

TODAY AT ELPC

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping

Help support the Deacons' holiday outreach ministries by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages today in the Garth Overlook and Hospitality Rooms, or go online to purchase items. Please contact Board of Deacons Moderator Dave Cowan (DavidACowan@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x230) for more info.

Church Tour

A *Hidden Places Tour* will be held after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service today. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

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!*

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 David Cowan.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Drew Simpson.

Advent Devotionals Available

The Faith Formation Board has created an *Advent Calendar* for our church family, rich with opportunities to actively engage persons of all ages in this practice of waiting. Electronic and printed copies are now available.

Volunteers are needed to help take the collection at the Christmas Eve 10 pm service. Please contact Lynne Chadwick if you can help (LynneNChadwick@gmail.com).

Elder and Deacon Nominations

The Officer Nominating Committee needs your suggestions to identify a diverse set of candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know can contribute to the leadership of our congregation, and submit your nominations by Dec 20 to Nominating Committee Co-chairs Andrea DeVries (andrea.devries74@gmail.com) and Jill Millard (millardjill@yahoo.com).



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, 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.



**Christmas
EVE @ ELPC**

4:00 pm Family Service
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching

10:00 pm Candlelight Service
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching
Prelude music begins at 9:30 pm



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 Adrianna Cleveland on her friend's passing.

Condolences to Crystal Gilroy on her mother's passing.

Condolences to the family of Charles Struthers on his passing.

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.



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).



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Church School classes on Sundays, Dec 25 and Jan 1 for a Christmas holiday break.

EMAIL and TEXT SCAM ALERT

An email and text scam with Pastor Heather Schoenewolf's name has circulated. If you receive a text or email with Pastor Heather listed as the "sender" requesting you purchase gift cards, please know it is not valid, and please take no action with such messages. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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

Whether you are new to the Enneagram or have been dabbling in it for years, you are invited to participate in our *Enneagram Study Group*, where you will glean a deeper appreciation of how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made," and how that plays out in loving our neighbors. The Enneagram doesn't put you in a box; it reveals the box that you are already in—and offers a path out!



Join us on the third Monday of each month from 12:15–1:30 pm, at 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 *not* meet on Dec 19, but will gather on Jan 16, Feb 20 and March 20.

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!

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.

Contemplative Prayer — Mondays

You're invited to a weekly time of quiet contemplation and reflection on Mondays from 7:30-8 am. 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. Enter Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; and Passcode: bestill. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for more info.



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God — the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Love is such a powerful force. It's there for everyone to embrace — that kind of unconditional love for all of humankind. That is the kind of love that impels people to go into the community and try to change conditions for others, to take risks for what they believe in.

— Coretta Scott King

God so loved the world, that God gave the only begotten son.

— John 3:16a

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599”

(Savior of the Nations, Come)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

Lloyd Larson

ELPC Ringers

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sonia Degenholtz

Leader: We stand on the cusp:

People: The promise is almost fulfilled.

Leader: We wait with bated breath:

People: The child is almost here.

Leader: We trust the well-loved story:

People: God is truly with us.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (*Isaiah 7:10-16*) Jason Wilburn, Annabelle Javier, Matteo and Sebastian Wilburn

Leader: God gave us a sign of the kingdom to come.

People: A young woman with child, a boy!

Leader: The young boy will have a special name — Immanuel, which means “God is with Us.”

People: He will learn to reject evil and choose good.

Leader: Before that happens, our fears will be gone.

Four candles are lit.

People: We light the fourth candle of Advent knowing the sign of love has come.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #85 (vs. 4)

TIF IN VELDELE

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Light four candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Derail Holcomb

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Derail Holcomb

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. You have taught us to be patient and promised to supply our needs. Yet we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We blame our troubles on others, withholding the tolerance and care you have shown to us. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. O God, forgive our indulgence and help us to stand firm. Teach us to be patient, that in Christ we may have endurance despite our need. Restore us and the joy of our salvation, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Derail Holcomb

Leader: Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save. God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free. Through this abundant love, we are forgiven. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

BELL ANTHEM

“Carol of the Bells”

arr. Kevin McChesney

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19

Sonia Degenholtz

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:19-25

Derail Holcomb

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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/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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Members: Kristin Cummings, Randy and Michelle Hebert, Jay Miller and Sara Torretti

* SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #90 (sing 3x)

“Wait for the Lord”

WAIT FOR THE LORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Immanuel Changes Everything”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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 hymnal.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

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.

The Rev. Schoenewolf



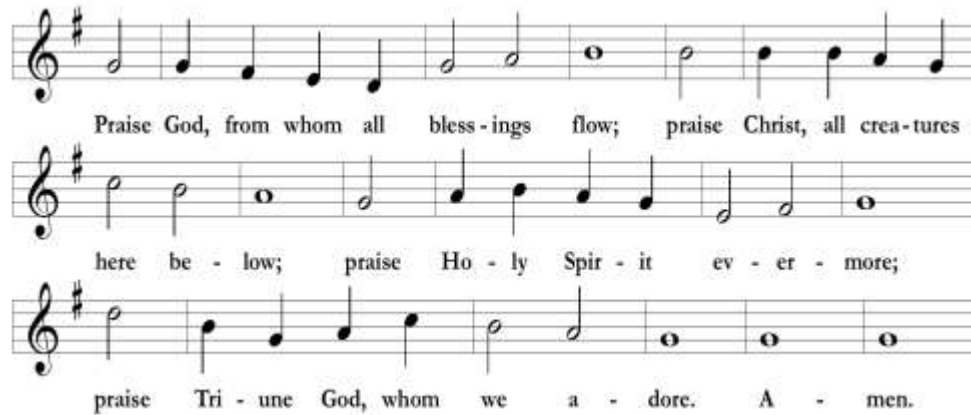
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

Elizabeth Poston

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

Leader: Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reform the ways of this world for the sake of life anew. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661”

Johann Sebastian Bach

(Savior of the Nations, Come)

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. 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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sonia Degenholtz
Derail Holcomb
Jason Wilburn and Annabelle Javier
Matteo and Sebastian Wilburn
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
Beadle: **Debbie O'Dell-Seneca**
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship 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). The cost is \$175.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (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.
This service will resume on Jan 8, 2023.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Dec 25 — 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

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 on future classes (MeganL@coh.net), or speak to one of the Pastors.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.