

## Sunday Service

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Summer Worship | 10 am

July 4\* Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
 July 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
 July 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush  
 July 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

## Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays | 7 pm  
 Rev. BJ Woodworth



## Reopening Our Doors

We are excited to welcome a limited number of congregation members to our Sunday Summer worship and Wednesday Taizé prayer services in the Courtyard. Masks are required, although this requirement is being reviewed. Both services will continue to be livestreamed online.

The building also is open for some in-person gatherings and public events. For more information on how to worship with our faith family and other building updates, visit [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

## Taizé Services Move to the Courtyard

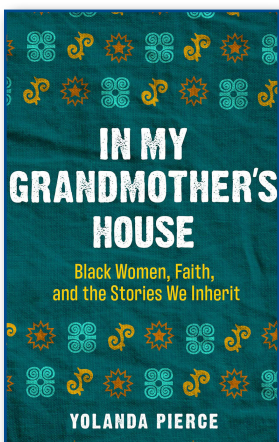
Our weekly Taizé prayer service will gather in the Courtyard beginning on **Wed., June 30**, 7 pm. In this new location, we will be leaning into the fact that we are outside—in and among the creation, the original sanctuary. Throughout summer, we will focus on listening to and learning from our “elemental siblings” of water, wind, air, and earth by singing, praying, and contemplating. Join us as we utilize this beautiful space to continue building upon the historic tradition of Taizé at ELPC.

## Soul Food Summer Classes

Join us this summer as we conclude our discussion of *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit*, by Yolanda Pierce.

We will discuss chapter 10 on **Sun., July 11**, chapter 11 on **Sun., July 25**, and chapter 12 on **Sun., Aug. 22**. All sessions will meet on Zoom at 8:45 am. Weekday make-up sessions will be scheduled for those who cannot participate on these scheduled days.

For more information, contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at [hajdu625@comcast.net](mailto:hajdu625@comcast.net).



## ELPC's Mask Policy

We seek to be a place of radical hospitality for all of God's people. During this time of pandemic, the manner in which hospitality is lived out continues to change. While directives about mask-wearing vary from place to place, we seek to be a community where all people—especially the most vulnerable—can be safely welcomed. We are encouraged by increasing rates of vaccination in our area, but there are still many members of our community who cannot be vaccinated (due to age and/or compromised immune system). As such, we continue to require everyone over two years old (and without a prohibitive health condition) who enter ELPC or participate in ELPC sponsored programming to wear a mask—both indoors and outdoors—regardless of vaccination status.

The ELPC Session and staff will continue to monitor CDC, state, and local public health guidelines, vaccination rates and availability, and rates of community transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and will adjust our policy accordingly.

Thank you for your continued patience, partnership, and prayers as we move ahead in these uncharted waters and strive to be a faith community that is inclusive of all.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

### Staff Leadership

#### **The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush**

*Pastor*

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#### **The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy**

*Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries*

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#### **The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf**

*Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

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#### **The Rev. BJ Woodworth**

*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries  
and Minister of Taizé Prayer*

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#### **Kathryn Ophardt**

*Seminary Intern*

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#### **Linda Addlespurger**

*Director of Hope Academy*

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#### **Debbie Banton**

*Facility Administrator*

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#### **Wil Forrest**

*Director of Church Operations,  
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry*

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#### **Sara Hackett**

*Coordinator of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministry*

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#### **Allen Miller**

*Lead Engineer*

#### **Dr. Edward Alan Moore**

*Music Director and Organist*

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#### **Rachelle Calfee**

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#### **Megan Leisher**

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#### **Norma Meyer**

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#### **Venetia Singletary**

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## Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor*



Everybody loves a good volunteer. You know the person I'm talking about—that one volunteer who is dependable, quick with a smile or to ask “What do you want me to do?”; the person who makes others' jobs easier by their competence and good natured skills. Think of all the times you've relied on volunteers—people to help with a school project, to coordinate meals for someone in need, friends who help you pull together a surprise birthday party, or good souls willing to sell raffle tickets or staff a table at a neighborhood yard sale. The Rotarians always talk about “service above self,” and that is the motto of a good and faithful volunteer.

The author Liz Hauck suggests that there are four guiding principles for volunteering. 1) Show up when you say you will show up. 2) Know your one small task and do it the best you can. 3) Be prepared to improvise, because inevitably something unforeseen will arise. 4) Leave when you are supposed to leave and then come back again. There's a lot of wisdom packed in those short statements: Be dependable. Do your best. Be flexible. And be steadfast—leaving when you are supposed to go, but returning when it is your turn to help again.

This last principle is, in many ways, the easiest and the hardest. Volunteerism requires setting boundaries and that is difficult for many of us. Some people hate to say “No,” so they end up saying “Yes” to too many things and getting burned out or frazzled along the way. Some people want to help, but only if they can help on their own terms. This can put them at odds with others who are also trying to help and can end up having them “do good badly.” Most commonly, people forget that too much help only promotes dependency. That is why it is just as important to leave when you're supposed to leave as it is to show up when you're supposed to arrive. This establishes relationships that have clear boundaries, balancing out appropriate care while encouraging appropriate self-sufficiency in the person being helped.

It is true that Christ calls us to step out of our comfort zones, to go the extra mile in helping those around us. But it is also important to be clear whose voice we are heeding when we do acts of kindness and service. Christ's voice is not the one whispering in your ear that you have to do more and more so as to earn God's love and salvation. Christ's voice is not the one saying you are generally unworthy but perhaps your volunteer work will prove your self-worth. Christ's voice is not the one suggesting that charity is a contest to be won, a way to gain the world's favor.

Christ's voice is the one saying “Come, walk beside me,” which leads us to find ways to walk alongside others. Sometimes this will mean offering a helping hand, sharing food and water, listening to those in pain, praying for one another. And in the same way, others beside us will extend kindnesses to us. No contests. No quid pro quo. Only a walk with Christ, sharing love and grace to those beside us as best we can. May the spirit of Christ guide you as you raise your hands to help or sign up to volunteer, for such is the will of our loving, community-building God.

*Randy Bush*

# Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Ed. & Youth Ministry

**Thurs., July 1: Youth Volunteer Day at Garfield Community Farm** 5:30–8:30 pm  
Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join us for some volunteer work at Garfield Community Farm. When our work is done, we'll walk to the Milkshake Factory for a tasty treat. Youth may be picked up from ELPC.



**Sun.–Mon., July 11–12: Middle School Mission Overnight**  
Youth in grades 6–8 will be sleeping in tents in the Courtyard, volunteering in our neighborhood, and playing outdoor games! Register at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) or contact Sara Hackett at [SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net).

**Tues.–Fri., Aug. 10–13: High School Mission Retreat**

Youth who have completed grade 8 or higher are invited to join us for our High School Mission Retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. We'll enjoy a combination of service projects around the camp, worship and Bible study, and a lot of group fun after being apart for so long. We will be using Crestfield's space but planning our own schedule, meals, and worship. Register at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) or contact Sara Hackett at [SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net).

# Young Adult Ministry

Kelli Booher, Interim Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries



**Taking a Summer Break**

The Young Adult Ministry will be taking a break in July, but be prepared to get all the news and notifications for many more great events starting back up in August!

How? Glad you asked! Contact Kelli Booher at [KelliB@coh.net](mailto:KelliB@coh.net) to be added to our email list for all the latest news and updates. You also can subscribe to our text alerts by texting "YAM" to **412.612.2594**. And be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [@elpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/elpcyoungadults).

# LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry



**Sun., July 25: Spiritual Gathering** 11:30 am  
All LGBTQIA+ folks and allies are welcome to attend our next Spiritual Gathering, either in person or via Zoom. For more details, please contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x118**.

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

# Summer Kids' Ministry

Throughout summer, we are exploring the theme of *Sanctuary—God is With Us Always* during mini-sessions of Vacation Church School.

On **Wed., July 14**, 3–7 pm, join us for a scavenger hunt as we continue to explore the theme of *Sanctuary* in our own Sanctuary and around the building.

Pre-registration is required, and if you haven't registered for our Summer Kids' Ministry events, there is still time. Sign up at [ELPC.church/kids](http://ELPC.church/kids). We will have staggered start times that you will sign up for closer to the event.

# Trinity Youth Conference

Trinity Youth Conference is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth (who have completed grade 9) and college-age young adults. This year, TYC will be held **Sun.–Sat., July 25–31**, and will feature workshops, camp games, and small groups. Information about cost, workshops, registration, and schedule can be found at [TrinityYouthConference.org](http://TrinityYouthConference.org).

# ELPC Session News

At the recent Session meeting, the ELPC Elders:

- Met in an in-person/Zoom hybrid format, being together for the first time in 15 months;
- Heard updates about in-person worship attendance and Sanctuary lighting upgrades;
- Received training on our ELPC Child Safety Policies; and
- Advocated for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for Session and staff.



## 2021 CONSPIRE Conference Simulcast

Over the weekend of **Sept. 24–26**, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a virtual simulcast of the Center for Action and Contemplation’s CONSPIRE Conference, *Me/Us/the World: Living Inside God’s Great Story*.



In this time of great unknowing, how do we expand our sense of self to include love, healing, and forgiveness—not just for ourselves and those like us, but for the entire world? Join spiritual seekers across the world for an interactive, global gathering to experience God’s love, grace, and compassion. Presenters include James Finley, Barbara Holmes, Jacqui Lewis, Brian McLaren, Richard Rohr, and Mirabai Starr.

Learn more at [cac.org/conspire-2021](http://cac.org/conspire-2021).

## Spiritual Life

*The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries*

### Summer Silence and Stillness

As we all adjust to life on the other side of the pandemic, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering a few opportunities to be together in silence and stillness.

#### Sat., July 10: Silent Walk on the Butler-Freeport Community Trail 9–11:30 am

We will gather in Freeport at the Laneville Trailhead of Butler-Freeport Community Trail (100 Main St., Freeport, 16229), walk in silence along the path at our own pace, stop, linger along the stream, sit, read, be in nature in silence with God and one another. We will regather back at the trailhead to share reflections and observations at 11:30 am. RSVP to Norma Meyer by **Fri., July 9**. Learn more at [ButlerFreeportTrail.org](http://ButlerFreeportTrail.org).



#### Sat., Aug. 14: In Pursuit of Silence | Film Viewing and Conversation 7–9 pm

*In Pursuit of Silence* is a documentary that meditatively explores our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives. Beginning with an ode to John Cage’s groundbreaking composition, *4’33”*, the film takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe—from a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto, to the streets of the loudest city on the planet, Mumbai, during the wild festival season—and inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world. RSVP to Norma Meyer by **Fri., Aug. 13**.



## Hope Academy Students Perform at Open Air Series

In May, dozens of Hope Academy students put their own spin on Camille Saint-Saens’s “Carnival of the Animals” on Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre’s mobile stage for *Open Air: A Series in Celebration of the Performing Arts* at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park. *Photos by Jason Cohn*

**HOPE**  
**ACADEMY**  
OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS





# Presbyterian Women

**Tues., July 20: PW Gathering | Women and the Church 12–1 pm**

Presbyterian Women will hold the second of our three summer sessions. Our topic will be “Women in the Church, Then and Now.” We will consider women in the Bible and discuss the roles of women in the church today. All women are invited to join us. This meeting will be held on our old friend, Zoom. To participate, please contact [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com). We look forward to “seeing” you!

**Thurs., Aug. 5: PW Gathering | Rejoice in Hope 4–6 pm**

Save the date! Presbyterian Women invites you to be refreshed and renewed at our online churchwide gathering. The Rev. Dr. Dianne Moffett (Presbyterian Mission Agency) will offer a message of hope. Learn about upcoming Bible studies from their authors. Email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com) for more information.

## Gardening Crew to Take Rain Garden by Storm



The Rain Garden is a specially designed part of our church’s landscape that collects the runoff from the church’s roof and allows it to soak into the ground rather than flood the sewers and streets. The trees and shrubs in the Rain Garden were selected with care for this purpose. They also help to filter out the pollutants in runoff and provide habitat for songbirds and wildlife, especially important as green spaces have dwindled with continuing development.



We received grant funding to install the Rain Garden, but it’s up to us to maintain it. It may look as if all of our landscaping is done by paid professionals, but that’s not the case. A core group of volunteers has quietly helped to keep the grounds beautiful for the rest of the congregation and community to enjoy. Some of the folks who started this ministry are stepping down after many years of service. That opens up opportunities for others to help and learn.

*In May, a dynamic group of church members and friends brought spring to the grounds around the church. Thanks to them, the Highland Avenue driveway and Courtyard were cleared of winter debris and refreshed with beautiful, flowering plants. Now our main entrance is vibrant and welcoming, and the Courtyard is a lovely setting for our Summer worship services on Sundays.*

If you are inspired by God’s beautiful creation and like to play in the dirt, consider joining us in the Rain Garden on **Sat., July 10, 9 am–12 pm**. RSVP to Megan Leisher at [MeganL@coh.net](mailto:MeganL@coh.net). Green thumbs are not required—just bring your energy, curiosity, and commitment to our community.

## ELPC People

*If you have news to share, contact Megan Leisher at [MeganL@coh.net](mailto:MeganL@coh.net) or 412.441.3800 x122.*

### Good News

- Congratulations to Kimberly Ragsdale and Eugene Jarvis on the birth of their daughter, **Journee**.
- Congratulations to those in our faith family who recently celebrated their baptism:
  - **Grayson Kingsley Rhodehamel**, son of Ashley Van Alen and Scott Rhodehamel
  - **Tobias Alexander Haas-Conrad**, son of Katelyn Haas-Conrad and Alexander Haas-Conrad
  - **Eli Slagle**, son of Allan and Kay Slagle
  - **David Gardner**
- Congratulations to **Isaac Smith** and **Stephanie Creasy**, who were married at Stephanie’s grandparents’ home in Tennessee on May 30.
- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends: **Stephanie Curtice, Lucyna de Barbaro, Ayres Freitas, David Gardner, Christina and Scott Graham, Jennifer Kopanic, Jeff Kopanic, Abigail Langhorst, Darlene Matta, and Mike van Stipdonk.**

### Thanks

Thank you to everyone for their cards, prayers and gestures of condolence after my wife Kimberly’s passing.  
—Alex Hornezes

### Prayers

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

- The Lewand family on the passing of Lee Lewand
- Dr. Charles Huddleston Heaton, who served as ELPC’s organist/music director from 1972–1993

*“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 on **Mon., July 5**, in observance of Independence Day.

## Environmental Tip | Composting

Did you know food scraps make up one third of an average household’s trash? In landfills, these scraps take up space and contribute to methane (greenhouse gas) production. The good news is that by composting, we can lessen the impact! And summer is the perfect time to embrace composting. Warmer temperatures speed up the decomposition of food and yard scraps, and one can transform what would be waste into fertile soil within a few months.

Looking to start composting in your own backyard? Read some tips at [tiny.cc/composting-tips](http://tiny.cc/composting-tips). Don’t have the space? ELPC members and friends can now compost at Garfield Community Farm, and be assured, your waste will be put to good use. Learn more at [tiny.cc/elpc-composting](http://tiny.cc/elpc-composting).



## Environmental Book Club Reads Farming While Black

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read Leah Penniman’s book, *Farming While Black:*

*Soul Fire Farm’s Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land*. Throughout the chapters, Penniman uplifts the wisdom of the African diasporic farmers and activists whose

work informs the techniques described—from whole farm planning, soil fertility, seed selection, and agroecology, to using whole foods in culturally appropriate recipes, sharing stories of ancestors, and tools for healing from the trauma associated with slavery and economic exploitation on the land.

We’ll gather for a discussion on **Mon., July 12**, 7 pm, at Garfield Community Farm (509 Wicklow Street, 15224). If it’s raining, we’ll meet via Zoom at [tiny.cc/farming-while-black](http://tiny.cc/farming-while-black). RSVP by emailing Nancy Heastings at [n.heastings@comcast.net](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.net).

