



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

September 2020

Update on Worship Locations

Where will we be worshipping in September? Due to the COVID-19 crisis, that is a difficult question to answer. For the coming weeks, we anticipate continuing to offer our Journey worship service on Zoom, and a livestream of our Sanctuary worship service—from the Courtyard or the Sanctuary.

The Property Committee and ELPC Session are meeting regularly to determine when it might be safe to allow a limited-attendance congregation to gather once more for worship in our Sanctuary; however that does not look to be an option this month.

Keep informed through the weekly news flashes and by visiting our recently updated website at ELPC.church. And do pray for our staff and congregation as we seek to be the church—both in this place and out in the world!

Rally Day in a New Way

Even in this unprecedented season in our shared life, we will mark together the start of the program and Church School year. On **Sun., Sept. 13**, we will kick off a new season of ministry together.

Our Sunday mornings will include Journey worship at 8:45 am; adult Church School classes at 9:45 am, Sanctuary worship at 11 am; and children and youth Church School classes in the afternoons—and we will continue to worship God, learn about Christ and step forth, by the Spirit’s power, in service.

Familiar programming will resume in new ways, such as **club one sixteen**, Tween Nights, Young Adult Ministry programming, Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study, Centering Prayer, Facing Systemic Racism gatherings, and Mission Opportunities.

Read more about how we will live our faith together throughout this entire edition of the *Reaching Out!*

Livestream Services

Our services are being livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. For more details, visit ELPC.church.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

Summer Worship | 11 am

Sept. 6* Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Sept. 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 20 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sept. 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

Sept. 13 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 20 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Sept. 27 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Taking Steps to Reopen Our Doors

As of the writing of this update, the church building remains closed to the public, but is incrementally and intentionally reopening in stages.

As federal, state, local, and church authorities advise, we will open the building more to members, friends, and visitors for additional pre-approved events. The new normal at ELPC will follow governmental guidelines and good common sense procedures to keep our staff, our visitors, and our community safe.

Watch for updates at ELPC.church for specific dates and guidelines. Please know that ELPC staff members are working in the church daily and can easily be reached by phone or email. We appreciate your patience during this unprecedented time.

Save
the
Date



Stewardship Sunday
November 8
Watch for Details

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Pastor

RandyB@coh.net | x123

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

PatriceFS@coh.net | x130

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

HeatherS@coh.net | x121

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

*Director of Spiritual Life Ministries
and Minister of Taizé Prayer*

BJW@coh.net | x141

Linda Addlespurger

Director of Hope Academy

HopeAcademyArts@gmail.com | x112

Wil Forrest

*Director of Church Operations,
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry*

Wil@coh.net | x118

Debbie Banton

Facility Administrator

DebbieB@coh.net | x131

Rachelle Calfee

Bookkeeper

RachelleC@coh.net | x134

Sara Hackett

*Coordinator of Christian Education
and Youth Ministry*

SaraH@coh.net | x120

Megan Leisher

Administrative Assistant for Pastors

MeganL@coh.net | x122

Allen Miller

Lead Engineer

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Music Director and Organist

EdM@coh.net | x124

Kathryn Ophardt

Intern, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

kophardt@pts.edu

Venetia Singletary

Administrative Assistant for Operations

VenetiaS@coh.net | x116

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Pastor



When in recent history has there been a time when so much that we have taken for granted is now called into question? Suddenly we don't travel; we don't visit older relatives; some stores are closed or out of business, while in other stores we don't linger if there's a crowd present. Summer months always give way to seasons of school and college openings, but suddenly those routines have been upended by online learning, remote classes, and a host of safety precautions. Some voices around us are quick to

discredit science; other voices admit that we just don't know enough to give people the information they need. Things that shouldn't be political have now become points of contention (like wearing masks); things that used to be simple are now messy and complicated (like policing or voting).

When everything is abnormal and topsy-turvy, moral guidance from our faith tradition is more important than ever. Moral guidance is more "big picture" than details. It is not a definitive answer on immigration policy, but it is a redefinition of "neighbor" according to the parable of the Good Samaritan. It is not a checklist for establishing a social welfare budget, but it is that reminder about sheep and goats and "doing unto the least of these." It is not guidance about how to fix our criminal justice codes, but it is Jesus' comment about forgiving "seventy times seven."

As you live your life according to the moral wisdom of the Christian faith, some people will try to push back, arguing that your position is just one way to interpret the scriptures. Realize that such a response is not an answer to the question at hand; it is simply a way to shut down conversations that need to be had. In those moments, Jesus would take a break—maybe bend down to write for a while in the sand before saying, "Whoever is without sin can cast the first stone." Or he would call a child forward and simply say, "Of such as these is the kingdom of God." Or he would call together frightened and confused disciples, like Simon Peter, and offer them the clear, simple reminder that he was destined (like all of us) to go and "feed my sheep."

Now is not the time to try and win every argument. Now is not the season in which we can trust our days will unfold with predictable, even boring regularity. But friends, it is a time for looking down at the foundation upon which we stand ("For God so loved the world"). It is a time for looking ahead to the horizon in which we trust ("And lo, I am with you to the end of the age"). It is a time for looking around and finding ways to connect with and care for one another ("A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you").

Don't let the uncertainty, confusion, and clamor of these days get you down. Christ is beside you ("for such a time as this") and will never leave or forsake you. Listen once more to his simple moral guidance, and trust me, we will get through this season together!

Randy Bush

Mission Matters

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

Antiracism Survey Results

We give thanks for the 123 people who completed ELPC's survey sponsored by the Facing Systemic Racism Team. Responses shed light on where ELPC is in its journey toward becoming an anti-racist congregation. Respondents showed broad disagreement with statements such as "ELPC institutional structures and culture maintain white power and privilege" and broad agreement with statements such as "ELPC is committed to working to dismantle racism in the wider community."

However, white respondents had a rosier view of antiracism work at ELPC than respondents of color. Specifically, white respondents were more likely to agree that "ELPC works intentionally to develop an identity as an "anti-racist" institution" and that "ELPC holds itself accountable to racially oppressed communities." Older and younger respondents also differed. Older respondents expressed higher levels of agreement than did younger respondents with the statement: "People at ELPC often declare, 'As a church we don't see color.'"

Survey responses will help guide the work of our Facing Systemic Racism Team. If you would like to participate in a focus group to discuss how ELPC should proceed in its antiracism work, contact Pastor Patrice at Patricefs@coh.net.



Every Vote counts

The 2020 presidential and general elections are on **Tues., Nov. 3**. It is our civic duty and responsibility to vote to elect a president, as well as those who represent us in national, state, and local governments. If you have not yet registered to vote, you may do so online at Vote.gov by **Mon., Oct. 19**.

This year, everyone in Pennsylvania can vote by mail. Apply online at VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot. Your

mail-in ballot must be received by **Tues., Oct. 27**, 5 pm.

EVERYONE who is a US Citizen, including those who were previously convicted of a crime, are eligible to vote. If you have questions, please call **877.VOTESPA** (877.868.3772). And remember, every vote counts!



Every Person Counts

Every 10 years, a census is conducted to count every person who is living in the U.S. and the five U.S. territories. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, plans for highways and roads,

and to assist families and people with insufficient income based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Census results affect our community every day.

You may complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. Get started at my2020census.gov, because you count!

FSR Team's September Recommendations

Our congregation is reading, watching, and listening to 1,000 resources by Labor Day. Here are suggestions from our Facing Systemic Racism Team.

Kids & Families

- *Rays of Hope: Supporting Activism in Young People* from Embrace Race
- *Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism* from PBS

Books

- *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson
- *Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance* by Mark Whitaker
- *Everyday Antiracism* by Mica Pollack

Webinar

- *Fostering a Fairer and Less Costly Criminal Justice System* from The Institute of Politics and The Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy at the University of Pittsburgh

Study Guide

- *For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World* from The Muhammad Ali Center

Videos

- *Reconciliation* from NEXTChurch
- *State of Black America* from the National Urban League

Articles

- *My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant* by Jose Antonio Vargas
- *The Intersectionality Wars* by Jane Coaston

Podcast

- *The Code Switch Guide To Race and Policing* from NPR

Radio Broadcast

- *This American Life: The Problem We All Live With* (Parts 1 & 2) from NPR

Movie

- *Dear White People* available on Amazon

Opportunities to Grow Your Faith

The Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) is percolating ideas for the remainder of 2020. Visit ELPC.church as dates and plans become more solidified.

- **Advent Retreat-In-A-Box**

From **Nov. 20–21**, join other ELPC members for a 24-hour guided time of rest and reflection. All necessary materials will be sent to you. Join in community with others as we prepare for the season of Advent.

- **Contemplative Activism**

In collaboration with Pastor Patrice, and amidst our service and activism, how do we develop spiritual rhythms that produce—in the words of MLK—“an inner transformation that gives us the strength to fight vigorously the evils of this world in a humble and loving spirit?”

- **Prayer Stops**

Building upon what is already happening at ELPC—through Cathedral Yoga, Centering Prayer, and Mindfulness Meditation—the SLC is offering other simple online gatherings to stop, be still, and pray in a variety of forms.

- **Praying with the Elements of Creation**

Amidst all the Zoom fatigue, let's get outside and pray in and with the elements of creation. We will explore together how water, wind, earth, and fire call us to join them in play and prayer.

- **Spiritual Direction**

Finally, the Rev. BJ Woodworth is offering spiritual direction for those who are in need or are curious about it. Spiritual direction aims to help you notice, awaken and consent to the activity of the Divine/Spirit in your life.

Contact the Rev. BJ Woodworth at BJW@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x141** for more details or to ask questions.

Presbyterian Women

PW Bible Study Lesson One | The Heart of Lament

Mon., Sept. 14 7–8 pm | **Tues., Sept. 15** 10 am–12 pm

Our perceived absence of God is the heart of lament. We lament because we feel alone and we lament because we know we are not. Jesus cried from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This question expresses the sense of being lost, as well as confidence in God’s unending love.



Tues., Sept. 22: Sharing Lament 12–1 pm

In addition to our Bible Study, all women are invited to practice lament. Join us as we share our laments through words, music, and art.

For more information or to ask questions, contact PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Spiritual Life

The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Director of Spiritual Life Ministries

Rediscover ELPC’s Spiritual Life Ministries

Thank you for welcoming me with kindness and an open heart. This is a strange time to start a new job, yet we are all in a time of waiting, uncertainty, instability, and angst—but it also is a time of opportunity, creativity, and innovation. It is a time that provokes many questions for us as a church:

- How can we be the church when we cannot gather together for worship?
- What does it look like to practice our faith in the midst of a pandemic, social unrest, and physical distance from one another?
- How do we stay connected to God and one another while we are scattered?

Like the poet Rilke, I am trying to “be patient toward all that is unsolved in my heart...and to love the questions themselves.” I’d love for you to join me in patiently loving the questions of this time, and together, gradually live into the answers. I’d love to hear your unsolved questions and about your spiritual journey—and its ups and downs. I’d love to hear your hopes and dreams for how ELPC can deepen and grow its congregational and spiritual vitality. I’d love to listen to your longings for spiritual life at home with your partner and children, and establishing spiritual rhythms amidst work and school being at home.

Email BJW@coh.net or call **412.441.3800 x141** and let’s enrich your spiritual life!

Rent and Utility Assistance Available

If you or someone you know is in jeopardy of eviction or utility disconnection directly related to loss of income due to COVID-19, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency’s Rent Relief Program and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services are providing assistance. Applications will be accepted through **Wed., Sept. 30**. The Department of Human Services has contracted with several non-profit agencies, including the Kingsley Association, Goodwill, EECM, Jewish Family and Children Services, and the Latino Community Center, to provide assistance with completing the multi-step applications.

For more information or to inquire about material assistance from ELPC, contact Pastor Patrice at **412.441.3800 x130** or Gerald McClendon at **412.441.3800 x138**.

LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

Sun., Sept. 20: Spiritual Gathering 12:30 pm

Everyone is invited to attend our LGBTQ Ministry's next spiritual gathering to share meeting time and fellowship via Zoom. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x118** for details.



God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.



Welcome Our New Seminary Intern, Kathryn Ophardt

ELPC is pleased to welcome Kathryn Ophardt to our ministry team this fall. She is a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) and will be completing her field education internship with us throughout the year.

Kathryn is in her second year of studies at PTS. She spent the summer serving as a chaplain at Casa Refugiados, a refugee resettlement organization in Mexico City, where she had served two years prior. Kathryn continues to live in Mexico City, but hopes to return to Pittsburgh in the next couple of months.

Loving all things creative, Kathryn fills her time with music, creative writing, and crafts. Believing that God accompanies us each day, she is eager to learn how to accompany the ELPC community.

Kathryn is looking forward to learn, live, and serve alongside us. And we are looking forward to incorporating her gifts and insights into our shared ministry!

Nominating Committee Begins Work

The ELPC Nominating Committee has begun meeting, seeking to recruit nominees for open slots on our Board of Deacons, Session, Centennial Fund, and Nominating Committee. They welcome your input and suggestions. If you would like to nominate a person for one of these important leadership roles at our church, contact Jo Ellen Aleshire at joaleshire@gmail.com.

New Photo Directory

We are hoping to produce an ELPC congregation photo directory this month. It will likely be available both in electronic and hard copy formats.

For more information or to send an updated photo, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net.

Help Us Spruce Up

Summer is in full force and so are the gardens (and weeds!) here at ELPC. If you are looking to connect with nature and the ELPC community, consider joining us for small group garden maintenance meet-ups!

Join us on **Sat., Sept. 12**, 10 am–12 pm to weed around the perimeter of the church, particularly in the rain garden along Penn Ave. No experience is necessary, but consider bringing work gloves, water, a mask, and any small gardening tools you might have.

For more info, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122**.

ELPC People

If you have news to share, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122**.

Good News

- Alex and Katie Haas-Conrad welcomed their son, **Tobias Alexander**, on Aug. 12.
- Congratulations to **Courtney Brenner** and **Ian Lavanish** who were united in marriage on Aug. 8.

Prayers

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:

- Kate Moga's partner, Charlotte Smith

Christian Education

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Church School Class Offerings

Although we will not be able to gather in our Church School classrooms on Sundays this September, ELPC will continue to offer opportunities for persons of all ages to learn about God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Parents, please register your children and youth online at ELPC.church or contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x120**. Children and youth classes will meet on Sunday afternoons on Zoom.

Links to adult classes will be included in the *Worship at ELPC* email news flashes each Friday. If you do not receive the news flash, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x122** to be added to the list. Adult classes will meet on Sundays, 9:45 am, on Zoom.

Children | Pre-K–Grade 5

This fall, we will journey together and learn about God's love through an activity box, online classroom, Zoom check-ins, Sunday challenges, and invitations to connect in worship. Our theme for September is "Love thy Neighbor as Thyself." Together, we will enact God's love—and love God in return—by loving our neighbor. Activities and messages also will connect to our larger call of being a Matthew 25 Church—a theme that will be explored by our church throughout fall.

When you pick up your Church School Activity Box, we will have a variety of activities your family can do around the outside of the church. You can pray on the outdoor Labyrinth, go on a story walk through the rain garden, help decorate our sidewalk with chalk art, and pray for our neighbors while playing a game of I Spy.

Middle School | Grades 6–8

Sept. 13: Building Challenge 12:30 pm

We will gather on Zoom for a building challenge to explore how Jesus built a community of disciples and how we can build community today.

High School | Grades 9–12

Sept. 20: Baking and Exploring 1 Kings 19 12:30 pm

We will bake muffins together via Zoom, while exploring 1 Kings 19, where, after Elijah has had a terrible couple of months, an angel delivers some fresh baked bread, and tells him "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." Strengthened by that food, Elijah traveled 40 days until he reached the mountain of God. Throughout the month, we also will keep in touch by passing a notebook through the class (with the help of the U.S. Postal Service) with reflections and prayer requests.

Journey with Scripture

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

"Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand."—Psalm 37:24

Join us as we read "Year D" scripture texts selected by Pastor Randy to complement traditional lectionary readings. This month's Hebrew and New Testament readings lay out, quite bare, the failed leadership and usurpations of power in Israel's history—the deadly stumbling of leaders and misguided followers. Fortunately, the Psalms offer relief! An assurance of God's presence through the recklessness and ignorance. Join us as we reflect on:

Sept. 13: 2 Samuel 15:13–16, 23–30; Psalm 11; Hebrews 13:9–14, 17–25; Luke 19:41–48

Sept. 20: Obadiah 11–18, 21; Psalm 56; 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12; Luke 21:20–24, 34–38

Sept. 27: Judges 9:7–15; Psalm 37:12–40; Ephesians 5: 1–8; Matthew 13:10–17

Seekers

Facilitator: Gwen Puza

Exploring Christian Mysticism

This month, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, executive director of Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, and Consulting. He is the author of numerous books on Christian mysticism, as well as an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a spiritual director and clergy coach, and was a pastor for 22 years.

Sept. 13: What is a Christian Mystic?

We'll gain an understanding of the history of Christian spirituality and experience. (Revisiting the March 15 class.)

Sept. 20: The Foundations for a Mystical Life

We'll be introduced to the foundational insights of Christian mysticism—concepts such as faith, humility, surrender, living in the present moment, seeking divine union, prayer, discernment, and much more.

Sept. 27: Stories of the Mystics

We'll hear and discuss the experiences of those regarded as mystics of Christian history, and explore how to translate their experiences into our lives.

Soul Food

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

Sept. 13: Gathering and Preview Session

Sept. 20 and 27: Falling Upward

We will begin discussing *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. If you're interested in joining our class, contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net.

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Ed. & Youth Ministry

To RSVP for an event or to ask questions, please contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x120.

Sat., Sept. 26: Tween Miniature Mini Golf 10–11 am

Tweens in grades 4–6 are invited to a morning of *miniature* mini golf. We will send you all the things you need to make a course on your kitchen table (or wherever), including a tiny golf club, ball, and fake grass. You supply the obstacles—which can be made out of cardboard, Legos, or pretty much anything. We'll gather on Zoom to construct, show off our courses, and play golf together.

Please RSVP by **Mon., Sept. 21**, to have supplies delivered. Late RSVPs will need to pick up supplies at the church.

Sun., Oct. 4: Youth Afternoon Mission Project 1–2 pm

Youth in grades 6–12 will work collectively on Zoom to create a massive banner on ELPC's Baum Blvd. gate that shares a message of God's love and justice with our neighbors. RSVP to Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Our Young Adult Ministry (YAM) welcomes all adults—spanning post-high school through about age 40. We are a community of students, professionals, married, single, partnered, with or without children—from different races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, backgrounds—and with varied beliefs. For more information, contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x120.

Sun., Sept. 6: Zoom Dinner & Dessert Meeting 7–8:30 pm

Sit down with some new and old friends over dinner on Zoom! We will spend part of our time catching up with one another, part dreaming up what the YAM group can be this fall/winter, and part learning about the African Healing Garden from Betty Lane, who started the garden. Located in Larimer, the garden is a place that folks can go to heal. It was inspired by friendship, community, hurt, loss, and hope for the future—and it has something important to offer to its neighbors and to us today. I hope you will come hear its story. Contact Sara for the Zoom meeting ID.

Sat., Sept. 12: African Healing Garden Workday 10 am–1 pm



All young adults are invited to join us at the African Healing Garden (located at 160 Meadow St.) for a workday. Some folks will work in the garden and others will work to lay pavement around the garden (there will be a professional on hand to give us instructions).

Everything is outside and there is plenty of space to work at a distance. Masks are required. Please RSVP online.

Visit [@AfricanHealingGarden](https://www.facebook.com/AfricanHealingGarden) on Facebook to learn more about the garden.

club one sixteen

Notes: Please register online to receive Zoom information and materials. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x120.

Grades 1-3 | Thursdays

Ms. Aura, Mr. David, Mr. Ryan, and Ms. Sara are bringing **club one sixteen** to your front yard in mid-September (with help from parents). Then on **Thurs., Sept. 24**, 5:30 pm, we will gather together on Zoom so we can see each other for Bible Study and fun!

Grades 4-7 | Wednesdays

On **Wed., Sept. 16, 23, and 30**, 4:30–5:15 pm, we will be rotating through all our favorite **club one sixteen** activities on Zoom in September—just at a much slower pace! All supplies will be delivered to you, but we'll share instructions and laughs on Zoom.

- **Wed., Sept. 16: Art**
- **Wed., Sept. 23: Bible Study**
- **Wed., Sept. 30: Gym**

Grades 7-12 | Wednesdays

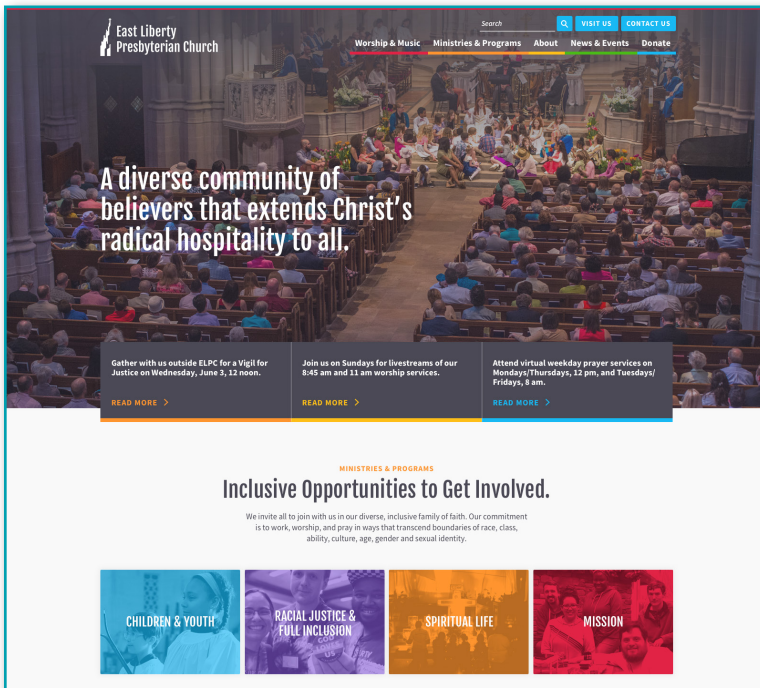
On **Wed., Sept. 16, 23, and 30**, 5:30–6:30 pm, we will explore our theme, *For Such A Time as This*. These words from the Book of Esther are words of challenge and an invitation spoken to Queen Esther as a call to make a difference in the unique historical time and place in which she found herself. It is no secret that we too find ourselves in a unique historical time—marked by a global pandemic, racial unrest, and a presidential election (to name but a few markers of this moment!).

Through Bible Study, activities, and games, youth will reflect on this moment and ask where they find God and how God is calling them to step forward. Activities and supplies will be dropped off at each youth's home.

“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.”

Visit the New ELPC.church

Our church website is being updated and refreshed—and should be live by Labor Day! Visit **ELPC.church** and explore the new, user- and mobile-friendly format. And be sure to bookmark the website for all the latest information about our church.



The screenshot shows the new website layout. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Worship & Music', 'Ministries & Programs', 'About', 'News & Events', and 'Donate'. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a church interior with a diverse group of people. Overlaid on the image is the text: 'A diverse community of believers that extends Christ's radical hospitality to all.' Below the image are three call-to-action boxes: 'Gather with us outside ELPC for a Vigil for Justice on Wednesday, June 3, 12 noon.', 'Join us on Sundays for livestreams of our 8:45 am and 11 am worship services.', and 'Attend virtual weekday prayer services on Mondays/Thursdays, 12 pm, and Tuesdays/Fridays, 8 am.' At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Inclusive Opportunities to Get Involved.' with a sub-header 'MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS'. Below this are four icons representing different ministries: 'CHILDREN & YOUTH', 'RACIAL JUSTICE & FULL INCLUSION', 'SPIRITUAL LIFE', and 'MISSION'.

Staying Connected

The Children & Family Ministry Team is sponsoring two intergenerational ministries to help ELPC members and friends stay connected in this season of “social distancing.”

Introducing Liberty, Our Church Mouse

This fall, ELPC members will be visited by Liberty, our church mouse. Together, you and Liberty can take note of where you see God. At the end of the week, a staff member will come by to pick up Liberty and record you (at a safe distance!) sharing where you saw God in your life. We hope this will be a joyful and meaningful way for all generations of our faith family to stay connected until we can be in person again. Contact Sara Hackett if you would like to participate

Let's Become Pen Pals

There is nothing quite like receiving a hand-written letter in the mail! ELPC members of all ages are invited to register to be matched with a “pen pal” during this season. Supplies will be provided, just complete the online registration form or call Sara Hackett at **412.673.2926** to sign up. (Please note that adults who are interested in serving as pen pals to children or youth will need to complete their Act 33/34 clearances and Child Safety training that’s required of all adults who interact with kids at ELPC.)