

Sixth Sense

April 2025

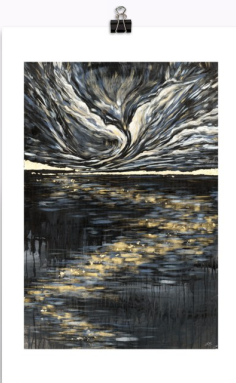


Dear Saints,

I took a moment to remember what we were up to as a congregation at this time last year. There was the CAT scan report to digest, a variety of guest preachers that reconnected us to our core identity as a faith community, and many discernment conversations to engage. A year later, you all have worked hard, cared for one another, and elected your next installed pastor, Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe!

Last year, we also used the resource from SanctifiedArt, which continues to inspire my thoughts and writings. I was so thankful to learn that one of the pieces of artwork that I loved was available for purchase.

The print, "The Promise" hangs in our house today because of the way it talks about the hope we have on Easter morning.



The artist, Lisle Gwynnn Garrity, writes this, "In this painting, I imagine what the women see in the moment before they turn to flee from the tomb. Instead of the dry, cracked desert, I imagine instead that they see the story of creation happening again before them. As the horizon breaks open, I imagine light and wind sweeping over a deep sea, giving shape to what was once a formless void. I imagine the heavens blooming like an iris, giving birth to glimmers of radiance. I imagine darkness that still lingers – for in these shadows, there is sacredness too. I imagine the winding path they followed to get to the tomb, previously lit only by starlight, now illuminated with promise."

They may be overridden with fear and trembling, but their story does not end here. There is a way forward. In this liminal space, once again, God proclaims that their fear – this new, uncertain way – is still held within the promise of resurrection. For this, I believe, is the promise of this life: that the story of creation happens again and again."

I am so grateful for this description. This is exactly what I hope and pray is true for each of us this coming Easter season. We may be overridden with anxiety and fear these days, but we know for sure that our story does not end here.

I look forward to journeying to Jerusalem, to the cross and beyond with each of you.
Easter blessings, Rev. Sarah Robbins, *Interim Pastor*

WORSHIP

April 6th-- Fifth Sunday in Lent, Celebration of Communion

April 13th-- Palm/Passion Sunday with waving of Palms

April 17th-- Maundy Thursday worship with combined Agape meal dinner in chapel at 7pm

April 20th-- Christ's Resurrection Celebrated with Communion and special music after worship in the chapel.

April 27th-- Guest preacher, Elder Kate Davoli

April Youth

Confirmation Class

Sunday, April 6 - 12:30- 2pm

Lunch will be provided!

Monday, April 21 - 6- 7:30pm



Weekly Youth Group

April 3rd- Reimagined Recycling

At Reimagining Recycling we will learn about their creative efforts to recycle #5 plastics here in Pittsburgh.

We'll also have an opportunity to help keep plastic out of landfills. We will meet at ELPC at 4:30pm and the van leaves ELPC @5:15pm. We will return to ELPC at 7pm.



April 10th- Garfield Community Farm

We will volunteer at Garfield Community Farm - so dress for the weather and digging in the dirt! We will meet at ELPC at 4:30 and the van leaves ELPC @5:15pm. We will return to ELPC at 7pm.



No youth group on Thursday, April 17th.

April 24th

4:30 to 7pm at ELPC. Dinner is served at 5pm. Please enter through the entrance at 116 Highland Ave.

Please RSVP! Questions about timing and transportation-reach out to Jenny at Jennyrunew@gmail.com.



Palm Sunday Dinner

Join us for an evening gathering from **5 to 7pm** on Palm Sunday (April 13) to begin Holy Week.

We will provide pizza and beverages. Please bring a side dish, snacks, or a dessert to share. Come to share a meal, fellowship time and activities for everyone in the chapel.

Children and Youth Choir

We will rehearse at **9:30am** on Palm Sunday before Sunday school (April 13). The children and youth choir will sing on Easter Sunday.

EASTER Sunday School



Sunday School classes for children and youth will be held in the Chapel. Join us for Easter Egg hunting and sharing the Easter story.

Please Note: There will be no Extended Session on Easter Sunday. Children are invited to worship with their Families. We will provide nursery Care for infants and toddlers during the service.

Vacation Church School @East Liberty Presbyterian Church

June 23–27

Vacation Church School with our friends ELPC will be held 9am to 3pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed).

[Register a Student Here](#)

Teens 6th-12th grade and adult volunteers are needed as storytellers, camp counselors, to help with games, art, lunch and to model that learning to love like Jesus is an amazing lifelong adventure!

[Register as a Youth Volunteer](#)

[Register as an Adult Volunteer](#)



Presbyterian Youth Triennium

The 2025 PCUSA national youth conference will be held July 28th-31st in Louisville, Kentucky. Students who have completed 8th-12th grade are invited to attend as part of the Pittsburgh Presbytery led by Jenny Newman and Sarah Hackett (ELPC). This gathering happens every three years and joins over a 1000 teens from around the world to worship, learn, fellowship, and play together as a joyful community of faith.

Interested students are asked to contact Jenny Newman for more information about travel details and the cost of the trip! Please let her know if you are interested in coming along! More info about the event can be found here: <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>.

Easter's Coming!



Sixth Church Deviled Egg Taste-Off

IT'S BACK!!! One of the most anticipated aspects of Easter Sunday Fellowship is surely the SIXTH CHURCH DEVILED EGG TASTE-OFF! Participate - if you wish - by bringing in a plate of deviled eggs on Easter Sunday. Take them to the downstairs kitchen before the start of worship. Thank you! The more eggs, the merrier!

Easter Lily Memorials

We offer two options for honoring loved ones at Easter:



- You can buy an Easter Lily for \$10 and have a name placed in the Easter bulletin in honor or memory of a loved one. You can then take your flower home after Easter worship.
- The second option will be to have a loved one's name placed in the Easter bulletin as before, but instead of buying a flower, you will be donating \$10 or more to the Deacons Fund.

Deadline for orders is April 7th. Order forms will be with the bulletins during March 30th and April 6th service; alternatively, you can email or call the church office.

Calling for Lazarus Fund Help

Calling all former and interested friends to be interviewers for people seeking Lazarus Fund help. The need for those funds is increasing. Please lend your help by contacting April Clisura at april.clisura@gmail.com or calling the church office.

Steel City Table

The Deacons are excited to announce that the South Side Table has been reopened under a new name "Steel City Table." It will be sponsored like the previous multi-church/organizations, including our own Sharon Manley and her faithful helpers from the congregation and supported by your generous donations. Contact Robin Holtje (labrat@gerf.org) or Sharon (manley.sharon@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer. Thanks for your continued support.

Also: Steel City Table is having an informative "Open House" on Saturday, April 12th from 9am-12pm. **Address:** 2700 Jane Street, Pittsburgh 15203.

April Earth Care Corner

By Pam Howe

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22nd. **The Earth Care Committee is inviting you to a celebration and workshop in honor of Earth Day on Sunday April 27th right after church in the chapel.**



This year we will be celebrating pollinators! A message from the Pollinator Partnership describes our relationship well.

"Food is a basic human need, and without pollinators, humans would go hungry! Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and small animals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants. With the decline of pollinators on the rise, our food is on the line. More than 200,000 species of pollinators are critical to the stability of our food supply."

At our celebration, we will have a reception serving foods that are grown with pollinators. We will also be creating simple "Bug Hotel" that you can set up in your own yard to help pollinators thrive. Check out these websites to see what supplies we may need to make the "Bug Hotels": www.mudandbloom.com/blog/bug-hotel?format=amp or www.redtedart.com/simple-bug-hotel-for-kids/.

There will be information about the pollinator garden that is being planted on the church grounds, (right outside the Murray Ave door) to encourage us all to plant pollinator friendly plants!

Please make plans to join us on Sunday, April 27th right after church!

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church- March 19, 2025

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube-2/23 (86/90); 3/2 (102/61); 3/5 Ash Wednesday, (46/40); 3/9 (120/112); 3/16 (80/32)
- Sixth Church Roll Review-Pastor Sarah, Clerk Kathi, Elders Peter Kaplan and Barb Parees, Jenny Newman- need to set date to meet- Kathi will be in touch to schedule.
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - ◊ Thursday, May 22 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church at 1:00 PM
 - ◊ Thursday, October 2 - Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 AM
 - ◊ Thursday, December 11 - Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville at 1:00 PM
- Letter of transfer requested and written for Gwendolyn White.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Baptism requests- for JT McGuier to be baptized on March 30th (infant of Elizabeth McGuier), and for Zoe and Lia Casci as part of confirmation class on May 11th.
- Guest Preachers-Rev. Robbins has arranged for coverage when away for continuing education pilgrimage April 24th- May 5th.
 - ◊ April 27th-Elder Kate Davoli
 - ◊ May 4th-Rev. Susan Rothenberg
- Session reluctantly accepted the resignation of Scott Bell as Elder of the church. We wish him well as he continues his faith journey.
- Session members are excited to welcome Rev. Charissa Howe as our new pastor and will need to establish guidelines for ways her extended family can appropriately continue to be active and involved in church life.

EXECUTIVE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

FINANCE: Elder Watt-Morse shared the financial update.

- Pledges are coming in higher than expected. No foundation money has been needed.
- Per capita has been paid for 2025.
- E-give option will likely be moved to another company.
- In February, Elder Peter Watt-Morse and a few other members met with representatives from the Presbyterian Foundation, now New Covenant Trust. It was a positive meeting with reassurance that New Covenant Trust is investing well and meeting Presbytery criteria. Of particular interest are programs offered by Ellie Johns-Kelly, who will share information about foundation options in a variety of ways for the congregation (ex. brochures, talk during worship, lunch meeting).

STEWARDSHIP: Elder Peter Kaplan plans to have a meeting in April.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elder Sara Berg asked Elders for suggestions as the Nominating Committee begins its work to recruit Elders and Deacons to be installed in June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Fellowship and Worship Committees shared their plans and events throughout Lent and Holy Week.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: April 6- Church and Community; April 20- Easter Sunday, Deviled Egg Extravaganza; April 27- Earth Care; May 11- Confirmation Sunday, CE will host coffee hour.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, April 22, 2025, 7pm.



The deadline for the May newsletter is:
Monday, April 21st.

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!

April Birthdays

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



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.

Sixth Presbyterian Church
 1688 Murray Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217

412-421-2752
officesixthchurch@gmail.com
www.sixthchurch.org