



The Latest from Your PNC

Dear ELPC Members, Friends, and Staff:

As we welcome the summer season, we also will be welcoming several in-person pastoral candidates onsite at ELPC starting in June and continuing into July. As you may know from prior Pastor Nominating Committee updates, we have held many virtual first and second round interviews, which has allowed us to be at the point of bringing people onsite. These individuals also will serve as guest preachers at other local congregations. Having this opportunity for in-person interactions will help us to gain insights into God’s call for us and for our pastors.

Please continue to pray us, as we also will do for you.

In God’s peace,

—Andrea DeVries

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).

The Sacrament of Letting Go Retreat



We glibly advise others and admonish ourselves to “let go” of the patterns that no longer serve us well and the concerns that continue to haunt us, but it doesn’t seem to be quite that easy...in fact, if it was, we would! The desire to let go comes from deep within us and what it is that we are being invited to let go of is often obscured. Nature understands and is a ready guide.

Whether you embrace the season of fall or are an autumn struggler, join us at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, Pennsylvania, **Friday–Sunday, September 27–29**, to open yourself up to the bittersweet beauty and the invitations autumn has for you, and receive a liberating measure of divine grace. Registration details to come.

We will be led by Lynn Holden, a spiritual director, professional counselor, and founder of Cultivating Awareness, where she creates and holds space for individuals and groups as they awaken to a Greater Reality.

Sunday Services

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*

Summer Worship | 10 am

- July 7* Rev. Erin Angeli, Associate Pastor for Queer and Neighborhood Ministry at Commonwealth of Oakland
- July 14 Rev. BJ Woodworth
- July 21 Rev. Dr. April Roebuck
- July 28 Rev. S. Bala Khylllep, Associate Director, World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Taizé Prayer Service

Prayerful Song & Quiet Meditation

Wednesdays | 7 pm

Rev. BJ Woodworth

ELPC Connections: Fridays @ Frick

Join ELPC’s Connections group for the Fridays @ Frick concert on July 12. Music will be provided by Living Dream. The lawn opens at 5 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm. The concert is free, but a \$5 adult donation is suggested.

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. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com, so that we can let you know where to find us.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

info@coh.net | 412.441.3800

Staff Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

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The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

*Acting Co-Pastor and
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The Rev. BJ Woodworth

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Norma Meyer

*Administrative Assistant to Worship
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Pastoral Message

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life, Taizé, and Transitional Ministries



We have been in a time of pastoral transition for over two years now. In addition, we (like every church) have been in a liminal time of wondering, praying, and thinking about what post-pandemic church looks like here at ELPC. Amid all that transition, lots of work, change, shifts, adaptations, growth and fruitfulness has been afoot. You, the church, has been working to live out our church's mission, listen, and discern God's leading, praying, leading, serving, and

being God's people within our church walls and outside of them. So, I was encouraged by a few of you, to share some of my observations (taken from my June 9 sermon) of how I see God's Spirit at work in and through you, ELPC.

- I see people stepping up into formal and informal leadership and service throughout the church and beyond these walls.
- I see people finding rest and restoration for their weary souls in and through regular practices of prayer, contemplation, meditation, retreats, and yoga.
- I see new people every week, entering our doors and being served and empowered through the Chapel Market—It Is BOOMING!
- I see un-churched, de-churched young adults sitting in meditation every Tuesday for an hour in our Chapel.
- I see our staff team, supporting and encouraging one another, laughing and praying together, and chipping in on work together, regardless of whether it is on our job descriptions.
- I see a Session that is focused, communicating in a healthy manner, leaning into hard topics and seeking to listen to the Spirit about the shape of ELPC for right now and into the next chapter.
- I see ELPC's flagship LGBTQIA+ Ministry growing and deepening with record participation in PRIDE the first weekend of June.
- I see record numbers of infant baptisms in the last year, amid celebrating Ms. Kay Shissler's 60 years of teaching kids.
- I see a Pastoral Nominating Committee that has tirelessly and prayerfully listened to you, one another, and now dozens of pastoral candidates.
- I see Casa San José and Hope Academy partnering to teach performing arts lessons to children who speak Spanish as their first language.
- I see conversations among many of our committees seeking to discern where God is giving energy and fruit, and what may need to be let go of and pruned back, so new life may emerge.
- I see and hear amazing music, voices, and joyful noises unto the Lord every Sunday in worship, with a 10-year partnership with the Brass Roots.
- I see our church seeking to pursue racial justice and making acts of repair through the lives of African American scholarships in our neighborhood schools.
- I see remarkable, new confirmed youth speaking wisely, winsomely, and prophetically about the personal faith journeys and how they want ELPC to continue to be a place of radical hospitality.

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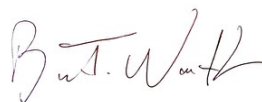
Pastoral Message Continued

- I see people stepping up and using their gifts, passions and voices, to teach, guide, lead, instruct, and inspire all of us in a variety of manners and settings.
- I see more members of the church being less staff dependent and coming to help, clean, paint, maintain, and sustain the physical realities of our beautiful church building.
- I see our deacons and other members endeavoring to figure out how to best care for some of our older and homebound members—by visiting, praying, and serving them communion.

What do you see? What do you hear? Was there anything in that listing that stirs in your heart to join or participate in?

“Friends, let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

—Galatians 6:9–10).



Please Welcome Jen King to the ELPC Staff



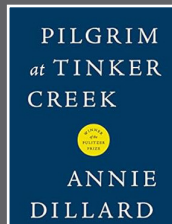
Greetings and blessings to you all. I am Jen King, the new administrative assistant to the pastors, and I am coming from the South Hills of Pittsburgh, where I live with my husband, our 16-year-old daughter, and a 5-year-old tabby cat.

I am a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) denomination, but I have 2.5 years of experience working in a PC(USA) congregation in the South Hills. I also worked for my ELCA congregation for 11 years, and am a trained lay-leader, serving on our local judicatory board.

I am a part-time graduate certificate student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and will complete the Adaptive and Innovative Ministries program in September.

I am very excited to be working with everyone, and look forward to learning more about your wonderful ministry here!

Reach out to me at **412.441.3800 x222** or jenniferK@coh.net.



Environmental Book Study: Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is reading *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard. This is a classic book by a revered writer who grew up in Point Breeze. It won the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction.

Consider reading the book and joining our discussion on **Thursday, August 8, 7 pm**. For more details, email Nancy Heastings at n.heastings@comcast.net.

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 Jen King at jenniferK@coh.net.

ELPC People

If you have news to share, contact Jen King at jenniferK@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x222.

Good News

- Congratulations to our Confirmation Class and new members: **Samantha Brake-Hoffman, Mabel Buben, Bradly Conley, Liam Cowan, William Kuchera, Kevin Lee, and Eleanor Willson.**
- Congratulations to **William Kuchera**, who was recently baptized.
- Congratulations to **Fred Kraybill**, who was honored by PennFuture with the *Volunteer Award* for his years of climate and clean energy advocacy. Fred has been leading by example—driving an electric car, installing home solar panels and geothermal energy, educating others about reducing their carbon footprints, and advocating for clean energy initiatives at the local and state level. He ends his speeches with his tagline: “The Solution to Pollution is Renewable. It’s Doable!” Thank you, Fred, for sharing this advocacy with our ELPC family as well!



Prayers

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

- Valerie Dixon
- Bruce & Carol Bancroft on the passing of Bruce’s mother
- The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf on the passing of her Uncle Joe

“...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.”

Get to Know Our Vibrant LGBTQIA+ Ministry

All are invited to our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering on **Sunday, July 14**, 11:30 am, to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed!

Questions? Contact Wil Forrest at Wil@coh.net or **412.441.3800 x218** for more details or if you would like to attend. A Zoom option will be offered only if expressed need is shared with Wil prior to the Friday before the gathering.



**God Created You.
God Loves You.
Be Yourself.**

OHM Workday

Join Open Hand Ministries (OHM) on **Saturday, August 3**, to help renovate their property at 428 Ardary St. in Garfield. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex so we can provide OHM with an estimate of the number of volunteers. Workdays are typically 9 am–3 pm, but any time you can make it is appreciated. Lunch is provided.

Meet us at the job site or at ELPC to carpool. No renovation or construction skills are required. Reach out to Frank Bauerle at frbauerle@yahoo.com for details.

Celebrating Pittsburgh Pride

Celebrate Pride with ELPC at Pittsburgh Disability Pride 2024. Come out to Schenley Plaza (4100 Forbes Ave. in Oakland) on **Saturday, August 24**, 11 am–4 pm, to visit our table. This event is for the whole community with live music, food trucks, arts, sensory friendly spaces, fun activities, and more! Celebrate in the streets while we share God's love with all God's people.

