



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 8, 2019 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP RALLY DAY / 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We welcome our resident brass ensemble, *The Brass Roots*, back to worship this morning for a sixth season at ELPC. They will be joining us in worship six times from now through next May, and for two concerts in December and May. Read more about them at www.thebrassroots.com.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:
Persistent God, as the day begins and the light increases, let me drink deeply of your grace. As the day unfolds, when my heart strays from you, call me back to this moment. As darkness falls and I yield to sleep, call to me in ways beyond my knowing that I may awaken in your love and serve you with all faithfulness and joy. **In Christ's name. Amen.**

TIME OF PREPARATION

"Artists in a way are religious. They have to be, if by religion one means believing that life has some significance, and some meaning, which is what I think it has. An artist couldn't work without believing that."
— Henry Moore, sculptor

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Canzona per Sonare No. 2"
"Overture to Berenice"

The Brass Roots
Giovanni Gabrieli
G.F. Handel
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
The Brass Roots
Jean-Joseph Mouret

"Rondeau"

*Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.
Please use this time to fill out the red Friendship pads and for quiet worship preparation.*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Trish Buben

Leader: Because we have been strengthened by the grace of God, we gather together to offer our sacrifices of praise.
People: God will not forsake or abandon us, but promises justice to the upright of heart.
Leader: God is our stronghold and refuge; it is the steadfast love of God that sustains us.
People: Like a clay pot being shaped by a master artist, we entrust ourselves to the working of God, the mercy of Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit.
Leader: Let us worship God together!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #14

DIX

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

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

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

Don Pedro Menendez founded the first colonial settlement in America at St. Augustine, Florida (1565); the General Court of Massachusetts founded a college with the name of Cambridge, which two years later changed its name to honor the Rev. John Harvard (1636); Richard Drew developed Scotch tape (1930); tennis great Arthur Ashe became the first African American to win the U.S. Open (1968); President Gerald Ford granted a full pardon to former President Nixon (1974); and Mark McGwire set a record for home runs (1998).

You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay? Shall the thing made say of its maker, 'He did not make me'; or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, '[S]he has no understanding'? (Isaiah 29:16)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your mercy and believe you sanction the way we live. Yet we turn away from neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met. Merciful Maker, you created us for better use. Remake us now. Where we are distorted, re-center and reshape us. Then fire our hearts anew until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #695

CHANGE MY HEART

"Change My Heart, O God"

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Erich Stein and Polly McQueen

Psalms 139:1-18

People: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Leader: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

People: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together **in my mother's womb.**

Leader: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

People: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Leader: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

People: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

TEACHER COMMISSIONING

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

INTRODUCTION OF SLOANE DAVIDSON, "HELLO NEIGHBOR"

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

The comparison between God and Israel and the potter and the clay **underscores God's** complete control in this life. The text stresses **that God's decisions** are not capricious but are always responsive to repentance. The tone of the passage highlights **how Judah's sinfulness** has sealed their fate, leading to the coming victory of the Babylonians over Israel.

The hymn tune THAXTED is the *Jupiter* theme from **Gustav Holst's (1874-1934) *The Planets***. Michael Perry (1942-1996) wrote the hymn text *O God Beyond All Praising* in 1982 to accompany this tune. The arrangement for choir, organ, and brass heard this morning is by composer Dan Forrest (b. 1978).

Louis Vierne (1870-1937), the famed blind organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, composed six symphonies for organ. The first symphony was composed in 1898-1899. Vierne referred to final movement of this symphony as his own personal *Marseillaise*. (The *Marseillaise* is the national anthem of France.)

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Those who have completed first grade or younger are invited to attend our Extended Session program for the remainder of our worship time in the Nursery Suite on the first floor.

* HYMN #12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“God’s Artistic Side”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERTORY

based on THAXTED by Gustav Holst

“O God Beyond All Praising”

arr. Dan Forrest

text by Michael Perry

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

For we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

The Lord be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

Lift up your hearts.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: God, we give you thanks for this day for the goodness and love that you have shown to us in Christ. We pray your blessing upon these gifts. May they build up your love in the world to the honor of your holy name.

People: Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #32

ELLACOMBE

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Final from Symphony I”

Louis Vierne

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 Fowler-Searcy
 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 Trish Buben
 Erich Stein and Polly McQueen
 Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/Music Director*
 Michael Painter, *Organ Accompanist*
 ELPC Chancel Choir
The Brass Roots:
 Samuel Eisenhandler, *Trumpet*
 Matthew McCormack, *Trumpet*
 Rana Jurjus, *Horn*
 Morgan Wynn, *Trombone*
 John Caughman, *Tuba*
 Nick Huneycutt, *Timpani*
 Acolyte: Mabel Buben
 Beadle: Michele Bossers
 Crucifer: Youth
 Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship for our *Fellowship Time*. All are welcome to attend.

♦ 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.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

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 15 — 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 15 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Extended Session

After the *Moments with our Children* during the 11 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. In an effort to best know and care for your child, we ask that all families fill out a green Extended Session NAMETAG that your child wears to Extended Session every week.

- * *Young Children's Ministry for infants and toddlers (up to age 3)* — First Floor Nursery. Every Sunday.
- * *Pre-school age children (through grade 1)* — Room 110B.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

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

Mondays, 9 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

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

Renewable Energy Fair

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 this morning. Representatives of several renewable energy suppliers will be available to answer your questions and to help you make the switch. A light lunch will be provided.

ELPC Exterior Tour

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 today after the 11 am worship service. Please gather at the Highland Ave lobby.

Today's DODs

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

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Doug Cooper**.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Linda Harrington**.

Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today's *Fellowship Time*. For just \$10/pound, your purchase will support this fair trade cooperative and help provide a sustainable income for Mexican coffee farmers. Check or cash only. Please note that moving forward, the sale of Café Justo will be held the 2nd Sunday of the month.



Receiving Spam Emails from Pastor Randy?

Many of you have received spam email messages, looking as though the message came from "Rev. Randall K. Bush," asking you to contact him for an errand or to purchase gift cards for him. Please know that Pastor Randy would never ask anyone to buy gift cards. His email address is RandyB@coh.net, and you can always contact him if you have questions about any email you may think he has sent you. Do not respond to similar, imitating email addresses.

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.

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, contact Pastor Randy Bush (412.441.3800 x123).

Presbyterian Women Bible Study – Sept 9

Join Presbyterian Women on 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.

YAM Weekly Bible Study – 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).

As ELPC enters into another season of stewardship giving and financial planning, we are mindful of some shortfalls in our budget. Being committed to the practice of prayer, interested members are invited to gather in the 1st floor Prayer Room from 10:40–10:50 am on Sundays to be prayerful about God's plans for ELPC and the financial resources needed to accomplish God's work. We invite you to add this topic to your personal prayers as well.



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

David Carl's friend's son Morgan,
Kate Carlson's friend Marcy, Tim Chaplin,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law,
Liz Hopkins' mother Margery, Justin Johnson,
Heather Lawrence's sister Christine, Lee Lewand,
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, and
Pam Walaski's friend Carol.

Condolences to the family of Jane Krisel on her passing.

Condolences to Susan Spangler on her mother's passing.

Condolences to the family of Jane Sampson on her passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Neighbors Today, 12:30 pm (Highland Rm)
Personnel..... Tuesday, 4:30 pm (Highland Rm)
Deacons..... Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Garth Overlook)
Mission Thursday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)

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. Contact Sara Hackett (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.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



“Brain Health” Workshop – Sept 11

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh's Alzheimer Disease Research Center to present four interactive workshops related to dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Jeannette South-Paul, UPMC Professor and Family Medicine Department Chair will lead the first session on Wednesday, Sept 11 from 3-5 pm at Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse (2425 Sydney St, 15203). RSVP by Sept 9 (412.392.0610; information@aaccwp.com).

Encouraging Hospitality to Immigrants – Sept 11 and 12

Christian Associates of Southwest PA (CASP) and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary join to offer *Allies in Faith: Encouraging Hospitality to Immigrants*, a two-day learning experience on Sept 11 and 12, 9 am-3 pm each day. Thanks to a generous grant, the program is free; however, to participate you must apply online at www.pts.edu/allies-in-faith-program-application. For more info, contact Helen Blier (412.924.1346).

Become a Member of our Faith Family – Sept 29 and Oct 6

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sundays, Sept 29 and Oct 6 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp to register (GloriaK@coh.net).

Save the Date for a Silent Retreat – Oct 11 to 13

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a silent retreat from Friday, Oct 11 to Sunday, Oct 13 at The Ark and The Dove in Gibsonia. In silence, we'll celebrate the beauty of autumn and draw closer to God. More info will be available soon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sept 15 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) – “Exploring the Kairos Prison Ministry” led by Michael McGraw of the Kairos Inside ministry

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm) — Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12–17; Luke 15:1–10 facilitated by Lora Bethea, Jan Irvin and Samantha Lowery

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “Experiencing God Despite Doubts” led by Dr. Graham Standish

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A discussion of the *Introduction of Inspired — Loving the Bible Again*, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Michelle Yamada, Judy Roberts, and Josh Bard

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