



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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 11, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP RALLY DAY / FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Faith is first of all an intellectual assent. It perfects the mind, it does not destroy it. It puts the intellect in possession of Truth which reason cannot grasp by itself. — *Thomas Merton, "New Seeds of Contemplation"*

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, you are Lord; and when chaos threatens to overwhelm and we dread the next news cycle — still, you are Lord. Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining. Speak then your mercy into this place until we discover the courage to open our eyes, unclench our hands and move toward our neighbor in need, until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace. Amen.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Fantasia in G, BWV 572”

“Rondeau”

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Jean-Joseph Mouret  
The Brass Roots  
Ethan LaPlaca, *organ*

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

### \* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Parsons

Leader: Let us come before our Creator, whose Spirit moves over desert and sea,  
People: Whose Word has the power to create, to judge and to save.  
Leader: Come, let us worship God! Let us learn; let us grow; let us be changed!

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #336

“We Gather Together”

KREMSE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Jeff Parsons

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Parsons

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. Forgive us of our false assumptions, our complacent inaction, and our stubborn refusal to change.

Illumine our darkness, challenge our ignorance, restore us as a people of hope who trust in the power of your redemptive love to transform our lives and our world. In mercy, teach us your will until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken and life is restored.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jeff Parsons

Leader: The steadfast love of God never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. In the name of the Triune God, who is our portion and our hope, let us profess 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

Psalms 14:2-7

Sara Hackett

EPISTLE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Jeff Parsons

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

*Children in preschool through grade 3 are invited to the Chapel for a time of learning together. Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Parents and caregivers should meet their children in the back of the Chapel during the Doxology, when children will return to the worship service.*

*The nursery is open to young children under the age of 3. Please note that attendance may be limited based on staff to child ratios, so we can only ensure participation on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents/caregivers must complete a registration form and sign children in and out of the nursery each day.*

*Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their children to the nursery, and the service will be livestreamed into that space.*

\* HYMN #739

“O For a Closer Walk With God”

CAITHNESS

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:1-10

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“Making Sense of Things”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

*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.*

INTERIM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Polly Mattila

OFFERING INVITATION

Polly Mattila

*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.*

*You are invited to use the QR code to the right if you would like to make a donation in support of ELPC. A donation box is also available in the Sanctuary.*



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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O God Beyond All Praising”

based on THAXTED by Gustav Holst  
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 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. (Interlude) A - men.

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf  
Jeff Parsons

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:	Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known that our lives might show forth your glory. For we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #634

“To God Be The Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Carillon-Sortie”

Henri Mulet  
Dr. Moore, organ

*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.*

*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](http://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.*

*Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.*

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
Sara Hackett  
Polly Mattila  
Jeff Parsons  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Ethan LaPlaca, *Guest Organist*  
*The Brass Roots:*  
Samuel Eisenhandler, *Trumpet*  
David Gardner, *Trumpet*  
Rana Jurjus, *Horn*  
Morgan Wynn, *Trombone*  
John Caughman, *Tuba*  
Abby Langhorst, *Timpani*  
Sound: Tim Benedict  
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mrs. Virginia E. Evans.

◆ 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 18* — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

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

*Sept 18* — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Taizé: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation  
Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

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.

Available everyday

◆ WEEKLY SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

Contemplative Prayer

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom (Meeting ID 959 8065 3992) to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person at 6 pm in the Sanctuary (before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service).

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this morning and ask you to register your name in our red Friendship Books.

*To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:*

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 Sunday, Sept 25 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Contact Megan Leisher to register or for more information ([MeganL@coh.net](mailto:MeganL@coh.net)).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Church Tour: Hidden Places

There will be a *Hidden Places* tour offered today after the Sanctuary worship service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

### Presentation by CeaseFirePA

Josh Fleitman of CeaseFirePA will give a presentation in the Garth Overlook Room at 12:30 pm today. You can also join via Zoom (Meeting ID: 213 262 376 004; Passcode: uumLRB).

### 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 services. The *Journey* service DOD is Molly Davidson-Welling. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Linda Sanders.



### Welcome to Gerald Savage, Our New Journey Music Director

Gerald is an educator, keyboardist, vocalist, director/conductor, arranger/composer, trombonist, and ethno-musicologist, and recently retired Department Chair of the Vocal Department at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12. Gerald is a familiar face to many at ELPC, as he previously served as the music director of the *Morning Glory* service back in the '90s. Welcome back to ELPC, Gerald!



Gerald will be leading the Journey Praise Team today. He has a previously scheduled trip the following week, so Dr. Ed will lead the music on Sept 18 and Gerald will be back again on Sept 25.

### Contemplative Prayer on Mondays — Begins Sept 12

Beginning Monday, Sept 12 from 7:30–8 am, you're invited to a weekly time of quiet contemplation and reflection. The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead us through a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art, and our bodies to help us start our day and week in communion with God and one another.

Join us online at [www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer](http://www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer). Enter meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 and passcode: bestill when prompted. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for more info.

### PW Bible Study — Sept 12

All women are invited to participate in the 2022–2023 Presbyterian Women's Bible Study *Celebrating Sabbath* on Monday, Sept 12 at 7 pm. They will meet monthly through May 2023. For info, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

### New Fall Spiritual Life Group: "The

### Revolutionary Love Project" — Begins Sept 15

Jesus taught us to love God, love others as we love ourselves and...even to love our enemies. How do we practice this REVOLUTIONARY LOVE and if we began to learn more about it, act on it and reflect upon it in community with others, how might it change us, others, and our opponents? Join the Spiritual Life Committee on Thursdays from 5:30-7 pm, starting on Sept 15. Please contact the Rev. BJ Woodworth with questions or to RSVP (BJW@coh.net).

Visit [www.tiny.cc/m91uuz](http://www.tiny.cc/m91uuz) to see Valarie Kaur's *Ted Talk* for a compelling preview.

### Hope Academy Classes and Lessons Resume — Sept 17

Hope Academy's private instrument lessons, dance, theater and music classes resume on Saturday, Sept 17. Registration info is available online at [www.HopeAcademyArts.com](http://www.HopeAcademyArts.com).

### Church Life Extravaganza — Sept 18

On Sunday, Sept 18 after the 11 am worship service, our Membership & Outreach Committee is partnering with our Faith Formation Board to host a church-wide celebration combining elements of our annual Sampler and Picnic. Different ministries of our church will have information about how you can get involved in the life of our church; food trucks will provide lunch; music will play; church tours will be offered; there will be balloon art, face painting, and games for kids; and a dunk tank to raise money for our Church School offering. Come and learn more about ELPC!

### Keeping Our Trees Healthy — Sept 24

Join the Environmental Team (of the Justice Committee), Neighbors Committee, and Tree Pittsburgh on Saturday, Sept 24 from 9–11:30 am as we weed and mulch around the street trees in our East Liberty community. It also will be a chance to learn more about the many benefits these trees bring—cooling, absorbing CO2 and storm water, filtering air pollution, and much more!

We will meet at ELPC. Water and snacks will be available, and Tree Pittsburgh will provide tools and mulch. Volunteers should dress for the elements and wear sun screen. And bring your love for God's creation! Contact Mary Barr to sign up ([empirephobic@gmail.com](mailto:empirephobic@gmail.com)).



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

Community member Kim B,  
Carol Chonoska's sister Janet,  
Stephanie Creasy, Willa Dixon,  
Rev. Dr. Brent Johnston from Kansas,  
Eric McCarty's sister Christine,  
Joel Minnigh, Jon Nelson's cousin Rayna,  
Libby Parker's husband Dwayne and Ashley,  
Alison Schleifer,  
and Vivienne Selia's friends Linda and Peg.

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**Pizza and Kickball @ PTS for Youth — Sept 25**

Youth are invited to an afternoon of pizza and kickball at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 12:30–2:30 pm on Sunday, Sept 25. We will be walking down Highland Ave from ELPC to PTS following worship. Contact Sara Hackett for more details or if you'd like to walk with us (SaraH@coh.net).

**Worshiping with the Rev. Shanea Leonard — Sept 25**

On Sunday, Sept 25, we're excited to welcome the Rev. Shanea Leonard (they/them) as our special guest preacher at our Journey and Sanctuary worship services. The Rev. Leonard is a pastor, teacher, consultant, community activist, and modern-day abolitionist. They currently carry out their justice mandate as the national Coordinator for Gender & Racial Justice for the PC(USA) in the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



A native of Philadelphia, the Rev. Leonard received their B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and M.Div. from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a focus on urban ministry. They have been serving communities and congregations in various capacities for nearly 20 years, and have done extensive work locally and internationally to eradicate systemic oppression in the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic despair.

**Church Tower Tour — Sept 25**

There will be a *Tower Tour* offered on Sunday, Sept 25 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please wear closed-toe shoes and gather in the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

**Call for Volunteers at Worship — Sept 25**

Would you like to participate more fully in worship? The Worship, Music & Arts Committee is looking for people to serve in the following roles: Usher/Greeter, Communion Server, Beadle (carry the bible), Crucifer (carry the cross), Liturgist, Flower Arrangement Coordinator, and A/V Assistant. An information/training session will be held after the 11 am service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Sept 25.

In our

## COMMUNITY



**Active Living with Chronic Conditions — Begins Sept 26**

Do you have an ongoing health condition, such as arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, asthma, heart disease, chronic pain, cancer, depression, or another condition that affects your daily life? The ELPC Health Ministry, in collaboration with Vintage Senior Center, is offering a *Self-Study* program to help you solve problems, manage your symptoms, and set and achieve goals. The program is free, but limited to people age 60 and older. The program—presented in the memory of Carla Coles, who first launched this program at ELPC—begins the week of Sept 26. For more info and to register, contact Tom Sturgill (tsturgill@familylinks.org; 412.361.5003 x104).

Visit us online at

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

to learn more about our ministries and opportunities

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Sept 18 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 2; Reading from the Old Testament (TBD); Mark 1:21–45, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Parenting Circle (Rm 213) — Reading of *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* by Brené Brown, facilitated by Trish Buben

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “Commitment to Peacemaking: Personal and Church Calling,” led by Dr. Ron Stone, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — The Rev. Dr. Jacquie Lewis, author of our next book, *Fierce Love*, will be speaking to us on Zoom. We also will begin discussing her book, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Nursery (under 3) — Nursery Suite, Room 110a

Preschool — Nursery Suite, Room 110b

K-3rd grade — Room 206

4th-6th grade — Room 211

7th-12th grade — Second Floor Parlor

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