



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)

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 31, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

“The more I truly believe the Holy One loves and accepts me as I am, while longing for me to be all I can be, the more I will gather to my heart all who are part of this vast world of ours.” — Joyce Rupp

GATHERING HYMNS

AAHH 308

“No, Not One”

AAHH 174

“We Have Come Into This House”

(Printed in the bulletin, pgs 5-7)

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

Bill Johnson

Leader: Friends – we gather to worship our God,

People: We are right where we belong.

Leader: We are called by God’s Spirit to this holy celebration,

People: We approach God with joy in our hearts.

Leader: Nourished by the love of Jesus, the One we call the Christ,

People: We gladly partake in this banquet of grace.

* OPENING HYMN #487

“These Treasured Children”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Paul Seif

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. After the Baptism:

- *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.*



← Sign up kids for Sunday School!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Presentation of **Noah James Graham** (son of Christina and Scott Graham)*

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.

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

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

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bill Johnson

Leader: Our God is a generous God, bestowing grace immeasurably, loving us beyond what we can imagine, and forgiving us before we know to ask. We now turn to this God of generosity, love, and forgiveness as we confess our sins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Bill Johnson

Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Bill Johnson

Leader: Friends, God has declared that we are forgiven.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

AAHH 559

“Rock of Ages”

(Printed in the bulletin, pg 8)

READING from Parker Palmer:

Adrianna Cleveland

Years ago, someone told me that humility is central to the spiritual life. That made sense to me: I was proud to think of myself as humble! But this person did not tell me that the path to humility, for some of us at least, goes through humiliation, where we are brought low, rendered powerless, stripped of pretenses and defenses, and left feeling fraudulent, empty, and useless — a humiliation that allows us to regrow our lives from the ground up. May God bless the truth in these words. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14 (NASB)

Bill Johnson

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

* **HYMN #69**

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I am, Lord)”

HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)

SERMON

“A Lesson in Humility”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. BJ Woodworth

The Lord’s Prayer can be said in the language or version closest to your heart). Find on pg. 35 (English), pg. 40 (Español), pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. BJ 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.

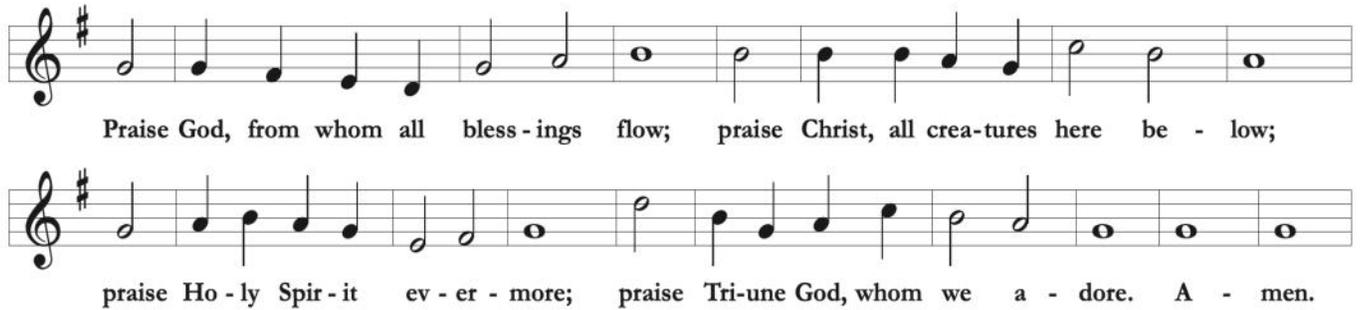
Please remember to write your name on your offering envelope. You can also scan this QR code to give online or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.



*Indicates where you may please 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Endless Praise”

Charity Gayle

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz & BJ 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.

People: **Gracious God, we offer to you these gifts, both as signs of our gratitude and as instruments of your reign. Use these gifts, and us, that your way of love and peace, transformation and hope might flourish in this place. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#837 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)”
(sing 1st verse again at the end)

SHOWALTER

* 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: Adrianna Cleveland
Bill Johnson
Paul Seif

Musicians: Journey Praise Team
Gerald Savage, Journey Music Director
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 WORSHIP

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

Starting NEXT week Sept 7th!

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

11 am.....**Sanctuary 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. Our next class will be held after the 11am service on Sunday **Sept 28**. Please 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.

No, Not One

1. There's not a friend like the low - ly Je - sus—
2. No friend like Him is so high and ho - ly—
3. There's not an hour that He is not near us—
4. Was e'er a gift like the Sav - ior giv - en?

No, not one! no, not one! None else could heal all our
No, not one! no, not one! And yet no friend is so
No, not one! no, not one! No night so dark but His
No, not one! no, not one! Will He re - fuse us a

soul's dis - eas - es— No, not one! no, not one!
meek and low - ly— No, not one! no, not one!
love can cheer us— No, not one! no, not one!
home in heav - en? No, not one! no, not one!

Je - sus knows all a - bout our strug - gles, He will guide till the

Continued on next page

day is done; There's not a friend like the

low - ly Je - sus— No, not one! no, not one!

Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1922
 Tune: HARPER MEMORIAL, 10 6 10 6 with refrain; George C. Hugg, 1848-1907

CCLI #689547
 OneLicense.net #A-700877

We Have Come Into This House

1. We have come in - to this house to
 2. So, for - get a - bout your - self,
 3. Let us lift up ho - ly hands,

gath - er in His name and wor - ship Him. We have
 con - cen - trate on Him and wor - ship Him. So, for -
 mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Him. Let us

Continued on next page

come in - to this house to gath - er in His name and
 get a - bout your - self, con - cen - trate on Him and
 lift up ho - ly hands, mag - ni - fy His name and

wor - ship Him. We have come in - to this house to
 wor - ship Him. So, for - get a - bout your - self,
 wor - ship Him. Let us lift up ho - ly hands,

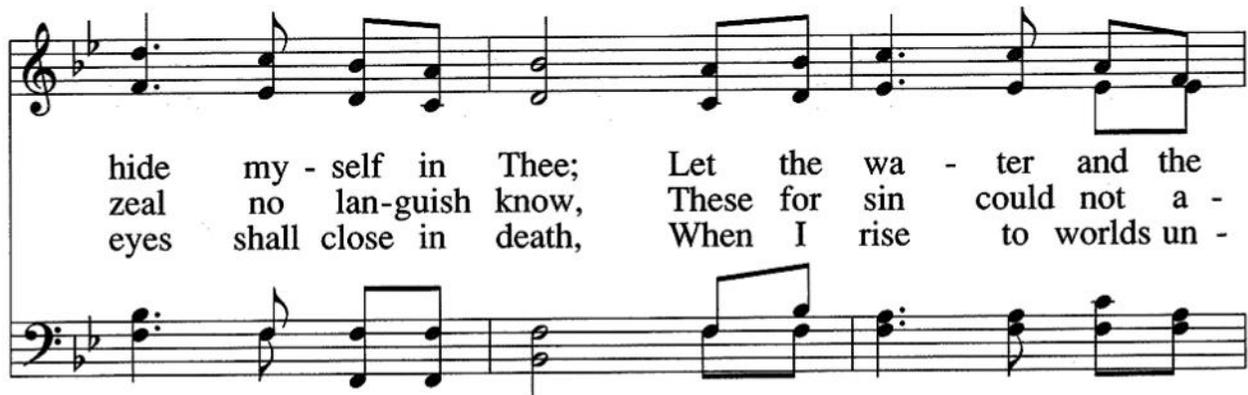
gath - er in His name and wor - ship Christ the Lord.
 con - cen - trate on Him and wor - ship Christ the Lord.
 mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Christ the Lord.

Wor - ship Him, Christ the Lord.

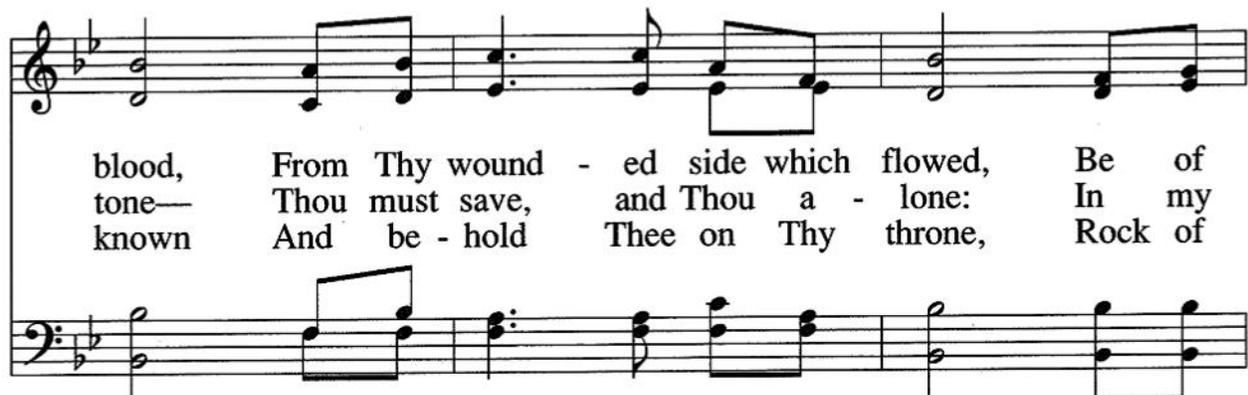
Rock of Ages.



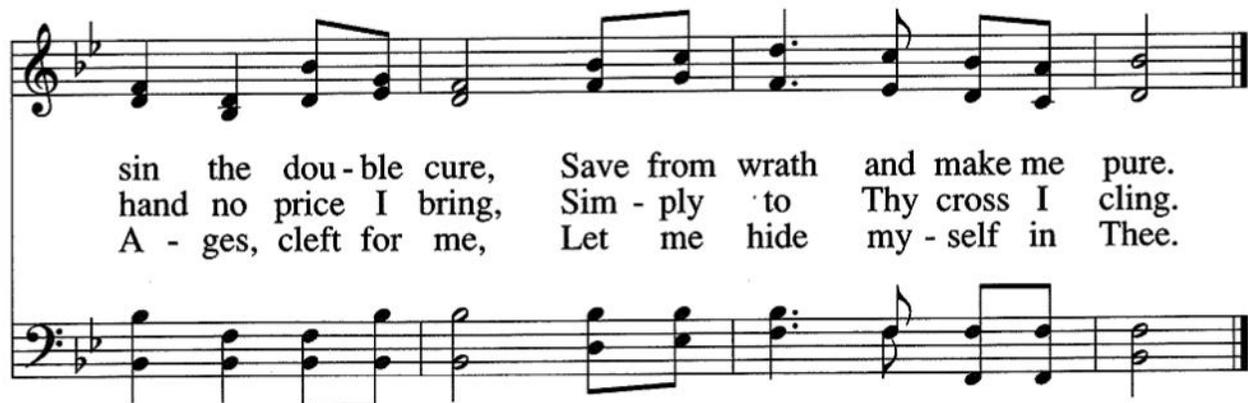
1. Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, Let me
2. Could my tears for ev - er flow, Could my
3. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When my



hide my - self in Thee; Let the wa - ter and the
zeal no lan-guish know, These for sin could not a -
eyes shall close in death, When I rise to worlds un -



blood, From Thy wound - ed side which flowed, Be of
tone— Thou must save, and Thou a - lone: In my
known And be - hold Thee on Thy throne, Rock of



sin the dou - ble cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.
hand no price I bring, Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

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.

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.



PW Bible Study Begins— Mary Magdalene, the Tower

In our 2025-2026 PW bible study, the women in the Gospels, the writers of the Epistles and Jesus himself will guide us in Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. We begin our study with Mary Magdalene, the first person to encounter the risen Christ and the first apostle, commissioned to "go and tell." Recent women's biblical scholarship has shown how scribal erasures have diminished the authority of this towering witness to the resurrection. How might our faith be different if we knew more about her role in the early church?

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). For Zoom link and more information, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

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).

• SEPT CHURCH TOURS •

Sept 14—Sanctuary/Chapel

Sept 28—Tower must pre-register using this QR code ↑

Please gather in the Highland Lobby after worship



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.

Visitor Sunday on September 14

September 14 will be Visitor Sunday at ELPC. We encourage all members of the congregation to invite someone—a newcomer to Pittsburgh, a family member, a friend, or a neighbor to join us in worship. If you attend online, consider welcoming a friend or relative to participate online alongside you. Visitors will be encouraged to stop by our Welcome Table to receive a gift bag after either the Journey Service or the Sanctuary Service. The Membership and Outreach committee is sponsoring a Social Hour after the 11:00 service. A church tour will be provided as well. Spread the word and share some joy!

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Our regular worship schedule and Sunday school classes resume

SUNDAY, SEPT 7

8:45 am- Journey worship in the Social Hall.

9:45-10:45 am- Adult & Teen (7-12th graders) Sunday school classes

11am- Sanctuary service

11:10-noon— Ages 4—6th grade Sunday School

Adult Sunday School Class Options:

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm+Zoom) —Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers.*

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm+Zoom) — Sept 7: Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza. *

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) —A regathering and preview session. For more information, please contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net.

* Contact Sara Hackett for Zoom info. SaraH@coh.net



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 & Michele Bossers, Linda Dorsey, Sharon Geibel's mother Ruth, Marti Moore, and Jeff and Mary Pat Parson's daughter Meaghan, Donald Smith.

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

Prayers for Courtney McCrimmon whose father (Paul) passed away the first week of Aug.

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

Committee Meetings This Week

FSR..... Tuesday, Sept 2 @ 6:00pm
Property Tuesday, Sept 2 @ 7:00 pm

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

HELP STOP EPA - Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee urges you to act to protect our climate and our health, and advance environmental justice. The US Environmental Protection Agency is currently proposing to repeal a decision known as the "endangerment finding", along with standards that limit greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. This finding is the legal and scientific foundation of EPAS's responsibility to limit green gas pollution.

We need to tell the EPA to fulfill its mission to protect human life and the environment. They are abandoning the American people and future generations. Moms Clean Air Force (mission to protect children's health) has a letter that you can customize and send to the EPA at this link. <https://actnow.momscleanairforce.org/a/endangerment-finding-docket>



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

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.

Weekly Prayer Vigil for Immigrants

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).