



# 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)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 29, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

— Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

*Indian revolutionary considered by some as the father of non-violent resistance*

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Praecambulum in E Major”

Vincent Lübeck  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

### \* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

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

David Carl

Leader: People of God, who do you come to worship?

People: We come to worship the God of Love and Justice.

Leader: How will you worship?

People: Not with words alone, but by living lives of justice, kindness and humility.

Leader: Come, you who belong to God.

People: Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

Leader: Come, let us all abide in God's tent and in God's heart, now and forever.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #372

“O for a World”

AZMON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the **world's scorn and derision.**

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #826 (*refrain only*)

CRUCIFER

“Lift High the Cross”

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim.

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

David Carl

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.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Members: Maggie Buck, Kim McCoy-O'Donnell, Collyn O'Donnell,  
Jameson O'Donnell, Mark O'Donnell

HYMN #223

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Foolishly Weak”

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice L. 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.*

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

*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

“The Beatitudes”

Robert Lehman  
Matthew 5:3-12

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

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Woodworth

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, we give you thanks for your generosity to us and the persistence of your call that reaches our very souls. Bless these gifts and multiply them, for the sake of those in need around us; in Jesus' name.

People: Amén.

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.

Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #804

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

MARION

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Lift High the Cross”

Lani Smith

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. BJ Woodworth  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
David Carl  
Sara Hackett  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadle: The Rev. Joe Hajdu  
Crucifer: Erich Stein  
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](mailto:wilson.franr@gmail.com)). The cost is \$175.

#### ◆ 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.  
*Feb 5* — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*Feb 5* — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf 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

Meditation Hour (*through May 2023*)

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Prayer Room for an hour devoted to meditation, which includes an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. All are welcome!

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm (*before Taizé*)

## 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 more info on 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).

## TODAY AT ELPC

The History and Persistence of Racism  
Within the Christian Church

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee invites the congregation to join them this morning during the Church School hour in the Social Hall for the second part of the series, *The History and Persistence of Racism within the Christian Church*, led by University of Pittsburgh professor and lecturer, Dr. Brock Bahler. 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.

You are welcome to attend in-person or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 188 135 194; or call 929.205.6099).

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary following today's 11 am worship service to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Candidates are: Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, James Eng, Linda Lane, Rebecca McGregor, Polly McQueen, and Antwone Wright.

This will be in-person participation only (will not be livestreamed).

Toiletries Drive for Allegheny County Jail — Today and Feb 5

The Justice Committee is collaborating with the Chaplain's Office of the Allegheny County Jail to meet some of the current needs of inmates by collecting the following items:

- Body Wash
- Deodorant (*men's and women's*)
- Shampoo/Conditioner  
(*including black hair care products*)
- Lotion
- Toothpaste

(Please note we can only collect full-size toiletry items in plastic bottles or tubes. Pump mechanisms are prohibited.)

Volunteers will be collecting items after Journey and Sanctuary worship today and next Sunday, Feb 5. There also will be a drive-up collection outside of the South Highland Ave entrance from 12–2:30 pm on both days. Collection boxes will be available by the Highland entrance during the week. Monetary donations may be made to ELPC's "Hygiene collection."

If you would like to help with the collections, contact Judy Mancini (412.299.6160; [mancinijs@gmail.com](mailto:mancinijs@gmail.com)).

**Today's Deacons-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 Dave Cowan.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Tom Sturgill.



Youth Volunteering at the Chapel Market — Feb 5

The youth Church School class will be lending a hand at the *Chapel Market* on Sunday, Feb 5 from 9:45-10:45 am. Join them for the fun of sorting and joy of caring for our neighbors. Contact Sara Hackett for info ([SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net)).

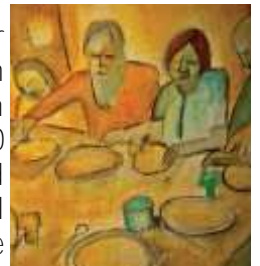
Church Tours — Feb 5 and 19

A *Stained Glass Tour* will be offered on Sunday, Feb 5, and a *Hidden Places Tour* will be held on Sunday, Feb 19. Both tours will begin after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!



PW Bible Study — Feb 6 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Sabbath and Hospitality* on Monday, Feb 6 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), and on Tuesday, Feb 7 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). For more info and the Zoom link, please email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com). Those attending the Tuesday Bible Study are invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.



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](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.net)).



*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 Becky Gloninger on her mother's passing.*

*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)*

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](http://DerekWebb.com).

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Feb 12

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

A Lenten Journey of Embracing the Wisdom of Our Ancestors, Bodies, and the Earth — Feb 23 to March 30

*Decolonizing* is a popular buzzword in conversations about spirituality, but what is it? What does it look like? Join other congregants on a Lenten journey focused on understanding the impact of colonization on our spiritual practice.



Together, let's consider ways to deepen our connection to God by learning to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, our bodies, and the Earth itself.

Each Thursday during Lent (Feb 23– March 30) from 5:30–7 pm, the Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger will lead us as we explore a particular theme and discuss ways to implement new ideas or strengthen our spiritual practice throughout the week.

We cannot change the past, but we can rediscover what we lost and build a fuller, richer sense of the Divine in our midst.

A light dinner will be served. The suggested donation is \$25 for all 6 weeks. Please RSVP to Norma (412.441.3800 x211) by Sunday, Feb 19.

### Help ELPC WELCOME children and families by ...

- *Volunteering in the Nursery!* Help is needed once a month or quarterly, during Journey or Sanctuary worship. Volunteers will be trained in our church's child safety policies and will work alongside an experienced staff person. We are also looking to hire an additional childcare worker, so please share the job description (found online) with anyone you know who is great with young children.
- *Providing Dinner for Club 116!* We serve dinner at 5 pm to around 25 people every Wednesday at Club 116. Grilled cheese, lasagna, and tacos are all big hits. You can find out more info and sign-up to provide dinner or dessert online: <https://forms.gle/oBmxJziBBgCF5MmU9>.
- *Volunteering at Club 116!* We have a growing program on Wednesday night from 4:30-6:30 pm (*especially our elementary and tween age group*) and need a few more adults who enjoy spending time with some exceptionally wonderful and fun kids. We are looking for volunteers who can help most weeks and occasional substitutes. Contact Sara Hackett for info ([SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net); 412.673.2926).



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Feb 5 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 17; Song of Songs 5:2–9; Mark 7:24–37, 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) — “Root Doctors & Hoodoo Medicine in Black History” video with Dr. Yvonne Chireau, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter four of *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, 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