

March 2024

Sixth Sense

Welcome the new Office Administrator!

Kelly Johnson is excited to be joining Sixth Presbyterian Church as its new Office Administrator. Kelly graduated with honors from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She has an extensive administrative background, most notably having worked as an Activities Coordinator for North Hills ProMedica and a HR/Operations Coordinator at East End Cooperative Ministry.

Kelly currently resides in Stanton Heights with her husband, Rev. Gavin Walton. Together, they have a cat named Rosie, and a dog, Khalessi.

In her spare time, Kelly enjoys reading, indoor rock climbing and playing tennis.

Kelly's first day will be Tuesday March 12th. Office hours will return to Tuesday through Friday 9am-2pm.

Come and welcome Kelly to Sixth!



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

March Worship and Preaching

March 3 – Psalm 19 and Matthew 16:13-20

“Praise the Mount”

March 10 – Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb Goodbye/Celebration of Ministry

March 17 – Matthew 18:15-22 “Teach Me”

March 24 – John 12:12-16
“Songs of Loudest Praise”
Palm Sunday

March 28 – John 13:1-20
“Streams of Mercy”
Maundy Thursday

March 31 – “All Things New” Easter Sunday

Children and Youth Updates



MARCH 2024

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						

Palm Sunday

Easter

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Youth (6th-12th)

Wednesdays
6, 13, 20

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

14

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.

17

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

28

Youth Service Project
With East Liberty Presbyterian Church from 12 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 at World Visions in Sewickley. The group will be volunteering in the distribution warehouse preparing donations to be shipped around the world. We will meet at 6th Church and will be transported to World Visions and back by RSVP to Jenny if you would like to participate.

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Sixth Presbyterian Church

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



Youth Service Project

Youth in grades 7th-12th are invited to participate in a service project with youth from East Liberty Presbyterian Church from 12 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 at World Visions in Sewickley. The group will be volunteering in the distribution warehouse preparing donations to be shipped around the world. World Vision helps keep new merchandise out of landfills and get it to folks affected by disasters. Students participating will meet at 6th Church and will be transported to World Visions and back by the ELPC group in their van. We will follow ELPC's requirements for safety and parental permission, etc. Youth who are interested in participating are asked to RSVP to Jenny Newman.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation class will meet from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Sundays March 17 and April 7. Confirmation students will meet with Session to present their Statements of Faith at the April Session Meeting (April 17) and will be confirmed in church on Sunday, May 12.

Children and Youth Choir

Children and youth choir are invited to sing during the Palm Sunday worship service (March 24). We will be rehearsing at the beginning of the Sunday school hour (10 a.m.) March 10, 17 and 24.

Christian Education Committee

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee is after worship on April 14.

Yes, it's time to start planning for the summer! We are again partnering with East Liberty Presbyterian Church this summer for a wonderful week of Vacation Church School.

Vacation Church School

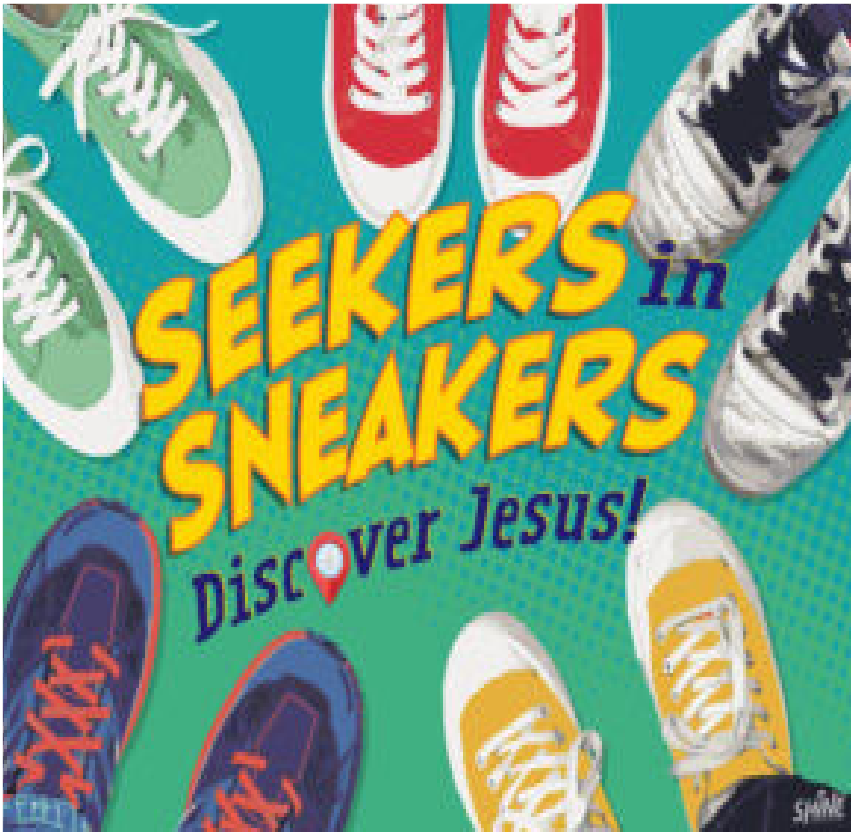
Vacation Church School will happen at ELPC **June 24–28**, 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus! Participants will use their investigative skills to discover Jesus and explore the stories of those who experienced and brought about change in the world around them after an encounter with Jesus.

Registration and more info about the theme can be found here:

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

Volunteers Invited!

Youth (6th grade and older) and adults are needed - Come have fun with us! We need folks who can lead Bible Study, plan crafts, show up and love kids, prepare materials ahead of time, and a WIDE variety of other important tasks. Whether you can come 1 day or 5 days or if you want to plan and lead or show up with no prep needed ... we have a volunteer position for you! Use the registration link to sign up or contact Jenny Newman to talk about



March Birthdays

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

From Missouri to Malawi:

One Great Hour of Sharing God's Love

On the last three Sundays of March, Sixth Church will receive your donations to the annual **One Great Hour Sharing**. This is one of the three Presbyterian special offerings that we collect every year.

The purpose of **One Great Hour of Sharing** is to share God's love with our neighbors in need both in the United States and throughout the world – from Missouri to Malawi. Your gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** will deliver relief to those affected by natural and human-caused disasters, provide food to the hungry, and support communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty, neglect, and oppression.

As I reviewed the work supported by One Great Hour, I was surprised – and frankly saddened – to learn that a large number of grants go to communities in our own country. Of course, many grants made to American organizations are responses to disasters, but many others address hunger and broader challenges faced by poor communities and marginalized groups. They support programs that address hunger, housing, environmental and even civil rights issues that these communities continue to face.

Because our news feeds focus on “the next big story,” it is far too easy to forget the unseen, yet persistent, reality faced by our sisters and brothers, in our own country and around the world, where poverty, disasters, and war cause massive suffering. Here are just two organizations which your donations support to address these issues.

In Missouri, funds from One Great Hour support the work of the Castlepoint Neighborhood Organization, which is helping this impoverished St. Louis community toward a better future by “establishing a steady stream of resources within the neighborhood,” including a community garden that has produced hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables, as well as efforts to improve housing and the local environment.

In Malawi, Kasupe Ministries serves over 12,000 people living in southern Malawi through community-designed programs that provide health care, schools and scholarships, programs to support and improve local agriculture, and emergency assistance to those in need of food, clothing, and temporary shelter.

You can learn more about the many individual programs that One Great Hour supports at the transparent (and almost encyclopedic)

One Great Hour website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>.

One Great Hour helps people here and abroad by not only providing direct assistance but investing in people so they can improve their lives and advocate for themselves. This model is very consistent with the philosophy we follow at Sixth Church to allocate our locally directed mission funds.

Because One Great Hour of Sharing helps so many to survive and work for a better future, I urge you to continue the generous support this congregation has always given to One Great Hour. We give in faith. We know that staff in the three One Great Hour of Sharing programs – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - will be responding in Christ's name to the cries of our sisters and brothers.

But these programs are limited by the extent of our generosity.

That's why I hope you will join me in supporting the life-saving – and life changing - work that One Great Hour of Sharing makes possible. Thank you for responding with love and generosity to this request.

Peter Kaplan, Church & Community Committee

Presbytery Passes Corporate Engagement Overture Endorsed by Sixth

By Tom Twiss

On Thursday, Feb. 22 the Pittsburgh Presbytery approved an “overture” (or resolution), endorsed by Session at Sixth, urging the General Assembly of the PC(USA) to “direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin ‘focused engagement’” with two companies in which PC(USA) invests: General Electric (GE) and Palantir Technologies, Inc. The purpose of this engagement would be to move the two companies toward compliance with the policies of PC (USA). The overture was written by two members of the steering committee of the PC(USA)’s [Israel-Palestine Mission Network](#) – Bob Ross, from the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and me.

Our reason for writing the overture was our conviction that the ongoing activities of both companies are inconsistent with the values of the PC(USA). Our denomination has a long tradition of putting its money where its values are. Back in 1971 the General Assembly [affirmed](#) that church investment is not just a practical question; it’s an “instrument of mission” that includes “theological, social and ethical considerations.” Consistent with that, the PC(USA) has [identified](#) various practices that can qualify a company for divestment. These include military production, especially when the weapons produced are being sold to states where there are heightened risks of serious violations of international humanitarian law. Another divestment criterion is the operation of the company in conflict-affected and high-risk areas where there are widespread human rights abuses and violations of national or international law.

The practices of both companies are *exactly* the sort of activities our divestment policies have been created to address. GE produces engines and/or crucial parts for all the fighter jets, Apache helicopters, and Sa’ar warships employed by Israel in the bombing and blockade of Gaza. Its engines are also found in the jets and helicopters used by Saudi Arabia to bomb Yemen. And in China, GE is a customer of companies that participate in the forced transfer, re-education, and exploitation of the oppressed Uyghur population. Palantir has created the predictive policing technology that is used to jail Palestinians simply because they fit a “terrorist profile” and that has contributed to the incarceration of as much as 40% of the total male population of Palestine. Its technology is also utilized in the U.S. by ICE to carry out workplace raids, deportations, and the separation of migrant families, and by local U.S. law enforcement agencies for the police profiling that is widely recognized as racist. While our denomination invests in these companies, we unintentionally contribute to, and profit from, these practices financially.

The first Pittsburgh-area church to endorse this corporate engagement initiative was Valley View Presbyterian in Garfield. Shortly after that, the January meeting of our Session unanimously approved the overture, which had been submitted to it by our Justice Team. On Feb. 22, it was introduced by Rev. Chad Collins of Valley View at the meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, where it was approved by a vote of 79 to 12.

Two presbyteries or synods must endorse an overture before it can be considered by the General Assembly. In fact, the San Francisco Presbytery passed it the week before Pittsburgh, and since Feb. 22 it has been approved by the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. So, it is now clear that it will be going to the General Assembly meeting at the end of June. If it is approved there, MRTI will initiate a dialogue with GE and Palantir to bring their practices in line with our Christian values. Failing that, MRTI would be charged with making “possible divestment recommendations.”



Part 2

Service of Lament: Grieving with God over the Death and Destruction of Gaza

**Sunday
March 10th
4:00 – 5:30 PM**

*Eastminster Church
250 N Highland Ave
Pittsburgh PA 15206*

For questions, please contact Rev. Chad Collins at: cdcollins2124@gmail.com

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 April newsletter is **Monday March 25th**. Please email articles and announcements to the church office (office@sixthchurch.org).

You can also put printed copies on the office desk.

Thank you!

Food for Thought...

"To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.

It always has.

But please,

Summon your courage,

Join the parade,

And speak with conviction.

For God has been saying to the world since day one:

I love you.

What is your response?"

Excerpt from poem by

Rev Sarah Speed

Wandering Heart Lenten Devotional:

Songs of Loudest Praise

