

## Editor's Note

This month's theme is *Providing Christmas Hospitality*. Look for articles written by members of our faith community, identified by this symbol.



## Christmas Worship Services



### Sat., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship Friends and Family Service

5 pm, in the Sanctuary

This early service, with communion, is a time of familiar carols and a re-telling of the Christmas story, shaped for people of all ages and families of all types. Come share in this time of Christmas cheer and good news!

### Candlelight Communion Service

11 pm, in the Sanctuary

Within the hush of evening, gather for a time of wonder, beauty, and joy as the birth of Christ is celebrated just prior to the dawn of Christmas Day. The sacrament of communion, the hearing of familiar scripture readings, and sharing in the music of the season make this one of the most memorable services of the year. Special prelude music begins at 10:30 pm.

### Sun., Dec. 25: Christmas Day Worship Christmas Celebration Service

11 am, in the Sanctuary

Come sing your favorite carols and welcome the birth of the Christ-child during this worship service on Christmas Day.

**Note:** There will not be a Journey worship service on this morning.

## Devotional Materials Available

To encourage you and your family to draw closer to God during this Advent season as we await together the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, the Christian Education committee has prepared Advent devotionals as a gift to you.

These devotional materials will be available on the Second Floor CE table, and are offered for persons of all ages.



## Sunday Morning Services

\* *Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Good Samaritan Worship • 8 am

Liturgists: Karen Fraser and Ray Anthony

Dec. 4\* Rev. Tami Hooker, *Chaplain, State Correctional Institution of Pittsburgh*

Dec. 11 Cheryl Tupper, *Program Officer, Arthur Vining Davis Foundation, Jacksonville, Fla.*

Dec. 18 Rev. Jim Davidson, *Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, Pa.*

Dec. 25 Rev. Tom Menk, *honorably retired Presbyterian minister*

### Journey Worship • 8:45 am

Dec. 4\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 11 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Dec. 18 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

### Sanctuary Worship • 11 am

Dec. 4\* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 11 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 18 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Dec. 25 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

*Mondays • 9 am–1:30 pm*

*Wednesdays • 9 am–9 pm*

### Taizé Prayer Service

*Wednesdays • 7 pm*

Rev. Christiane Dutton

### Children's Festival Chorus Concert

The Children's Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh returns to ELPC at 4 pm, on **Sun., Dec. 11**, in the sanctuary. This year's concert is entitled *Nature of the Season—Winter Tales... Winter Songs*. For information on tickets, please visit [www.cfc-pgh.org](http://www.cfc-pgh.org).

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church



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

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[www.CathedralOfHope.org](http://www.CathedralOfHope.org)

### Staff Leadership

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

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
*Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries*

Linda Addlespurger  
*Director of Hope Academy*

Jane Anabe and Darren Belajac  
*Seminary Interns*

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*

Paul Martin  
*Facilities Manager*

Katie Mohr  
*Educational Ministries Assistant*

Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Music Director and Organist*

The Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut  
*Pastor Emeritus*

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

### 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



On March 4, 1861, the newly-elected Abraham Lincoln delivered his First Inaugural Address. It was a difficult time for the nation, as only two weeks prior, Jefferson Davis had been sworn in as President of the Confederate States of America. Lincoln sought counsel from his experienced Secretary of State, William Seward, on possible wording for the inaugural speech. Seward was prone to language of war and insistent on the righteousness of the northern cause, offering sentences about "patriot graves" and how we will be protected by "guardian angels." Lincoln borrowed some of Seward's poetry but changed the sentiment to focus more on the glory of the American "Union" as well as how both sides are to be guided by "the better angels" of their collective nature.

Advent and Christmas are church seasons in which we call upon the "better angels" of our shared humanity. The Advent time of preparation challenges us to look beyond the horizon of today's joys and sorrows and consider how all of life is moving toward God's promised time of completion, peace and justice. And the Christmas time of celebration reminds us that God has come to us in the Christ-child, an incarnation of love and goodness that confirms the promise that the Lord is with us every day and in every situation. Both seasons pull us up from places of despair and anxiety. Both are designed to inspire and lift our spirits. Both involve literal angels (the messengers to Mary and to the shepherds in the field) and "better angels", as they tell us "tidings of great joy for all the people."

Read now Lincoln's final paragraph from his First Inaugural Address and then consider the closing verse from the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

*I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and discord cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

To believe in "better angels" is the first step toward a life-transforming faith. To trust in "better angels" is the next step in a life-sustaining faith. And to tell with joy the story of the Advent and Christmas "better angels" is to join their sacred chorus and continue the work of the incarnate-crucified-risen Christ Jesus throughout all the days and seasons that lie ahead.

*Randy Bush*

## Tour ELPC

Have you ever wanted to learn more about our Cathedral building and the ministries housed here? Join us after the 11 am service on **Sun., Dec. 18**, as tour guides offer a one-hour tour exploring our church and the meaning of the Christmas decorations. Please wear comfortable shoes for walking and standing.

## Session News

At the recent Session meeting, the following items were part of the agenda:

- Updates were provided both on the 2012 budget process and the Stewardship campaign.
- Motions were considered about financial support for the EECM Community House project.
- Personnel Committee reported about their progress in seeking an Interim Spiritual Life director and Grant Writer, as well as their hosting a Staff Appreciation breakfast in November.

## Join a Choir!

Are you looking for a way to be involved in ELPC's music ministry? The Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir are always accepting new members. Rehearsals for the Handbell Choir are on Tuesdays at 6 pm, and the Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7 pm.

Contact Dr. Ed for more information.

## Stewardship Notes

While we are grateful for the congregation's generous pattern of giving throughout this past year, it is important for budgeting purposes that pledges and tithes be honored if possible. Extra year-end gifts also are welcome as they help cover additional expenses that inevitably incur during the winter season.

As a reminder, please submit any contributions that you wish to be posted to the 2011 tax year, by **Fri., Dec. 30**, at the very latest.

Also, for those who have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2012, you may still do so by either mailing it to the church or dropping it off in the church office. If you'd like to set up an Electronic Fund Transfer for your pledge payments for 2012, or wish to have more information about this program, please call Deborah Marx at **412.441.3800 x34**.

## Men's Shelter Provides Hospitality and Care

by *Cornelius Franz*



*New ELPC members Cornelius and Shauna Franz are active in our community. Cornelius works at the EECM Men's Shelter, and they both intern at Garfield Community Farms.*

Three hundred and sixty five days a year, beneath the North transept of this Cathedral of Hope, a refuge exists. It was almost 30 years ago that ELPC's wayfarer prayer chapel had a conversion experience, and with the addition of 24 bunks, began to house homeless men through the East End Cooperative Ministry. Today, I am privileged to open our church door to the homeless individuals who have hit hard times, need a safe place, and a support system to move forward towards healing and recovery. The staff of EECM prays that that each person who comes through their doors will move from dependency and despair to independence and hope.

Looking to the scriptures of this Advent season we celebrate the good news of the great joy that Christ who was born for all people. We remember that Christ came to us in a barn from very tired and traveled parents. Shut out and a long way from home, the story of our savior begins in an unstable and strenuous environment. The gift of Christ is alive in these difficult places. Within our places of need and despair, the hope of Emmanuel, God with us, is born. Please pray for the Shelter as it serves our brothers, that the gift of Christ may be offered each day in its hospitality and care.

## Men's Group Offers Healing and Change

by *the Rev. Christiane Dutton*

The Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) has provided shelter and help for women in abusive relationships for over 30 years. Recognizing that the problem would not be solved without providing an opportunity for the abusive men to change, we started the MEN/S Group (Men Embracing Non-violence and Safety) in 2007, which meets weekly at ELPC.

These groups challenge men to not only change their abusive behaviors, but also the beliefs they carry on what it means to be a man, husband, and father. They challenge men to give up control and be accountable for their choices, while supporting the men through the change process.

Our goal is to contribute to women's and children's safety and to provide men an opportunity to learn to be loving, respectful, and safe partners for their wives, and fathers to their children.

In the last year, ELPC has not only donated space, we also support WC&S through our collecting of cell phones (keep them coming!) and gifts from the Toymakers at Christmas time.

If you'd like to learn more about the MEN/S Group, please contact Terry Bicehouse at **412.687.8017 x340**.



# Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

## Contemporaries Class *Second Floor Parlor*

Facilitators: Joe Kennedy and Mary Alice Lightle

**Dec. 4 and 11: Lines of Radical Democracy in Christianity**, led by Darren Belajac, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
Does the Occupy Wall Street movement speak to the church in any way? Darren makes that connection through an exploration of New Testament concepts as well as the practices of historical and current church communities, in order to both confirm and challenge such formulations. The presentation also investigates what it might mean for the present-day church to live into the radicality of the gospel.

## Journey with Scripture *Second Floor Library*

Facilitator: Jan Irvin

**Dec. 4:** Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13; 2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–5

**Dec. 11:** Isaiah 6:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28

## Parenting Circle *Harambe Room*

Facilitators: Pam Walaski, Andrea DeVries, and Sandy Edgecombe

December marks the end of our discussion from the book, *Ten Talks Parents Must Have with their Children about Sex and Character*. It has been a wonderful series and the discussion has been very helpful to all members as we continue to discern how to be parents God has called us to be for our children. Our schedule for December is as follows:

**Dec. 4: Chapter 9 – How are You Feeling: Talking about Alcohol and Other Drugs**

**Dec. 11: Chapter 10 – What We Believe: Talking about Your Family's Values**

We strive to fit the discussion into the context of our Christian faith, and try to incorporate scriptures and Presbyterian based literature into the discussion. While the readings are geared towards pre-adolescence or adolescence, we encourage parents and caregivers with children of all ages to join us. This is a great chance to prepare for the coming years, or if your children are older, we welcome hearing about your experience. If you have questions or comments, email Pam at [pam@jcsafety.com](mailto:pam@jcsafety.com) or Andrea at [ADeVries@healthcore.com](mailto:ADeVries@healthcore.com).

We rejoice that ELPC provides educational offerings for all ages. For a full listing of classes and descriptions, please see the CE bulletin boards inside the church or visit [www.CathedralOfHope.org](http://www.CathedralOfHope.org). Classes begin at 9:45 am.

## Seekers *Room 234*

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

**Dec. 4: Incarnational Theology**, led by the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

During Advent we prepare for a celebration of the incarnation—that God put on flesh and dwelled among us in Jesus. The incarnation bears witness to the good news of the season: that the same God who was born as a baby in a manger is still Emmanuel, God with us. We will explore the mystery of the incarnation, and take a look at how we might embody God's love in our own lives.

**Dec. 11: Gifts of the Season**

We follow our tradition when Seekers members and friends share their talents related to the Christmas season.

## Soul Food *Pastor's Conference Room*

Coordinator: Joe Hajdu

We will examine readings from *Spiritual Classics*, including excerpts from the spiritual masters that help us discuss our own spiritual concerns. Newcomers are welcome.

**Dec. 4: A Reading on Listening and Silence** by Paul Tournier

**Dec. 11: A Christmas Poem** by Christina Rossetti

## Clase de Escuela Dominical en Español

*Room 217; Facilitator: Joaquin Anabe Lopez*

Nos reunimos cada semana para descubrir lo que la Biblia nos dice. Por favor únete a esta jornada con nosotros. Todos están bienvenidos, y la clase está en español.



# Youth Ministry

**Note:** **club one sixteen** and **club life** will not meet on **Wed., Dec. 21** or **28**.

**club one sixteen** Wednesdays, from 3:30–7 pm

We'll explore the Biblical stories of David, Ruth, and the Prophets, and talk about how their stories connect with the stories of our lives. Our schedule will be:

**3:30–4 pm:** Homework Help/Snacks

**4–5 pm:** Open Gym/**club life**

**5–5:30 pm:** Dinner

**5:30–7 pm:** Bible Study



**club life** Wednesdays, from 4–5 pm

We will continue **club fit**, our fitness workshop, on **Dec. 7** and **14**. For more information or to register for classes, please contact Wil Forrest.

## Christmas Caroling for Tweens and Teens

Youth in grades 4–12 are invited to participate in an afternoon of Christmas caroling on **Sun., Dec. 11**. We will meet at 12:30 pm, at ELPC for lunch in Room 51, and to rehearse our carols. Then, we will head to Shadyside Nursing home to lead caroling and a Bingo game. We will return to ELPC by 3:30 pm.

**Note:** A permission slip is required for this event. Please RSVP to Anthony Williams by **Wed., Dec. 7**, at **412.292.7935**.

## Junior High Church School Service Project

All youth in grades 6–8 are invited to participate in an afternoon of Christmas shopping on **Sat., Dec. 17**. We will purchase gifts for children who are spending the holiday season in foster care. We'll eat lunch together right after rehearsal, then head to the store. We will wrap up our time by 2:30 pm.

**Youth Basketball** Saturdays, from 6–8 pm

We will not meet on **Sat., Dec. 24** or **31**.

# Young Adult Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator



**Fri., Dec. 2: First Friday at Verona**, at 7 pm

Join us at Verona Presbyterian Church (566 South Ave., Verona) for an evening of Christmas-themed treats, activities and caroling in the neighborhood. Dress warmly!

**Wed., Dec. 7: Genesis**, at 8 pm, in Room 244

We will examine Joseph, the meaning of Genesis, and more. Participants are asked to have read up through up to the end of Genesis and to come with questions. Snacks provided.

**Thurs., Dec. 22: Celebrate Christmas**, at 6 pm

We will share an evening of fun, including a visit to Clayton, the Frick Mansion, a drive to enjoy local lights, and dinner. We will leave ELPC at 6 pm. Please bring money for dinner.

# Advent Crafts and Santa Shop

Sat., Dec. 3, 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. Crafts will be available on Sunday mornings on the CE table.

Children (age 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

The Giving Tree will be set up near the Information Desk on **Sun., Dec. 4**. Stop by and select a gift tag from 9:30–11 am, and 12–12:30 pm. Deacons will be on hand to assist you.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office by noon on

**Sun., Dec. 11**. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make the check payable to "ELPC Giving Tree" and deliver it to the church office.



The Deacon Board thanks the congregation for its enthusiastic support of this ministry.

## Covenant Groups Now Forming

*Opportunities for Intentional Spiritual Fellowship Groups*

Through Covenant Groups, we hope to nurture vibrant and substantive spiritual connections through sustained companionship within our congregation.

Covenant Groups are small groups of individuals who seek to enhance their spiritual development, want to exchange ideas and thoughts on matters of faith, and desire to share their personal experiences, strengths and hopes. They offer spiritual discussion opportunities so that people can share and nurture one another in personal faith development, centered around a common spiritual interest or concern. The overall purpose is to gain awareness and insight into ourselves in a safe and confidential environment that is rooted in Christian values. This tradition dates back to the teaching of Jesus and the early church.

Covenant Groups do not have to have a specific format. The only requirement is the commitment to meet regularly for 6 months in groups of 4–8 individuals. (The possibility of opening groups out to a larger membership should be discerned by groups together.)

The Covenant groups will be formed on an on-going basis, as people sign up and indicate spiritual topics that they wish to explore with others.

Covenant Groups Seeking Members:

- Christian Marriage
- Spiritual Chanting
- GLBT Christians

Other Covenant Groups:

- Spiritual deepening
- Women's spirituality
- Living into one's "call"
- Other topics welcome!

For more information or to sign up for a group, please email Caterina Rosano at [crosano51@hotmail.com](mailto:crosano51@hotmail.com).

## Presbyterian Women

*Mary Alice Lightle, Moderator*

**Tues., Dec 6: Confessing the Beatitudes, at 10 am**

Join us in the Second Floor Parlor as we continue our study of the beatitudes. Beth Urbaitis leads our lesson, **Greatly Honored are those who are Famished and Parched for Justice!** (Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21a, 25a; Psalm 107:1–9). A potluck lunch follows. Please bring a salad or snack to share and your own place setting. Beverages will be provided.



## Classes After Taizé Prayer

*The Rev. Christiane Dutton, Minister of Taizé Prayer*

**Note:** Classes begin at 8:15 pm. Classes will not meet on **Wed., Dec. 21** or **28**.

**Wed., Dec. 7: Noah's Pudding**

Members of the Turkish Cultural Center of Pittsburgh are going to share with the Taizé community their Ashure (Noah's Pudding). Muslims call the day Noah's Ark was settled down safely on a mountain top the Day of Ashura. The making of Ashure is a common practice among Muslims and Christians in the Middle East. In Turkey, people cook Ashure every year. Christian communities throughout the Middle East prepare a similar sweet dish, called hedik, amah, or qamhiyyi. People who cook Ashure at home send a cup of it to each of their neighbors. Because, one has a responsibility to maintain good relations with their neighbors, regardless of their religion or beliefs.

**Wed., Dec 14: Christmas Party**

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

## Spiritual Life

**Centering Prayer Group** *Tuesdays, from 7–8:30 pm, in the Second Floor Library*  
Led by Jon Nelson, the Centering Prayer group aims to sit in silence for 20 minutes of prayer, and supports its members in their ongoing practice of this transforming way of being with God. Centering Prayer is a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

## First Sundays December Event

*Sun., Dec. 4 and 11, from 12:30–2 pm*

Join us in Room 234 as Suzanne Bailey leads a discussion on the teachings from *The Ways of the Mystic* by Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

**Sun., Dec. 4: *From Alone to All One*** (chapter 1)

**Sun., Dec. 11: *Opening the Wisdom Eye*** (chapter 6)



## Ornaments for Sale



The ELPC Toymakers are holding an Advent sale of ornaments and other small items. On **Sun., Dec 4**, A cart will be set up outside the Sanctuary following the Journey worship, and a table will be displaying our work in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am worship. There will be no price tags on our items, but we will accept donations to keep our ministry going.

The Toymakers work year-round making wooden toys. Locally, we donate these items to shelters, including Sojourner House and the Women's Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Whenever people from our church go on a mission trip, domestically or overseas, we encourage them to take some toys. Our toys have found their way to Guatemala, Nigeria, Haiti, Mexico, Kenya, Zambia, and Malawi.

We have linked up this year with Surgicorps International, which provides medical help to Third World nations. The next tour is to Vietnam in December.

Our group meets every other Wednesday, from 9 am to 12 pm, in the Sewing Room. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to join in!

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## Chris Glaser to Speak in Pittsburgh



The Task Force on Ministry with Sexual Minorities of the Pittsburgh Presbytery is bringing the Rev. Chris Glaser to Pittsburgh to speak about the church moving forward since the passing of Amendment 10-A. Glaser has written about spiritual life, human sexuality, ministry, AIDS, an inclusive church, worship, sacrament, theology, politics, marriage, and death. We invite you join us at any of these venues. For details, call Carol Chonoska, **724.272.9722**.

**Fri., Dec. 9: An Evening with Chris**, at 7 pm  
Sixth Presbyterian Church (1688 Murray Ave., Pittsburgh)

**Sun., Dec. 11: Worship at Community House Church**, at 10:45 am  
(120 Parkhurst St., Pittsburgh)

**Sun., Dec. 11: Worship at Metropolitan Community Church**, at 7 pm  
(4836 Ellsworth Ave., Pittsburgh)

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## Ungiven Gifts *by Wil Forrest, VIM Coordinator*

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*  
– William Arthur Ward



In this season of giving-thanks and gift-giving, we are often filled with gratitude for the coming of the King and for the cheerfulness of the holiday. For friends and family, we typically return our thanks with a hug, a reciprocal gift or perhaps a thank you note. But as God's child, how do you show your gratitude? Prayer and tithing are great ways, but also demonstrating your gratitude through acts of service is a great way to express your gratitude to God.

It is not difficult to find a place to serve during this time of the year. So step out and demonstrate your gratitude to God. Need ideas? Email me at **wil@coh.net**.

## ELPC People

*If you have news to share, please contact Gloria Knopp at 412.441.3800 x22.*

### Good News

- Please welcome our new members, who joined on Oct. 30: **Timothy Blass, Brian Bonczek, Shauna Frantz, Cornelius Frantz, Nancy Patton, Dana Pugliano, Betty Rieley, Lakiya Shealey Sommer, Linda Vaughn, and Russell Walker.**



- Congratulations to **Lakiya Shealey Sommer** and **Shauna Frantz** on their recent Baptisms.
- Congratulations to Paul and Megan Burke on the birth of their son, **Maxwell Oliver Burke**, on Oct. 27.
- Congratulations to **Kenny and Loren (Carter) Paul**, who were married on Nov. 5.
- Congratulations to **Anthony and Sarai (Thomas) Jackson**, who were married on Nov. 11.

### Thanks

- Thank you to all those who donated coats for EECM's *Share the Warmth Coat Drive!* Our ELPC community donated a huge number of warm winter coats to hundreds of clients in EECM's Hunger, Homeless, and Children and Youth programs. Without your help, we could not have done this. Thank you for your effort and generosity!

### Prayers

- Prayers and condolences to Brian Cook and family, over the death of his mother and ELPC member, Doris Cook.



The Cathedral of Hope

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*“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.”*

### Find us on Facebook

Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian Church” or scan the QR code below.



## The students’ Christmas Pageant



Children perform at a past Christmas Pageant.

Join us in the Social Hall at 10 am, on **Sun., Dec. 18**, as the Church School Kids tell the story of Jesus’ birth. What happens when the Middle School narrators “direct” the show? How do the kids tell the Christmas story—a story they have heard since they were little, the story at the center of our faith? This year’s pageant is written and directed by ELPC member Ashley Birt.

Pageant rehearsal will be from 9:30–11 am, on Sat., Dec. 17. Kids should report to their classrooms to be fitted for their costumes. A small Christmas party for the kids will follow rehearsal in Rooms 224 and 227.

## World Healing Day

Sat., Dec. 31, from 6:45–8 pm

Since Dec. 31, 1986, men, women and children around the world have gathered to participate in the most comprehensive prayer activity in history—a planetary affirmation of peace, love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous global mind link.



Join us for World Healing Day in body or spirit, and add your love and prayers to this moment of oneness. The Labyrinth will be available in the Social Hall.

For information, call **412.571.1223** or visit [www.quartus.org/WorldHealingDay.html](http://www.quartus.org/WorldHealingDay.html).

## Savior of the Nations, Come

ELPC’s Chancel Choir, along with a brass quartet and handbells, presents *Savior of the Nations, Come*, an Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival by Michael Burkhardt, during the 11 am worship service on **Sun., Dec. 18**.

The hymn festival includes readings by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and congregational participation in the singing of Advent and Christmas carols. Invite your friends and family for this very special service of music!

**Building Closed:** The church building will be closed on **Mon. and Tues., Dec. 26 and 27**, and **Mon., Jan. 2**.