



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)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

I've become convinced that the things that matter most are the things that you can't see — the love you share with others, your inner purpose, your comfort with who you are. — *President Jimmy Carter*

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Air for Organ”

Gerre Hancock
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Rev. Woodworth

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes. The peace of Christ be with you.
People: Y también contigo. And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Breitbarth

Leader: As God’s beloved, we come to worship and to be renewed.
People: We celebrate who God is and how God chose us.
Leader: In the Creator’s love we are held,
People: **Into Christ’s body we are baptized,**
Leader: By the Spirit’s power, we are claimed as God’s beloved.
People: All glory to God. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #403

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

UNSER HERRSCHER

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Afterwards:

- *Children age 4-6th grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (age 4-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Breitbarth

Leader: We belong to God. Nothing can break this covenant. Let us, then, with confidence approach God to honestly confess our sins in prayer. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Don Breitbarth

God, you call us to be your beloved, but we exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as your beloved but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate us and **lead us in Christ’s path of peace, but we build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic.** Redeeming God, forgive us. Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

January 12 • Baptism of the Lord

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Don Breitbarth

Leader: Friends, God is loving, just, and merciful.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #698 (*sing 3x*)

TAKE ME AS I AM

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”

FIRST READING

from “Waking Up to Our Whole Heart” by Johnny Sears

Don Breitbarth

Waking up to our identity in God is not for the faint of heart... In truth, it's usually pretty disorienting and quite disruptive. But it's also essential because a clear sense of one's identity in God is the foundation upon which all discipleship and ministry are built. That identity in God provides a basis for the kind of self-honesty and self-compassion that empower us to live out our calling with authenticity and endure the challenges and resistance that come with doing so. What I am describing is what many of the saints and mystics through the ages have referred to as living out of the “true self.”

May God bless the hearing of these words. Amen.

* HYMN #297

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

ST. DENIO

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17 21-22 (NRSVUE)

NT page 82

Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Who? Me?”

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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.

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Diaz and Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Beloved people of God, through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken. Let us celebrate our freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. Trusting in the mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you turn to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, trusting in Christ's grace and love?

People: I do.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

(Water is poured)

Leader: You, O God, are the voice above the waters – thundering wisdom, flashing glory, showering grace.

People: We praise you.

Leader: You sent Jesus to give us living water – the cup of blessing, the cup of promise, the cup of salvation.

People: We give you thanks.

January 12 • Baptism of the Lord

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Leader: Now send your Spirit to make this water a pool of healing, a river of new life, a flood of grace.
People: We glorify you.
Leader: Keep us one with you – one in the way and the truth and the life of Christ Jesus.
People: Amen.

BAPTISM HYMN #480

“Take Me to the Water”

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

During the hymn, all baptized individuals are invited to proceed to one of the baptismal fonts (as you feel led). A pastor will then bless you while making the sign of the cross on your forehead. If you are not baptized and are feeling led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized, please email Jen King (JenK@coh.net) to schedule a date.

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.



Rev. Woodworth

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“At the River”

Aaron Copland/R. Wilding-White

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel's feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

*Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Ere we reach the shining river lay we every burden down, praise our spirits will deliver and provide our robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease, soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz
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 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 It is right to give God
alabanzas a Dios. thanks and praise.
Leader: We give you thanks and praise for the many ways your Spirit still moves over us today and grants us new life. Receive the gifts and offerings we share. May we ever live as your beloved children, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #408

“There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Fugue on the Carillon of Soissons Cathedral”

Maurice Duruflé
Dr. Moore, organ



January 12 • Baptism of the Lord

Notes regarding the music sung in today's service is available on our website —

<http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>

You can also scan this QR code to be directed to that info on our website.



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.

Assisted listening devices are available for our Sanctuary worship. Please print your contact info and device number on the sign-out sheet if you need to use one.

Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him)

Liturgists: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)

Don Breitbart

Sara Hackett (she/her)

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),

Organist / Music Director

ELPC Chancel Choir

Beadle: Mario Seneca

Crucifer: Linda Davis

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

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

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Jan 19 — Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 19 — 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 on Mondays

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

Join Steve Evrard on Zoom for a time of scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue.

Tuesdays, 8 to 8:30 am

Meeting ID: 896 9680 6662 • Passcode: 116

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* on Sunday, Feb 9 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King for info on future classes (JenK@coh.net).

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

Sunday, 12 January 2025 – Baptism of the Lord

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (see Psalm 2:7).

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus’ baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own baptism.

Source: <https://www.pcusa.org/events/baptism-lord/january-12th-2025-1200am>

Prelude – *Air for Organ*

Dr. Gerre Edward Hancock (1934-2012) was Organist and Choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City for over 30 years. His *Air for Organ* was composed in 1963 and features a variety of solo sounds on the organ as well the full dynamic range available from the softest sounds to almost full organ.

Sermon Hymn – *In Christ Called to Baptize*

Hymnwriter Ruth C. Duck (1947-2024) was an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She was the writer of over two hundred published hymn texts. Ruth Carolyn Duck died peacefully from pneumonia on December 26, 2024.

Offertory – *At the River*

Shall We Gather at the River was composed by American hymn writer and Baptist minister Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Aaron Copland (1900-1990) included the tune in the second set of his *Old American Songs*, in an arrangement for solo voice. It was premiered in 1958 with William Warfield as soloist and Copland at the piano. This morning’s anthem is an adaptation for SATB chorus of Copland’s original.

Postlude - *Fugue on the Carillon of Soissons Cathedral*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) was a meticulous composer, constantly revising his music, which resulted in a smaller output of compositions than many of his contemporaries. This perfectionism resulted in pieces of the highest quality, which are held in high regard in the organ literature.

TODAY AT ELPC

De-decorating the Sanctuary

Now that Advent and Christmas are behind us, we will be de-decorating the Sanctuary today. If you're willing and interested to help, please stay after today's 11 am Sanctuary worship service.

Children & Families Volunteer Event

Families with children and teens are hosting an afternoon of bingo and crafts at Shadyside Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation today. We'll eat lunch and coordinate tasks here at ELPC after the 11 am worship service, then we will go to Shadyside Nursing to set up and welcome residents from 2–3 pm. Please see Sara Hackett to participate.

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 Molly Davidson-Welling. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Nate Stephens. He is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).



LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering — Jan 19

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Jan 19 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Where Do You Find Hope? — Jan 19

You are invited to *Where Do You Find Hope?* in a community of faith on Sunday, Jan 19 from 3-4 pm on Zoom. That Sunday is the eve not only of the Inauguration of Donald Trump as President but also Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The Zoom gathering will be hosted by Presbyterian Women. You do not need to be Presbyterian or a woman to participate! Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Teen Snowtubing at Boyce Park — Jan 19

Youth in grades 7–12 are going snowtubing at Boyce Park on Sunday, Jan 19 from 12–3:15 pm. The cost is \$10. Lunch will be served at ELPC before heading to Boyce Park. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Tween Mini Golf — Jan 26

On Sunday, Jan 26 from 12:30–2 pm, all tweens are invited to help create a mini golf course around the church and then play a round. Bonus points if you get a hole in one in the bell tower! Friends are welcome and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Social Hour — Jan 26

ELPC's Membership & Outreach Committee is hosting a *Social Hour* after the 11 am service on Sunday, Jan 26 in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome to join them for fellowship and refreshments!

PW Bible Study — Feb 3 and 4

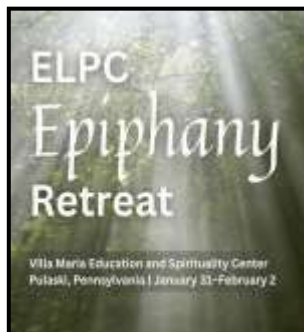
Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Climate Change* will meet on Monday, Feb 3 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom), and on Tuesday, Feb 4 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid). There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Cathedral Concert: St. Olaf Choir — Feb 9



The highly acclaimed St. Olaf Choir will perform in the ELPC Sanctuary on Sunday, Feb 9 at 7:30 pm. The choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles and is renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound.

This is a ticketed event and will not be livestreamed. Discounted tickets are available for ELPC members and friends. Contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net).



ELPC
**Epiphany
Retreat**
Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center
Pottsville, Pennsylvania | January 31–February 2

Epiphany is a season where we celebrate and remind ourselves that God still speaks, communicates, and reveals God's Self. God desires to be known and to know us. On this retreat, we will reflect together on four ways in which God still communicates. Join us for a time of solitude, silence, community, rest, prayer and discovery. Contact Pastor BJ about scholarships (BJW@coh.net). RSVP to Norma by Jan 19 (412.441.3800 x211).

COST:
Friday, Jan 31
to
Sunday, Feb 2

1. One Night: (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) *Shared Bath*..... \$85
2. One Night: (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) *Private Bath*..... \$100
3. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) *Shared Bath*..... \$120
4. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) *Private Bath*..... \$155
5. Saturday ONLY (*just meals for the day*)..... \$25



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

Pepo and Francine Mazingi's son Emmanuel, Dwayne Parker, Rhonda Perroz, and Tiffany Sudar's cousin's son Maks.

Condolences to the family of

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut,

ELPC's Pastor Emeritus, on his passing.

A memorial service will be held on Sat, Jan 18 at Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church in Virginia.

Jan Chesnut's address is:

4801 Winterhawk Dr, Glen Allen, VA 23059.



Condolences to Betty Dell and family on her niece's passing.

Condolences to Wil Forrest on his uncle's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

- Children & Families Monday, Jan 13 @ 7:00 pm
- Spiritual Life..... Tuesday, Jan 14 @ 6:00 pm
- Deacons..... Tuesday, Jan 14 @ 7:00 pm
- Worship, Music & Arts Tuesday, Jan 14 @ 7:30 pm
- Mission Board Thursday, Jan 16 @ 5:30 pm

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

Environmental Team Book Study — Feb 20

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration* by Jake Bittle, and then join a book discussion on Thursday, Feb 20 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Even as climate change dominates the headlines, many of us still think about it in the future tense. Jake Bittle, a journalist who covers climate change and energy, gives us a human-based narrative of national scope. Stories of fires, excessive rain, scorched farmland, etc. Contact Nancy Heastings for info and link (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

ELPC offers an online prayer group each Tuesday morning from 8-8:30 am, hosted by ELPC member Steve Evrard. These 20-minute sessions feature scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue. All are welcome at this opportunity for fellowship and prayer. The Zoom Meeting ID is 896 9680 6662 (passcode is 116).



INQUIRERS CLASS Sunday, February 9

Attend an Inquirers' Class on Sunday, Feb 9 after the 11 am worship service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222) to register or for info.

In our

COMMUNITY



Beverly Harris-Schenz Launches Her New Book — Feb 8

ELPC's very own member Beverly Harris-Schenz debuts her latest book *Mary Martin: Black Government-Girl* at a book launch event on Saturday, Feb 8 from 1-3 pm at Everyday Café (532 N Homewood Ave, 15208). Learn about her mother's journey from small town America to Washington, DC. In the 1940s she joins 100,000 other Black Americans seeking a better life in the nation's capital. Hear about Mary's experiences as she followed her dream in the face of Jim Crow laws and segregation. This event is co-sponsored by the (sub)Verses Collective of Black Women Writers. All are invited to attend this special event!

Listening Sessions to Black Members of Pittsburgh Presbytery — Jan 27 and 28, Feb 3

The Alliance for Honor and Repair has been charged by Pittsburgh Presbytery to engage in a thorough review of the experience of our historically Black congregations through history and to offer recommendations on actions of repair or reparations.

This past year the Alliance has been hosting listening sessions at our historically Black churches to hear the stories and experiences of their members.

An invitation is extended to the Black members of Pittsburgh Presbytery to tell their stories to the Alliance. Sessions will be held on Jan 27 and 28, and Feb 3 at 6:30 pm over Zoom. If you have a story to tell or would like to share your experience as a Black member of Pittsburgh Presbytery please sign up for a time by Friday, Jan 24 at <https://tinyurl.com/Alliance4HonorRepair>. Learn more at: honorandrepair.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Jan 19 ♦ 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) — "How to End Christian Nationalism" video by Amanda Tyler, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — Discussion of chapters 27 and 28 of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members