



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)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER JUNE 1, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

I know you can't live on hope alone; but without hope, life is not worth living. So, you, and you and you: you got to give them hope; you got to give them hope. Rights are won only by those who make their voices heard. The only thing they have to look forward to is hope. Hope is never silent!

— Harvey Milk

GATHERING HYMNS

#410	“God Is Calling through the Whisper”	W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
#435	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”	IN BABILONE

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Rev. BJ Woodworth

Everyone in worship today is encouraged to please sign your name in the red Friendship Books that are in each pew. Doing so will help ELPC maintain a pastoral connection with all who worship with us. Thank you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Griffin

Leader: Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing upset you. Everything changes.
People: God alone is unchanging.
 Leader: With patience all things are possible.
People: Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough.
 Leader: God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
People: So that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 Leader: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
People: Even as we hope in what we cannot see and do not have.

* **OPENING HYMN #360** “Christ Is Coming!” UNSER HERRSCHER

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Paul Seif

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

- *Children age 4-3rd grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship in Room 206.*
- *Tweens are encouraged to stay in summer worship.*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery during worship.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: Just as the Apostle Paul reminds us that all of creation has been groaning in labor pains, we also groan. We groan with the pain of injustice, the ache of longing, and the weight of all we cannot fix on our own. Let us come before God, trusting that the Spirit meets us right where we are.

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

June 1 • 7th Sunday of Easter

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Holy One, we confess that we are impatient, tired of waiting for justice and healing. We confess that we grow weary in our hope, and too often trade hope for cynicism. In our despair, we have ignored the pain of the earth and the suffering of your people. Forgive us, O God, and teach us to hold hope with courage and to love with urgency.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: Friends, receive and believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #820 (*sing 3x*) "Nothing Can Trouble"

NADA TE TURBE

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 37:1-9 (*"Psalms for Praying," Nan C. Merrill*)

Barbara Griffin

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN #795 "Healer of Our Every Ill"

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8 (*selected verses; Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Hopeful... Patient... Groaning..."

Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* 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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Woodworth

Thanks to everyone who has made a pledge for 2025. Your timely giving to fulfill your pledge helps us fulfill our mission to show God's unconditional love to all.

Please remember to write your name on your offering envelope. You can also scan this QR code to give online or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM "We Shall Walk Through the Valley In Peace"

arr. Moses Hogan

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

For Jesus himself will be our leader.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there.

We will meet our loved ones there.

For Jesus...

There will be no trials there.

There will be no trials there.

For Jesus...

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* 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.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Woodworth

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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 alabanzas a Dios.**

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Diaz

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

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. Those seated in the East Transept (the section near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the walkway between the front and back section and will file in behind those in the first row of the back section. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats. Please raise your hand and/or make eye contact with the roaming Communion server.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#496

“Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed”

ARFON

#500

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

FEED US

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Thank you for feeding us and nourishing us in this holy and mysterious meal. May your Spirit continue to groan in us as we seek to embody hope in the world. Fill us, empower us, and strengthen us to be the body of Christ, broken and poured out in love, for the sake of the world. Amen!

* CLOSING HYMN #342

“Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor”

RHUDDLAN

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Woodworth

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

<http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>

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



Our full worship service is 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.

Assisted listening devices are available for our Sanctuary worship in the Usbers' Room. 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. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)
Barbara Griffin
Paul Seif
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Beadles: Sonia Degenholtz
Liz Hopkins
Sound: Tim Benedict
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.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

We have begun our summer worship schedule. We will have one combined service at 10 am on Sundays in the Sanctuary. The 8:45 am Journey service will resume on Rally Day in September.

10 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.

◆ 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

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

10 am to 7 pm

(with the exception of
June 11, 12, 19, 25, 26)



◆ WEEKLY SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

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 to 7 pm

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm (before Taizé)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

3rd Friday of month, 7 to 8:30 pm

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this morning and ask you to **sign your name in our red Friendship Books** in each pew.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* next **Sunday, June 8 after the 10 am service** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. See Pastor Michael Diaz to attend, or contact Jen King to register or for info (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

If you are joining us for the first time, we're glad you are here! Please do not forget to write your name and contact info in the RED friendship book in your pew. Pastor Michael will reach out to you for any prayer requests and to answer any questions you might have.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins Today

Our summer worship schedule begins today with a combined service at 10 am in Sanctuary. Due to necessary repairs, we will not worship in the Courtyard this summer. The 8:45 am Journey service will resume on Rally Day in September.

Pittsburgh Pride 2025 March and Festival

Our congregation is a proud participant in LAMP – LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups in different neighborhoods around the area, the ONE big Pride event ELPC and LAMP will be participating in this year is *Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival* TODAY!

The March will begin at noon on Liberty Ave and 13th St (Zone 3, in Strip), concluding at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival will take place. More info is available in the Highland Lobby. Come out and celebrate while we share God's love with all God's people!



Vacation Church School – Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for a few more volunteers for VCS from June 23-27 from 9 am to 3 pm, especially in the afternoon with some very fun kids! If you are interested or want to learn more reach out to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) or fill out the online volunteer form at tiny.cc/vcs.

Can't help during the day at VCS but still want to help? You can:

- save and drop off your paper grocery bags;
- donate a side salad for volunteers' lunch (pasta, lettuce, fruit salads);
- help wash t-shirts and sheets (pick up and return clean);
- mix up dough for dog treats (kids will bake/decorate).

Pentecost Sunday – June 8

Next week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Please wear festive red clothing to worship! We will also receive the *Pentecost Offering* at our 10 am worship service. Hope Academy will receive 40% of the collection.

Church Tours – June 8 and 29

All are welcome to join our church tours. Scheduled tours for June are:

- ♦ June 8 — *Sanctuary and Chapel* led by Jo Ellen Aleshire
- ♦ June 29 — *Tower* led by Tim Van Fleet and Steve Evrard (*please wear closed-toe shoes for this tour*)

Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 10 am Sunday worship service to participate.



Reckoning with ELPC's Tie to Enslavement – June 29

In 2022, our church family learned that one of our most revered founders and donors enslaved and sold two women, Nell and Poll, in the early 1800s.

Join the Facing Systemic Racism Committee after the 10 am service in the Social Hall on Sunday, June 29 for a presentation on what we have learned about Nell, Poll, and their family, and for a time of discussion and reflection on what we must do to reckon with this part of our church's legacy. A light lunch will be provided.

Middle School Camp at Crestfield – July 20 to 25

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to attend *Service Adventure Camp* from July 20 to 25, which combines Crestfield adventure with local missions and service opportunities. Campers will be sent out to local non-profits to learn about and assist those agencies, then swim or rest. 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 at camp.

The cost is \$400 and scholarships are available. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



INQUIRERS CLASS

Sunday, June 8

Attend an Inquirers' Class after the 10 am service on Sunday, June 8 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.



Register online using this QR code, or visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member.

Please contact Jen King for more info:
(JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222)



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

Jean, Jon and struggling combat veterans,
Linda, Matthew, Miriam, Rachel, Rudo,
Sandrina and children, Sandy Blackburn,
Carol Chontos' friend Sally, Ahmad Ghaznavi,
Joe Kennedy, Joe Kiewra,
Barbara Lockie-Brown, Gail Mallory's cousin Rose,
Tricia Mire, Lisa Petrilli, and Michael Stapleton..

*Condolences to the family of
Frederick W. Clothey on his passing.*

Committee Meeting This Week

Facing Systemic Racism Tuesday, June 3 @ 6:00 pm

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

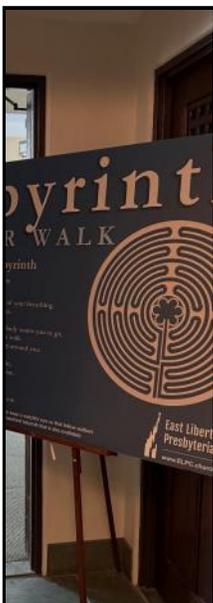
**The church will be closed on
Thursday, June 19 for Juneteenth.**

Pittsburgh Black Pride at ELPC – July 26

All are welcome to a family fun day at ELPC on Saturday, July 26 from Noon-4 pm for *Pittsburgh Black Pride*, co-hosted by Pittsburgh Black Pride, and ELPC's Justice Committee and LGBTQIA+ Ministry. Come share fellowship, food and fun at this free event open to all! Contact Wil Forrest for more info (Wil@coh.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), or you may call in by dialing 929.205.6099.



Labyrinth Prayer Walk

For decades the Labyrinth at ELPC has been a vital and creative spiritual path for our church and neighbors and during the pandemic we had to suspend its weekly offering. It is available on:

**Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 am—7 pm in McKelvy Room**
(with the exception of June 11, 12, 19, 25, 26)

Volunteers Needed

We need 3 to 6 more people on our team to help with the set up and teardown of the labyrinth.

Set up happens on Wednesdays from 9-10 am; teardown is Fridays from 9-10 am.

In our

COMMUNITY



PADP Webinar – June 12

Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty (PADP) will host a webinar discussion between death row exoneree Daniel Gwynn and his attorney Jim Moreno on Thursday, June 12 from 7-8:30 pm. Mr. Gwynn, from Philadelphia, was incarcerated for over 30 years by the Pennsylvania Justice system. He was finally exonerated and released by the courts in March 2024. Please join this important opportunity to learn more about Mr. Gwynn's journey and the work involved in finally getting justice for him.

Register on the PADP website: <https://padp.org>. For more info, contact Vivienne Selia (vselia@comcast.net).

Juneteenth Parade – June 21

ELPC has had a presence in the *Juneteenth Parade* and this year is no exception! Please join us on Saturday, June 21 at 10 am. If you would like to walk or ride in the church



van, let us know (space is limited). For info or to sign up, please contact Lenore Williams (LeeFabilli@aol.com).

RCC Concert – June 27 and 28

The Renaissance City Choir, Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ choir, presents its annual Pride Concert: #THIS IS ME on Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28 at 7:30 pm. The new location for this 40th anniversary concert is Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse (350 Forbes Ave, downtown) with reserved seating. Come for a much needed refill of hope and celebration with songs like *Chosen Family, People Like Us, and Stand Up!* For in-person and live-stream tickets, please visit www.rccpittsburgh.com. RCC rehearses at ELPC.

Trinity Youth Conference – July 13 to 19

Trinity Youth Conference is a regional Presbyterian conference for youth who have completed grade 9 through college-aged students in Shellsburg, PA.

The week consists of meaningful workshops, camp games, relevant worship, refreshingly honest small groups, and is planned and led by a youth planning team. ELPC's own Shayla Brigido is a member of this year's planning team. Information about cost, workshops, registration and schedule is online at www.trinityyouthconference.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Our Adult Sunday School classes will resume on Rally Day in September.