



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)

DECEMBER 30, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

TIME OF PREPARATION

"I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of eternity in among the rush and patter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that, after all, is the ideal!" — *Evelyn Underhill, Letters*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Michael Painter, *organ*
Wilbur Held

"Six Carol Settings"
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Of the Father's Love Begotten
God Rest You Merry

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.
Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

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

Lenore Williams

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

People: **For Christ has been born in Bethlehem. Let all the world adore him, our incarnate Lord and loving Savior.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sara Hackett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sara Hackett

Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that you have revealed to us in the birth of your Son. You sent Christ to us as a helpless child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children. You chose humble Mary to be the mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem and we too have not attended to the cry of the homeless. Forgive our lack of attention and free us for joyful compassion, that we may fully know Christ through our service to others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Sara Hackett

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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Lenore Williams

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

There is no Extended Session program today. Children are invited to worship with their families.

*** HYMN #139**

“That Boy-Child of Mary”

BLANTYRE

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

The Rev. Jim Davidson

SERMON

“One Child Left Behind”

The Rev. Davidson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.

OFFERING INVITATION

Lenore Williams

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 MUSIC

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

arr. H. Barrie Cabena

*** 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Davidson
Lenore Williams

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: On this day, we are grateful for hearts made joyful in the Christmas gift of your Son. You, O God, are generosity itself. Bless these offerings to the benefit of those in need. Bless our lives in the service of sharing your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

People: **Amen.**

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.**

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Davidson

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in D”

George Dyson

Our worship concludes with the postlude. For the benefit of those who wish to listen to the postlude, please refrain from visiting with your neighbors until you have left the sanctuary, or until the postlude has concluded.



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

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♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Jim Davidson
*Co-pastor of Lincoln Place
Presbyterian Church, honorably retired*

Liturgists: Sara Hackett
The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes
Lenore Williams

Musicians: Michael Painter, *Organist*

Soloists: Carly Black
Adrianna Cleveland
Todd Farwell

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us for our *Fellowship Time* after worship in the 1st floor Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x118).

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

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

8:45 am.....**Journey.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
Jan 6 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 6 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Extended Session

There is no Extended Session program today.
Children are invited to worship with their families.

♦ 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 (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

♦ NEW YEAR'S EVE

6:50 am**World Healing Day.** Join us in body or spirit from 6:50–8 am for meditation and a walk on the labyrinth in the Social Hall.

9 am.....**Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat.**
Review the year ending and consider intentions into the year ahead at this mini-retreat from 9 am–12 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor. A light breakfast will be provided.

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 Fellowship Room. 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* on **February 3 and 10** from 12:30-2 pm to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more information (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

December 30, 2018 • 1st Sunday after Christmas

TODAY AT ELPC

Take Home Christmas Decorations

Well-used church Christmas decorations will be free to a good home! While they cannot be utilized at church anymore, you may find crafty re-uses of them at home. Please see the selection available today after the 11 am worship service. Enter the doors to the right of the Chancel in the West Transept where items will be available outside the Christmas Room.

College Reunion for Young Adults

College-age young adults are invited to catch up over lunch following this morning's Sanctuary worship. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Sara Hackett (412.673.2926).

Church Tour

All are welcome to join the *Sanctuary and Chapel* tour after the 11 am worship service. Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after today's service.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Matt Stufft**.



Love to Cook or Bake?

If you enjoy cooking or baking, you can put your talents and gifts to use by providing a hearty meal for *Club 116*, which still needs food providers in 2019! Many dates are available from Jan 9 through May. Please contact Jim DiGiorgio to sign-up or with questions (JimD@coh.net).



World Healing Day — Dec 31

Join us in body or spirit from 6:50–8 am on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec 31 for meditation and a walk on the labyrinth in the Social Hall. Add your love and light to the healing of this world. We invite you to then stay for the Spiritual Life Committee's *Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat* beginning at 9 am in the 2nd floor Parlor.



**The Labyrinth will be available
daily through New Year's Eve
in the Social Hall.**



**Welcome Desk
Help Needed on
Thursdays, 6:30-8pm**



Contact Jim DiGiorgio for more info (JimD@coh.net)

Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat — Dec 31

Find God in your life as you review the year ending and consider intentions as you look forward into the year ahead at our *Year-End Examen Retreat* on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec 31 from 9 am–Noon in the 2nd floor Parlor. Continental breakfast provided.

Chatham Baroque in Concert — Jan 5

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues at 8 pm on Saturday, Jan 5, with a performance by Chatham Baroque in the Chapel. Regarded as one of the country's most distinguished period ensembles, Chatham Baroque has excited local, national, and international audiences for nearly 30 years with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th and 18th century music, played on instruments of the time. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members from Dr. Edward Alan Moore.



Winter Rally Day — Jan 6

As we gather for Church School on Sunday, Jan 6, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. Grab a bite to eat on your way to class, and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

Church Tours — Jan 6 and 27

All are welcome to join any of our church tours following the 11 am worship service on these dates:

- ✦ Jan 6—*Sanctuary and Chapel*
- ✦ Jan 27—*Stained Glass*

Bible Study — Jan 7 and 8

All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women as they continue their Bible study titled *God With Us When We're Powerless* on Monday, Jan 7 at 7 pm, and Tuesday, Jan 8 at 10 am. Monday's group will meet for Bible study and fellowship in the Harambe Room. Tuesday's group will meet for Bible study in the 2nd floor Parlor, followed by a potluck lunch. Soup will be provided, but please bring a side or salad to share, as well as your own place setting.



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

Sue Bailey,
Kelli Booher,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Laura Dobrich's nephew,
Katelyn Haas' friend's mother Pamela,
Lee Lewand,
Pen Lytle,
Emily Mohn-Slate's mother-in-law Karena,
and Jerry Wrzosek.

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

No Committee Meetings This Week

*The church office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.
The ELPC pastors and staff
wish you and yours a blessed and Happy New Year!*

Do You Enjoy Crafts? — Jan 8, 9, 23 and 28

Consider joining one of our “hands on” groups to use your skills to care for others. We share lots of fellowship, along with our patterns, problems, and projects. All ages and skills are welcome. Contact Diane Jackson (dnjcks@verizon.net; 412.441.6021) for more info about these groups.

- ✦ *Knitting Group*—Tuesday, Jan 8, 1–3 pm
- ✦ *Toy Makers*—Wednesday, Jan 9 & 23, 9 am–12 pm
- ✦ *Sewing Group*—Monday, Jan 28, 2:30–6 pm

Tween Night — Jan 13

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun at *Tween Night* on Sunday, Jan 13 from 4–6 pm. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends! Contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Ministry Events — January

Contact Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (KelliB@coh.net; 405.501.0711) for details about these young adult ministry events:

- ✦ Friday, Jan 4: “REcipe” *First Friday Potluck*, 7 pm
- ✦ Sunday, Jan 6: “REsolution, REsponsibility, or RELuctance” *YAM Sunday School Class*, 9:45 am
- ✦ Tuesday, Jan 15: “REjoice” *Ring in the New Year with Handbells*, 7 pm
- ✦ Sunday, Jan 27: “REflect” *Stained Glass and Mosaic Class*, 12:30 pm

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 20

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Jan 20. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Samaritan Counseling Workshop — Begins in January

If you are close to someone with a personality disorder, you're most likely to feel ill at ease, frustrated, highly stressed, confused, manipulated and misled! So what on earth can you do about it? Led by a licensed therapist, the *My Life Is Upside-Down Workshop* takes place in a safe, private environment where you will be supported and affirmed. This workshop will help you to understand the most common personality disorders; explore how you are affected (by the person with the disorder); manage the stress that you are experiencing; and learn techniques for coping and taking care of yourself. Join this workshop by calling Samaritan at 412.741.7430. Space is limited! Samaritan accepts most insurances and offers financial aid for those who qualify.

Does Science Threaten Belief? — Jan 26

Plan on joining us for an opportunity to look more closely at your faith as we spend the day with ELPC member Kevin Seybold on Saturday, Jan 26 in the McKelvy Room from 9 am–4:30 pm. Kevin will lead us through a day of study and reflection based on a video series that uses interviews with world renowned theologians and scientists to explore *Test of Faith: Does Science Threaten Belief?*



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Jan 6 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) — “Faith and Personal Finances” facilitated by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14; Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “The Paradoxes of Peace in the Middle East” led by Pastor Randy Bush

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A continuing discussion of selections from *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman, facilitated by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard and Michele Bossers.

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

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