



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)

GROUNDED & GROWING 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 9, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

We are expected to represent God’s interests, being as generous with each other as God is with us.

— Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE

“Adagio in E”

Frank Bridge
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Rev. Sarah Robbins

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

Andrea DeVries

Leader: Draw near, you who are seekers, questioners, newcomers, and longtime friends.

People: We come longing to see Jesus, even if we must climb above the crowd.

Leader: Draw near with hearts open to surprise and homes ready to welcome.

People: For Christ is here, calling each of us by name.

Leader: Draw near and be grounded in grace and growing in love.

People: We come to worship the One who makes our hearts and our lives a dwelling place for love. Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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 Presbyterian Outlook)

Andrea DeVries

Leader: We confess that too often we mistake performance for faithfulness. We polish our image rather than open our hearts. But Jesus still looks up to find us—calling us down from our trees of pride, fear, or comfort—and invites us to table again. Trusting in that mercy, 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

Andrea DeVries

You know us completely and still call us beloved. We confess that we often perform love instead of living love. We hold back when you invite us to share freely and live justly. We forget that your grace calls us to not only give, but to grow in compassion, in courage, and in community. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Andrea DeVries

Leader: Friends, today is a day of good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"When Ringing Fills the Skies"

arr. Lloyd Larson

READING

A Reading from *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff

Rev. BJ Woodworth

We can pretend to have all the game we want to up on stage, in the pulpit, on the field, at work, or in our faith communities. But it's how we engage with the rental-car attendant or the grocery bagger or the bank teller or the person who puts on the car tires that lets everybody know where we really are with Jesus. Knowing things about the Bible is terrific. But I'd trade in a dozen Bible studies for a bucket full of acceptance—and truth be told, so would everyone around us... People don't grow where they're planted; they grow where they're loved.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.
People: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:1-10 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Robbins

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

* HYMN #697

"Take My Life"

HENDON

SERMON

"Grounded in Grace, Growing in Generosity"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

Rev. Robbins

When you hear the words "God of Love" at the end of each intercession, please respond by saying,
"Receive our prayer."

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (ἕλ-ꝛꝛ) in the hymnal.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Rev. Robbins

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes. The peace of Christ be with you.
People: Y también contigo. And also with you.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship

Eddie Willson

Eddie Willson will be discussing his most recent trip to Malawi from a postcolonial perspective with the Seekers Class in the Garth Overlook Room on Sunday, Nov 23 from 9:45 to 10:45 am.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

*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 rise in body or spirit.

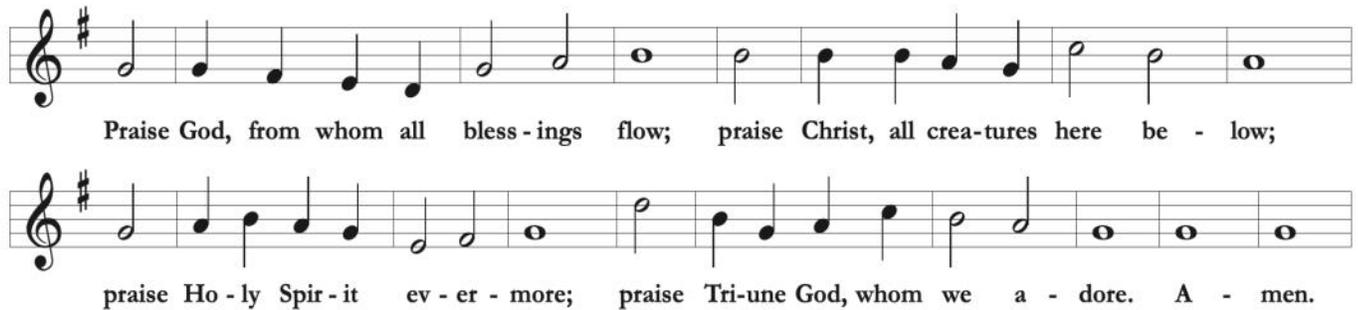
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee”

Jean Berger
text: Psalm 145:15, 16

* 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.

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 up 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 God, you ground us in grace and call us to grow in generosity. As we begin this season of commitment, remind us that everything we have and everything we are comes from you. Bless these gifts and multiply them that they may become seeds of compassion and branches of hope reaching far beyond this place. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

* POSTLUDE

“Carillon du Longpont”

Louis Vierne



Sunday, 9 November 2025 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Frank Bridge (1879-1941) was an English composer, violist, and conductor. Benjamin Britten studied composition privately with Bridge. The *Adagio in E* is the second of a set of three pieces for organ composed in 1905 and is one of his most frequently performed organ compositions.

Processional Hymn

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) composed this well-known melody for the final movement of his *Ninth Symphony*, where it was set to a poem by Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), *An die Freude (Ode to Joy)*. Henry van Dyke (1852-1933) wrote the text we now sing it to, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, in 1907. Van Dyke was a Presbyterian minister who also served as United States Ambassador to Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The lyrics were first published in 1911 in Van Dyke's *Book of Poems*, Third Edition. Van Dyke wrote of this hymn:

“These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time—hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.”

Offertory Anthem

Jean Berger (1909-2002) was born Arthur Schloßberg into a Jewish family in Hamm, Westphalia, Germany. He fled to Paris in 1933 after the Nazi Party seized power and took the name Jean Berger. Berger moved to the United States in 1941 and became a citizen in 1943. *The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee* is one of his most recognized works.

For further reading: <https://www.milkenarchive.org/artists/view/jean-berger>

Recessional Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me is an African-American spiritual arranged by Wendell P. Whalum (1931-1987) in 1984. Dr. Whalum joined the faculty of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and was appointed Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club in 1953.

Postlude

The theme of *Carillon du Longpont* is based on the carillon of the chapel of the Castle Longpont in northern France. Louis Vierne (1870-1937) dedicated the piece to his brother, René. The carillon theme is heard at the beginning of the piece, played by the feet 17 times in a row!

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

If you are joining us for the first time, we're glad you are here! Please fill out a **NEW HERE** card found in the pew backs and give that card to a pastor at the Penn Ave or Highland Ave entrance. You will receive a gift in exchange for your filled out card. Our pastors will reach out to you for any prayer requests and to answer any questions you might have.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm today when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Church Tour

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel today. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to participate.

Food Drive: Bags Distributed Today – Return on Nov 16

The Neighbors Committee invites you to participate in a *Food Drive* for East End Cooperative Ministry's (EECM) Food Pantry that distributes to those in need in our community.

As you leave the sanctuary today, we will be distributing reusable bags with a list inside for suggested items for donation.

Next Sunday, please bring your food donations to worship in the same bags you were given with the list of food donations requested.

If you need food assistance, we welcome you to come the Chapel Market dinner happening here at ELPC on Friday, Nov 21 at 5:30 pm. You can also contact EECM to make use of their food pantry and free community lunches. More information can be found at www.eecm.org/gethelp, or call 412.361.5549.

ELPC Members Affected by Government Shutdown

Although our current ministries regularly provide assistance related to food or housing insecurity to the community at large, we want our ELPC church family to know we are here to help you! Whether you are a federal worker or a SNAP benefits recipient, members of ELPC can receive assistance from the church to assist with groceries, energy bills, or housing expenses. Please reach out to our Mission Coordinator, Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x238).

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. Guidelines and nomination forms are in the church mail room, and on our website.

Chapel Market Needs Winter Coats and Toiletry Items

The Chapel Market is stocking up on winter clothes for our neighbors in need. From now until Thanksgiving, please consider donating clean, new or gently-used winter coats for toddlers to adults. They also need full-sized toiletry items. Leave donations in the Highland lobby.

Family Art Making – Nov 16

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Nov 16 to eat Chipotle and be creative together through a variety of art activities—including making cards to be handed out at the Chapel Market dinner. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Health Ministry Seeking New Members – Nov 16

The ELPC Board of Deacons is looking to restart its Health Ministry after taking a year off. Anyone who might be interested (Deacon or non Deacon) is invited to a meeting on Sunday, Nov 16 at 12:30 pm in the Highland Room. RSVP to Tom Sturgill (sturgillpgh@yahoo.com).

Support the Holiday Giving Tree – Nov 16, 23, 30

The Deacons' annual *Giving Tree* ministry is an opportunity to assist families this Christmas season and provide children with gifts! Sign up at tiny.cc/elpc-giving-tree for specific gift requests and to make financial donations to assist with the purchase of retail gift cards. Gift requests will be available by Nov 14. Deacons will be available to assist on Sundays, Nov 16, 23, and 30. Gifts should be dropped off at the church by Sunday, Dec 7.

Hope Academy Teaching Artists Perform Sunday, Nov 16 at 3 pm

The *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC continues on Sunday, Nov 16 at 3 pm with a performance by *Hope Academy Teaching Artists*, under the direction of Anqwenique Kinsel. The concert is free and open to all. A freewill offering will be received. Visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts for info.





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

- Amber, David, Gwen’s manager,
Ida and her family,
- Lola, Rachel, Danice and Ayla,
Ned’s aunts Lynda and Judy,
- Sam, Vivienne’s friend Ashley, LaVerne Davis,
Loren Forrest, Cathie Hajdu, Chuck Lukehart,
Gwen McNab, Jack Phillips, Janet Pollard, Nancy Wright.

Committee Meeting This Week

Deacons.....Wednesday, Nov 12 @ 7:00 pm

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

Young Adult Happy Hour – Nov 17

Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to the next *Young Adult Happy Hour* on Monday, Nov 17 from 6–7:30 pm at Barbara Griffen’s home in Squirrel Hill. 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).

Stewardship Sunday – Nov 23

You’re invited to participate in our *Grounded & Growing Stewardship Campaign*. What amount is God calling you to pledge? How might your generosity become part of the story God is writing through ELPC? Each pledge is more than a number. Each pledge is a statement of faith in what God can do through us. Thank you for being grounded in Christ’s love.

ELPC Annual Fall Pie Festival - Nov 23

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you our annual *Fall Pie Festival* on Sunday, Nov 23 after the 11 am worship service in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. You are invited to bring your favorite pie (sweet or savory) to share with the congregation. Sign-up to bring a pie at tiny.cc/pie-festival, or look for sign-up sheets at the Sunday worship services in November.



After the pie festival on Nov 23, join us in the Sanctuary for our annual *hanging of the greens* to get ready for the Advent season!

Book Study Series – Through Nov 19

Join Pastors BJ and Michael from 5:30–7 pm on Wednesdays through Nov 19 in the Good Samaritan Room for a four-week journey utilizing Marcus Borg’s influential book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. Together*.

We’ll share dinner together at 6:30 pm, and you’re invited to stay for our contemplative Taizé prayer service at 7 pm. To register, visit: tiny.cc/meeting-jesus-again.

In our

COMMUNITY



Sewing Donations for Casa San Jose

The Casa San Jose Sewing Circle plans to start up again after Christmas. They are seeking donations of fabric of all kinds, sewing supplies, portable sewing machines and especially a cutting board. Please contact Paris Samboy (paris@casasanjose.org; 412.287.7817).

Amen to Action – Nov 15

On Saturday, Nov 15 from 8 am–12 pm, participate in *Amen to Action* at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. With other volunteers from local congregations and nonprofits, we will pack 100,000 meals to be delivered to our neighbors in need by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Register at tiny.cc/amen-to-action.

Building Closures

Please note the ELPC building will be closed on *Veterans Day* (Tuesday, Nov 11), as well as for *Thanksgiving* on Thursday–Friday, Nov 27–28.

No Taizé or Yoga – Nov 26

On Wednesday, Nov 26 (the day before Thanksgiving), there will be no Taizé service, nor Cathedral Yoga at ELPC.

Donate Snacks for Hope Academy Students

Please donate individually packaged snacks for Hope Academy students. Please contact director Anqwenique Kinsel for more info (AnqweniqueK@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

November 16

– 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

“Giving Our Deaths Away Discussion” by Pastor BJ Woodworth. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

Begin discussion of *Season’s Greetings* by Ruth Boling, our book for Advent and Christmas. 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



GROUND & GROWING

2 0 2 6

Stewardship Campaign

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else. (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

As we look toward 2026, we are launching our annual stewardship campaign, **Grounded & Growing**. It's an invitation to deepen our roots in gratitude and take one step forward in generosity.

**PLEDGE
GOAL**

**226 pledges for 2026
totaling \$700,000**

Our pledge goal is bold, yet attainable. For 2025, we received 177 pledges totaling \$567,878, but with an additional \$130,000 in non-pledged gifts, our current overall giving is on track to be nearly \$800,000. That generosity shows our \$700,000 goal is within reach.

To reach our goal, we're asking each giver to consider moving up one level of giving (*see chart below*). For some, that might mean pledging for the first time. For others, it may mean a 10–20% increase in your annual pledge. A few of you might be feeling the nudge of the Spirit to tithe and **take the bold step** of pledging 10% of your annual income. Whatever the amount, your pledge makes all the difference as we prepare our ministry budget for 2026.

No matter the size, every pledge is a statement of faith in what God can continue to do through us.



RANGE OF PLEDGES RECEIVED FOR 2025

Above \$25,000	0
\$20,001 to \$25,000	2
\$15,001 to \$20,000	1
\$10,001 to \$15,000	4
\$5,001 to \$10,000	27
\$3,001 to \$5,000	24
\$1,001 to \$3,000	60
\$1 to \$1,000	59

GROUND & GROWING IN PRAYER

Stewardship begins in gratitude.
We encourage each household to pray this simple prayer as you make your pledge:

*Generous God,
ground us in your grace and grow us in your love.
Anchor our everyday decisions in gratitude,
and make our lives a gift for others.
Guide our pledge, strengthen our church,
and send us to serve as followers of Jesus.
Amen.*



WHY YOUR PLEDGE MATTERS

Worship & Music

Your pledge supports vibrant Sunday worship, our weekly Taizé service, special services, concerts, and the teams (staff and volunteers) who make it all possible.

Spiritual Formation and Connection

Your pledge strengthens opportunities for spiritual growth and community connection, building relational community through studies, small groups, retreats, and creative faith practices that help us grow together in God's love.

Congregational Care

ELPC's pastors, deacons, and care teams accompany people through grief, transition, joy, and healing. Your pledge helps us expand and deepen compassionate, timely care.

Children, Youth & Young Adults

From Sunday School to youth gatherings, study groups, and intergenerational events, we are forming disciples of Jesus rooted in grace and growing in compassion.

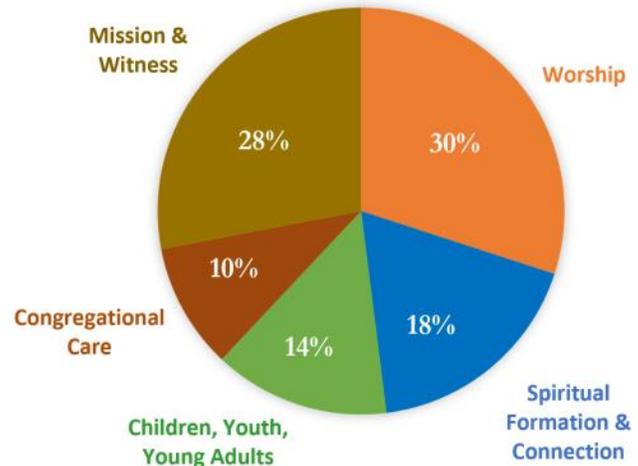
Mission & Witness

Love is put into action through food, housing, immigrant, creation, and racial justice. Through effective public messaging, advocacy, and communications, we are broadening our inclusive witness.

Building & Property

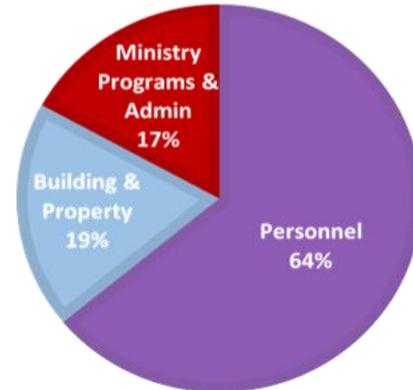
Our historic building provides a sanctuary for worship, a hub for community gatherings, and a safe space for partner organizations. Your pledge helps us steward it well.

WHERE YOUR PLEDGES ARE SPENT *



** Personnel and building costs are included within each ministry area above*

HERE IS THE BUDGET VIEW FROM A STRICT PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES COST PERSPECTIVE:



Frequently Asked Questions

What about the endowment?

Our endowment has been a blessing through many seasons. Over the years, we have over-relied on it (e.g., its current value is around \$28 million from over \$38 million over 20 years ago). For generations, faithful givers built the foundation that allows ELPC to thrive today. Now it is our turn to build for the future. We are inviting every household to grow in generosity, so that our ministry rests not on past gifts alone, but on the living commitment of our congregation today.

Our ministry budget is supported by the following sources:

	2024	2025
Endowment Fund	68%	64%
Congregational Giving	28%	34%
Other Sources	4%	2%

Is participation important?

Yes. Your pledges allow ELPC to plan responsibly and deepen our impact. No matter the size, every pledge strengthens our common life. Broad participation is a sign of shared ownership and fuels long-term sustainability.

What if my situation changes?

We understand circumstances can shift. Because a pledge is a spiritual commitment and not legally binding, you can adjust your pledge at any time by contacting the church office.

How do I pledge?

- 1) Online: www.ELPC.church/pledge
- 2) In Worship: place your pledge card in the offering
- 3) By Mail: return pledge card to the church office

When are pledges dedicated?

Pledges will be dedicated during Sunday worship on Nov 23. You may make or update your pledge before or after that date.

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. Sarah Robbins (she/they)
Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Andrea DeVries
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Eddie Willson
- Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
- Beadle: Liz Hopkins
- Crucifer: Mario Seneca
- 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

◆ 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)

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 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.