



## Sunday Services

*\*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*

### Summer Worship | 10 am

June 2*	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
June 9	Rev. BJ Woodworth
June 16	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
June 23	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
June 30	Youth Sunday
	Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

## Celebrating Juneteenth



Juneteenth (June 19) gained federal holiday recognition in 2021, but has been celebrated in parts of the United States since 1866, when those enslaved in Galveston, Texas, received word of the end of the Civil War and emancipation over two years after Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation*.

Reedy Chapel was the first place the formerly enslaved celebrated after learning of their freedom. The first Pittsburgh remembrance of Juneteenth was organized in the late nineteenth century by Presbyterian Pastor Henry Highland Garnett, the first Pastor of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, once again linking freedom with faith.

ELPC members can join in this year's observance by:

- Marching behind the ELPC banner in the annual Juneteenth parade on **Sat., June 15**. For more information, email Michele Bossers at [michele2285@gmail.com](mailto:michele2285@gmail.com) or Lenore Williams at [leefabilli@aol.com](mailto:leefabilli@aol.com).
- Cheering marchers on from anywhere along the parade route beginning at Freedom Corner and ending at the Point.
- Sharing the history of Juneteenth with family and friends.
- Living out our commitment to being a Matthew 25 congregation.

## Youth Sunday

Our annual Youth Sunday service has shifted to **June 30** to better accommodate the schedules of our youth. Middle and high school youth will write and lead our service, and our graduating seniors will share stories of their faith journey. We will commission youth who are engaging in mission work this summer at Camp Crestfield and in Washington, D.C., and commission our graduates for the next chapter in their lives. Additionally, we will welcome the students who participated in Vacation Church School to share some songs of celebration in worship, giving thanks for our week learning and growing together.

Youth in grades 7–12 are invited to help plan our service over dinner on **Wed., June 12**, 5:30–7 pm. There are countless ways to be involved, so let's dream up a wonderful, youth-led worship!

## Taizé Prayer Service

### Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

*Wednesdays | 7 pm*  
Rev. BJ Woodworth

## Pastors' Sabbaticals

In the fall of 2023, HR and Session unanimously approved sabbaticals for Pastor Patrice and Pastor Heather in 2024. Both of our pastors were eligible for sabbatical (customarily a three-month rest for pastors every seven years) in 2022 and 2023 respectively, but deferred their sabbaticals to offer support during our pastoral transition.

Pastor Heather began her sabbatical in April, and will conclude her sabbatical in July and August.

Pastor Patrice will be on sabbatical in June and July, taking her final month of sabbath rest in November.

During July, Pastor BJ will take the lead on worship leadership and pastoral care, while Jim Tinnemeyer will take the lead as acting Head of Staff, ensuring the smooth operation of the church itself.

We pray for rest and renewal for Pastor Patrice and Pastor Heather during their sabbatical months, and give thanks for our shared ministry together.

## East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

### Staff Leadership

#### **The Rev. Dr. 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

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#### **Linda Addlespurger**

*Director of Hope Academy*  
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#### **Wil Forrest**

*Coordinator of LGBTQIA+ Ministry*  
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#### **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*  
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#### **Rachelle Calfee**

*Bookkeeper*  
RachelleC@coh.net | x234

#### **Gloria Knopp**

*Interim Administrative Assistant  
to the Pastors*  
GloriaK@coh.net | x222

#### **Norma Meyer**

*Administrative Assistant to Worship  
& Music and Communications*  
Norma@coh.net | x211

# Pastoral Message

*The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf*

*Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries*



Lately I have been reflecting on how much of my journey of faith has been shaped by the invitation of another. In high school, my best friend Susan invited me to an ecumenical youth group that met on Mondays nearby, and I said yes. That became the first of many Mondays spent laughing, praying, singing, and hearing God's Word with a community of kids from different schools and churches—many of whom are still dear friends of mine today. Through this youth

group, I engaged in my first Bible study, first faith retreat, first mission project, and first Protestant worship service.

During my senior year of high school, another senior named Todd was coordinating a special Youth Group worship, and invited me to be one of the speakers. I said yes. Little did I know, that would be the first sermon I'd preach.

I share a snippet of the impact of my own youth group experience in part because we are in a season of celebrating the contribution and giftedness of youth in our church. Yet I also share these stories because I can identify invitations before my teenage years and many invitations since that have shaped my faith journey and my awareness of God-with-me in so many ways.

I can't help but remember that Jesus' disciples earned their spot among the 12 simply by saying "yes" when Jesus invited them to follow. (Frankly, I wonder how many people Jesus asked to follow, as he prepared to set out into public ministry, who just shrugged their shoulders, gave him a funny look, and got back to their familiar routine).

And as the Holy Spirit birthed the Church through the voices and actions and decisions of these same disciples a few years later, I am reminded of how many faith journeys involved invitation: an invitation to listen, to share a meal, to be baptized.

As a people of faith, invitation is foundational to our life together, whether we notice it or not: an invitation to sit in worship near us, an invitation to attend PW's Bible Study, an invitation to help out. Part of our own practice of discipleship is to extend invitations to others, to extend Christ's radical hospitality as a gesture of love and inclusiveness, and to engage others in our shared ministry together.

But discipleship not only requires us to extend invitations to others, it calls us to respond to God's continued invitation to us to be in loving relationships with God, with others, and ourselves. It challenges us to be open to new possibilities, to examine the borders of our comfort zones, to listen to God's voice speaking to us through unexpected messengers. It invites us to say yes.

As we continue to navigate this transitional season of ministry together, we will continue to work together not only to support our PNC as they discern who to invite to serve as ELPC's next Senior Pastor. We will together discern what it is that God might be inviting us to say "yes" to—and, likewise, what we need to say no to in return. For God's invitation is not just for a select few. God invites *US*, always, to draw near and venture out in service and love.

*Pastor Heather*



## Celebrating the Rev. Dr. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

We are pleased to announce that our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We at ELPC are appreciative of her ministry and her dedication and commitment to this significant achievement.

Join us as we celebrate the Rev. Dr. Patrice Fowler-Searcy during worship on **Sun., June 9**, 10 am, in the Courtyard. A lunch will follow in the Social Hall. RSVP to Gloria Knopp at [gloriak@coh.net](mailto:gloriak@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x222**.

You also are invited to speak at this event, send a recorded message, or write something that will be given to Patrice if you are unable to attend.

## June PNC Updates

Greetings and blessings from the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) to all of you. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts as all of us on the PNC continue to work together through the process of discernment and intentionality as we search for our new Senior Pastor.

The PNC has interviewed numerous call seekers and has conducted a number of second interviews. We are beginning to finalize the logistics for bringing candidates here to be interviewed in person and to preach in neutral pulpits in our area.

We thank God for all of ELPC: for you, our congregation, for our pastors and staff, and for all our volunteers. As we continue our process, we know that we are closer than we were when we started! We continue working together for the good of all of us, and we are grateful for your patience. God bless all of you.

—David B. Carl

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

## ELPC Connections @ Stars at Riverview

Join ELPC's Connections group for the free *Stars at Riverview* concert on **Sat., June 15**, 7–8:30 pm, at Observatory Hill in Riverview Park. Music will be provided by The Dark Matter Trio.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Pack a meal for yourself or buy food from the vendors. Come enjoy music and each other's company. Please RSVP to [connectelpc@gmail.com](mailto:connectelpc@gmail.com), so that we can let you know where to find us.

## Session News

In May, the ELPC Session:

- Held a joint meeting with the Board of Deacons, and met with the Confirmation Class to discuss their faith journeys and hopes for the church, approving all candidates for Confirmation and Baptism.
- Approved updates to the ELPC Child Safety Policy and adopted guidelines for our work together.

## ELPC People

If you have news to share, contact Gloria Knopp at [GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net) or **412.441.3800 x222**.

## Good News

- Join us in welcoming our 2024 Confirmation Class!



- Congratulations to **Azizzi Davis**, who was baptized on April 21.
- Congratulations to **Bethany Florence Harris, Charles Timothy Harris, and Walter Steven Harris**, who were baptized on May 12. They are the children of Nicholas & Kelly Harris.
- Please welcome our new members: **Azizzi Davis, Kearsie Dougherty, Andrew Wilkinson, Alexandra Schmulevich & Valentino Romlevich, and Joseph Tyson**.

## Prayers

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

- Kathy Callahan's mother
- Howard Degenholtz & Andrea DeVries on the passing of Howard's mother
- Peta Harrigan Cole's brother Tony Harrigan and cousin Gwennie Harrigan
- Dr. Ed Moore's father
- Vivienne Selia's friend

*“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.”*

## 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, email Gloria Knopp at [GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net).

## It’s Time for VCS 2024



Vacation Church School will be held **June 24–28**, 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 and explore the stories of those who experienced and brought about change in the world around them after an encounter with Jesus. Spots are filling up fast!

### Preparing Our Church

Want to support kids, families, and volunteers? Join us **Tues., June 18**, anytime between 5–8 pm, to help lovingly prepare craft materials, set up rooms, hang up signs, and get ELPC ready for a week of learning, fun, and worship. RSVP to Sara Hackett at [SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net).

### Volunteer Training

There will be a training session for all VCS youth and adult volunteers on **Sun., June 23**, 11 am–2 pm, in the Social Hall. Lunch will be provided.

Campers and volunteers can register at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church).

## Pittsburgh Pride 2024

On **Sat., June 1**, ELPC and other welcoming congregations came together at Pittsburgh Pride 2024 in Downtown and on the North Side. Thank you for your support and for showing up to reflect God’s love for our siblings in the LGBTQIA+ community.



There is another chance to take to the streets with People’s Pride PGH 2024 March and Festival on **Sun., June 30**, in Wilksburg. March line up will begin at Harold Young Sr. Park, 10 am, and will end at Turner Elementary, where the Festival will be held. More information is available in the Highland Lobby. A link to sign up to volunteer at the Pride booth will be shared in June bulletins. Join us to share God’s love with all of God’s people!

## The Sacrament of Letting Go Retreat

Join the Spiritual Life Committee for a Sacrament of Letting Go Retreat, **Fri.–Sun., Sept. 27–29**. We will be led by Lynn Holden, a spiritual director, professional counselor, and the founder of Cultivating Awareness, where she creates and holds space for individuals and groups as they awaken to a greater reality.