



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)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

God is inside you and inside everybody else.

— Alice Walker, *“The Color Purple”*

To be human in an aching world is to know our dignity and become people who safeguard the dignity of everything around us.

— Cole Arthur-Riley, *“This Here Flesh”*

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Jesus, Lead Thou On (Seelenbräutigam)”
“Fanfare and Processional”
(for Kathleen)

arr. Paul Manz
Ryan Croyle

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 (*Psalm 1:1-4*)

Jan and Frances Irvin

Leader: Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path they follow, or sit in the seat of those who mock others.

People: **Blessed are those who delight in God, and who meditate on God’s law by day and by night.**

Leader: They grow and flourish like a tree planted by streams of water.

People: **They yield fruit in season; their leaves don’t wither; whatever they do prospers.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #26 (*see insert for text changes*)

EARTH AND ALL STARS

“Earth and All Stars!”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

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

Sept 22 • 18th Sunday after Pentecost

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #188 “Jesus Loves Me!” JESUS LOVES ME

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 15:5-7, 13 Felicia Ragsdale

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN Sara Hackett

There is a new Sunday School schedule for the children and youth in our faith family.

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. After the Reception of New Members and Friends, the children will be seated, then dismissed as follows:

- *Children in PreK-6th grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (PreK-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).*
- *Youth in grades 7–12 will meet at 9:45 am for breakfast on the first Sunday of the month. Teens also will meet after church one Sunday a month for lunch and programming.*
- *The nursery is open and staffed from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & FRIEND

Members: Denise Barricella, Brendan Bogolin, LaVerne Davis, Caroline Hough, Julie Millhouse
Alexander Payton, Kelsey Stark, David Swan, Lauren Swan

Friend: Evan Adcock

* HYMN #691 “Lord, When I Came into This Life” LAND OF REST

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:33-37 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SERMON “Children of God” The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING INVITATION

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.

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy



OFFERTORY ANTHEM “The Color Purple” Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, Stephen Bray

* 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy and The Rev. Schoenewolf

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those seated in the transepts are asked to join the procession to the front to receive communion by entering one of the pews from the outside and proceed to the center aisle after those seated in the row. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN #523

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

BICENTENNIAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Woodworth

Generous God, we are grateful for all that you have provided, and for your tender care of each of your beloved children. Nourish us by this Communion meal and unite us in purpose and in hope, that we might have the strength to follow you, and share our gifts so that all may know your love. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #741

“Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare and Processional”

Douglas E. Wagner
Dr. Moore, *organ*

A Celebration Honoring
PASTOR HEATHER SCHOENEWOLF

Following our worship service, please join us in the Good Samaritan Room and Whitfield Lobby (on the ground floor) for a special celebration honoring Pastor Heather Schoenewolf’s service to East Liberty Presbyterian Church in a multitude of ways.

Pastor Heather will begin serving as the solo pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon on Oct 1.



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. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Sara Hackett
Jan and Frances Irvin
Felicia Ragsdale
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist / Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Adrianna Cleveland, *Soloist*
Beadles: Michael Casey and Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Linda Davis
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us in the Whitfield Lobby and Good Samaritan Room on the ground floor for Pastor Heather's farewell reception.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are given in honor of Pastor Heather Schoenewolf.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Sept 29 — The Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister and Acting Head of Staff for Pittsburgh Presbytery, preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 29 — The Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister and Acting Head of Staff for Pittsburgh Presbytery, 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. This fall we will be drawing our guided meditations from the book *Becoming Rooted: 100 Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth* by Randy Woodley, an activist, scholar, author, teacher, wisdom-keeper and Cherokee descendant, recognized by the Keetoowah Band.

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

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.

TODAY AT ELPC



Celebration Honoring Pastor Heather

Join us in the Whitfield Lobby on the ground floor after the 11 am worship service to celebrate Pastor Heather's service to our worship community. Pastor Heather will begin serving as the solo pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon on Oct 1.

Art Show: Abolitionist Expressions

ELPC's Justice and Worship, Music & Arts Committees invite you to attend an art show that runs beginning today through Oct 20 in the Highland Room and Trustees Room, featuring selected works from the permanent collection of *Let's Get Free: The Women and Trans Prisoner Defense Committee*. The show, *Abolitionist Expressions*, includes paintings, collages, and other artwork created by people who are or have been incarcerated. Artwork can be viewed on Sundays from Noon-2 pm, and Wednesdays from 5:30-7 pm.



New Sunday Schedule for Children

There is a new Sunday School schedule for the children and youth in our faith family.

- Children in PreK-6th grade will go to *Sunday School: Sacred Stories* after *Moments with our Children* during the 11 am Sanctuary service. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (PreK-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).
- Youth in grades 7-12 will meet at 9:45 am for breakfast on the first Sunday of the month. Teens also will meet after church one Sunday a month for lunch and programming.
- The nursery is open and staffed from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

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 Nate Stephens. He is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).



Congregational Meeting – Sept 29

There will be a special *Congregational Meeting* next Sunday, **Sept 29 to act on Pastor Heather's request to dissolve her call as ELPC's Acting Co-Pastor and Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries, effective Sept 30.**

Church Tour – Sept 29

All are welcome to join guide Tom Morton for a tour of the stained glass after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Sept 29. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate.

Voter Event / Social Hour – Sept 29

Join us in the Fellowship Room on Sunday, Sept 29 when members of the ad hoc *Voting Team* (under the Justice Committee) will be available to do voter registrations, mail-in ballot requests, check status, and receive a voter pledge card with an issue checklist. This event will be a *Social Hour* too, so come enjoy food and conversation. Contact Nancy Heastings if you can volunteer (n.heastings@comcast.net).

PW Bible Study – Oct 1 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters* on Tuesday, Oct 1 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid), and Monday, Oct 7 from 7–8:30 pm (Zoom). **There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study; please bring a dish to share (beverages will be provided).** Please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com for info.

Yoga Retreat: Celebrating the Beauty of You – Oct 5

Join us on Saturday, Oct 5 from 9 am–3 pm for a *Yoga Retreat*. This retreat is all about embracing yourself as you are, relaxation, and inner peace through yoga, movement and meditation in community. Yamuna Morgenstern will lead our yoga, movement and reflections. Special guest Jessica Rosario will offer the sound bath with her crystal bowls and mesmerizing voice. The cost is a suggested donation of \$60 (or pay what you can). Please register online at tiny.cc/yoga-retreat. Contact Yamuna for details (domorgens@gmail.com).

Cathedral Concert: Back to Broadway

Our new season of *Cathedral Concerts* kicks off on

Sunday, Sept 29 at 3 pm

with *Back to Broadway*. Join us in the Sanctuary for an afternoon of show tunes from past and present, featuring ELPC's own section leaders. The concert is free, and a freewill offering

will be received.

Contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).





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

Bethany Bray, Sharon Hardnet,
Peta Harrigan Cole's sister-in-law Birney,
Jon Nelson's cousin Rayna, and Larry White.

Condolences to Linda Addlespurger and family
on her husband's passing.
His service will be at 4 pm today in the Sanctuary.

Committee Meetings This Week

Justice.....Tuesday, Sept 24 @ 5:30 pm
Neighbors.....Wednesday, Sept 25 @ 6:00 pm
Peace.....Thursday, Sept 26 @ 5:30 pm

*For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact
Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).*

Congregational Meeting – Oct 6

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is excited to announce that a candidate has been selected and the Session has called a *Congregational Meeting* to vote on this candidate on Sunday, Oct 6 after the 11 am service.

Delayed Café Justo Sales

The Café Justo cooperative has notified us that they are experiencing an unexpected and unusual delay in receiving a truck load of coffee from Chiapas. Criminal elements are preventing most freights and carriers from going through the State of Sinaloa to the Café Justo roasting and shipping facilities in Aqua Prieta, Sonora, near the border with the U.S. Therefore, no current coffee orders can be fulfilled. Mexican authorities are working to resolve the situation. Please pray for a quick, safe and permanent resolution for everyone involved.



Meet our Pastoral Candidate!

We are grateful for all the support you have given the PNC over the course of our journey to discern a new Senior Pastor for ELPC. We would like to invite you to attend any of the events we are planning for the first weekend in October so you can meet and welcome our candidate for ELPC.

- There will be an *All-congregation Open House* at the church on Saturday, Oct 5 from 2-4 pm to meet the person we have selected.
- On Sunday, Oct 6 there will be a *Meet & Greet* following the 8:45 am Journey service.
- Our final event of the weekend will be a *Reception*, also on Sunday, Oct 6 after the *Congregational Meeting*, which follows the 11 am sanctuary service.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Revolutionary Love Tour with Valrie Kaur – Oct 15


In the thick of a divisive election season, join visionary civil rights leader Valarie Kaur in an immersive experience of storytelling, music, song, ancestral wisdom, and community-building on Tuesday, Oct 15 from 6-9 pm at 1Hood Media (460 Melwood Ave, Suite 207, 15213).

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you into a space for soulful introspection, deep listening, and courageous action. Each stop uplifts local leaders, artists, and advocates who catalyze hope. You will leave with the tools needed to lead with love and courage in your daily life. This event is free, but please reserve your tickets online at tiny.cc/revolutionary-love-tour, or by scanning this QR code.



Amen to Action Event – Nov 2

Join with neighbors from local congregations and nonprofits to pack 100,000 meals for the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank during *Amen to Action* at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Saturday, Nov 2 from 8 am-Noon. If you want to participate with ELPC's Neighbors Committee, sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CADAA2EAAFCCF8-50490811-amen#/. You can also donate at www.pts.edu/Amen-to-Action. School aged children can participate with adult family members. Email rforloines@gmail.com with questions.



NEW JOURNEY ZOOM ID
Please use the NEW
Journey Worship Service Zoom ID/
link below to worship with us
online at 8:45 am on Sundays:
Meeting ID: 824 2903 4526
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82429034526>

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Sept 29 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm+Zoom) – Relate the Psalms and the liturgical calendar's Gospel of Mark with the *Heavenly Hosts*, facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers and other class members

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm+Zoom) – “Discussions on *Freeing Jesus* and *What is Happening Politically in Our Country Today?*” by Diana Butler Bass, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) – A discussion of chapters 3 and 4 of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members