



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)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 13, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

You become what you give your attention to.

— Epictetus

GATHERING HYMNS

#307

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

#700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

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

Linda Davis

Leader: Gather us in, God, and hear our longings and prayer.

People: **We have come to this place in need for healing and hope.**

Leader: Gather us in, God, and heal our spirits.

People: **We come here seeking guidance and strength.**

Leader: Gather us in, God, and open our hearts to receive your word.

People: **Open our hearts to comprehend your word and follow you faithfully. Amen.**

* OPENING HYMN #305

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

DARWALL’S 148TH

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

Linda Davis

Leader: Beloved, too often, we pass by the broken places in ourselves, in our neighbors, in this weary world. God calls us to remember those who have been left behind and to remember that we too carry wounds the world would rather not see. Let us come honestly before God, who tends every wound with holy balm, confessing where we have crossed the road to the other side.

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

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Linda Davis

Merciful One, we have failed to see our neighbor's pain because we were rushing, afraid, or comfortable in our distance. Forgive us when we have closed our eyes to the wounds of the world and to the wounds within us. Teach us the courage to kneel beside the broken, to bind up what is bleeding, to bring healing where there is ache. Help us to see every person as worthy of care. Help us to tend to our own souls with the same mercy.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Linda Davis

Leader: Friends, God's love ensures reconciliation to all.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #62 (sing 3x) "Love the Lord Your God"

GREAT COMMANDMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Woodworth

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

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN #203

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

CHEREONI

SERMON

"We Just Keep On Keeping On"

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

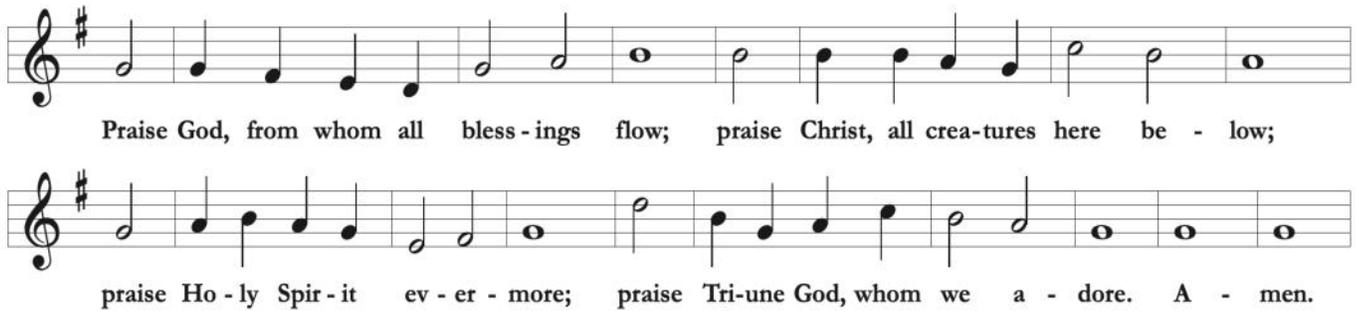
"Ain't That Good News"

arr. Moses Hogan
Traditional Spiritual

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz
Rev. Woodworth

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 One, as we seek to live out our calling in Christ, bless the gifts we now bring. Guide our paths as you fill us with spiritual wisdom and divine blessing. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **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 #63

“The Lord Is God”

AZMON

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz



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 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 Diaz (he/him/él)
Liturgists: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Linda Davis
Paul Seif
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland
Jess Poeske
Denise Sheffey-Powell
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, 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

◆ 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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King to register or for 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

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.

Church Tour

The next scheduled tour after today's worship service, featuring the Sanctuary and Chapel. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.



Chapel Market Dinner — July 18

Our ELPC community includes not only our members and friends, but also the people who find hospitality at the Chapel Market, and those who enjoy the green space of the rain garden along Penn Ave.



To celebrate that community, the Neighbors Committee hosts a monthly hot dinner for anyone who needs it. Volunteers not only cook and serve, but also sit down to eat and talk with our neighbors. Our last two dinners were well attended and truly enjoyable events.

Our next dinner is scheduled for Friday, July 18 from 5:30-6:30 pm. If you want to volunteer to help with the dinner, contact Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net), Heather Eng (heng16@gmail.com), or Cathleen Malmstrom (calmalm1@gmail.com).

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 TODAY.** Contact Wil Forrest or Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com) with any questions.

Connections Group Gatherings — July 25 and 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 connectelpc@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.

Pittsburgh Black Pride Events at ELPC — July 25 and 26

Everyone is invited to the FREE *Pittsburgh Black Pride* concert on Friday, July 25 at 6:30 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary.



Then return for 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).

ELPC Seeking a New Associate Pastor for Care and Connection

The process has started to seek a new Associate Pastor for ELPC who will oversee care and connection and be the liaison for the Board of Deacons and for the Membership and Outreach Committee. Session has appointed a search committee—or Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)—that is busy developing a job posting known as a Ministry Discernment Profile. Although the position is listed as a temporary Associate Pastor, the successful candidate could become an installed pastor later. The position description can be found at elpc.church/careers.



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.



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

Conley and Charles, Nelson,
Sam, U.S. government, Marsh Anderson,
Edith Battle and her daughter,
Henk and Michele Bossers’
brother-in-law and daughter-in-law,
Ashley and Emily DeTar Birt and their child,
Rev. Joe Hajdu, Sharon Hardnet, Jan Herzer’s friend,
Linda Lane, Felix Mallott, Courtney McCrimmon’s father,
Marti Moore, Joan Mukogosi, Rachel Neil’s mother,
Henry Petrilli, Paul Seif’s mother,
Michael Stapleton, and Beth Urbaitis.

Condolences to the family of Pat Valoon on her passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Session Tuesday, July 15 @ 7:00 pm
Membership & Outreach ... Thursday, July 17 @ 6:00 pm

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

Summer Sunday School for Kids

This summer, we are offering *Sunday School* for kids aged 4 –grade 3. Tweens are encouraged to join in our Summer worship service, but if they would like to help out with the younger kids’ class, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Summer *Sunday School* will have a different format and take place in Room 205. The *Invitations to Play* curriculum follows the lectionary texts we are using in worship and uses sensory and imaginative play materials to make space for the Holy Spirit to do its work of transformation. Together, we will make meaning of sacred texts and theological concepts through play!

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. Please contact Jo Ellen Aleshire (joaleshire@gmail.com) if interested.



Taizé Prayer
WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM
AUDIO-STREAM ALSO AVAILABLE

In our

COMMUNITY



Dr. Ed in Concert – Today

The Arsenal Duo (Dr. Ed and pianist Nathan Carterette) will present a concert of music for organ and piano duet and solo at 4 pm today at Ingomar United Methodist Church (1500 W Ingomar Rd, 15237). More info is available at <https://ingomarchurch.org/summer-recital-series/>. This concert will also be livestreamed: <https://www.youtube.com/@IngomarChurch>. A freewill offering being received.

All Together Now! Music Festival – Aug 7 to 10

Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler have organized the *All Together Now! Music Festival* to benefit our immigrant community. The music festival will be held from Aug 7 to 10 at various venues around Pittsburgh.

All proceeds will go to the Collaborative for Immigrant Impact to help immigrants access legal services, housing, healthcare, education, English classes, career development, food assistance, and more, ensuring our immigrant neighbors have the opportunity to thrive. The Collaborative for Immigrant Impact is a network of 20 Pittsburgh-based organizations that serve as a critical safety net for over 20,000 immigrants in our community.

The music festival ends on Sunday, Aug 10 at 3 pm with *An Afternoon of Storytelling and Multicultural Music and Dance* in the ELPC Sanctuary.

Please visit www.alltogetherpgh.com for a schedule of events and ticket prices, the listing of bands and artists, to purchase tickets and t-shirts, and to make a donation.

ELPC Fire Safety Training and Drill – Aug 17

ELPC’s 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. On Sunday, Aug 17 after the 10 am service, all are invited to stay for a fire safety training and drill presented by our very own Isaiah Wilson who is a fire safety professional. The congregation will be invited to stay in the Sanctuary after worship ends for this session.

In the next few months, we will have trainings on 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 August’s fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

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.