



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)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 7, 2026 • 10 AM SUMMER SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

The love of our neighbor in all its fullness simply means being able to say: What are you going through?

— Simone Weil

GATHERING HYMNS

#435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

#664

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michelle Bard

Leader: Beloved, we gather in the name of the one who ate with the wrong people.

People: Thanks be to God who shocks us.

Leader: We gather as people who have been welcomed when we did not expect welcome.

People: Thanks be to God who surprises us.

Leader: We gather as people who are still learning what it means to be loved without conditions.

People: Thanks be to God who is patient with our learning.

Leader: We gather around water, word, bread, and cup, to share with the Divine in our midst.

People: Thanks be to God who calls us just as we are. Amen!

* OPENING HYMN #187

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

BRADBURY

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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

- *Children age 4-3rd grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship in Room 206.*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery during worship.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Marlowe June Snoek Griess (child of Emily Snoek and Jason Griess)

Leader: By word, deed, love, and prayer, do you as members of the church of Jesus Christ promise to guide and nurture Marlowe, encouraging Marlowe to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of the church?

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!

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.

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Michelle Bard

Leader: Friends, the prophet Hosea tells us that God desires steadfast love, not sacrifice. Not the performance of our righteousness. Not the careful management of our reputation before God and neighbor. Just love. Honest, present, costly love. And if we are honest, we know the distance between what God desires and what we have offered. Let us confess that distance now.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Michelle Bard

Merciful God, you asked for steadfast love, and we gave you everything else instead. We gave you our attendance, not our attention. Our correctness, not our compassion. Our sacrifice, not our hearts. Forgive us. Teach us what this means. Teach us to love without conditions, without a guest list, without making others earn what you have always given freely. Teach us to love the way you love. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Michelle Bard

Leader: Friends, God is merciful.
People: **We are forgiven and free to love again and again. Alleluia!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #740

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 9:9-13 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Sarah Robbins

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

* **HYMN #761**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

SERMON

"What kind of table is this?"

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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.**

CHURCH NEWS & OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz and Rev. Robbins

*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

"I Believe This Is Jesus"

Undine Smith Moore

*I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see. Oh, come and see. The Light of God shines in his face, Oh, come and see.
He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see. Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes, Lord, come and see, come and see.*

* **DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SURSUM CORDA)

Rev. Dr. Diaz and Rev. 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 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 the language or version closest to your heart)*

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

At ELPC, we practice an open communion table. You need not be a member of this church or any church to participate. No matter what you believe or doubt, you are welcome.

As the ushers direct you forward, please come by the center aisle to the communion servers, cup your hands one on top of the other to receive the bread, and then pick up a cup of grape juice. After partaking of the elements, you may place your empty cup in the baskets as you return to your seat by the side aisles. Those seated in the East Transept (near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the center walkway and will join the line behind those in the back section. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats; please raise your hand and tell the usher or flag a roaming communion server.

Communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. If you need an allergy-free wafer, please visit the center communion stations.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#770

“I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table”

WELCOME TABLE

#525

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Rev. Woodworth

Loving God, we give you thanks for this indecent and holy Table, for the bread, the cup, and everyone you invited to it. May we leave here a little less afraid to eat with the wrong people.

Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

* CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Festal March”

Florence Price
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*



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)
Liturgyists: Rev. Sarah Robbins (she/they)
Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Michelle Bard
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Beadles: Polly McQueen
Mario Seneca
Sound: Wayne Gaines
Bobby Jarsulic

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are dedicated to all the LGBTQIA+ members, friends, and loved ones of ELPC, from an anonymous donor.

◆ THE SANCTUARY BANNERS

The rainbow banners hanging from the triforium in the sanctuary are based on the Philadelphia Pride Flag created in 2017. For an explanation of this flag and what the colors represent, visit:

<https://midsouthpride.org/flag/philadelphia-pride-flag/>

◆ SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

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

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

◆ 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, 6-7 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.

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, June 14 after the 10 am worship service** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please see one of the pastors after the service to attend.

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

If you are joining us for the first time, we're glad you are here! Please 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.*

Pittsburgh Pride

ELPC members and friends are invited to participate in Pittsburgh Pride today! Info is available at <https://pittsburghpride.com>. *Pride Guides* are available in the Highland Lobby with everything you need to know about today's activities. Meet on Liberty Ave in the Strip District, and look for the ELPC van near 14th St.

Church Tour

Penn Hackney will lead a tour of the exterior of the church today after worship. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate. Next Sunday, Jo Ellen Aleshire will guide a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel.

Art Exhibit: Souls Shot

The Peace Committee is hosting an exhibit called *Souls Shot* in the Trustees' Room. It is an exhibit of portraits of gun violence victims. It will be there for a few weeks. Stop by. You will find it moving.



Camera Ready!

From *Pride Fest* to *Juneteenth*, and from *Tower Tours* to *Vacation Church School*, the ELPC community is beginning another busy summer of programs and participation.

We're asking all the amateur photographers in our midst to please email your event photos to our *Ad Hoc Communications Committee* at carolmullen.pgh@gmail.com so we can share them on our website and social media channels. Please include the name and date of the event as well as the names of anyone pictured (ie, Pride Fest, June 7, Pastor Sarah, Wil Forrest, Reed Williams). In addition, if you're posting your photos to your Facebook or Instagram channels, please tag ELPC (@eastlibertypresbyterianchurch) so our online friends and followers can see all that's happening in the life of our busy church.

**Sunday School Classes for adults will resume on
Kick Off Sunday, Sept 13.**

Free Dinners at the Chapel Market – June 12

Come enjoy a hot, home-cooked meal at the Chapel Market and meet new friends in our community who may feel unwelcome and are food insecure. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm on these Fridays in the upcoming months: June 12, July 17 and Aug 21.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – June 14

All are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 11:30am on Sunday, June 14 for conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks welcome! Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend (Wil@coh.net).

Taizé Focus Group – June 17

ELPC is engaging in a strategic planning process that is looking at all parts of the church, what we are currently engaged in and where new opportunities for faithful ministry might be. Taizé is a unique part of ELPC and we want to hear from you about how you found Taizé, what drew you to it, what keeps you coming, what other kinds of things might be interesting to you and satisfy your soul. Please join us on Wednesday, June 17 from 6-6:45 pm in the Fellowship Room. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending, contact Pastor BJ by June 15 (BJW@coh.net).

Juneteenth Parade – June 20

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee invites all ELPC folks to join us for the annual *Juneteenth* parade on Saturday, June 20. We will gather at 9:30 am at the parade starting point on Freedom Corner in the Hill District (corner of Centre and Crawford). Meet us there, or if you'd like to ride in the church van to and from the festivities, we will depart from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 9 am. Cars may be parked at the Seminary for free. Reserve a seat in the van by contacting Michele Bossers (michele2285@gmail.com).



INQUIRERS' CLASS

**Sunday, June 14
after 10 am worship**

Attend the next *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, June 14 after the 10 am Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room. Learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Register online at: visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member, or contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).



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

Brett P's wife Dana, Collen I, Grace, Steve M's brother Bill, Ray Anthony, Carol and JoAnn Chonoska's friend Jimmy, Peta Harrigan-Cole's friend Myra, Anne Kelly, Chris Markwell, Margaret McCaulley, and Fran Wilson. Condolences to Doris Dick on her cousin's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

DeaconsTuesday, June 9 @ 7:00 pm
Mission.....Thursday, June 11 @ 6:00 pm

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

Help Prepare for Vacation Church School – June 22 to 26

We need the following supplies:

- EXTRA LARGE cardboard boxes
small watertight plastic jars/bottles (like a small pop bottle or small mayo jar)
Legos if you have some you are looking to donate ... we would love to use them to make our Bible Stories come to life!
cardboard tubes
tin cans (empty and without a lid)
volunteers – talk to Sara if you are an adult or teen who can volunteer!

LGBTQIA+ Day Retreat: The Gift of Relationship – June 27

ALL are invited to take a step away from your regular Saturday schedule to look at how relationships can be both healing and inspiring. Together we will seek hope and encouragement in the gift of relationship. Come to this day retreat for LGBTQIA+ folks and their allies as we explore, laugh, reflect, and share conversation and food on Saturday, June 27 from 9 am to 4 pm at ELPC. We will be led by a special guest presenter, Judy Corasaniti. The day will be shaped around her book The Gift of Relationship: We Heal in Community, which will be provided at the event. The cost is \$25 for the entire event (includes brunch and book). RSVP by June 21 to Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218) to attend, with dietary considerations, and/or questions about financial support to attend. Due to the nature of the event and space considerations, group size will be limited. Sponsored by ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry.

An Opportunity to Serve Communion

Worship Music & the Arts (WMA) is looking to widen our team of Communion servers. If you, as a member of ELPC, would like to join the team of servers, please identify your interest by emailing info@coh.net. After an orientation session, you would be included on the team and invited to serve at occasional communion services.

In our

COMMUNITY



Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – June 12



Every Friday, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Pax Christi and Casa San Jose host a prayer vigil outside the I.C.E. offices on the South Side. It is a peaceful interfaith vigil where folks gather outside to support our immigrant neighbors. Your presence is needed more than ever!

ELPC friends and Pastor Sarah will be hosting the vigil this Friday, June 12 from 8:30–9:30 am with liturgy, music, prayers, and chants.

Join us at 3000 Sidney St (15203) for a time of advocacy and solidarity.

Juneteenth Worship Service at Bethel AME – June 14

On Sunday, June 14 at 2 pm, join Pastor Michael as we worship with our siblings at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (2720 Webster Ave) for a special Juneteenth service.

Founded in 1808, Bethel is Pittsburgh's oldest Black church and the first AME congregation west of the Alleghenies. It opened the area's first school for Black children, hosted an 1841 civil rights convention, and served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Demolished by urban renewal in the 1950s, Bethel's ministry continues today in the Hill District.



Earth, Our Original Monastery at Taizé – Wednesdays

For most of June and July at Taizé — on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel — we will be utilizing the visual mediations of the Work of the People and the poetic blessings of Christine Valters Painter to shape and form our time of prayerful song and quiet meditation.

Together we will pray, sing, notice, contemplate and share how we are connecting with earth as our original nourishment and revelation of God as Cathedral, Scripture, Saints, Spiritual Director, Icon, Sacrament, and Liturgy. Each week will also offer reflections, practices and prayers for the coming week.

Learn more about the many ministries of EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH on our website at: www.ELPC.church