

April 2022

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

When I meditate on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, one truth haunts me, and another truth gives me hope.

What haunts me about the suffering and death of Jesus Christ is that he was killed in the name of justice and faith, by people who believed they were doing the right thing. Furthermore, these law-abiding, God-fearing people did away with him in the interests of keeping the peace. It makes me wonder: where are we hanging him on a cross again in our day and time because we do not want to confront an unpleasant truth? Where in our society and world is our justice blind?

The truth of the resurrection, however, gives me this hope. God's triumph in the empty tomb is the sign that the promise keeper is faithful; everything in the end will be all right. Nothing that we encounter in this world can harm us permanently. No suffering is irrevocable. No loss is permanent. No defeat is anything more than just a passing phenomenon. No disappointment is a final verdict about our worth. Jesus never denied the reality of suffering, discouragement, disappointment, frustration, and death; he simply stated that the Kingdom of God would conquer all of these horrors. This reality gives me hope.

As we journey with our Lord to Calvary and beyond, may we not forget what haunts us, and what gives us hope.

Grace and Peace!

Vincent

Worship update: beginning this Sunday, April 3, masks are welcome and recommended for worship, but not required. Should you forget a mask and want to wear one, masks will still be made available at the entrances to the sanctuary. Sunday School classrooms upstairs will continue to require masks.



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

April Worship and Preaching

April 3 – John 12:1-8,
“Blessed Prophet”

April 10 – Palm Sunday,
John 12:12-19, “Business As Usual”

April 14 – Maundy
Thursday, 7 pm, I
Corinthians 11:17-25, “On
the Night He Was Betrayed”

April 15 – Good Friday, 12
pm, Matthew 26:36-39,
“When God Says No”

April 17 – Easter, Luke 24:1-
12, “When Resurrection
Comes to You”

April 24 – John 20:19-31,
“The Week After”

What the Pastor Is Reading

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, & Hope in An American City, Andrea Elliot

How the Word Is Passed, Clint Smith

REPARATIONS: PITTSBURGH CHURCHES TALK ABOUT REPENTENCE AND RECONCILIATION

Beginning the
Conversation.
Building
Relationships.



Join Bethel AME Church from the Hill District and other partner communities as we think about the theological and ethical call to reparations to the Black Community in general, and to Bethel AME in particular as it seeks restitution for loss of land and wealth.

These will be hard, vulnerable conversations, calling all participants to open hearts and minds to hear the stories of those marginalized and to recognize our own responsibility to repent and repair.

Discussions drawn from Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson. Prior reading is helpful, but not required!

NEW DATE!

Sunday, April 3
12:30pm
Sixth Presbyterian Church
1688 Murray Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Register for Zoom with the QR Code



CONTACT
412-683-2160
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reparations for Bethel AME Church



An Organ Recital with Dr. Douglas-Jayd Burn

Director of Music, Sixth Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 10 at 2 pm

Sixth Presbyterian Church (1688 Murray Avenue)



This free program features organ compositions by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Boëllmann, Pärt, Vierne, Guilmant, Price, and Rutter performed on the Casavant Frères (Opus 3833, 2003).

A freewill offering will be collected to support our neighbor, Bethel AME Church, as they seek restitution for loss of land and wealth when their church property was seized by eminent domain in 1957.



Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday school students are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at **10 am** on Easter Sunday (April 17) outside on the front lawn. The egg hunt will be followed by our Easter Sunday school lesson and activities on the front steps. In case of rain, we will move inside to our Sunday school rooms and masks will be required. **There will be no Zoom Sunday school class on Easter Sunday.**



While we are easing mask restrictions in the sanctuary for worship, until further notice we will still be requiring children, youth and adults to mask while attending Sunday school and Extended Session in our upstairs classrooms. Children and youth will be able to unmask if we are meeting outside or in spaces where social distancing is possible.



Stations of the Cross

As we prepare to move through the end of Lent towards Easter, we have created videos to take you through a cycle known as Stations of the Cross. Each video contains scripture and meditation, illustrations, and music. Watch them one at a time, at your own pace, or in succession. The whole cycle will take about 45 minutes.

[Stations of the Cross](#)



Holy Week Virtual Challenge

Virtual activity for school kids and youth for Holy Week. Give it a try? You have to answer correctly to move on to the next part of the story.

[Journey Through Holy Week](#)

What We're Reading/Watching/Listening To/Doing

Kit Ayars: Watching *Bridgerton* 😊

Cosette Cornelius-Bates: Listening to the *Hamilton* soundtrack, reading *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* as a family (so good!), watching plants push their way out of the soil.

Peter Gilmore: Watching the music video for Cat Stevens's "I Was Raised in Babylon" over & over. A spiritual experience: Godliness vs. power lust, greed, white privilege.
(<https://youtu.be/ZxjJnW4iktU>)

Kate Kennedy: Reading *Hail Mary* by Andy Weir

Lori King: Reading *The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution* by Julius S Scott and watching the new season of *Call the Midwife*.

John McCall: Reading *The Heiress of Pittsburgh*, a novel by Ken Gormley, the president of Duquesne University.



April Birthdays

April 1 Sue Koehler

Diana Wood

April 2 David Rothenberg

April 6 Kate Davoli

Barb Parees

April 8 Sheila Kier

April 9 Bill Beggs

April 10.....Opal Middleton

April 12.....Peter Bower

April 16.....Meg Cummings

April 17.....Kathy Heron

April 18.....David Bennett

April 21.....Jane Fox

April 23.....Tom Juring

April 26.....Russ Loyd

Tyler Middleton

Susan Nestor

April 27.....Frank Davoli



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www.sixthchurch.org

Dated Material – Do Not Hold
Address Service Requested



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 May newsletter is April 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!

"I Asked God for the Moon," Natasha Oladokun

I think it would probably kill God to give a direct answer to anything.
And it would probably kill me to hear the direct answer.
In this way God and I spare each other
the awkward conversation, with both our arms shaking
under this ashy rock that won't fit through my door –
this thing he brought me because, drunk, I asked him to.

**Notes from the Session Meeting will
return next month**