**TIME OF PREPARATION**

“One wrong answer is to equate religious and political commitments and to regard every political decision as simply derived from our faith. This is wrong because political issues deal with complex problems of justice each containing morally ambiguous elements… The other wrong answer is to find no relevance between our faith and our political actions. This denies the seriousness of our political decisions and obscures our Christian responsibilities for the good order and justice of our civil community.”

— *Christian Faith and Political Controversy*, Reinhold Niebuhr

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

The Brass Roots
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organist

“Sleepers Awake”
J.S. Bach / Joshua Hauser

“Quintet No. 1 · Movement 3”
Victor Ewald

“Fanfare for the Common Man”
Aaron Copland

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music. Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.

**WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS**

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE*

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Isaiah Wilson

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.
People: God has gathered us in from the wilderness.
Leader: Rejoice with me, church of Christ.
People: God has called us together into a community of faith.
Leader: Rejoice with me, vessels of the Holy Spirit.
People: God has swept away the darkness of the night and directed us toward a horizon of hope.
Leader: Today, let us rejoice and worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #331

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

**NATIONAL HYMN**

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
CALL TO CONFESSION
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

O Lord, forgive your foolish people. We are skilled in doing evil, but we do not know how to do good. Too often we live as though there is no God. We honor false idols of wealth, power and nation, forgetting all you have done for us. We act violently and thoughtlessly, both as individuals and as groups. Wash away our sins. Create in us a clean heart. Put a new and right spirit within us, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón! ¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Praise God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON
Psalm 46
Sandy Edgecombe

TEACHER COMMISSIONING
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sherry Anderson, Linda Benedict, Damon Bethea, Carmen Blanco, Clare Bodiocchio, Kristine Conley, Valire Copeland, Sandy Edgecombe, Mary Evrard, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, Bill Johnson, Mary Ruth Johnson, Vanessa Johnson, Meehawn Lark, Mary Alice Lightle, Roberta London, Nancy Magee, Judy Menk, Beverly Mick, Nicole Molinaro-Karacznik, Jan Pressman, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, Lauren Ward, Eddie Willson, Jen Willson

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN
The Rev. Schoenewolf

Our Extended Session program is provided for infants and toddlers up to age 3 in the first floor nursery and pre-school age through grade 1 in Room 151.

BIBLE PRESENTATION FOR 4TH GRADE STUDENTS
The Rev. Schoenewolf

(some students received their bibles during this morning’s Journey worship service)
Angelo Collins, Cody Conley, Lydia Delp, Sloane Dowd, Owen George, Paige Krimmel, Kaylis Little

HYMN #339
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
LIFT EVERY VOICE

GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 4:5-11
The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON
“TED* Talks: Political Temptations”
(* Theologically Edifying Discourse)

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER
The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION
The Rev. Schoenewolf

We offer our gifts in response to God’s love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation.
**Offertory Anthem**

"I'll Praise My Maker"  
Lloyd Pfautsch  
The text can be found in the *Glory to God* hymnal #806.

**Doxology at the Presentation**

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all people.
here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. (Interlude) Amen.
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Old Hundredth

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication**

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.  
People: Y también contigo.  
Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.  
People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.  
Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.  
People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.  
Leader: Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Enliven us with your spirit and make your purposes known that all our relationships might show forth your glory. We pray this in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit.  
People: Amén.

**Recessional Hymn #378**

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”  
Merle’s Tune

**Charge & Benediction**

Postlude  
“Final from Symphony I”  
Dr. Moore, organist

Our worship concludes with the postlude. For the benefit of those who wish to listen to the postlude, please refrain from visiting with your neighbors until you have left the sanctuary, or until the postlude has concluded.
Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

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♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Sandy Edgecombe
Isaiah Wilson
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
Gabriel T. D’Abruzzo, Music Associate
ELPC Chancel Choir
The Brass Roots:
Josh Decker, Justin Kohan, trumpets
Carrie Vertin, horn
Morgan Wynn, trombone
Will Hammer, tuba
Abby Langhorst, Justin Kelly, percussion

Acolytes: Sonia and Annabel Degenholtz
Beadle: Mike Dillon
Crucifer: Ian Bush
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time. All are welcome!

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers today are given in loving memory of Henrietta and Marie Held and Emma King Held.

♦ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

8:45 am........Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall. Sept 18 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am...........Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service. Visitor’s Sunday and Church Life Sampler. Sept 18 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

Extended Session
After the Moments with the Children during the 11 am Sanctuary service, a children’s ministry is offered with songs, Bible or mission stories, prayer, sharing and creative activities. A simple snack is served.

In an effort to best know and care for your child, we ask that all families fill out a green Extended Session “Ticket” and that your child bring it with him/her to Extended Session every week.

* Young Children’s Ministry for infants and toddlers (up to age 3) — First Floor Nursery. Every Sunday.
* Pre-school age children (through grade 1) — Room 151.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Mondays, 7 am to 1 pm
Wednesdays, 9 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer
Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway)
Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.

Open everyday

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this morning and ask you to register your name in our Friendship Book.

To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to:

Stay after today’s service for our Fellowship Time in the McKelvy Room. Identify yourself as a newcomer, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about ELPC.

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the Reaching Out, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Attend a New Members and Friends Class on Sept 25 and Oct 2 to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more info (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x22).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.
TODAY AT ELPC

Today is Rally Day!
Our 8:45 am Journey worship service returns in the Social Hall. The Christian Ed Committee welcomes you back to Church School at 9:45 am as classes for persons of all ages resume. Before class, stop by Rooms 224 and 227 at 9:30 am for a light breakfast and see old friends and make new ones. We also welcome The Brass Roots as our musical guests at today’s 11 am Sanctuary worship service.

Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Events — Today and Next Week
Young adults are encouraged to see Wil Forrest or visit the YAM Facebook page for the newly released fall program schedule. Today’s event is YAM CE Class: Prayer Time from 9:45-10:45 am in the Pastor’s Conference Room. The next event is the Sampler Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, Sept 18 at 1:30 pm in the Ground Floor Lounge. First attend the Church Life Sampler after worship until 1:30 pm in the Social Hall (lunch included) where Wil will provide you with your scavenger hunt task. Spend time visiting tables while getting information and making connections. Then gather with other young adults in the nearby Ground Floor Lounge to share what you have found out. Prizes will be awarded!

LGBTQ Ministry Gathering
The next LGBTQ Ministry spiritual gathering will be today at Noon. TransPride Pittsburgh will be Sept 15-17. To attend either event, or to learn more, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14). All allies and LGBTQ folks are welcome!

ELPC Steeple Tour
Enjoy a unique view of the East End of Pittsburgh from ELPC’s steeple. Join our tour guide in the library following today’s 11 am service. Allow 40 minutes for the tour. Please wear shoes and slacks that allow for the climbing of ladders.

Today’s DODs
Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services. During the 11 am Sanctuary service, the DOD will be seated in the East Transept wearing a Deacon stole. Today’s Journey service DOD is Judy Roberts. The Sanctuary service DOD is Sonya-Marie Morley.

2016-2017 Cathedral Concerts Series Brochure Available
The printed Cathedral Concerts 2016-2017 brochure is available throughout the church. It is also available electronically on the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church/worship/cathedral-concerts.

Make Worship Happen
Did you miss the meeting to learn several ways volunteers can help make worship happen on any given Sunday? Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14) to learn more and how you can serve. All people are welcome and needed to make worship happen….that includes YOU! Volunteer roles include greeter, usher, crucifer, acolyte, beadle, liturgist, show bread provider, communion server, chancel choir member, Journey praise choir member, and handbell choir member.

Register Now for Hope Academy of Music and the Arts
Hope Academy’s fall term begins the week of Sept 12. Download a brochure and registration form online at www.HopeAcademyArts.com or pick one up at the ELPC front desk.

PW Bible Study — Sept 12
Join us on Monday, Sept 12 at 7 pm for our new 2016-2017 series Who is Jesus. We will meet for Bible study and fellowship. Bring your spiritual curiosity!

Soul Food Retreat — Cancellation on Sept 17
The one-day Soul Food retreat previously scheduled for Saturday, Sept 17 has been cancelled and will not be held at this time.

Visitor’s Sunday and Church Life Sampler — Sept 18
Our annual Church Life Sampler will be held after our 11 am service on Sunday, Sept 18. Come “sample” the various worship and service opportunities that ELPC offers. Meet leaders, ask questions, and jump on board! Lunch will be provided and a special activity will be available for children. This also is Visitor’s Sunday, so bring along a friend or two!

Pittsburgh Promise Coach Training — Sept 22
Calling all folks who want to help Pittsburgh area youth and their families understand the amazing opportunity before them to get a free college education! You are invited to the Pittsburgh Promise Coach Training at ELPC on Thursday, Sept 22 from 5:30-7 pm in Room 244. New Food 4 Thought volunteers will be attending this, but all who are interested in knowing more are invited. Please RSVP to Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net) to secure your seat.
As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Mike Dillon’s sister
Carole and her husband Ken,
Willa Dixon, Patrice Fowler-Searcy’s mother,
Bill Johnson, Sandy Kalsey,
Pam Kimmel’s niece Jen,
Deborah Marx’s friends Monica and Chris,
Gail Noden, Jan Pressman’s daughter Caryn,
Heather Schoenewolf’s cousin Louise,
and Matt Stufft’s mother.

There are Prayer Boxes, with cards for prayer requests, available on the tables in the Narthex and East Transept entrances to the Sanctuary.

Committee Meetings This Week

Personnel ......................... Tuesday, 6:00 pm (Pastor’s Conf Rm)
Deacons ............................ Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Rm 234)
Worship, Music & Arts .......... Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Rm 244)

Sewing Group — Sept 19
The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, Sept 19 from 2:30–6 pm in the Sewing Room. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; djnicks@verizon.net).

Join us at the Church Picnic — Sept 25
The Christian Education Ministry Team invites everyone to the annual Church Picnic on Sunday, Sept 25 following the 11 am service. Food will be served in the Social Hall, with seating in the Social Hall and Courtyard. Games will be set up in the Gym and Bowling Alley. Fried chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, a light dessert and beverages will be provided, but please bring a side dish or salad to share. Sign up on the sheets outside the East Transept to indicate what food you are bringing. On the day of the event, carts will be available at every entrance before each service so that the food you bring can be refrigerated until the picnic.

Church School Classes

Sept 18 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am
Contemporaries — “Quantum Theology” (held in Small Dining Room) led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush
Journey with Scripture — Jeremiah 8:18–9:1; Psalm 79:1–9; 1 Timothy 2:1–7; Luke16:1–13 facilitated by Jan Lyle Irvin, Lora Bethea and other members
Seekers — Combined with Contemporaries Class in the Small Dining Room (on the ground floor)
Soul Food — A discussion of the first part of chapter one of The Gift of Being Yourself by David Benner, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Linda Harrington and Judy Roberts

In our Community

Household Cleaning Supplies Needed
The East Liberty Gardens Apartments are set for demolition this fall, and all families are now moving out. Most of the families depend on housing subsidies due to very low income; many of these families have no extra income to spend on “extra” items needed when moving. We are requesting your help with donations of household cleaning supplies: broom/dustpan, mop, bucket, dish detergent, bleach, tub/shower cleaner, and other such items. Please help us give the families of East Liberty Gardens a fresh start on their new journeys! Please contact Becky Gloninger (412.913.6070; rag15@verizon.net).

Fayetteville County Recovery Efforts
If you are interested in volunteering to help with recovery efforts following the devastating flood in Fayetteville County, please contact Michele Bossers (michele2285@gmail.com; 412.303.9243). Monetary donations can be mailed to CACM, 110 W Crawford Ave, Connellsville, PA 15425, with checks made payable to Connellsville Area Community Ministry with “flood relief” in the memo line.

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to put your love in action?
Contact Wil (412.441.3800 x14). Visit the iSERVE webpage at www.E LPC.church/programs/iserve-2 to learn about other service opportunities.

club one sixteen begins sept 14
club one sixteen is our Wednesday night youth group for children and youth in grades 1–12 (from 3:30-7:30 pm). Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious home-cooked meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study. Parents, please complete a registration form for your child/children.

Tai Chi — Postponed Until Sept 27
Tai Chi classes will tentatively begin on Tuesday, Sept 27 (postponed from earlier start date) from 10–11 am and 6–7 pm. Experience flowing movements and a relaxing workout. The cost is $25 for 10 weeks or $3 per session. Pre-register with Kate (412.441.3800 x16).