



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)

TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 15, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all...

— Emily Dickinson

GATHERING HYMNS

#451
#475

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

OPEN MY EYES
NETTLETON

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

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

Carol and JoAnn Chonoska

Leader: Does not Divine Wisdom call us, inviting people from every crossroad?
People: We hear God’s voice urging us towards understanding and delight.
Leader: The Creator dances with joy across the earth, celebrating and delighting in humankind.
People: We join in word and song, embracing the beauty and goodness of our God.
Leader: With open hearts, we gather to worship the God of wisdom,
People: The God whose joy is our strength, whose delight is in each of us. Alleluia!

* OPENING HYMN #1

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

NICAEA

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.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Carol and JoAnn Chonoska

Leader: From the outset of creation, God has never left us without divine beauty, presence, and relationship. Even in moments when we stumble, God’s grace remains abundantly available. So let us turn toward that grace with humility and in community as we confess our sins before God and one another.

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

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carol and JoAnn Chonoska

Blessed God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you model a relationship that is mutual and whole. We confess that our relationships are not that way. We have been too selfish; we have given too much; we have accepted too little. We have failed to love in the manner of Jesus. We long for wholeness and peace, but our shortcomings pull us in other directions. Forgive us and restore us.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Carol and JoAnn Chonoska

Leader: Friends, with abundant grace and boundless mercy, God relentlessly seeks us out.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #7

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

NORWICH

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (NRSV)

Carol and JoAnn Chonoska

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #353**

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

SOLID ROCK

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Never Without”

Rev. Sarah Robbins

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION &

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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.

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Juneteenth

Lenore Williams

JUNETEENTH VIDEO

OFFERING INVITATION

Lenore Williams

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“With a Voice of Singing”

Gilbert 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. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz
Rev. Robbins

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: **Y también contigo.**

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: **Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.**

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: **Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.**

Leader: Holy Wisdom, you breathe life into our weary spirits and awaken us to truth and compassion. Receive these offerings we bring with delight. May our every act reflect your love, justice, and sacred presence. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

* CLOSING HYMN #10

“Sing Glory to the Name of God”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Robbins



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. Sarah Robbins
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
*Director of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries*
Carol and JoAnn Chonoska
Lenore Williams
Musicians: Ryan Croyle, *Guest Organist/Director*
ELPC Summer Choir
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are presented by Caroline Hough and Brendan Bogolin, in honor of their wedding yesterday.

◆ 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 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

◆ SOCIAL TIME

Next Sunday, June 22, there will be a *Social Time* in the Fellowship Room, sponsored by ELPC's Membership & Outreach Committee. All are welcome!

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* 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; 412.441.3800 x222).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Today's Guest Preacher, Rev. Sarah Robbins

This morning we welcome Rev. Sarah Robbins as our guest preacher! Rev. Robbins is currently an at-large member of Pittsburgh Presbytery, where she has served as its Moderator and on COM. She's had the joy of working with several congregations as a transitional/interim pastor, most recently at Sixth. These positions have given her the opportunity to share God's radically inclusive and expansive love with all, a work she hopes to continue wherever her work takes her next. She lives in Squirrel Hill with her spouse Rev. Ben Robbins (Northmont) and their 9 year old child Liam.



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.

Abolish Death Penalty

In the effort to have the Death Penalty abolished in Pennsylvania, the Justice Committee is providing you the opportunity to sign a postcard to our legislators after today's service in the Garth Overlook Room. Contact Vivienne Selia for info (vselia@comcast.net).



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, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) or fill out the online volunteer form at tiny.cc/vcs.

Social Hour – June 22

ELPC's Membership and Outreach Committee will host a *Social Hour* on June 22 after worship in the Fellowship Room. Please join them for snacks and fellowship!

Interested in Being a Tour Guide?

Are you interested in joining one of the ministries of ELPC by leading members and visitors as a tour guide of our Gothic Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel, stained glass windows, or views from the landmark central tower? The tours include the church's 206 year history, architectural details, beauty and symbolism designed by famed architect Ralph Adams Cram. Training will be provided. Contact Jo Ellen Aleshire (joaleshire@gmail.com) if interested.

Juneteenth Parade – June 21

Please join us on Saturday, June 21 at 10 am for the *Juneteenth Parade*. Folks can ride in the ELPC van leaving from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 9 am, or come to Freedom Corner (Centre Ave and Crawford St, Uptown) by 9:45 am and walk along side of the van. Bring signs for *Justice, Equality and Civil Rights*. The parade happens rain or shine!

If you would like to ride in the church van (space is limited), contact Lenore Williams (LeeFabilli@aol.com).

ELPC Child Safety Training – June 22

ELPC leadership has been working on and revising our *Emergency Response Plan* with local first responders to evolve and address our changing environment and the times in which we live. To further this effort and to better prepare our staff and congregation, the *Safety & Security Advisory Committee* (SSA) will be presenting a series of trainings over the next several months concerning important issues to create a safer church for us all.

First, we will start off with ELPC's *Child Safety Training* on Sunday, June 22 after 10 am worship as Sara Hackett trains attendees on ELPC's *Child Safety Policy*. Contact Sara to attend (SaraH@coh.net). In subsequent months, we will have trainings on mental health, fire safety, first aid, Stop the Bleed, AED, CPR, and intruder threat. All these trainings will be attended by staff members and open to church leaders. Some, such as fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

In addition to these trainings, the SSA Committee is working on enhancing safer, clearer egress paths and emergency communication systems around the church building. We believe that part of being radically hospitable is keeping all who enter our building as safe as possible.

We invite you to pray for us in our work and to keep an eye out for training sessions in coming months in which you can participate. *The SSA Committee is Sandy Brake, Don Breitbarth, Lynne Chadwick, Carol Chonoska (chair), Carol Chontos, Pastor Michael Diaz, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Tom Morton, Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer, Isaiah Wilson, and Nancy Wright.*



Labyrinth Prayer Walk
The Labyrinth is available on:
Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 am—7 pm in McKelvy Room
(with the exception of June 19, 25, 26)



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

Sandrina and children, Christine, Nelson, Sam, Shannon, Torrie, U.S. government, Paul Bray, Carol Chontos' friend Sally, Joe Kiewra, Michael Stapleton, and Beth Urbaitis.

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

Committee Meeting This Week

SessionTuesday, June 17 @ 7:00 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.

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 ELPC folks! RSVP to connectelpc@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>.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

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

In our

COMMUNITY



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.

For in-person and live-stream tickets, please visit www.rccpittsburgh.com. RCC rehearses at ELPC.

Church Tour – June 29

On Sunday, June 29, a *Tower tour* will be led by Steve Evrard and Tom Morton.

High above the bustle of the streets below, you will have an opportunity to view the entire East Liberty valley and beyond from the 300 foot spire of ELPC. The climb requires a bit of stamina, as there are 333 steps total (equivalent to about 13 stories), many of which are very narrow and circular. Please wear pants and comfortable, closed-toe shoes. The tour is not recommended for children under 12, those with heart or respiratory conditions, people with fear of heights or small enclosed spaces.

The tour capacity is limited to a total of 20 participants. You must pre-register for the tour online at <https://tinyurl.com/TowerTourELPC>, or scan this QR code.



There is no cost to participate but free-will donations are gratefully accepted. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 10 am Sunday worship service to participate, and allow 45-60 minutes for the tour.

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.