

July and August 2022

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

I have a friend who told me that he started a small group. He and his wife invited some folks over to their home to share a little wine, study the Bible together, and talk about their lives. He told them, "I would like us to do this on a regular basis. Would you mind coming over again?" One of the folks said, "But you are so busy. I can't imagine you would have time." My friend put himself out there and said, "You know, I'm doing this because I'm lonely. I am so busy; I haven't made time for friends." Do you know what he's talking about?

Life is always about people. My advice for the summer is simple. Try this. Pull out your calendar and look it over. Of all the necessary things, of all the good things that you are doing, when do you find time for friendship? Relationships, if they are going to matter to us, take time. The care we feel in our hearts need to be reflected in our calendars and planners. So, make time for the people you care about this summer. You will never regret that you did.

Peace!

Vincent

What the Pastor Is Reading

Reparations: A Christian Call to Repentance and Repair, Gregory Thompson, Duke Kwon



CDC Community Risk and Worship: masks are required in the building while Allegheny County is in a "medium" or "high" CDC community risk designation; N95 or similar masks are preferred while in "high." Masks are welcome and recommended while in "low."



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

July Worship and Preaching

July 3 – II Kings 5:1-19, "Being Courageous in the Mess Called Life"

July 10 – Luke 10:25-37, "It's All About Me. It's About You. It's About Us"

July 17 – Luke 10:38-42, "I Don't Have Time For That"

July 24 – Luke 11:1-13, "Does Prayer Work? Teach Us"

July 31 – Luke 12:13-21, "Why Does Jesus Talk So Much About Money?"

August Worship and Preaching

August 7 – Ruling Elder Kate Davoli Preaching

August 14 – Ruling Elder Kate Davoli Preaching

August 21 – Jeremiah 1:4-10, "Fire Shut Up in My Bones"

August 28 – Luke 14:1,7-14, "Check Your Ego at the Door"

Stewardship Committee Updates

We are truly **“On This Road Together”** as we hit the halfway point in our fiscal year. We started the year on a road that looked straight and broad with a worship service that was both livestreamed and in person. Then we hit a barrier, narrowing the road, but easily maneuvered back to just livestream. Now we’re back to in-person and livestream – the road appears straight and broad again.

We could not maneuver so easily without your financial support of Sixth. Thank you. Your support allows us to continue the combination livestream and in-person worship. Your support allows us to continue the work of Sixth with virtual meetings, Bible Study and Sunday school. Your support allows us to retain our incredible Pastor and staff. Your support also allows us to provide financial assistance to 30 mission partners who advance our values of justice, inclusion, equity, and charity through locally directed missions.

I also wanted to give a brief update on the Capital Campaign. If you have been in the sanctuary, you will see that we have another window renovation in progress. After this one, we will only have three more along with some more work in the Chapel. The Capital Campaign has completed several other projects which have improved the beauty, safety, and utility of our Church building and grounds.

As you know, 5% of our Capital Campaign contributions are going to mission. Clean Air Council; Pittsburgh United; Wilkinsburg Community Ministry; and SisTers PGH are the designees of the Capital Campaign mission dollars. To date, \$37,652.95 have been donated to our designees.

Thank you to those who have already completed your pledges to the Capital Campaign. We still have \$43,667 in outstanding contributions. Please let us know if you are unaware of what you still owe or if you will not be able to fulfill your pledge. The Capital Campaign officially ends at the end of next year.

One last bit of news, I am excited to report that Elder Peter Kaplan will be succeeding me as Stewardship Chair. Peter is one of the stalwarts of Sixth and a longtime member of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Stewardship Chair, and most importantly thank you for your continued generosity to Sixth Presbyterian Church.

With Gratitude and Blessings,

Elder Beth Hazlett

Children and Youth Updates

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 July 22, and August 26. 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.

Sign up for July: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BA9AD2CA2FF2-fridays1>

Sign up for August: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BA9AD2CA2FF2-fridays2>

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.

July and August Birthdays

July 2 Brenda Flores
July 6 Virginia McQuown
 Heather Vallone
July 7 Malena Howe
July 9 Melynda Nestor
 Kurt Thompson
July 12.....Joseph Ashenden
July 14.....Carole Anderson

July 15.....Cyndi Dickson
July 18.....Nathan Cooper
July 20.....Pamela Bower
July 24.....Olivia McCann
July 29.....Thoren Vaux
July 31.....Cheryl Kubelick



August 1 Checkers Delabar
 Julie Mull
 Gregson Vaux
August 3 John Sennott
August 5 Norma Farquhar
August 7 Verna Robinson
August 8 Chris McDonald
August 10.....Nora Johnson
August 11.....Anna Watt-Morse
August 12.....Denise DeJong
 Beverly Gaddy
August 14.....Paul Watt- Morse

August 15.....Kathi Robinson-Dassell
August 17.....Dee Hunter
 Josh Lowe
August 19.....Lesa Rosamond
August 21.....Olivia Van Dyke
August 23.....Malcolm Juring
August 24.....Dante McDonald
August 25.....Dex Guyette
August 29.....Myra Kazanjian
 Chris Sennott
August 30.....Robin Bower

Notes from the May Session Meeting

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship Attendance: May 1, 61 (in-person), 48 (YouTube); May 8, 65 (in-person), 48 (YouTube); May 15, 78 (in-person), 65 (YouTube); May 22, 78 (in-person), 43 (YouTube)

OMNIBUS MOTION:

Rev. Kolb, as Moderator, shared with oncoming members, that Session would be using the Omnibus Motion for a number of Motions that are routine (minutes of prior meeting) or have come from committees. He assured the group that anyone would be able to pull a Motion for discussion. There were no questions or requests to discuss any of the Motions. Elder Tom Juring moved that the Omnibus Motion be approved and the Motion passed unanimously.

Motions Passed:

1. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting April 27.
2. **Motion** to approve the letter of transfer for Diane Patton and Gardner Patton, from the Presbyterian Church of Bound Brook, New Jersey.
3. **Motion** to approve the following Officers of the Corporation for 2022-2023: Frank Davoli, President; Barb Parees, Secretary.
4. **Motion** to approve the Session Committee assignments.
 - Christian Education:** Joe Ashenden (chair)
 - Church & Community:** Larry Chan (chair)
 - Earth Care:** Cosy Cornelius-Bates, Lynn Kawaratani (co-chairs)
 - Fellowship:** Lori King (chair)
 - Finance:** Frank Davoli (chair), Peter Watt-Morse
 - Gun Safety:** Lori Swensson (chair)
 - House:** Greg Winner (chair), Tom Juring
 - More Light:** Marcus Robinson (chair)
 - Nominating:** TBD
 - Personnel:** Barb Parees (chair)
 - Justice Team:** Peter Gilmore (chair)
 - Stewardship:** Peter Kaplan (chair), Beth Hazlett
 - Worship:** Pam Howe (chair), Mary Lang
5. **Motion** to approve "Fridays on the Lawn," June 17, July 22, August 19.
6. **Motion** to approve ongoing building use by an AA group, Saturday nights from 5-6 pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- **FINANCE:**
 - Elder Frank Davoli, Finance Chair presented the April report.
 - Pledges continue to be lower than what was listed as anticipated. Elder Davoli pointed out that many fulfill their pledges toward the end of the year, or in lump sums throughout the year, so he was not concerned. However, he may need to send gentle reminders if cash flow becomes an issue. He also shared with the new class of Elders, the difference between Loose Plate and Non-pledge income.
 - The Mission/Trust amounts should be a fixed amount monthly and are lower. Elder Davoli explained that this is somewhat dependent upon the stock market. There is also some paperwork that needs to be updated, which will be completed early in June.
 - Gas costs were over budgeted amount, but upon further investigation, Elder Davoli reported that a more recent bill was much lower and the bills should remain lower until colder weather returns.
 - Ruling Elders Frank Davoli and Peter Watt-Morse will work with

Treasurer Erik Fogt to begin internal Audit on June 8, 2022.
Presbytery provides a packet with instructions.

• **HOUSE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS:**

- Elder Tom Juring reported that there is still no luck with finding a roofer who will provide a written summary of work needed and/or an estimate for said work. He will be looking for other Commercial Roofers
- Elder Juring will be getting bids for the window wells in the basement which need to be replaced by winter.
- Elder Greg Winner reported that the work day went well on Saturday, May 22. Church grounds are looking neater.
- Elder Winner reported that Leslie Kaplan is looking for paint for the Chapel and considering having the Narthex painted, as well as the area in the Sanctuary where there was a leak. Painting of the Chapel is included in Capital Campaign budget.

COMMITTEE(S) DISCUSSION:

- Chair of the Gun Safety Committee, Lori Swensson, joined the Session Meeting to seek approval for a project/display available through a faith-based movement called **Heeding God's Call**. They would provide 100 t-shirts, mounted for outdoor display, with the names of people who lost their lives in Allegheny Co. last year to gun violence. We would likely display in October. Reaction, overall, was positive, but there were questions about costs, security, insurance, and logistics that need to be explored. A formal vote will be taken next month. Thanks to Lori for her work on behalf of Gun Safety.

DEACONS MINUTES:

- The Deacons' Minutes and the Care List were referenced for review by Rev. Kolb, who offered updates to the List.

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY:

- The report from Jan Myer-Newbury was referenced for review by Rev. Kolb. There were no questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Joe Ashenden, Mary Lang, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, and Rev. Kolb have begun the process of the Roll Review. They plan to have the list of those who they propose be moved to the "other participants" category (PCUSA), and a copy of the proposed letter to those members. Where deemed appropriate, a personal conversation will take place with the member or parent of an adult child who has not been active for some time.
- The Kinetics AV system that was approved at the April Session meeting is already being installed. Pastor Vincent is happy to report that we have received the \$4000 grant from Presbytery.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Justice Team *draft* overture concerning Bethel AME Church reparations campaign was included in the Session packet. The hope is to encourage Pittsburgh Presbytery to support the overture. A suggestion was made to elicit support from other churches as well, to strengthen the endorsement of the Bethel AME Church reparations campaign.
- Rev. Brian Wallace, of Pittsburgh Presbytery, has posted a You Tube piece about Livestreaming which Rev. Kolb would like to discuss further. Rev. Kolb feels it is a thoughtful discussion and may help us consider whether or not livestreaming will ultimately fit with the mission of our church.

NEXT MEETING:

- The next meeting is scheduled on June 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm. In-person or electronically will be determined closer to the date.
- Rev. Kolb reminded the Committee Chairs, some of whom are new or returning chairs, to plan their meetings in a timely fashion.

Notes from the June Session Meeting

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship Attendance: 5/29 (streaming only), 58; 6/5 (picnic, in-person only), 80; 6/12, 43 (in-person), 32 (YouTube); 6/19, 40 (in-person), 26 (YouTube)

OMNIBUS MOTION:

- Requests were made to pull 2 Motions for further discussion later in the meeting.
- **Motion** to approve the letter to potential inactive members.
- **Motion** to approve the *Heeding God's Call Gun Violence Display*, October 16-30, on the church front lawn.
- Ruling Elder Beth Hazlett moved that the remainder of the **Omnibus Motion** be approved and the **Motion** passed unanimously.
- **Motion** to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, May 25.
- **Motion** to change the August *Friday on the Lawn* date from August 19 to August 26.
- **Motion** to approve the ordination and installation of Brenda Jordan and Linda Davoli to the office of Deacon.
- **Motion** to approve the Pastor's vacation from August 1-14, and for the Pastor to work remotely from August 15-20.
- **Motion** to approve Ruling Elder Kate Davoli to fill the pulpit, August 7, August 14, and September 4.
- **Motion** to approve the overture to Pittsburgh Presbytery, endorsing Bethel AME's efforts to seek reparations.
- **Motion** to approve PCUSA Mission Co-Worker Chenoa Stock to speak at an educational event at a date TBD in October or November.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- FINANCE: Ruling Elder Frank Davoli, Finance Chair presented highlights of the May Report.
 - Pledge income is more on track.
 - Continue to average around \$2500/month in non-pledge giving.
 - YTD balance does not, as yet, include trust funds coming in.
 - Funds for Church and Community donations do not get distributed right away-it is a planned process.
 - The speaker system was partially paid for by a donation from a member anonymously, and partially from an ACT grant through the Presbytery.
 - Elder Davoli will consult with Treasurer Erik Fogt in response to question concerning the designated funds for the Women's Retreat.
- FINANCIAL REVIEW: Elder Davoli reported that he and Treasurer Fogt have met twice to conduct a financial review and are about half-way through materials. Ruling Elder Peter Watt-Morse will join them for the continuation of the review. This will include identifying inconsistencies and determining whether or not an external review would be warranted.
- HOUSE: There has been an increased amount of concerning activity on the church grounds, primarily by teenagers, as witnessed by various members. A number of suggestions were made, including signage, security cameras, discussion with Zone 4 police, and use as an opportunity for ministry. To that end, a committee to seek positive outcomes was established.
 - Committee will consist of Peter and Leslie Kaplan, Pam Howe, Beth Hazlett, Greg Winner, Jenny Newman, and Pastor Vincent Kolb.
 - Primary thoughts; to include signage as appropriate, establish community partnerships, and work toward relationship building.

WORSHIP AND LIVESTREAM: Pastor Vincent had asked Session Members to view Rev. Brian Wallace's YouTube talk titled *Would Jesus Livestream?: Church, Tech, and the Post-COVID Era*. Members brainstormed in response to stated questions. Response will be reviewed and revised at the August meeting. Invitation to livestream YouTube link

COMMITTEE MINUTES: Rev. Kolb referenced the Committee Minutes within the Session Packet.

DEACONS MINUTES: Rev. Kolb also referenced the Deacons Minutes/Care List, and shared new information for the Care List

OLD BUSINESS:

- Elder Watt-Morse asked for a revision of the presented letter to potential inactive members. Following short discussion, Elder Watt-Morse **moved** to accept the letter to potential inactive members as revised. **Motion** passed unanimously.
- Ruling Elder Mary Lang had some questions and concerns about the display, *Heeding God's Call Gun Violence Display*. Following a discussion and agreement that there are still logistics to work out, Ruling Elder Greg Winner **moved** that *Heeding God's Call Gun Violence Display* be approved. The **Motion** passed **unanimously**.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Rev. Kolb commented that the Stewardship Committee will need to meet soon to establish theme and goal. Elder Davoli will attend the meeting as well. Meeting scheduled for July 19. An Executive Committee meeting between July 15-31 will be scheduled to talk about the long-term strategy for using the "draw down" on the church's endowment.

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for August 24, 7:00 pm

What We're Reading / Watching / Doing

Cosette Cornelius-Bates: *Steven Universe!* for watching. And *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn for my reading.

Sara DeLucia: I finished restarted and finished my Christmas gift: *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. (Highly recommend it!)

Jesse is enjoying the Magic Tree House books by Mary Pope Osborne and reading all the Dav Pilkey Dog Man books.

Megan Fogt: *Psalm for the Wild Built* by Becky Chambers! It's a solar punk novella. I didn't even know this genre existed and it's amazing!

Lori King: I am re-reading *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad and *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez.

Susan Rothenberg: The Rothenbergs are moving, so the smell of cardboard hangs heavy in the air. David is in Peru, and Rachel is teaching this summer. I listened to *Jesus and John Wayne* on a long drive for work.

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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 September newsletter is August 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!

“Insha’ Allah,” Danusha Laméris

I don’t know when it slipped into
my speech
that soft word meaning, “if God
wills it.”

Insha’ Allah I will see you next
summer.

The baby will come in spring,
insha’ Allah.

Insha’ Allah this year we will have
enough rain.

So many plans I’ve laid have
unraveled
easily as braids beneath my mother’s
quick fingers.

Every language must have a word
for this. A word
our grandmothers uttered under
their breath

Food for Thought...

as they pinned the whites, soaked in
lemon,
hung them to dry in the sun, or
peeled potatoes,
dropping the discarded skins into a
bowl.

*Our sons will return next month,
insha’ Allah.
Insha’ Allah this war will end, soon.
Insha’ Allah
the rice will be enough to last through
winter.*

How lightly we learn to hold hope,
as if it were an animal that could
turn around
and bite your hand. And still we
carry it
the way a mother would, carefully,
from one day to the next.