



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)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 15, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. **For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.** — 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Grave~Adagio~Allegro Maestoso e Vivace”
(Sonata II)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, 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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on John 1)

Hannah and Kevin Moon

Leader: To everyone searching for grace and truth,

People: Come and see!

Leader: To everyone searching for meaning and purpose,

People: Come and see!

Leader: To everyone searching for abundant life,

People: Come and see!

Leader: Let us worship God together in the spirit of holiness.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #837 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

SHOWALTER

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hannah and Kevin Moon

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hannah and Kevin Moon

Merciful God, we confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ. Forgive us for the times we stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate. Forgive us for the times our actions have not aligned with our beliefs. Forgive us for the times we hoarded our abundance. And forgive us for the times we turned away from your children, our siblings in need.

For the many ways we failed to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to come and see, and to abide in your presence so we may be renewed and transformed. Empower us to witness, with our words and our lives, to the love and grace we have experienced in Jesus Christ. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hannah and Kevin Moon

Leader: God will not withhold mercy from us. The steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord is with us, now and forevermore. Hear the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #442

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

WOODWORTH

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 65:9-23

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 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 #300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Off-Season Planting"

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 Glory to God hymnal.

OFFERING INVITATION

Derail Holcomb

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 ANTHEM

"I Waited for the Lord"

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
text from Psalm 40:1, 4a

*I waited for the Lord, God inclined unto me,
God heard my complaint.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
Kevin Moon

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:	Generous God, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we have received. Use them to strengthen the ministry of your church as we plant seeds of hope, peace, justice, and love, in and out of season, and as we seek to meet the needs of your children. May these offerings bear witness to your love made known to us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

AR HYDY NOS

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Fugue: Allegro Moderato”
(Sonata II)

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
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
Derail Holcomb
Hannah and Kevin Moon
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Adrianna Cleveland, *Soloist*
Gail Mosites, *Soloist*
Beadle: Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Mark Statler
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.
Jan 22 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 22 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy 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* next Sunday, Jan 22 after the 11 am service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for more info or to register (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

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

Tween Bowling

Following today's 11 am worship, 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).

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DODs)

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 Tom Sturgill.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is George Clark.



Volunteers Needed to be Beadles and Crucifers

There are many ways to participate in our worship services! We are currently seeking volunteers to be a Beadle or Crucifer at our 11 am Sanctuary worship service. The duties of the Beadle include processing at the beginning of the service with the Bible, and the Crucifer also processes while carrying the cross. If you would like to help, or have questions about these roles, please speak to one of today's Beadles, or email Mario Seneca (seneca459@hotmail.com).

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. 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.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Jan 29 • after 11 am worship

A special congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on Jan 29. This will be in-person participation only (will not be livestreamed).

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!

Virtual Happy Hour — Jan 20

Plan on joining the Young Adult Ministry for their monthly *Virtual Happy Hour* on Friday, Jan 20 from 6-8 pm. The Zoom link will be available at www.ELPC.church. Please contact Derail Holcomb for more info (DerailH@coh.net).

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 (Meeting ID: 838 3886 1605, Passcode: 562814) 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).

INQUIRERS' CLASS NEXT SUNDAY, JAN 22

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Jan 22 after the 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. This will be a hybrid event (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 848 1229 8394; Passcode: 739118). New members will be received on Jan 29 during 11 am worship.





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

Linda Benedict,

Tim Engelhardt's dad Steve and mom Cecelia,
Joe Kennedy, Rhonda Perroz's brother Gary,
and Herma Stewart's sister Edris.

Condolences to the family of Willa Dixon on her passing.
(Valerie Dixon)

Condolences to the family of Michael Hoehn on his passing.
(Carol, Michael and Benjamin Hoehn and Laura Trabold
and grandchildren Caleb and Caiden Trabold and Reagan Hoehn)

Condolences to the family of Morris Jordan on his passing.
(Sharon Hardnet)
His funeral service will be at 1:00 pm today in the Chapel.

Youth & Young Adult Walking Football — Jan 22

Following worship on Sunday, Jan 22, youth in grades 6–12 will be joining the Young Adults for lunch and *Walking Football* in the Gym. Please contact Sara Hackett for more info or to attend (SaraH@coh.net).

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.



The Chapel Market is Open on Thursdays

The *Chapel Market* is a clothing ministry of ELPC where people from the community can come and shop (no cost) for clothing on Thursdays from 10 am-Noon.

We need your help, especially help sorting clothes and staffing the Chapel Market. If interested, please contact Frank Bauerle (frbauerle@yahoo.com).

Environmental Book Study:

Superman's Not Coming — Feb 9

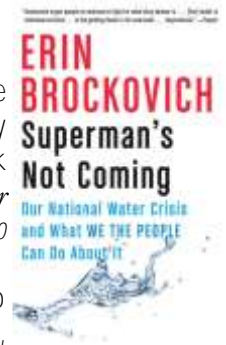
The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is continuing their study surrounding water with their next book *Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It* by Erin Brockovich.

This 2020 book is a stirring call to action from the environmental activist, consumer advocate, and renowned crusader. It is a brutally honest look at how mismanagement, chemical spills, mishandling of toxic waste and sludge have created the perfect storm in terms of damaging water systems in the United States.

Consider reading our new book and plan on joining us for a discussion on Thursday, Feb 9 at 7 pm, led by Sandy Brake on Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

See Derek Webb in Concert — Feb 10

All are invited to join the Young Adult Ministry on Friday, Feb 10 at 8 pm for Derek Webb in concert in the ELPC Bowling Alley. A member of contemporary Christian band *Caedmon's Call*, Derek's newest solo work, *The Jesus Hypothesis*, takes another look at doubt and faith in beautiful ways. Tickets can be purchased online at DerekWebb.com.



CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE

The church building will be closed tomorrow in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Visit us online for info about our ministries and programs:
www.ELPC.CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Jan 22 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 16; Song of Songs 4:9–5:1; Mark 7:1–23, 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) — “Yeshua: Exploring the Jewish Roots of Jesus,” facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter three of *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members