

November 2019

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

Our stewardship theme for 2019 is "Lift Every Voice." Our community life is shaped in great part by our voices gathered in praise and lament. Music has always been an important part of our faith. Whenever and wherever God's people have gathered, there has been singing. We can trace our love for music back to our Jewish roots. Werner Keller once said, "No people in the ancient world were more devoted to music than the inhabitants of Israel."

Music is powerful. It has the ability to lift our spirits, capture our hearts, instruct our minds, and motivate us to act. Music helps us to express gratitude, sorrow and remorse, wonder and awe. Music helps us voice our deepest desires and prayers. Music strengthens our resolve and commitment to show mercy and do justice; music inspires hope and fosters unity.

In the words of Psalm 98, when we remember the "great wonders" God has done for us, when we remember we are children of God, made in God's image; that we are loved and forgiven by Christ; that our world, our lives, and our futures are in the hands of a loving, faithful God, that nothing can separate us from God's faithful love, we cannot help but lift our voices in song.

On Sunday, November 10, we will premiering an original, commissioned choral work, "Lazarus," based on the G.K. Chesterton poem, dedicated to our music program at Sixth. I hope you will be in worship with us, and that you will bring your financial commitment to our work in 2020, so that we can "lift every voice" for God's compassion and justice, inside and outside our doors.

Peace!

Vincent



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

November Worship and Preaching

November 3 — Luke 19:1-10,
"Today"

November 10 — Luke 20:27-
38, "For All the Saints"

November 17 — Rev. Maggie
Smith, guest preaching

November 24 — Luke 23:33-
43, "Man in the Middle"

Adult Education

November 3, 10 am: Donna Coufal, current President of the Dor Hadash synagogue, and Jon Pushinsky, attorney and past President of Dor Hadash, as they share the deliberations that led the Dor Hadash synagogue to craft the letter to United States Attorney General to not seek the death penalty for the shooter.

November 10, 10 am: Lazarus: A Look at the Sixth Presbyterian Church Commissioned Choral Work. Sue Koehler and Linda Davoli, members of the commission committee, will share their musings on the poem and the path that led to its selection.

Save the Dates!

Youth Group Happenings

November

Sunday School—Sunday school class for junior and senior high will be held each week (10- 10:45 am) Join Jenny Newman for discussion on the week's scripture passages, current events, and other assorted topics. There will be snacks!

Youth Fellowship Time

Thursdays from 6-7:30 at Crazy Mocha: November 7, 14, and 21

Questions? Contact **Jenny Newman** at (412) 720-6392 or Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

Family Advent Dinner: Everyone is invited! We hope you will join us for our annual Family Advent Dinner, which will be held from 5 to 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 8. Bring your family and friends to share a meal, make ornaments to decorate our Christmas tree in the Chapel, sing some carols, and share in the Nativity story.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Our annual pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 15 during worship. We will have a rehearsal for all kids involved on Saturday, December 14 at 10 am at the church. We will also be practicing during Extended Session starting this month.



Above: the youth group hanging out in the newly renovated kitchen. Below: game night!



Extended Session Fun! Above: story time with Izzy. Below: our older students explore Egypt with an escape room type activity.



Talking about Stewardship with Young People

As we head into the stewardship season, we encourage you to sit down with your family and talk about what giving of time and money to the church means to all members of your family.

From the very beginning of our faith story in Genesis being a good steward of creation is a task set to all people. We strive to include our youngest members fully in the life of the church, and that includes learning about receiving and giving. Including your children and teens in your decisions and commitment of time and money to the church is an important way to instill a lifelong approach to giving and help develop a deep sense of community.



Below are some thoughts on stewardship and service that can be conversation starters for your family. The dinner table or the car ride or walk home for church can be great places to begin the conversation.

Stewardship: In its most simple form is taking care of the world and the church on behalf of God.

We can encourage the young people in our lives to continually respond to God's creation by caring and enjoying what God has given them, personally and in the world around them.

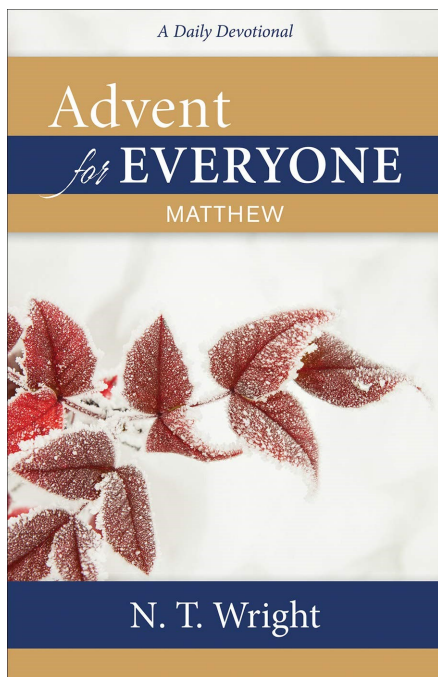
Questions to start the conversation:

- How do you think God wants us to take care of the church?
- Disciples of Jesus kept sharing stories of all the good things he did for others, how are we disciples today?
- What are some ways that the church can help take care of the world?
- What are some things you can do to help the church in its ministry?
- What can you do to help take care of God's world?

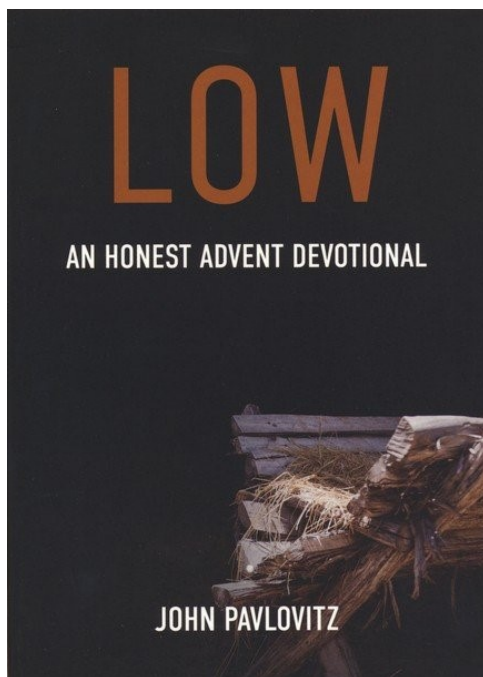


Suggestions for Advent Reading

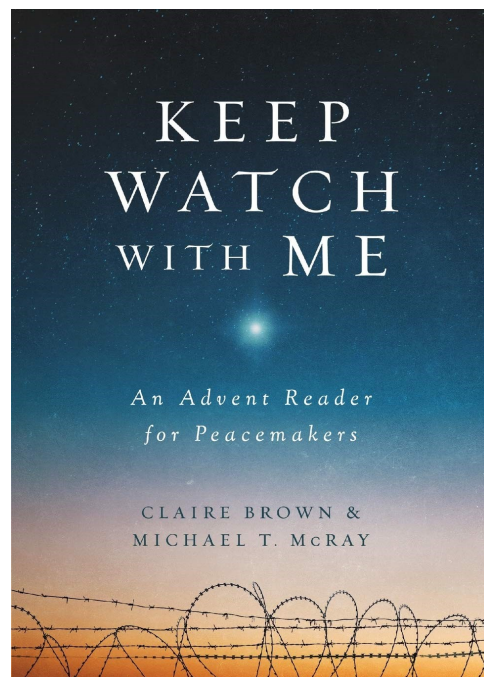
Here are suggestions for devotionals and daily readings for Advent! Ask your favorite local bookseller to order one for you. These titles are also available for purchase through The Thoughtful Christian at www.thethoughtfulChristian.com and other online booksellers.



Advent for Everyone, Matthew
N.T. Wright



Low: An Honest Advent Devotional
John Pavlovitz



Keep Watch with Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers
Michael T. McRay

CROP Hunger Walk Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary!

Thank you for supporting the Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk! We had 15 walkers on the Sixth Church team: Peter Gilmore, Patty Halverson, Cliff Johnson, Nora Johnson, Myra Kazanjian, Peter Koehler, Sue Koehler, Vincent Kolb, Sandy Myers, Jan Myers-Newbury, Maggie Ritchey, Nickie Rodgers, Judy Schryer, Pam Twiss, and Lauren Ward.

The walking team has raised \$4,725. Your support of these 15 walkers in the 50th annual CROP Walk is truly a support for the work of Church World Service in its development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty. Thank you.



Cliff Johnson and Sue Koehler were honored for their dedication to the CROP Walk. Here they are with their sweet new walking sticks they won't do battle with.

Better Know a Committee: Earth Care

Want to get involved in the life of the church, but aren't sure where to start? This Q&A is the first in a series to help make committee information more accessible to congregants. Completed Q&As will also be compiled on the Sixth website.

What does the Earth Care Committee do? The Earth Care Committee at Sixth is an Earth Care Congregation recognized by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The committee works to stay up to date on environmental issues and news affecting our congregation, the community, and beyond. The committee also looks at ways to improve green practices at Sixth, hosts environmental guest speakers, allocates mission funds to environmental organizations, and runs a popular collection and recycling of hard-to-recycle items at the church.

Who might be interested in joining? Anyone who's interested in being more involved environmentally can join. Anyone can join our email list!

What do you get out of participating? Being involved with the Earth Care Committee helps Sixth's congregation to affirm our urgent commitment of being good stewards of the earth. Environmental advocacy and action affects everyone, so doing our part as a congregation is an important undertaking.

What is the time commitment? The committee meets intermittently throughout the year to discuss ideas, progress, and news. We hold meetings to discuss Earth Day plans for Sixth and allocations of mission funding, as well as other meetings, typically after worship, as needed. We try to keep meetings (relatively) short and effective!

How does someone get involved? Email Keith at keithgilllogly@gmail.com. He can add you to the committee email list and would welcome the chance to do so.



Notes from the October Session Meeting

(NB: notes from Session are pulled from yet-approved minutes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (from Session meeting 9/25/19) with two modifications...Sister Janice sending thanks for the shoelaces and belts for the border project is from the organization Casa San Jose, and the House Committee's first bullet point should show \$4580 for the Pgh Historical Landmark Grant rather than \$5000.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Worship Attendance 9/29: 125; 10/6:130; 10/13:93; 10/20: 156
- Motion to approve the Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 24 at 12 pm to elect 2020 officers carried without objection.
- Roll Review of Sixth Church members not in recent attendance – Carol and Vince volunteered to do some outreach and report back to session for the November meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FINANCE: (Radcliffe)

- September financials are not available for this meeting.
- Incorporation papers came in, investment money has been electronically moved to the fossil-fuel-free portfolio.
- Discussion around how to handle checks when more than one committee wants to give funds to the same organization...Tom Twiss and Pastor Kolb will work on resolving.

HOUSE: (Kaplan)

- Capital Projects
 - Ramp Repair
 - ⇒ **Motion** to approve a contract with Mariani and Richards for the repair of the accessibility ramp in the amount of \$4,050.00 passed w/o objection.
 - 2nd floor bathroom project (Winner), nearly complete, toilet to be repaired
 - Window #1 replaced, painter under contract for \$885.00 with Michael & Michael Painting
- Other projects
 - MTG Roof is looking at leak in sanctuary
 - Kitchen Disposer repair company is being pursued
 - 4th camera for back door is being pursued...Glenne Harlow of General Alarm Systems gave \$592 estimate plus some labor costs.
 - Emergency Disaster Response Plan highlights were reviewed
 - ⇒ **Motion** to approve the Emergency and Disaster Response Plan to be implemented so training can begin, carried without objections.

PERSONNEL: Employee Health Care

- ⇒ **Motion** to approve additional Employee Benefits for calendar year 2020 carries without objections as follows:
- To establish two classifications for employees at Sixth with 5 or more years of service:
 - Class 1: Those who work 20 or more hours per week
 - Class 2: Those who work at least 10 but less than 20 hours per week
 - For class 1 employees, church to pay the cost of the BOP (Board of Pension) individual base health care premium (not dental or vision) beginning Jan 1, 2020 from 2020 budget adopted by Session.
 - For class 2 employees, church to pay the BOP vision and dental plan premium and contribute 5% of annual salary to the BOP 403b Employee Savings Plan.

- ⇒ **Motion** to approve Pastor's study leave, 12/9-12/13/19 to go to Abbey of the Genesee carries without objections.
- ⇒ **Motion** to approve Pastor's vacation, 12/26/19-1/2/20 carries without objections.

STEWARDSHIP: (Ward)

- Annual Campaign...mailings were sent out, to be wrapped up by 12/12/19
- Capital Campaign...stained glass tree ornaments to be made by kids in early December, planned giving seminar will be scheduled for next fall. The children decided to give half of their bake sale proceeds to the capital campaign.

PASTORAL CARE UPDATES (Kolb)

- Celebration of David Miller's life, memorial Saturday, October 26 at 2 pm at Sixth Church.

DEACON'S REPORT

- ⇒ **Motion** to approve Wilkinsburg Church holiday food drive with goal of 100 of each items, no objections so ordered.

OLD BUSINESS

- ⇒ **Motion** to approve the showing of Palestinian film "Laila's Birthday" was carried (via email prior to this meeting).
- ⇒ **Motion** to approve Kids' Stewardship Bake Sale for previous Sunday was so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ **Motion** to approve Memorial/Funeral Policy was approved without objections, to be added to the administrative manual.
- ⇒ **Motion** to approve "A Season of Hope and Anticipation: Advent Themes in the Four Gospels" for December's advent weeks was carried without objections.
- PIIN Public Meeting will be October 29, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 7 pm, attendance encouraged.
- Women's retreat was a success per multiple Session members who attended. Pam Howe's 8 years of organizational service has been much appreciated.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- C&C: Recent meeting discussion included future education topics/speakers and suggestions for how to spend the 10% rainy day allocation.
- More Light: Meeting discussion included ways to spend remaining 2019 budgeted funds.

NEXT TWO MEETINGS on November 20 and December 18, 7 pm (to avoid the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Joy, Clerk of Session

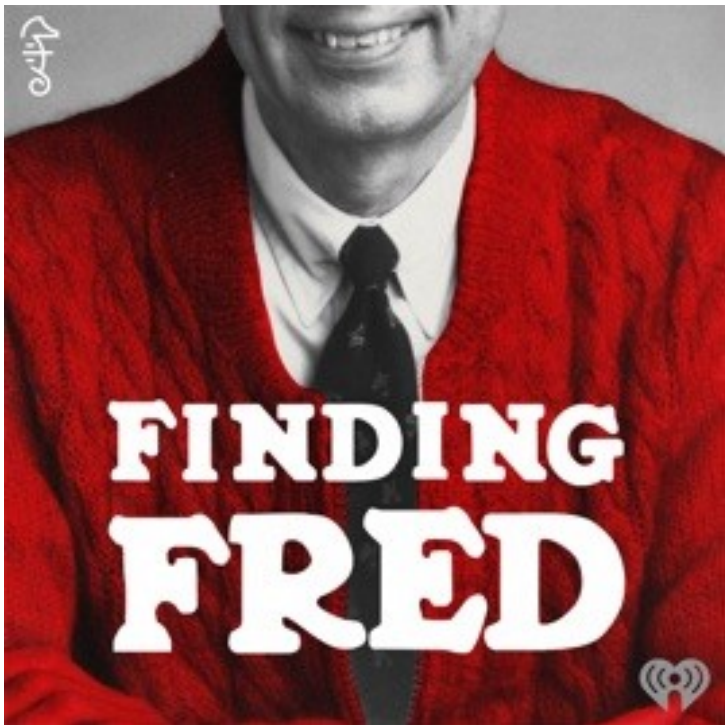


November 2019 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Louise Craft	2 7:00 pm, NA
3 Andrew DeJong Alice Scales 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:00 pm, Earth Care 8:00 pm, NA	4 7:00 pm, NA	5 Mary Crossley 7:00 pm, OCD Support Group	6 Megan Fogt 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:00 pm, 14th Ward Democrats	7 12:00 pm, Pittsburgh Calligraphy 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:00 pm, NA
10 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	11 7:00 pm, NA	12 7:00 pm, OCD Support Group	13 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:00 pm, Deacons	14 Gabe Yancy 12:00 pm, Pittsburgh Calligraphy 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	15 Joan Gaul	16 Grace Brennan Brian Lazarus 7:00 pm, NA
17 Peter Gilmore 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:00 pm, Christian Education 8:00 pm, NA	18 7:00 pm, NA	19 7:00 pm, Film: "Laila's Birthday" / Friends of Sabeel North America 7:00 pm, OCD Support Group	20 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:00 pm, Session	21 Bob Robinson -Dassel 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	22 Cosy Cornelius-Bates	23 Lucy Brennan 9:00 am, Opening to Grace Retreat (Parlor) 7:00 pm, NA

November 2019 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship & Congregational Meeting 8:00 pm, NA	25 Laura Sindhi 7:00 pm, NA	26 7:00 pm, OCD Support Group	27 Elena Berg Robin Holtje 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:00 pm, Session	28 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal	29 Dan Brennan	30 7:00 pm, NA



Familiar Voices Alert!

Over the summer, John McCall, Vincent Kolb, and Bill Guy were interviewed as part of a new podcast, *Finding Fred*. As of press time, their episode hasn't aired yet, but it will be exciting to hear what they had to say when it does!

Description stolen from Apple Podcasts: *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was not a simple show. And Fred Rogers was not a simple man. He was radical. Spiritual. Revolutionary. Maybe even subversive. Bestselling author and cultural critic Carvell Wallace hosts this 10-part series about the life, thinking and work of Fred Rogers, and asks what the cardigan wearing host of a decades-old children's show can tell us about how to get by in today's chaotic world.

Coffee for Sale!

We have coffee for sale! Stop by the church office to buy a bag of coffee from our mission partners in El Porvenir!

Regular or dark roast ground or whole bean: **\$13**

Decaf ground or whole bean: **\$14**



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We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

Food for Thought...



The Deadline for the December newsletter is November 15th. Please email articles and announcements to Amy in the church office (office@sixthchurch.org).

You can also put printed copies on her desk.

Thank you!

"Joy is an act of resistance." – Toi Derricotte

"Maybe the desire to make something beautiful is the piece of God that is inside each of us." – Mary Oliver

"Love! What had I to love? Oh many things: there was the moonshine, and the bright stars; the breezes and the refreshing rains; there was the whole earth and the sky that covers it: all lovely forms that visited my imagination," – Mary Shelley

"Your beliefs will be the light by which you see, but they will not be what you see and they will not be a substitute for seeing." – Flannery O'Connor

"Every story in life worth holding on to has to have a spirit line. You can call this hope or tomorrow or the 'and then' of narrative itself, but without it – without that bright dissonant fact of the unknown, of what we cannot control – consciousness and everything with it would tumble inward and implode. The universe insists that what is fixed is also finite." – Gail Caldwell