:30 pm**! We will share meeting time and fellowship together via Zoom. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x118 for more details or to attend.



God Created You.
God Loves You.
Be Yourself.

Spanish as a Second Language Classes

Are you interested in learning Spanish as a second language to be able to better know and love our Spanish-speaking neighbors? If so, join us on **Sun., Feb. 14**, 12:30 pm, via Zoom at tiny.cc/elpc-ssl-class to learn more.

We will explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversation skills, as well as consider language learning as a spiritual practice. Classes are open for all ages and levels of Spanish skills.

Lenten Devotionals

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17**. Lent marks the 40 days leading up to Easter (not including Sundays), in which we take times to contemplate our need for God. This Lent, our faith family will journey through the desert together—noticing that wilderness experiences can occur literally or metaphorically in our lives. Yet, even as we contemplate experiences of exile or abandonment, we notice in scripture that God always brings new life out of the desert. God is at work in our lives and in our world in spite of moments of individual or collective struggle.

Throughout Lent, we will explore this theme—in worship and through Lenten Devotionals, which will be our gift to you. **Lenten Devotional Boxes** will invite you into prayer practices and creative responses, as we meditate on God's Word and our lives together, and will offer ideas and activities that are accessible to persons of all ages.

Lenten Devotional Boxes are free, but please register with Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net so that we know how many to prepare. Boxes will be available to pick up on **Sun., Feb. 14**—and we are happy to make a delivery if you are unable to stop by the church.

Presbyterian Women

PW Virtual Bible Study: Lamenting Over City

Mon., Feb. 1 7–8:30 pm | **Tues., Feb. 2** 10 am–12 pm
Prayers for “the City” may be the most frequent subject of lament in corporate worship. We pray for public officials as well as injustices and other situations in the communities where we live. The last poem in Lamentations is a response to the complete destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Perhaps Lamentations 5 can teach us something new about lamenting over the city.

Tues., Feb. 16: Sharing Lament 12–1 pm
All women are invited to practice lament.

For more details and Zoom information, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



Spiritual Life

The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

Centering Down in God

As we continue to live amidst the realities of this pandemic and the season of winter, the Spiritual Life Committee has created three weekly times to center down in God, be still, and pray with each other. Please join us!

Contemplative Prayer

Contemplation has been described as a long-loving look at the real. It is about waking up, listening, noticing, and paying attention. Adele Calhoun said, “A contemplative person recognizes that every experience offers more than meets the eye. They know that ‘bidden or unbidden’ God is present.” This takes practice.

The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead us as we practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art, and our bodies to help us start our day in communion with God and one another.

Mindfulness Meditation

“Meditation means to be in the process of realizing that God is wholly present in each step along our way. It is to be slowly awakening to the divine destination of our journey manifesting itself in the divinity of our own breathing, our own beating heart, our simply being who we are.”
—James Finley

Mindfulness meditation is the practice of resting in present moment awareness without judgment, opening to the heart of love and compassion for ourselves, others, and our world. Susan Spangler and Ted Cmarada guide us in these practices and offer support for practicing meditation in everyday life. Those new to meditation and those with experience are welcome.

Contemplative Prayer

Tuesdays: 7:30–8:15 am

Join via Zoom at
tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer
or call in by dialing **312.626.6799**.
Enter meeting ID **810 1393 5863**
and passcode **centerdown**.

Mindfulness Meditation

Thursdays: 7:30–8:15 am, 7–8 pm

Join via Zoom at
tiny.cc/mindfulness-meditation
or call in by dialing **312.626.6799**.
Enter meeting ID **959 8065 3992**
and passcode **mindful**.

Congregational Meeting Date Set

In past years, we have gathered in the Social Hall after Sanctuary worship for a shared lunch and our congregational meeting. It is a time to hear reports about church ministries from the prior year, elect a new group of church officers, ratify the terms of call for our pastors, and consider goals for the coming year. It has all the best parts of being Presbyterian—food, fellowship, and fussing over reports!

Since we cannot yet gather safely in person, we will convene via Zoom on **Sun., Feb. 21**, 12:30 pm. Please pre-register by contacting Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122**, who will send the Zoom details.

While in-person fellowship will be missed and the sharing of joys and concerns will be limited, it is important for you to be with us for this meeting, so that the ministry of our church can be affirmed for the months ahead. See you then!

Matthew 25 Congregational Vitality Teams

Last fall, **26 volunteers** took up the challenge of being in contact with about a dozen congregation members—including many who are shut-in, isolated, or have limited abilities to connect with our virtual ministry programs. Through phone calls, cards, and emails, these team leaders reassured a portion of our church family that they are valued and remembered. Thank you to Pam Kimmel for helping coordinate this program and all those who led teams.



MATTHEW 25

This outreach work is connected with the Matthew 25 goal of nurturing “congregational vitality.” Another period of outreach will begin in mid-February and extend through May. If you would like to volunteer, email Pastor Randy at RandyB@coh.net.

Lending a Hand at Pittsburgh Presbytery

Many people in our faith family are giving their time by serving as volunteers and committee members at Pittsburgh Presbytery. We are grateful for their service and support of the connectional governance of our denomination. Join us in thanking:

Pastor Randy	Ecclesiastical Committee
Pastor Heather	Freedom Rising Ministry Team
Pastor Patrice	Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Mark Roth	Presbytery Moderator
Jen Hykes-Willson	Anti-Racism Taskforce Co-chair
Eddie Willson	International Partnership Chair
Lenore Williams	Executive Committee Co-chair, Foundation Board, Freedom Rising Ministry Team, Amos 5:24, National Black Presbyterians Caucus Leader
Lora Bethea	Commission on Ministry
Chris Martin	Treasurer of Presbytery, Executive Committee
Gene Harris	Permanent Judicial Commission
Frances Irvin	Foundation Board
Ron Stone	Peacemaking Committee
Henk Bossers	Peacemaking Committee, Presbyterian Men’s Fellowship

Building Updates

Our church building remains closed to the public, but staff remains at work inside and some small gatherings are taking place. All worship services are available online. Watch for updates at ELPC.church and continue to pray for our congregation and its ministries during these challenging times.

ELPC People

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

Good News

- Congratulations to **Ted Cmarada** and **Susan Spangler** who were married on December 21, 2020.
- Congratulations to **Samantha Coggins**, who has received a call to serve as campus minister for Presbyterian Student Fellowship at West Virginia University! Samantha served as our intern from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2020.



Thanks

- My thanks to Pastor Randy and my wonderful ELPC family for your prayers, calls, and inspiring cards after the passing of my husband Robert in December. God bless you!

Love and appreciation,
—Ruth Henderson

Prayers

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

- Sue Bailey, a longtime ELPC member.
- Amy Simpson’s brother-in-law’s father, Don Mann, Sr.
- Carol and JoAnn Chonoska, for the recent death of Carol’s mother Martha Krehbiel.

“...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 Closure

The ELPC building will be closed all day on **President's Day, Monday, February 15.**

Our Lenten Journey Begins



Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, marks the beginning of our Lenten practice. It is a time when we reflect on not only our own mortality and sinfulness, but also on our need for a Savior.

This year, ELPC is planning three Ash Wednesday services. Details may change, so please visit **ELPC.church** for the most current information.

Zoom Service 12 pm

Pastors Patrice and Heather will lead a special Zoom service with an opportunity for you to anoint yourself with ashes, which can be picked up at the church or delivered to you.

Drive-Through Imposition of Ashes 3:30–5 pm

Pastors Patrice and Heather will be in the Staff Parking Lot to preside over the imposition of ashes. The service will be fully outdoors and at a safe distance.

Walk-Through Anointing with Ashes 6:30–8 pm

Taizé instrumentalists will perform, as ELPC congregation members once more have a chance to walk through our Sanctuary. Stations will be set up for you to complete a short prayer walk, ending with the imposition of ashes. Attendees are asked to line up along the Penn Avenue sidewalk. All participants must be masked and practice social distancing.

Virtual Lenten Retreat: A Journey into the Desert

Join us for a time of personal and communal Lenten preparation. From **Fri., Feb. 19** (6 pm) until **Sat., Feb. 20** (7 pm), we will journey with Jesus into the desert, consider our belovedness and the temptations we face, and set our own Lenten intentions for the season.



We will have opening and closing Zoom time together and optional times in between for embodied and spoken prayers and meditations, as well as prompts for our own time of solitude.

Register by emailing Norma Meyer at **Norma@coh.net** by **Sun., Feb. 7**. The cost is \$25. You can mail a check to Norma at ELPC or use our PayPal account, designating “Lenten Retreat” in the notes. Materials will be available to pick up on **Sun., Feb. 14**, 12:30–2:30 pm. To have them mailed or delivered, make a note when you register.

Contact the Rev. BJ Woodworth at **BJW@coh.net** with any questions.