



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 26, 2018 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

"To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there." — *Kofi Atta Annan. The late, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and 2001 Nobel Peace Prize co-recipient*

"My story is a freedom song of struggle. It is about finding one's purpose, how to overcome fear and to stand up for causes bigger than one's self." — *Coretta Scott King, author, activist, civil rights leader, and the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

GATHERING MUSIC

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" (*songbook #1*)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

"We Gather Together" (*songbook #2*)

KREMSER

"Let Us Build a House" (*songbook #3*)

TWO OAKS

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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 (*Psalm 84*)

Barbara DeWitt

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!

People: **Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Leader: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

People: **O Lord of Hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

Leader: Let us worship God in the spirit of holiness!

* OPENING HYMN

"Come! Live in the Light!" (*songbook #4*)

WE ARE CALLED

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

O God, redeem us, for we stand in need of forgiveness. We squander your mercy when we abuse your creation. We slander our neighbors and seek not your peace. Nations rise up against nations, and threats of terrorism fill the air. Those without work find no hope of relief. The homeless wander without protection from harm. Christ had compassion on all those who suffered. Cleanse us of the sin that closes our hearts to those you created and love.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!**
¡Alaben a Dios y Amén!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God and Amen!

SUNG RESPONSE

"Hallelujah" (*songbook* #5)

HALLELUJAH

SCRIPTURE LESSON

II Thessalonians 2:1-17

Mark DeWitt

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Presentation of: Francesca Joy Stelitano, daughter of Nick A. and Laura E. Stelitano
Reaffirmation of Faith
Act of Baptizing

*** HYMN**

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (*songbook* #6)

SPIRIT

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Standing Firm"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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

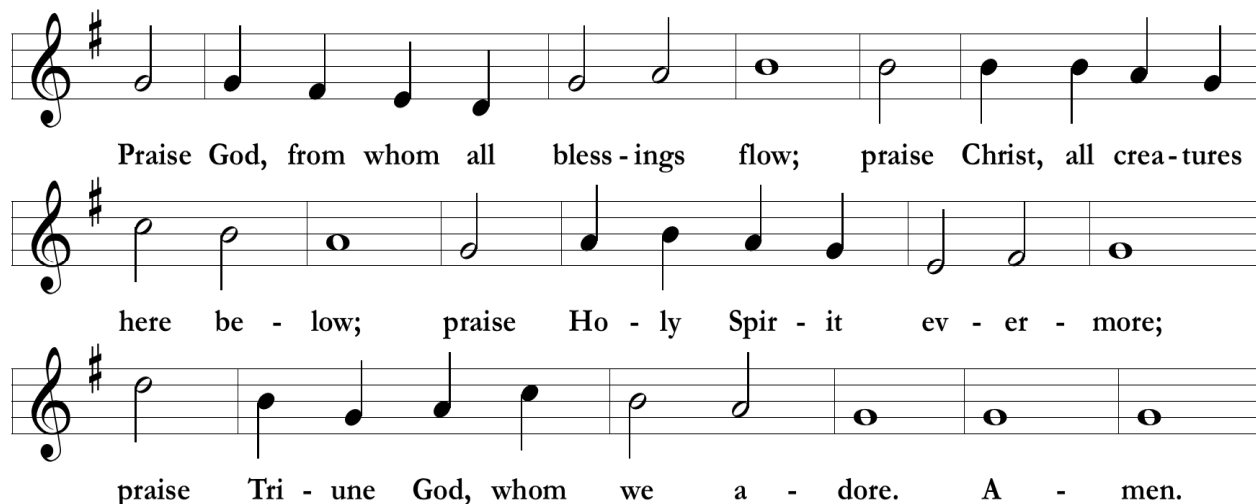
"Praise to the Lord"

Hugo Distler
text: Joachim Neander

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

* 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

The Rev. Dr. Bush
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.
praise.**

Leader: God of goodness and mercy, we bring our offerings to you. We laud you with thanksgiving for the blessings you bestow. You fill us with hope; we give you our commitment. You instill confidence in us; we offer you our trust. You teach us how to sacrifice; we seek to be faithful. All that we have we place before you. Use us and mold us to conform to your will.

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

Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (*songbook* #7)

AR HYDY NOS

* 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. Dr. Randall K. Bush
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Barbara and Mark DeWitt
Musicians: Michael Painter, *Accompanist*
Linda Sanders, *Choir Director*
David Jennings Smith, *Cantor*
ELPC Summer Choir
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our Fellowship Time will be held in the Narthex. Please join us there following the service. 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 Mrs. Fannie E. Williams on her birthday, from the Williams, Fabilli and Motley families.

♦ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Journey Worship will resume on Rally Day Sunday, Sept 9 at 8:45 am in the Social Hall.

10 am.....**Summer Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir.
Sept 2 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.



*Additional seating
is available in the
first floor Garth
Overlook Room*

Summer Extended Session

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

Available 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 the *Inquirers' Classes* on **Sept 30 and Oct 7** 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.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

Church Events and Announcements

August 26, 2018 • 14th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY AT ELPC

The Great Exchange: The Great Outdoors

Folks of all ages are invited to participate in *The Great Exchange* today following worship. Together, across the generations, we will explore fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of *nature*. We will have a simple lunch while sharing our stories with one another in the Social Hall. No preparation necessary, just come and enjoy!

Soul Food Adult CE Class

The Soul Food adult Christian Education class will meet today after worship in the Highland Room.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

The summer worship service DOD is **Liz Gonda**.

Live-Streaming of our Service on Facebook

Portions of our Sunday worship service are streamed live on our Facebook page each week. So even when you travel, you can worship with your ELPC family!



NO Committee Meetings This Week

Presbyterian Women Bible Study – Sept 4

Presbyterian Women will begin our monthly Bible studies on Tuesday, Sept 4 (10 am) and Monday, Sep 10 (7 pm). The Tuesday session will include a potluck lunch with soup and will meet in the High School Room, aka, Second Floor Parlor; lunch in Room 224. Bring your own table service and a side to share. Monday's group will meet in the Harambe room.

Bible study books will be available after the 10 am service on Aug 26 and Sept 2 in the narthex, as well as at the first sessions.

ALL women at ELPC are members of PW. We hope one of these times will make it possible for you to join us.

Young Adult Ministry Event – Sept 7

Join other YAMs Friday, Sept 7 at 7 pm at Unity Presbyterian Church. *It is time to have your voice heard!* This 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, a story or anything creative to share with the group focused on the theme of #MeToo, as well as to bring a dessert to share. Contact Wil Forrest for more info (Wil@coh.net).



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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. Classes resume for all ages.

Before class, stop by the Fellowship 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 16

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The Church Picnic follows the 11:00 am Worship Service. This is a wonderful time of food and fellowship—allowing people to get better acquainted with our church friends and members who make ELPC so special.

For a complete listing of worship services and class offerings, please visit www.ELPC.church.

Unparalleled Views from Our Tower – Sept 9

Join tour guide Tim VanFleet on Sunday, Sept 9 to climb the heights of our church's landmark central tower. High above the bustle of the streets below, you will have an opportunity to view the entire East Liberty valley and beyond. The climb requires a bit of stamina. Comfortable shoes and pants are suggested. The tour is not recommended for small children. Please gather at the South Highland Ave entrance following 11 am worship.

Facing Systemic Racism – Sept 22

The next program in our *Facing Systemic Racism* series is titled *Uncovering Your Racial Autobiography* on Saturday, Sept 22. The Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Dean of Students at PTS will lead as we explore our own racial autobiography.

We will share a potluck meal in the Social Hall at 5:30 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. The program runs from 6-8 pm. Childcare is available with a reservation by leaving a message at 412.441.3800 x140.



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

Bill and Lynn Buchanan's son Paul,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Wil Forrest and his brother Loren,
Karen Fraser,
Lee Lewand, Barbara Krimmel,
Paul Martin's wife Danielle,
Polly McQueen's sister Lisa and children,
Marti Moore,
Karen Overfield's husband Russ, Rhonda Perroz,
Janet Pollard's mother, brother and son,
Erin Starzynski's mother Judy.

*Condolences to **Tim Benedict** on the passing of his brother Mark.*

A Note of Thanks ...

Martha DeMarzi would like to thank everyone for their cards, notes and prayers following the passing of her sister.

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

LGBTQ Ministry – Sept 23

All are invited to the next monthly gathering on Sunday, Sept 23 at 1 pm. Grab a plate at the church picnic and join us. Contact Wil Forrest for more details or to attend. *God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.*

Connections Dinner Groups

It's time again to form new Connections Dinner groups. What are Connection Dinners? They are small groups of 8-12 people who meet monthly or bimonthly and share a meal together. The meal can be at someone's home, a restaurant or at the church. Connections Dinners are a great way to meet new people at ELPC and make new friends. If you are interested in joining a group this fall please email Elaine Phillips at connectelc@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is October 1.

Looking for a way to put your love in action?

i SERVE
LOVE IN ACTION

If you have something to share, visit the iSERVE webpage at www.ELPC.church/programs/iserve-2, or contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

♦ **Needed: Meal Providers for Club 116 This Fall** ♦

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



"Sanctuary" Artwork by ELPC Members

Concept Art Gallery (1031 South Braddock Ave next to the Regent Square Theater) is hosting a show of work by congregation members Doug Cooper and Stefani Danes called *Sanctuary: Sacred Space in a Secular World*.

Proceeds from sales will benefit the *Building Our Future* campaign. At the conclusion of the exhibition on Aug 31, the piece *City Church City* will be installed at ELPC. Stop by Concept Art Gallery to see the exhibit before it's over!

Make Breakfast for EECM Residents

Volunteers provide breakfast for the residents of EECM each Sunday. However, the 5th Sunday of the month needs to be filled (Sept 30 and/or Dec 30)! If you are interested in helping provide food and/or serve, contact Jan Herzer (412.231.3819).

Extended Session Volunteer Team

Extended Session is the program that ministers to children in preschool through first grade during the second half of our weekly Sanctuary worship service. A complement to our 11 am service (at present we are in our summer worship schedule), *Extended Session* includes time for worship and time for play. Christian Education is assembling a volunteer team to assist our staff with this important ministry on a rotational basis. If you have a heart for nurturing the faith of children, please reach out to Sara Hackett for more details (SaraH@coh.net).

Please note that all adults who work with children or youth at ELPC must receive their criminal background and Act 33/34 clearances, as well as complete training in our *ELPC Child Safety Policy* and the state's mandatory reporter on-line training.



**Volunteers will be needed. No donations at this time.
MORE INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!**