



# 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)*

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## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 29, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Instead of viewing God as one who helps me accomplish my purposes, it is now my joy to help God accomplish the divine purpose – seeking the best for others and seeking the growth of the beloved, which is to say everyone. — *Philip Gulley*

### GATHERING MUSIC

“Omemma”

*(Our God, the Doer of Good Things)*

*Journey Praise Team:*

Omemma, always on time, you can do no wrong.

Omemma, you leave the 99, always for the one.

*All:*

**Omemma, always on time, you can do no wrong.**

**Omemma, you leave the 99, always for the one.**

*Journey Praise Team:*

Our God, the doer of good things. Our God, the doer of good things.

Our God, the doer of good things.

I know God loves me, I know God cares. Whenever I call, God is always right there.

In times of trouble, God is my help. Yeah, I know no fear, I know God is right there.

Ay, God really does what God says God will do. My God really moves, oh.

Ay, why would I doubt when God always comes through? My God really moves, oh.

Our God, the doer of good things. Our God, the doer of good things.

*All:*

**I know God loves me, I know God cares. Whenever I call, God is always right there.**

**When I'm in trouble, God is my help. Yeah, I know no fear, I know God is right there.**

**Ay, God really does what God says God will do. My God really moves, oh.**

**Ay, why would I doubt when God always comes through? My God really moves, oh.**

**Oh, ay, God really does what God says God will do. My God really moves, oh.**

**Ay, why would I doubt when God always comes through? My God really moves, oh.**

**Our God, the doer of good things. Our God, the doer of good things.**

**Our God, the doer of good things. Our God, the doer of good things.**

**Omemma, always on time, you can do no wrong.**

**Omemma, you leave the 99, always for the one.**

**Omemma, always on time, you can do no wrong.**

**Omemma, you leave the 99, always for the one.**

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

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**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**

Trish Buben

Leader: God who rules the universe, calls us.

**People: Christ who took up his cross, calls us.**

Leader: Holy Spirit who liberates us in body and soul, calls us.

**People: We faithfully answer the voice of the Divine.**

Leader: We worship God with our presence.

**People: We worship God with our actions and our lives. Alleluia!**

\* **OPENING HYMN #740**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

**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.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Vacation Church School Children’s Choir

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trish Buben

Leader: God calls us into a life of freedom, not the freedom of self-interest, but the freedom to serve one another in love. Too often, we choose the chains of pride, indifference, or fear. But the Spirit is still at work, guiding us toward love. So let us come honestly and humbly before God, trusting in mercy that sets us free.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Trish Buben

**Gracious God, you call us to live by the Spirit, to walk in love, to serve one another, to build a world where all are free. We confess that we have been bound by fear and tempted by apathy. Set us free from what holds us back. Set us free for what calls us forward. Renew in us the fruit of your Spirit.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

Trish Buben

Leader: Friends, in Christ we are made new.

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

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #469** (*sing 3x*)

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

CHILDREN PRAYING

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Galatians 5:1, 13-18, 22-25 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Trish Buben

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN**

“We Need You, Lord”

*Solo:*

I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord, right now. I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord, right now.

I lift my hands, and bend my knees, and worship at your throne.

I need you, Lord, I need you, Lord, right now.

*All:*

**We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.**

**We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.**

**We lift our hands, and bend our knees, and worship at your throne.**

**We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.**

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

We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We lift our hands, and bend our knees, and worship at your throne.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We lift our hands, and bend our knees, and worship at your throne.  
We lift our hands, and bend our knees, and worship at your throne.  
We lift our hands, and bend our knees, and worship at your throne.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.  
We need you, Lord, we need you, Lord, right now.

SERMON

“Follow Her Lead”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION &

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.*

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. Dr. Diaz

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Prayer of Recommitment”

Journey Praise Team

\* 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 alabanzas a Dios.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, you liberate us and empower us for the journey of love. Receive these offerings we bring. May you continually transform us as you transform the world. Amen.

\* CLOSING HYMN #359

“Freedom is Coming”

FREEDOM IS COMING

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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*
- Trish Buben
- Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)  
*Director of Music and Arts*
- Journey Praise Team
- Dr. Gerald Savage, *Journey Music Director*
- Vacation Church School
- Children's Choir
- Sound: Tim Benedict
- Wayne Gaines
- Lenore Williams

◆ 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 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

**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](http://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.

### Reckoning with ELPC's Tie to Enslavement

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 today's 10 am service in the Social Hall 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.

### No Church Tour Today

Please note that the *Tower Tour* scheduled for today has been cancelled due to the extreme heat.

The next scheduled tour will be on Sunday, July 13, featuring the Sanctuary and Chapel.



### 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.



### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

The Labyrinth is available on:  
**Wednesdays and Thursdays**  
10 am—7 pm  
in McKelvy Room

### 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.

### Safety and Security Trainings

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.

In the next few 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.*

### 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. **RSVP to Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net) by July 13.** Contact Wil Forrest or Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com) with any questions.



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

Christine, Conley and Charles, Jim, Nelson, Sam, Shannon, Torrie, U.S. government, Marsh Anderson, Edith Battle and her daughter, Henk and Michele Bossers' brother-in-law and daughter-in-law, Paul Bray, Ashley and Emily DeTar Birt and their child, Sharon Hardnet, Jan Herzer's friend, Felix Mallott, Joan Mukogosi, Rachel Neil's mother, Paul Seif's mother, Michael Stapleton, and Beth Urbaitis.

*Condolences to the family of Ruth Kuschmierz on her passing.*

**Committee Meetings This Week**

**Facing Systemic Racism** ..... Tuesday, July 1 @ 6:00 pm  
**Property** ..... Tuesday, July 1 @ 7:00 pm  
**YAYA**..... Wednesday, July 2 @ 3:00 pm

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

**The church building will be closed on Friday, July 4.**

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

**Connections Group Gatherings – July 25, Aug 24**

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to attend the following summer events. Grab your blanket or chair and join us for these free outdoor concerts! Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with EPLC folks! RSVP to connectelc@gmail.com.

- Friday, July 25: *Fridays at Frick* — The Stemtecs Band will dazzle us with jazzy melodies. Grounds open at 5 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm and ends around 8 pm.
- Sunday, August 24: *Reservoir of Jazz* — Join us at the Highland Park Reservoir for a performance by Paul Cosentino's Boiler Maker Jazz Band. Music starts at 5 pm and ends at 7 pm.



*Taizé Prayer*  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM**  
AUDIO-STREAM ALSO AVAILABLE

**Donations for Chapel Market**



- The Chapel Market needs:
- **spring and summer clothes**
  - **diapers (sizes 5-7)**
  - **full-sized toiletries items** (soap, body wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, lotion etc.)

Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).

**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.

**New Signs, Same Policy, more RADICAL Hospitality**

You'll notice new signs at our Highland Ave entrance, asking everyone who comes into our building to sign in – unless you are coming for worship or a large public event like a concert. This has been part of our *Child Safety Policy* for many years, but we are renewing our commitment to welcome everyone who enters our building by name. ELPC has implemented a *Safety & Security Advisory* to review and revise our *Emergency Response Plan*, updating emergency equipment and training of staff and church leadership. Writing your name will help us keep the most vulnerable safe, better understand how our building is being used, and create a point of connection and welcome for each person who comes through our doors.

**Volunteer as an Usher!**

Ushers are an important part of the Sanctuary worship service. We welcome worshippers, distribute bulletins, take the collection, and lead people forward for communion. Becoming an usher is a great way to engage in the radical hospitality that ELPC is known for! If interested, contact Lynne Chadwick (LynneNChadwick@gmail.com).