



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)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

"The internal life of congregations has too often become an end in itself. To see the activities of the gathered community as the development of moral agents called to responsible life as agents of God's reconciling work in a broken world can provide purpose to many congregations that have turned in upon themselves, and unity to congregations whose social witness is seen as an optional interest for only some of their members...The truth is that the scattered life of the church is as fundamentally biblical as the gathered life of the church." — *Bible & Ethics in the Christian Life* by Bruce Birch and Larry Rasmussen

GATHERING MUSIC

"In Christ There is No East or West" (songbook #1)

ST. PETER

"Dona Nobis Pacem" (songbook #2)

DONA NOBIS PACEM

"Amen" (songbook #3)

AMEN

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 15)

James Eng

Leader: The psalmist of old asked these questions: Who may abide in the presence of God?

People: **Who may live on God's holy mountain?**

Leader: The answer given was this: All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

People: All those who speak truth from their heart.

Leader: Let us truly be doers of what is good and come together now to worship our God.

* HYMN

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" (songbook #4)

ST. CATHERINE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

¡Alaben a Dios!

Praise God!

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

Sept 2 • 15th Sunday after Pentecost

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

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

“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name” (songbook #5)

COME, SHARE THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 1:17-25

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“When Good Things Come from Imperfect People”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”

Tom Fettke

text based on Psalm 8

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers; the moon and stars suspended in space. Oh, what are we that you are mindful of us?

You have given us a crown of glory and honor, and have made us a little lower than the angels. You have put us in charge of all creation: the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. Oh, what are we? Oh, what are we that you are mindful of us?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly, and so would we.

Alleluia! Alleluia! The majesty and glory of your name. Alleluia! Alleluia!

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

The communion bread is being presented by Sofia Sunseri and Rick, Gianna and Lilliana Watling.



Sept 2 • 15th Sunday after Pentecost

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Callahan

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

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 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” (songbook #6)

BEACH SPRING

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Holy God, you remind us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. You graciously feed us with bread and provide for us the cup that we might be sustained in our daily walk of righteousness. For this and so much more, to you be all glory and honor and praise now and always. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!” (songbook #7)

FESTAL SONG

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Dr. Bush



Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. 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. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
James Eng
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Michael Painter, *Accompanist*
ELPC Summer Choir
Beadle: Matthew Stufft
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Narthex after worship for our Fellowship Time, sponsored by the Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. 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 honor of the wedding of Leigh Halverson and Nathaniel Hanson, held yesterday at ELPC.

If you would like to purchase flowers for our Sanctuary worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Norma (412.441.3800 x111). The cost is \$150 a Sunday.

♦ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Sept 9, is Rally Day, and our regular worship schedule will resume.

8:45 am.....Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
Sept 9 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 9 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

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 an *Inquirers' Class* after worship on Sept 30 or Oct 7 from 12:30-2:30 pm to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp for more info about the classes (412.441.3800 x122; GloriaK@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

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 **Matthew Stuftt**.

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!



Presbyterian Women Bible Study — Sept 4

Presbyterian Women will begin their 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 (2nd floor Parlor) followed by lunch. 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 today 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 YAMs for the TRAIL event *First Friday @ Unity* on Sept 7 at 7 pm at Unity Presbyterian Church. 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).

Knitting and Sewing Groups — Sept 4 and 17

New helpers of all skill levels are always welcome to join the groups. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; dnjcks@verizon.net).

- ♦ *Knitting Group* — Tuesday, Sept 4, 1–3 pm
- ♦ *Sewing Group* — Monday, Sept 17, 2:30–6 pm

Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes — Sept 9

On Rally Day, Sunday, Sept 9, we will resume our regular Sunday schedule with Journey worship at 8:45 am, Church School at 9:45 am, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am. The Christian Education Committee will host breakfast to welcome everyone back to Church School at 9:30 am. Grab a bite to eat and greet friends in the Fellowship Room on the first floor before heading to class.

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, titled *Uncovering Your Racial Autobiography*, will be held on Saturday, Sept 22. The Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Dean of Students at PTS, will lead us to 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.

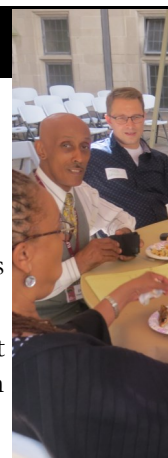
INVITE FRIENDS TO EXPLORE OUR FAITH FAMILY

September is a great time to encourage your friends and neighbors to visit ELPC and consider making our church part of their faith journey.

So often, once people explore our beautiful building, meet our congregation members, and learn about our diverse mission, educational, and spiritual life offerings, they decide to become a friend or member of our church.

Visitors' Sunday and the **Church Life Sampler** on **Sunday, Sept 16**, provide both a time of welcome for guests and an opportunity in the Social Hall to learn about ELPC's wide array of programs.

The **Church Picnic** on **Sunday, Sept 23**, 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. The Christian Education Committee will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, and potato salad. Bring a side dish/salad to share!





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

Michele Bossers' cousin Laura,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Wil Forrest and his brother Loren, Karen Fraser,
Barbara Krimmel, Lee Lewand,
Marti Moore, Gail Noden,
Karen Overfield's husband Russ,
Janet Pollard's mother, brother, son, and friend Karen.

*Condolences to **Tim Benedict** on his brother's passing.*

*Condolences to **Dave Gilliland** on his mother's passing.*

Committee Meetings This Week

The church building will be closed tomorrow. Happy Labor Day!

Christian Ed.....Tuesday, 6:30 pm (Rm 227)
Property.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (2nd fl Library)
Worship, Music & Arts.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Highland Rm)
Environmental.....Wednesday, 1:30 pm (Trustees Rm)

LGBTQ Ministry – Sept 23

All are invited to the next LGBTQ 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 (Wil@coh.net).

Connections Dinner Groups

It's time again to form new *Connections Dinner* groups. They are small groups of 8-12 people who meet monthly or bimonthly and share a meal together, either at someone's home, a restaurant or at ELPC. *Connections Dinners* are a great way to meet new people at ELPC and make new friends. If you are interested in joining, contact Elaine Phillips (connectelc@gmail.com). Deadline: Oct 1.

Blessing of the Animals Service – Oct 6

Our service of the *Blessing of the Animals* will be held on Saturday, Oct 6 at 3 pm. Please bring your pets (on leashes!) to the Penn Ave steps of ELPC. A part of the service will be devoted to our pets who are no longer with us, but remain in our hearts and at our sides. You are encouraged to bring a collar or toy to be blessed. Water will be provided. We look forward to welcoming you all! In case of rain, our service will move into the Narthex.

Looking for a way to put your 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



Celebration of Humanity Awards – Sept 13

Northside Common Ministries' annual *Celebration of Humanity* awards for outstanding volunteers who help the hungry and homeless in our community will be held on Thursday, Sept 13 at 6 pm at Nova Place (100 South Commons, 15212, old Allegheny Center Mall). Tickets are on sale for \$50 (includes an appetizer and dessert buffet, drinks and entertainment by the Pittsburgh Banjo Club). For tickets, visit www.ncmin.org, or call 412.323.1163 x7.

C A T H E D R A L

RUMMAGE

SAT
NOV 3
9am-2pm

SALE

Volunteers will be needed. No donations at this time.

For more info, please contact:

Lora Bethea (ljazzbo@aol.com)

Tony Richardson (overthepond_50@hotmail.com)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 9 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) – “Welcome Back & Introduction” facilitated by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) – Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; Psalm 125; James 2:1–17; Mark 7:24–37 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “International Volunteer Experiences” led by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (3rd floor Music Rm) – A gathering and preview session led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Michele Bossers and Steve Evrard. On Sept 16 we will begin discussing *Surrender to Love* by David Benner

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor – Find rooms, teachers and curriculum at www.ELPC.church