



# 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)*

## PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

With the energy of the Holy Spirit, let us tear apart all walls of division and the culture of death which separate us. And let us participate in the Holy Spirit's economy of life, fighting for our life on this earth in solidarity with all living beings and building communities for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.  
— *Chung Hyun-Kyung*

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Chorale Variations on *Veni Creator Spiritus*”

Maurice Duruflé  
*based on Glory to God #278*  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

### 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

Annette Bassett

Leader: Draw near, people of God, for the Spirit is here.  
**People: We are here, ready for the Spirit of God to meet us.**  
Leader: The Spirit empowers the ordinary to rise, speak, and live boldly for God.  
**People: Even those the world deems insignificant will proclaim truth with power.**  
Leader: As we worship God, may the Spirit move in us and among us.  
**People: May She move through us and transform us again. Alleluia!**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #289

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

MUNICH

### MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

*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.*

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Diaz

*Presentation of Beatrice Croyle (daughter of Ryan and Kathleen Croyle)*

The Deacons and the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee partner to donate a tree seedling to *Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery* for every baptism in our church.

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

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June 8 • Pentecost Sunday

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

**SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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 CONFESSION**

Annette Bassett

Leader: On Pentecost, the Spirit came with fire and wind to shake and stir. The Spirit exposed what was hidden, burned away fear, and made room for boldness. Before God today, we confess our silence, our complacency, and our forgetfulness. Let us come before God, trusting that mercy awaits us.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Annette Bassett

**Spirit of the Living God, you call us to speak truth, but we stay silent. You push us to move, but we stay still. You give us power, but we cling to comfort. Forgive us, O God. Burn away what holds us back. Sweep through our lives with holy wind and fill us again. May we live as followers of Jesus who are filled with the Spirit.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Annette Bassett

Leader: Friends, the Spirit is always present.

People: **In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #281** (*sung continuously as cantors sing the verses*)

"Holy Spirit, Come to Us"

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS

Adrianna Cleveland, Gail Mosites, *cantors*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 2:1-21 (*Spoken Word*)

Rev. Woodworth, Adrianna Cleveland

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN #285**

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

BRIDEGROOM

**SERMON**

"The Last Days and the Least Likely"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO BE RENEWED**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

*On that first Pentecost, the Spirit gave people the courage to speak truth and the assurance of their call to receive and proclaim God's love and justice. Today, we are invited to reflect on what keeps us from following the Spirit's direction. What fears or burdens do we need to release? What dreams or passions are being stirred within you, waiting to be ignited?*

*Write your prayer, affirmation, word, or phrase on the card provided, and then pass them to the center aisle. The Beadles and Crucifer will bring them forward to the Chancel and we will pray for the Spirit's renewal.*

**HYMN #288**

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

**PRAYERS OF RENEWAL & THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*in the language or version closest to your heart*)

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.*

# INVITATION TO BE RENEWED

*Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025*

*On that first Pentecost, the Spirit gave people the courage to speak truth and the assurance of their call to receive and proclaim God's love and justice.*

**Today, we are invited to reflect on what keeps us from following the Spirit's direction.**

**What fears or burdens do we need to release? What dreams or passions are being stirred within you, waiting to be ignited?**

*Write your prayer, affirmation, word, or phrase below, and then pass them to the center aisle. The Beadles and Crucifer will bring them forward to the Chancel and we will pray for the Spirit's renewal.*

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**East Liberty Presbyterian Church**

*116 South Highland Avenue • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206*

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

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

*Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We will also receive the Pentecost Offering. Hope Academy will receive 40% of the collection.*

*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](http://www.ELPC.church/donate).*



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Roland Martin

\* **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. *(Interlude)* A - men.

\* **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 alabanzas a Dios.**

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Spirit of Life, by your grace, our spirits are renewed and refreshed. May these gifts we offer and every breath we breathe proclaim your justice, truth, and glory. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #282**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**POSTLUDE**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Jim Weisheit  
The Brass Roots

## 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

Our summer worship schedule has begun, 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.

### Pentecost Sunday

Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We will also receive the *Pentecost Offering*. Hope Academy will receive 40% of the collection.

### Inquirers' Class

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* in the Fellowship Room after today's worship service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please see Pastor Michael immediately after the service if you would like to attend. Contact Jen King for more info (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

### Church Tour

All are welcome to today's tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel, led by Jo Ellen Aleshire. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the worship service to participate.

### Lamenting Injustice in the Federal Budget

The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness has issued a statement of *Lament and a Call to Action*. The passage of the "Big Beautiful Bill" by the US House of Representatives and the expectation of the bill coming before the US Senate before the end of the month requires our immediate attention. As followers of Jesus Christ and advocates of economic justice, we cannot remain silent. Scripture calls us to a higher moral standard. Please read the *Lament* printed in today's bulletin, provided by members of the Justice Committee. Join Presbyterians across the country to contact our Senators!



### 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. 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](http://tiny.cc/vcs).

### Update Your Reaching Out Delivery Preference

ELPC is working to reduce our carbon footprint and shift to mostly electronic distribution of our *Reaching Out* newsletter. If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter in the mail, please reach out to Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222). A digital version of the newsletter is available on our website at ELPC.church.

### Social Hour – June 22

ELPC's Membership and Outreach Committee will host a *Social Hour* on Sunday, June 22 after the 10 am worship service in the Fellowship Room. Please join them for snacks and fellowship! All are welcome!

### Connections Group Gathering – June 27

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to attend their next summer gathering. Grab your blanket or chair and join us for this free outdoor concert! Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with EPLC folks! RSVP to [connectelc@gmail.com](mailto:connectelc@gmail.com).

- Friday, June 27: *Fridays at Frick* — Enjoy an evening of music across genres with a performance by Barrels to Beethoven. Grounds open at 5 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm and ends around 8 pm.

*Dates of other summer gatherings: July 25 and August 24.*

### Parking / Church Access Restricted – June 29

OpenStreetsPGH, hosted by BikePGH, is a free community event that opens miles of Pittsburgh streets for people to walk, run, bike, and explore spaces that are usually taken up by motor vehicles. This event will take place on Sunday, June 29 from 10 am—2 pm.

Part of their route will close the South Highland Ave entrance to ELPC, so please give yourself a little more time when attending worship that Sunday. For more details on the road closures, visit <https://openstreetspgh.org/route>.



### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

The Labyrinth 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.



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

Sandrina and children, Sandy Blackburn, Carol Chontos' friend Sally, Ahmad Ghaznavi, Barbara Lockie-Brown, Gail Mallory's cousin Rose, Tricia Mire, Lisa Petrilli, Michael Stapleton, Beth Urbaitis.

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

**Committee Meeting This Week**

**Assoc Pastor Selection**..... Today @ 1:30 pm  
**Deacons** ..... Tuesday, June 10 @ 7:00 pm  
**Worship, Music, Arts** ..... Tuesday, June 10 @ 7:30 pm  
**Mission Board**..... Thursday, June 12 @ 5:00 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.**

**Church Tour – June 29**

On Sunday, June 29, a *Tower tour* will be 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.

**LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – July 6**

Please plan on joining us at our next Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, July 6 at 11:30 am when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Please contact Wil Forrest for info (Wil@coh.net).

**Day Retreat for LGBTQIA+ Folks and Allies – July 19**

Take a step away from your regular schedule and come together with others who are seeking a self-care and care-for-others balance. Members of the ELPC community are invited to a day retreat (sponsored by ELPC's Justice Committee and LGBTQIA+ Ministry) for LGBTQIA+ folks and their allies at a local queer establishment for a day of exploration, laughter, reflection, creativity, and food.

On Saturday, July 19 from 9 am—3 pm, we will gather at Harold's Haunt in Millvale for this retreat, with special guest presenter, Debra Flint. Contact Wil Forrest or Carol Chonoska with any questions.

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](http://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](http://www.trinityyouthconference.com).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

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

## LAMENTING INJUSTICE IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET



**A pastoral statement from the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness**

May 23, 2025

With heavy hearts and deep concern, we, the Office of Public Witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), bear witness to the harm set in motion by Thursday's passage of a budget reconciliation bill in the U.S. House of Representatives under the cover of night. While some have labeled it "The Big Beautiful Bill," within the faith community it is rightly dubbed: "The Big Bad, Deadly Bill."

Passed by a razor-thin margin of 215 to 214, this legislation threatens devastating cuts to federal programs that provide food assistance, health care access, and fund environmental protection, among others. These cuts target the most vulnerable — children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, immigrants, and low-wage workers — while offering expanded benefits to the wealthiest Americans. If enacted, the average low-income household will face an increased tax burden of nearly \$1,000 annually, exacerbating inequality in a nation already fractured by economic disparity. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

As followers of Jesus Christ and advocates for economic justice, we cannot remain silent. Scripture calls us to a higher moral standard. From the cries of the prophets to the teachings of Jesus, we are commanded to feed the hungry, defend the poor, and proclaim justice for the oppressed. These mandates are not optional — they are central to our faith and our witness.

The prophet Amos issued this warning "hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate" (*Amos 5:15*). Isaiah condemns laws that rob the poor of their rights (*Isaiah 10:1–2*), and James reminds us that faith without action is dead (*James 2:17*). Jesus began his ministry proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed (*Luke 4:18*), and he teaches that our care for "the least of these" is how we serve God (*Matthew 25:40*).

The bill passed by the House does not promote fiscal responsibility. Instead, it sacrifices the well-being of our neighbors on the altar of political expediency and economic inequity. Its economic impacts — delayed until after next year's midterm elections — will reverberate for years, especially among those who rely on these essential services.

As Presbyterians, our social witness policy affirms that balancing the federal budget on the backs of the poor while preserving tax advantages for the wealthy is morally indefensible. Access to food, health care, and shelter is not a privilege for the few, but a fundamental human right.

We grieve for those whose lives will be irreparably harmed by this vote. We lament the deliberate choices that prioritize wealth over compassion, and power over justice. But even in lament, we do not lose hope.

The early church modeled a radical vision of equity and mutual care — "there was not a needy person among them ... the proceeds were distributed to each as any had need" (*Acts 4:34–35*). We are called to live in that same spirit of generosity and solidarity today.

Our work is not done.

### **We urge you to take action:**

- ◆ If your Representative opposed this legislation, call and thank them for their courage.
- ◆ If your Representative supported it, call and express your disapproval.
- ◆ If your Representative abstained from voting, call to inquire about that decision.
- ◆ Contact your senators today, and urge them to reject this harmful and unjust bill.

In this moral moment, we stand in lament, in hope and in faith.

### **Let us pray:**

God of the cross and the margins,  
when laws crush the poor and policies silence the vulnerable, awaken your church — to shout with the oppressed, to weep with the wounded, to rise with the crucified — whose body bears every injustice — and to hope with the risen Christ, whose justice defies empire, and whose mercy will not be legislated.

Amen.

### **Who are my representatives?**

### **How do I get in touch with them?**

[www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member](http://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member)

### **How did my representative vote on this bill?**

<https://tinyurl.com/RepresentativeVotes>

or scan this QR code



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](http://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 Ushers' 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. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)

Liturgists: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)

Sara Hackett (she/her)

*Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministries*

Annette Bassett

Adrianna Cleveland

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

*Director of Music and Arts*

ELPC Summer Choir

Ryan Croyle, *Guest Organist*

Adrianna Cleveland, *Cantor*

Gail Mosites, *Cantor*

Brass Roots: Samuel Eisenhandler, *Trumpet*

David Gardner, *Trumpet*

Miranda Johnson, *Horn*

Abby Lannan, *Euphonium*

John Caughman, *Tuba*

Abby Langhorst, *Timpani*

Beadles: Jo Ellen Aleshire

Heather Eng

Crucifer: Jan Herzer

Sound: Keith Irvin

Bobby Jarsulic

Dorothea Ward

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Virginia E. Evans and Elizabeth M. Huber.

◆ SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP

10 am.....**Summer 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)

**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* **TODAY after the 10 am service in the Fellowship Room** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. See Pastor Michael Diaz to attend, or contact Jen King to register for future classes and more info ([JenK@coh.net](mailto:JenK@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x222).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).