



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 1, 2019 • 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs. Her blindness had a profound impact on her life, faith, and work. Composer Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908) played a new melody for Crosby and asked her what she thought the tune said. Crosby replied "Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine." The text and tune have been inseparable since.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Faithful God, in Jesus you show us a way of humility and hospitality with power to transform our world. Give us the grace to love those things that please you and the courage to live them to your glory.
Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

"Riches and honor are what people desire; but if they attain to them by improper ways, they should not continue to hold them. Poverty and low estate are what people dislike; but if they are brought to such condition by improper ways, they should not feel shame for it." (*Confucius*)

GATHERING MUSIC

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" (*songbook #1*) NICAIA
"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" (*songbook #2*) ASSURANCE
"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" (*songbook #3*) MADRID

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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 (*from Hebrews 13*)

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Leader: God calls us to service,
People: **Rather than to seek honor.**
Leader: God calls us to love the unknown,
People: **Rather than gravitate only to what is familiar.**
Leader: We come to this time of worship, trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,
People: **Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**
Leader: As part of Christ's beloved community, let us lift our hearts and worship God!

* HYMN

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" (*songbook #4*) CALM SEAS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends, let us believe the good news of the gospel:
People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

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

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The parable on humility in Luke 14:7-14 is only found in this gospel. It has faithful advice both for guests and for hosts, so that through this type of genuine hospitality, it is possible for acceptance, mutuality and fellowship to be made real through breaking bread together.

Shall We Gather at the River was composed by American hymn writer and Baptist minister Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Aaron Copland (1900-1990) included the tune in the second set of his *Old American Songs*, in an arrangement for solo voice. It premiered in 1958 with William Warfield as soloist and Copland at the piano. This morning's anthem is an adaptation for SATB chorus of Copland's original.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, 'Come up here,' than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. (Proverbs 25:6-7)

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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

O QUANTA QUALIA

"Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" (songbook #5)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Beyond Categories"

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

"At the River" Aaron Copland/R. Wilding-White

*Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever,
Flowing by the throne of God?*

*Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river,
That flows by the throne of God.*

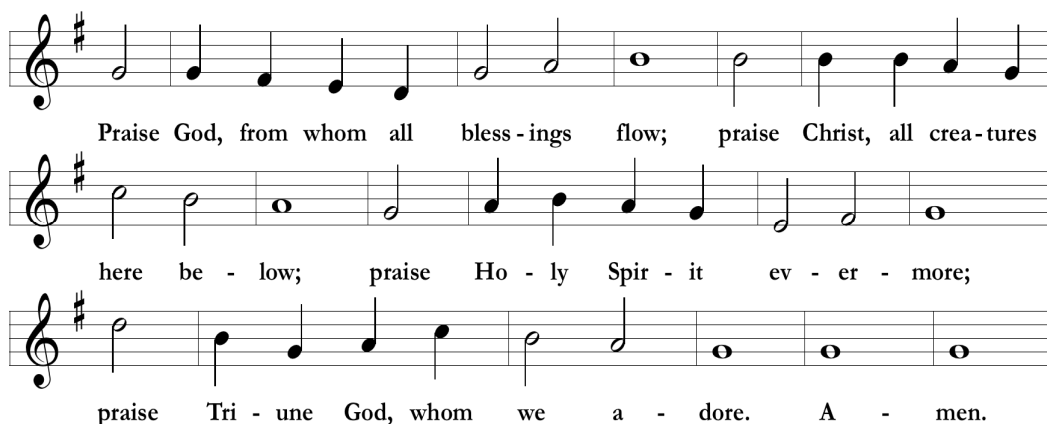
*Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down,
Praise our spirits will deliver,
And provide our robe and crown.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver,
With the melody of peace.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

The communion bread is being presented by Hannah and Kevin Moon.



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.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
Louis XIV of France died
after a reign of 72 years
– the longest of any
European monarch
(1715); World War II
started when Germany
invaded Poland (1939)
and ended on V-J Day
with the formal surrender
of Japan (1945); Danny
Murtaugh of the
Pittsburgh Pirates gave
his lineup card to the
umpire with the names of
nine African American
baseball players on it – a
first for Major League
baseball (1971); and J.K.
Rowling's *Harry Potter*
and *the Sorcerer's Stone*
was released in the
U.S. (1998).

QUESTIONS FOR
REFLECTION:
Where have you seen
relationships redefined
by faith? Who have you
come to claim as a family
member, against all
odds? Who do you still
label "useless"? What
would it take for you to
see that person as a
sister or brother?

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 Rev. Callahan

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
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice.

Gluten-free wafers are also available.

The congregation will be served communion in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN

CHEREPONI

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" (*songbook* #6)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Samantha Lowery

Faithful God, you bless us in Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; who is the host of the communion we've just celebrated; who is our Savior and Guide wherever you may lead us in the days to come. May our lives be a true blessing to all we meet for the sake of your realm of justice, peace, and compassion. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

CANONBURY

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" (*songbook* #7)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush



As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
Sara Hackett
Samantha Lowery
Musicians: Michael Painter, *Accompanist*
Quartet:
Carly Noel Black
Jon Erik Schreiber
Denise Sheffey-Powell
Andrew Wilkinson
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship 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 Wil Forrest (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 \$150 a Sunday.

♦ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.

Sept 8 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.

Sept 8 — 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 38-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Mondays, 8 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 also:

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 **Sept 29 and Oct 6** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register for future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

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



TODAY AT ELPC

LGBTQ Ministry

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry today at 11:30 am as we share food and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcomed. See Wil Forrest to attend.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty

Today's worship service DOD is **Beth Minnigh**.



Israel/Palestine Mission Trip

There are still 2–3 slots available for the ELPC-Temple Sinai mission trip to Israel/Palestine from Nov 10–18. For details, please contact Pastor Randy Bush (RandyB@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x123).

Connections — Begins in October

Connections is an informal way to meet and socialize with other people in the church. New groups of 8–12 people are formed each fall, with the next set starting in October. Anyone can join (new or returning), and all are welcome. The point is to get to know others at ELPC and make connections by hosting or arranging events 4–8 times/year. Most popular options include potlucks in homes or at the church after a service, or meeting at a restaurant or park. Visit www.tiny.cc/elpc-connections to join *Connections* in October, or reach out to Elaine Phillips for details (412.335.8443; connectelpc@gmail.com).

Presbyterian Women Bible Study — Sept 3 and 9

Join Presbyterian Women at 10 am on Tuesday, Sept 3 and/or Monday, Sept 9 at 7 pm as they begin their 2019–2020 Bible study titled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

Next Sunday is Rally Day!

Join us next Sunday, Sept 8 as we return to our regular Sunday worship schedule with two worship services:

- 8:45 am Journey Worship in the Social Hall, and
- Sanctuary worship service at 11 am

Church School classes for all ages also resume next week from 9:45–10:45 am. The Children & Families Ministry Team will host a light breakfast in the Fellowship Room at 9:30 am. All are welcome!



Regular Choir Rehearsals Resume — Sept 5 and 17

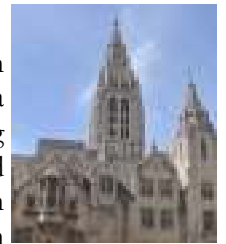
Rehearsals for our Chancel Choir and Journey Praise Team resume on Thursday, Sept 5. The Handbell Choir begins rehearsals on Sept 17. For more info on the ELPC music ministries, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x124).

YAM Event: Coffee Talk — Sept 6

Coffee Talk is an annual event where we meet to drink coffee, relax, and discuss a specific topic. This year's topic is *Grown Up*. Do you consider yourself grown up? Waiting to grow up? What was something you looked forward to as a child when you would think of being a grown up? Bring a story and a dessert to share, Café Justo will be provided. Come hang out on Friday, Sept 6 at 6:30 pm and let's brew up some good conversation!

ELPC Exterior Tour — Sept 8

Tom Morton, an Architectural Historian at the University of Pittsburgh, will lead a tour of the church's exterior, talking about the building's symbolism and architecture of our unique church, on Rally Day Sunday, Sept 8, after the 11 am worship service. Please gather at the Highland Ave lobby.



Free Cathedral Concert: DEANNA WITKOWSKI TRIO

Sunday, September 29, 3 pm



The 9th season of *Cathedral Concerts* season kicks off with the New York City based *Deanna Witkowski Trio* performing a mix of Brazilian, jazz, classical and sacred music. Known for her thrilling performances that combine virtuosity and heart, pianist-composer-vocalist Witkowski returns to Pittsburgh after her recent performances at Heinz Hall with the PSO and at City of Asylum performing an all Mary Lou Williams program. This trio will also be performing during the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Sept 29.



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

David Carl's friend's son Morgan, Tim Chaplin,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law, Agnes Green,
Liz Hopkins' mother Margery, Justin Johnson,
Heather Lawrence's sister Christine, Lee Lewand,
Rhonda Perroz, ELPC employee Robert Polk and his wife,
Jan Pressman's friend Sharon,
Heather Schoenewolf's aunt Mary Lou
and uncle Jim and friend Tony, Tim Sergi's sister Kimberly,
Pat Valoon and her friend Barbara.

Condolences to Samantha Lowery on her grandmother's death.

Condolences to Susan Spangler on her mother's death.

Condolences to the family of Jane Sampson on her passing.

*Congratulations to Kalyn Stewing and Felix Rivera
on the birth of their son Miguel Rivera-Stewing.*

Committee Meetings This Week

The office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

JusticeToday, 11:30 am (Rm 211)
Property.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (2nd fl Library)
Worship, Music & Arts.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Highland Rm)
Facing Systemic Racism...Wednesday, 5:30 pm (Highland Rm)

Renewable Energy Fair – Sept 8

Do you want to find out how to switch to all renewable electricity? Are you trying to decide whether solar panels would work on your house? Do you know how to measure your carbon footprint? To find answers to these questions and other energy use matters, come to the Renewable Energy Fair hosted by the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee in the Social Hall after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sept 8. Representatives of several renewable energy suppliers will be available to answer your questions and to help you make the switch, and a solar energy advisor (bring your electric bill). A light lunch will be provided. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

YAM Weekly Bible Study – Begins Sept 9

Just Engagement: The Power to Change is an eight week Bible Study for YAMs beginning Monday, Sept 9 from 6-8 pm that includes grounding in scripture, and reflection on past and present social movements. Two books are needed for the study; financial assistance is available. This series is sponsored by the Justice Committee. Please contact Kelli Booher to register (Kellib@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

The Chapel Market is in need of fall/winter clothing, toiletry items and diapers (sizes 5/6). Please leave donations at the Highland Ave lobby entrance.

Club One Sixteen – Begins Sept 11

Club one sixteen, ELPC's youth program for children and youth (grades 1–12) begins on Wednesday, Sept 11, from 3:30–7 pm. Students will enjoy fellowship and recreation, a nutritious home-cooked meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study. Please contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Skating Night – Sept 14

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to a themed '80s skating night on Saturday, Sept 14 from 7-10:30 pm. Meet at ELPC and bring \$10. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Life Sampler – Sept 15

Invite a visitor to join us on Sunday, Sept 15 for our *Church Life Sampler* following the 11 am worship service. Ministries, programs, and fellowship opportunities of our church will be on display in the Social Hall. It's a great chance to learn more about the music, mission, and educational work of ELPC—and for guests to receive a gift from us and learn about our church.

Hope Academy's Fall Term – Begins Sept 21

The Fall term of Hope Academy classes begins Sept 21. Visit www.HopeAcademyArts.com to register, apply for scholarships, RSVP for information sessions, or schedule an audition. Additional details are available online, or contact Linda Addlespurger, Hope Academy Director (HopeAcademyArts@gmail.com).

Church Picnic – Sept 22

On Sunday, Sept 22, we will enjoy our annual Church Picnic. ELPC will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, macaroni and potato salads, beverages, and dessert. Please bring a side or salad. Join us as we spend time together as a faith family, enjoying good food and good company.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sept 8 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) – “Getting to Know Us, Getting to Like Us” facilitated by Carolyn Russ, Steering Committee Chair

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Jeremiah 18:1–11; Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; Philemon 1:1–21; Luke 14: 25–33 facilitated by Lora Bethea, Jan Irvin and Samantha Lowery

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “Women Empowerment and Health Care in Cuba” facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A welcome and preview session led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard and Linda Lane

YAM (Good Samaritan Rm) – “Back to (Church) School” by joining the Soul Food Sunday School Class