

September 2023



Sixth Sense

SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

From the Pastor

Members and Friends of Sixth,

In September we will have a number of ways to worship and gather together!

Below you will find information about each worship service and things to be considering as you enter the sanctuary.

I give thanks for each of you, for the leadership I work with alongside, and for this community of faith during this interim time. I look forward to seeing you in worship and in the neighborhood!

September 1 – Labor and Sabbath

This Sunday we will not have a formal sermon but a series of readings, prayers and scriptures that focus on God's call to sabbath rest and care of one another. We will join together for communion and remind ourselves that God does not see our value for what we can do or produce, but for who we are as a creation.

September 10 – Fall Kick-Off (Worship time changes to 11 am)

At 10 am meet in the chapel for a reception hosted by the Christian Education committee, where folx can meet their teachers, talk with the Elders on Session, and get to know Pastor Sarah better.

At 11 am we will begin worship with a focus on what needs to be accomplished during the interim time and what tasks and opportunities are involved. Pastor Sarah will lead the sermon time with an outline of this information. We will also commission the education team.

September 17 – Poverty, by America

Worship will center around the things we have gleaned from our book study, with a sermon highlighting scripture and key ideas in light of our faith.

September 24 – Poverty, by America, part two

See you soon,
Pastor Sarah



Children and Youth Updates

Christian Education

It's that time again! Sunday school begins at 10 am, September 10, followed by worship at 11 am. Parents are asked to please review our updated [Health and Safety Guidelines](#). If you are new to us, please fill out our [Children and Youth Registration](#). If you have already completed this in previous years you don't have to do it again. But please let us know if your contact information has changed.

Join us on September 10 for a Sunday School kick-off breakfast in the Chapel for all Sunday school students and their families. We will meet our teachers and childcare staff and start the church year together.

For questions and information on anything Christian Education related please contact Jenny Newman at jennyrunew@gmail.com or 412-720-6392.

Nursery Care and Extended Session

Nursery care for infants and toddlers will be provided from 10 am until the conclusion of worship each week. Extended Session will be held during worship each week for children ages preschool through 3rd grade. Kids will be dismissed from worship during Passing of the Peace following the Time for Children. Jenny Newman and Extended Session staff will provide worship and prayer time, snacks, and story time.

Sunday School

Preschool through 5th grade class

Teachers: Katie Smith, Linda May, Meghan Jones, Gwen Harcar

This year we will be using the PC(USA) curriculum called Growing with Grace and Gratitude. The class may be divided into smaller groups by age depending on attendance.

6th-12th grade

Teachers, Jenny Newman, Joe Ashenden, and Marcus Robinson

We will use a combination of our Feasting on the Word lectionary-based curriculum and the PC(USA) Big God, Big Ideas.

Acolytes and Water Pourer

Pouring the baptismal water and lighting the Christ Candle are vital parts of our worship service. There is a sign-up sheet for Sundays in the narthex of the church for children and youth are interested in being a part of the service in this way. We will have a training for new Acolytes and Pourers after worship on **September 17**. Contact Jenny Newman for more information.

Confirmation

We have a plan! Students 7th grade older interested in confirmation will begin meeting monthly in September, starting with Pittsburgh Presbytery's day-long confirmation retreat at Camp Crestfield on September 30. We will meet through and meet through March 2024 and confirmands will be received at the March session meeting and confirmed during the worship service on Sunday, April 7. Our tentative meeting schedule is below. All our monthly meetings will be held after church from 12:30 to 2:30 pm and lunch will be provided.

- September 30 – Confirmation retreat at Camp Crestfield
- Monthly Meetings: October 15, November 12, December 17, January 21, February 18, March 17
- Attend March Session Meeting (date TBD)
- Sunday April 7 – Confirmation in worship

Youth Fellowship

This year we will be joining our friends at East Liberty Presbyterian Church for our weekly youth fellowship time. Beginning September 13, youth 6th through 12th grade will meet on Wednesday at ELPC for Club One Sixteen from 4:30 to 7 pm. Dinner is provided each week at 5 pm. Jenny Newman will partner with Sarah Hackett (ELPC Director of CE and Youth) in planning and leading the weekly sessions. ELPC is located at 116 S. Highland Ave. Students will enter the church at the Highland avenue entrance and meet in the second floor parlor.

We will also continue volunteering at Hot Metal Bridge's The Table monthly and other youth gatherings throughout the year. Please see the fall youth calendar for all the upcoming dates. Youth who will be service at Hot Metal and attending youth group at ELPC are required to complete our church's [Universal Permission form](#), so we have updated contact and health information. (You only have to fill it out once!)

FALL CALENDAR

2023

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Youth

(6th – 12th)

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com
 412-720-6392
 Sith Presbyterian Church

10 Sunday School Starts!
10 a.m. Join us for a light breakfast in the Chapel to kick off the start of Sunday school.

13-27 Weekly Youth Group at ELPC
4:30 to 7 p.m. Dinner is served at 5. East Liberty Pres. Church use the Highland Ave. entrance

21 Youth Service – Hot Metal Bridge/The Table
5 to 6:30 at Hot Metal Bridge Church. Contact Jenny if you need transportation to and from 6th.

30 Confirmation Day Retreat/Camp Crestfield
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Jenny for registration and transportation.

4-25 Weekly Youth Group at ELPC
4:30 to 7 p.m. Dinner is served at 5. East Liberty Pres. Church use the Highland Ave. entrance.

15 Confirmation Meeting
12:30 – 2:30 at the church. Lunch will be provided.

24 Youth Service – Hot Metal Bridge/The Table
(Tuesday) 5 to 6:30 at Hot Metal Bridge Church. Contact Jenny if you need transportation to and from 6th.

Students attending youth group at ELPC and serving at Hot Metal must complete our Universal Permission Form found at <http://www.sixthchurch.org/christian-education/>

Earth Care SUP Challenge Recap

Have you ever thought about how much plastic you use and why? The Earth Care committee decided to focus and reflect on our single-use plastic use and devised an activity to get the congregation involved. Back in May we did a “minute for mission” about the project and explained that we have a table at the front of the sanctuary with both information about how to reduce personal single-use plastic use and tracking sheets where folks can record any actions they take to avoid this kind of plastic use.

The 50 challenge participants avoided purchasing plastic containers or using disposable plastic items over 800 times during a 3-month period. The assorted and colorful “fruit” sprouting from our tree art in the sanctuary are caps and lids, each representing 5 avoidances. By far the most popular activity was bringing reusable bags for grocery shopping and bringing a reusable travel cup or mug was next. Also common are purchasing loose produce or putting it in a reusable bag, buying foods in glass or cans, reusable lunch bags, and skipping the straw, dryer sheet, or plastic utensil.

One conundrum: Plastic reduction in our food purchases can be difficult, because grocery store shelves are lined with plastic containers and packaging, increasingly, but it has a high impact on both our health and the environment because of how much every household uses every day. Plastic reduction in personal care purchases is becoming easier, on the other hand, with manufacturers increasingly offering cardboard or tins for items like hair products and deodorants, but households don’t tend to purchase these items in high volumes.



Shopping online expands options for personal care items that are packaged sustainably, but consumers may worry about the impact of all those shipments. In Pittsburgh we are lucky enough now to have a store on Murray Avenue, called The Refillery, where home cleaning, laundry and personal care items can be squirted and scooped into one’s own refillable containers. Options for purchasing groceries remain more limited, with the bulk section of East End Food Co-Op and a few offerings at chain supermarkets. Changing the ingredients we cook with and the places we regularly food shop in-person can be challenging.

Some updates on what Earth Care is hosting for group recycling: 1) Plastic that can no longer be recycled curbside, such as clamshells, cups, and tub shapes, in numbers 1-7 is being collected every few months and taken to Michael Bros. 2) Empty coffee bags (Becca Stallings from a nearby church is willing to keep taking them from us, but requests small donations to help defray the cost of shipping them) 3) household batteries separated by type and with damaged or leaking ones bagged separately. On salty and sweet snack bags we are reorganizing and planning because of a change in where we can drop them off, so please hold off on those. Information about all active collections and updates can be found in the church bulletins and we will try to remember to post on Friends of Sixth Facebook.

Let Earth Care know – Did you feel encouraged by the Single Use Plastic Challenge? Do you have any specific ideas relating to regular household plastic use?

**Sunday, October 8
2:00 pm**

**South Avenue United
Methodist Church in
Wilkinsburg**

Walk through the neighborhoods of the East End to raise money for the hunger and development work of Church World Service! Last year Pittsburgh East walkers raised more than \$40,000.

Once a year, a large group of East End church members join with neighbors from other organizations in support of Church World Service. You can be a walker, or you can sponsor a walker with your pledge. Choose the 5-mile option or the 1.5-mile option. Join us!

This year, the Walk will honor Vincent Kolb. The Pittsburgh East planning committee remembers the many times Vincent walked with us and provided enthusiastic leadership. He can't be with us this year, but we know he's there in spirit. Thanks, Vincent, for your many years of support. We're out here truckin' for you and for a great cause.

You can sign up online! You can donate online!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/sixth-presbyterian-church-3>

Questions? Contact Pam Twiss (twisspct@gmail.com) or Sue Koehler (slpkoehler14@gmail.com)

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**2023
CROP HUNGER WALK**

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

September Birthdays

September 1	Sadie DeLucia	September 21.....	Ashley Bower
	Ethan Miller		Corey Bower
September 2	Elise Bertolet	September 23.....	Rob Beswick
September 4	Carol Beggs	September 24.....	Karen Gaul
	Frank Guyette	September 25.....	Sara DeLucia
	Elizabeth Sindhi		Peg Watt-Morse
September 8	Judy Schryer	September 27.....	Daniel Cummings
September 10.....	Sara Berg	September 28.....	Mary Lib Myers
September 16.....	Martha Funderburgh	September 30.....	Susan Rothenberg
September 20.....	Megan Sindhi		Larry Van Dyke

Poverty by America Book Study

The Justice Team is hosting a book study on Matthew Desmond's *Poverty by America*. These meetings are in-person only. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Gilmore (pgilmore.gilmore@gmail.com).

September 12, 7-8:30 pm, home of Leslie and Peter Kaplan: chapters 7-9 and the epilogue

Gun Safety in a Free Society

The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh will hold their fall kickoff meeting on September 26 at 6:30 pm at Sixth. Everyone is welcome to attend. We'll enjoy light refreshments followed by speakers from the League on "Gun Safety in a Free Society," with time for Q&A afterwards. For more information or to let her know you'll be attending (so we have a count for set-up), please contact Barbara Grabowski, Vice President, Program, LWVPGH at program@lwvpg.org by Thursday, September 21.

PERUSA Fall Dialogue Series with Peruvian Partners

PERUSA and our partners of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network (RUMP) and the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) invite you to a continued time of learning and sharing from our Peruvian partners and their ministries during our fall South-North Dialogue Series.

The September 6th event, *Confronting Contamination*, invites partners from two communities to share about their current situations and the ongoing environmental work they and the Peruvian Joining Hands Network (RUMP) are doing together through two case studies.

****Please note the dates for the next two events.****

The October Dialogue, *Threatened Ecosystems*, will focus on hearing from communities from the three other case studies of RUMP, while November will be a conversation on the role of women in the church, with speakers from our partners, the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) and from the PC (USA).



Building Bridges Between
the South-North (PERUSA)

South-North Dialogue Series

SEPTEMBER 6 | 6:00 p.m. (Peru) | 7:00 p.m. (USA), Eastern
*Confronting Contamination, two case studies of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network:
The Chillón River and the "Mi Perú" Program, Children of Lead*



OCTOBER 18 | 6:00 p.m. (Peru) | 7:00 p.m. (USA), Eastern
*Threatened Ecosystems, three case studies of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network:
Contamination of beaches, Contamination of the Ventanilla Wetlands, Exploitation of the
Hills of Chillón.*



NOVEMBER 15 | 7:00 p.m. (Peru) | 7:00 p.m. (USA), Eastern
*Commitment to Gender Equality: Experiences of Theological Formation of Women in Peru (Evangelical
Church of Peru - IEP) and the USA [PC(USA)]*



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84931896656?pwd=eS9oK3QrWWWhSU2h6QzN1TFRkcmxYQT09>

We hope you can join us, for some or all of this shared time together to continue learning about God's work through our partners in Peru!

Social Justice and Outreach Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) Present a Zoom Panel

Inhumane Conditions at the Allegheny County Jail Causes and Solutions

Sunday, September 17, 7 pm

Opening Prayer, Minister Ella Scales, Union Baptist Church, VP PIIN

Panel:

Chair: Leah Kozak, PIIN organizer

Brittany Hailer, Pittsburgh Institute for Nonprofit Journalism

Sister Barbara Finch, former nurse at ACJ

John Kenstowicz, social worker, on surveys of jail corrections officers and health care workers

Concluding Prayer: Rev. Julie Smith, Hospice Chaplain, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

Approximately four-fifths of Allegheny County Jail residents have not yet been convicted of a crime. Yet they are all given mostly inedible food, often denied prescribed medicine or offered it at the wrong time, and forced to spend nights in conditions too uncomfortable for sleep. Since April 2020, 20 have died, more than twice the average per year for jails of similar size. Health care workers have supervisors without medical credentials who order them to violate best practices, putting their licensure at risk. 90 staff positions are vacant and employees are forced to work excessive overtime. Warden Harper will retire September 29. How can we assure conditions will improve under the next warden?

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZEscOypqj0sGdyZwiEZSI97cwDR1btL076C>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Notes from the August Session Meeting

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship Attendance: 7/30, 73 (in-person), 48 (YouTube); 8/6, 55 (in-person) 51 (YouTube); 8/13, 49 (in-person), 61 (YouTube); 8/20, 62 (in-person), 38 (YouTube).
- Communion Servers volunteered for September 3.
- Commissioner for Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting, September 28, 2023, at Crestfield, 10 a.m.-still to be determined.

SESSION CORRESPONDENCE: None

OMNIBUS MOTION:

Elder Scott Bell moved that the agenda be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a short discussion and clarification of the Christian Education handbook language, Elder Tom Juring moved to approve the Omnibus as written. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, July 26, 2023
- The CE Committee seeks approval for the following dates/events:
 - Rally Day breakfast for students and families at 10 a.m. Sept. 10 in the Chapel. CE committee will provide a light breakfast for participants to gather, meet teachers, etc.
 - 10 a.m.-Noon Saturday Sept. 30 – Learn about Worship program for kids. Kids will gather in the sanctuary to learn about baptism, Communion and have acolytes training.
 - Youth Group Collaboration: Christian Education Committee seeks session approval to partner with East Liberty Presbyterian Church for weekly youth fellowship for students 6th -12th grade beginning in September.
 - Revised Confirmation Class Plan: Those interested in confirmation will begin monthly in September, starting with Pittsburgh Presbytery's day-long confirmation retreat, and meet through March (2024). Students will be received at the March session meeting and confirmed during the worship service on Sunday, April 7.
- The CE Committee seeks approval for the committee descriptions for the church's administrative handbook as noted in their report.
- The Personnel committee has the following recommendations:
 - The Personnel committee moves that Rev. Robbins' request for vacation from October 9th-16th be approved. Rev. Robbins will secure pulpit supply for October 15.
 - The Personnel committee moves that Rev. Robbins' request for Continuing Education for April 22--May 2, 2024, be approved. She will be traveling to Japan with a group of pastors from Pittsburgh on a pilgrimage with a focus on Japanese spirituality and Shingon Buddhism. She will be using her continuing education budget and submit receipts for this travel etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Committee reports were referenced and highlighted.

- Christian Education

- Session is invited and encouraged to attend the Rally Day breakfast on September 10 at 10 a.m.

- Finance
 - Audit was completed by Peter Kaplan and Mary Radcliffe.
 - No issues or concerns in the audit were noted.
- July Finance
 - Pledges over budget
 - The Executive Committee will meet soon to discuss 2024 budget goals.
- House
 - Building being used as noted in report.
- Safety Task Force
 - As noted in Session Packet. Next meeting September 24 after church.
- Stewardship
 - As noted in Session Packet. Next meeting, August 31.

DEACONS' CARE LIST: Referenced in Session Packet.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Vincent Kolb update
- Draft schedule for the remainder of 2023 Sundays
 - The schedule will be reviewed and coordinated with the Worship Committee, meeting August 24.
- Rev. Robbins shared a document from Douglas Burn, Director of Music, regarding various aspects of the music program. This will be reviewed and coordinated with the Worship Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Night Market participation of Sixth' Gun Safety, More Light, Earth Care and possibly Church and Community committees on October 7.
- Elder Scott Bell will coordinate with the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition to be sure our plans do not conflict with the spirit of the market. That will include a contribution for participation if requested and appropriate. Funding could come from Session and/or each of the committees.
- Elder Marcus Robinson will convene a meeting of those committee representatives to plan for the event.
- The date for the Session Retreat is October 7, 2023, 10 a.m.-1:30 pm at ELPC. Focus will be on Interim Tasks and Congregational survey.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COFFEE HOUR:

- September 3 – Earth Care
- October 1 – Worship

NEXT MEETING: September 27, 2023, 7 p.m.

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session

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office@sixthchurch.org
www.sixthchurch.org

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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 October newsletter is September 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...

"God Says Yes To Me," Kaylin Haught

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is
I asked her if I could wear nail polish
or not wear nail polish
and she said honey
she calls me that sometimes
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to
Thanks God I said
And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters
Sweetcakes God said
who knows where she picked that up
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes