

Sixth Sense



November 2024

New Music Director, Shay Carter

Greetings! My name is Shay Carter, and I am very excited to be joining Sixth as the new Director of Music.

I have been formally involved in church music ministry for over a decade, having served several different congregations across north central WV and, most recently, the South Hills of Pittsburgh. I graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2020 with a B.A. in Piano Performance, where I studied piano and organ under Dr. Melody Meadows. In 2021, I joined the music faculty at Anderson Music Academy, where I love to teach (and learn from!) my wonderful piano students.



I currently reside in beautiful Greenfield, where I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, Christopher, who is an upright bassist on the Pittsburgh jazz scene. In my free time, I like to read, crochet, and go on adventures with our mini poodle, Paul.

As a lifelong lover of sacred music, I am thrilled to begin serving in the neighborhood that has been my home for the last four years. I have already been so warmly welcomed by the staff at Sixth, and look forward to meeting the congregation!

Best,

Shay Carter

SCarter@sixthchurch.org

Shay's start date will be November 4th. Her first choir rehearsal will be on November 7th, and Shay's first time joining Sixth in worship will be on November 10th.



Sunday School :
10 a.m. every Sunday

Youth Group: 4:30 to 7 p.m.
Thursdays at East Liberty
Presbyterian Church. Dinner is
served at 5. Please enter through the
entrance at 116 Highland Ave.

Youth
(6th-12th)

Nov. 7
Nov. 14
Nov. 21

Looking Ahead: *It's Christmas Pageant Time!*

The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 15, when the children and youth will lead worship, participate in music, and share the Nativity story. Please stay tuned for rehearsal times as we welcome our new director of music who joins us early this month.

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

The Stewardship Campaign Has Begun!

Last week you should have received the Stewardship package in the mail, including your pledge card, information about our campaign goal, and three loving testimonials about our faith community. Please read the brochure, and prayerfully consider a generous pledge.

But more than that, respond to the request that Pastor Sarah made in her October 27th sermon, “Outlandish Hope”, inspired by the prophet Jeremiah’s letter to the exiles in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:4-14). If you missed Pastor Sarah’s inspiring sermon, or you would like to hear it again, here is link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wj_YF-0jC-E. The sermon begins at minute 38.

We live in a troubling, fearful moment. At a time like this, it is especially important for us to be inspired by our hopes – your hopes – for this congregation. Over the coming days, please ponder your own aspirations for Sixth Church, whether they are new initiatives or enhancements of what we already do.

The Stewardship Committee will offer a series of after-church Q&A and comment opportunities for you to learn more about the stewardship campaign, and to offer your ideas. These will take place on November 3rd as part of fellowship hour, November 17th, and either December 8th or 15th. Bring your questions about the plan contained in the brochure. But just as important, share with us your own dreams for this congregation.

If you can’t attend any of these after-church sessions, please share your visions for Sixth with Pastor Sarah or with members of the Stewardship Committee: Patty Halverson, Beth Hazlett, Peter Kaplan, and Barb Parees.

Please bring your completed pledge card to the church service on November 3rd, which is Stewardship Dedication Sunday. After the service, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting the fellowship hour with our now traditional cake as well as other food and drink.

If you are reading this after November 3rd, no worries! You can mail your pledge card to the Church, or email Kelly Johnson, our Church Secretary, at officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

In Outlandish Hope,
Peter Kaplan for the Stewardship Committee

Pam Bower– How I Found a Church Home at Sixth Church

Note: Pam presented this testimonial during the worship service on Sunday, October 27th. Her personal and inspiring words are well reading if you missed that service, and re-reading even if you heard them in the sanctuary that morning.

My name is Pam Bower, I am married with 3 adult sons and 4 adorable grandchildren. I have been a member of Sixth since 2006. I have served on Deacons and Session and have served as co-chair then chair of worship.

One Saturday evening (in 1998), my then teen-age son (Ashley) came down the stairs and said, “Mom. Aaron (Ronsheim) invited me to Sunday School tomorrow morning. May I go?”

What would you say?

Now, our 3 sons grew up as PKs (Preacher’s Kids), nonetheless this was a bit of a puzzling, but welcome, request. I later learned the incentive and draw was, simply put, GIRLS! Kathi Robinson-Dassel’s daughter was part of this as were Rob Beswick’s daughters, and others.


We had been visiting and considering new congregations/churches to attend and be part of. Like many of you, I have experienced the best and the worst with churches and church people. It was the search for the best that brought me to Sixth.

Our interest in Sixth grew as we learned more about the congregation from friendship with the Ronsheim’s, the kindness of John McCall, our familiarity with Fred Rogers, the many faithful educational and service programs, and other great discoveries about the congregation.

Our boys found healing faithful Christian leadership with Jen Fox, Rob Beswick, John McCall, Fred Rogers, and several others through Sunday School and Youth Group.

I am a lifelong Presbyterian, who married a lifelong Presbyterian who happens to be a Presbyterian Minister, and to whom I was introduced by my Presbyterian minister (at the time) in Texas! Could we be any more Presbyterian?!

I grew up in a family whose life centered on the church. My father sang in the choir and taught Sunday School, and my mother always participated in many of the women’s and service programs. I couldn’t wait to be old enough to help in the nursery.



I grew up with offering envelopes we faithfully put coins in for church school every Sunday.

As parents, my husband helped our sons understand tithing, and that the first 10% of their allowance went to the church.

In 2006 I felt a desire to become part of a community of faith and found joy in Sixth Church under the leadership of Mary Louise McCullough, the outreach of many members, and the incredible music of the Sixth choir.

I had been experiencing the power of meaningful worship services under the leadership of my liturgical guru husband, thus had a strong interest in worship at Sixth. Mary Louise encouraged this interest. I soon jumped in, appreciating the similar interest and leadership of Pam Howe. We partnered as co-chairs of the Worship Committee, and then I became chair of worship for several years.

Since “Worship is at the very heart of the church’s life,” our worship committee wanted to do our part making the worship experience one where the community of faith is formed in response to God’s call.

We also wanted to encourage the participation of youth and adults in various aspects of worship and liturgical celebrations.

Verna Robinson and I started the acolyte and water pourer program. What a joy to work with these children! Jeffrey Kaplan was our first youth who carried the Paschal candle into Easter worship, bringing in the light of Christ. Youth have been candle lighters to celebrate the growing light of Christ Epiphany Sunday.

I am currently a member of the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee). Being a clergy spouse, my perspective is unique, and my expectations are high. As we look to our future with faith, these remarkable PNC members are diligently working to faithfully discern a future pastor for you.

I love this congregation. I am in awe of the quietly caring energy of so many people here to “go and serve.” One time recently I was in worship after having been away a few weeks and as I looked around the congregation, listened to Sarah’s preaching and the choir’s music, my heart swelled with joy and appreciation, thanking God for this community of faith.

I am filled with Hope and Excitement as we **Embrace our Future with Faith.**

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Abbreviated Session Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2024
What You Need to Know!

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER:

Following a time of sharing, Rev. Robbins opened the meeting with prayer at 7:15 pm.

CLERKS REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube: 9/22-(70/47); 9/29-(76/37); 10/6-(90/50); 10/13-(60/55); 10/20 (/29)
- Presbytery Meeting-Thursday, December 12 –at 1:00 PM-Elder Kate Davoli share information about a webinar about More Light polity amendments that will be voted on during the next meeting. Elder Scott Bell will be attending.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Cole Arthur Riley Event looks to be well attended.
- Pastor Sarah will be attending a continuing education retreat, November 3-8, 2024, in St. Louis.
- Jesy Littlejohn, Director of Operations at More Light Presbyterians, will be sharing the pulpit with Pastor Sarah on November 10.
- Chris Berg will be guest preacher on November 24, 2024.
- Pastor Sarah's request to order the OWL3 to improve WIFI and ability to use video conferencing was approved.
- Pastor Sarah will share some of the thoughts and ideas that were discussed during the Session retreat. The elders plan to continue the process.

WHAT ELSE:

- Shay Carter, the new Director of Music, will begin November 4, 2024.
- Elder Tom Twiss reported that the educational opportunities offered, concerning the crisis in Gaza, have been very well attended.
- A sit-down Christmas lunch will be held December 15, following the Christmas Pageant.
- A fund-raising dinner to provide humanitarian support for Gaza will be held in January.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

- November 3- Stewardship-dedication of the pledges for 2025
- December 15- Christmas Pot-Luck

NEXT MEETING:

November 20, 7pm

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session

Pittsburgh East Crop Walk Wrap-Up

Fight hunger one step at a time.

The Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk happened on October 13! Thank you to our Sixth Church team: April Clisura, Patty Halverson, Cliff Johnson, Nora Johnson, Peter Koehler, Sue Koehler, Jenny Newman, Pamela Twiss, Tom Twiss, Lauren Ward, Amanda Zeglin, Rowan Zeglin, Tristan Zeglin, and Violet Zeglin. (Pictured, left to right: Rowan, Violet, and Tristan Zeglin)



We were so pleased to welcome Muslim neighbors, walking as Team Palestine, who joined in with our local Protestant congregations in a spirit of community concern for the causes supported by Church World Service and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.

We are still receiving donations! Please consider supporting the walk if you have not already done so. Your money will be well used.

Checks: Make out to CWS/CROP

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

2024
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

More Light Presbyterians Board



Elder Kate Davoli joined their fellow members of the national board of directors of More Light Presbyterians in Chicago. At their retreat, the Board made plans to honor the legacies of congregations like Sixth and to invigorate the More Light network of congregations so they are more directly connected with one another. More to come!

November Birthdays

Nov. 3	Alice Scales	Nov. 17	Peter Gilmore	Nov 27	Robin Holtje Elena Berg
Nov. 5	Mary Crossley	Nov. 21	Bob Robinson-Dassel		
Nov. 6	Megan Fogt	Nov. 22	Cosy Cornelius-Bates		
Nov. 16	Brian Lazarus	Nov. 25	Laura Sindhi		

Symphonies and Suites

Saturday, November 23, 2024, 7:30 pm
Rodef Shalom

— & —

Sunday, November 24, 2024 3:00 pm
6th Presbyterian



The Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh (COP) continues its 10th Anniversary season with a rich and varied program on November 23 and 24. On **Sunday, November 24, 2024 at Sixth Presbyterian Church**, COP gathers a compellingly diverse collection of works: the *Symphony in G Major* by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint George, Jean Sibelius's *Impromptu for Strings*, the *Danse Sacrée et Danse Profane* by Claude Debussy, and Mozart's *Symphony No. 29 in A Major*. Harpist Marissa Knaub Avon joins the orchestra as the special guest soloist for the Debussy.

Tickets are \$30 for adults if purchased in advance and \$35 at the door, and all student tickets are \$10.

Tickets are available online at www.copgh.org.



The deadline for the December newsletter is:
Monday, November 25th.

Please email articles and announcements to the church office at
officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

You can also put printed copies on the office desk.

Thanks you!



Fun Times with Sixth & ELPC Youth!

Top Photo: Cooking over a fire during youth group in the ELPC Courtyard

Bottom Photo: Corn Maze at Gearhard Farms



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.

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