

April 2024



SIXTH  
*presbyterian*  
CHURCH

# Sixth Sense

## All Things New!

Saints,

As we begin this season of Easter together we have so many reasons to celebrate.

With the continuing signs of spring, we are reminded that God is indeed making all things new!

Worship in April is full to the brim. As a community of faith we will be embracing steps towards a new future, new information and new guest preachers!

### April Worship and Preaching

#### **April 7th Communion, 2nd Sunday of Easter**

John 21:1-19

"Here's My Heart"

Fellowship After Worship

#### **April 14th Survey Sunday, 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Matthew 5

"Salt and Light"

During worship, Pastor Sarah will share the Executive Summary with the congregation from the CAT Scan survey that was completed.

After worship, Pastor Sarah will lead an informational meeting in the sanctuary for folks to hear about the PNC steps and the Session/Congregation process. Handouts will be available as well as the livestream.

#### **April 21st 4th Sunday of Easter**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Claudia Aguilar Rubaclava, Director of Engagement for More Light Presbyterians. Rev. Rubaclava is coming to Pittsburgh and will preach and lead worship with Pastor Sarah.

We look forward to hearing about the new board of directors, and the evolving vision and mission of MLP at a local and national level.


(Pastor Sarah will be leaving early on April 22nd for a continuing education trip to Japan. During the 10 day trip, Pastor Sarah will be traveling with 9 other Presbyterian women on a pilgrimage to Tokyo and Koyosan to learn more about Buddhism and staying at a monastery in the mountains.)

#### **April 28th 5th Sunday of Easter**


Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe. Rev. Howe will lead worship and preach while Pastor Sarah is on continuing education leave.

We look forward to having Pam and Kirk Howe's daughter-in-law back in the pulpit again.

# Children and Youth Updates



## APRIL 2024



# Youth

(6th-12th)

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				

**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  
*Wednesdays 3,10,17,,24*


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

**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 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation Class - Meet with Session** be at the church at 6:30 p.m. We will be finished about 8 p.m.

**Contact: Jenny Newman**  
[Jennyrunew@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

## Confirmation Class

The Confirmation class will meet from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Sunday, 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.

## Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee will meet on Sunday, April 21 following worship. The meeting agenda will include planning for the summer months and working on updates to our church's child safety policy. Please join us! Please get in touch with Jenny Newman if you need child care during the meeting.

## Youth Mission Learning Trip

Youth from Sixth Church are invited to join East Liberty Presbyterian Church Youth on a mission/learning trip to **Washington DC. Aug. 4-9**. The trip is still being planned but the details so far are as follows: Students entering 7th-12th are invited to travel to Washington DC. to stay at the Friends Place, a Quaker guest house and learning center blocks from the nation's Capitol. Friends Place offers opportunities for experiential education and civic engagement programs focused on how people-power creates justice, peace, a healthy planet, and a stronger democracy. We will be visiting the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, and serving alongside agencies working for food justice in DC. We will also be visiting museums and monuments. The cost for the week will be \$450 per student. The group will travel to DC using the ELPC church bus. Sarah Hackett and Jenny Newman will lead the trip. More details will be available as planning progresses. In the meantime, please let Jenny know if you would like to attend so we can reserve your spot.

# Vacation Church School

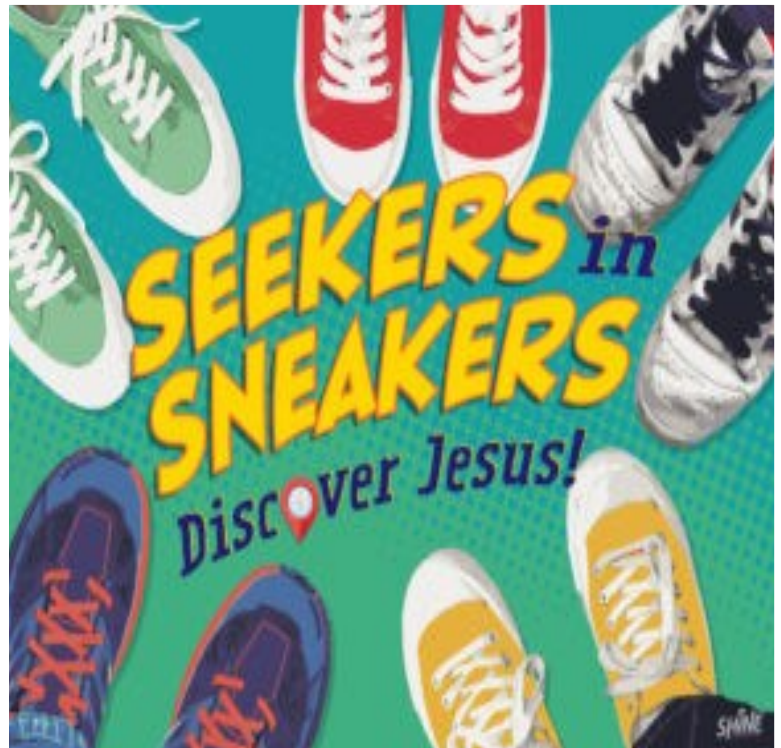
Vacation Church School will happen at ELPC **June 24–28**, 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus! Participants will use their investigative skills to discover Jesus and explore the stories of 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 what some of our needs are for this summer.

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



# Healing with Nature Mosaic Project

A six-week program at the Frick Environmental Center designed to respond to the human experience of grief and loss through the healing power of nature and of creative expression. Free to all ages. Registration required: [1027healingpartnership.org/healing-with-nature-mosaic-project/](http://1027healingpartnership.org/healing-with-nature-mosaic-project/). Saturdays, 1-3pm and Thursdays, 4-6pm. Beginning: Saturday, April 6th.



## April Birthdays

April 1	Susan Koehler Diana Wood	April 10	Opal Middleton	April 21	Jane Fox
April 2	David Rothenberg	April 12	Peter Bower	April 23	Tom Juring
April 6	Kate Davoli Barb Parees	April 16	Meg Cummings	April 26	Russ Loyd Tyler Middleton
April 8	Sheila Kier	April 17	Kathy Heron	April 27	Frank Davoli
April 9	Bill Beggs	April 18	David Bennett	April 29	Carol Ladebue

## A Farewell from Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb

Dear People of Sixth:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

I am so grateful I got to see many of you on Sunday, March 10, when I came to say goodbye. I am deeply appreciative for the service that was organized by Pastor Sarah, Douglas, and Jenny, for the cards and emails, and for the unexpected generous retirement gift. Thank you.

It was such a happy and sad day. I am happy that we did get to see one another one last time, but I am sad that illness cut my ministry at Sixth short. But I am still not healthy enough to return to work, so the wisdom of decisions made this past summer have been vindicated. It is time for me to move into retirement, and time for Sixth to move into a new season of ministry with a gifted new pastor.

Our God is a God of the future. Jesus is always moving ahead of his disciples, beckoning us to follow. I trust that Sixth is uniquely poised to continue to be a beacon of life and hope and light in Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania. I am grateful that I got to be a part of this ministry for 10 precious years.

Moving forward, I make the following two promises to you. I will commit to praying for you for a year. I will “unfollow” many of you on social media. I will not accept invitations to conduct funerals or officiate at weddings. Those privileges are the responsibility of your interim pastor and will be the responsibility of your new pastor. The only way for you to begin your relationship with your new pastor is for me to completely step aside. Robert Frost once said that “good fences make good neighbors.” Honoring this boundary allows your new pastor to begin with the same “fresh start” that I had 10 years ago and ensures that we both can move into the new futures that are before us. I trust that the God who has always held us will hold you and hold me as we move into that future.

Thank you once again for the celebration on March 10 and for the privilege of being your pastor. I will remember you with affection and tenderness for the rest of my days.

In Christ,

Vincent



## Temple Sinai Hosts Deadly by Design: A Presentation About Gun Violence Prevention

Temple Sinai and RAC- PA, the Pennsylvania chapter of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in partnership with CeaseFirePA, will host a screening about gun violence in Pennsylvania and opportunities for prevention on Sunday, April 28 from 1-2:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. To register, please visit: <https://RAC.org/DBD>

The presentation will take place at Temple Sinai, 5500 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Deadly by Design will share stories of Pennsylvanians who have experienced losses due to gun violence. Those individuals believe that the best way to save the next life is to address the gaps in Pennsylvania laws. The program will discuss Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Universal Background Checks, two bills that have been passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and await consideration by the Pennsylvania Senate. The presentation will conclude with an opportunity to share personal experiences and feelings about gun violence.

## Invitation from the Church and Community Committee to Submit Names of Organizations to Fund in 2024

The Church & Community Committee of Sixth is beginning our allocation process for 2024, identifying and selecting groups to fund. We invite you to recommend organizations. Either groups that provide direct assistance to those in need, or groups that advocate for important social or political change can be proposed.

If you have an organization you would like to submit, we ask that you provide a report by Sunday, May 12 describing the organization. If possible, your report should include:

- A summary of the nature and mission of the organization.
- The organization's accomplishments (emphasizing its most recent work), and why you believe it is worthy of financial support.
- A Web link or information on how to contact the organization.
- Whether you think the organization is primarily engaged in advocacy, direct assistance, or both.
- And if you can find it, the following for scoring purposes:
  - ◆ The involvement of Sixth Church members (including yourself) in the organization (e.g., volunteer work, serving on the organization's board, serving as an officer).
  - ◆ The amount of revenue the organization received in the most recent 12-month period for which information is available.
  - ◆ The racial composition of the Board of Directors.
  - ◆ Whether or not the organization is faith-based.

If you are unable to find any of this information, if you have other questions, or if you are interested in submitting an organization, please contact me at [ttwiss@pitt.edu](mailto:ttwiss@pitt.edu) or Peter Kaplan at [pghpeter9@gmail.com](mailto:pghpeter9@gmail.com). Also, please get in touch with us if you are interested in getting involved with the funding activities or programming of the Church & Community Committee. We could really use your help!

Tom Twiss- Chair, Church & Community Committee

# Notes from the March Session Meeting

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

Rev. Sarah Robbins and Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session, were present.

Rev. Robbins began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a time of sharing, followed by the opening prayer.

## **CLERK'S REPORT:**

- Worship: In Person/YouTube: 3/3 (78/60), 3/10 (130/71), 3/17 (95/32)
- One (1) Sixth Church voting Commissioner allotted for Pittsburgh Presbytery Meetings, 2024
- Presbytery Meetings for 2024
  - ◆ Thursday, May 23 – Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 1:00PM-Scott Bell
  - ◆ Thursday, October 3 – Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 AM
  - ◆ Thursday, December 12 – Northmont United Presbyterian Church at 1:00 PM
- Session Minutes Review-Clerk will attend on April 6, 2024

## **OMNIBUS MOTION:**

- Motion to approve the Agenda as presented
- Motion to approve the Omnibus

With one minor correction on the Omnibus, the Agenda and Omnibus were approved unanimously/

## **PASTORAL REPORT:**

- Session agreed to provide fellowship following worship on Palm Sunday. Elder Barbara Parees will be point person. Jenny Newman will have prayer stations available on Palm Sunday and through Holy Week, so there will be time/place for fellowship and for reflection.
- Rev. Robbins reported that wording on a flyer included in the bulletin will be reviewed and edited.
- During the April 17 Session meeting, the confirmation class will attend to share their statements of faith and answer questions about their faith journeys. In turn, the youth are encouraged to ask Session members questions as well.
- Rather than risk travel issues when returning from her continuing education trip to Japan, Rev. Robbins will seek pulpit supply for May 5.
- Rev. Robbins reminded the elders that there is still a need for a Personnel chair and committee. Several recommendations were made.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- **FINANCE:** Elder Peter Watt-Morse did not have any relevant information to add to the reports that were shared for the Session packet.
- **PERSONNEL:** Brief update given.
- **HOUSE:** Elder Tom Juring reported that a more formal calendar (for all) and guidelines for building use by outside groups will need to be better defined.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** Elder Peter Kaplan shared that the meeting to begin discussing the 2025 campaign will be held in April.
- **PNC:**
  - ◆ Following the information provided about the CAT Survey, Elder Joe Ashenden shared that there are two areas that Session can be most helpful: 1-Mission and Vision of Sixth-it was generally agreed that the current mission statement remains a good reflection of who we are now. Once a new pastor has been hired, the mission statement will be reviewed and tweaked if necessary. 2-Recommendations for tasks and duties for the new pastor-Elder Ashenden and Andrew Swensen, as members of the PNC, have agreed to work on this. Elders Barb Parees and Scott Bell volunteered to participate as well.
  - ◆ The goal is to have a draft of the MDP for the next Session meeting, April 17.
  - ◆ Rev. Robbins sought suggestions for the best way to share the executive summary of the CAT SCAN with members of the congregation. By consensus, Rev. Robbins will incorporate the information into worship on April 14, followed by an email blast to the congregation. Immediately following the April 14 service, she will share more information about the PNC process and answer questions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Church and Community:** Elder Peter Kaplan reported that the C & C would like to encourage more members to attend their meetings. They have just begun the process of collecting reports to award allocations of funds. The goal is to accelerate the process of distributing the funds. Elder Kaplan would like to encourage new non-profit suggestions/reports and will share this in the upcoming newsletter.
- **Christian Education:** Report in packet.

**DEACONS:** Deacons did not meet in March.

**COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:** Palm Sunday, March 24-Session; April 7-Church and Community; May 5-More Light

**NEXT MEETING:** April 17, 2024, 7 p.m. (Special Guests, Confirmation Class/Sponsors/Jenny Newman)

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Rev. Robbins closed the meeting with prayer at 8:35

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 May newsletter is **Monday, April 22nd**. Please email articles and announcements to the church office:  
officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

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*

