



# 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)*

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## JANUARY 1, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE

“O Run, Ye Shepherds”

MAX DRISCHNER

TIME OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Lenore Williams

Leader: Grace to you and peace in this new year.

People: We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Leader: In Christ we have obtained an inheritance

People: **We have been redeemed as God’s own people. Praise be to God!**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sara Hackett

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sara Hackett

God of love and compassion, you have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Sara Hackett

Leader: Friends, hear the good news of your salvation; God freely bestows God’s grace on us through Jesus Christ. In Christ we receive redemption and forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of grace that God lavishes on us. Siblings, let us be reconciled to God and one another. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.  
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Praise God!

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

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## Jan 1 • 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #155                      “Raise a Song of Gladness”                      JUBILATE DEO

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Isaiah 63:7-9                      Lenore Williams

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 #158                      “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”                      MARY’S CHILD

GOSPEL LESSON                      Luke 2: 22-40                      The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON                      “Making New Memories”                      The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC                      “Christmas Lullaby”                      Jason Robert Brown  
Denise Sheffey-Powell

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

*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.*



OFFERTORY HYMN #144                      “In the Bleak Midwinter”                      CRANHAM

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION                      OLD HUNDREDTH

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



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf  
Lenore Williams

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| 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<br>alabanzas a Dios.   | It is right to give God<br>thanks and praise. |
| Leader: | In praise and thanksgiving for your gift to us, we offer you our gifts. May your love be made visible through our shared ministry and the witness of our lives. As a new year begins, we dedicate ourselves to your service and pray that we will live lives faithful of your call. Through Christ we pray. Amen. |   |

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN #127

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Jesus, the Light of the World”

WE’LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

#### CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

#### POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Ethan LaPlaca, 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. Heather Schoenewolf  
Sara Hackett  
Lenore Williams

Musicians: Ethan LaPlaca  
*Guest Organist/Director*  
Jacob Berger  
Todd Farwell  
Denise Sheffey-Powell  
Robin Thompson  
*Cantors*

Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire

Crucifer: Mario Seneca

Sound: Tim Benedict  
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, contact Frances Wilson ([wilson.franr@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.franr@gmail.com)). The cost is \$175.

*Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade ([www.bloombrigade.com](http://www.bloombrigade.com)).*

◆ 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.

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

◆ 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

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

Meditation Hour — Begins Jan 17

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday, starting Jan 17, from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. The session will include an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome!

## 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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info or to register for future classes ([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).

Happy  
New  
Year!!



## TODAY AT ELPC

### The Chapel Market Needs Your Help

The Chapel Market is sponsoring a December Clothing Drive. Requested donations include winter-weight outer and inner wear, sweat pants, gloves, coats, socks for all ages and genders, especially for men. *Thanks for your generosity!*



### PW Bible Study — Jan 3 and 9

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Tuesday, Jan 3 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid), or on Monday, Jan 9 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only). The Tuesday Bible Study at ELPC will be followed by a brown bag lunch. For more info and the Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



### Connections Group Gathering — Jan 7

The ELPC Connections Group will be visiting *Phipps' Holiday Magic! Winter Flower Show and Light Garden* on Saturday, Jan 7 at 3:30 pm. Please buy your ticket in advance and gather at the front entrance at 3:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased online starting Monday, Dec 12 (\$24 for adults, \$14 for children, \$22 for seniors and students, and free if a member). We have a few free tickets available. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

### Club One Sixteen — Resumes Jan 11

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. We will resume on Wednesday, Jan 11. To register a child or update a registration, please visit ELPC.church.

### LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 15

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, Jan 15 at 12:30 pm. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

### Sabbath Day Workshop — Jan 14

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a day of rest, reflection, and conversation about how to faithfully practice *Sabbath* in our fast-paced, production oriented, consumer culture. Our day together will embody a *Sabbath* day of rest. We will collaboratively experiment with a variety of *Sabbath* practices and reflect upon them. There will be time for solitude, being in your body, instruction from Pastor BJ, and personal reflection with the aim of developing a plan for practicing *Sabbath* in your own life. So whether you are retired, parenting young kids, a single young adult or at the height of your career, our time together will aim to help you design a *Sabbath* practice for your season of life. Join us on Saturday, Jan 14 from 9 am-3 pm at ELPC. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Please RSVP to Norma by Jan 10 (412.441.3800 x211).



### Tween Bowling — Jan 15

Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Jan 15, youth in grades 4–6 will gather for lunch and bowling in the Bowling Alley. Friends are always welcome! Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

### Study the Enneagram — Jan 16 (3rd Monday of the Month)

Join us on the third Monday of each month from 12:15–1:30 pm, at [www.tiny.cc/enneagram](http://www.tiny.cc/enneagram). Enter Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127; and Passcode: 9types. Participants will need a copy of *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz. Our group will be led by Lynn Holden, a licensed professional counselor, trained spiritual director, and certified Enneagram practitioner. *Please note the group will meet on Jan 16, Feb 20 and March 20.*



### Interested in Being an Usher or Greeter?

If you are interested in being an usher or greeter on Sundays for our worship service, visit <http://tiny.cc/elpcusher> to sign up, or talk to an usher today.





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

Ray Anthony, Linda Benedict,  
David Carl's mother Dorothy, Shirley Fair's daughter Julia,  
Joe Kennedy, Judy Menk,  
Vivienne Selia's friend Sam and brother-in-law Jim,  
and Herma Stewart's sister, Edris.

*Condolences to the family of Willa Dixon on her passing.  
Condolences to Travis Simpson Hunt on his Great Aunt's passing.*

#### Meditation Hour — Begins Jan 17

Meditation is the practice of “looking deeply.” In silence and withdrawal from the world of everyday concerns, we turn our attention inward and calm our bodies and minds. In this emptiness we may see the world as if for the first time. We may see others as they are and we may find that the Kingdom of Heaven is truly within us; that we are living in God and God in us.



The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday, starting Jan 17, from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. The session will include an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome!

#### How to Reduce Energy Bills and

#### Take Advantage of New Incentives — Jan 22

Energy prices have gone up sharply within the last half year, and are impacting many households this winter. At the same time, legislators and the Biden Administration are to release \$369 billion for “Energy Security and Climate Change,” part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), offering rebates, tax incentives, and other programs to help households conserve energy and to electrify. What is in the programs and how can you take advantage of them?

Join the Environmental Team of Justice Committee following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Jan 22 in the Social Hall or on Zoom to learn about the actions households can take right away or plan to take in the later part of 2023, when the remaining regulations are finalized.

A light lunch will be offered. Contact Nancy Heastings with any questions (n.heastings@comcast.net).

#### CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE

The church building will be closed on Monday, Jan 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

#### The History and Persistence of Racism Within the Christian Church — Jan 29

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee invites the congregation to join us on Sunday, Jan 29 (via zoom or in person) for the second part of our series, *The History and Persistence of Racism within the Christian Church*, led by University of Pittsburgh professor and lecturer, Dr. Brock Bahler. Comments following the first presentation included:



- I've been Christian all my life. Why didn't I know this history?
- What else don't I know about my faith in general as well as the Presbyterian denomination?
- How is ELPC implicated in that history? What now?

Dr. Bahler will speak to the intentional codification of racism within the church and how the church continues to perpetuate — and benefits from — white supremacy. His lecture will be followed by a small group discussion of the content, as well as consideration of next steps for ELPC.

The presentation will be held during the Church School hour, immediately following Journey worship in the Social Hall. *Zoom details to follow in January.*

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Jan 8 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

*There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday, Jan 1.*

#### ♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 14; Song of Songs 3:1–11; Mark 6:30–44, 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) — “That They May All Be One: Working for Christian Unity in Southwest Pennsylvania,” led by The Rev. Liddy Barlow, executive minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania (in-person), facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, starting with the Preface and Chapter 1, 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