



# 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 AFTER PENTECOST JULY 27, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

At the very least, I am convinced that prayer changes us – that it transforms those who pray.

— *Marcus Borg*

### GATHERING HYMNS

#728

“Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door”

SOMEBODY’S KNOCKIN’

#658

“God Is So Good”

GOD IS SO GOOD

### 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

Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers

Leader: I will give thanks to God with my whole heart; I will speak of God’s wonderful deeds.

People: **I will be glad and sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

Leader: Our soul waits for God; the Divine is our help and shield.

People: **Our heart is glad because we trust in God’s holy name.**

Leader: Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Most High.

People: **May your love lift us as we dwell in your presence. Amen!**

### \* OPENING HYMN #408

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

### 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

Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers

Leader: Friends, in the Gospel of Luke, we hear the disciples ask Jesus about prayer. In response, Jesus reminds us that prayer is not only about asking for our daily needs but also about aligning our hearts with God’s will, seeking forgiveness, and trusting God’s goodness. Yet, how often do we allow the distractions of life to keep us from this sacred conversation with God? As we prepare to confess together, let us remember that prayer is not just words spoken, but a posture of the heart. It is in this moment, in the quiet of confession, that we find God’s presence and grace. Let us turn to the most Holy One and reflect and pray.

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

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**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers

**Leader:** Friends, God receives us with open arms.  
**People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #447 (sing 3x)**

"We Are Forgiven"

WE ARE FORGIVEN

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 11:1-13 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers

**Leader:** This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

\* **HYMN #175**

"Seek Ye First"

LAFFERTY

**SERMON**

"Answer the Knock"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"The Lord's Prayer"

Albert Hay Marlotte

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**Leader:** La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.  
**People:** Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**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**

"The Lord is My Light"

Kevin A. Memley  
text from Psalm 27: 1-3, 5, 6, 14

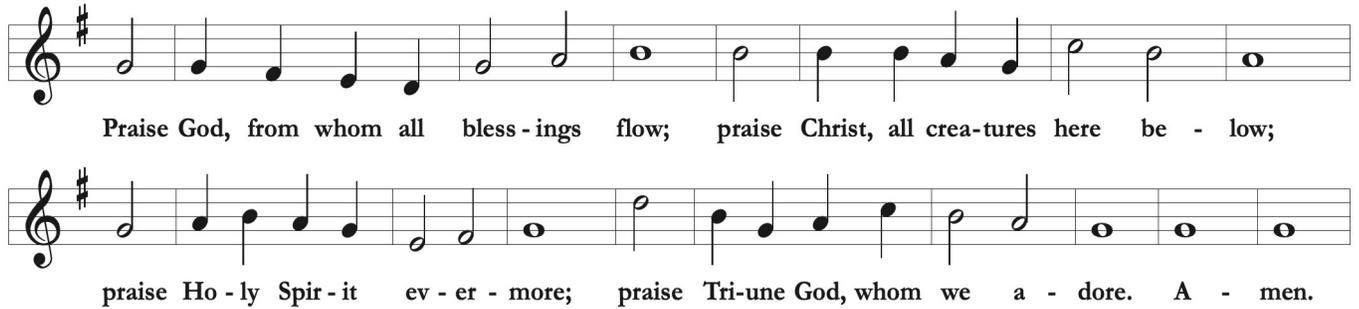
The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?  
Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.

When the wicked advance against me  
'Tis my enemies who will stumble and fall  
Though an army besiege me my heart will not fear;  
be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.

In the day of trouble God will keep me.  
God will hide me in the shelter of the tent.  
I will sing and make music unto the Lord.  
Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord.

\* 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 DEDICATION

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.**

Leader: Holy One, we give you thanks for the gifts of love we experience in our lives. Bless these tithes and offerings, that they might be used as expressions of your steadfast love for those in need near and far. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN #340

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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 Diaz (he/him/él)  
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Henk and Michele Bossers  
Sara Hackett (she/her)  
*Director of Christian Education*  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Summer Choir  
Adrianna Cleveland and  
Denise Sheffey-Powell, soloists  
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*)

**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. 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](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.

### Church Tower Tour – July 27 \*\* CANCELLED \*\*

Tour cancelled due to weather forecast of storms and high humidity. Please check our website and announcements for future tours, or join another tour listed below!



### Upcoming church tours

Next Sunday August 3 will be a stained glass tour, and Aug 17 will be an exterior architecture tour. No registration required!



### LGBTQIA+ Spiritual Gathering - August 10

All are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, August 10 at 11:30am when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest, *LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator*, at [wil@coh.net](mailto:wil@coh.net) or 412-441-3800 X218

### PW Bible Study Book Distribution – Aug 17 and 24

Presbyterian Women's 2025-2026 Bible Study begins in Sept, and they will be available after worship on Sundays, Aug 17 and 24 to answer questions and distribute the bible study books. For more information, please email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com)

### 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. 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.

On Sunday, Aug 17 after the 10 am service, all are invited to stay for a fire safety training presented by our very own Isaiah Wilson who is a fire safety professional. Please note that this training will include a fire drill which includes a loud alarm. The congregation will be invited to stay in the Sanctuary after worship ends for this session.

*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.*

### Connections Group Gathering – Sunday Aug 24

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to grab your blanket or chair and join us for this free outdoor concert at the Highland Park Reservoir for a "Reservoir of Jazz" performance by Paul Cosentino's Boiler Maker Jazz Band. Music starts at 5 pm and ends at 7 pm. 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)

### ELPC Seeking a New Associate Pastor for Care and Connection

As you know, a process has begun to seek a new Associate Pastor for ELPC who will oversee care and connection as well as serve as the liaison for the Board of Deacons and the Membership and Outreach Committee. 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 [elc.church/careers](http://elc.church/careers). Session appointed the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) who received their orientation in June. After developing the Ministry Discernment Profile, the APNC posted the role on the Church Leadership (CLC) site and advertised the position widely. We have a number of applicants, and are continuing to accept applications. After reading the PDP (Personal Discernment Profile) for applicants and viewing sermons listed on their PDP, we have begun initial interviews. There is a poster on the bulletin board in the Baum Blvd exit hallway where you can see the process we are following. Please hold your Committee in prayer as we engage in this process of discernment on behalf of ELPC.

### 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](mailto: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!



Hope Academy's Fall Registration is OPEN NOW!

Visit our website ([ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church)) or scan this QR code to find out more about our scholarships, classes and private instrument lessons.





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

Conley & family, Joan Mukogosi,  
Marti Moore, Henry Petrilli, Linda Lane, Beth Urbatis,  
Courtney McCrimmon's father, Sonia, Scott & Josh, Dino.

*Condolences to the family of Pat Valoon on her passing.*

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### No Committee Meetings This Week

*Staff & leader SSA training is being held this  
Wed July 30; 1-3pm in the fellowship room*

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### 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](mailto:joaleshire@gmail.com)) if interested.



### 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](mailto:LynneNChadwick@gmail.com)).

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In our

## COMMUNITY



### Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop—Aug 19

Pittsburgh is undergoing significant changes, and for the first time ever, our city is creating one comprehensive plan encompassing all 90 neighborhoods. This presents a unique opportunity for us to ensure that these changes benefit everyone. The Plan Needs Your Input! On August 19, a public workshop will be held on the "State of a Just Pittsburgh"- our city's current conditions, our strengths and things we celebrate, our most urgent challenges and risks, and perhaps most importantly, the forces driving change in Pittsburgh over the next 5, 10, 25 years.

Register at: [pgh2050.com/upcomingevents](http://pgh2050.com/upcomingevents)

Currently planned to be held at 5 Hot Metal St.

### 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 concludes 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](http://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.

### Renaissance City Choir Comes Out with New Name for 40th Anniversary

Western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQIA+ and allies choral group proudly announces its new name: Pittsburgh Pride Choir. The choir has been a cornerstone of Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ cultural community since 1985. The name change marks a new era — one that clearly reflects the group's identity and mission in a vibrant, visible, and proudly queer-forward way. The Pittsburgh Pride Choir is an artist in residence at ELPC, where they rehearse and perform.

The group's origins trace back to its founding as the Pittsburgh Gay Chorus in 1985. However, for safety and broader public acceptance, the name was changed in the same year to the Renaissance City Choir, referencing Pittsburgh's "Renaissance II" era. Over time, as the nickname "Renaissance City" faded from common usage, the choir's name became less clear to newer audiences and occasionally led to confusion about the choir's musical repertoire.



The Pittsburgh Pride Choir continues its mission to affirm and celebrate LGBTQIA+ identity through the unifying power of music. To learn more, sign up for concert notices, or get involved, please visit [www.pittsburghpridechoir.org](http://www.pittsburghpridechoir.org).