



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)

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 24, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

The nature of heart-seeing is that it’s intrinsically moral—this is not because of what it sees but how it sees. — Cynthia Bourgeault

GATHERING MUSIC

#441 “Hear the Good News of Salvation” NETTLETON
#35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” LOBE DEN HERREN

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

Nancy Wright

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.
People: **We remember God’s goodness and give thanks.**
Leader: God forgives our missteps and heals our brokenness.
People: **God redeems our lives and crowns us with steadfast love.**
Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious. God’s presence is always near.
People: **As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God’s love for us.**
Leader: Come, people of God, bless the Lord with all that you are!
People: **Together, we worship the One who makes us whole.**

* OPENING HYMN #157

“I Danced in the Morning”

LORD OF THE DANCE

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Linda Davis

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

Nancy Wright

Leader: God calls us to be witnesses to the coming commonwealth of liberation, where all is made well and the invisible are seen. Yet we confess that we have often chosen order over compassion, rules over mercy, and fear over trust. Trusting in God’s presence that sets us free, let us confess our sins together.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nancy Wright

O God, you see us when we are weighed down by fear, bent beneath the burdens of injustice, and hidden by the weight of shame. We confess our feelings of exile and alienation. Remind us of your enduring presence. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Nancy Wright

Leader: Friends, God sees us, forgives us, and celebrates us.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #184 (sing 3x)

"Calm to the Waves"

CALM SEAS

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 71:1-5 (Inclusive Bible)

Nancy Wright

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Woodworth

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

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN #720

"Jesus Calls Us"

GALILEE

SERMON

"The Sabbath and the Silenced"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & 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. 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

"On the Common Ground"

Alice Parker

Dedicated to All Those Who Long for Peace

Help me, Lord. Help me find the common ground, yes, the common ground.

Help me find the common ground between the high and the low,

Between the poor and the rich, between the old and the young,

Between the black and the white.

Help me find the common ground between the shouting and the silence,

Between the bound and the free, between the grief and the joy,

Between the heart and the mind.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Help me, Lord. Open us, Lord.

*Lord, guide us to that meeting place where we can see each other,
Hear each other, care for each other. Where we can sing together, work together,
We can play together on the common ground.*

Help me, Lord. Open us, Lord. Come, let us meet together on the common ground.

* 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
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: Receive these gifts, O Lord — the fruit of our labor, the work of our hands, and the gratitude of our hearts. Bless them, that they may bring healing where there is hurt, justice where there is oppression, and hope where there is despair. As we give, align our lives with your vision of love, through Christ 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 #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

* CHARGE & BLESSING

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
Nancy Wright
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Logan Williams, *Soloist*
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ 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 WORSHIP

10 am.....**Summer Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.

Our regular fall worship schedule resumes on Sunday, Sept 7, with two Sunday worship services—the 8:45 am Journey service in the Social Hall, and the 11 am Sanctuary service.

◆ 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* on **Sunday, Sept 28 after the 11 am sanctuary service** 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.

PW Bible Study Book Distribution

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 today in the Highland Ave hallway. For more information, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Connections Group Gathering

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 for a *Reservoir of Jazz* performance by Paul Cosentino's Boiler Maker Jazz Band today from 5-7 pm. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

Assisted Listening Devices

If you would like to use an assisted listening device to better hear the liturgy of our sanctuary worship service, please see one of our ushers. Please don't forget to return the device and headphones after the service. Please note the device will only work in the sanctuary.




• **CHURCH TOURS** •

Sept 14—Sanctuary/Chapel
Sept 28—Tower
 (must pre-register for Tower Tour using this QR code)



Oct 19—Sanctuary/Chapel
Oct 26—Tower
Nov 9—Sanctuary/Chapel
Nov 16—Tower

Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service to join any of our tours.



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.

Choir Rehearsals Resume — Sept 4 and 16

If you are interested in joining any of the choirs at ELPC, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net). Rehearsals for each of the 3 choirs resume on:

- *Journey Praise Team* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 5:30 pm
- *Chancel Choir* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 7 pm
- *Handbell Choir* — Tuesday, Sept 16 at 6 pm



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.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering — Sept 7

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Sept 7 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to RSVP (Wil@coh.net).

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Our regular fall worship schedule and all Sunday school classes resume on

SUNDAY, SEPT 7

*Join us at 8:45 am for Journey worship in the Social Hall.
 Adult Sunday school classes are held from 9:45-10:45 am.
 Teen (7-12th grad) Sunday school class is from 9:45-10:45 am.
 Our Sanctuary service will be at 11 am.
 Tween Sunday School is at 11:10 am.*



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

Brandon and family, Chuck, Dino,
Kevin's friends, Pam and family, Richard,
Stan's partner John, Zachary,

Linda Benedict, Rev. Henk Bossers, Linda Dorsey,
Sharon Geibel's mother Ruth, Marti Moore, and
Jeff and Mary Pat Parson's daughter Meaghan.

*Condolences to **Laura Ristau and Betty Rieley** on the passing of their sister and daughter, Cathy Rieley-Goddard.*

*Condolences to **Mario Seneca** on the passing of his father, Anthony.*

Committee Meetings This Week

Spiritual Life..... Tuesday, Aug 26 @ 6:00 pm
Justice..... Wednesday, Aug 27 @ 5:30 pm
Neighbors Wednesday, Aug 27 @ 6:00 pm
Peace Thursday, Aug 28 @ 5:30 pm

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

Open Gym and Coffee & Donuts – Sept 7

Parents, grandparents, and kids are welcome to hang out, drink coffee or juice, eat a donut, and play in the gym on the first Sunday of every month from 9:45-10:45am. The next event will be held on Kick-Off Sunday, Sept 7.

If you want to meet other families or just love basketball or scooters – this is for you! This is also perfect for parents of older teens (7th-12th grade) who have Sunday School at the same time.

INQUIRERS CLASS Sunday, Sept 28 after 11 am worship

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after the 11 am service on Sunday, Sept 28 in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Register online using this QR code, or visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member.



Please contact Jen King for more info:

JenK@coh.net
412.441.3800 x222

In our

COMMUNITY



Nell and Poll Documents at Heinz History Center – Sept 6+8

In June, our congregation learned about the lives of Nell, Poll, Sam, Savara, Jack, Sukey, Isaac, Frank, Het, and Maria, the family enslaved and sold by two of our founders. The Reparations Ministry Team and Facing Systemic Racism Committee invite you to the Heinz History Center Detre Library and Archives on Sept 6 and 8 at 10 am to view the primary sources we relied on for our research: the bills of sale for Nell and Poll, the registry of births of babies to enslaved mothers, and other documents that gave us insight into the lives of the family.

We will provide a brief recap of the information from our program in June, and an archivist will be on hand to answer questions about the materials, which will be available for you to view in person. Viewing the documents can be a powerful experience and is a chance to bear witness as we begin to reckon with our church's tie to enslavement.

Afterward, attendees are encouraged to visit the *From Slavery to Freedom* exhibit, which provides information relevant to enslavement, abolition, and the civil rights movement in Pittsburgh.

Attendance is free, but space is limited. Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/ELPC-HHC> or call or text Hollen Barmer at (412.512.0786).

Calling All Choristers for Pittsburgh Pride Choir

Rehearsals for the Pittsburgh Pride Choir's 2025 *Fall Season and Holiday Concert* begin on Tuesday, Sept 9. Whether you've been performing for years, or you haven't sung since high school choir, our *community that sings* is an opportunity to learn, grow, and challenge yourself while making beautiful music, lasting memories, and lifelong friends. Here's how you can join us: go to www.pittsburghpridechoir.org to sign-up for an audition time on Saturday, Sept 6 at ELPC. A choir member will be there to welcome you and make the whole experience comfortable. If you can't make it that day, please email Dr. Kym Scott, PPC Artistic Director, (director@pittsburghpridechoir.org) for alternatives.

Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – August 29

The ELPC Mission Board encourages participation in the weekly *Prayer Vigil for Immigrants* held on the sidewalk adjacent to the ICE offices at 3000 Sidney St, 15203. Prayers begin on Fridays at 8 am and conclude at 10 am. The interfaith vigil is sponsored by Pax Christi, Casa San Jose and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Parking is available in the public garage two blocks west of the ICE offices. For more information, text Michele Bossers (412.303.9243).