



Reaching Out

newsletter of east liberty presbyterian church

November 2022

With Us Always

We at ELPC are in a time of change. We sometimes tumble around feeling lost, other times gripping onto the comfort of things that are familiar. We are reminded by Matthew (28:20) that no matter what is happening, God has promised, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God is with us when we are joyously singing praises. God is with us when we are grouchy and edgy with our families. God is with us when we are wildly successful and when we somehow miss our goal.



But if God is always with us, it begs the question, "Why do we need the church?" And more relevant to this message, "Why do we need to pledge?" One of the many answers to these questions is embedded in the name of this newsletter: *Reaching Out*. God calls us to reach out to each other to celebrate God's blessings. God calls us to give to the least of us.

God asks us to guide each other through the wilderness of confusion. God asks us to teach and preach so that all can know God's glory. God asks us to stand up strongly in the face of wrongdoing.

In short, God asks us to gather in God's name. We are human; we cannot be fully present to God without each other. We support our church so that we can promote justice and peace in the world. We gather to share love.

On **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 13**, we will share the gifts of our pledges as well as food for our community. Please consider pledging and bringing some of the items listed below as a way of supporting ELPC as we work together to find new ways to serve our world.

- Cake Mixes and Toppings
- Canned Peas
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Chef Boyardee Ravioli
- Crackers
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Mix
- Jelly
- Name-brand Cereal
- Pancake Syrup
- Ramen
- Soups/Broth
- Stuffing Mix

Thank you for your support and remember, God is with us always!

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Journey Worship | 8:45 am

Theme: With Us Always

Nov. 6* Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nov. 13 Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Nov. 20 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nov. 27 Rev. BJ Woodworth

Sanctuary Worship | 11 am

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Nov. 20 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Nov. 27. Rev. BJ Woodworth

Taizé Prayer Service

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Celebration of All Saints

Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labors and their works follow them.

During Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 6**, we will give thanks for those from our family of faith who entered the Church Triumphant in the past year. Please join us for this time of prayer and remembrance.

Help Needed on Stewardship Sunday

We're looking for children and their families who are interested in helping with our annual Food Drive on **Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 13**.

Please plan to assist the Neighbors Committee by carrying food forward during our Sanctuary worship service—and help move donated items immediately after worship so that they're ready for pickup.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries

PatriceFS@coh.net | x230

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

HeatherS@coh.net | x221

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Director of Spiritual Life Ministries
and Minister of Taizé Prayer

BJW@coh.net | x241

Linda Addlespurger

Director of Hope Academy

info@HopeAcademyArts.com | x212

Wil Forrest

Director of Church Operations,
Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

Wil@coh.net | x218

Sara Hackett

Coordinator of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries

SaraH@coh.net | x220

Derail Holcomb

Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry

DerailH@coh.net | x233

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Music Director and Organist

EdM@coh.net | x224

Rachelle Calfee

RachelleC@coh.net | x234

Megan Leisher

MeganL@coh.net | x222

Norma Meyer

Norma@coh.net | x211

Venetia Singletary

VenetiaS@coh.net | x216



Pastoral Message

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries



In November 2007, I preached my “Candidating Sermon” on Christ the King Sunday, and waited anxiously with my family in the Library while the congregation voted to call me as Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries at ELPC.

It’s hard to believe that Sunday was now 15 years ago—and that before being called to pastoral ministry, I served as ELPC’s Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and *before that* I was the Moderator of the Deacons, and **before that** I joined ELPC as a member, claiming ELPC as my church home.

So much has changed since then—from the presidents who have occupied the White House to the pastors who have served as Head of Staff; we’ve seen change in the shape of the Cathedral of Hope through a season of renovations, and I’ve seen changes to the shape of my own family. The one constant has been that ELPC has been my central community of faith since I first walked through the doors of the church in fall 1997 looking for a new church home.

Life is like that, isn’t it? There is a constant dance between constancy and change—birth and death, planting roots and moving on, struggle and ease, hellos and goodbyes. One season follows another, each marked with its own quality and character that reflects both that which is new and that which is deeply familiar.

Faith is like that too. A dynamic faith bears witness to the new life we have in Christ. There are elements of the old that are washed away so that something new can grow. There is struggle and hope and grief and joy. And yet *God is with us always*. The constancy upon which we can “hang our hat” at the end of the day is the promise of God’s abiding presence and steadfast love.

These promises give me hope when I feel overwhelmed by the turns and changes of life and faith—especially when seasons of pandemic or transition or political turbulence seem to extend on and on. The constancy of God’s character and the power of God’s love assures me that I am a part of something much bigger than myself, and that love will prevail.

May we find comfort and hope in the promise that **God is with us always**. May this hope infuse our life together in this season—here and now. And may this hope call us forward in faith that we might continue to grow into the People that God is calling us to be.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Heather

Mission Matters

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

Get to Know the Neighbors Committee

The Neighbors Committee works under the Mission Board and addresses the basic unmet/undermet needs of East Liberty and our surrounding communities. Our focus is on food, clothing, and housing needs.

In addition to the Chapel Market, we provide support to service groups and organizations in the community who are addressing these needs. Open Hand Ministries is one group that assists people in becoming first-time homeowners. They rehab houses in the neighborhood using volunteer labor and assist homeowner candidates in preparing to qualify for home ownership. We also support projects with the Kingsley Association and other organizations. For example, we recently supported the Free Gym program at the Kingsley Center.

We are always interested in new ways to serve our neighbors and welcome new volunteers. Contact Bob Forloines at rforloines@gmail.com for more details.



The Chapel Market is Open for Business

The Chapel Market is a ministry coordinated by the Neighbors Committee that provides clothing free of charge to those in need in our community. It is open every Thursday, 10 am–12 pm, and operates out of the small chapel area with an entrance on Whitfield Street.

Since we re-opened this past June, we have served more than 100 individuals. We are totally dependent on clothing donations and are always in need of new or gently used items. Right now, we are asking for fall/winter clothing and toiletries for men, women, and children. Clothing includes coats, pants, casual shirts, sweaters, underwear, and shoes. Towels, blankets, handbags, and backpacks are in demand as well. We also welcome volunteers to work on Thursday mornings, or to help sort and prepare donations on Tuesday mornings.

Contact Pastor Patrice at PatriceFS@coh.net for more information.

Save the Dates for the Holiday Season

As our weather changes and a noticeable chill is evident, the Board of Deacons is busy planning for the holiday season. Please save these dates and plan to participate. These ministry opportunities enable us to serve our neighbors and members who are struggling emotionally or financially during the holidays.

- **Holiday Giving Tree Tag Distribution** | Sun., Nov. 20 and 27; Wed., Nov. 30; and Sun., Dec. 4
- **Blue Christmas Service** | Fri., Dec. 9, 6 pm
- **Ten Thousand Villages Shopping** | Sat., Dec. 18, and Sun., Dec. 19 (at ELPC and online)

For more information, contact Dave Cowan, Board of Deacons moderator, at DavidACowan@gmail.com or Pastor Patrice at PatriceFS@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x230.

Session News

At the October meeting of Session, ELPC Elders:

- Discussed how we can faithfully establish mission and budget priorities in response to God's call in anticipation of our 2023 budget planning process.
- Approved a new Emergency Response Plan brought forth by the Property Committee.

Environmental Team Book Discussion

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is reading *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* by Cynthia Barnett.

Americans see water as abundant and cheap: we turn on the faucet and out it gushes. We use more water than any other culture in the world, much to quench what's now our largest crop—the lawn. Yet most Americans cannot name the river or aquifer that flows to our taps, irrigates our food, and produces our electricity. And most don't realize these freshwater sources are in deep trouble.

Join us in reading the book, and plan on gathering on **Thurs., Nov. 10**, 7 pm, for a discussion on Zoom (and possibly in person).

For more information, contact Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.



Christian Education

Note: Classes meet on Sundays, 9:45am.

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries

Children and Youth

ELPC offers Church School classes for kids and youth from pre-K–grade 12. Class locations are listed below.

- Pre-K | Nursery
- K–Grade 3 | Room 206
- Grades 4–6 | Room 211
- Grades 7–12 | Second Floor Parlor

Journey with Scripture | Fellowship Room

Facilitators: Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

“Things are hidden only to be revealed at a later time. They are made secret only to be brought out into the open.”

—Mark 4:22

In the Journey with Scripture class, participants read and reflect upon three scriptures that span across the Bible. This year, we’re reading from Book 1 of the Psalms (Psalms 1–41), selected Hebrew Scriptures referencing “A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church” by Wilda Gafney, Song of Songs, and the gospel of Mark. All these texts offer transformative paths to steadfast love, faithfulness, and justice. Come join the journey! You are welcome to join a class at any time.

Nov. 6: Psalm 8; 1 Kings 5:1–6, 13–14; Mark 4:21–34

Nov. 13: Psalm 9; 1 Kings 11:26–39; Mark 4:35–41

Nov. 20: Psalm 10; 2 Kings 24:8, 11–17; Mark 5:1–20

Nov. 27: Psalm 11; Song of Songs 1:1–6; Mark 5:21–43

Parenting Circle | Room 213

Facilitator: Trish Buben

November: Atlas of the Heart Discussion

This year, we’re reading *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* by Brené Brown. In this *New York Times* bestseller, Brown writes, “If we want to find the way back to ourselves and one another, we need language and the grounded confidence to both tell our stories and be stewards of the stories that we hear. This is the framework for meaningful connection.”

Anyone involved in parenting is welcome to join us.

Seekers | Garth Overlook Room

Facilitator: Gwen Puza | gpuza9@gmail.com

Nov. 6: Chenoa Stock Shares Her Work in Peru

Since 2019, ELPC member Chenoa Stock has served in Peru with PERUSA, a program of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network and a ministry of the PC(USA). She will provide some background on Peru and its history, and share about the ongoing turbulent political and economic situation. She will introduce us to our Peruvian partners and how they have overcome challenges in their ministries during the pandemic and now.

Nov. 13 Meet Immigrant Students Who are Attending English Classes at ELPC

The class will be an opportunity to meet Ruth Farrell of Casa San José and learn of the many programs they offer for newly arriving immigrants. ELPC is a supporter of Casa San José and has opened its doors to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes since 2019. This fall, 38 Spanish-speaking men and women have registered for English classes held twice a week. Students from the ESL classes will attend our class to tell us about their challenges and successes.

Nov. 20: The Truth About the Book of Revelation

Elaine Pagels asks the question, “Who wrote the Book of Revelations, (the final book of the New Testament) and why?” What were the historical influences of the author and what was his agenda?

Dr. Elaine Pagels is an American historian of religion. She is the Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Pagels has conducted extensive research into early Christianity and Gnosticism.

Nov. 27: The Hidden Life of Cloistered Nuns

“The Hidden Life,” an award-winning documentary, tells the story of an order of nuns who live cloistered and in silence, and includes interviews with some of the nuns. “The Hidden Life” aired on PBS. It was nominated for an Emmy® award in three categories and won for “Outstanding Achievement in Writing.”

Soul Food | Good Samaritan Room

Facilitators: Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

November: Discussing Fierce Love

This month, we will continue discussing *Fierce Love*, by the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis.

New participants are welcome! For details, contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net.

Children & Youth Ministry

Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

Sat., Nov. 12: Volunteering at Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank 9 am–12:30 pm
Tweens and their families are lending a helping hand at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Spots are limited. Sign up with Sara Hackett at SaraH@coh.net.

Sat., Nov. 12: Volunteering at Blessing Board 8 am–2 pm
High schoolers (must be at least 13 years old) are volunteering at Blessing Board, helping qualifying families receive free furniture.



Sun., Nov. 17: Youth Sunday School 9:45–10:45 am
Youth in grades 7–8 will meet during the Church School hour to assign narrator parts for our upcoming Christmas Pageant.

Older youth in grades 9–12 will be serving breakfast at EECM. Parents will receive an email with additional details, or may reach out to Sara Hackett.

Young Adult Ministry

Derail Holcomb, Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries



Change is often necessary! Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season and time under Heaven for every action.

For some, this scriptural poetry is a foreshadowing of something terrible. But this scripture also can serve as a beautiful reminder that this—season of life—too shall pass.

Amid change, we will still gather (in person and virtually) to continue allowing the Love of God to be shown worldwide.

Sun., Nov. 6: Lending a Hand at Worship 11 am
Calling all young adults! Join us as we serve our church family by handing out bulletins at Sanctuary worship.

Fri., Nov. 18: Virtual Happy Hour 7 pm
Join us on the third Friday for our monthly Virtual Happy Hour! Scripture reminds us that two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4). And continuing with the theme of friendship, invite one special friend to join you for the event.

Sun., Nov. 20: YAMs at Fall Pie Festival 12:15 pm
We'll join the Spiritual Life Committee for our church's Fall Pie Festival. Bring your favorite dessert—with a young adult twist.

Don't hesitate to email Derail Holcomb at DerailH@coh.net with questions.

Mark Your Calendars for Our Youth Retreat

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to a retreat from **Fri.–Sun., Dec. 9–11**, at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock.

Keep a look out for more details, or contact Sara Hackett.



club one sixteen

Note: We will not meet on **Wed., Nov. 23**.

Kids in grade 1–12 are invited to **club one sixteen**, ELPC's mid-week program for youth. We gather each Wednesday, 4:30–6:30 pm, for Bible Study, recreation, relaxation, and dinner together.



Make a Difference by Supporting the PW Thank Offering

Since 1888, Presbyterian Women have given a “special offering to the Lord” as a tangible expression of gratitude for their many blessings. Today, faithful givers are still responding to this call through the PW Thank Offering to support innovative mission projects.

Last year’s Thank Offering is funding 10 projects with grants of \$5,000–\$50,000. Examples include:

- Helping formerly incarcerated women forge new and better lives in North Carolina;
- Addressing severe malnutrition among poor families in Haiti;
- Providing transformative retreats for low income cancer patients in Georgia; and
- Supporting adults with disabilities in Alabama, Philadelphia, Texas, and Lebanon.

All ELPC members and friends are invited to support the PW Thank Offering during Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 20**. Make checks payable to “Presbyterian Women in ELPC” and write “PW Thank Offering” in the memo line.

For more information, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



Presbyterian Women

PW Bible Study: Sabbath and Sunday
Tues., Nov. 1 10 am–12 pm (Hybrid)
Mon, Nov. 7 7–8:30 pm (Zoom only)

How did Sunday become the “Sabbath Day” for Christians? Both Jesus and his early Jewish followers observed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week as part of their weekly rhythms of work and worship (Luke 4:16–22). But among early Christians, Sunday became an important day of the week as well (Acts 16:11–15). Perhaps, these divergent views about how and whether to celebrate Sabbath leave more room to experience the joy and refreshment at the heart of Sabbath.

If you’re attending our Tuesday session in person, feel free to bring your own lunch.

For more information and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



Join us for a Yoga Retreat

Yamuna will lead a brief, but sweet yoga retreat on **Sat., Nov. 12**, 9 am–12 pm, in the Sanctuary. This abbreviated retreat will include a yoga class, some meditation, and maybe a JourneyDance experience. No lunch will be included. However, we invite all participants to bring their own lunch, and we can have an informal lunch together if we so choose!

The suggested donation is \$20–\$40. Please RSVP to Norma Meyer at **412.441.3800 x211**. Spots are limited to 20 participants. Feel free to bring your own mat and whatever else would make you feel comfortable doing yoga in the Sanctuary (blanket, water bottle, etc.). Om Shanti and Namaste.



LGBTQ Ministry

Wil Forrest, Coordinator of LGBTQ Ministry

Sun., Nov. 13: Spiritual Gathering 12:30 pm
All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering.

To ask questions or RSVP, contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x218**.

God Created You. God Loves You. Be Yourself.



Fall Garden Cleanup

Join the Garden Crew on **Sat., Nov. 5**, for their final volunteer work day of 2022. Work will focus on the flower beds at the Highland entrance, in the Courtyard, and in the Children's Play Yard.

Green thumbs are not required—just bring a generous spirit and a pair of work gloves to the Highland driveway around 9 am.

For more information, contact Don Breitbarth at donbreitbarth@gmail.com.

Amen to Action

We can make a difference together. Our church is collaborating with neighbor congregations and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to pack 100,000 meals in just three hours on **Sat., Nov. 12**.



This is a part of a larger movement in the communities surrounding Pittsburgh called *Amen to Action*, which will pack 1,000,000 meals in the month of November for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Registration is closed, but for more information about the event, please contact Bob Forloines at rforloines@gmail.com.

Connections Movie Night

The ELPC Connections Group will be going together to see the movie "Till" on **Sat., Nov. 19**, at the Waterfront Theater. After the movie, we'll get coffee and dessert and discuss the film.

RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com and let us know if you would like a ride. We won't know the exact showtime until a few days before the event, but plan on approximately 7 pm. We'll contact those who have RSVPed with details.

A limited number of free tickets are available for those who need them. Please join us!



ELPC People

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

Good News

- Linda and Tim Benedict are happy to announce the birth of **Ava Katherine Benedict**, daughter of Michael Benedict (ELPC member) and Ashley.
- Congratulations to **Levi Selekman**, son of Elisabeth Heffner and Zachary Selekman, who was baptized on October 2.
- Congratulations to **Thomas Kniess**, son of Ana Canavezi Kniess and Ryan Kniess, who was baptized on October 2.
- Congratulations to **Kim Shriver** and **Chuck Lang** who were united in marriage on September 17.
- Congratulations to **Abby Langhorst** and **David Gardner** who were united in marriage on September 24.
- Dr. Nancy Klancher published a book, titled *The Biblical Mothers Deliver: The Chosen, the Saved, and the Disavowed*, which is now available for sale on Amazon.

Thanks

- Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards, and support extended to me during the death of my brother, Christopher. May God continue to bless and keep you all.
—Pastor Patrice

Prayers

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

- Alex Karaczun, husband of Nicole Molinaro and father of Mackenna
- Cathleen Malmstrom's brother
- Martha DeMarzi's niece Glenda's husband John
- Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany (pictured), who served as ELPC's organist & director of Worship Music & the Arts from 1994–2010



Building Closures

ELPC will be closed on **Veterans Day, Fri., Nov. 11**, and **Thurs.–Fri., Nov. 24–25**, in observance of **Thanksgiving**.

ELPC to Host Fall Pie Festival

You read that right! The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) invites you to the first-ever Fall Pie Festival following Sanctuary worship on **Sun., Nov. 20**.

You are welcome to bring your favorite fall pie (or cake or cookies) to share with the congregation. The SLC will provide whipped cream, ice cream, and warm drinks while we sample your favorite pies or other sweet treats.

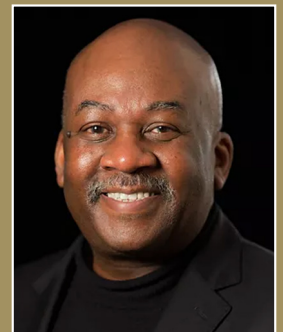
Join us in the Social Hall for a time of celebrating the fall harvest and anticipating the arrival of the holiday season.



Tuning Up for the 2022–2023 Cathedral Concerts Season

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series will kick off its 2022–2023 season on **Sun., Nov. 20**, 3 pm, with an exciting concert featuring guest conductor Dr. Anthony Leach, the ELPC Chancel Choir, and special guests.

Contact Dr. Ed Moore at EdM@coh.net for details.



Church Building Update

Currently, masking is required anytime children are present. Masks will be optional when we are at medium-to-low transmission rates. Individuals are welcome to wear masks when at ELPC, and masks are available.

ELPC will continue to adhere to the guidelines of the CDC and Allegheny County Health Department, and may shift conditions change. Please observe posted notices when entering the church building. For the most up-to-date information, visit ELPC.church.