

June 2022

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

Jesus affirmed that it is possible to be in the world in a new way, to be present to people around us with compassion, even when they are misled, fearful, and dangerous.

Our usual way of being in the world is to be anxious, to be constantly pressed and harried and worried, which immediately translates into defensiveness and fear, a determination to keep what we have, to assume the worst about those who think and act differently than we do.

In the face of this anxiety and the world's tragedy, Jesus asks us a question which doesn't require an answer because the answer is so obvious. It is the question that stops all our protests and explanations and rationalizations. Which of you, being anxious, added an inch to your lives?

It's an embarrassing question, because, of course, it is true. Being defensive and frightened and miserly has never resulted in a life that is full and grateful. But we do it partly because we don't know a better way. We do it partly because it's our habit in rich, self-satisfied America.

In response, Jesus always suggests a more excellent way, "seek the kingdom and God's righteousness." In other words, 'get your mind off yourself long enough to care; be concerned enough about the well-being of the human community around you that you no longer worry about your place and your vested interests.'

The invitation is to get involved in what makes for human happiness: nurturing others, fighting for underdogs and seemingly lost causes, making our institutions effective, cultivating relationships that are safe, loving, and mutual. Give ourselves to these endeavors, and we will no longer have to defend how it used to be or worry about what will happen to what we have.

What an invitation in the midst of the world's pain, in this season of the Spirit!

Peace!

Vincent



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

June Worship and Preaching

June 5 – Pentecost Worship in Highland Park, Acts 2: "The Gospel of the Holy Spirit"

June 12 – John 16:12-15, "Koan"

June 19 – Rev. Alan Olson preaching

June 26 – Luke 9:51-62, "Holy Envy"



What the Pastor Is Reading

Beautiful Country, Qian Julie Wang

A Way Other Than Our Own, Walter Brueggemann

CDC Community Risk and Worship: while Allegheny County is in the "high" category, worship is LIVESTREAM ONLY. In "medium," masks are mandatory for in-person worship. In "low," masks are recommended for in-person worship.

SUP pickup at Sixth Church, June 19, 2022

Our next **Single-Use Plastic (SUP) pickup** at church.is on June 19. Carol and Bill Beggs will be there to collect your SUP. Please contact Bill and Carol at Wbeggs96@gmail.com so they'll know to expect you.

Here are some guidelines:

- Please wash all your SUP so that it's oil- and food-free.
- Please deliver your clean SUP in brown paper bags or cardboard boxes. Plastic bags are not recycled at Michael Brothers.
- Please write your name and what number plastic is in the container on each container you bring.
- Please leave your bags and boxes in the hallway near the parking lot door to make it easy for Bill and Carol to collect.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Numbered Single-Use Plastic (SUP), numbers 1 to 7, which means that only plastic that has a number within the chasing arrows recycle symbol. No unnumbered and unknown SUP is acceptable.
- Please sort the numbered plastic into #1, #2, and #3-7 containers. #1 separately, #2 separately, # 3-7 all combined.
- **Plastic** bottle caps and lids are also accepted even though they don't have numbers. They can go into your #3-7 container.

Children and Youth Updates

Graduates

Elizabeth Sindhi is graduating from Taylor Alderdice High School and will be attending Case Western University in the fall.

Megan Sindhi is graduating from Brown University with a master's degree in data science.

Please let us know in the church office if there are any other graduates to celebrate!

Fridays on the Lawn

Children, youth, and their families are invited to join us for **Fridays on the Lawn** from 6 to 8 pm on **June 17, July 22, and August 19**. Bring a blanket and gather with us on the front lawn. We will be providing some light food and beverages but feel free to bring your own picnic. There will be fellowship time and activities with an Earth Care theme. In case of rain, we will move inside following the church's masking policy.

This Summer

Sunday school has concluded for the summer. We will continue to offer childcare for infants and toddlers and Extended Session for preschool through 3rd grade during the 10 am worship service.

Picnic and Worship in the Park: June 5 at 11 am

We are all excited by the prospect of seeing so many of you on **JUNE 5**. The **worship and picnic site is the Rhododendron Shelter in Highland Park**. **No masking will be required as this is an outdoor event**.

As we did last summer, we are asking everyone to bring their own **PERSONAL PICNIC**.

Once again there will be **NO POTLUCK** component this year, and we will **NOT** be supplying grilled meats, plates, cups, or cutlery. This makes sandwiches seem like a good choice.

We **WILL** however, have the following items available:

- 1) Paper napkins
- 2) Cold beverages in cans
- 3) Chips in individual bags
- 4) Individual ice cream treats for dessert



Needless to say, this goes against all Earth Care Congregation protocols, but this is a special exception.

Worship will be starting at 11 am. If you are able, it would be good to bring outdoor chairs or a blanket. If you need to unload items, it is fine to drive down close to the shelter, but then we ask you to move your car back to the road (unless this presents mobility difficulties for you). We will provide a few folding chairs.

If anyone is in need of transportation, please let Amy in the office know by Thursday, June 2, and she will get word to the Fellowship chair. Amy can also email a map to you if you need help finding the shelter. However, the easiest way to get there is to travel east on Stanton Ave. (which intersects Highland Ave.). It eventually curves to the left (north) and continues into the park. The shelter is on the right in a very short while – and we'll be so happy to see all of you!

June Birthdays

June 4 David DeJong

June 7 Jack Farquhar

June 8 Kate Kennedy

June 11.....Mary Lang

June 12.....Kate Brennan

Margaret Miller

June 13.....Colin Miller

Andrew Morgan

June 18.....Isabella Berg

Eve Guyette

Rainer Loyd

June 19.....Jean Moore

June 20.....Christine Tyndall

June 22.....Kyle Miller

June 24.....Chris McAdams

June 28.....Lori Swensson

June 29.....Malachi Cornelius-Bates

Liam Greenley



Notes from the April Session Meeting

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship attendance: 4/3, 77 (in-person), 56 (YouTube); 4/10 (PS), 89 (in-person), 38 (YouTube); 4/14 (MT), 39 (in-person), 33 (YouTube); 4/15 (GF), 16 (in-person), 33 (YouTube); 4/17 (ES), 130 (in-person), 101 (YouTube); 4/24, 63 (in-person), 30 (YouTube)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

FINANCE:

- Elder Frank Davoli, Finance Chair presented the March report.
- Pledges are lower than what was listed as anticipated. Elder Davoli pointed out that many fulfill their pledges toward the end of the year, so he was not concerned. He also mentioned that the non-pledge amounts given have continued to be significant.
- The Mission/Trust amounts should be a fixed amount monthly and are lower. Elder Davoli will consult with Treasurer Erik Fogt about discrepancy.
- Gas costs were over budgeted amount.
- Capital Campaign Benevolences should be available for distribution this month and report will be given at next Session meeting.

HOUSE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Still no luck with finding a roofer.

BUILDING REQUESTS

- The Session approved the following 2 building requests electronically on 4/12/22
 - Welsh Language Class, Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm in the Chapel.
 - May Day Workers March, Sunday, May 1, 3-5 pm. (Thomas Merton Center, Casa San Jose, Asian Pacific Labor Alliance, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement).

OMNIBUS MOTIONS:

Following discussion as requested, Ruling Elder, Mary Lang moved that the Omnibus Motions be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

- **The following Motions were passed unanimously, with any discussion noted.**
- **Motion** to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, March 30.
- **Motion** to approve the minutes of the Congregational/Corporate Meeting, April 24.
- **Motion** to approve Joe Ashenden, Mary Lang, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, and the Pastor to work as a subcommittee to conduct the annual review of the membership roll.
- **Motion** to approve Spring Cleaning Day, Saturday, May 21, 9am-Noon.
- **Motion** to approve Pastor's request to work remotely, May 23-June 9 (if needed, except Sundays) due to family medical procedure.
- **Motion** to approve Pastor's continuing education to attend "The Art of Transitional Ministry, Track 1", August 29-September 2, Montreat, NC. (1 week, 1 remaining). Pastor Vincent explained that Transitional Ministry includes the changes in ministry due to the pandemic, dealing and getting back on track after the disruption.
- **Motion** to approve Pastor's vacation from June 15 to June 21 (1 week, 4 remaining).
- **Motion** to approve Rev. Janet Edwards to fill the pulpit on May 22 (More Light Sunday).
- **Motion** to approve Rev. Alan Olson to fill the pulpit on June 19.
- **Motion** to approve the following dates for communion for the remainder of 2022: June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.
- **Motion** to approve the bid from Kinetics AV to replace the sound system for \$6,930 from #535 Repair Contractors, with the understanding that the Pastor will apply to the Presbytery for a \$4,000 grant and that the difference will be covered by a gift from an anonymous donor.
- **Motion** to approve the ad copy to be added to Sixth's website and used to advertise Sixth in queer spaces.
- **Motion** to approve zoom educational event, "Freeing Congregational

Mission”, Hunter Farrell and Bala Khyllle, guest speakers,
Tuesday, May 24, 7 pm.

- **Motion** to approve “Reparations: A Christian Call to Repentance and Repair” discussion group, TBA.

COMMITTEE(S) DISCUSSION:

- Church and Community: Elder Jan Myers-Newbury asked for clarification of the chart used to disperse funds. Elder Larry Chan assured the group that the chart was useful and parts came from the guide, “Freeing Congregational Mission”.
- Worship/Reopening Task Force-Elder Pam Howe had expressed, during the W/RTF meeting on Sunday, that when Coffee Hour is reinstated, it might be good to reconsider how we go about providing “treats” as it had gotten to be quite expansive. As chair of Fellowship, Elder Jan Myers-Newbury agreed to convene a small group to discuss Coffee Hour and make a recommendation. Coffee Hour, in whatever form, will be reintroduced in the Fall.
- On More Light Sunday, May 22, 2022, weather permitting, cake will be served outside. If weather does not cooperate, arrangements will be made to take pieces of cake home.

DEACONS MINUTES:

- The Deacons’ Minutes and the Care List were referenced for review by Rev. Kolb
- Special note was made that Jack and Norma Farquhar have completed their move to Raleigh NC. They will be missed.
- Margaret Miller has a new address, reflected in the latest electronic version of Members and Friends.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

- Clerk of Session, Kathi Robinson-Dassel asked for volunteers for the May 19, 2022 Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting, held in-person at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 1:00 pm. Elder Jan Myers-Newbury volunteered.
- Rev. Kolb presented a variety of options for ordaining/installing the next group of Elders and Deacons, and to include those who were not able to be officially ordained/installed during the pandemic. If the way is clear with those involved, the Ordination/Installation will take place on More Light Sunday, May 22, and both groups will begin their tenure at the May meetings.
- As the new groups will start next month, this will be the final meeting of the class of 2021-22, which includes Kit Ayars, Carol Emerson, Linda May, Jan Myers-Newbury, and Phyllis Rupert. Many thanks for their service and thoughtful consideration of decisions made.

NEXT MEETING: May 25, 2022, 7 PM, in-person, unless otherwise recommended.

What We’re Reading / Thinking About

Lori King: Reading *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States* by Daniel Immerwahr

Linda May: I am reading *Feeding the Soul: Finding our Way to Joy, Love and Freedom* by Tabitha Brown.

Heather Vallone: I am thinking about tattoos. I need a forearm tat in the worst way, and I’m planning on getting a logo-style Apraxia Kids tattoo when we all go to Vegas

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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.



The deadline for the July/August newsletter is June 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!

Food for Thought...

"Jesus at the Gay Bar," Jay Hulme

He's here in the midst of it —
right at the centre of the dance floor,
robes hitched up to His knees
to make it easy to spin.

At some point in the evening
a boy will touch the hem of His robe
and beg to be healed, beg to be
anything other than this;

and He will reach His arms out,
sweat-damp, and weary from dance.
He'll cup this boy's face in His hand
and say,

*my beautiful child
there is nothing in this heart of yours
that ever needs to be healed.*