



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Avenue, 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)

Christmas Eve Family Service

DECEMBER 24, 2025 — 5:00 PM

TIME OF PREPARATION

Young. Brown. From *that* side of town...the humble Mary used what she had – torn cloths. Weaving together the fragments of fabric from her life, Mary swaddles her child. As we await the forthcoming return of Christ, may we be transformed by the witness of Mary – a young girl from *that* side of town, a bearer of the Word.

— Angellica Sweat

PRELUDE

“Joy to the World – Carillon”

Mary Beth Bennett

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Elijah Herzer, *clarinet*

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

Cody Conley, *violin*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Rev. Sarah Robbins

On this holy evening, we remember that God came to us as a child. We welcome children just as they are, recognizing their wonder, questions, and energy. Please ask an usher for doodle and coloring sheets, if helpful. Just as Jesus was once a crying, giggling baby, the sounds of children are a natural part of our Christmas celebration.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Leader: On this holy night, we gather together as prophets and dreamers, singers and poets.

People: We dare to dream and imagine a world renewed.

Leader: We ponder with Mary. We marvel at Christ’s birth.

People: We marvel in divine truth that defies expectations.

Leader: God draws near as a vulnerable child, not as a trampling warrior.

People: Heaven and earth meet in a manger, not in a palace.

Leader: Just as the angels sing and the shepherds dance, come and worship, all you who dream.

People: We treasure these things in our hearts. We desire to wonder and praise!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133 *(music printed in bulletin)*

ADESTE FIDELIS

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Sara Hackett

Rev. Robbins, Rev. Woodworth

Families with children and the young at heart are invited to join us at the front of the chancel steps for an interactive time with our pastors.

* HYMN #136 *(music printed in bulletin)*

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a (*adapted from Inclusive Bible*)

Isaac Miller

The people journeying through darkness are seeing a brilliant light; upon those who dwell in the land of deep shadows light is shining. For a child is born to us, an heir is given to us; authority rests upon the shoulder of this one who is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Sovereign, Prince of Peace. This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:7-20 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Mabel and Margo Buben

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David's city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you'll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us." They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #113** (*music printed in bulletin*) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

SERMON

"Dreaming with Mary"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

INVITATION TO DREAM LIKE MARY

Rev. Dr. Diaz

In Luke 2, shepherds visit Mary and they speak good news about her newborn child, Jesus. Mary then treasured this good news in her heart. Today, we are invited to reflect on the dreams God has given us—for our life, for our community, for our world. What dream of good news is being stirred within you? What have you been treasuring in your heart that God might help you fulfill?

On the heart-shaped cards provided, adults and children alike are invited to write or draw one word or short phrase that represents the dream God has placed on your heart.

During the Sharing of God's Peace, Communion, or at the end of the service, you can place the heart-shaped card on the posters along the inner sanctuary walls.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Robbins

* **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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Woodworth

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

“Gesù Bambino”

Pietro Yon

Cody Conley, *violin*

Brady Conley, *viola*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #143 (verse 4)

REGENT SQUARE

All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Son,
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal — Three in One:
 come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Woodworth

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in language/version closest to your heart)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Robbins, Rev. Woodworth

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Rev. Dr. Diaz

At ELPC, we practice an open communion table. You need not be a member of this church or any church. No matter what you believe or doubt, you are welcome to participate. As the ushers direct you forward, please cup your hands one on top of the other and a server will give you communion bread. You will then be invited to pick up a cup of juice. After you partake of the elements, you may place your empty cups in the baskets as you make your way back to your seat.

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *(music printed in bulletin)*

SOLO	“Little Drummer Boy”	Elijah Herzer, <i>clarinet</i>
SOLO	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	Brady Conley, <i>viola</i>
HYMN #115	“Away in a Manger”	MUELLER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Woodworth

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins
Rev. Woodworth

* **HYMN #122** *(music printed in bulletin)* “Silent Night” STILLE NACHT

* **RESPONSIVE READING FROM HOWARD THURMAN** *(while candles are lit)* Rev. Robbins

Leader: I will light candles this Christmas.
People: Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Leader: Candles of hope, where despair keeps watch.
People: Candles of courage, where fear is ever present.
Leader: Candles of peace, for tempest-tossed days.
People: Candles of grace, to ease heavy burdens.
Leader: Candles of love, to inspire all of my living.
People: Candles that will burn all the year long.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #134** *(music printed in bulletin)* ANTIOCH
“Joy to the World”

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE “Toccata on Antioch” Craig Phillips
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*



**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.*

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now 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. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

Please turn off 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)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Mabel and Margo Buben
Isaac Miller
- Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
Cody Conley, *Violin*
Brady Conley, *Viola*
Elijah Herzer, *Clarinet*
- Cantors: David Jennings-Smith
Kym Laret
Logan Williams
- Acolyte: Duncan McCrimmon
- Beadles: Polly McQueen
Jason Van Ness
- Crucifer: Mario Seneca
- Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon, sponsored by the congregation members.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

There will be no Journey service on Sundays, Dec 28, Jan 4, 11. 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 (*No service on Dec 31*)

Please Support
Hope Academy of Music & the Arts



Hope Academy of Music and the Arts, an after-school and Saturday arts ministry of ELPC, provides high-quality music and dance education to students ages 3–19. Please scan this QR code and make a donation today to invest in the creative future of the youth in our community.



INQUIRERS CLASS
Sunday, Feb 1
after 11 am worship



Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Feb 1 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Register online using this QR code, visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member, or contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).



WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship on this special evening and ask you to **sign your name in our red Friendship Books** in each pew.

If you're a first time visitor, 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 to 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.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on **Sunday, Feb 1 after the 11 am service** 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 (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

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

#133 — O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

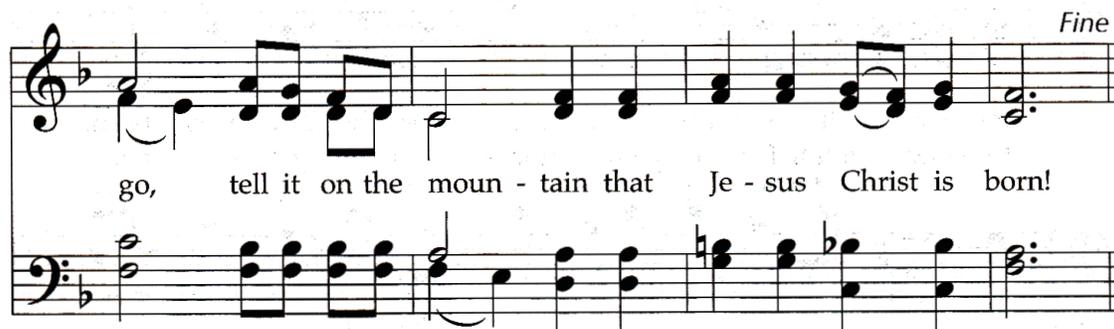
From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

#136 — GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain 

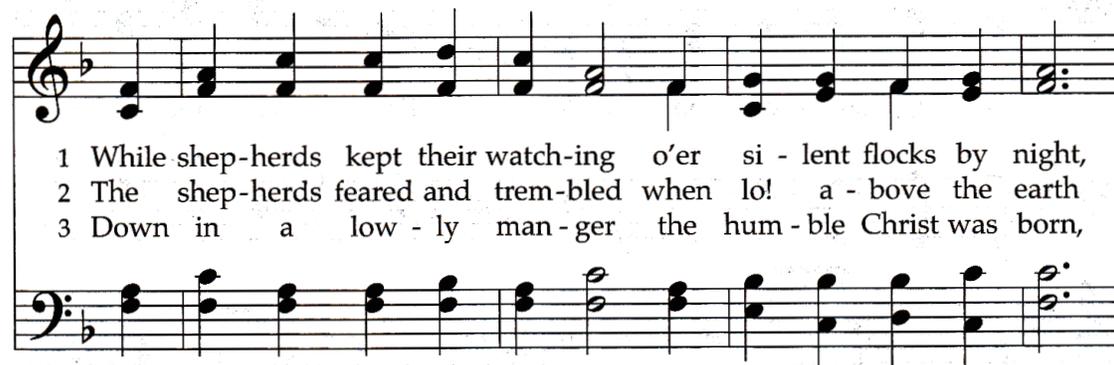


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

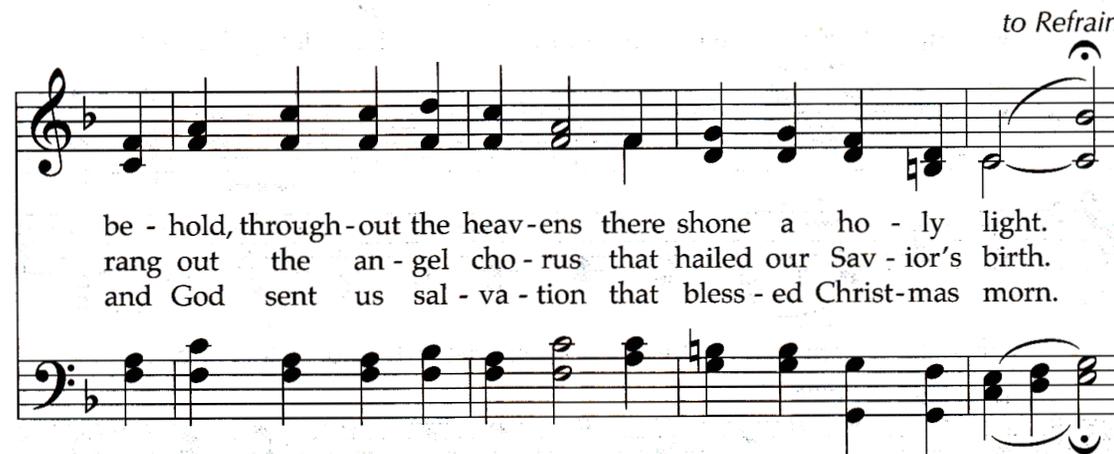


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

#113 — ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
 Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.
 (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA
 7.7.7.7 with refrain

#115 — AWAY IN A MANGER

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

#122 — SILENT NIGHT

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - riant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 *고요한 밤 거룩한 밤*
어둠에 묻힌 밤
주의 부모 앉아서
감사기도 드릴 때
아기 잘도 잔다
아기 잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

#134 — JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Christmas Poinsettia

DEDICATIONS

Carolyn Bigbee

In Memory of my parents, John and Sue Mooney

Trish Buben

In Honor of our children, Mabel
and Margo Buben

Bill and Lynn Buchanan

In Memory of our loved ones

Marissa Cozza

In Honor of Rebecca Cozza and Nash Family

Carla Depperman

In Memory of beloved family and friends

Michael Diaz

In Memory of D. Walter Staggs
& Oscar Natera Diaz

Marilyn Fitzgerald

In Memory of our parents &
In Honor of Ryan Fitzgerald

Wil Forrest

In Memory of Robert Angus
from his nieces and nephews

Timothy Goodall

In Honor of those who work to protect the poor
& those victimized by government oppression

Penn Hackney

Kevin Harvey

In Memory of Jamie Halladay

Michael Hellman

In Honor of Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz,
Rev. BJ Woodworth & Rev. Sarah Robbins

Irvin Family

In Memory of Elizabeth Hill,
Elizabeth Capon and Paul Capon

Stephanie Lewand

In Memory of Lee Blaise Lewand and
Grandma Margaret (Lewand)
& Grandpap John Petruna

Gail Mallory

In Memory of Avis and Richard Mallory

Gary Marzolf and David Swatzler

Polly McQueen

In Memory of Max Stein and Clay McQueen &
In Honor of Steve Evrard,
the Tuesday Prayer Group
and Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

Norma Meyer

In Honor of Barbara Davis

Edward Moore

In Memory of William H. Moore &
In Honor of ELPC Music Ministry
Singers and Ringers

Alice Patton

In Memory of Michael Zanolli,
beloved husband and father &
Cora and Joseph E Welch &
Corinne and James M Patton

Amanda Potasnik

In Memory of Jeffry Potasnik

Matthew Stufft

In Memory of Vaughn and Linda Stufft

Gloria Walls

In Honor of Frances Wilson