

# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

April 2023

## Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

Join us during Holy Week as we complete our Lenten journey, recalling the darkness and light of this church season.



### Sun., April 2: Palm Sunday

8:45 am | Led by Pastor Patrice  
11 am | Led by Pastor Patrice

### Wed., April 5: Taizé Stations of the Cross

7 pm | Led by Pastor BJ

### Thurs., April 6: Maundy Thursday (Communion)

7 pm | Led by Pastor Heather

### Fri., April 7: Good Friday

12 pm | Led by Rev. Vincent Kolb  
7 pm | Led by Pastor Patrice

### Sat., April 8: Easter Vigil (Communion)

7 pm | Led by Pastor BJ

### Sun., April 9: Easter Sunday

8:45 am | Led by Pastor Heather  
11 am | Led by Pastor Heather

## Why Should the Church Observe Juneteenth?

When did Juneteenth become a federal holiday? Why does it matter? Why is it important for us to teach about the significance of Juneteenth? What is another name for Juneteenth? Where was it first observed? Who celebrates? How does Pittsburgh celebrate Juneteenth? How can I participate?

Sure, you could do a Google search and get the answers. But history and culture are often best learned and celebrated in community with family and friends. So join the Justice and Facing Systemic Racism Committees in a combined Church School class on **Sun., April 30**, to learn about the enduring significance of Juneteenth, share ideas on how our faith family can join in the celebration, and how this pivotal moment in American history points to the biblical visions of freedom, restoration, and hope.

Join us in the Social Hall or via Zoom immediately following Journey worship. And put a hold on your calendars for Juneteenth 2023!



## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Journey Worship | 8:45 am

*Theme: Being Redeemed*

April 2 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
April 9\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
April 16 Rev. BJ Woodworth  
April 23 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
April 30 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

April 2 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
April 9\* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
April 16 Rev. BJ Woodworth  
April 23 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
April 30 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

## Taizé Prayer Service

### Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

*Wednesdays | 7 pm*

Rev. BJ Woodworth

## Welcoming the Rev. Vincent Kolb

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Vincent Kolb to lead our noon service on **Good Friday, April 7**.



Rev. Kolb currently serves as pastor of Sixth Presbyterian Church and Commission on Ministry Liaison.

A native of Southern California, Rev. Kolb heard a call to ministry midway through pursuing a bachelor's degree in English at California State University Fullerton. Upon completion of that degree in 1982, and after a stint as a youth director at a Presbyterian Church, he enrolled and graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1987. While at SFTS, Vincent worked with inner city youth in the Mission District of San Francisco. He served several congregations in Colorado, Texas, and Florida, before being called to Sixth Presbyterian Church in 2014.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

### Staff Leadership

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

*Acting Co-Pastor and  
Pastor for Mission Ministries*  
PatriceFS@coh.net | x230

#### The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

*Acting Co-Pastor and  
Pastor for Educational Ministries*  
HeatherS@coh.net | x221

#### The Rev. BJ Woodworth

*Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life,  
Taizé, and Transitional Ministries*  
BJW@coh.net | x241

---

#### Linda Addlespurger

*Director of Hope Academy*  
info@HopeAcademyArts.com | x212

#### Wil Forrest

*Coordinator of LGBTQIA+ Ministry*  
Wil@coh.net | x218

#### Sara Hackett

*Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministries*  
SaraH@coh.net | x220

#### Dr. Edward Alan Moore

*Music Director and Organist*  
EdM@coh.net | x224

#### Jim Tinnemeyer

*Director of Administration*  
JimT@coh.net | x239

---

#### Rachelle Calfee

RachelleC@coh.net | x234

#### Megan Leisher

MeganL@coh.net | x222

#### Norma Meyer

Norma@coh.net | x211



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

## Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf*

*Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries*



One of the things that has always struck me about the resurrection of Jesus is just how much the Risen Christ had *changed*. Whenever people encountered Jesus after he had risen from the grave, whether outside of the empty tomb or on the road to Emmaus, they did not even recognize him at first. Something about him was so different that even his closest friends could not tell that it was him...And yet he was also the *same*. He taught. He fed. His body still bore the wounds of the cross.

I have often thought about how the Resurrection of Jesus Christ might be a Gospel reality for us in our living, and not just our greatest hope in our dying. In different moments of my life I have asked: How does this mystery of faith play out in our world? I confess, sometimes the question sounds more like a complaint: “Really, God? Where is new life found in THIS mess?”

I have come to believe that we experience the resurrection of Christ in our lifetime when out of a “death” we experience a “new life.” This death may be the literal death of one we love, but it also can be the death of an aspect of our lives that was foundational to our identity or way of being in the world: a state of health, relationship, or employment. The new life that may follow, by God’s grace, would be a new way of being in the world in which we find a wholeness, love, or security. It will be different from what was, but REAL and tangible still.

The Resurrection does not fully undo the loss felt by the disciples. Jesus will not be present to his disciples—or to the world—in the same way that he was before his death. They don’t go back to following him around from town to town, watching him heal, hearing him teach while sitting at his feet. The traveling, teaching, and healing will be *their* work to do. But they won’t go it alone. Jesus will be with them in a new way: through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them and equipping THEM for ministry. New life WILL emerge out of the death and resurrection of Christ. The ministry to which Christ has called his disciples will continue. God’s mission in the world persists. God’s grace and love prevail.

But things won’t look the same.

I think of this resurrection reality for this season of our life together. We all may be experiencing this truth in particular ways in our personal lives through tremendous seasons of transition we experience each day. Yet as a congregation, this is a persistent reality for US as the Body of Christ. The loss of Pastor Randy’s departure is still a grief felt by many—even 11 months later. Who we were when he was our pastor—who we were before Covid, who we were *before* is not who we are today, or who we will be in the future.

Yet God is God—and God is faithful still.

The resurrection of Christ assures us that new life will blossom for us too, here and now. We still are God’s people. We still are called to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. We still are equipped by the power of Holy Spirit to do the work to which we have been called. And God is with US still.

Our task is not unlike the disciples’ was all of those years ago. Like them, we must discern how to live into this new season in faith and hope and trust.

*Continued on next page.*

We have to figure out how we will do the work of God's people without the leader we had known. We have to take risks. We have to work together. We have to pay attention to God's Spirit in new ways—through new voices and ideas and insights...even our own!

We still need to grieve, if that remains our work to do. And then we need to pay attention to how God is engaging us at ELPC, here and now. For us, too, God will work in ways that are the SAME as what was, and in ways that are DIFFERENT from what has been. Like the early Church, our new life together will bear the emblem of both—the ministry that has been ours, to our core AND a fresh ministry for a new moment in God's history.

In the coming months, we will be invited to ask many questions of ourselves—as individuals, as a community. In all of these questions, though, we will need to challenge ourselves to ask: "How is the Resurrection of Christ a reality for US, here and now? (Even if we feel like saying, "Really, God? Where is the new life to found in this mess?")

I invite you to engage...to engage the life of this faith community, to engage in ministry together, to engage God in prayer. Engage the questions of this season with a healthy nostalgia for what has made ELPC a special community for you—and engage the questions of this season with a healthy dose of curiosity as we strive to see what God is preparing for our present and future. Engage with hope.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching an informational series called: *ELPC Matters: The More You Know Series*. These sessions will be brief (no more than an hour), hybrid sessions that will address some of the frequently asked questions that people have about our life together—the unknowns of which become magnifiers of stress and anxiety in seasons of transition. (See the article on page 7 for a list of upcoming topics.) These presentations will hopefully be spaces where general questions can be answered, so that as a community, we will share greater ownership of our life together and build a greater understanding of the ins and outs of our ministry together.

In the meantime, know that Pastor Patrice, Pastor BJ, and I are here to walk with you through this season of transition—but more importantly, God is with all of us. Let us together be open to all that is possible with and through a God who is stronger than death. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Heather

## Mission Matters

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Mission Ministries

### Mission Opportunity: OHM's Family TeamWorks Dinners

ELPC will be supplying food for OHM's TeamWorks dinners four times this year! TeamWorks is the family development program of OHM that is currently working with 23 families to achieve their housing and financial goals. The families meet to provide support and encouragement to each other and participate in workshops and classes. Join us in providing OHM TeamWorks with a delicious dinner!

The first dinner will be on **Tues., April 25**. If you are interested in donating a side dish or a dessert, please contact Emily Rosenthal at [EJR116@gmail.com](mailto:EJR116@gmail.com) or Frank Bauerle at **817.705.6856** or [frbauerle@yahoo.com](mailto:frbauerle@yahoo.com).

## It's Marathon Season

Runners and Walkers are signing up to participate in the 2023 Pittsburgh Marathon. This year's theme is **Move Your Way**. Join your ELPC friends and move with us in the Full Marathon, Marathon Relay, Half-Marathon, 5K, or any other event.

We are expecting a large presence from ELPC and other churches, and that means training events, outdoor time with friends, free T-shirts, a Pasta Party, and the satisfaction of completion on race day.

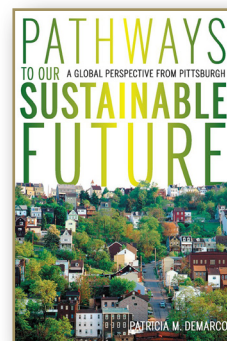
For information and to register, visit [ThePittsburghMarathon.com](http://ThePittsburghMarathon.com). Please consider entering the Run for a Reason and help us raise funds for Open Hand Ministries.

Questions? Contact Laura Ristau at [marathon@openhandministries.org](mailto:marathon@openhandministries.org).

## Environmental Team Selects New Book

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is reading *Pathways to Our Sustainable Future: A Global Perspective from Pittsburgh* by Patricia DeMarco.

The book examines the experience of a single city, with all of its social and political complexities and long industrial history, allowing for a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in adapting to a changing world.



Consider reading the book and joining us for a discussion on **Thurs., May 4**, 7 pm. For details, contact Nancy Heastings at [n.heastings@comcast.net](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.net).

# Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries

**Note:** Classes meet on Sundays, 9:45am.

## Combined Class on April 30

Join the ELPC Justice and Facing Systemic Racism Committees for a combined Church School class on **Sun., April 30**, that answers the question, "Why Should the Church Observe Juneteenth?"

## Children and Youth

ELPC offers Church School classes for kids and youth from pre-K–grade 12. Class locations are listed below.

- Pre-K | Nursery
- K–Grade 3 | Room 206
- Grades 4–6 | Room 211
- Grades 7–12 | Second Floor Parlor

## Journey with Scripture | Fellowship Room

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

"I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people...saying to the prisoners, 'Go free!' to those who are in darkness, 'Let yourselves be seen.'"—Isaiah 49:8-9

For April, we continue to read from the first book of the Psalms, Paul's letter to the Philippians, and selected Hebrew Scriptures referencing *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda Gafney. These readings offer transformative paths of steadfast love, faithfulness, and justice for daily life. They encourage us for a life of mutuality and the friendship of God in Christ. Come join the journey!

**April 2:** Psalm 22:16–31; Isaiah 49:5–16; Philippians 3:1b–4:1

**April 16:** Psalm 23; Deuteronomy 5:1–10; Philippians 4:2–9

**April 23:** Psalm 24; Deuteronomy 5:11–22; Philippians 4:10–23

## Parenting Circle | Room 213

Facilitator: Trish Buben

### April: Atlas of the Heart Discussion

This year, we're reading *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* by Brené Brown. In this *New York Times* bestseller, Brown writes, "If we want to find the way back to ourselves and one another, we need language and the grounded confidence to both tell our stories and be stewards of the stories that we hear. This is the framework for meaningful connection."

Anyone involved in parenting is welcome to join us.

## Seekers | Garth Overlook Room

Facilitator: Gwen Puza | [gpuza9@gmail.com](mailto:gpuza9@gmail.com)

### April 2: Resurrection Spirituality

We'll celebrate the resurrection on Easter, but the reality is that it is **both** a deep source of faith and a significant reason for skepticism among people of all beliefs. Why do we hold onto this seemingly inexplicable belief when it also causes so much doubt? The answer is rooted not in historical or theological debate, but in spiritual experience. It's grounded not only in personal experiences of Jesus' resurrection in biblical times, but also experiences throughout the centuries. This class will explore how openness to the possibility of resurrection opens us to a deeper and wider experience of God throughout life.

Dr. Graham Standish is Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling and Guidance Center in Sewickley, Pa. He is a spiritual director, adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and author of many books about spirituality.

### April 16: Water Is Life, a Sacred Gift from God. America Has a Water Crisis that We Need to Fix.

The ELPC Environmental Book Study group will discuss their recent books on water, *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* and *Superman is Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It*. We have cheap, abundant water, and our usage is much more than we need. We are promised clean water, but do not punish polluters. We will discuss a water ethic and justice issues. You will leave with actions and resources.

### April 23: Rescuing Ukrainian Children from Russian Abduction

This video features people that are involved in searching and rescuing Ukrainian children kidnapped to Russia. Members of Save Ukraine NGO will discuss the disastrous realities and facts of Russia's genocidal approaches and crimes against the most vulnerable victims of this war, as well as Ukraine's efforts to save children from forced captivity.

## Soul Food | Good Samaritan Room

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

### April 2: Review & Preview Session

We will review *Made for Goodness* and preview our next book, *Dancing in the Darkness*.

### April 16 & 23: Dancing in the Darkness

We will begin discussing *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, by Otis Moss III.

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

## Earth Day Event for Families

Following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., April 23**, families are invited to gather for an Earth Day event sponsored by the Children and Family Ministry Team. The event will be part **fellowship** over lunch, **service** of cleaning and caring for our rain garden and yard, **fun** as we play and appreciate God's creation, and **education** as we learn about how we can care for the Earth right here in East Liberty. RSVP to Sara Hackett at [SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net).

## Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

### Sun., April 2: Palm Sunday Procession

Children and youth are an important part of our Palm Sunday Processional during our Sanctuary worship service. Children, youth, and families are invited to meet in the Chapel at 10:45 am, to receive palms and instructions. Many of our Children's Church School classes will make banners that morning, so come join us on the second floor, 9:45 am, to be a part of the preparation.

### Fri.–Sat., April 21–22: Mission Overnight

Youth in grades 8–12, are invited to participate in our Mission Overnight. Friday night, we will explore the “why?” and “how?” of serving others as an expression of our values, beliefs, and faith. Then on Saturday, we will serve at World Vision and make plans for our summer mission trip to North Street Mission in Wooster, Ohio. Register online at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

### Sun., April 23: Youth Sunday Worship Planning

This year, Youth Sunday will take place on May 21. This special service is planned and led by our youth, and includes messages from our graduating seniors. We will begin planning for our Youth Sunday service during the Church School hour on Sun., April 21, but the majority of planning will be done on Sun., May 14. Get in touch with Sara if you'd like to help plan, but can't join us during Church School. And even if you haven't been a part of our Sunday classes this year, you are welcome to participate! We want your help!



## Sign Up to Acolyte

Students in grades 4–12 are needed to help lead worship by being acolytes.

Acolytes remind us that Christ is with us when we gather to worship when they light the Christ candle, and show us that the light of Christ goes out into the world with us when worship ends.

Contact Sara at [SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net) to sign up.

## Save the Dates for Our Summer Mission Trips



### Middle School Mission Trip July 5–8

Youth in grades 6–8 will be heading to Crestfield Camp for summer camp fun and volunteer work in the Slippery Rock area. This four-day trip is a great way to experience how time away that is focused on loving God and loving others can help us grow in hope, faith, and love.

### High School Mission Trip August 6–11

Youth in grades 8–12 will be serving with North Street Mission in Wooster, Ohio. We'll cook up breakfast every morning and volunteer with a variety of groups in the afternoon to learn what God is up to in the small town of Wooster, and how our faith might be strengthened by the good work happening there!

Participants in our High School Mission Trip must attend our Mission Overnight, April 21–22, and participate in three ELPC service projects throughout the year.

## Explore ELPC

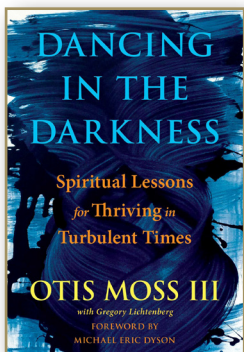
ELPC tours are back up and running! Interested in learning more about our church building? Join us in the Highland Lobby following Sanctuary worship on these dates:

- Sun., April 2: Underground Tour
- Sun., April 16: Tower Tour
- Sun., April 30: Stained Glass Tour



## Looking for New Reading Material?

*Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times* is a powerful, new book by Otis Moss III, a renowned Chicago pastor.



Cynthia Jackson will be obtaining copies of the book from The Tiny Bookstore, an independent Black-owned bookstore in the North Hills, and is willing to order the

book for anyone from our church who would like to read it. The book costs \$20. Place an order with Cynthia by emailing [cirenej16@gmail.com](mailto:cirenej16@gmail.com).

The Soul Food Church School class will begin discussing *Dancing in the Darkness* this month. Check out the class! Contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at [hajdu625@comcast.net](mailto:hajdu625@comcast.net) for more information about the class.

## Presbyterian Women

### PW Bible Study: Sabbath and Justice

**Mon., April 3** 7–8:30 pm (Zoom only)

**Tues., April 4** 10 am–12 pm (Hybrid)

Biblical Sabbath is counter-cultural to our modern society and its values. We are tempted to worship idols of money, power, success and fame. We ask, “What’s in it for me?” rather than, “What would be just and good for my neighbor or for the community?”

Our text for this lesson, Isaiah 58, is clear: God is not much interested in any form of religious observance—even Sabbath—without justice. God longs for us to “loose the bonds of injustice” and “let the oppressed go free” (v 6). If we do, God will make our light shine in the darkness (v 10) and we “shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail” (v 11). Sabbath is the bridge that holds worship and justice together.

The “beloved community,” envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is much like the flourishing future, described by Isaiah. It is where the love of God is working in the lives of human beings. Of the beloved community, Dr. King said, “This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization.”

For more information and the Zoom link, email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com). Those attending our Tuesday Bible Study at the Church are invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.



## Attaining Resurrection Contemplative Retreat

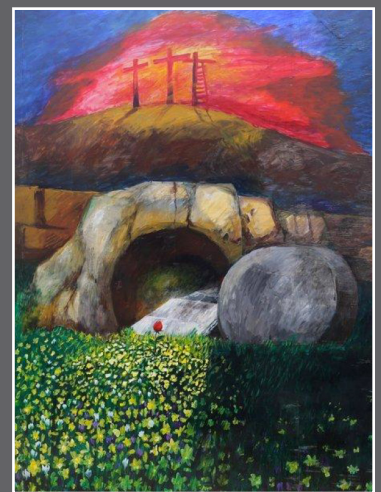
In Philippians Paul says he yearns “to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, *attaining to the resurrection from the dead*” (3:11).

Join us for a post-Easter retreat at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, Pennsylvania, **Fri.–Sun., May 5–7**, to explore ways we too can “somehow” find resurrection life amid the challenges and sufferings we face each day. Led by facilitator and host Rev. Jeff Eddings, we will explore this through art, silence and solitude, reading, reflection, prayer, and conversation with one another. You are invited to journey with us to consider how this promise of resurrection can infuse our everyday lives with meaning, hope, and joy.

Spots are limited. RSVP by **Fri., April 21**, online at [tiny.cc/attaining-resurrection](http://tiny.cc/attaining-resurrection). Questions? Contact Pastor BJ at [BJW@coh.net](mailto:BJW@coh.net).

### Cost Options:

1. Friday-Saturday Shared Bath | \$70
2. Friday-Saturday Private Bath | \$110
3. Friday-Sunday Shared Bath | \$85
4. Friday-Sunday Private Bath | \$135



## ELPC Matters: The More You Know...

As we navigate this season of transition together, ELPC is offering a series of informational sessions to broaden congregational awareness of different aspects of our life together that may seem to be more behind-the-scenes, but which are fundamental to how we engage our faith in community together.

Topics will address Frequently Asked Questions about church life and operations—starting first with topics that seem to be particularly confusing or anxiety producing in times of pastoral transition.

Our first session in this series will be held on **Sun., April 2**, during the Church School hour, 9:45–10:45 am, and will shed light on *Understanding Pastor's Compensation*. The Rev. Brian Wallace, associate minister and acting head of staff at Pittsburgh Presbytery, will present this session, along with the leadership of our Human Resources chairs and director of Administration and Finance. Participants can join in person in the Social Hall or on Zoom.

Future Sessions will be publicized in the weekly news flashes and *Reaching Out*, and will cover topics such as: *Understanding Our Endowment*, *Who's Who on Our Staff*, *Finding Ourselves in ELPC's History as We Envision the Future*, and *What Does it Take to Care for the Cathedral of Hope?* Sessions will be scheduled at different times to accommodate varying needs of our church family, and—when able—will be recorded.

For more information or to share a topic you'd like to explore further, please contact Pastor Patrice, Pastor Heather, or Pastor BJ with your thoughts.

## LGBTQIA+ Ministry: All Are Welcome



We are excited to share that ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry is changing its name to thoughtfully and prayerfully grow and change to meet the needs and interests of its participants. Now in its ninth year, ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry will now be known as the **LGBTQIA+ Ministry**, as to be more inclusive and reflective of our diversity!

What does the new name mean? "LGBTQIA+" is an evolving acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual/ally. The "+" holds space for the expanding and new understanding of different parts of our diverse gender and sexual identities.

Learn more from the Human Rights Campaign at [tiny.cc/hjf5vz](https://tiny.cc/hjf5vz) and read about the ABCs of L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ from *The New York Times* at [tiny.cc/gjf5vz](https://tiny.cc/gjf5vz).

**Sun., April 16: Spiritual Gathering 12:30 pm**

Join us at our LGBTQ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering to share conversation and lunch! Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome.

To ask questions or if you'd like to attend, contact Wil Forrest at [Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x218**.

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

## ELPC PNC Updates

In late February, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) held a hybrid meeting for our PNC orientation from the Presbytery. The Rev. Brian Wallace, Presbytery staff person, and the Rev. Vincent Kolb as the transition liaison, as well as Pastor Heather and Pastor BJ attended and helped us prepare.

Later in this process, there will be an opportunity for each of you to share your thoughts with us; we look forward to hearing them. We are honored to serve you and ELPC in these roles, and are committed to working together on this journey in a way which honors the Lord our God.

Thank you for your trust in us and we ask for your prayers as we embark on this journey together.

## ELPC People

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

### Prayers

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

- Stephen Simpson-Hunt's Great Aunt, Wilma Porkolab
- Charles Struthers
- The Honorable Livingstone Johnson
- Libby Hewitt's mother, Suzanne Hewitt (wife of the late Rev. Bob Hewitt, a former ELPC pastor)
- Betty Smith's husband, Randy Smith. Betty is the sister of ELPC member Jo Ellen Aleshire

*“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.”*

## Building Closure

The ELPC building will be closed on **Easter Monday, April 10.**

## CMU Wind Ensemble in Concert

ELPC’s *Cathedral Concerts* series will present the Carnegie Mellon Wind Ensemble and Dr. Edward Alan Moore on **Sat., April 1**, 4 pm.

Led by conductors George Vosburgh and Stephen Story, the performance will fill the ELPC Sanctuary with the majestic and unique sounds of winds, brass, percussion, and organ—which are not often heard in a spectacular setting like this! Featured on the program will be the premiere of a new composition for wind ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith.

The concert is free and open to the public. Contact Dr. Ed at [EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net) for more details.

## Hear Organist Alan Morrison

ELPC’s *Cathedral Concerts* series and the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh will present organist Alan Morrison in concert on **Sun., April 30**, 3 pm, in the ELPC Sanctuary.

Morrison currently serves as chair of the Organ Department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. ELPC members can contact Dr. Ed Moore at [EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net) for tickets.

## VCS Spots are Filling Fast

ELPC’s 2023 Vacation Church School program will take place the week of **June 26–30**, 9 am–3 pm, for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed).

Our theme this summer is *Changemakers Lab*, a place children will learn that everyone can make a difference in the world! Through five Bible stories, we’ll explore examples of people who experienced and brought about change in the world around them. These people provide a model for asking hard questions, working together to solve problems, reaching across differences, caring for all people, and imagining a new world. Through worship and drama, Bible study, STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and active games, children are invited to see and experience the transforming love of God.



Please register your child now, as spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

And we’re looking for teens and adult volunteers to help make our program a success!

Visit [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) for more details and registration forms for campers and volunteers.