

Sixth Sense

From the Interim Pastor



Dear Saints,

I can barely believe that it is time to start the season of Lent together! It seems like in just a blink of an eye we have moved from celebrating the birth of Christ to walking with him towards Jerusalem.

This year we are using a resource from ASanctifiedArt.org entitled, "Wandering Heart" which will help us journey through Lent through the lens of Peter – Jesus' famous disciple.

"In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out – just like us.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way – offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes."

I look forward to this series together, and all the ways that we have built in extra time for fellowship so that we might catch-up with one another and get to know some new faces as well!

Peace, Rev. Sarah Robbins

PREACHING

February 18th
"Jesus Sought Me"
Focal Scriptures Luke 5:1-11 | Psalm 25:1-10

February 25th
"Rescue Me From Danger"
Focal Scriptures Matthew 14: 22-33 | Psalm 22: 23-31

March 3rd
"Praise the Mount"
Focal Scriptures Matthew 16:13-20 | Psalm 19

March 10th
"I'm Fixed Upon It"
Focal Scriptures Matthew 16: 21-23 | Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

March 17th
"Teach Me"
Focal Scriptures Matthew 18: 15-22 | Psalm 119: 9-16

March 24th – Palm/
Passion Sunday
"Songs of Loudest Praise"
Focal Scripture John 12:12-16

March 28th – Maundy
Thursday
"Streams of Mercy"
Focal Scripture John 13:1-20

March 31st – Easter
Morning
"All Things New!"
Focal Scripture

Feb 14th Ash Wednesday

12-2pm Ashes-to-Go – Pastor Sarah will be outside offering ashes to our neighbors

5:30pm Dinner provided by the Fellowship Committee

7pm Simple service in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes

March 24th Palm Sunday

11am Worship with Palm Processional – All are invited to participate

12:30pm Simple Meal

Jenny Newman will help us get ready for Holy Week with resources to pick up, conversation around the table, and prayer stations will be open all week!

March 28th Maundy Thursday

7pm Worship in the sanctuary, Communion will be celebrated

March 29th Good Friday

Neighboring congregation's services will be shared as they are available

March 31st Easter

11am Worship in the Sanctuary, Communion will be celebrated

Followed by a reception and an opportunity to flower the cross outside

Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb Retirement Celebration


**On Sunday March 10th,
Sixth Presbyterian Church and
Pittsburgh Presbytery will
celebrate Vincent's retirement and
host a goodbye celebration.**

**Please join us in worship at 11am,
and be prepared to mask, so that
the community of faith can honor
his years of service here.**




**We are so grateful for this time
together. After details have been
finalized with the Fellowship
Committee and the Session, we
look forward to sharing more
information.**

Children and Youth Updates




FEBRUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <small>ASH WEDNESDAY</small>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com



Weekly Youth Group at ELPC
Wednesdays 7, 21, 28
4:30 to 7 p.m. Dinner is served at 5. East Liberty Pres. Church use the Highland Ave. entrance

Ash Wednesday - Meal at church followed by 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service.
14

Confirmation Class
12:30 to 2 p.m. at the church. Lunch will be provided.
18

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.
29

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

February

Day	Names
2	Chris Berg
3	Doris Bell
9	Kit Ayars
10	Beth Hazlett
14	Peter Kaplan, Glenna Van Dyke
15	Kathleen Myers
16	Maria Guyette
18	Cyril Fox, Brenda Jordan, John McCall
19	Greg Cooper
20	GG Loyd
21	Linda May
23	Diane James
26	Jan Myers-Newbury, Amy Whipple
27	Janet Kanaskie

March

Day	Names
4	Pam Howe, Katie Kaplan
8	Jordan Lowe
9	Linda Davoli
13	Joseph DeLucia
17	Rohan Vaux
21	Winter Cornelius-Bates
25	Emma Cooper
26	Malakai Whipple
28	Schuyler Stupica
29	Jack Ladebue
31	Jeffrey Kaplan

Birthdays



JANUARY SESSION MEETING NOTES

CLERK'S REPORT:

Worship Attendance: In Person/On-line: 11/19 (82/72), 12/3 (100/81), 12/10 (90/80), 12/17 (135/60), 12/24 (43/51 am, 160/126 pm), 12/31 (38/57), 1/7 (88/73), 1/14 (71/56), 1/21 (85/42) (with an average of 65 on livestream weekly)

Commissioners to Presbytery Meetings: February 22, at 1p.m. virtually-Tom Twiss and Peter Gilmore. May 23 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1 p.m.-Scott Bell

Call for Annual Congregational Meeting-February 11, following church service.

OMNIBUS MOTION:

Motion to approve Agenda for January 24, Session Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, November 15, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of the Special Session Stated Meeting, December 18, 2023 and the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings for the 2024 budget on January 9 and 21, 2024.

The Christian Education Committee seeks approval from Session for Sixth Church to again collaborate with East Liberty Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School at their location. VBS will be held June 24-28, 2024. Jenny Newman will be working with their staff to plan and teach the event and 6th kids, teens and adults will be invited to attend or volunteer to help.

Elder Tom Twiss made a motion to approve the Omnibus Motion with requested corrections of the minutes of the Special Session Stated Meeting, December 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

PASTORAL REPORT: Rev. Robbins, Jenny Newman and Beth Hazlett are doing the best they can to complete administrative duties. Rev. Robbins will ask for more advice/assistance from Session about this and other issues as needed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

FINANCE/BUDGET: Elder Peter Watt-Morse presented the 2024 budget and explained some of what was different about his approach, trying not to overestimate pledges but including an estimate for non-pledge amount and acknowledging the variables we are dealing with this year. He did report that there were two major additions/changes to *this year's budget*.

Elder Tom Juring moved that the budget be approved as presented, with thanks to Elder Watt-Morse for the hard work done to create and present the 2024 budget.

The motion passed unanimously, with thanks to Treasurer Erik Fogt as well.

Elder Scott Bell moved that the Congregational Meeting be held on February 11, following the worship service. The motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL: Elder Barb Parees is resigning her position as Personnel Chair. That position will need to be filled. There is a group continuing the search for an office administrator.

In the meantime, Elena Berg (daughter of Elder Sara Berg), is willing to take on some of the duties for the month of February.

Elder Watt-Morse moved that Elena Berg be hired part-time for the month of February, to assist with appropriate tasks of the administrative assistant. The motion passed unanimously.

HOUSE: Elder Tom Juring reported that the roofers have been delayed by weather conditions and are rescheduled for next week.

STEWARDSHIP: Elder Peter Kaplan shared that the 2024 Stewardship campaign was slightly short of goal, but overall successful. When the congregation was made aware of a possible shortfall for this year, several families increased their pledges. The members of the Stewardship Committee are already thinking about a theme for next year's campaign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PNC: Elder Joe Ashenden reported that the PNC has met twice, once with the Presbytery liaison and once as a group. They would like to use the Cat Survey as the tool to learn the thoughts and goals of the congregation as the search for a new pastor begins in earnest.

Motions from committee which passed unanimously:

Motion to approve the purchase and use of the Congregational Assessment Tool as amended by the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Motion to approve designation 2 consecutive moments for mission during the survey window in which the PNC will explain the CAT survey and encourage completion by the congregation.

WORSHIP: Rev. Robbins proposed a schedule for Lent/Easter services and fellowship which were discussed and approved by the Worship committee.

The Worship committee approved the use of the Lenten installment from Wandering Heart, the devotional guide used for Advent.

The Worship committee is seeking more willing liturgists.

DEACONS MEETING/CARE LIST: Report referenced with appreciation for thoroughness of notes and information. Noted that Gail Luley stepped in as chair while needed.

OLD BUSINESS: Elder Twiss gave an update on the Overture that was discussed at the Special Session meeting on December 18. The Overture, as written, was well over the limit of acceptable length, so had to be edited in order to be presented. The amended version has been passed by Belview Presbyterian Church and is being considered by several churches throughout the country. The hope is it will be discussed and voted upon at the next Presbytery meeting.

Elder Watt-Morse moved that Session endorse the Overture in its amended version. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None presented.

NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2024, 7 p.m.

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Robbins closed in prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session

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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 March newsletter is Thursday February 22nd.

Thank you for sending your submissions, and for your patience as we transition in the church office.

Quote of the Month

Stop destroying yourself in the name of remorse. Stop punishing yourself under the guise of self-progress. Repair doesn't come by tearing holes in oneself.

Maybe it's time — *Forgive yourself.*

Quote from "Black Liturgies"
by Cole Arthur Riley, a black author from Pittsburgh

