

October 2022

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

As the seasons change, but the old hard realities of life in America abound, I return to an old favorite, and try to remember to get outside:

The Peace of Wild Things, Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Peace.

Vincent

Sunday school is back in action!



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

October Worship and Preaching

October 2 – Lamentations 1:1-6; 3:19-26, "O For a World" (World Communion Sunday)

October 9 – Luke 17:11-19, "Gratitude: An Improvisation"

October 16 – Luke 18:1-8, "Prayer That Makes a Difference"

October 23 – Luke 18:9-14, "Wow. Thanks. Help."

October 30 – Luke 19:1-10, "Is It Today Yet?"

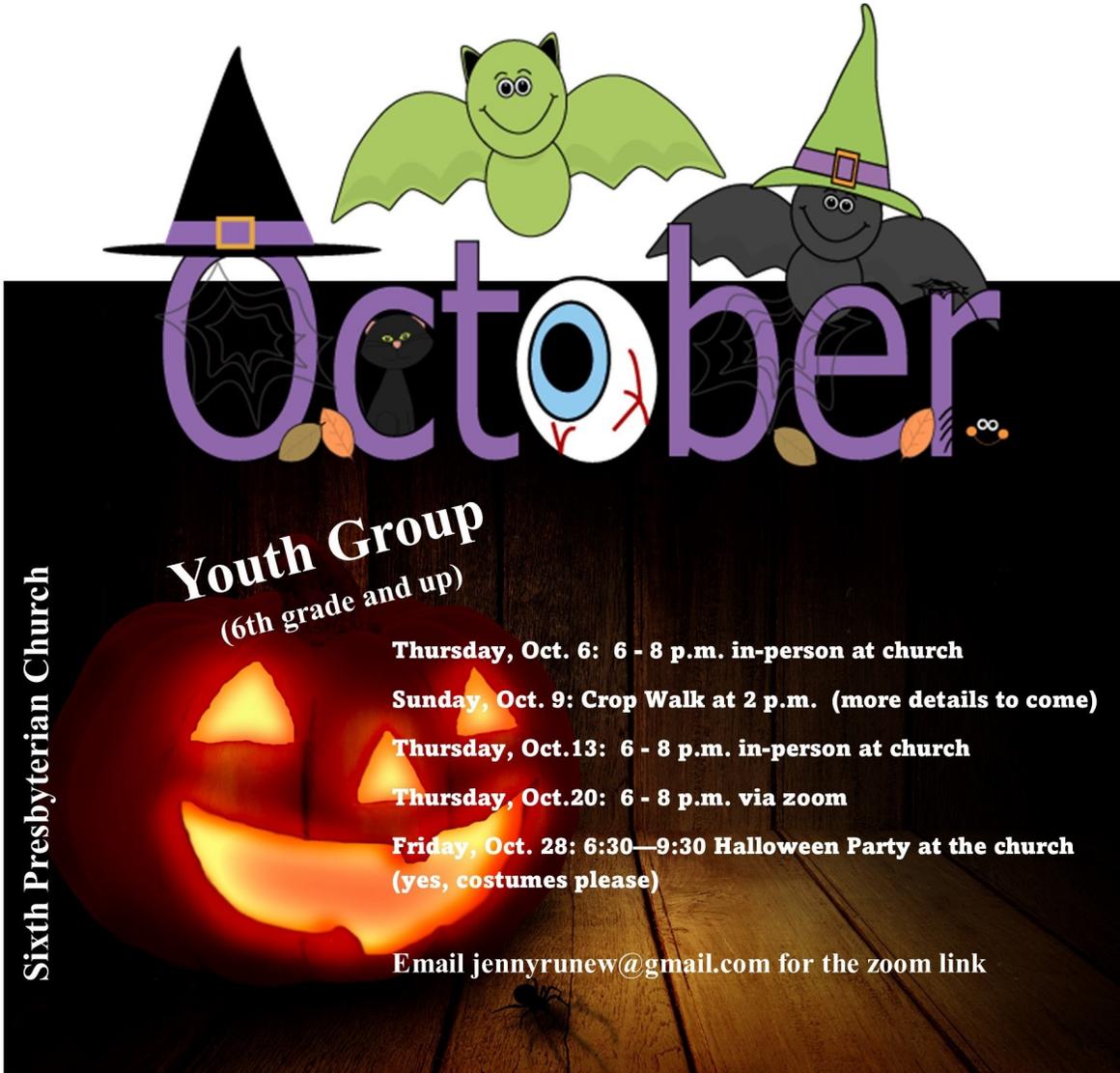


What the Pastor Is Reading

Crossroads, Jonathan Franzen

Doomed Romance: Broken Hearts, Lost Souls, and Sexual Tumult in Nineteenth Century America, Christine Heyrman

Children and Youth Updates



Sixth Presbyterian Church

Youth Group
(6th grade and up)

Thursday, Oct. 6: 6 - 8 p.m. in-person at church

Sunday, Oct. 9: Crop Walk at 2 p.m. (more details to come)

Thursday, Oct.13: 6 - 8 p.m. in-person at church

Thursday, Oct.20: 6 - 8 p.m. via zoom

Friday, Oct. 28: 6:30—9:30 Halloween Party at the church
(yes, costumes please)

Email jennyrunew@gmail.com for the zoom link

October Birthdays

October 1 Matt Cummings

Kyle Esbin

October 2 Kevin McCann

October 3 Claire Bertolet

Kirk Howe

Harry Kirk

October 7 Erik Fogt

October 10.....Patty Halverson

Metta Loyd

October 16.....Lori King

October 18.....Lennon Franz

October 20.....Jenny Newman

October 23.....Stuart Gaul

October 29.....Stuart Gaul, Jr.

October 31.....Peter Koehler

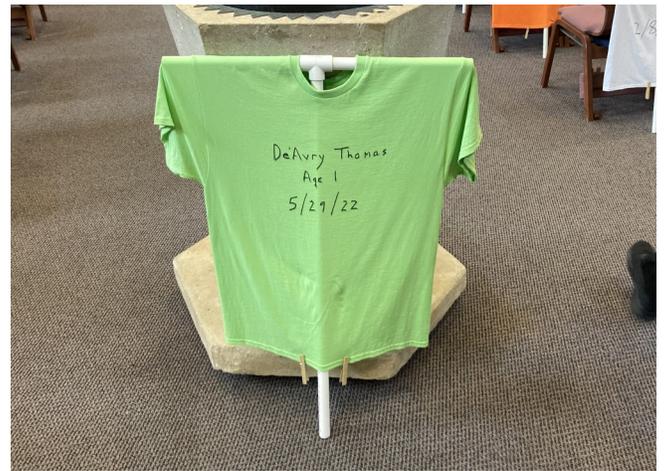


Memorial to the Lost: Volunteers Needed

From October 25-November 9, the Gun Safety Committee at Sixth will be hosting a memorial display on the church grounds. The display is of about 80 t-shirts, each having the name, date, and age when the person was killed by gun violence in Allegheny County in the past year. Our goals are to bring awareness to the magnitude of gun violence in our own community and to seek gun safety legislation.

The Gun Safety Committee will need church members to help us! Committee members will be in the Parlor following worship on September 11th to answer questions and will have volunteer sign-up sheets as well as letters about seeking gun safety legislation.

Please volunteer to help with the memorial display or stop by to sign the letters!



Single Use Plastic (SUP) Pickup

Our next Single-Use Plastic (SUP) pickup at church is on October 16th.

Kathi Robinson-Dassel has generously volunteered to drive and will be there to collect your SUP. If you would like your plastics to be included, please bring them on the 16th or arrange with Kathi by email at bobkat81@comcast.net. Please message Kathi ahead of time so that she knows how much plastic you have for her.

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.
- Please use the following guide to prepare your plastics for our lovely volunteer:
 1. Wash all your SUP so that it's oil- and food-free.
 2. Deliver your clean SUP in brown paper bags or cardboard boxes.
 3. Label your bags and boxes with your name and the number of plastic that is in the container
 4. Leave your bags and boxes in the hallway near the parking lot door

Church & Community Committee Updates

At its September meeting, the Church & Community Committee (C&C) voted to provide financial support to 16 groups totaling over \$19,500 from its Advocacy, Direct Assistance, and Rainy-Day pools. The vote culminated months of work by C&C members who prepared reports on each organization considered for funding, approved the criteria used to score the organizations, and met in September to approve the allocations to these worthy groups.

Special thanks go to Tom Twiss, who designed our scoring system and performed the necessary calculations to make our allocations.

Allocations

C&C makes its allocations from its annual budget for Locally Directed Missions, which is \$28,423 for 2022. C&C divides this amount into the following pools: \$500 to the Youth Group to support organizations it chooses; 30% by the full C&C to organizations engaged in direct assistance to alleviate suffering and address human needs; 30% allocated by the full C&C Committee to organizations engaged in advocacy for social and economic change; 30% divided equally between the Justice, Earth Care, Gun Safety, and More Light committees to support advocacy efforts; and 10% to the Rainy-Day Fund, which we spend to address domestic and international health, natural, and humanitarian disasters.

Here is a list of the organizations that C&C voted to support in September:

Direct Assistance Pool:	
Table Ministry of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community	\$779
Wilkinsburg Community Ministry	\$1,169
Deacons' Hunger and Homelessness Initiatives	\$1,364
Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministry	\$1,364
Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbytery	\$1,364
MHY Family Services	\$1,169
Advocacy Pool:	
Just Harvest	\$1,204
Pittsburghers for Public Transit	\$1,204
Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Center	\$2,007
Pittsburgh United	\$2,007
Hybrid Direct Assistance & Advocacy Groups Drawing from both	
Church World Service	\$892
Casa San Jose	\$1,116
El Porvenir Coffee Cooperative, Nicaragua	\$1,116
Rainy-Day Fund:	
412 Food Rescue	\$931
Church World Service - Ukraine/Moldova Emergency Assistance	\$931
United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund	\$931

The Earth Care, Gun Safety, Justice, and More Light Committees, and the Youth Group, will allocate the Locally Directed Mission funds they receive before year-end.

Newly Funded Organizations:

Over the years, C&C has consistently supported a number of organizations. This year, we funded two organizations for the first time:

- **Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministry**, a direct assistance organization whose mission is to bring fresh, healthy food into the Greater Hazelwood community to meet the need for fresh foods, healthy options, and social support in an urban food desert.
- **Pittsburghers for Public Transit**, an advocacy organization of transit riders, workers, and residents who defend and expand equitable and affordable public transit.

As we look to next year, we are exploring ways to build awareness of our work within the congregation. We are also looking forward to a return to in-person committee meetings to increase the participation of congregation members.



“Love Will Win”

Stewardship Committee Update

At Sixth Church, we are dedicated to sharing and living God’s love on earth. Despite the brokenness we see all around us, we believe in the ultimate triumph of that love.

For that reason, we have chosen “Love Will Win” as the theme for this year’s Stewardship Campaign. In the coming weeks, you will receive the Stewardship packet, which ask you to support and sustain the loving ministry of Sixth Church with your pledge for 2023.

The brochure will include diverse, inspiring stories from three church families. You will also hear stories from three other church members from the lectern during Sunday church services in October and November.

We hope that you will be inspired by these stories of love, and by your own love of Sixth, to generously pledge your support for the coming year.

The culmination of our Stewardship conversation will be Dedication Sunday, which this year will take place on Sunday, November 13th. That day, we will ask you to bring your completed pledge card to Church. Of course, you can also mail your completed pledge card back to Church by November 13th, or email Amy Whipple (officesixthchurch@gmail.com) with your annual pledge amount.

With your financial support, we can continue Sixth Church’s mission of love. After you’ve received and read the Stewardship packet, please prayerfully consider the role you can play in continuing the work and life of Sixth Church that we all cherish so deeply.

Notes from the September Session Meeting

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship attendance: 8/28, 48 (in-person), 37 (You Tube); 9/4, (Labor Day), 45 (in-person), 58 (You Tube); 9/11, 78 (in-person), 48 (You Tube); 9/18, 66 (in-person), 36 (You Tube); 9/25, 76 (in-person), 32 (You Tube)
- Two one-time building uses were approved by Ruling Elder Greg Winner and Ruling Elder Tom Juring as Chairs of the House Committee
 - Bike/Pgh Board Meeting, Saturday, November 5, 9 am-noon
 - Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh Concert, Sunday, December 4, 3 pm
- A Committee Report Form/Template was presented as a guide for committee minutes to be reported.

OMNIBUS MOTION:

- One motion was pulled for further review. Ruling Elder Mary Lang 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, August 24.
 - **Motion** to approve the building request of Awaken Pittsburgh.
 - **Motion** to approve Dental and Vision Benefits through the PCUSA, to Douglas-Jayd Burn for an annual cost of approximately \$476 for the Member only at 100%.
 - **Motion** to approve the 2023 Employer Agreement.
 - One motion was pulled for further additions and corrections. Once amended, Ruling Elder Pam Howe moved that the motion be approved and passed unanimously.
 - **Motion** to approve that the following people, who did not respond to our letter asking if they wanted to continue to participate in the life of our congregation, be removed from the church roll: [redacted for newsletter]

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- **FINANCE:** Ruling Elder Frank Davoli, Finance Chair, presented highlights of the Financial and Treasurer's Report.
 - Revision will be made on August Balance Sheet to balance the report of the Building Endowment Fund and the Building Trust Fund
 - Monthly pledges are below monthly budget
 - Non-pledge giving continues to be substantial
 - 1X/year payment to Presbytery/Synod/GA of \$16,500 was made

PRESBYTERY MEETING:

- Pastor Vincent and Peter Gilmore attended, and the minutes were referenced. It was noted that the overture seeking reparations for the Bethel AME Church was well received and will hopefully be the beginning of a larger conversation in the Presbytery, not only for Bethel AME, but for other historically black congregations within our own Presbytery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Referenced for review.
- **Worship Committee**-Elder Pam Howe asked to discuss the new, requested payment schedule for the livestream set-up and for during the Sunday service. The process has been streamlined considerably, so the new rate will be lower. Currently one person is accepting payment for this service at a higher rate than being proposed. **Elder Howe moved** that the new fee schedule of \$25/set up and \$25/Sunday service be in effect, beginning October 1, 2022, and that current paid operator receive the 2022 budgeted amount until January 1, 2023.

DEACON MEETING/CARE LIST:

- Minutes referenced and Care List revised

OLD BUSINESS:

- **COFFEE HOUR:** Committee schedule agreed upon with minor changes to finish out this year.
 - October-Worship
 - November-More Light
 - December-House and Finance

NEW BUSINESS:

- Prior to the meeting, Rev. Kolb asked the group to review an article about young families in the church as well as alternative needs that some churches are trying to address. Further discussion will take place as appropriate.

MEETING WRAP-UP/ONE WORD ASSESSMENT/ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER:

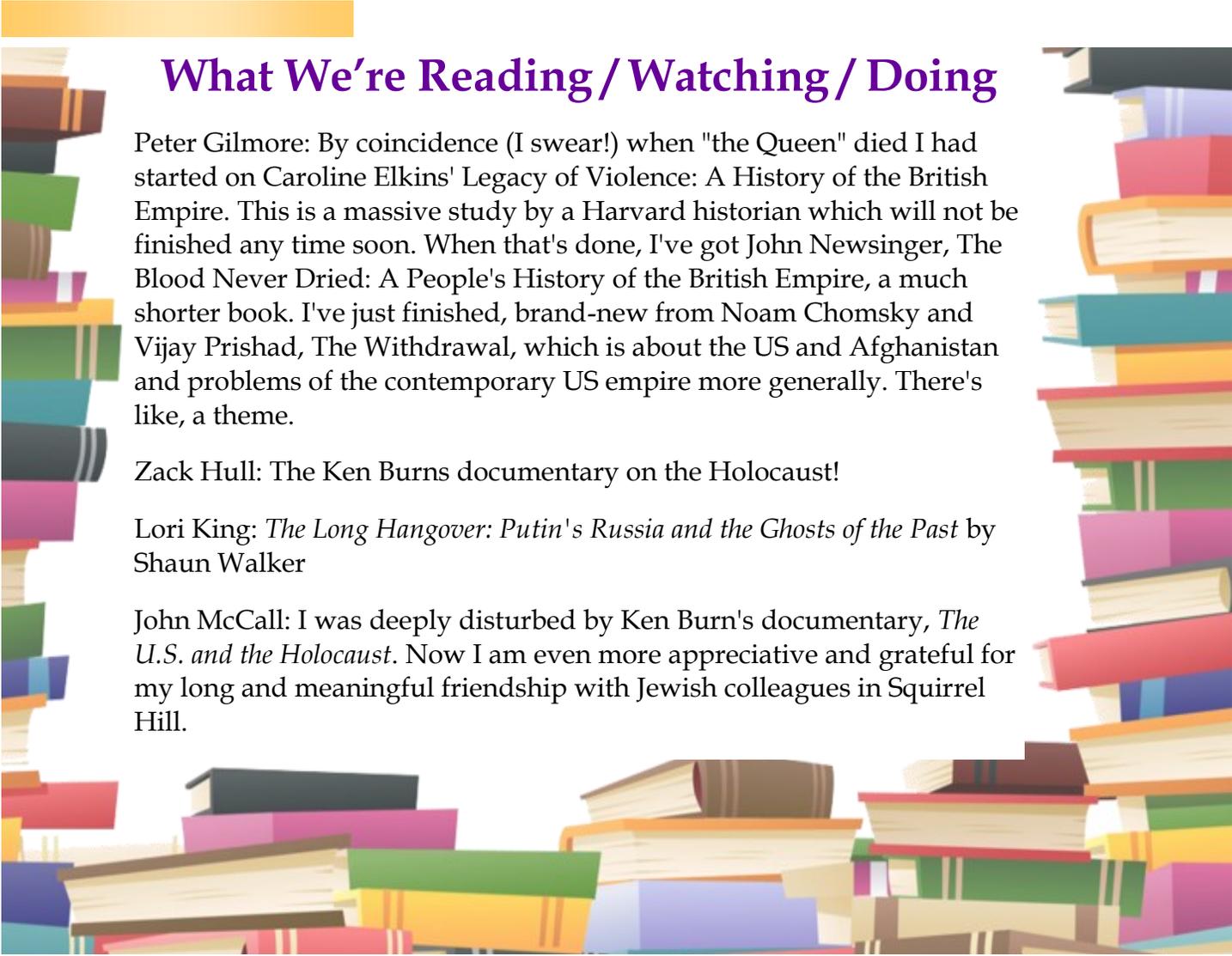
The next meeting will be October 26 at 7 pm. At that meeting a decision will be made about whether to have a November meeting as it would be just before Thanksgiving. The December meeting will focus on the budget.

A one-word assessment was given by members-all were positive and affirming.

Rev. Kolb closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



What We're Reading / Watching / Doing

Peter Gilmore: By coincidence (I swear!) when "the Queen" died I had started on Caroline Elkins' *Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire*. This is a massive study by a Harvard historian which will not be finished any time soon. When that's done, I've got John Newsinger, *The Blood Never Dried: A People's History of the British Empire*, a much shorter book. I've just finished, brand-new from Noam Chomsky and Vijay Prishad, *The Withdrawal*, which is about the US and Afghanistan and problems of the contemporary US empire more generally. There's like, a theme.

Zack Hull: The Ken Burns documentary on the Holocaust!

Lori King: *The Long Hangover: Putin's Russia and the Ghosts of the Past* by Shaun Walker

John McCall: I was deeply disturbed by Ken Burn's documentary, *The U.S. and the Holocaust*. Now I am even more appreciative and grateful for my long and meaningful friendship with Jewish colleagues in Squirrel Hill.

“Forging a Better Future, For All”

On Wednesday, October 26, at 5 pm, Dr. Joylette Portlock, Executive Director of Sustainability Pittsburgh, will give a zoom talk, “Forging a Better Future, For All,” sponsored by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee and the Commission on Race and Reconciliation of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Under her leadership, Sustainable Pittsburgh regularly works with hundreds of partners in the region –including local governments, nonprofits, and the business community –to ensure that our economy is built to last and our people and our planet thrive. Dr. Portlock has been Associate Director of Science and Research at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and, among many other current positions, is an advisory board member of the Black Environmental Collective. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and anthropology from MIT and a PH.D. in genetics from Stanford.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86411794777?pwd=WnVaTm02MnJiV3hUaEloQk1Rekp5Zz09>

If required: Meeting ID: 864 1179 4777 Passcode: 351255

For more information, contact Thomas Slater, patobyblack@yahoo.com, or after September 21, Marianne Novy, mnovy@pitt.edu

GREAT ISSUES: DEMOCRACY THREATENED: WILL YOUR VOTE COUNT?

The Church of the Redeemer invites you to attend a forum featuring two experts on the critical issues of voter eligibility and election regulation. With the pending election in November, this will be a very timely and meaningful discussion. There is no charge to attend, and the presentation will be followed with a reception. Please join us!

Jessie Allen is a professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh. Her interest in voting rights dates from her litigation practice at national public interest organizations prior to joining the legal academy. As a senior attorney for the Advancement Project, she litigated voting rights cases in swing states during the 2008 presidential election. Before that, as a staff attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice, she focused on challenging state laws that bar voting because of criminal conviction.

Jonathan Cervas is a post-doctoral fellow at Carnegie Mellon's Institute of Politics and Strategy. His research focuses on inequalities in American political institutions and how they result in disparity among voters. He has assisted three federal courts in cases relating to redistricting and racial minority voting rights. He has also served as a redistricting consultant to the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission in 2021, and most recently as a Special Master, redrawing New York State's Senate and Congressional districts.



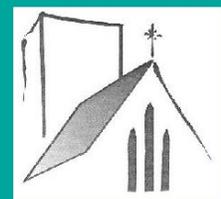
**GREAT ISSUES
FORUM AT
REDEEMER**

**Democracy
Threatened: Will
Your Vote Count?
October 12th 2022
7-8:30pm**

**We seek to promote
understanding and
encourage action
around justice
issues.**

**CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER,
SQUIRREL HILL**

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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 November newsletter is October 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...

"Beatitudes for a Queerer Church," Jay Hulme

Blessed are the outcasts;
the ostracised, the outsiders.

Blessed are the scared;
the scarred, the silent.

Blessed are the broken;
for they are not broken.

Blessed are the hated;
for they are not worthy of hate.

Blessed are those who try;
those who transform, who transition.

Blessed are the closeted;
God sees you shine anyway.

Blessed are the queers;
who love creation enough to live the
truth of it,
despite a world that tells them they
cannot.

And blessed are those
who believe themselves unworthy of
blessing;
what inconceivable wonders you
hold.