



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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 7, 2016 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

“The opposite of faith is not intellectual doubt, because faith is not localized primarily in the mind. The opposite of faith, according to a number of Jesus’ statements, is anxiety. If you are fear-based and “worried about many things,” as he says in Luke 10:41, you don’t have faith in a Biblical sense. Faith is to be able to trust that God is good, involved, and on your side. So you see why it takes some years of inner experience to have faith. It is not just that somewhat easy intellectual assent to doctrines or an agreement with a moral position. This has passed as the counterfeit of faith for far too long.

When you cannot rely upon an Infinite Source, you yourself become your primary reference point in terms of all preferences, needs, results, and controls. That would make anybody both anxious and insecure.”

— Adapted from *Jesus’ Plan for a New World*, p. 118, by Richard Rohr

GATHERING MUSIC

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (songbook #1)

CWM RHONDDA

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (songbook #2)

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

“This Is The Day” (songbook #3)

THIS IS THE DAY

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

Wil Forrest

Leader: Sing to God, our strength; cry out to God, our helper. Rejoice, and do not fear to appear before our God.

People: It is God who led our ancestors through hard times. It is God who leads us through difficult times.

Leader: God will not leave us or forsake us. God welcomes us to the banquet of life.

People: God fills our mouths with good things. God offers us fountains of living water.

Leader: Listen now to the voice of God and submit to God’s will. Hear the Word of God and turn away from worthless things.

People: We delight in the commandments of our God. We will share eagerly in the work God has us to do.

Leader: Let us worship and praise God!

* HYMN

“Come And Fill Our Hearts” (songbook #4)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Jim Davidson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Davidson

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (sing 2x)

IN THE LORD



Text: Taizé Community, 1986. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1986.
© 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Pub.). OneLicense.net #A-700877

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Davidson

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!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

Wil Forrest

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“The Gospel of Doubt”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

arr. Tom Trenney

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

August 7 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

The communion bread is being presented by Ashley Van Alen and Scott Rhodehamel.



— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Davidson

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy and The Rev. Davidson

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may partake of the bread and the cup, placing the used cup in the basket provided, then returning to seats via the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts” (songbook #5)

QUEBEC

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

After receiving communion, worshipers may go to one of the prayer stations for intercessory prayers, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Davidson

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and the food of eternal life. Strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our gratitude and thanks; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” (songbook #6)

DUNLAP’S CREEK

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

August 7 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

Portions of the liturgy reprinted by permission of the United Church Press from Gathered by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Jim Davidson
Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
Chancel Choir
Beadle: Lenore Williams
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 Pam Kimmel (412.441.3800 x18).

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Captain and Mrs. Alfred Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Hicks, Mr. Lewis W. Hicks Jr., and Mrs. and Mrs. Wenman A. Hicks.

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 x11). The cost is \$50 a Sunday during the summer.

♦ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

8:45 am Journey Prayer. A service that includes singing, reading of scripture and shared prayer in the style of the *Journey Worship* service. This time of prayer will be alternately led by Pastors Randy, Patrice and Mary Lynn. In Social Hall.
Aug 14 — The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush.

10 am Courtyard Summer Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and gathering music prior to the service.
Aug 14 — The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush preaching.

Extended Session

After the *Moments with the Children* during the 10 am Summer 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 in the 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 listen for the still, small voice of God. 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:

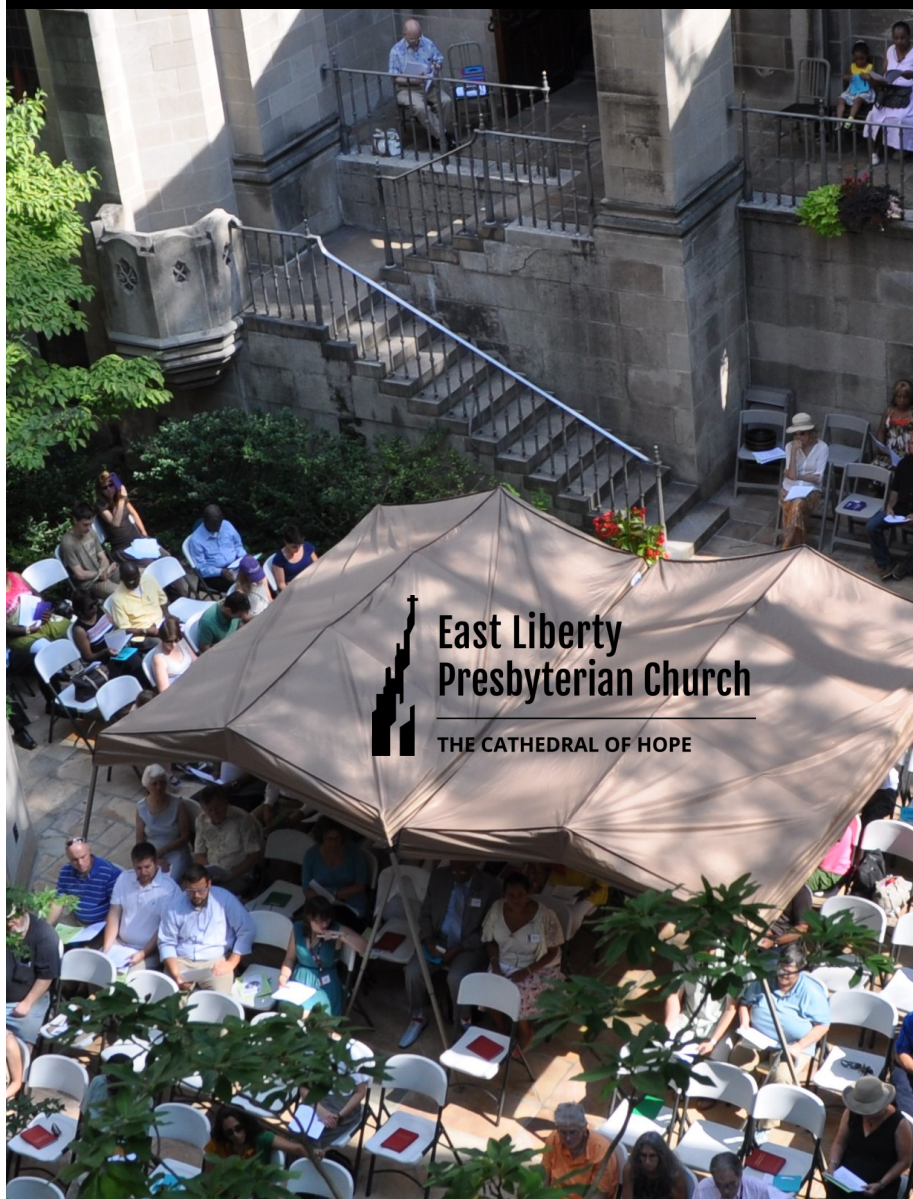
Stay after today's service for our Fellowship Time in the Narthex. Identify yourself as a newcomer, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about ELPC.

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* 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.

SONG BOOK



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016 • 10 AM WORSHIP

#1 — KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your
 2 It's our faith makes us hap - py; it's our
 3 We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are
 4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery

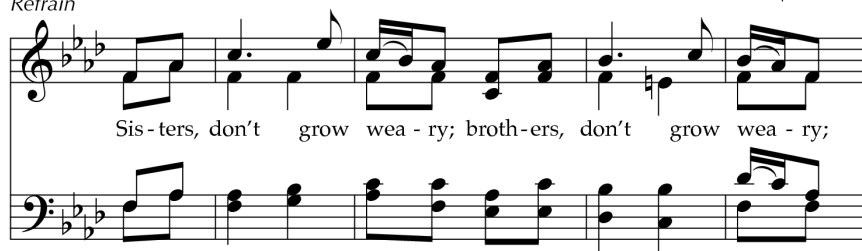


lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your lamps
 faith makes us hap - py; it's our faith
 climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are climb - ing
 round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery round goes



trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 makes us hap - py, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 Ja - cob's lad - der, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 high - er, high - er, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

Refrain



Sis - ters, don't grow wea - ry; broth - ers, don't grow wea - ry;

This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1–13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10–17).

The image shows a musical score for a vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "chil-dren, don't grow wea-ry, for the time is draw-ing nigh." The melody is a simple, folk-like tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and some moving lines in the left hand.

chil-dren, don't grow wea-ry, for the time is draw-ing nigh.

#2 — GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew scripture.

#3 — THIS IS THE DAY

This is the day, This is the day that the Lord has made, that the

The first system of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by eighth and quarter notes. The bass line consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Lord has made. I will re-joyce, I will re-joyce and be

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff features a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Lord has made. I will re-joyce and be glad in it.

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the melody. The bass staff continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

This is the day, This is the day that the Lord has made.

The fifth and final system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes with a half note. The bass staff concludes with a half note. The lyrics are written below the staves.

#4 — COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS

The musical score is written for a 3/4 time signature in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has four measures with chords D, Bm, D, and A. The second system has four measures with chords Em, C, Em, and A, followed by a final D chord. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

D Bm D A

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo-nus.

Em C Em A D

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

This prayer chant—intended for repeated singing—was originally created for a Latin text (Psalm 106:1a and Psalm 118:1a, 29a) on which the present English text is loosely based. Chants at Taizé often use Latin because it is a language free of political overtones.

TEXT and MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO
Irregular

#5 — JESUS, THOU JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
 3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
 those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
 feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
 change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
 mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of

earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
 thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
 foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

This 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

#6 — WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome to Worship at ELPC!

We are thankful you have chosen to worship God this summer with us. Please note that while the location of our 10 am worship service is in the courtyard, seating is also available in the 3rd floor Music Room, and on the 3rd floor balcony overlooking the courtyard; where the service is projected onto a large screen, and the patio seating is shaded. For the safety and comfort for all worshipping, those arriving after seating in the courtyard is full will be directed to the 3rd floor for additional seating, which can be easily accessed by any staircase from the 1st floor, or by taking the elevator. Thank you!

Journey Prayer

A *Journey Prayer* time of sharing and gathering of the Journey worshipping community will be held each Sunday morning (through Sept 4) at 8:45 am in the Social Hall. *Journey Prayer* will include singing, reading of scripture and shared prayer in the style of the Journey Worship service. This time of prayer will be alternately led by Pastors Randy, Patrice and Mary Lynn. **Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!**

Hand Fans

Keep cool while at worship this summer with the new hand fans available near each entrance to the worship area. Please leave them at the exit when worship is over.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty

The *Summer* service DOD is **Sonya-Marie Morley**.



Feeling Crafty?

New helpers of all skill levels are always welcomed at these groups. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; dnjcks@verizon.net).

- ✦ *Sewing Group* — Monday, Aug 15, 2:30–6 pm, Sewing Rm
- ✦ *Toy Makers* — Wednesdays, Aug 17, 31, 9 am–Noon, Sewing Rm

Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Event — Aug 14

This summer, young adults are exploring the intersections of Christianity with other faith traditions and other cultures. Young adults are invited to express interest in a selection of summer programs by RSVPing via Facebook (or via Wil if not on Facebook). The next event will be *Coffee with Wiccans* on Sunday, Aug 14 at 6 pm. See Wil Forrest for info.

Mission Trip Recaps — Aug 14

Join us on Sunday, Aug 14 as our youth mission trip teams share stories and pictures from their trips during worship at 10 am, and then help host Fellowship Time following the service. Youth and parents should plan to attend.

LGBTQ Ministry Gathering — Aug 14

God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

The next LGBTQ Ministry *business meeting* will be held on Sunday, August 14 at 11 am in Room 234. The next *spiritual gathering* immediately follows the business meeting, and lunch will be served. To attend or to learn more about the LGBTQ Ministry, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14). All allies and LGBTQ folks are welcome!

Summer Celebration of Service — Aug 18

All who have served in our church and community this year are invited to our 7th annual *Summer Celebration of Service and Volunteers* from 6-7:30 pm on Thursday, Aug 18 in the Courtyard. Main dish and drinks will be provided, but you may bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Please label any containers with your name if you want it back. No serving utensils are needed. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time!

Sunday Worship with Islamic Center of Pittsburgh — Aug 21

The ELPC Mission Board has entered into a collaborative interfaith relationship of learning and friendship with the members of the local Muslim community.

Many of the gatherings have been offered at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (ICP), where people of all faiths have been greeted with warm hospitality and a genuine desire to get to know and support one another. Now, we have an opportunity to return the same radical hospitality that we have received from our sisters and brothers at ICP.

On Sunday, Aug 21, members of ICP will join us for worship in the Courtyard and lunch in the Social Hall. Following lunch, Kelcey Sharkas, outreach coordinator at ICP, will facilitate a seminar entitled *How to Be a Muslim Ally*.

The Mission Board cordially invites and encourages all ELPC members and friends to offer a warm, radically hospitable welcome to our guests and to extend their Sunday at church by participating in lunch and the seminar. For more info, please see Michele Bossers or Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy.



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

Sue Bailey, Suzanne Bennett,
Jason Dauer, Mike Dillon's sister Carol,
Katelyn Haas's friend Kathleen,
Kathey Hackney's brother Kevin, Cathie Hajdu,
Jan Herzer's friends Bob, Sharon and Francine,
Ida Joiner, Sandy Kalsey, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,
Mary Anne Kirby, Gloria Knopp,
Deborah Marx's friends Monica and Chris,
Jan Pressman's daughter Caryn, Judy Roberts,
Jim and Carolyn Russ' daughter Laura and her family,
Heather Schoenewolf's aunt Judy,
and Pat Valoon's friend Kristen.

Condolences to Chuck Carson on his sister's passing.

Condolences to Emma Odum on her brother's passing.

Congratulations to Dr. Charma Dudley for being elected to the National Board of Directors for the National Alliances on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Congratulations to former church member Dr. David Epperson for being elected to the National YMCA Hall of Fame for his over 50 years of service to that organization.

Congratulations to Jerry and Evie Wrzosek on the birth of their granddaughter Adeline.

Committee Meeting This Week

Personnel..... Tuesday, 6:00 pm (Pastor's Conf Rm)

Peter and Penny Murray Recognition — Aug 21

On Sunday, Aug 21 during the 10 am worship service, Peter and Penny Murray will be recognized for their nearly 40 years of service to ELPC and the community. A reception in their honor will follow worship.

Diaper Drive Need Does Not Take a Summer Vacation

One in three families struggles to provide diapers. If you can help with this need, please leave your gift of diapers in the church office (sizes 5 and 6 are needed most). Presbyterian Women thank you.

The Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is open for donations, as well as shopping, on Mondays from 10 am to Noon and Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Sponsor Our Flowers for Worship

If you would like to purchase the flowers used in our worship service, please contact Norma (Norma@coh.net). A brief notation of your choosing will be included in the printed Sunday bulletin when you sponsor that week's flowers. The cost is \$100 per Sunday during our regular worship schedule (Rally Day to June), and \$50 per Sunday during our outside summer courtyard worship services. Available summer Sundays are Aug 14 and Sept 4.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Inner Awareness through Hebrew Chant — Aug 14

In the half day workshop *6 Passages for Re-Opening Inner Awareness through Hebrew Chant*, led by David Goldstein on Sunday, Aug 14 from 1-5 pm in the ELPC courtyard, we will learn 6 Passages for staying focused on what is important in our lives. We will deeply engage in sacred texts from the Hebrew Bible and other sources, connect energetically with one another, and gain wisdom from ancient traditions. We will draw on our memory and imagination and experience the rich depth of silence after the chant. Although Hebrew is the primary language of the texts that are chanted, this workshop is fully inclusive and is open to people of all faith traditions. No prior knowledge of chanting, meditation or the Hebrew language is required. The cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Visit <http://6passages.brownpapertickets.com> to register.

i SERVE
LOVE IN ACTION

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

◆ New Member Host ◆

Looking for a way to put your love in action?

Contact Wil (412.441.3800 x14). Visit the iSERVE webpage at www.ELPC.church/programs/iserive-2 to learn about other service opportunities.

Save the Date

— AUGUST 28TH EVENTS —

Following the 10 am worship on Sunday, Aug 28, there are three options for you to consider attending.

- ◆ The final summer *Soul Food* class will be held.
- ◆ Anyone interested in learning more about assisting in worship is invited to a brief *informational meeting* in the Chapel. Dozens of volunteers help each week to make sure our Sunday worship services are welcoming, accessible, and effective. Come learn how you can share your gifts in this way!
- ◆ An initial *conversation on gun ownership and gun control* will be held following worship for anyone interested in sharing their stories on this timely justice issue. Our hope is to offer a faithful and respectful dialogue that seeks to find points of commonality and consensus on a topic that is too often divisive for our community.