



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)

FULL INCLUSION SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Faith is a process of leaping into the abyss not on the basis of any certainty about where we shall land, but rather on the belief that we shall land. — Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward

PRELUDE

“Simple Gifts”
“Amazing Grace”

David Schelat
Diane Bish
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

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

Michael Schenz

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!
People: From the deepest silence to the loudest song, all creation sings!
Leader: As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God –
People: The Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us.
Leader: We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth,
People: By ardently pursuing justice and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all.
Leader: We draw near with gratitude and joy, proclaiming together,
People: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #22

“God of the Sparrow”

ROEDER

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Paul Seif

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Afterwards:

- *Children age 4-6th grade go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents pick up their kids after worship (age 4- 3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207). If this is your child's first time attending, please accompany your child upstairs and check in with the teachers.*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.*

CALL TO CONFESSION (adapted from “The Presbyterian Outlook”)

Beverly Harris-Schenz

Leader: Friends, God meets us in our need, gathering us and calling us into beloved community. Yet we confess that we have not always followed Jesus’ example of radical welcome and grace. Let us be honest before God as we confess together.

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

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beverly Harris-Schenz

Loving God, we come before you like those long ago who cried out to Jesus saying, “Have mercy on us!” You hear our voices from the margins and draw us close. We confess that we have not always done the same for others. We have turned away from those the world calls unclean, from our siblings who are queer and trans, from all whose bodies, identities, or love expand beyond society’s narrow norms. Forgive us for forgetting that your love knows no boundaries. Help us to celebrate those who courageously live the truth of who they are before you. Forgive us when we celebrate our own wholeness while overlooking the wounds of others. God, have mercy upon us.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Beverly Harris-Schenz

Leader: Friends, today is day of new beginnings.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #647

“Give Thanks”

GIVE THANKS

READING

A Reading from Rev. Shannon T.L. Kearns

Beverly Harris-Schenz

One reason people are so strongly drawn to Jesus is his humanity: the depth of it, the way it expanded their own notions of what it means to be human. Jesus was only able to be fully human by also claiming his divinity, by being all of who he was and declaring that to others. He knew that he was taking a risk... He knew his truth might get him killed, and yet he also knew declaring it was something he had to do. This knowing - of the truth of ourselves, of the reality of the risk, and of the willingness to live into the truth anyway – is a holy space. When someone invites you into this space, walk as if you are on sacred ground.

Leader: May God bless the hearing of these words.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 17:11-19 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Woodworth

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #796**

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

LAND OF REST

SERMON

“Faith that Saves Us All”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER (*in language/ version closest to your heart*)

Wil Forrest

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

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS & FRIEND

Members: *Scott Bell, Shawn Breit, Joe Brell, Gary Marzolf, Alan Murdock, Tammy Murdock, Maralyn Smith, David Swatzler, Sig Tragard*

Friend: *Shawn Forrester*

Leader: Do we, as East Liberty Presbyterian Church, welcome these new members and friends and affirm our shared calling to follow Christ together?

People: **We do! We celebrate you as God’s beloved. We promise to pray with you, to listen and learn with you, to cultivate the gifts within you, to journey with you in times of joy and challenge, and to join you in God’s work of love and liberation. Together, we are the body of Christ!**

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

Rev. Woodworth
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

OFFERING INVITATION

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.



Rev. Woodworth

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Does the World Say?”

Kyle Pederson

Does the world say that you don't look the right way? Does the world say that you're just not enough?

Does the world say that this isn't the right spot?

When it wants you there but not here and tells you all the things you are not.

I've been there, too. It's hard to shut my ears to the noise. I don't stand a chance if it's me in this world all alone.

The chatter is deafening, too overwhelming, hard to find my way home. So take my hand...don't let go.

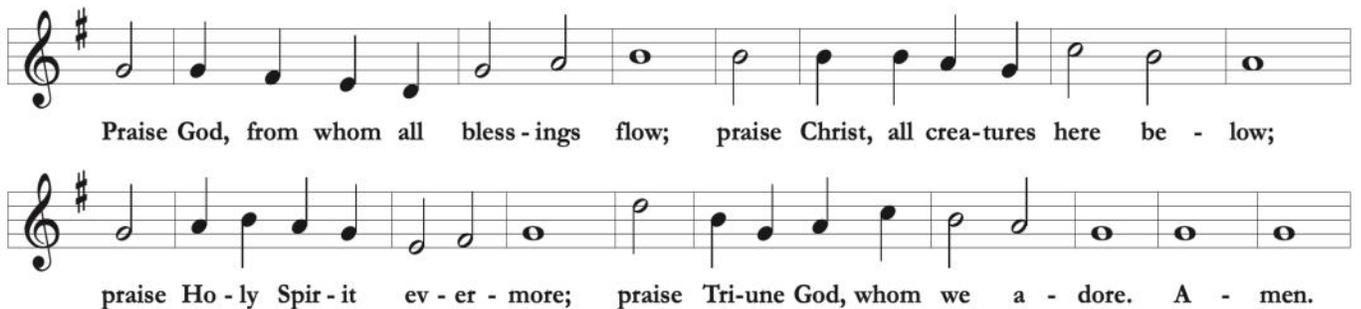
Does the world say that you don't think the right things? Does the world say that you're not worth the time?

Does the world laugh when you fall, when you cry? Does it turn the other way every time you walk by?

I'm growing, learning, loving, becoming. So take my hand...don't let go.

* **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 THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

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.

Leader: Holy and generous God, bless these gifts and the givers who offer them. Use them to bring healing where there is hurt, welcome where there is exclusion, and reconciliation where there is division. May all your children know they are truly beloved in your presence. **Amen.**

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #645** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZART

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Diane Bish

Notes regarding the music sung in today's service are available on our website — <http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>.

Our full worship service is being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. 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)
Wil Forrest (he/him)
Beverly Harris-Schenz (she/her)
Michael Schenz (he/him)
Paul Seif (he/him)
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Pittsburgh Pride Choir
Dr. Kym Scott (she/her),
Artistic Director
Jess Poeske (she/her), *Soloist*
Cody Bailey (he/him), *Soloist*
Omari I. Abdul-Alim (he/him), *Violin*
Beadle: Tim Engelhardt
Crucifer: Linda Davis
Sound: Tim Benedict and 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

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

Contemplative Prayer on Mondays

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

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, 6-7 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* on Saturday, Nov 8 from 10 am-Noon in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King for more info on future classes (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

Sunday, 12 October 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Full Inclusion

Processional Hymn

The author of *God of the Sparrow*, Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008), was made a Fellow of The Hymn Society at the Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1988. He was born in Lorain, Ohio, where his father was a Lutheran pastor. As a pastor himself, he served in many Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Churches, including in nearby Tarentum, PA from 1953-1963. Lutheran composer, author, and teacher Carl Schalk (1929-2001) wrote the tune ROEDER in 1983 for this text. It was first sung at the 1987 convention of The Hymn Society in Fort Worth, Texas.

Offertory Anthem

Kyle Pederson (b. 1971) is a Minneapolis-based composer, lyricist, pianist, and educator. Kyle enjoys working at the intersection of the sacred and secular, and his lyrics and music invite the choir and audience to be agents of hope, grace, and compassion in the world. Additional information and links to Kyle's music can be found at <https://www.kylepederson.com/>

Kyle writes about *Does the World Say?*:

Too many times in my own personal experience, I allowed myself to be unduly influenced by the opinions and expectations of others. And as a junior and senior high teacher and coach, I saw this pressure play out daily on my students. And now as a father of young children, I watch as they, too, struggle with expectations the world throws at them. *Does the World Say?* names a few of these pressures, hoping that by naming them they might hold a bit less power over us. The piece then affirms the importance and power of friendship--and the gift available to us to walk alongside somebody buckling under the weight of expectation to remind them that they are not alone, and to remind them that others do not get to define who they are.

The Pittsburgh Pride Choir has been a leading force in our community since 1985. Since 1996 we have been fortunate to welcome them in residence here at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Formerly known as the Renaissance City Choirs, the choir announced at their Pride Concert in June of 2025 that it would become the Pittsburgh Pride Choir. The new name was intended to proudly represent their mission to affirm and celebrate LGBTQIA+ identity and more clearly tie to their roots in Pittsburgh.

BOOK STUDY SERIES

What if you could encounter Jesus with fresh eyes—free from assumptions, clichés, or familiarity?

This fall, join Pastors BJ and Michael on Wednesdays from

Oct 29 to Nov 19
from 5:30–7 pm

for a four-week journey utilizing Marcus Borg's influential book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. Together.*

We'll explore Jesus as:

- **Spirit Person** — A man deeply connected to the sacred
- **Teacher of Wisdom** — Offering timeless guidance for life today
- **Social Prophet** — Challenging systems of injustice
- **Movement Founder** — Inspiring a community of transformation

Each session will blend teaching, scripture, conversation, and spiritual practices, creating space not just to learn about Jesus, but to experience his presence anew.

We'll share dinner together at 6:30 pm, and you're warmly invited to stay for our contemplative Taizé prayer service at 7 pm.

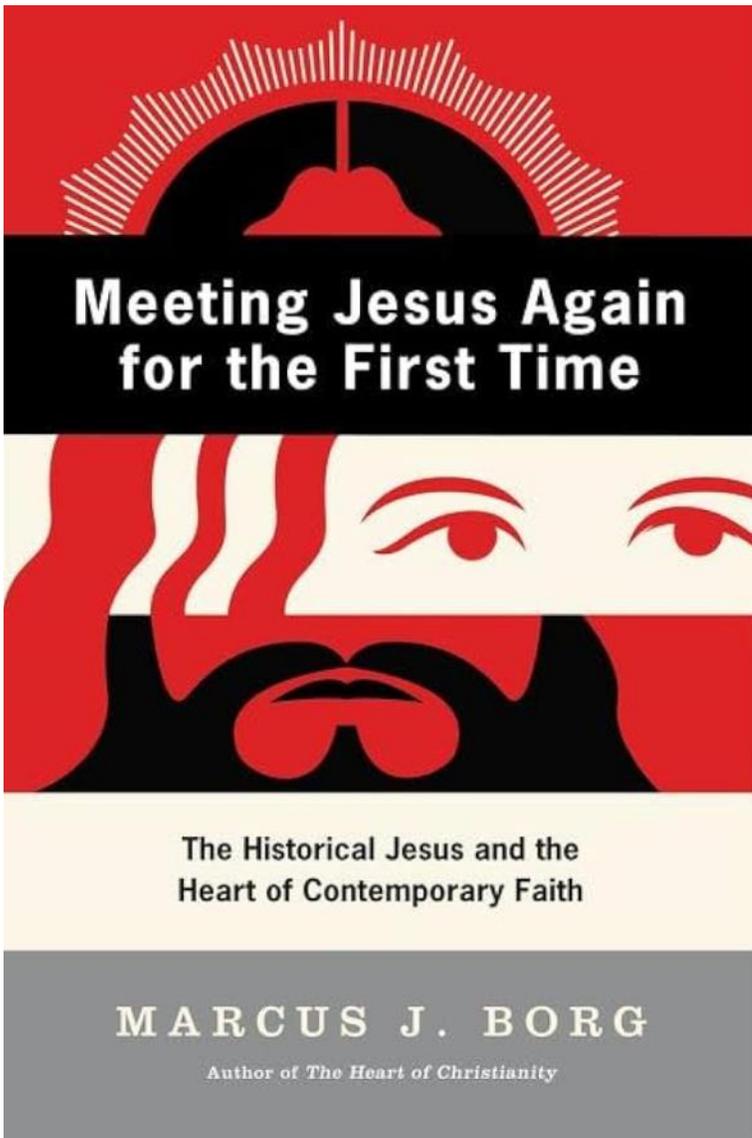
Come curious.

Come hungry.

Come ready to meet Jesus again—for the first time!

To register, visit:

tiny.cc/meeting-jesus-again



PLEASE REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE.

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.

Full Inclusion Sunday

This morning we celebrate *Full Inclusion Sunday*. We welcome the Pittsburgh Pride Choir under the direction of Dr. Kym Scott and Hope Academy Teaching Artist and Violinist Omari Imhotep Abdul-Alim.

The Pittsburgh Pride Choir affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ identity through the unifying power of music. PPC is western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQIA+ and allies choral group and affirms, by example and through song, the worth and dignity of those in our community. The choir rehearses and performs at ELPC and wants to thank the leadership and members of ELPC for providing a safe space and artistic home. Their holiday concert, *A Not So Silent Night*, will be on Saturday, Dec 6 at ELPC. Please visit www.pittsburghpridechoir.org for more info.

Social Hour

The Membership & Outreach Committee will sponsor a Social Hour after the 11 am service to welcome our new members and friend in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. All are welcome!

LGBTQIA+ Spiritual Gathering

Join us at the next *Spiritual Gathering* today at 12:30 pm to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome. Please contact Wil Forrest to RSVP (wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Cathedral Concert – Windfluence

Today at 3 pm, Windfluence, a Pittsburgh-based professional woodwind quintet, will join organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore for a free, dazzling performance featuring the *Concerto for Organ and Wind Quintet* by Daniel Pinkham. For more information on the 2025-26 *Cathedral Concerts* series, please visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.

Café Justo Coffee

Café Justo is currently unable to take new orders of coffee until further notice. Learn about some of the factors leading to this, including low crop production caused by global warming and climate change, at the Highland Ave Lobby after the 11 am service. We will also be selling the remaining current supply and voting on how we would like Café Justo to integrate an upcoming price increase.

Voter Registration

We are called to civic engagement and that means being an active voter. The Justice Committee will be in the Garth Overlook Room after the service to assist with: voter registration, mail in ballots, voter status, polling locations. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).



Officer Nominating Forms Available

The Officer Nominating Committee invites members to share their gifts—and to lift up the gifts of others—as they seek nominees for the offices of Elder, Deacon, and next year's Nominating Committee. The Committee will prayerfully consider all recommendations submitted as they prepare a slate for terms starting in 2026. Guidelines and nomination forms are available in the church mail room, and on the church website.

Cathedral Concert Volunteers Needed

If you are able to help greet and usher at the *Cathedral Concerts* this season, contact Dr. Ed (EdM@coh.net).

Connections Group Potluck – Oct 19

We invite you to celebrate the Connections 2025-26 season kick-off with an all-church potluck on Sunday, Oct 19 after the 11 am service in the Good Samaritan Room. Please sign up using this link for planning purposes: <https://tinyurl.com/ConnectionsPotluckOct19>

Church Tour – Oct 19

Tom Morton will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, Oct 19. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to participate.

Family Bowling – Oct 19

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Oct 19 for pizza and duckpin bowling. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Happy Hour – Oct 20

Our next *Young Adult Happy Hour* will be on Monday, Oct 20 from 6–7:30 pm at Michele and Henk Bossers' home in Wilksburg. Stop by for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available). Details and RSVPs via evite from Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Reparations Session – Oct 26

Following the 11 am service on Sunday, Oct 26, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee will facilitate a *Reparations Session* that builds from the powerful telling of Nell and Poll's story into meaningful next steps for ELPC. The event will combine reflection, shared learning, and community dialogue. This session will begin with refreshments in the Social Hall after worship.



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

Amber, Chuck and Jake, David, Gayle, Heidi's sibling John, John, Lisabeth's son Paul, Michael, Ned's aunts Lynda and Judy, Tim Engelhardt's mother Cecilia, Bob Forloines, Linda Lane, Gary Marzolf, Jean McGuire, and Gary Rabideau's friend Matt.

Condolences to the family of

Rev. Carol Noel Seaman on her passing.

A Note of Thanks....

The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who showered us with a delicious array of dishes and desserts from the USA and abroad for the Taste of Nations Lunch. We "came to the table" to share nourishment, friendship and hope. It was a joyous occasion for strengthening our bond, for which we give grateful thanks!

Committee Meetings This Week

- FinanceTuesday, Oct 14 @ 5:30 pm
DeaconsTuesday, Oct 14 @ 7:00 pm
Worship, Music, ArtsTuesday, Oct 14 @ 7:30 pm
Membership & Outreach ...Thursday, Oct 16 @ 6:00 pm

Joint Adult Sunday School: Impactful Advocacy – Oct 26

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee will make a presentation on how to make your advocacy meaningful and impactful at a joint Adult Sunday School class on Oct 26 at 9:45 am in the Good Samaritan Room. Lucy Page and Fred Kraybill from ELPC will share their research and experiences. The state organizer from Bread for the World will discuss how they use advocacy. There will be a table of resources, and after the class there will be an advocacy activity supporting solar. Contact Nancy Heastings to get the zoom link (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Cathedral Concert: Fox Chapel High School – Oct 26

On Sunday, Oct 26 at 3 pm, the Fox Chapel High School Chorus & Orchestra will perform in the Sanctuary. Led by Ben Murray, choral director, and Mairi Cooper, orchestra director, the concert will feature Illuminare for string orchestra, piano, and choir by Elaine Hagenberg. The concert is free, and will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Spiritual Life Retreat – Oct 31 to Nov 2

From Friday–Sunday, Oct 31–Nov 2, join us for a Spiritual Life retreat at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, PA. RSVP to Norma by Sun, Oct 19 (412.441.3800 x211). For info, visit tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away. Only shared bathroom accommodations are now available. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

Food Drive – Nov 16

On Sunday, Nov 16, we will have a Food Drive to benefit EECM's food pantry.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Walk, Give, Change the World – Today!

This year's Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, Oct 12. Visit https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/teams?event=pittsburghpa to register as an individual, sign up for the Waverly Presbyterian Church team; or make a donation. Participants will gather at Waverly Presbyterian Church (590 South Braddock Ave, 15221). Registration begins at 1 pm; walk begins at 2 pm.

Domestic Violence Awareness Through Art – Oct 16

The Carnegie Museum of Art is sponsoring a lecture called Reflections of Healing: Domestic Violence Awareness Through Art on Oct 16 from 6-8 pm.

ELPC member Nicole Molinaro, President/CEO of the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, will be presenting, Creative Trauma-informed Care in Domestic Violence Healing and Awareness, followed by the launch of Reflections of Healing, a contemplative tour of artworks at the Carnegie Museum of Art with reflective prompts that share the cycle of domestic abuse while creating space for creative healing.

The event is free, but registration is required at: www.dvampgh.org/art-event.

Remembrance of Those Who Have Passed Away – Nov 2

As part of our All Saints' Day service at the 11 am service on Sunday, Nov 2, we will remember those in our congregation and larger church family who have passed away since Nov 2024. Send the names and passing dates of extended friends and family to Norma in the church office (412.441.3800 x211) by Monday, Oct 27.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

October 19

– Adults –

Adult classes are held from 9:45-10:45 am in the rooms indicated:

Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom

Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers

Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom

"Palestine Solidarity: From Learning to Action" with Dr. Nino Testa. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

A discussion of So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

– Children –

Kids leave worship during Moments With Our Children. Parents pick up their children after worship in the rooms indicated below:

Children (age 4-grade 3) – Room 206

Tweens (grades 4–6) – Room 207

Teens (grades 7-12) – meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of month



A Not So Silent Night

Dec. 6, 2025 7:30P.M.

Tickets: PittsburghPrideChoir.org
East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Proud Participants for
Full-Inclusion Sunday

