

# Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

August 2023

## Mission Board Film Series

The ELPC Mission Board invites you to this year's summer Film Series. Join us following worship on Sundays, August 6 and 13, in the Social Hall. A light lunch will be provided.



### Sunday, August 6: The Human Element

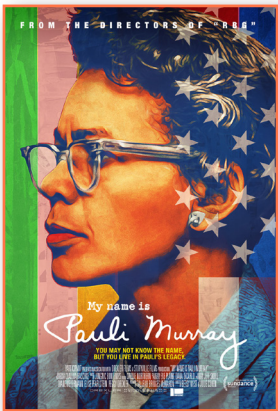
The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee will host a screening of and discussion on the film, *The Human Element*.

In the film, National Geographic photographer James Balog takes us through a journey of the “four elements”—water, air, fire, and earth—to see how we’ve modified the natural world around us, and in turn, how we’re making life for ourselves harder in the process. *The Human Element* features subjects who are often overlooked victims of climate change. He argues that humans are not apart from nature. We are the fifth element, and we can help bring the whole system back into balance.

Email Nancy Heastings at [n.heastings@comcast.net](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.net) if you have questions.

### Sunday, August 13: My Name is Pauli Murray

The Justice Committee will host a screening of the documentary, *My Name is Pauli Murray*.



Pauli Murray was a writer, activist, legal theorist, and episcopal priest, and was involved in articulating key legal arguments of the Civil Rights Movement. Born Anne Pauline Murray in 1910, they changed their birth name to “Pauli” in the 1930s, a groundbreaking challenge at that time. In 1944, Murray challenged the “separate” part of the Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896) Supreme Court decision as a violation of the 13th and 14th Amendments, eventually forming the basis for Brown vs. The Board of Education (1954) case. Murray also was influential in the work of both Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Thurgood Marshall. In 1977, Murray became the first African American woman in the U.S. to

become an Episcopal priest. Murray died of cancer in 1985. The Episcopal Church sainted Murray in 2012.

Email Carol Chonoska [carolchonoska@gmail.com](mailto:carolchonoska@gmail.com) for more details.

## Sunday Services

\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Summer Worship | 10 am

August 6\* Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee  
August 13 Rev. BJ Woodworth  
August 20 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
August 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

## Taizé Prayer Service

### Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

Wednesdays | 7 pm  
Rev. BJ Woodworth

## Worshipping with Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee

On Sunday, August 6, we're pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee as our special guest preacher.



Rev. Dr. Lee currently serves as the president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A dedicated theological educator, he

believes strongly in education as the vehicle for expanding one's view of the world. He is often a guest lecturer at workshops and seminars dealing with Christianity in the 21st century; religious differences; and issues affecting church leadership.

## Save the Date for Rally Day!

We will resume our traditional worship schedule and Church School classes for persons of all ages on **Sunday, September 10**. Look for a special mailing in late August with information about Rally Day festivities and ELPC's fall programming.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

### Staff Leadership

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East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

## Pastoral Message

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life, Taizé, and Transitional Ministries



On page three in this month's *Reaching Out*, you will see the poem/prayer by the French Jesuit priest, scientist, paleontologist, theologian, philosopher, and teacher, Teilhard de Chardin. It is a prayer I return to time and time again in my life and spiritual journey. The phrases that often challenge and encourage me are:

*We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.*

*We are impatient of being on the way to do something unknown, something new.*

*Accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.*

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve ELPC over the last six months as I have watched us patiently trust God and one another as we move through this time of unknowing and newness. I have seen our church in a variety of ways, embodying a patient trust in the slow work of God. I see our elders asking probing and difficult questions about our church; wrestling with God and one another about our past, present, and future. I see people in our church compassionately caring for their friends who are sick and ill in the hospital through prayers, presence, and advocacy. I see our PNC prayerfully combing through the CAT scan survey positioning themselves in a humble posture of listening to your voices and God's voice allowing their ideas grow, mature, and develop. I see our staff sacrificially serving, giving their time, energy, and talents to steward our mission and vision; care for our building and humbly serving behind the scenes to administer the everyday ministries of our church. In Sunday worship, I'm hearing stories of the good news of the Gospel unfolding and being lived out in our congregation, neighborhood and beyond. These are just a few of many areas where I see a new spirit forming within us. Each of you being faithful to the day-to-day work and service of God in and through ELPC helps me trust in the slow work of God and believe that God's hand is indeed guiding us. I wonder what you see and hear. I hope you will tell one another when you see each other being who God made them to be.

As we journey through this time "being on the way to do something unknown, something new" I urge us to look for the signs along the way that are reminding us of God's faithfulness. For it is indeed only God who will be able to say what this new spirit gradually forming within ELPC will be. So, let's continue to work together to give God the benefit of believing that God's hand is leading us! And when the waiting gets dark and long and it is easier to return to the way things were and worry, tiredness, and sadness creeps in (which it will), let's remind one another to that God's hand is leading us and "accept the anxiety of feeling ourselves in suspense and incomplete."

# Mission Matters

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

## Sunday, August 27: Letters to Legislators Event

Our Mission Board Committees are hosting a Letters to Legislators event in the Social Hall immediately following worship. Participants will have an opportunity to write to legislators advocating for action on a variety of social justice issues—including driving privileges for immigrants; fair housing and nondiscrimination policies; environmental protections; prisoners' rights; gun violence; and more.

Learn about these important issues and the role your elected officials and other leaders have in making and changing related laws and policies. Your voice and your calls for action make a difference. Sample letters and emails will be provided and a light lunch will be served. For those unable to attend in person, templates and instructions will be posted to the ELPC website after the event for your use.

Contact Carol Chonoska at [carolchonoska@gmail.com](mailto:carolchonoska@gmail.com) with questions.



## Updates from the Neighbors Committee

### ■ Food for Our Neighbors

Food collection boxes are always located near the Highland Avenue entrance. Please drop off non-perishable food items anytime and they will be delivered to East End Cooperative Ministry to help stock their Food Pantry. Also be on the look out for a special Sunday food collection for EECM later this fall.

### ■ Amen to Action

Mark you calendars and plan to participate with us on the morning of **Saturday, October 28**, in a county-wide service project at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Together with over 300 volunteers from various churches and other organizations, we'll be packing 100,000 meals to be distributed to our neighbors around Allegheny County. Look for more information in the September issue of *Reaching Out* and other communications. And yes, children can participate with you!



## Patient Trust

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God  
We are quite naturally impatient in  
everything to reach the end  
without delay.*

*We should like to skip the  
intermediate stages,  
We are impatient of being on the way to  
do something unknown, something new.*

*And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through  
some stages of instability—  
and that it may take a very long time.*

*And so I think it is with you.  
your ideas mature gradually—  
let them grow,  
let them shape themselves,  
without undue haste.*

*Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.*

*Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.*

*Give our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
And accept the anxiety of  
feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete.*

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

## Save the Date for Our Gratitude Retreat

Mark your calendars now for **November 17–19**, and plan on joining the Spiritual Life Committee for a time of rest, reflection, prayer, conversation, and giving thanks at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, Pennsylvania. Keep a look out for more details.



## Presbyterian Women

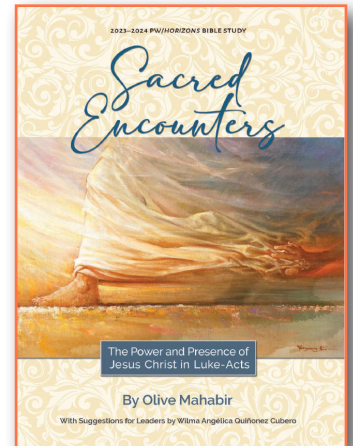
### Get Ready for PW's 2023–2024 Bible Study: Sacred Encounters

This year's Presbyterian Women Bible Study is an invitation from the 1st century church to the 21st century church, to build more compassionate communities.

The Gospel of Luke describes the power and presence of Jesus Christ on people. The Acts of the Apostles describes the power of Christ working *through* the people of the early Christian movement. The two books, comprising nearly 25% of the New Testament, are one narrative in two volumes. Featuring marginalized people, these accounts bear witness that Jesus is the Savior of all humankind.

Learn more about this study from its author, the Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir, in a brief video at [tiny.cc/sacred-encounters](https://tiny.cc/sacred-encounters).

Our Bible Study begins on Tuesday, September 5, 10 am–12 pm (hybrid), and Monday, September 11, 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom). Presbyterian Women will be available after worship on Sundays, August 20 and 27, to answer your questions. For more information, email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com).



## Sharing ELPC Good News

On June 11, I heard about the ELPC Good News by Gerald McClendon and Frances Wilson sharing the history of the Chapel Market. My heart stirred with inflamed blood into veins.

One chilly, rainy day in late fall 2018, a middle-aged man walked into the Chapel Market in a light t-shirt. Soon, he was offered a warm wool jacket. His mouth was full smile, and his face shined while he said, "Thanks to the Chapel Market."

Immediately, this man's smile shook my deep, hidden memory—longer than half a century old—and reminded me that I had the exact same feelings during the Korean War in 1950. It was bitterly cold with no heat, nor electricity. My feet and hands were ice cold. I received a wool hat, gloves, and stockings, as well as clothes from the American people.

Back then, I heard the American word "charity" in Korean, which I had no idea what it meant. But, now, I learned about it through the Holy Spirit, resembled in the Chapel Market.

After I heard the history of the Chapel Market, I thanked God for sharing my experience with my ELPC family, recognizing the Chapel Market's purpose. I assured Job's word: "I knew of you then only by report, but now I see you with my own eyes." (Job 42:5)

—Sung Yoo, ELPC member



## Celebrating Graduates

Join us in celebrating those in our faith family who recently graduated. Congratulations to:

- **Dylan Geibel**, who graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School. He'll be attending the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.
- **Otto Gianakas**, who graduated from Winchester Thurston. He'll be attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.
- **Corinne Krimmel**, who graduated from the The Ellis School.
- **Patrick Wiskemann**, who graduated from Pine-Richland High School.

## News From Your PNC

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we hope your summer is going well. The PNC continues its work to find new pastoral leadership for ELPC.

We have immersed ourselves in the CAT scan result. At our next meeting, we will bring our wonderings, insights, and questions to share with each other. We ask for your prayers as we continue to try to discern where we are headed.

It is our intention to begin to conduct a series of "listening sessions" with both youth and adults. We are preparing a list of topics that will let us know what YOU are thinking about ELPC and our move forward. We feel this is essential that we fully understand what you as a congregation are thinking. We are very interested in receiving all those perspectives to inform our search for new pastoral leadership

To paraphrase Jeremiah 29:12, "Then come and pray for us and we will listen."

If you ever have a question or concern, do not hesitate to reach out to one of us.

—Bill Buchanan

*ELPC Pastor Nominating Committee: Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, Jim Eng, Linda Lane (Chair), Rebecca McGregor (Secretary), Polly McQueen, Antwone Wright*



*In early July, our Soul Food Church School class met for a summer gathering at the Shaler Library! As a reminder, classes for people of all ages resume on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10.*

## 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 Ashley Van Alen and Scott Rhodehamel on the birth of their daughter Veda. Veda is the younger sister of Grayson.
- Congratulations to **Caitlyn Engelhardt** and **Dustin Acipiter** who were married on June 23.

### Prayers

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

- Darrell Bupp and family on the passing of his wife, Denise Bupp

*“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.”*

## Sing with the Summer Choir

If you would like to sing with the Summer Choir, contact Dr. Ed at [EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net). Rehearsals are on Sundays, 9 am, and we sing at the 10 am service.

## Our LGBTQIA+ Ministry Welcomes All

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry’s next Spiritual Gathering following worship on **Sunday, August 20**. Join us and share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome to attend!

Questions? Contact Wil Forrest at [wil@coh.net](mailto:wil@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x218**.



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

## Thank You for Making VCS a Success

We celebrate the contribution of the volunteers and staff who ensured that VCS 2023 was a wonderful success. Together, we learned how to be Change Makers, following in the examples of people of faith from throughout the Bible to use our gifts and God’s love to change the world. Join us in thanking our volunteers! And see photos of our week together throughout this issue of *Reaching Out*.

**Adults:** Sherry Anderson, Amy Bialek, Carmen Blanco, Michelle Bossers, Trish Buben, Jen Castle, Marilyn Castle, Carol Hoehn, Jenny Newman, Cheryl Rhodes, Dee Dee Frye, Sara Torretti, Mario Seneca, Paul Seif, Sonya-Marie Morely, Sara Hackett, Doris Dick, Mary Alice Lightle, Linda Harrington, Barbara Griffin, Sonia Degenholtz, Peta Harrigan-Cole, Jan Pressman, Kay Shissler, Megan Leisher, Heather Schoenewolf, Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Gerald Savage, Sarah Robbins, Julian Herbert, Isaiah Wilson, Cyndi Dickson, Kiki Rockymore, Carol Chonoska, **April Clisura**, and Pat Krimmel.

**Youth:** Rachel Ammon, Luca Leisher, Kevin Lee, Madison Schneider, Cynthia Mathers, Simone Mathers, Mabel Buben, Chrissy Braho, Juliette Young, and Evy Bard.

