

Summer Worship



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023
10 AM in the COURTYARD



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)

AUGUST 20, 2023 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

Reflection [Wisdom] is a flower of the mind, giving out wholesome fragrance; but revelry is the same flower, when rank and running to seed. — *Desiderius Erasmus*

GATHERING MUSIC (*music printed in bulletin*)

#390 (*sing 3 times*)

“Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!”

LOUEZ LE SEIGNEUR

#401

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Rev. Henk Bossers

* 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 (*Psalms 133*)

Damon and Lora Bethea

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when families live together in unity!

People: It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard of Aaron.

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

People: For there the Lord ordained the blessing upon us, life forevermore!

Leader: Let us worship God, in spirit and in truth.

* OPENING HYMN #406 (*music printed in bulletin; sing 2 times*)

HOLY GROUND

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Damon and Lora Bethea

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Damon and Lora Bethea

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus. Our lives have been disrupted by the accuser and by our own desires and exploits. We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the fallout and consequences of our own behavior and decisions. We cannot take back what we have said, or undo what we have done, or atone for the agony we have caused others. We are troubled by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future. We hide ourselves from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing. Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your forgiveness, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Damon and Lora Bethea

Leader: Beloved, our God kisses us with kindness, forgiving our sins, preserving our lives, and restoring our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered: we are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

RESPONSIVE HYMN #544 (*music printed in bulletin; sing 3 times*)

BLESS THE LORD

“Bless the Lord”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32

Damon and Lora Bethea

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children.

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.

* HYMN #452 (*music printed in bulletin*)

OPEN THE EYES

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“It's Complicated”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

ELPC GOOD NEWS

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Mary Alice Lightle

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

OFFERING INVITATION

Damon and Lora Bethea

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 Narthex.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“God Be in My Head”

Andrew Carter

*God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at mine end and at my departing.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Damon and Lora Bethea

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: Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable, to those who are treated unjustly, marginalized, and ostracized. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate our self-centered desires to hoard, and multiply within us the desire to share.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN #300 (*music printed in bulletin*)

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

"We Are One in the Spirit"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



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: Damon and Lora Bethea
The Rev. Henk Bossers
Sara Hackett
Mary Alice Lightle
Musicians: Ethan LaPlaca,
Guest Keyboard / Conductor
ELPC Summer Choir
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Water is available in the Highland Lobby.

♦ 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 \$100 during the summer worship schedule.

♦ 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.

Aug 27 — 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

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*)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month.

Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17

7-8:30 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.

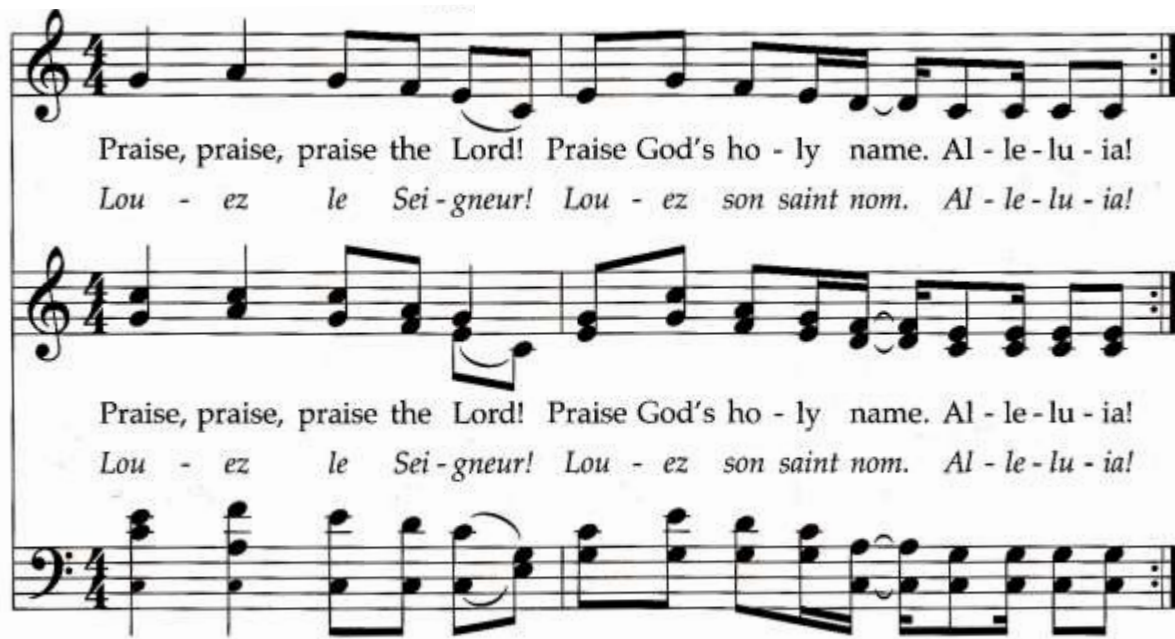
To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

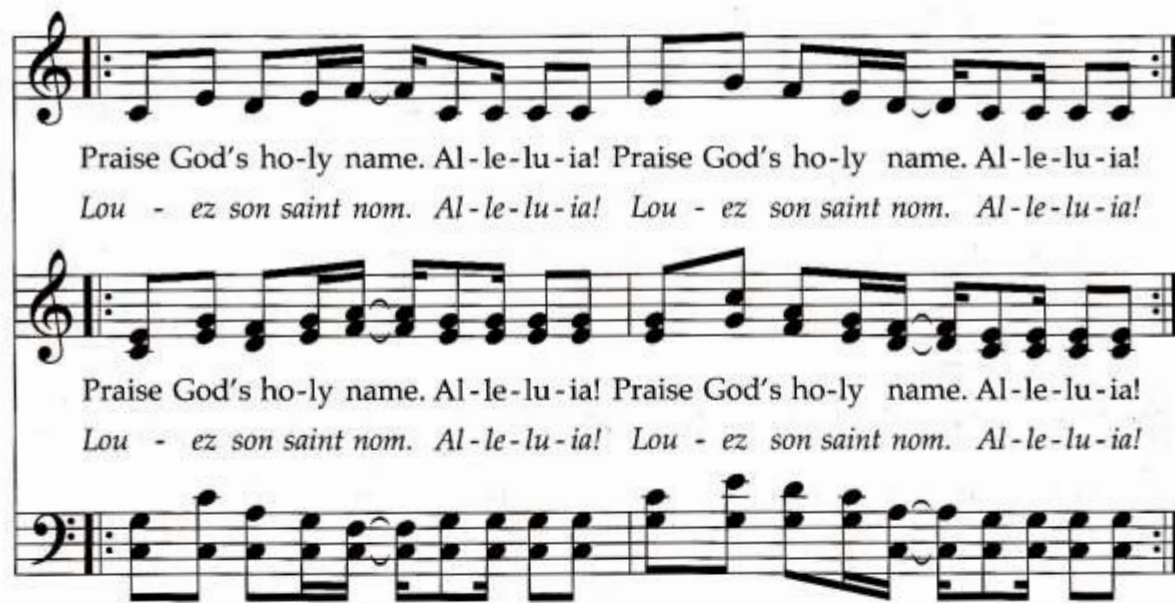
Attend an *Inquirers' Class* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the Pastors to attend, or contact Megan Leisher for more info on future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

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

#390 — PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE THE LORD! (*sing 3 times*)



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lou - ez le Sei - gneur! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Lou - ez son saint nom. Al-le-lu-ia! Lou - ez son saint nom. Al-le-lu-ia!

This song may be repeated, adding a vocal part on each repetition: melody (alto) alone; melody + tenor; melody + lower parts; all voices.

This brief song of praise comes from Cameroon, where it is used primarily as a processional song with rhythmic movement and increasing harmonies. The organizing aesthetic here is repetition, experienced as a means of intensification expressed in multiple languages.

#401 — HERE IN THIS PLACE

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

#406 — WE ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND (*sing 2 times*)

G D A D G D Em
 We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
 D G F#m F#m7 B7
 and I know that there are an - gels all a -
 E Gm D A7 D G
 round; let us praise Je - sus
 D Em F#m7 G D G
 now; we are stand - ing in his
 D Em7 D G D
 pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

The phrase "holy ground" resonates with the experience of Moses at the burning bush, where he had an encounter with God (Exodus 3:5; also quoted in the martyr Stephen's sermon, Acts 7:33). The reference to angels may recall Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:12–17) or Hebrews 12:22.

#544 — BLESS THE LORD (*sing 3 times*)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal staff (treble clef) and a bass staff (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The music is a simple, repetitive melody suitable for congregational singing.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

#452 — OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lift - ed up,

shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your


pow-er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.


The initial petition of this song is based on the language of Ephesians 1:18, while the second part draws on the account of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1-5. That event, in turn, is the basis of the threefold *Sanctus* that has become a traditional element in Christian worship.

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm




1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm



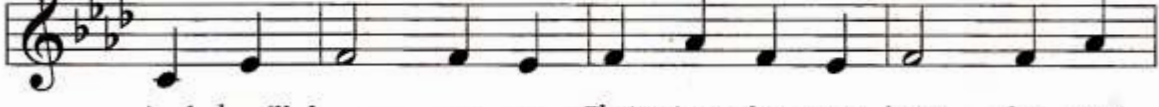
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm




and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) D^b (Em) Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (Bm) Cm (Em) (Am/E) (Em) Fm B^bm/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.



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TODAY AT ELPC

Ice Cream Social Hour

After the 10 am worship service this morning, please join us in the Narthex for ice cream sundaes and to say *hello* to some of our congregation's new members. Sponsored by the Membership & Outreach Committee. All are welcome!

Mission Board Film Series

Join us following worship today in the Social Hall when the Peace Committee will host a screening of *42: The Jackie Robinson Story*. With Chadwick Boseman starring as Jackie Robinson and Harrison Ford as Branch Rickey, *42* tells the dramatic story of their breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. Facing unabashed racism from every side, Robinson was forced to demonstrate tremendous courage and let his talent on the field win over fans and his teammates. Robinson overcame the controversy of his introduction to the league to win rookie of the year. And for nostalgic Pittsburghers, a quick visit to Forbes Field is included. A light lunch will be provided.



Participate in a Listening Session: Today, Aug 23, 28

As part of a final formal phase of information gathering, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is hosting a series of *Listening Sessions* on Sundays and weekdays in August.

The purpose of the sessions is to get qualitative feedback on what we most need in terms of leadership for our congregation. These sessions are serving as a complement to the information gathered from the survey. We will use the information to guide our process to identify best fit pastoral leadership.

Please contact Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net) if you are able to attend one of the following sessions, held in the Fellowship Room (except Aug 28 which will be Zoom):

- Today at 11:30 am
- Wednesday, Aug 23 at 5:30 pm
- Monday, Aug 28 at 6:30 pm (Zoom)

If you signed up to attend today's session at 11:30 am, please go to the Fellowship Room.

Church Tour

Steve Evrard will guide a tour of the church tower. Please wear closed-toe shoes to participate. Gather in the Highland Lobby after today's 10 am worship service to join the tour.



LGBTQIA+ Ministry

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering today after worship. Join us and share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net).



Prepare for PW Bible Study — Today and Aug 27

Presbyterian Women (PW) will be available after worship today and next Sunday to distribute study books and answer your questions about their upcoming 2023-2024 Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters*. They will be near the front of the worship space after the service to distribute bible study books and answer your questions.

PW Bible Study begins on Tuesday, Sept 5 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid), and Monday, Sept 11 from 7–8:30 pm (Zoom). For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services. The *Summer* service DOD is Nate Stephens.



Letters to Legislators Event — Aug 27

Our Mission Board Committees are hosting a *Letters to Legislators* event in the Social Hall after worship on Sunday, Aug 27. Participants will have an opportunity to write to legislators advocating for action on a variety of social justice issues — including driving privileges for immigrants; fair housing and nondiscrimination policies; environmental protections; prisoners' rights; gun violence; and more. Sample letters and emails will be provided and a light lunch will be served. For those unable to attend in person, templates and instructions will be posted to the ELPC website after the event for your use. Contact Carol Chonoska for info (carolchonoska@gmail.com).

COVID PROTOCOL UPDATE

While the federal Covid-19 Public Health Emergency and the WHO global health emergency have ended, Covid is still a public health issue that we take seriously. In our effort to act faithfully and responsibly, the Session and staff leadership of ELPC will do our utmost to mitigate the spread or transmission of disease.

Please visit tiny.cc/elpc-covid-protocol to view the updates to ELPC's Covid Protocol, or scan this QR Code.





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

Edith Battle, Rev. Howard Cherry,
JoAnn and Carol Chonoska,

Peta Harrigan Cole's friends Dorothy and Robert,

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth,

Diane Jackson's brother-in-law Dan, Paul Miller,

Jon Nelson's friend Megan and cousin Rayna, Fran Wilson.

Condolences to Kathy Benninger on her mother's passing.

Committee Meeting This Week

Thursday, Aug 24 @ 6 pm....Youth/Young Adult (zoom)

For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact
Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

CAT Scan Results

The report of ELPC's CAT Scan results will be available electronically and in paper soon, and will also be presented at the next *The More You Know* session on Sept 24. Please watch for more details soon!

ELPC's Choirs Resume Rehearsals — Sept 7 and 12

On Thursday, Sept 7, the *Journey Praise Team* resumes rehearsals from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Social Hall, and the *Chancel Choir* resumes rehearsals from 7-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

On Tuesday, Sept 12, the *ELPC Ringers/Handbell Choir* will rehearse from 6-7 pm in Dr. Ed Moore's office on the 3rd floor.

If you are interested in joining the *Journey Praise Team*, contact director Gerald Savage (soundpill@soundpill.net). If you would like to join the *Chancel Choir* or *Handbell Choir*, contact director Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net).

Rally Day — Sept 10

We will resume our traditional worship schedule and Church School classes for persons of all ages on Sunday, Sept 10.

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 to being open every Thursday from 10 am—Noon. The Chapel Market is also seeking donations of toiletry items. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open.



In our

COMMUNITY



Patient Service Representative Program — Sept 1 Deadline
The *Innovation District Skills Alliance* (IDSA) is a program that connects area residents to living wages and career advancement opportunities. Their 3-week training course starts on Sept 18, held Monday through Friday, with hybrid, virtual, in-person and self-guided sessions.

The program includes a stipend and gift cards during participation; a laptop; targeted job-readiness training; and an opportunity to interview for a patient service representative position with UPMC.

Eligibility requirements include having a high school diploma or GED; are unemployed or underemployed; and ability to commit to a 3-week training period.

The application deadline is Noon on Sept 1. Apply now by visiting www.pittsburgh-id.com/IDSA.

Contact Oliver Cunningham at JFCS Career Services/IDSA for more info (OCunningham@jfcspgh.org).

EECM Coat Drive — through Oct 13

You can help those in need by donating new or gently used winter coats to the *EECM Coat Drive*. Drop off new coats (with tags), and gently used coats, by Oct 13 at East End Cooperative Ministry (6140 Station Street, 15206, Entrance A) or at Highmark Whole Care (6033 Broad St, 15206).

You can also drop off used winter coats at Strongll Dry Cleaners (7620 Frankstown Ave, 15208) from Sept 5 to Oct 13 to have them cleaned for free.



DINNER and SABBATH Documentary

Friday, Oct 27 • 5:30-8:30 pm

The Spiritual Life and Justice Committees invite you to an evening of fellowship, food, and formation around the ancient practice of *Sabbath*.

Join us for a meal, film viewing and conversation.

We will gather for a simple meal together and then view the 2-hour documentary, *SABBATH: An Ancient Practice Meets the Modern World*. The film is told as a collection of short stories, exploring the history of one of the world's most important spiritual practices and its timeless relevance for a stressed-out, modern world. From the Biblical accounts of Creation, to the 10 Commandments, to the Puritans landing in the New World, to the contemporary practice of a "tech-sabbath" — *SABBATH* ties together our collective history, our health practices, our response to God's invitation and the search for a more sustainable way of life. RSVP to Norma by Oct 22 (412.441.3800 x211).