



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)

TRINITY SUNDAY

MAY 26, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

What do we do when our fears are in fact rational? When fear and wisdom are enmeshed? When we would be foolish not to fear? More often than not we realize, fear is a protective intuition....We don’t have to demonize our fear to survive it. For this reason, I have an aversion to language of ‘conquering’ our fears. We are not at war with ourselves; it is better to listen with compassion.

— Cole Arthur Riley, “Black Liturgies”

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Allein Gott in der Höh”
(All Glory Be to God on High)
“Nicaea – Holy, Holy, Holy”

Timothy Albrecht

Robert Buckley Farlee
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

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

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said that the way to see God’s dream for the world is to be born from above by the Spirit.

People: The way to take part in that dream, says Jesus, is to be born of water and the Spirit.

Leader: **May you receive God’s Spirit, be made whole, and dwell more deeply in love divine.**

People: Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth. Hallelujah and Amen!

David Carl

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #401

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

People: Holy God, we know that you are always there to lead us, yet we somehow lose our way and fall back into fear. We confess that we have stumbled, and we recognize our need for you to lift us up and help us start again.

Leader: For times we embrace war when you call for peace. Forgive us.

Leader: For times we dehumanize our neighbor instead of loving them. Forgive us.

Leader: For times we serve powers and principalities rather than you, our Servant Savior. Forgive us.

Leader: For times we domesticate you to our national or tribal identities. Forgive us.

Leader: For selectively hearing your good news of grace for us without considering the same for others. Forgive us.

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

May 26 • Trinity Sunday

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Leader: For seeing ourselves less than the full person you created in beauty with delight. Forgive us.

People: God of grace and mercy, forgive our failings, restore us to strength, and reconcile us with you, ourselves, and others, through the power of Christ and the gift of your Spirit. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: We did not receive the spirit of fear or separation, but rather the spirit of acceptance and adoption. Our guilt has departed; our sin is blotted out, **for we are God's beloved children** — forgiven, loved, and free. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #447 (sing 3x) "We Are Forgiven" WE ARE FORGIVEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:12-17 OT page 211
David Carl

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 nursery suite for a time of learning together (registration form required). Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Children will return to the worship service during the Doxology. The nursery is open for play to young children who are accompanied by their parents/caregivers during worship; the service is livestreamed into that space.

* HYMN #684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go" LUX PRIMA

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 10:25-37 NT page 97
The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

VIDEO from "The Burbs"

SERMON "Fear Not" The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

LOVE LITANY (based on 1 John 4:7-12, 17-21; The Message) & THE LORD'S PRAYER The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Leader: My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God.

People: Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God.

Leader: The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know God if you don't love.

People: **This is how God showed God's love for us: God sent God's only Son into the world** so we might live through him.

Leader: This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that God loved us and sent God's Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

People: If God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen **God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and God's love** becomes complete in us—perfect love!

Leader: God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us.

May 26 • Trinity Sunday

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

People: There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

Leader: We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. God loved us first.

People: **If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating their brother or sister or sibling, thinking nothing of it, they are a liar.**

Leader: **If anyone won’t love the person they can see, how can they love the God they can’t see?**

People: The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. **You’ve got to love both.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION & VIDEO

Juneteenth

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Jackson

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

“Light of the World”

Karen Marroli
based on John 8:12

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf and 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: Teach us to give our whole lives to you. May the treasure become not the money gathered here but the mission of your love in the world all our gifts co-create with you. For the giver, the gift, and the soon gifted, we give you thanks and praise. Amen!

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #692

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Wir Glauben All an Einen Gott, BWV 680”
(We All Believe in One True God)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Moore, organ

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube, 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.

Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
The Rev. Cynthia Jackson
David Carl
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist / Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Cody Conley, *Violin*
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$250 a Sunday. *Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).*

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule begins next Sunday, June 2. We will have one combined service at 10 am in the Courtyard (weather permitting).

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our weekly service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir.
June 2 — The Rev. Dr. 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

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

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 Gloria Knopp for more info on future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

Our summer worship schedule begins next week,
Sunday, June 2
 with one Sunday service at 10 am in the Courtyard
 (weather permitting).
Our regular worship schedule will resume on Rally Day, Sept 8.

TODAY AT ELPC

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 *Journey* service DOD is Dana Carl.



Calling All Grads!

We want to celebrate the graduates in our faith family! If someone in your family is graduating this year and if they have post graduate plans they want to share with our congregation, send the details to Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net).



ELPC Participates in Pittsburgh Pride – June 1

ELPC is a co-founding and participating member of LAMP (the LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh), and the next opportunity to celebrate Pride side-by-side with our fellow affirming congregations is at the Pittsburgh Pride March & Festival on Saturday, June 1.

Line up for the March will begin at 10 am and step off will begin at Noon on Liberty Ave between 13th and 14th Sts in the Strip District. LAMP congregations will meet at the white van that says *East Liberty Presbyterian Church* to march together.

The March will bear right on 7th St along Liberty Ave and will continue across the Andy Warhol Bridge and proceed to Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival will take place until 8 pm. Sign up to volunteer at our Festival booth at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ADAB2DA4FAC25-49237185-pride>.

For more info, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Visit us online at
www.ELPC.church



Celebrating

The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

We are pleased to announce that our pastor, The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, will receive the Doctor of Ministry degree from PTS at the end of this month. We at ELPC are appreciative of her ministry and her dedication and commitment to this significant achievement. To that end, the Mission Board of ELPC, along with the congregation, will recognize and celebrate *Dr. Patrice* on Sunday, June 9 in our 10 am worship service in the Courtyard, and afterwards with lunch in our Social Hall.

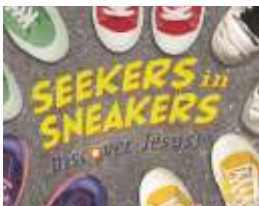


We hope you'll be able to join us in the celebration. We ask that you RSVP to Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222) so we can plan for food accordingly.

We will be including a cookie table with homemade cookies. If you would like to make 2-4 doz. cookies (plated and labeled), please contact Shirley Fair (faird11@yahoo.com; 412.613.7729).

If you would like to volunteer to help set-up or clean-up, contact Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722) or Michele Bossers (412.303.9243; michele2285@gmail.com).





VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

June 24 to 28

Vacation Church School at ELPC will be held June 24–28 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is *Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus!* and children will use their investigative skills to discover Jesus.

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to serve as volunteers, and adult volunteers of all ages will be needed to help ensure our program is a success!

Campers and volunteers can register at:
ELPC.church



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

- Carol Chontos' cousin Glenn,
- Sam Ditka's friend Doug,
- David Jennings Smith,
- Libby Parker's husband Dwaine,
- Gloria Ritchey's granddaughter Rhya,
- Vivienne Selia's friend Martha,
- Pastor Heather Schoenewolf's uncle Joe,
- and Dan Thompson.

Condolences to Howard Degenholtz on his mother's passing.

Condolences to Gloria Ritchey on her friend's passing.

NO Committee Meetings This Week

Please note the church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day.

Youth Sunday – June 30

On Sunday, June 30, we will celebrate the gifts of our church's youth and recognize the accomplishments of our graduating seniors. Youth will create and lead our 10 am service. Youth who would like to help plan or lead worship should reach out to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net). Graduating seniors are invited to give a senior message, and all youth are encouraged to participate.

Middle School Service Week at Crestfield – July 22 to 26

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to Crestfield Camp for *Service Adventure Camp*, combining adventure with local missions and service opportunities from Monday, July 22 through Friday, July 26. During the day, campers will be sent out to local non-profits to learn about and assist those agencies. Back at camp in the late afternoon, campers can chill at the pool or take a much needed FOB (flat on bunk). After dinner, there will be canoeing, ninja walling, archery, Big Friz, and more! Youth from multiple churches around Pittsburgh will be working and playing together this week. The cost is \$400; scholarships available. Please contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

Mission Trip & Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. – Aug 4 to 9

Students who have finished grade 7–12 are going to Washington, D.C. to stay at the Friends Place, a Quaker guest house and learning center just blocks from our Nation's Capitol from Sunday, Aug 4 to Friday, Aug 9. Friends Place offers opportunities for experiential education and civic engagement programs with a focus on how people-power creates justice, peace, a healthy planet, and a stronger democracy. We also will be visiting museums and monuments, the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, and serving alongside agencies working for food justice in D.C. The cost for the week is \$450; scholarships available. Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

In our

COMMUNITY



Trinity Youth Conference – July 14 to 20

Trinity Youth Conference (TYC) is happening Sunday–Saturday, July 14–20! TYC is a regional Presbyterian leadership conference for youth who have completed grade 9 through college-age students in Shellsburg, PA. The week consists of workshops, camp games, relevant worship, and refreshingly honest small groups. TYC is planned and led by a youth planning team, including ELPC's own Rachel Ammon and Shayla Brigido this year. Details can be found at TrinityYouthConference.org. Talk to Sara Hackett for more info or scholarship opportunities.

Volunteers Needed for Harmony Dog Rescue

Harmony Dog Rescue, a new nonprofit that serves individuals and families in crisis, is seeking volunteers and donations. The mission of Harmony Dog Rescue is to provide safe homes for dogs whose owners are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or medical emergencies. Visit www.harmonydogrescue.org.

Donations for

Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is in need of: men's and women's deodorant, men's and women's Depends (L and XL) men's underwear (M, L and XL), in addition to toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, razors, toilet paper, lotion, etc., in addition to summer clothing for men, woman and children. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).



Download Our New App

ELPC recently published a mobile app to serve as a hub for all ELPC-related news, events, and digital offerings. On the app, you can stream live and archived worship services and concerts, watch sermons, listen to our Taizé podcast, download bulletins, browse events, connect with our social media pages, read up-to-date news, and more. The app is available for free on Google Play™ and on the App Store®. Search for "East Liberty Presbyterian." Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC. App Store is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.