



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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)

MAY 28, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP DAY OF PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

Holy God, like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost, and like a purifying fire, your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with the message of salvation. Sent your Spirit upon your church in this time and place, stir up our courage, and rouse us for prophetic witness, that we may join with them to proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power in Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Chorale Variations on ‘Veni Creator Spiritus’”

Maurice Duruflé
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
Based on Glory to God hymnal 278

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Misael Contreras Menco

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE

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

Lora Bethea

Leader: We gather together because God has called us. We wait in expectant awe for God’s appearing.
People: We are together, old and young, rich and poor. We have come, believers and skeptics, to this place.
Leader: On the first day of Pentecost, there were surprises: the rush of a violent wind and tongues of fire.
People: We tremble before the power of the Holy Spirit. What will happen if we let the Spirit in?
Leader: On this Pentecost, we can receive the surprises of God. We can be moved to speak and act in new ways.
People: **With hesitant eagerness, we welcome the Holy Spirit. We will risk stepping into God’s vision and future for us.**
Leader: Let us worship God! Hallelujah and Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #280

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

EBENEZER

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

O God, we have built cities for ourselves. We have sought fame and fortune. We have rushed through our days with unseeing eyes, stopped-up ears, and dulled or hyperbolic emotions. More often, we are enslaved by our fears than freed by your grace. We demand proof of your existence but ignore the work of your hands. We reject Jesus Christ as an impractical visionary. The Holy Spirit is unreal to us because we insist on being in charge and in control. Have mercy on us, holy God, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

God promises us an outpouring of the Spirit. We will see signs and experience wonders that we have never seen before. When we call out to God, healing, renewal, and reconciliation will come to pass. God approaches us with open hands filled with good things. When we are ready to be taught, God grants new insights and a deep, abiding sense of peace.

Friends, believe in the good news.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #288

“Spirit of the Living God”
(Please sing three times)

LIVING GOD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2: 1-13

Misael Contreras Menco (Spanish)
Damon Bethea (English)

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

INTERPRETIVE DANCE

“The Blood”

Kirk Franklin

Vocalists: Yolanda Adams, Alvin Slaughter
Dancer: Kara Ingold, Shana Simmons Dance

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GREEK SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2: 14-21

Misael Contreras Menco (Spanish)
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“A Wind of Change”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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 ANTHEM

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Harold Friedell/

Percy Dearmer

Text: Glory to God hymnal 529

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Misael Contreras Menco

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: Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you! This we pray in the name of Jesus.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #290

“O Day of Joy and Wonder!”

JONATHAN’S TUNE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ‘Veni Creator Spiritus’”

Maurice Duruflé

Dr. Moore, organ

Based on Glory to God hymnal 278

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 Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Misael Contreras Menco
Damon Bethea
Lora Bethea
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Yolanda Adams, Alvin Slaughter
Dancer: Kara Ingold, Shana Simmons Dance
Beadle: Mark Statler
Crucifer: Ian Kuchera
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SHANA SIMMONS DANCE (SSD)

SSD is a professional dance organization here in Pittsburgh and was founded in 2009 to create unique and engaging contemporary dance. Our mission is to increase engagement with audiences and the community through our work which relies heavily on partnerships and outreach to explore topics relevant to our community at large. SSD is honored to be one of Hope Academy's Artists in Residents. The passion of the company is to encourage movement in all bodies. SSS is currently offering Intro to Dance classes for adults on Thursday evenings in the dance studio at ELPC. www.shanasimmonsdance.com

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

In Memory of Capt. Robert C. Hellman and Lillian Hellman.

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 \$200. *Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).*

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir and soloists. The service is also livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. Weather permitting, this service will be held in the Courtyard. Additional seating is available in the Garth Overlook Room if you prefer to sit inside.

June 4 — 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

Meditation Hour

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Chapel 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).

TODAY AT ELPC

“Pride Then and Now” Presentation

Jason Van Ness, MSW, will present *Pride Then and Now: a Critical Examination of Fighting for LGBTQIA+ Rights* at 12:30 pm today in the Garth Overlook Room. A panel discussion will take place after the presentation. Attend in person or via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85609058578>). This event is sponsored by the Justice Committee and the LGBTQIA+ Ministry.

Sanctuary and Chapel Tour

Please join guide Jo Ellen Aleshire for a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel after the 11 am worship service today. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Jo Ellen Aleshire.



Passive House Tour – June 4

Join the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee on a tour of one of the most energy efficient homes in the region — Passive House-certified Squirrel Hill Duplex, located at 2883 Fernwald Rd. Finished in 2017 by ELPC congregants Lucy de Barbaro and Ayres Freitas, this home reduces heating and cooling by 80% compared to traditional construction, manages all rainwater on site, has a small green roof and is fully powered by solar energy. The home holds a gold label from the National Green Building Standard. There will be something of interest for those well versed in these various environmental initiatives and those new to these topics, and takeaways for your own environmental action at home. The tour will be offered on June 4 at 4 pm. Please text Lucy to indicate your interest and reserve a spot (412.320.0567). Families with children are welcomed.

Fridays in The Garden-June 9

The Environmental Team and Gardening Crew are hosting *Workdays in the Rain Garden* on Fridays again this summer. Please join them for a morning of weeding, mulching, and fellowship from 9 am to Noon on every SECOND and FOURTH Friday from May through September. Green thumbs are not required—just bring your energy, curiosity, and commitment to our church and community. Contact Don Breitbarth for more info (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

Be a Part of the Future of ELPC — We Want to Hear from You! The *Congregational Assessment Tool* (CAT), an on-line survey, is open to the congregation between now and May 31. Your responses will help the Pastor Nominating Committee in the search for new church leadership and will provide information as we work together in setting a course for the future of our congregation.

All members, friends, and active participants in the life of our congregation are asked to take the survey. Your responses are anonymous to allow for candid feedback.

Today laptops and technical support will be available at the church for individuals who do not have ready access to a computer, have questions, or need assistance in the process. The survey can be accessed using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CATsurveyELPC>.

Tending Our Neighborhood Trees — June 3

ELPC's Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and Tree Pittsburgh invite you to help us weed and mulch street trees along Penn Ave in East Liberty on Saturday, June 3 from 9 am–12 pm.

This year, in coordination with Sara Hackett, we plan to include young people. The minimum age is 10; anyone **under 18 needs to have a parent or chaperone**. We'll learn about trees and tree care from our Tree Pittsburgh expert, Jake Milofsky.

We will meet at the Whitfield side of ELPC. Dress for the weather in clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and don't forget sunscreen. Equipment, mulch, and work gloves will be provided, as well as drinking water and snacks. Please RSVP by Monday, May 29 to Mary Barr (empirephobic@gmail.com).

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.

Our summer worship schedule begins on

Sunday, June 4

with one Sunday service at 10 am in the Courtyard
(weather permitting).



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

Condolences to the family of Tony Brown who passed away this week.

Doris Dick's Aunt Alice,
Carol Chontos' family member Jonathan,
Dan Eash, Joe Kennedy

Summer Solstice Forest Bathing — June 17

Join us in celebration of the Summer Solstice as we take in all the light on one of the longest days of the year. On this 2-hour *Forest Bathing* walk on Saturday, June 17 at Penn Hills Community Park (Colorado St, Verona; park at pavilion) from 9-11 am, you'll be guided on a gentle, mindful stroll. *Forest Bathing* is more than just hiking, it is an immersive sensory experience that allows you to look at the forest differently than before, combining concepts of meditation and mindfulness through a series of guided invitations to allow you to relax and enjoy the moment. The walk ends with wildcrafted tea and light snacks.

Camp stools to sit on will be provided, or you may bring your own chair. In case of rain, please bring an umbrella. *Forest Bathing* in the rain is absolutely lovely. However, the walk will be canceled if thunderstorms are predicted.

If you're curious about what *Forest Bathing* is, check out this short 5-minute documentary: <http://tiny.cc/forest-bathing>. RSVP by June 15 to Norma (412.441.3800 x211).

Chapel Market: Expanded Hours and Donation Request

The Chapel Market has expanded its hours of operation! It is now open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5-7 pm, in addition being open every Thursday from 10 am—Noon. The Chapel Market is also seeking donations of summer clothing, especially children's clothes. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market during hours of operation.

Meditation Hour — Tuesdays

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. The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Chapel each Tuesday 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.

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).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

LAMP and ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry Events — June 3 and 25

ELPC is a proud participant in LAMP – LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. We are excited to again celebrate Pride in Pittsburgh this summer. While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups and in different neighborhoods around the area, the two Pride events LAMP will be participating in this year are: *Pittsburgh Pride March and Parade* on Saturday, June 3 in Downtown and the North Shore.

We will also participate in *People's Pride PGH March and Festival* on Sunday, June 25 in Swissvale. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed and encouraged to attend. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

RCC Pride Concert — June 10 and 11

Support the Renaissance City Choir by attending their annual Pride Concert *We Dream A World*. Every June, all eyes turn toward the LGBTQIA+ community. Corporations change their branding to incorporate rainbows as queer people march, demonstrate, and party in celebration of our community. Join the RCC as they sing for justice and stand up in pride. This year's Pride Concert features selections from Dear Evan Hansen, Kinky Boots, the 2019 feature film *Harriet*, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, and the *Social Justice Songbook*. The performances will be on June 10 and 11 at 4 pm here at ELPC. Tickets are available at www.rccpittsburgh.com. Sunday's performance also has ticketing for live-stream and a *Pay-What-You-Can* option.

THANK YOU, TEACHERS!

ELPC is blessed with dedicated and gifted teachers who nurture the lives of faith of persons of all ages and stages in their faith development. As our Church School classes conclude for the season, we give thanks to God for our Church School Teachers:

Sherry Anderson, Damon Bethea, Lora Bethea, Bethany Bray, Trish Buben, Jennifer Castle, Sandy Edgecombe, James Eng, Sara Hackett, Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Jan Irvin, William Johnson, Heather Lawrence, Nancy Magee, Janice Pressman, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, and Dorothea Ward.

Although Church School has paused for the summer, there will be other opportunities to learn and grow together! And mark your calendars for Sun., Sept. 10, when Church School Classes resume on Rally Day!