



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 20, 2017 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Romans 11:29 reminds us that “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” How do the gifts and calling of God support us? How might they support us when we are not aware of them or even when we reject them?

GATHERING MUSIC

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul” (songbook #1)
“Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone” (songbook #2)
“Blessed Assurance” (songbook #3)

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* SHARING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

Susan Spangler

Leader: God’s blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross.
People: **God strengthens us to trust in the Lord’s mercy and ever reach out for healing.**
Leader: In Christ we are agents of reconciliation, seeking restoration of relationships with God and one another.
People: Christ has lavished upon us the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit. With glad and grateful hearts, we will praise the Lord!

* HYMN

“Christ Be Beside Me” (songbook #4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

O God of peace and justice, your way is sure and leads to salvation, equality and love. You sent your Son, the promise of life eternal, and your Holy Spirit guides us to all truth. We hear your prophets proclaim the path of obedience, and receive your abounding grace, making our footsteps firm; we know you created every living thing to follow you faithfully. And yet, O God of forgiveness, with our tongues we speak evil and vilify our brothers and sisters. With our actions, we disobey your commandment to love you with our whole selves and others as we love ourselves. Hostility is **bred through our suspicion, prejudice and bigotry; anger continues in spite of Christ’s peace. Lord God, you open our eyes to Christ’s righteousness, yet we remain blind to the truth of his reconciling presence. Forgive our deliberate misuse and abuse of your mercy, and in Christ’s name** hear the prayers that remain on our hearts this day.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: God through Christ Jesus reconciled the world, satisfying our hunger and thirst after righteousness. Jesus is the bread of the world, feeding and sustaining us to love justice, do mercy and walk humbly with God. When we come to him confessing our sin, we receive God's mercy, are forgiven and strengthened by God's grace. So, taste and see how God cares for us. Friends, know God's love and believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN

"God Welcomes All"



THEMBA AMEN

Text: John L. Bell, 2008. Music: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008
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GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:18-21

Ted Cmarada

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit" (songbook #5)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judges 7:1-9, 19-22

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Judges' Wisdom: A Strength Not in Numbers"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Planned Giving

Chris Martin and Tiffany Sudar

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

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

“Lord, Send Your Spirit”

Lord, send your spirit. Lord, send your power. Lord, send your glory so that we can be used by thee. Lord, send your spirit. Lord, send your power so you can use me, Lord, use me, Lord. Use me, Lord, until my hands look new. Use me, Lord, use me, Lord. Use me, Lord, until my feet do, too. Send your spirit, send your power, send your glory, fall on us. Send your spirit, send your power. Send your glory, fall on us so that we can be used by thee. Lord, send your spirit. Lord, send your power. Lord, send your glory so that we can be used by thee.

Lord, send your spirit. Send your spirit, send your power, send your glory, fall on us so that we can be used by thee. Lord, send your spirit. Lord, send your power. Lord, send your glory so that we can be used by thee!

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Tiffany Sudar

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: Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy than we could imagine and more blessings than we deserve. Receive now these gifts as signs of our gratitude, that your mercy may be multiplied and your blessings abound to all in need. In Christ's name we pray.

People: Amén.

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.

Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” (songbook #6)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush



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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Ted Cmarada, Susan Spangler
Chris Martin, Tiffany Sudar
Musicians: **Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*
Journey Praise Team
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the Narthex for our Fellowship Time, hosted by the Youth Mission Trip Teams. They will be showing pictures from their mission trips. 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

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, \$150 a Sunday during our Sanctuary 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 27 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf.

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and music prior to the service.
August 27 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf 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

Congregational Meeting

Please see today's bulletin insert for information about our *Congregational Meeting* after the 10 am service today.

Tower Tour

Tour guide Tim VanFleet will take you on a climb up the majestic Church Tower after today's 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

Lucyna de Barbaro and Ayres Freitas' newly constructed *Passive House* is a state-of-the-art demonstration of energy efficiency in building construction. 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* today from 11:30 am-4 pm. Their address is 2883 Fernwald Rd, 15217. All interested people are welcome.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Free blood pressure screenings are available after today's 10 am service in the 1st floor Library. All are welcome!

PW Bible Study Books Available

The new PW Bible Study books will be available in the Narthex after the 10 am service today and next Sunday.

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.

Today's Deacon on Duty

Today's summer service DOD is **Liz Gonda**.



LGBTQ Ministry Event – 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.

Young Adult Ministry: First Friday @ Unity – Sept 1

Can you handle the truth? This *First Friday @ Unity* coffeehouse evening will include fellowship, treats and lots of Fair Trade PLUS Café Justo coffee. Participants are asked to bring a poem, song, reading, scripture, story or anything creative to share with the group focused on the theme of truth, as well as to bring a dessert to share at the TRAIL young adult event on Friday, Sept 1 at 7 pm at Unity PC (1146 Greentree Rd, Greentree 15220).

PW Bible Study – Sept 5 and 11

Join Presbyterian Women for their first Bible Study lesson titled *In Community with Jesus Christ* on Tuesday, Sept 5 at 10 am in the Social Hall and/or Monday, Sept 11 at 7 pm in the McKelvy Room. This year's study appears to be as stimulating and thought-provoking as those of prior years.

Grab Your Paint Brush – Sept 8 and 9

If you can wield a paint brush for a few hours, ELPC's Mission Board needs your help in supporting one of our local partners on Sept 8 and/or 9. *Open Door Housing* provides affordable, safe, and supportive housing for individuals living with HIV who are not eligible for more traditional housing programs. This not-for-profit grass roots entity is rehabbing their 15-unit apartment complex on Pittsburgh's North Side and has 15 doors that need painters. This is your chance to literally brighten the day for a vulnerable and underserved population. Contact Michele Bossers for more info (412.303.9243).



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!



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

Linda Addlespurger's daughter
Kate and her partner,
Diana Armstrong, John Bavaro,
Linda Benedict's parents Tom and Lois,
Patrice Fowler-Searcy's mother, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,
Lee Lewand, Gail Mallory's friend Ailene, Pat Valoon,
Anthony White, and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

*Congratulations to Cami and Jon Teacoach on
the birth of their son Bennett.*

Condolences to the family of Reese McClellan on his passing.

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

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

Justice *Today, 11:15 am (McKehry Room)*
Finance & Stewardship *Today, 11:30 am (Session Room)*
Neighbors *Today, 11:30 am (1st fl Workroom)*
Youth & Young Adult *Tuesday, 5:30 pm (TBD)*

Workday with OHM – Sept 9

All ages and skill levels are welcome to help *Open Hand Ministries* rehab an abandoned house into a quality, affordable home for a family from 9 am-3 pm on Saturday, Sept 9. For details, please contact Emily Rosenthal (EJR116@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy (412.441.3800 x130).

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.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Health Care Forum – Aug 27

A person's zip code can be a predictor of overall health in addition to other factors, including race and genetics. And it's not just life expectancy — access to quality care, healthy behaviors, safety and quality of life are all affected by where one lives. Hear from the leading experts on health issues that impact the African-American community and how we can become healthier no matter where we live on Sunday, Aug 27 at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church (271 Paulson Ave, East Liberty). A community reception will be held from 1:30-2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the health forum from 2:30-4 pm.

You can preregister for this event by calling 412.263.3850, or visiting www.promo.post-gazette.com/healthforum.

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).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

will resume on Rally Day Sunday, Sept 10

LGBTQ Ministry – Sept 10

All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next monthly spiritual gathering will be on Sunday, Sept 10 at Noon. We will have a special focus on allies. See Wil for details. All people are welcome!

Hope Academy's Fall Term Kicks Off – Sept 19

Hope Academy's theater, music, and dance classes, and private lessons begin on Tuesday, Sept 19. Course brochures and registration forms are available online or at the front desk. Please contact Karly Threats with questions or for more info (412.441.3800 x117; KarlyT@coh.net).

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).

Take a break from serving at the *Summer Celebration of Service* on Aug 24 from 6-7:30 pm. No RSVP, just come!