



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

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. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

AUGUST 13, 2017 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORDS FOR PREPARATION

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” — *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“Doubt isn’t the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith... Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful.” — *Paul Tillich*

“The minute we begin to think we know all the answers, we forget the questions, and we become smug like the Pharisee who listed all his considerable virtues, and thanked God that he was not like other men... Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.” — *Madeleine L’Engle*

GATHERING MUSIC

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears” (*songbook #1*)

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (*songbook #2*)

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (*songbook #3*)

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 107*)

Kirk Palmer

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

People: We have cried to you in time of trouble; you delivered us from our distress.

Leader: We thank you, O Lord, for your steadfast love; your wonderful works abound about us.

People: You know of our needs before we utter your name; you indeed are to be praised.

Leader: Let us worship God!

People: Hallelujah and Amen!

* HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory” (*songbook #4*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. James Davidson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Davidson

Far be it from us that we should forsake you, O God, to serve other gods. Yet, we confess our allegiance is not what it should be. You brought our ancestors out of Egypt, yet we do not always trust you to meet our needs. You protected them all along the way that they went; yet we wonder if you hear us when we cry to you. You have made us stewards of all you have created; yet we squander your gifts. We are called to minister to all who suffer; yet we are often slow to respond until our own needs are met. The Psalmist calls us to worship and praise you in all that we do; yet **we take credit for the things we do well. We’ve read and know that you are gracious and merciful** and so we humbly lay our transgressions and sins before you and pray you will forgive and help us to be more obedient.

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

Aug 13 • 10th Sunday after Pentecost

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Davidson

Leader: Remember the words of the prophet Jeremiah when he wrote: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when...I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Therein lies our assurance. 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

Judges 6:1-10

Kirk Palmer

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come to the front of the worship space for Moments with our Children. There is an Extended Session class available in the summer for children who have completed Kindergarten and younger in the Nursery Suite on the first floor near the Highland Ave entrance.

* HYMN

"Guide My Feet" (songbook #5)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judges 6:11-24

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Judges' Wisdom: A Questionable Call"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Davidson

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Davidson

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 Believe This Is Jesus"

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

Oh, come and see.

The Light of God shines in his face. Oh, come and see.

He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see.

Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes, Lord, come and see, come and see.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

Aug 13 • 10th Sunday after Pentecost

* *Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

The Lord be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

Lift up your hearts.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas
a Dios.

It is right to give God thanks
and praise.

Leader: We offer but a portion of the bounty that you have bestowed to us, O God. Receive our gifts as we seek to walk in your way. Where justice is sought, use these gifts to bring Christ's liberating word. Where there is pain, may they bring the healing of Christ's love. Where there is want, let them assure others that you know of their needs before they are voiced. Continue to enhance what we give to you, as we become more obedient to Christ's will for our lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

“We All Are One in Mission” (*songbook #6*)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. James Davidson
Sara Hackett
Kirk Palmer
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
ELPC Summer Choir
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

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

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Pamela Kimmel (412.441.3800 x118).

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Z. Wainwright and Miss Hattie E. Wainwright.

If you would like to purchase flowers for our worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Norma (412.441.3800 x111). The cost is \$75 a Sunday during our outdoor worship services.

◆ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

8:45 am.....Journey Prayer Time. An extended prayer time and bible reflection with a few songs. In Social Hall.
August 20 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush.

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and music prior to the service.
August 20 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Summer Extended Session

After the *Moments with the Children* during the 10 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.

There is only one Extended Session class available in the summer for children who have completed Kindergarten and younger — Nursery Suite on the first floor near the Highland Ave entrance. It is available every Sunday.

◆ 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 Narthex. 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* to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Please contact Gloria Knopp for info on future classes (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Trinity Chapel Tour

Join tour guide Penn Hackney following today's Courtyard worship service on a tour of the Trinity Chapel with its special stained glass window. Meet Penn after the service in the Narthex/Penn Ave lobby.

PW Bible Study Books Available

The new PW Bible Study books will be available in the Narthex after the 10 am service today, Aug 20 and 27.

Return Book Please...

We invite you to please return the book *Race in a Post-Obama America* if you have finished it, so others can read it. Please put books in the basket on the communion table.

Journey Prayer

Now through Labor Day weekend, a **Journey Prayer Time** will be held at 8:45 am in the Social Hall, with a few songs, an extended prayer time and bible reflection.

Today's Deacon on Duty

Today's summer service DOD is **Sonya-Marie Morley**.

Pre-Sold Faith Night Pirate Game Tickets

Today is your last day to get your pre-ordered Aug 17 Pirates tickets for *Faith Night* from David Carl.



Summer Celebration of Service & Volunteers Thursday, Aug 24 ♦ 6-7:30 pm

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our *Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers* on Thursday, Aug 24 from 6–7:30 pm in the Courtyard. Bring a side dish to share!

All Over the Burgh Event – Aug 18

All Over the Burgh, ELPC's meet-up group, is all about fellowship and fun by exploring events around town. All members and friends are welcome to join us on Friday, Aug 18 for *Friday at Frick* for the American/folk foot-stomping sounds of *The Mixus Brothers*. Suggested donations accepted. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket, and meet on the grounds across from the Playhouse entrance at 5:45 pm. Music starts at 6:30 pm. Look for the ELPC sign! *There will be wine sales and food trucks.*

YAM Event: Good Old-Fashioned Lock-In – Aug 19 to 20

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) will get locked in ELPC with friends for a night! Beginning on Saturday, Aug 19 at 4 pm, we'll gather for ice breakers, dinner, educational experiences, Bible study, worship, snacks, relaxation time, a service project, games, and fellowship. Then, we'll join our church family the next morning for worship. RSVP to Wil Forrest today (Wil@coh.net).

Tower Tour – Aug 20

Tour guide Tim VanFleet will take you on a climb up the majestic Church Tower on Sunday, Aug 20 after the 10 am courtyard worship service. This tour will focus on the history and construction of this magnificent structure.

The tour requires some stamina and it is best to wear sturdy shoes. Please gather following the service in the rear of the chapel.



View ELPC Members' Energy Efficient Home – Aug 20

Visit *Passive House* and learn about efficient building construction. Lucyna de Barbaro and Ayres Freitas believe that their heating and cooling bills will be 60-80% lower than in a similar size home.

Their newly constructed *Passive House* is a state-of-the-art demonstration of energy efficiency in building construction. Technology like this is widely used in Western Europe, but hardly known in the U.S. The house is virtually air-tight and features an energy recovery ventilator. The house also features sustainable materials, low VOC finishes, permeable driveway, rain water retention on site and green roof on the porch.

Lucyna and Ayres will host an *Open House* on Sunday, Aug 20 from 11:30 am-4 pm. Their address is 2883 Fernwald Rd, 15217. All interested people are welcome.



As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Diana Armstrong, John Bavaro,
David Carl's friend Madelyn and her mother,
Martha DeMarzi, Dave Gilliland,

Patrice Fowler-Searcy's mother, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,
Gloria Knopp, Lee Lewand, Gail Mallory's friend Ailene,
Jon Nelson's cousin Rayna and friend Theo, Pat Valoon,
Anthony White, and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

Condolences to **Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy**
on her grandmother's passing.

Condolences to the family of **Ronald Frye** on his passing.

Condolences to the family of **Reese McClellan** on his passing.

Condolences to **Maelene Myers and Harold McDonald**
on his brother's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Membership & Outreach..... Today, 11:00 am (2nd fl Lib)
Neighbors Today, 11:30 am (Session Room)
Youth & Young Adults..... Tuesday, 5:30 pm (Session Room)
Session..... Tuesday, 7:00 pm (McKelvy Room)

LGBTQ Ministry Events – Aug 27

All people are welcome to join the LGBTQ Ministry at our *Rainbow Connection Picnic* at Randyland on Sunday, Aug 27 at Noon. Contact Wil (412.441.3800 x114) for info.

Pathways to a More Contemplative Life

The way to contemplation is through meditation, and ELPC offers a number of meditation alternatives to assist you along your journey towards healing, wholeness, joy, and peace. On **Monday** mornings, the *Labyrinth* is available as a walking meditation until 1 pm. *Centering Prayer*, a form of Christian meditation, is offered on **Tuesday** evenings at 7 pm. On **Wednesdays**, experience *Cathedral Yoga* at 6 pm, and meditative moments during and following our *Taizé Prayer Service* at 7 pm. The *Labyrinth* also is available all day on **Wednesdays** until 9 pm. **Beginning the 2nd Thursday in September**, *Qi Gong* will resume on **Thursdays** at 6:30 pm, followed by *Mindfulness Meditation* led by Susan Spangler. On the **second Friday of the month**, Yamuna Morgenstern leads *JourneyDance*, at 7 pm. Please visit the *Prayer and Meditation Room* anytime the church is open.

Looking for a way to put your love in action?



Visit the iSERVE webpage at www.ELPC.church/programs/iserve-2 to learn about other service opportunities, or contact Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x114).

◆ **Considering your options to serve this fall?**
Talk to Wil now....there is much to do! ◆

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Heritage Gospel Chorale Ensemble – Aug 15

Dr. Herbert V.R.P. Jones, Founder-Director of *The Heritage Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh* and *THGCOP Ensemble* will perform a collage of African-American sacred choral music on Tuesday, Aug 15 from 7-9 pm at Hotel Indigo (123 N Highland Ave, 15206). Sponsored by The Bridge Music Hall and Wallace's Whiskey Room and Kitchen, there is no cover charge for this event. For more info, please visit www.thgcpgh.org.

Building Community to Protect & Empower Youth & Families – Aug 19

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (615 N Highland Ave, 15206) will host the free event *Building Community to Protect and Empower Youth and Families* from 10 am-3 pm on Saturday, Aug 19. The day will feature workshops, lunch, entertainment and a community dialogue with parents and community organizations. There will also be sports raffles and free t-shirts available. Because food will be served, you are asked to RSVP by Aug 14 by calling 412.212.8775 or sending an email to cav.pgh@gmail.com.

Free Mammography Event – Sept 16

UPMC Magee Hospital will offer free mammograms to women over 40 on Saturday, Sept 16 from 10 am-2 pm. Transportation to and from the event will be provided. Refreshments will also be offered. Please call Lajuana Fuller, Director of Breast Imaging, to register or if you can help with transportation (412.641.5837).

**FAITH, SCIENCE,
AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Got questions? Interested in connections between faith and science?

Join in the conversation on the last Thursday of each month (**AUG 31, 6:30 PM**) as we read, watch videos, and discuss the faith that we share, ways in which it overlaps with science, and how-all of that affects our spiritual life.