



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)

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 3, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Hope is distinct, in my mind, from optimism or idealism. It has nothing to do with wishing. It references reality at every turn and reveres truth. It lives open eyed and wholehearted with the darkness that is woven ineluctably into the light of life and sometimes seems to overcome it. Hope, like every virtue, is a choice that becomes a practice that becomes spiritual muscle memory. It’s a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish it to be. — Krista Tippet

GATHERING HYMNS

#838

“Standing on the Promises”

PROMISES

#839

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

ASSURANCE

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 (adapted from Psalm 33)

Barbara Griffin

Leader: Nations are not saved by great armies; nor delivered by their great strength.

People: **Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who stand in reverence, on those who hope in God’s steadfast love.**

Leader: And so, we wait for the Lord, our help and shield.

People: **For in you our hearts find joy and we trust in your holy name.**

Leader: Let your steadfast love be upon us, even as we hope in you.

People: **May your love be upon us, even as we place all our hope in you.**

* OPENING HYMN #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

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

Presentation of **Emilia Battifarano** (daughter of Matthew Battifarano and Meghan Bogema)

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: La paz de Cristo está con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **Y también contigo.**

And also with you.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

Leader: God is merciful and her steadfast love endures forever, extending to the heavens. All people are invited to take refuge in the shadow of God's wings as she fiercely protects and graciously gathers us in. Let us approach God then with a humble, honest and authentic heart in full assurance that we will be cleansed, welcomed and embraced.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

God, we confess that we lose hope. We walk by sight and not by faith. We put our hope in things we can see. We see injustice, calloused hearts, greed and self-centered living; it dims the light of Christ in us. We grasp for power and control and struggle to face our despair and grief. Our hearts are heavy, our spirits weary and our minds overwhelmed, and we struggle to maintain our hope in your ways of justice, mercy and love. Forgive us, come renew us with your steadfast love, and restore our hope in you.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Barbara Griffin

Leader: The steadfast love of God never ceases. New every morning is God's love. Receive and believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #701 (*sing 3x*)

"Lord, Prepare Me"

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #734**

"Hope of the World"

DONNE SECOURS

SERMON

"Hold Fast to Hope"

Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Woodworth

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 Got Time to Die"

Hall Johnson

Lord, I keep so busy praising my Jesus, ain't got time to die.

'Cause when I'm healing the sick I'm praising my Jesus. Ain't got time to die.

Refrain: *'Cause it takes all of my time to praise my Jesus, all of my time to praise my Lord.*

If I don't praise Him the rocks gonna cry out:

"Glory and honor, glory and honor!" Ain't got time to die.

Lord, I keep so busy working for the kingdom, ain't got time to die.

'Cause when I'm feeding the poor I'm working for the kingdom. Ain't got time to die. (Refrain)

Lord, I keep so busy serving my Master, ain't got time to die.

'Cause when I'm giving my all, I'm serving my Master. Ain't got time to die. (Refrain)

Now won't you get out of my way, let me praise my Jesus, get out of my way, let me praise my Lord.

If I don't praise him the rocks gonna cry out: "Glory and honor, glory and honor!" Ain't got time to die.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* 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.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (Ἕλληνιστί) in the hymnal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles. Those seated in the East Transept (the section near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the walkway between the front and back section and will file in behind those in the first row of the back section. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats. Please raise your hand and/or make eye contact with the roaming Communion server.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

BEACH SPRING

#501

“Feed Us, Lord”

FEED US

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Rev. Dr. Diaz

May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord.

* CLOSING HYMN #772

“Live into Hope”

TRURO

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Woodworth



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. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Director of Christian Education
Barbara Griffin
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Jess Poeske, *Soloist*
Beadles: Heather Eng
Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following today's worship service, the Battifarano family would like to invite everyone to celebrate Emilia's baptism with cake in the Fellowship Room.

◆ 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.

Special Fellowship Time

Following today's worship service, the Battifarano family would like to invite everyone to celebrate Emilia's baptism with cake in the Fellowship Room.

Stained Glass Church Tour

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a *Stained Glass* tour. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after today's 10 am worship service to participate.



LGBTQIA+ Spiritual Gathering – Aug 10

All are invited to our next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, Aug 10 at 11:30 am to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest, *LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator*, for info and to RSVP (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

ELPC Fire Safety Training and Drill – Aug 17

ELPC's Safety & Security Advisory Committee (SSA) will be presenting a series of trainings concerning important issues to create a safer church for us all.

Following worship on Sunday, Aug 17, 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. Please note that this training will include a fire drill which includes a loud alarm.

Over 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 the fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

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 the coming months in which you can participate.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sunday School Classes will resume on Sunday, Sept 7.

Registration is Open for Hope Academy's Fall Term

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts is now accepting registrations and scholarship applications for the 2025 Fall Term. Learn more about our classes and private instrument lessons online at tiny.cc/hope-academy.

PW Bible Study Book Distribution – Aug 17 and 24

How do we find our resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances? In our 2025-2026 PW bible study, we will learn from women in the Gospels, the writers of the Epistles and Jesus himself. These witnesses can help us fully embrace and celebrate who we are as faithful disciples.

Bible study begins on Tuesday, Sept 2 at 10 am (in person at ELPC and on Zoom), and on Monday, Sept 8 at 7 pm (on Zoom).

You may pick up a bible study book after worship on Sundays, Aug 17 and 24. For more info, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Connections Group Gathering – Aug 24

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to grab your blanket or chair and join us for a free outdoor concert at the Highland Park Reservoir on Sunday, Aug 24 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.

ELPC Seeking Associate Pastor for Connection and Care

The process has begun to seek a new Associate Pastor for ELPC who will oversee connection and care and be the liaison for the Board of Deacons and M&O Committee. The position description is listed at elc.church/careers.

Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

- **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).



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

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

Committee Meetings This Week

YAYA..... Tuesday, Aug 5 @ 6:00 pm
FSR..... Tuesday, Aug 5 @ 6:00 pm
Property Tuesday, Aug 5 @ 7:00 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. Email Jo Ellen Aleshire (joaleshire@gmail.com).

Volunteer as an Usher!

Ushers are an important part of the Sanctuary worship service. 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).



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.

In our

COMMUNITY



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.

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. On Aug 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. This workshop will be held at 5 Hot Metal St.

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 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.