

March 2023

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

There is an innocent season in our life, a garden of Eden, if you will, when the world is new and wonderful and there is so much to learn and explore and enjoy.

There are also seasons of satisfaction, when hard work is accomplished, success is achieved, difficult problems are resolved, and it is like we have arrived in the Promised Land.

But then, there are also other seasons when we have lost our way, when tragedy shatters our illusions of control, when our lives are defined more by what is missing. These are seasons of the wilderness that leave us feeling vulnerable, exposed, inadequate to the tasks that are before us.

The church has practiced this season of wilderness wandering and called it Lent for over 1500 years. It is a season when we are invited to consider sobering things: our mortality, our propensity to mess up even the things we care about, to mourn our many, many losses and our many, many failures.

I invite you into this season. I challenge you to be in worship, beginning this Sunday, all the way through Easter, as a way of returning to the Source of our lives. I invite you to stick around with us after worship to "Bless the Lent We Actually Have." Fast. Pray. Engage in daily good works. Seek reconciliation and repair of that which is broken. Make your Lenten journey a practice that readies you for the temptations and trials that are sure to come.

Come, let us practice Lent together.

Vincent



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

March Worship and Preaching

March 5 — John 3:1-10, "The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind"

March 12 — John 4:1-26, "Hearts Have Histories"

March 19 — John 9:1-12, "Someone to Blame"

March 26 — John 11:17-44, "Without a Net"

What the Pastor Is Reading

Stay True, Hua Hsu

A Burning in My Bones: The Authorized Biography of Eugene Peterson, Winn Collier

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."

March Youth Group

(6th grade and up)

Thursday, March 9: 6 –7:30 p.m. Virtual games and fellowship via Zoom. Link will be emailed.

Thursday, March 16: 6 – 7:30 p.m. In-person at the church.

Thursday, March 23: Youth volunteering/serving meals at Hot Metal Bridge's The Table from 5 to 7 p.m. / Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. for transportation with Jenny or meet at Hot Metal. You must RSVP to Jenny if you will be attending.

Thursday, March 30: 6 –8 p.m. Virtual games and fellowship via Zoom. Link will be emailed.

Sixth Presbyterian Church

For more info email Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

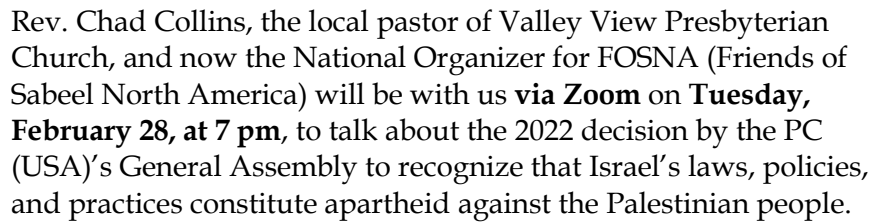
Vacation Bible School: We will be collaborating with East Liberty Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School this year. Changemaker Lab VBS will be held June 26-30, 9 am to 3 pm at ELPC for kids in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Youth in 6th -12th are invited to sign up as volunteers and adult volunteers are needed as well! To register for VBS or to volunteer here is the link!

<https://cathedralofhope.org/ministries-programs/children-youth-ministries/vacation-church-school/>

The VBS theme this year is Changemakers Lab, a place children will learn that everyone can make a difference in the world! Through five Bible stories, we'll explore examples of people who experienced and brought about a change in the world around them. These people provide a model for asking hard questions, working together to solve problems, reaching across differences, caring for all people, and imagining a new world. Through worship and drama, Bible study, STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and active games, children are invited to see and experience the transforming love of God.

Middle School Mission Trip with ELPC: Mark your calendars! Youth who have completed 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to participate in a mission trip from July 5-8. The trip is being planned by leaders at East Liberty Presbyterian Church and the group will be staying at Camp Crestfield and participating in a variety of service projects in the area. Jenny Newman will be going along if any of our students are participating. More information will be coming soon. Please let Jenny Newman know if anyone is interested.

"School Shouldn't be a Scary Place" Virtual Workshop: Hosted by Blessed Be Educators Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 10 to 11:45 am. The workshop will feature panelists: Ms. Eletta Cameron: A licensed clinical social worker in private practice who works extensively with students in schools; Ms. Sharon Fisher, Principal of Pittsburgh Public Schools Grandview PreK-5; Mr. Adam Garber, Executive Director of CeaseFire PA. The workshop is free and open to all. Continuing Education credits are available. To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/school-shouldnt-be-a-scary-place-tickets-511329108127> or send an email to BBE Program Director, Mary Ann Hvizdos mahvizdos@verizon.net.



Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8697125200?pwd=ZUJkdjRlYkFMcDZkdzNlTGdScEo0QWZkdz09>



We are seeking some additional helpers to run the live-stream and sound system during our Sunday morning worship. This job requires that the operator turn on the equipment, start the software, step through each item in the service, and make minor adjustments as needed. There is a small stipend offered for performing this service. You will receive training. Contact Kirk Howe at howeks@yahoo.com or 412-343-7438 if you or someone you know is interested.



March 31.....Jeffrey Kaplan

Notes from the February Session Meeting

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship Attendance: 1/29, 90 (in person), 77 (YouTube); 2/5, 90 (in-person), 64 (YouTube); 2/12, 110 (in-person), 72 (YouTube); 2/19, 84 (in-person), 53 (YouTube)
- 2023 Elder Commissioners: **From Presbytery:** Under the plan expected to be approved at the February Presbytery meeting, your church will be entitled to send the total number of elders shown below as elder commissioners to each Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting in 2023. All elder commissioners will have voice and vote at the meetings.
 - By Membership: 1
 - Church Rotation: 1

SESSION CORRESPONDENCE AND REFERRALS:

Thank you from Amy

OMNIBUS MOTION:

There were no motions pulled for discussion. Ruling Elder Tom Juring moved that the entire Omnibus Motion be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, January 25.
- Motion to approve the Congregational Meeting minutes, January 29.
- Motion to approve Sunday, April 23, as Earth Care Sunday.
- Motion to approve Adult Lenten study, "Blessing the Lent We Actually Have," and the "Teach What You Know" events.
- CE Committee motion to approve a story walk to be held during the Sunday school hour on Easter Sunday using the children's book "Twas the morning of Easter."
- CE Committee motion to approve collaboration with East Liberty Presbyterian Church for various children's and youth events and programming including VBS for June 2023 and middle school mission trip in July. Jenny Newman will work with East Liberty staff member Sarah Hackett on these and any future events/programs.
- CE Committee motion to approve a Confirmation Class for 2023 with interested students (7th grade and older) meeting with Jenny Newman April-October. The students will be presented to Session for membership approval at the September session meeting and be confirmed during the church service on Oct. 1.

FINANCES:

- Ruling Elder Frank Davoli presented the January financials. He pointed out that as it was the first month of the year, trends were not predictable.
 - Negative numbers on PNC account are due to timing of transfers

- Balancing of per capita has created an apparent income deficit
- Elder Davoli and Treasurer Erik Fogt will work to note more specific details about committee expenditures, especially those that come from a committee's budget that are not requested by its chair. There should also be a better system for defining money in/money out for items such as poinsettia sales or Fellowship events.

EMERGENCY DISASTER AND RESPONSE PLAN:

Ruling Elder Mary Lang and Jenny Newman have been evaluating the current plan and will confer with Elder Juring, as chair of House Committee. Elder Lang will be doing walk-throughs in the church with the Ushers and other church leaders, understanding that the plan needs to be updated. Those doing the walk-through can refer to the floor plans and note where AEDs, pull fire alarms, and fire extinguishers are located, as well as review evacuation plans in case of security issues. In the meantime, funding/grant sources will be explored. Elder Lang is planning to have CPR/AED training for the Ushers as well.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Meeting minutes were referenced.

DEACONS MINUTES/CARE LIST:

- Minutes and Care List were referenced and briefly discussed.
- The Deacons have decided not to take on the Photo Directory at this time.
- Stuart Gaul's funeral is March 11, 2023
- Emily Hoffman's funeral is March 25, 2023

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Presbytery vote for the Bethel AME Church overture will be at the May meeting.
- Elder Juring continues to seek bids for the window well repairs

NEW BUSINESS:

Communion Servers for March 5 volunteered

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENT:

March 5-Gun Safety

NEXT MEETING:

March 29, 2023, 7 PM, in person

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session

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



The deadline for the April newsletter is March 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...

"A Great Need," Hafiz

Out
Of a great need
We are all holding hands
And climbing.
Not loving is a letting go.
Listen,
The terrain around here
Is
Far too
Dangerous
For
That.