

Sixth Sense

January 2025



A New Season Has Begun!

Saints,

This Sunday, January 5th, we will be celebrating the new season of Epiphany in worship! This is the time when we remember and mark the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ, and when we follow the story of the Magi and Joseph as they come to know the impact of God with us.

One of the ways we will mark this is through the choosing of a new star word. We began this practice last year, and will do so again in worship this Sunday.

If you still have your star words from last year-- please bring them with you!

For more information about the practice of star words, check out this link:
<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/star-words-epiphany-tradition-grows>

Please let me know, for those of you who worship via the livestream, if I can get a star word to you through email or text.

There are several exciting projects, opportunities and fundraisers that are in the works for January and February for our community of faith! More will be available soon, so stay tuned for ways you can get involved.

Finally, I have included one of my favorite Epiphany poems from Jan Richardson. May it inspire you, as it does me.

In peace and solidarity,
Rev. Sarah Robbins, Interim Pastor

For Those Who Have Far to Travel

If you could see the journey whole
you might never undertake it;
might never dare the first step
that propels you
from the place you have known
toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:
that we see it only by stages
as it opens before us,
as it comes into our keeping
step by single step.

There is nothing for it but to go
and by our going take the vows
the pilgrim takes:
to be faithful to the next step;
to rely on more than the map;
to heed the signposts of intuition and dream;
to follow the star that only you will recognize;
to keep an open eye for the wonders that
attend the path;
to press on beyond distractions
beyond fatigue
beyond what would tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know;
the secret promises for your particular path
and the new ones you will need to make
when the road is revealed by turns
you could not have foreseen.

Keep them, break them, make them again:
each promise becomes part of the path;
each choice creates the road
that will take you to the place
where at last you will kneel to offer the gift
most needed —
the gift that only you can give —
before turning to go home by another way.

—Jan Richardson



Youth (6th-12th)

Youth Group

Thursdays - Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29

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

January 19

12:30 to 5 p.m.

Snow tubing at Boyce Park with ELPC youth. Please RSVP to Jenny. We will travel with ELPC in their church van.

**Mark your calendar for these upcoming events—
more info soon!**

February 16th @ 2pm – Rise Against Hunger
Presbytery-Wide Youth Mission Event at Hampton
Pres. Church

April 4th – 6th – Spring Presbytery Youth Retreat @
Camp Crestfield

Christian Education Announcements:

- Sunday School for children and youth will resume at 10 a.m. on January 12.
- *Please mark your calendars:* The Christian Education Committee will meet on Sunday, Feb. 16, following worship. Please join us to begin planning for 2025!

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

412-720-6392

January Birthdays

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Jan 2 | Scott Bell | Jan 18 | Jennifer Joy |
| Jan 11 | Debbie Phillips Meghan Jones | Jan 26 | Vicki Guy |
| Jan 13 | David Myers- Newbury | | |



Photos from Our Christmas Pageant and Annual Christmas Dinner



January Earth Care Corner

By April Clisura

Happy New Year from the Earth Care Committee! We were sorry to see The Refillery zero-waste store depart from Squirrel Hill in 2024. The Refillery is a cleaning product and personal care store where you can fill your own reusable container - or a free or purchased container from the store supply - with anything from laundry detergent to shampoo. The good news is that The Refillery still exists in Oakmont at 612 Allegheny River Blvd. inside Today's Organic Market. If that sounds interesting, but you don't live in that area, read on for a list of all the similar zero waste stores in the Pittsburgh area (some of the stores also deliver or have online shopping, such as The Refillery) - but first a brief description of this type of store.

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As many well-known brands become better at packaging consumer staples more sustainably, there is also a small but growing number of places to shop with refillable containers. This type of zero-waste store is generally termed a “refillery.” For those familiar with the bulk section at East End Food Co-Op, picture an entire shop dedicated to offerings from bulk barrels and bins. This type of shop will be devoid of products sold in single-use plastic packaging. There may be a selection of products packaged in zero waste as individual sizes ready to take home, such as tins of deodorant or toothpaste tablets, but most noticeable will be big vats with pumps and bins with scoops. While East End Food Co-Op offers more food items as compared to toiletry and cleaning items in its bulk section, the small refillery stores surrounding the City of Pittsburgh offer few or no edible goods for the kitchen pantry.

Roxanne’s Refillery

516 California Ave. in Avalon

roxannesrefillery.com

Products: sustainable zero-waste items for the home and kitchen, refillable laundry, cleaning, personal care and beauty products, distilled vinegar

Edible pantry staples? Coming soon

Online shopping? Coming soon

Delivery? Coming soon

Free containers? Yes

Wonderfill Low Waste Refillery Market

370 Broadmoor Ave. in Mt. Lebanon

wonderfillmarket.com

Products: sustainable zero-waste items for the home and kitchen and for kids, candles and gifts, refillable and low-waste laundry, cleaning, personal care and beauty products

Edible pantry staples? No

Online shopping? Yes

Delivery? Yes

Free containers? Yes

*Collection site for usable yarn

Jar Zero Waste Store and Refillery is located in Somerset, PA

The Refillery

612 Allegheny River Blvd. in Oakmont (inside Today’s Organic Market)

therefillerypgh.com

Products: sustainable zero-waste items for the home and kitchen and for kids, candles and gifts, refillable laundry, cleaning, personal care and beauty products, menstrual supplies

Edible pantry staples? No

Online shopping? Yes

Delivery? Yes

Free containers? Yes

Ziero’s

2810 W. Liberty Ave. in Dormont

zieros.life

Products: sustainable zero-waste items for the home and kitchen and gifts, refillable and low-waste laundry, cleaning and personal care products (more minimalist selection), cleaning vinegar and hydrogen peroxide

Edible pantry staples? No

Online shopping? No

Delivery? Yes

Free containers? Yes

*Purchase for good: donate an item marked “essential” to the Dormont Free Pantry

Fun fact: Refillery stores allow you to buy as much or as little of a product as you want, making it ideal to try a sample before spending a lot. Just weigh your container and fill as full as you want.

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2024

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube: 11/24-(70/83); 12/1-(101/63); 12/8-(103/43); 12/15-(125/58)
- Annual Reports due for January 15 meeting-the sooner in January, the better for Kelly to publish.
- Membership Roll review early in 2025.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Rev. Susan Rothenberg will cover on January 19 when Rev. Robbins is off.
- Session members will attend a Discernment Retreat on January 26, 2025, after church and Committee Reorganization meeting February 23, 2025 after church, which will include looking at the way other churches structure their committees.
- New members class will be considered in the new year.

OTHER NEWS:

- Pledges are still below expectations-reminders will be sent to those whose pledges are not fully paid.
- Committee chairs should submit budget requests to Elder Peter Watt-Morse by January 6, so they can be included in the 2025 budget.
- Appreciate having Leslie Kaplan and Chris Berg handling building/ground issues as House committee.
- The Stewardship campaign was successful with Elder Peter Kaplan as chair and powerful sermons and testimonials.
- PNC hopes to have an update for the congregation by the end of January.
- Session has approved a Gaza Relief Fundraising Dinner with a guest speaker. The event begins at 5:30pm on January 25, 2025, with proceeds donated to UNRWA. Chris Berg and Sharon Manley will be cooking and organizing. Details need to be worked out and more information will be available soon.
- The Pageant was wonderful and the return to sit-down Christmas dinner was a big success.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: January 5, 2025-Deacons, January 19-Session, February 2-Choir, February 16-Session

NEXT MEETING: January 15, 2025, 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The deadline for the February newsletter is:
Friday, January 24th.

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!

Save the Date

Gaza Relief Fundraising Dinner with Guest Speaker:

Hosted at Sixth Presbyterian Church on
Saturday, January 25th. The event begins at 5:30pm.

Proceeds donated to UNRWA.

More details to come.



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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