



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)

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

O God, you are the giver of life. We pray for the church in the whole world. Sanctify her life, renew her worship, give power to her witnessing, restore her unity. Give strength to those who are searching together for that kind of obedience which creates unity. Heal the divisions separating your children from one another, so that they will make fast, with bonds of peace, the unity which the Spirit gives. Amen.

— “A Prayer from Zaire,” found in the *Book of Common Worship*

PRELUDE

“Prelude in G Major, BWV 541”
“Prelude on Slane - Be Thou My Vision”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Johann Sebastian Bach
Healey Willan

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.

The Rev. Schoenewolf
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Griffin

Leader: Give praise to God!
People: Praise God, for it is God who saves,
Leader: It is God who forgives;
People: It is God who delivers.
Leader: Give thanks and praise to God!
People: Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

Gracious and loving God, you lived for us, yet we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us, yet we have not forgiven others. You have loved us, but we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another. In your grace take pity on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Barbara Griffin

Leader: People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all.
Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord. 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 #447 (sing 2x) "We Are Forgiven"

WE ARE FORGIVEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

Barbara Griffin

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.

* HYMN (please see music insert)

"Out of Deep, Unordered Water"

NETTLETON

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

"Us and Them"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

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. Woodworth

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

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Edward J. Tipton

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf
The Rev. Woodworth

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:	O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #740 (*sing 2x*) “Lead Me, Guide Me”

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in G Major, BWV 541”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Barbara Griffin
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: James Eng
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

Our Membership & Outreach Committee and our Faith Formation Board will host a church-wide celebration and picnic on S Whitfield St after worship today! Hot dogs (including vegan), fried chicken, and ice cream will be provided. There will be music, a church tour, balloon art, face painting, and games for kids.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mrs. Virginia E. Evans.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Sept 24 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 24 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth 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 of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. We will meditate on the Psalms, using the translation *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

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 (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Murals in our Sanctuary

The 2 murals hanging in the Chancel are by artist Steve Prince, the featured artist-in-residence at this year's Presbyterian Association of Musicians' (PAM) annual *Worship and Music Conference* in Montreat, NC.

Dr. Ed Moore brought these 2 murals back from Montreat and discussed displaying them at ELPC with the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. Additional info can be found at <http://tiny.cc/elpcmurals>, or by scanning this QR code.



Church Picnic and Celebration

The Membership & Outreach Committee and the Faith Formation Board are hosting a church-wide celebration and picnic on S Whitfield St after today's 11 am service.

Hot dogs (including vegan), fried chicken, and ice cream will be provided! There will be music, a church tour, balloon art, face painting, and games for kids.

Please join us for food and fun, and learn more about the many exciting ministries of ELPC.

Tour the Sanctuary and Chapel

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel after the 11 am worship service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

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 Hannah Moon.



Contemplative Prayer — Resumes Sept 18

Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* will restart on Sept 18 from 7:30-8 am. Please join Pastor BJ Woodworth on Zoom (Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill) for 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. This fall we will be mediating on the Psalms, using the translation of *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

"The More You Know" Session — Sept 24

The report of ELPC's CAT Scan results is now available at <http://tiny.cc/elpc-cat-scan>, or by scanning this QR code. Paper copies are on the info tables, and will also be presented at the next *The More You Know* session on Sept 24 in the Social Hall. Submit questions prior to the meeting to Kristin Cummings (kristinpcummings@gmail.com).



Confirmation Class Info Meeting — Sept 24

Students in grades 8 and up who are interested in learning more about Confirmation Class, as well as their parents/caregivers, are invited to an informational meeting following 11 am worship on Sunday, Sept 24. Please contact Sara Hackett to RSVP (SaraH@coh.net).

ELPC Connections Event — Sept 24

Join the ELPC Connections group at the Pittsburgh Zoo's *Lantern Festival* on Sunday, Sept 24 at 6:30 pm. Buy your own ticket online (\$21 for adults). Meet other ELPC members at the front gate and walk through together. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

OHM Family TeamWorks Dinner — Sept 26

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) is one of our mission partners serving the neighborhoods near ELPC. We will be supplying food for their community dinner on Tuesday, Sept 26. We are asking for volunteers to provide salads, side dishes, or desserts (to serve 6 to 8 people) for this dinner. Look for the sign-up tables at the entrances to the worship spaces, or contact Bob Forloines for more info (rforloines@gmail.com).

Seed Distribution — Oct 1

The sole food for Monarch caterpillars is the milkweed plant. Once plentiful along roadsides and farms, the widespread use of herbicides has eradicated much of it, and these beautiful and intrepid insects are now being decimated by a combination of loss of habitat, pesticide use, and climate change.

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and ELPC youth will be distributing packets of common milkweed seeds (*Asclepias syriaca*) on Sunday, Oct 1 after both worship services, so you can plant them in a sunny spot in your yard to help. Please contact Mary Barr for info (empirephobic@gmail.com).

World Communion Sunday and East Meets West:

Tastes of Nations — Oct 1

The ELPC Board of Deacons will be hosting its annual international meal commemorating World Communion Sunday on Oct 1, following 11 am worship. Please sign up to bring a dish representative of your ethnicity, country of origin, or family favorite. Join us in the McKelvy Room for a sample of global cuisine.

October Church Tours — Oct 1 and 15

Tim VanFleet will guide a *Tower Tour* on Oct 1, and a *Hidden Places* tour on Oct 15 after the 11 am worship service. Gather in the Highland Lobby to participate in either tour.



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

Harvey Adams, Edith Battle, Keith Beach,
JoAnn and Carol Chonoska,

Tim Engelhardt's grandfather LJ,

Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth, Chris Martin,

Hannah Moon's sister Inkyung and son Kevin,

Jon Nelson's daughter Rachel,

Pastor Heather's cousin Kristie, and Fran Wilson.

Condolences to Pamela Napier on her sister's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Tues, Sept 19 @ 5:00 pm..... PNC and Session (in-person)

Tues, Sept 19 @ 7:00 pm..... Session (hybrid)

Thur, Sept 21 @ 6 pm..... Membership & Outreach (hybrid)

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

Volunteers Needed for Voter Registration Drive — Oct 7

The Justice Committee is sponsoring a *Voter Registration Drive* from 10:30 am-1 pm on Saturday, Oct 7 at ELPC. Zoom training will be provided. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) or Michele Bossers (michele2285@gmail.com) if you can volunteer to help.

Thomas Ospital to Perform at ELPC — Oct 27

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series will kick off its 13th season on Friday, Oct 27 at 7:30 pm with a performance by organist Thomas Ospital from the Church of Saint-Eustache in Paris. The concert will be co-presented with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. Tickets are free for our ELPC community. Contact Dr. Ed Moore for details (EdM@coh.net).

Dinner and a Film — Oct 27

On Friday, Oct 27 from 5:30-8 pm, the Spiritual Life and Justice Committees invite you to an evening of fellowship, food, and formation around the ancient practice of *Sabbath*. 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. RSVP to Norma by Oct 22 (412.441.3800 x211).

Volunteer Opportunity: Amen to Action — Oct 28

On Saturday, Oct 28, ELPC will be participating in packing food boxes for distribution throughout Allegheny County by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The event will be held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave, 15206) from 8 am to Noon. This event is ideal for adults and families with children. Please register with the ELPC volunteer group by using this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CADAA2EAAFCCF8-amen.

In our

COMMUNITY



Earth Care Conference — Sept 20 to 23

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to participate remotely or in-person in the PC(USA) Earth Care Conference *The Climate Crisis and Empowering Hope* from Sept 20 to 23. This hybrid conference will be held in Massaneta Springs Conference Center (Harrisonburg, VA) or on Zoom. The workshops are on Sept 21 and 22. Through fellowship, worship, study, and in-depth educational opportunities, Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) want participants to learn more about the current climate crisis. The virtual attendee fee is \$60; the in-person fee is \$200 (including meals); and need-based registration scholarships are available from PEC. Please inquire with Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) and learn more at <https://presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference>.

Panel on Gun Violence — Sept 27

Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave, 15206) is hosting a panel on local efforts to combat and prevent gun violence, co-sponsored by Amnesty International Group 39, CeaseFirePA and Squirrel Hill Stands on Wednesday, Sept 27 at 7 pm. More info is at www.amnestypgh.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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 24 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Examining Psalms and Stained Glass, facilitated by The Rev. Henk Bossers

Parenting Circle (Rm 213) — Starting Our New Year, facilitated by Trish Buben and other class members

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “White Christian Nationalism: The Realities We Face” video by Karen Armstrong, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A beginning discussion of the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Fr. Gregory Boyle, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members