



Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

Summer Worship | 10 am

July 2*	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 9	Rev. BJ Woodworth
July 16	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
July 23	Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
July 30	Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee

Taizé Prayer Service

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Session News

In June, the ELPC Session:

- Heard and acted on a motion from the Property Committee;
- Established a working group to write an executive summary of the CAT Scan, and to identify action items; and
- Continued work on Session's Covenant of Presence.

Help Needed!

The Children and Families Ministry team and the Youth and Young Adult Committee are looking for folks who are interested in helping plan and support our church's ministry to kids, teens, families and young adults.

If you would like to learn more about the work of these committees, please talk to Pastor Heather or Sara Hackett.

Send Prayers

Please pray for our youth and adults who are on the Mission Trip, July 5–8, and for those attending Trinity Youth Conference July, 16–22.

ELPC Matters: The More You Know

As we navigate this season of transition together, ELPC is offering a series of informational sessions to broaden congregational awareness of different aspects of our life together that may seem to be more behind-the-scenes, but are fundamental to how we engage our faith in community together.

Our next session in this series will be held on **Sun., July 23**, 11:30 am, and will offer more information on our church's 2022 finances, as requested at the February Congregational Meeting. Jim Tinnemeyer, ELPC Director of Administration and Facilities, along with Elder Tiffany Sudar, Chair of the Finance Committee, will present at this session.

Join us in the Social Hall or on **Zoom** (meeting ID: 188 135 194).

Worshiping with Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee

On **Sun., July 30**, we're pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee as our special guest preacher.



Born in Suffolk, England, the Rev. Dr. Lee is the product of a loving home where his mother and grandmother instilled in him the values of pride and integrity that are guiding him through his life and ministry. He exercises his gifts as an educator of leadership, worship, and theology.

Rev. Dr. Lee currently serves as the president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He comes to the presidency after seven years of service at Wesley Theological Seminary as vice president

for Campus Administration and associate dean for Community Life. A dedicated theological educator, he believes strongly in education as the vehicle for expanding one's view of the world. He has served on the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College and is often a guest lecturer at workshops and seminars dealing with Christianity in the 21st century; religious difference; and issues affecting church leadership.

Rev. Dr. Lee is married to the Rev. Chenda Lee, an elder in Full Connection in the Virginia Annual Conference of United Methodist Church. Together they have four beautiful daughters, Akeemah (pronounced: Ah-key-ma), Jaanaiya (pronounced: Jah-nye-yah), Cydah (pronounced: Say-duh) and Camaini (pronounced: Kah-may-knee).

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

*Acting Co-Pastor and
Pastor for Mission Ministries*
PatriceFS@coh.net | x230

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

*Acting Co-Pastor and
Pastor for Educational Ministries*
HeatherS@coh.net | x221

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

*Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life,
Taizé, and Transitional Ministries*
BJW@coh.net | x241

Linda Addlespurger

Director of Hope Academy
info@HopeAcademyArts.com | x212

Wil Forrest

Coordinator of LGBTQIA+ Ministry
Wil@coh.net | x218

Sara Hackett

*Director of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries*
SaraH@coh.net | x220

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Music Director and Organist
EdM@coh.net | x224

Jim Tinnemeyer

Director of Administration and Facilities
JimT@coh.net | x239

Rachelle Calfee

RachelleC@coh.net | x234

Megan Leisher

MeganL@coh.net | x222

Norma Meyer

Norma@coh.net | x211



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

Pastoral Message

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries



In a world where there is so little that is constant, I typically take scales of measurement for granted. A cup of milk is a cup of milk. 10 pounds of flour is the same amount of weight as 10 pounds of bricks. 100 degrees Fahrenheit is the same amount of heat when the thermometer registers that temperature. The only exception to this rule was one that I have long-recognized and accepted: the world of women's fashion, in which the numbers representing size can mean vastly different things across different clothing labels.

I was surprised to learn, then, that a mile has not always been a consistent form of measurement. That which I assume has ALWAYS denoted a length of 5,280 feet has a widely varied history across time and place and meaning. In ancient Rome, a mile indicated 1,000 double paces (one step with each foot); the medieval English mile was 6,610 feet; the old London mile was 5,000 feet. In the Middle Ages, throughout Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia a mile indicated an arbitrary measurement, ranging anywhere from 3.25–6 English miles in length. In other contexts, a mile simply meant “a great distance” and in others it meant not a length of distance but of time—measuring about 20 minutes. The 5,280-foot mile was not codified as a measurement until Elizabeth's reign, in which it was set by a legal act at 320 perches, the equivalent of 5,280 feet. How about that!

Ok, so what does all of this have to do with our life together at ELPC?

Since mid-April, our PNC has been spearheading our collective engagement in a data-collection process called the “Congregational Assessment Tool” or “CAT Scan.” One survey was completed by the congregation and affiliates; another by our Session; another by our Staff. A tremendous amount of data was received—about worship, mission, community, education, satisfaction, energy, engagement... While there are statistical benchmarks against which ELPC's responses can be compared, many of the qualities being “measured” were qualitative—like involvement, energy, satisfaction. There is no one way to measure engagement, and not even one conclusion that can be drawn from the information.

Fortunately, ELPC has been working closely with an extraordinary consultant, Michelle Snyder, who has been clear to name: “Data is not discernment.” As much as we might appreciate the ease of pushing a button and having a computer spit out the qualities of an ideal pastor for ELPC, the data is a tool for the next step of the process: Discernment. In small and large groups, the PNC, Session and Congregation as a whole will be asking of ourselves what these “measurements” mean. Who are we now? Who is God calling us to be? Where are we growing? Where are we being called to grow? What do we find challenging? How prepared are we to navigate that challenge?

I'll be honest, the task ahead may feel daunting—or simply like it is just taking too long. But the GOOD NEWS is that we worship a God whose faithful love for us cannot be contained. Scripture reminds us in Psalm 139 that the God who knows the number of hairs on each one of our heads is a God whose love reaches us wherever we may go. Psalm 103 reminds us that God's steadfast love is as high as the heavens are above the earth—what's more God's steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting.

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News From Your PNC

The Pastoral Nominating Committee along with ELPC Session, pastoral staff, and program staff spent June 10 with Michelle Snyder, the consultant ELPC contracted to assist in interpreting and understanding the data received from 301 people (yay for you!) via the CAT Scan (Congregational Assessment Tool). It was fascinating, revealing, and enlightening to begin to learn what many of you are thinking about where we are as a church presently, where we might consider heading to in the future, and what your thoughts are about new pastoral leadership.

In the coming days, ELPC's Session will prepare a summary of the CAT Scan results. The summary will be made available to our congregation to provide an interesting snapshot of the responses given. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to speak with any member of the PNC or with Pastor BJ.

The PNC's next step will be to review the data we received and to determine where we need more information from you. Stay tuned to hear about the possibility of focus groups/listening sessions this summer, and consider your willingness to serve in this way. (These groups will be open to all in our congregation; completing the CAT isn't a pre-requisite for your participation in this important work.) It would be a huge help to the PNC to learn about your views on ELPC as we work our way toward writing the MIF (Ministry Information Form).

After completing the MIF in the fall, we will submit this job/church/congregation/activities description to the Presbytery for dissemination nationally for clergy in all 50 states to see who and what ELPC is and what we are looking for.

Additionally, Jim Eng, Sara Hackett, and Linda Lane talked with some of our youth on June 12 to hear their thoughts about our church. We are working as hard as we can to learn as much as possible from all active participants in the life of ELPC.

So there you have it! Please keep us in your prayers as we continue this important work for OUR church, and also feel free to speak with any of us individually. We feel honored to serve on the PNC and we are committed to doing the very best job we can so that ELPC can continue to move steadily forward in our community.

—Polly McQueen

ELPC Pastor Nominating Committee: Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, Jim Eng, Linda Lane (Chair), Rebecca McGregor (Secretary), Polly McQueen, Antwone Wright

Environmental Book Study

For their next session, the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee has selected two fiction books: *Waste Tide* by Chen Quifan and *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Feel free to read one or both! And plan on joining us to discuss them on **Thurs., Aug. 3**, 7 pm, in the Courtyard. Come at 6:30 pm for some time to socialize. Penn Hackney will lead our discussion of *Waste Tide*, and Sally Jo Snyder will lead our discussion of *Grapes of Wrath*.

For further information, contact Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.

Pastoral Message

The God of all eternity is a God of immeasurable faithfulness and love. God is with us always—as God has promised from the beginning of time and the first time worshipers gathered for a Bible Study at ELPC more than 200 years ago. God will never leave us nor forsake us. This gives me reason not only to hang in there when the in-between time feels like its dragging on, but it gives me hope. It inspires within me a curiosity about what God might be up to next through each one of us and through the Cathedral of Hope.

In a world where so little is constant—and change seems to be all around—let us hear the Good news: God is God of yesterday, today and tomorrow. God's love never ends. Praise God!

Pastor Heather

ELPC People

If you have news to share, contact Megan Leisher at MeganL@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x122.

Good News

- Congratulations to **Taylor Lee Lewand** and **Nicholas Quinton DeSandre**, who were married on June 3.
- Congratulations to **Caitlyn (Engelhardt)** and **Dustin Accipiter**, who were married on June 24.
- Join us in welcoming our new members and friends:
 - **Susan Apel**
 - **Adrian Roe**

Prayers

We offer our prayers of comfort to the family and friends of those who recently passed away:

- Anthony (Tony) Brown
- Lora Betheea's cousin
- Doris Dick's Aunt Alice

“...inviting all to join our diverse, inclusive family of faith, transcending boundaries of race, class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity to become one in Christ.”

Sing with the Summer Choir

If you would like to sing with the Summer Choir, contact Dr. Ed at EdM@coh.net. Rehearsals are on Sundays, 9 am, and we sing at the 10 am service.

Get to Know Our LGBTQIA+ Ministry

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering following worship on **Sun., July 16**. Join us and share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome!

Questions? Contact Wil Forrest at wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x218**.



God Created You.
God Loves You.
Be Yourself.

Support the PW Diaper Drive

Clean diapers are a basic need of every infant and toddler. Yet, one in three families cannot afford enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy. Three in five parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their baby in childcare.

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank, wpadiaperbank.org, has been helping families meet diaper needs for more than a decade. The Diaper Bank began at New Light Temple Baptist Church, serving families in Allegheny County through six partner agencies. Last year, the Diaper Bank provided over two million diapers to families in Allegheny, Washington, and Westmoreland counties through 53 partner agencies. ELPC members and friends have generously supported this ministry for many years.

Presbyterian Women will host a Diaper Drive at the Highland Ave. entrance following worship on **Sun., July 30**, until 12:30 pm. Diaper sizes 5 and 6 are most needed.

For more information, contact PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

