



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship

- **Family Service** 5 pm, in the Sanctuary
Join us for a time of Christmas carols and a re-telling of the Nativity story, so that it can enliven the hearts of the youngest and oldest listeners!
- **Candlelight Communion Service** 11 pm, in the Sanctuary
This special service is filled with beauty, grace and celebration, as we remember the birth of Christ and welcome the dawn of Christmas morning through carols, readings, and the shared sacrament of communion. Special pre-service music featuring harp, strings and other instrumentalists begins at 10:30 pm.

Special Taizé Events

- **Wed., Dec. 8: Christmas Party**
Join us for our Taizé worship service at 7 pm, and stay for our Christmas Party! We'll sing carols in German and English, and make paper stars. Please bring cookies to share! Learn about all of our after-Taizé classes on pg. 6.
- **Wed., Dec. 29: New Year's Eve Service** At 7 pm
Join us for our special Taizé New Year's Eve Service as we close the year with songs and prayers!



Sunday Morning Services

* Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgist: Mark and Barbara DeWitt

- Dec. 5* Rev. Suzanne Bennett,
Honorably Retired United Methodist Minister
- Dec. 12 Rev. Jeff Lowery, *Asst. Minister, Deliverance Baptist Church*
- Dec. 19 Rev. Jim Davidson,
First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, Pa.
- Dec. 26 Rev. Don Dutton, *Honorably Retired Presbyterian Minister*

Journey Worship • 8:45 am

- Dec. 5* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
- Dec. 12 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
- Dec. 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Dec. 26 No Service

Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

- Dec. 5* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Dec. 12 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Dec. 19 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
- Dec. 26 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm
Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Rev. Christiane Dutton

Save the Dates

- Dec. 5:** Hope Academy Concert, pg. 5
Giving Tree on Display
- Dec. 4:** Advent Crafts and Santa Shop
- Dec. 8:** Taizé Christmas Party
- Dec. 11:** RCC Holiday Concert, pg. 5
- Dec. 12:** Giving Tree Donations Due
Confirmation Class, pg. 5
- Dec. 18:** Festival of Lessons and Carols
Concert, pg. 8
Jail Caroling, pg. 3
Youth Service Project, pg. 5
- Dec. 19:** Youth Caroling Event, pg. 5
Christmas Pageant, pg. 8
- Dec. 22:** Young Adult Potluck, pg. 5
- Dec. 29:** Taizé New Year's Eve Service
- Dec. 31:** World Healing Day, pg. 8

East Liberty Presbyterian Church



The Cathedral of Hope
116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Tel: 412.441.3800
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www.cathedralofhope.org



Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm
Sunday, 9 am–12:30 pm

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Pastor

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Linda Addlespurger
Director of Hope Academy

Craig Cannon
Interim Music & Choral Director

The Rev. Brian Diebold
Coordinator, Youth Ministry

The Rev. Christiane Dutton
Minister of Taizé Prayer

Wil Forrest
*Coordinator, Young Adult Ministry and
Volunteers in Ministry Programs*

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Director of Mission Ministries

Pamela M. Kimmel
Business Administrator

Dr. Lois M. Lang
*Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life,
Stephen Ministry and Older Adults*

Paul Martin
Facilities Manager

Katie Mohr
Seminary Intern

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany
Music Director Emeritus

Donald Wilkins
Interim Organist

Reaching Out Newsletter

Reaching Out is a monthly publication of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and is free to members and friends. Deadlines are the first Thursday of the preceding month.

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



One of the most famous lines in E.M. Forster's novel *Howards End* is the phrase "only connect." It is both a diagnosis of a problem and a prescription for a cure. Its stark message names the space that too readily exists between us, the gaps in life and relationships that need to be overcome if we are going to live together in harmony. And in an emphatic way, it tells us to reach across the divide and simply re-connect with one another.

Forster's novel was set in pre-World War I, Victorian England, a time in which social protocols kept people distant and formal in their relations even as new technology and global challenges were bringing people closer together. In chapter 22, the rallying cry was given its fullest expression:

"Only connect! That was the whole of her sermon. Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exalted, and human love will be seen at its height. Live in fragments no longer. Only connect..."

There is a heartfelt hope that the two parts of life—the prose and the passion, the formal and the vulnerable—might come together, and love in its fullest expression would finally be possible.

There is an eerie similarity between this Victorian era sentiment and our modern computer era. Constantly we are told about social media that connects people across boundaries of time and space—Facebook communities, Twitter fans, e-mail messages collecting on our computer screen and heralding their arrival through beeps coming from our iPhones, BlackBerrys, and pagers. We are bombarded with contact with others, and yet struggle with issues of intimacy, of in-depth relationships, and of truly connecting as family and friends any more.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, especially as it is shared during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, offers a healing re-formulation of Forster's phrase. In the joyful news of the birth of Christ, the heavens themselves proclaim God's message, "I will connect with you!" No longer is the responsibility for bridging the gap left solely upon our shoulders. God in Christ has taken the task to heart and come to us that we might "connect" with God and one another. "Prose and passion" are both exalted. The law of Moses, the rhetoric of the prophets, the sweep of a salvation-history that stretches from creation's dawn to the distant horizon of God's realm are all condensed and inter-connected in the birth of Jesus Christ.

We can connect because God has first connected with us. We can trust and hope because, through the healing grace and covenantal love of Christ, we have been made trustworthy and eternally hopeful. As you purchase gifts or send cards, as you pray for others and seek to do acts that are just and compassionate, trust that you can connect with others because God in Christ has connected with us. Let all the earth rejoice!

Randy Bush

Jail Caroling

Sat., Dec. 18

Share a message of hope, prayers, cookies and songs with



inmates at the Allegheny County Jail this Christmas season! We will leave ELPC at noon and return around 4 pm.

Carolers must be at least 21 years old and have received clearance through the Chaplain's office by **Tues. Nov. 30**.

If you enjoy baking, we need hundreds of homemade Christmas cookies.

Call Mary Alice Lightle, at **412.682.1504**, for details. You will be a blessing and you will be blessed!

Session News

At a recent meeting, Session:

- Received an update on the Stewardship campaign. Once the final pledge numbers have been tabulated, adjustments will be made to the proposed 2011 budget.
- Continued to work on a Strategic Vision for ELPC, and meet with our consultant, Peggy Outon, to help shape Mission and Vision statements for our congregation.
- Received five new members and friends.

Advent Crafts and Santa Shop

Sat., Dec. 4, from 10 am–1pm

In cooperation with Presbyterian Women's Santa Shop event, the Christian Education Committee is hosting Advent Crafts for families. The craft workshop will be set up in Rooms 224 and 240, from 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Join us, as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Devotional material and crafts are available on Sunday mornings on the Christian Education table.

Children (ages 4–grade 5) may shop for gifts (from \$.50–\$4) and visit with Santa (pictures cost \$.50).

Note: Parents and older children are not permitted in the Santa Shop. Shoppers must be old enough to shop without a parent. Santa's Helpers will help choose and wrap gifts. Please send a list of the people for whom your child needs to purchase gifts.



The Giving Tree

Every year the Deacons organize a Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from EECM, our ELPC Mission Ministry, Hope Academy and Educational Ministries. Our congregation has been wonderful in its support through generous gift purchases and monetary donations.

On **Sun., Dec. 5.**, the Giving Tree will be set up near the Highland Ave. entrance, from 9:30 am—12:30 pm. If you would like to participate, select a tag that contains gift and recipient information, and leave your contact information on the donor tag. Deacons will be available to help.

Wrapped gifts, with tags, are due back to the ELPC office by noon on **Sun., Dec. 12**. To make a monetary donation, make your check payable to "ELPC Giving Tree" and deliver it to the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.



Gratitude and Stewardship *By Brian Bonsteel, Stewardship Campaign Chair*

Gratitude is the greatest lesson in my stewardship journey. If viewed with love, you'll find all the people in your life (even the challenging ones) and every circumstance (especially the challenging ones) to be an opportunity for gratitude. That's why we must be grateful for all that we have.

When you live in gratitude, you live with passion and seek ways to live generously. This is Stewardship! That's why our pledge cards read "With

gratitude." Whatever you have, give with purpose in your heart. "Why You Pledge" matters.

We are pleased to announce that the congregation responded positively on Stewardship Sunday. Information about progress being made on our financial goals can be seen on the Stewardship bulletin board in the first floor hallway.

By honoring your pledge and supporting ELPC during the final weeks of the year, you will help ensure we

exceed our anticipated revenue for 2010 and provide funds for additional programs and mission support in 2011!

As a reminder, please submit any contributions, which you wish to be credited to the 2010 tax year, by **Fri., Dec. 31**. If you'd like give via Electronic Fund Transfer or change your contribution, call ELPC's bookkeeper, Deborah Marx at **412.441.3800 x34**.

May you find gratitude in all things this Christmas!

Advent Calendars Available

Advent is a special season of joyful anticipation, when we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God-with-us. To help persons of all ages draw near to Christ during their Advent Journey, the Christian Education Ministry Team has purchased Advent Calendars as a gift to ELPC families!

There are three calendars to choose from, with devotions and activities for each day of Advent. Pick one up from the Second Floor CE table and celebrate this special season together!

Holiday Schedule

Church School classes will not meet on **Sun., Dec. 19**, so that everyone can attend the Christmas Pageant.

Classes also will not meet on **Sun., Dec. 26** and **Jan. 2**, as we take a holiday break. We will next meet on **Sun., Jan. 9**, for **Winter Rally Day**, and enjoy a potluck breakfast and our second annual Intergenerational Church School Hour. Please bring a breakfast bread to share.

Church School Classes

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. Adult options are detailed on this page, Young Adults on page 5. Senior High (grades 9–12) classes follow our denomination's *We Believe* curriculum. Junior High (grades 6–8) classes follow the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum to explore and apply biblical stories to their lives. Children's classes (by age) include *Godly Play*, *Godprints*, and *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Note: Full details on classes can be found at www.cathedralofhope.org and in the weekly bulletin.

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

CONTEMPORARIES CLASS *Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle*

Dec. 5: Empowering Prayer *Led by Brian Bonsteel*

Empowering prayer is having the tenacity to hold on until something happens. One of our weaknesses is a lack of commitment to prayer for the long haul. Brian will provide suggestions for enriching your time in prayer and deepening your faith by understanding prayer traditions, and what to expect from your prayers.

Dec. 12: Border Ministry *Led by Wil Forrest*

Did you know that coffee causes migration? Join the examination of the U.S./ Mexican border issues focused on migration and economic justice. This story will be told through pictures of current border ministries from Wil's recent mission trip.

JOURNEY WITH SCRIPTURE *Facilitator: Jan Irvin*

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

– Romans 15:4

In the above text, the apostle Paul writes about the encouragement found in the Hebrew scriptures. This can raise the question, "How does scripture encourage?" For example, the Advent scriptures from Isaiah tell of many things: a peace between nations, a servant who will judge with righteousness, wolves living with lambs, a desert that rejoices, waters breaking forth, everlasting joy, and a child who is a sign. These describe quite peculiar happenings—personal, political, and ecological transformations. Just what kind of encouragement is this?

In addition to readings from Isaiah and Romans, December's readings include selections from Psalms, Matthew's Gospel and the Letter of James. These inaugurate "Year A" in the three-year cycle of readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. You are invited to come, question, and be encouraged as we ponder these texts.

PARENTING CIRCLE *Facilitators: Frances Irvin and Yamuna*

The Parenting Circle is for anyone involved in parenting (singles, couples, adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, guardians, mentors, etc.) By sharing experiences, resources, prayer and scripture, we explore how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives. We discuss ways to encourage our own, and our children's, spiritual growth. All are welcome to join us!

Dec. 5 and 12: Christmas Meditations

SEEKERS *Facilitator: Gwen Puza*

Dec. 5: Scripture You Won't Hear in Church *Led by Rev. Dr. Randy Bush*

Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will discuss some of the scripture passages omitted from the Revised Common Lectionary. By learning about the Old and New Testament material left out of the preaching rotation, we'll gain new insights into how the church is constantly challenged to present the entire, living, prophetic gospel.

Dec. 12: Incarnational Theology *Led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf*

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus throughout this Advent season, we will explore together the meaning of the incarnation—both as a dynamic element of God's saving work in Jesus and as a personal call to us as Christ's disciples.

SOUL FOOD *Facilitators: Bobby Egelston, Rebecca Cole-Turner, Joe Hajdu, and Nancy Klancher*

Dec. 5 and 12: "Hospitality: God's and Ours"

We will join in prayer and discussion around the December theme from Joyce Rupp's *Fresh Bread*. Newcomers are welcome!

Youth Ministry

The Rev. Brian Diebold, Coordinator

Wednesday Connections

We offer homework help, crafts, snacks, and free Hope Academy classes. Parents are invited to attend Bible 116. We share a simple supper at 6 pm, and then kids can attend **club one sixteen**, while parents attend our Taizé worship service.

club one sixteen Youth in grades 1–12, from 6:30–8 pm

This month, we will wrap up our **I am...** theme. We will explore the reality of God's grace in our lives as we take a look at the stories of men and women of faith in the Bible, and ask how their stories intersect with ours. Weekly themes include:

Dec. 1: I am...transformed

Dec. 8: I am...impulsive

Dec. 15: I am...me

Note: There will be no **club one sixteen** on **Wed., Dec. 22** or **29**.

Sun., Dec. 12: Confirmation Class From 12:30–3:30 pm

In December, we'll learn about the life and teachings of Jesus. Although this is our second class, newcomers are welcome! For details, call Pastor Heather.

Confirmation is an opportunity for youth in grade nine and up (who have not been baptized or confirmed) to deepen their faith and explore membership at ELPC. Class is taught by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and the Rev. Brian Diebold.

Sat., Dec. 18: Junior High Service Project

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to participate in our annual Christmas Service project, where we purchase gifts for children who will be spending the holidays in foster care. After pageant rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 18**, we will share a light lunch and then go shopping. We will wrap up our day by 3 pm. Please **RSVP** to your Church School teachers or Gloria Knopp by **Sun., Dec. 12**.

Sun., Dec. 19: Caroling at Shadyside Nursing Home

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to spread the good news of God's love during the holiday season! We will share a light lunch following the 11 am worship service, then enjoy an afternoon of service, before returning to ELPC by 4 pm. Please **RSVP** to Gloria Knopp by **Wed., Dec. 16**. A permission slip is required.

Youth Basketball Saturdays, from 5–8 pm

Note: There will be no basketball on **Sat., Dec. 25** or **Jan. 1**.

Hope Academy

Linda Addlespurger, Director

Sun., Dec. 5: Winter Concert At 3 pm

Kick off the holiday season with this free classical/rock/gospel/world music-filled concert in the Sanctuary, featuring kids from ages 4–18!

EL CEO will perform, and will be joined by HAT Co and HAT Co Rock Band; musical theater students; Wednesday singing, dancing and drumming students; and our new Gospel and Praise ensemble.



Musical theater students singing "Let it Be," under the direction of Anna Elder, at the 2009 Winter Concert.

Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator

Café Justo Sundays, from 12–1 pm

The month of December the young adults will host a month-long mission outreach. We will replace our regular fellowship hour with Café Justo coffee, a Fair Trade Plus+ product. The justice is in every drop!

Sat., Dec. 11: RCC Holiday Concert At 8 pm, at Carnegie Music Hall

Come support Ashley Birt, and the members of the Renaissance City Choir for their Holiday Choral Concert. Meet at ELPC at 7 pm, if you'd like to carpool. RSVP to Wil by **Sun., Dec. 5**. Limited funding assistance is available.

Wed., Dec. 22: Potluck Dinner At 5:30 pm, in the Second Floor Lounge

Come for one last 2010 shindig with this potluck dinner, Christmas devotion and game night. While it is close to the holiday time, it's a relaxing evening with friends and we can welcome ELPC young adults home from college with an evening of fun.



This December, the Young Adult Ministry will experience this season with "Christmas Splendor."

Photo courtesy of Renaissance City Choir.

Calling all Bakers!

On the first Sunday of every month, we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as a family of faith. During our liturgy, the pastors break bread as they share the words of institution, reminding us of Jesus' words to his disciples as they shared the Last Supper. We are reminded during this time of Christ's body, broken for us for the forgiveness of sins, as we celebrate that through Christ, we are united with one another and with God.



As a visible reminder that we are the body of Christ, we invite individuals or families (of any composition) to participate in this sacrament by baking (or buying) the loaf of bread that will

be used in the Communion Liturgy. For one month, you will be invited to bring the elements forward to the Communion Table, and your name will appear in the Sunday bulletin.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. Call Wil Forrest, at **412.441.3800 x14**, to sign up!

Organist/Music Director Search Update

The process of finding a new Music Director/Organist for ELPC has entered its final stage! Conversations with a final candidate have begun, but more information was not available to be shared at the time of this newsletter's publication. Soon, the congregation will receive a mailing announcing when a new Music Director will be introduced to the church. Continue to keep the Search Committee, Personnel Committee, and Session in your prayers; and we extend to them our heartfelt thanks for this important work on the church's behalf.

Classes After Taizé Prayer

The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer

Note: Classes begin at 8:15 pm.

Wed., Dec. 1: Centering Prayer *Led by Jon Nelson*

Centering Prayer is based upon ancient Christian practices. Following Christ's admonition to go to our closet to pray in silence, we gather to practice the silence (God's first language). It is simple, but not easy, as the mind tends to wonder and wander. Centering Prayer offers help. Sit with us and learn steps to get you started!

Wed., Dec. 8: Christmas Party!

Bring cookies to share for our After-Taizé Christmas Party! We'll sing carols in German and English, and make paper stars!

Wed., Dec. 15: Sacred Harp/Shape Note Singing *Led by Charles Anderson*

Enjoy singing tunes in three- and four-part harmony from the oldest American song book in print. All tunes are taught one part at a time! Beginners welcome!

Wed., Dec. 22: No after-Taizé class, but please join us for the 7 pm service!

Wed., Dec. 29: Celebrations!

Do you celebrate a birthday, milestone or anniversary in December? Write it down and put it in the collection plate! We'd like to celebrate with you!

Presbyterian Women

Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator

Tues., Dec. 6: Journeys Through Revelation *At 10 am, in the Second Floor Parlor*
Beth Urbaitis leads our study of Revelation 6, **Diagnosing the Crises of Empire.**

A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a side to share and your own place setting. Beverages and soup are provided. Call Diane Jackson at **412.441.6021** for details.

Spiritual Life

Dr. Lois M. Lang, Associate in Ministry for Spiritual Life

Sun., Dec. 5: Into Exile: The Light of John from Patmos *From 12:30–2:30 pm*
Come with us on our journey through pictures to the sun-bathed island of Patmos in the eastern Aegean Sea.

Today, Patmos is a small Greek island off the coast of Turkey, inhabited by those who make their living from fishing and tourism and by the monks and nuns of the Orthodox monasteries that dot the arid hills around the tiny island.

Join us as we view the landscape and enter the cave where the Beloved Apostle John received the Revelation that we know as the last book of the Bible.

Ron and Rebecca Cole-Turner will lead our class in Room 234. They spent two and a half weeks on Patmos in April and May last spring.

Care and healthy refreshment for children will be provided in the nursery for parents who wish to attend this event.

Words of Inspiration *By Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

Much has been written and said about volunteering and service. I have read many wonderful quotes by a diverse group of people. However, I keep coming back to the words of one of my personal heroes: Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi not only had much to say about service, but he embodied these values. He inspires me, so I share these quotes with you for your consideration and meditation.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

“Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.”

While he was one of the most meek and humble men, he was one of the most powerful and influential in his day. He led by serving. He effected change by serving. He changed lives by serving. As I seek to reassess my stewardship, service, and resolutions for the new year, I ask myself:

- What women and men can act as service role models for me?
- Are there ways that I serve others that I do not show my joy during?
- How can I lose myself in serving others?



Volunteers in Ministry serve during fall clean up.



I encourage you to ask yourself some of these questions. There are many great role models—from Mother Teresa and Albert Schweitzer, to Leo Tolstoy and many others. But, clearly we have the ultimate model from Jesus Christ and “quotes” from Scripture. I could point out numerous Scripture selections, but then the entire Bible calls us to respond to God’s grace and love with our faithful service.

So if you are like me and find yourself considering your life and priorities each new year, take some time to reflect on our foreparents’ words and examples. Perhaps you can draw inspiration for preparing for the new year...one of intentional, faithful and joyful service.

ELPC People

Good News

• Congratulations to **Christine Bethea** for the opening of ARTica, her new shop on Penn Ave.

• Please welcome our new members and friends (pictured left to right) **William and Nancy Latshaw, Barbara McFarland, Cynthia Valley, and Barbara Fotta.**



EECM

Food Pantry

The “Food of the Month” is **Macaroni and Cheese.**

Men’s Shelter

Requested items are **warm socks** and **thermal underwear** (XL–XXXL).

Please drop these items in the hallway baskets. Your support in the forms of donations and prayer is appreciated.



What is a Faithful Christian Response to the Migration Crisis?

During fellowship time this month, the Young Adult Ministry offers a delicious opportunity to keep families together, practice economic justice, and enjoy

excellent coffee! We are making a switch to Café Justo, a certified organic, estate-grown coffee.



The Café Justo Project is a faith-based initiative that addresses the root cause of migration: economics. This Project consolidates all the functions of coffee growing and keeps all revenue in Mexico. Going beyond other trade models, this is Fair Trade Plus+. It pays farmers a greater amount of the fair price per pound, pays members’ health and retirement benefits, and shares profits by investing them in community development programs

To learn more about migration, a Christian response to migration, economic justice and/or Café Justo, see the display during fellowship time or visit www.justcoffee.org. We invite you to engage in economic justice with each sip you take! Drink up!

Also, attend Contemporaries Class on **Sun., Dec. 12**, and hear about Wil Forrest’s mission trip to the Mexico/U.S. border. Engage others about this issue for all Americans and Christians.



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“...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.”

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sat., Dec. 18, at 2 pm; Carnegie Brass at 1:30 pm

All are welcome to join us for a Lessons and Carols service of words and music, featuring our chancel choir and guest musicians, the Carnegie Brass.

This *free* program is based off the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held on Christmas Eve in King’s College Chapel. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It’s an opportunity to celebrate the good news of Christmas through the interplay of scripture passages, words of faith, and seasonal music!

World Healing Day

Fri., Dec. 31, from 7–8 am

Every year on Dec. 31, men, women, and children around the world participate in a global prayer activity—an affirmation of peace, love, forgiveness, and understanding involving people in a simultaneous global mind link. The purpose is to unite people in a bond of love, assist in bringing our planet back into balance and usher in a new era of Peace on Earth.

Add your love and light to this gathering. The labyrinth will be available for prayer walking in the Social Hall until 5 pm. For details, call **412.571.1223**.

ELPC Christmas Pageant

Sun., Dec. 19, at 10 am

Join us as the children of ELPC tell us the important news of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As the children act out the roles of sheep and shepherds, wise people and angels, Mary and Joseph, and of course baby Jesus, we remember that this amazing news is ours to share!



Children perform at a past Christmas Pageant.

We celebrate that everyone has a part to play in sharing the good news of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ, this season and every day! This year’s pageant, *Everyone’s Story*, was written by ELPC member and Educational Ministries Assistant Ashley Birt—with the help of Gospel writers Luke and Matthew!

Note: There will be a rehearsal on **Sat., Dec. 18**, from 9:30–11 am, followed by light refreshments in Rooms 224 and 227. Church School classes are cancelled, so that everyone can attend the pageant. Children who are performing should arrive by 9:30 am.

Offices Closed: Offices will be closed all day on **Sat., Dec. 25**, and **Mon.–Tues., Dec. 27–28**, in observance of Christmas.