

January 2023

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

When you think about it, it is amazing how much movement there is in the Bible. Abraham and Sarah left their home in Ur of the Chaldeans to spend the rest of life following the dream God gave them. Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, were constantly moving around. Later, the Hebrew people were on the move from slavery into the Promised Land. It was when they settled in the land that their problems started, and then they were on the move to exile where their renewal began again. David was at his best when he was on the move being chased by Saul. Again, his greatest sins came when he settled down and stopped moving. Jesus was always on the move, and the most wonderful things happened to the people he met along the way. The church began at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit blew the disciples out of the upper room and into the waiting world. The book of Acts and the epistles of the New Testament depict a church that is in constant change. It is hard to find anyone in the Bible who is in a serious drama with God and is undergoing a change for the better who is not on the move.

But not all moves are geographical. Sometimes it is our relationships that are in motion and constantly changing. Our jobs in our rapacious market economy are constantly changing. Inevitably, it is just the process of aging that is changing us. If living through the pandemic taught us anything, it is that to live is to change and adapt.

Often the changes we encounter are unwanted. But every change always presents us with a choice. Will we drop what we can no longer hold onto and follow Jesus to a new place? Will we learn more about what it means to trust and follow a Savior? And will we allow the inevitable changes of life to change us into persons better equipped to make a difference? Or will we waste our losses in life by settling into cynicism and despair? Those are always our choices, every new year, and they are hard.

Like the Biblical figures before him, Jesus will not settle down in 2023. Like the first disciples, we do not have to have faith in how the changes of our lives are going to work out, where we are going, or in our abilities to cope with the losses and obstacles along the way. We do not even have to have faith in ourselves. All we are asked to have faith in 2023 is the One who calls us and loves us too much to leave us alone.

Happy New Year!

Vincent



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

January Worship and Preaching

January 1 – Matthew 2:13-23, Rev. Susan Rothenberg preaching

January 8 – Matthew 3:13-17, “You Are My Child”

January 15 – I Corinthians 1:1-9, “Those Called to Be Saints”

January 22 – Matthew 4:18-22, “Called to Life”

January 29 – Matthew 5:1-12, “Blessed”

What the Pastor Is Reading

*A Year with Thomas Merton:
Daily Meditations from His
Journals*

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 while in “low.”

Meals for Chris and Dante

On behalf of the Deacons, I'd like to thank all of you who generously showed your sympathy and care for Chris and Dante MacDonald after Heather Vallone's recent passing. Several people have asked if they could provide meals to Chris and Dante. Chris has been so grateful for your previous meals, which have made their life a little easier and reminded them how much we care about them. Chris said they'd be glad for more of your delicious offerings.

The Deacons would like to continue to provide a weekly meal for them. So as not to overwhelm their freezer and coordinate our efforts, the Deacons are creating a list of those willing to participate. Please contact Linda Davoli at davoli.editorial@gmail.com (412-243-0656) to claim your week. Chris has said Mondays and Tuesdays are preferred since it's easier for him to be home then.

Love Will Win Stewardship Update

We did it! Thank you to everyone who made their Stewardship pledge for 2023 and helped us reach 100% of our Campaign Goal of \$358,037. We couldn't do the work we do as a church without you and your generosity. — The Stewardship Committee (Beth Hazlett, Patty Halverson, Barb Pares, and the Reverend Dr. Vincent Kolb)

Children and Youth Updates

January Youth Group

Thursday, Jan 6: 6–8 p.m. Virtual game night via Zoom. Link will be emailed.

(6th grade and up)

Thursday, Jan. 12: Youth volunteering/serving meals at Hot Metal Bridge's The Table/ Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. for transportation with Jenny or meet at Hot Metal church at 5 p.m. We will be done serving around 7 p.m. (per Hot Metal requirements students must be vaccinated to serve.) You must RSVP to Jenny if you will be attending.

Thursday, Jan. 19: 6 - 8 p.m. In-person at the church.

Thursday, Jan 26: 6–8 p.m. Virtual game night via Zoom. Link will be emailed.



Sixth Presbyterian Church

For more info email Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday school, Extended Session, and nursery care for infants and toddlers will resume on Sunday, January 8! Sunday school begins at 10 am.

Help Wanted

One of the questions that I've been hearing a lot over the last six months as we regroup and reemerge from the pandemic is "When are the kids coming back?" Well, guess what—they are back! They are just a little older and a little taller. We are gloriously lucky to have an abundance of young people ages 6th grade and up participating in Youth Group/Fellowship. In the new year, I am seeking some loving volunteers to work with me during our youth fellowship times. If you feel you might have a heart for young people, like pizza, coffee, games, and interesting conversation please give me a call and we can talk about it! We typically meet in person or virtually once a week (currently on Thursday evenings) with other occasional activities and service projects planned monthly as well. Volunteers will need to provide or obtain clearances in accordance with our church's child safety policy. Email me at Jennyrunew@gmail.com or give me a call!



Coffee for Sale

Friends! We have ground regular and decaf coffee from our mission partners at El Porvenir available for sale in the church office. Prices are \$14 per bag for regular and \$15 for decaf. Stop in the office during office hours or after church on Sundays to get some! You can also purchase coffee anytime online at www.BuildingNewHope.org



Notes from the Session Meeting will return!

January Birthdays

- January 2 Scott Bell
- January 3 Rachel Rothenberg
- January 11.....Meghan Jones
Debbie Phillips
- January 13.....David Myers-Newbury
- January 18.....Jennifer Joy
- January 26.....Vicki Guy



Sixth Presbyterian Church
1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-421-2752
office@sixthchurch.org
www.sixthchurch.org

Dated Material – Do Not Hold
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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 February newsletter is January 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...

"Things to Do in the Belly of the Whale," Dan Albergotti

Measure the walls. Count the ribs. Notch the long days. Look up for blue sky through the spout. Make small fires with the broken hulls of fishing boats. Practice smoke signals. Call old friends, and listen for echoes of distant voices. Organize your calendar. Dream of the beach. Look each way for the dim glow of light. Work on your reports. Review each of your life's ten million choices. Endure moments of self-loathing. Find the evidence of those before you. Destroy it. Try to be very quiet, and listen for the sound of gears and moving water. Listen for the sound of your heart. Be thankful that you are here, swallowed with all hope, where you can rest and wait. Be nostalgic. Think of all the things you did and could have done. Remember treading water in the center of the still night sea, your toes pointing again and again down, down into the black depths.