



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412/441-3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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 27, 2017 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### TIME OF PREPARATION

“The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.”  
— *The Theological Declaration of Barmen*, 8.17

### GATHERING MUSIC

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (*songbook* #1)  
“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” (*songbook* #2)  
“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil” (*songbook* #3)

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### \* SHARING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Frances Wilson

Leader: Give us, God, a vision of your world as love would make it:

People: **A world whose benefits are shared, so that everyone can enjoy them;**

Leader: A world whose different people and cultures live with tolerance and mutual respect;

People: **A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is fired with love;**

All: **And give us the courage to build it, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Leader: Let us together worship God!

### \* HYMN

“Lead Me, Guide Me” (*songbook* #4)

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Callahan

*(Congregational responses from The Theological Declaration of Barmen)*

Leader: God of grace and glory, we confess that we have leaned too mightily on our own strength, lived into our own agendas, and pursued our own plans, rather than seeking your guidance or trusting in you.

People: **We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification.**

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

---

August 27 • 12th Sunday after Pentecost

---

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

- Leader: We confess that we have given our hearts to the whims of the world and the trends of the day, rather living out your message of redemptive love.
- People: **We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.**
- Leader: We confess that we have become consumed by the climate of fear, hate, and divisiveness that has dominated the discourse of our nation, rather than building your peaceable kingdom here on earth.
- People: **We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the church's vocation as well.**
- Leader: We confess that we have fallen short as individuals and as your church, failing to love you with wholeness of heart, mind, soul and strength, and neglecting to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- People: **We reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes and plans.**
- Leader: Free us, we pray, from attitudes that lead us to sin. Guide our actions so that we might fall in step with your will. Unify us as your people in our common mission to proclaim your good news, and in loving others, as you first loved us.
- All: **The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS      *(The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.14)*      The Rev. Callahan

Leader: As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!      In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**¡Alaben a Dios!      Praise God!**

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN      "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (*songbook* #5)

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Judges 13:1-8      The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN      The Rev. 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      "Lord, Prepare Me" (*songbook* #6)      SANCTUARY

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Judges 13:8-24      The Rev. Schoenewolf and Isaiah Wilson

SERMON      "What Makes Us Strong"      The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

**MINUTE FOR MISSION PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Sherry Anderson

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Sherry Anderson

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Hal Hopson

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand*

*Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see.*

*The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,*

*I see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me:*

*A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,*

*And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:*

*From the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.*

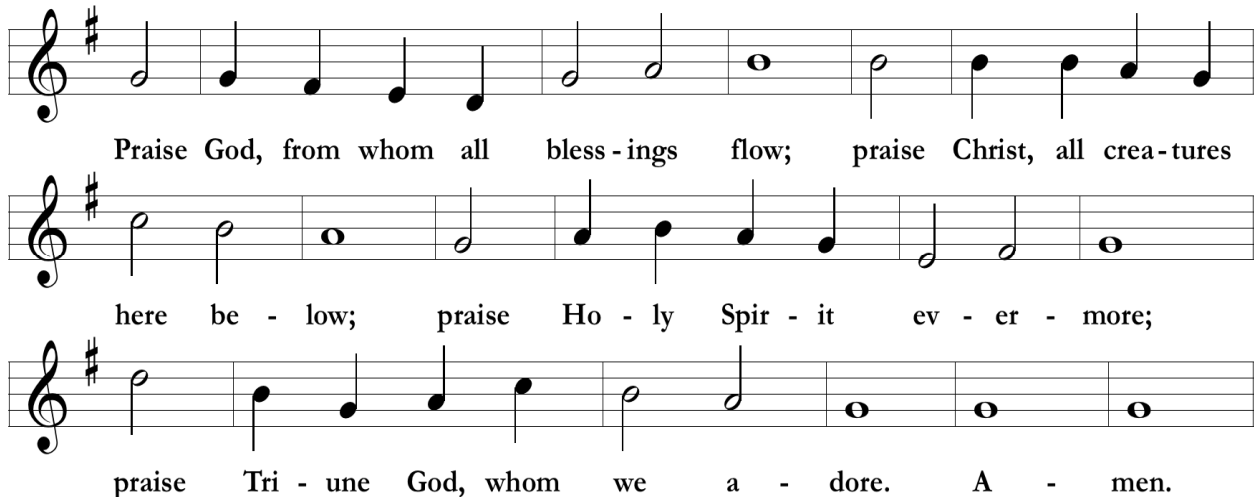
*The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness. Amen*

*Adoramus te, O Domine Jesu Christe.*

*(We adore Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ.)*

**\* 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.

**\* 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: God of life, we offer to you that with which you have blessed us, and the whole of ourselves. May we be strengthened by your Spirit to do your reconciling work in the world, proclaiming the good news of your redemptive love in word and in deed. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock, our redeemer, and our hope.

People: **Amén.**

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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**

“O for a World” (*songbook #7*)

AZMON

**\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

*Some prayers or liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, copyright 2012.*

♦ **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Sherry Anderson  
Frances Wilson  
Isaiah Wilson  
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**

*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.  
*September 3* — 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.  
*September 3* — 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* on **October 1 and 8** to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch is provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### 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 **Sonya Morley**.



### ELPC Bicentennial Volunteer Opportunity

In preparation for our church's bicentennial, we have begun recording memories from long-time church members. A volunteer is needed who is willing to listen to these interviews and assist us in determining ways to use this material creatively, and help us make sure we are asking the right questions of our interviewees. Willing to help and have a computer handy? See Pastor Randy or Wil.

**No Committee Meetings This Week**



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**Journey Worship** Returns at 8:45 am in the **Social Hall**.

The Christian Education Committee welcomes you back to **Church School** at 9:45 am, as classes resume for all ages.

Before class, stop by the McKelvy Room for a light breakfast. Greet old friends and make new ones. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 am.



**Sanctuary Worship** Returns at 11:00 am.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Visitor's Sunday and the Church Life Sampler follows the 11:00 am Worship Service in the Social Hall.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Church Picnic follows the 11:00 am Worship Service with seating in the Social Hall and Courtyard.

### 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.

### The Chapel Market Needs You!

Volunteers are needed to assist with shopping on Mondays from 10 am-12 pm with sorting and stocking the store on Wednesdays. A few hours a month will make a tremendous difference in the life of a neighbor. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Harold and Linda Deiss at [deissl@consolidated.net](mailto:deissl@consolidated.net) or Pastor Patrice at [Patricefs@coh.net](mailto:Patricefs@coh.net).

**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.





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

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, Judy Roberts,  
Bennett Teacoach, Jean Thomas' brother Bill,  
Jamee Todd, Pat Valoon, Anthony White,  
and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

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

*Martha DeMarzi would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards.*

### 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).

### 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).

### 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!

**i SERVE**  
LOVE IN ACTION

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

◆ Club 116 Dinner Provider ◆

### Looking for a way to put your love in action?

Contact Wil (412.441.3800 x114). Visit the iSERVE webpage at [www.ELPC.church/programs/iserive-2](http://www.ELPC.church/programs/iserive-2) to learn about other service opportunities.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



### Health Care Forum – Today

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.

### 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).



### 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).

### 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 *Taijé 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.