

Sixth Sense

June 2025



Dear Sixth Family,

In the book of Acts, we witness the early church coming together in new ways, building relationships and establishing patterns of ministry that would shape generations to come. As I begin my ministry alongside you at Sixth, I'm reminded of how God continues to weave our stories together in fresh and meaningful ways.

I've begun meeting individually with our elders and deacons, getting to know their hearts for ministry and their vision for Sixth. Once I return from vacation, I look forward to connecting with more members of our congregation. Please don't feel you need to wait for an invitation - I welcome calls, texts, or emails anytime you'd like to connect.

You can typically find me in my second-floor study on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as well as Sundays for worship. I work remotely on Mondays. My door policy is simple: if it's open, come on in; if cracked, please knock; if closed, I'm either focused on a task or away - but always happy to schedule time to meet.

I'll be away June 13-29th for a previously scheduled vacation. We're blessed to have three wonderful guest preachers during that time: Rev. Jessica McClure-Archer, Rev. Ralph Lowe, and Rev. Dr. Donna Giver-Johnston. While I'm grateful for their willingness to serve, I'm already looking forward to returning in July to continue settling into our shared ministry.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Rev. Sarah Robbins for her faithful interim ministry. Her thoughtful leadership and pastoral care have helped prepare us for this new chapter together.

May God continue to guide us as we discover what new things the Spirit has in store for our shared ministry at Sixth Presbyterian Church.

With joy and anticipation,
Pastor Charissa

WORSHIP

June 1st-- Worship in the Park with communion. Pride parade to follow.

June 8th-- Day of Pentecost with communion. Wear your red!

June 15th-- Guest preacher,
Rev. Jessica McClure-Archer

June 22nd-- Guest preacher,
Rev. Ralph Lowe

June 29th-- Guest preacher,
Rev. Dr. Donna Giver-Johnston

Coming Up This Weekend

“All Hands on Deck” Gardening Day!

Sixth Church is holding a Planting Day on **Saturday, May 31st at 10am.**

We need help with:

- shrubs -annuals -mulching
- trees -perennials -weeding

See Leslie Kaplan for more info. (412) 400-3459, bezbeads@verizon.net



Picnic and Worship in the Park

June 1 at 11 am- Rhododendron Shelter at Highland Park



We're bringing back the grill!

Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, along with buns and all the fixins.

You're bringing your own plates...

In the interest of our efforts to be an Earth Care Congregation, the Fellowship Committee is suggesting that you bring a plastic plate(s) from home to use for dining, if you are able to do this. Cutlery will be supplied (and subsequently washed) by the Fellowship Committee.

...and side dish, salad, or dessert to share!

Worship will be starting at 11 am. If you are able, it would be good to bring outdoor chairs or a blanket. If you need to unload items, it is fine to drive down close to the shelter, but then we ask you to move your car back to the road (unless this presents mobility difficulties for you).

Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival

We are excited to again celebrate Pride this summer with our fellow affirming congregations on Sunday June 1st! You have three options of ways to participate:

1. Join LAMP's marching contingent in the parade

- No need to RSVP, just show up! But if you want the team to know to expect you, email Kate Davoli at kdavoli@gmail.com
- Lineup in the Strip District around noon on Liberty Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. **Look for the LAMP banner and the white ELPC van.**
- The march lasts 1.5 miles and crosses the Warhol Bridge to conclude at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival will take place.

2. Volunteer to staff LAMP's booth at the Festival

- LAMP needs volunteers at the Festival booth. Teens and adults can help with setup, hand out "God Loves You!" buttons, or help folks take selfies with Flat Jesus.
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ADAB2DA4FAC25-56672328-pride#/>

3. Show up on your own to the Festival in the park and have fun!

- The Festival takes place in Allegheny Commons Park West and lasts all Sunday afternoon and evening.

Thank you for showing up in the streets!

~Mx. Kate Davoli, More Light Committee

Sunday School has ended for the Summer!

We will resume Sunday school on September 7th. Throughout the summer, Nursery care for infant and toddlers and Extended Session will be held during worship.

Vacation Church School @ ELPC

Volunteers will meet Sunday, June 22 from 11:30 to 2 in the social hall of ELPC and lunch will be provided. Jenny can provide transportation to the meeting from Sixth after our worship.

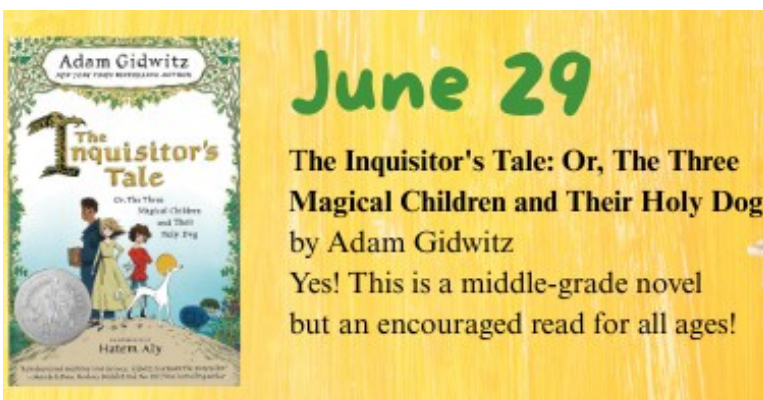


VCS starts Monday, June 23rd!

SUMMER READERS: READ WITH JENNY

Read along with me and meet after church for coffee, snacks, and to discuss!

First up:



I have an extra copy available for borrowing. Each book in this summer series is also available at your favorite local bookseller and through the Carnegie Library (e-books and audio books as well!)



Graduates

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Claire Bertolet graduates from Pittsburgh Alderdice High School. Claire will be attending the University of Pittsburgh. (Parents: Marnie and Mark Bertolet)

Dylan Palmer graduated in Psychology from Chatham College and is working at Western Psychiatric Hospital. She is thinking of a graduate program involving psychiatric nursing. (Grandparents: Carol and John Ladebue)

Holly Rosenfeld graduates from Mt Lebanon High School and will attend Carlow College to study nursing. (Grandparents: Carol and John)



Congratulations to Zoe Casci (left) Amelia Casci (middle) and Louie DeLucia (right).

Zoe and Amelia were baptized, and Amelia and Louie were confirmed on May 11.

Pentecost Sunday is coming! Wear Your Red!

Don't forget to wear you RED on Pentecost **Sunday, June 8th!** RED is the traditional color for the Day of Pentecost, "symbolizing the fire of the Spirit that rested upon the faithful disciples of Christ, and gives life to the church in every age."* Red symbolizes the empowerment from God to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world.

You are also invited to bring red foods to be enjoyed after service. Please place them in the chapel before worship on the 8th.

**PCUSA, Liturgical Year, Supplement Liturgical Resource 7*



June Earth Care Corner



Next Michael's Recycling Brothers pickup will be **Sunday, June 15th.**

Please visit sixthchurch.org for instructions. EarthCare is listed under Congregational Life.

 June Birthdays 					
June 4	David DeJong	June 13	Colin Miller	June 24	Chris McAdams
June 8	Kate Kennedy	June 18	Isabella Berg Eve Guyette	June 28	Lori Swensson
June 9	Gloria Howe	June 19	Jean Moore	June 29	Malachi Cornelius-Bates Liam Greenley
June 11	Mary Lang	June 20	Christine Tyndall		
June 12	Margaret Miller	June 22	Kyle Miller		

ATTENTION: Lazarus Fund Help Still Needed!

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.



A Note of Thanks

Dear Saints at Sixth,

As I write this note, it's been over a week now, and I continue to be overwhelmed with gratitude for not only my two years with you all, but also for the lovely and heartfelt goodbye on May 18th. Thank you for the purse and the "purse" that will be well used to sustain my family. Thank you to everyone who shared cards and well wishes, for everyone who helped with the delicious reception, and for being your generous and authentic selves.

I look forward to hearing what you all are up to next, as a community of faith that matters greatly in this neighborhood! Know that I will continue to pray for you all and for Pastor Charissa in the days and weeks ahead.

May God's peace and call to justice continue to surround you,
Rev. Sarah Robbins

Are you Called to Serve Your Church Family as a Deacon or Elder?

Spring is a time of growth, rebirth, and renewal, and with it, Sixth Presbyterian Church starts to prepare for the election of new officers to serve as Elders (The ruling body of the church) and Deacons (The ministers to the congregation). The congregational Nominating Committee (Tom Juring, Maria Guyette, April Clisura, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, and Sara Cuadra Berg) would like to encourage you to consider sharing your skills and talents in one of these leadership roles.

The new officers will be elected into ministry by the congregation in August and will start their ministry in September. The Session has six positions open (one 1-year term, one 2-year term, and four 3-year terms). The Deacons have three positions open (all 3-year terms). The committee will be receiving nominations through June.

Deacons “minister to those in need, the sick, the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.” Services provided in past years by the Deacons include:

- Providing transportation to medical appointments or church
- Providing meals for members who are recovering from an illness or medical procedure
- Helping with resumes and job searches
- Providing child care in emergencies
- Visiting the homebound
- Interviewing applicants to the Lazarus Fund
- Shopping for and compiling homeless packets for the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community.

Ruling **Elders** work in partnership with the pastor (teaching elder) in the leadership, governance, spiritual discernment, and discipline of the church. The ruling elders make up the **Session** and are called to lead each of the committees of Session.

This year, we are in particular need of officers to chair the following committees:

- Finance
- House (Building & Grounds)
- Stewardship
- Communications

If you have basic knowledge of budgeting or financial reporting, construction or building management, communications, or other leadership skills, or are willing to learn, please consider giving your time to our church.

If you feel called to serve as a deacon or elder, please fill out the form below (copies will be coming out with future bulletins also). If you want to learn more about what these leadership positions entail, please reach out to one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Yes, I would like to answer the call to serve as a(n) (please indicate which):

☐ Elder

Please indicate if you have a special interest in serving in any of the following committees:

- ☐ Finance
- ☐ House
- ☐ Stewardship
- ☐ Communications

☐ Deacon

Full name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church– May 21, 2025

- Worship: In Person/YouTube-4/27 (69/42); 5/4 (61/38); 5/11 (97/35); 5/18(91/33)
- Sixth Church Roll Review- Clerk Kathi, Elders Peter Kaplan and Barb Parees, Jenny Newman
- Clerk Kathi Robinson-Dassel attended the annual reading of the minutes at Pittsburgh Presbytery. The minutes were approved with one exception (audit committee).
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2025 Meeting Schedule:
 - ◊ Thursday, October 2 – Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 AM
 - ◊ Thursday, December 11 – Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, at 1:00 PM

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Pastor Charissa is working to meet members of the congregation quickly.
- Officers' training will be planned for the fall.
- Pastor Charissa will be on planned vacation from June 14-29th. She has planned for supply preaching and pastoral care.
 - ◊ June 15-Jessica McClure Archer
 - ◊ June 22-Ralph Lowe
 - ◊ June 29-Donna Giver-Johnston
 - ◊ Pastor care emergencies will be handled by Rev. Jason Dauer of First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
- Working remotely most Mondays, Friday/Saturdays off

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- FINANCE shared financial reports and also reported that pledges and loose plate ahead of budget.
- PERSONNEL gave update on pastoral transition.
- HOUSE discussed the need to work on better audio assist for older/hearing impaired and brought up some minor building and grounds repairs.
- STEWARDSHIP will have a meeting May 27, via Zoom.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- More Light-Elder Kate Davoli highlighted the Pamphlet included in the packet, "How to Join Lamp", as well as a reminder that the Pride Parade is June 1. They also noted that the Retreat for National More Light Presbyterians will be hosted at Sixth on October 17-20.
- Gun Safety-report was shared.

DEACONS/CARE LIST was shared.

OLD BUSINESS: The session agreed to adopt statements to share at the beginning of meetings in order to communicate a shared value of respect, inclusion, and compassionate conversation.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: June 1-Church picnic; July 6-Fellowship

NEXT SESSION MEETING: Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 7pm.

Elder Davoli moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. Pastor Charissa closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The deadline for the combined July/August newsletter is:
Monday, June 23rd.

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!

Meaning of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge of God through the work of his Holy Spirit. The celebration of God's ongoing work in the world is found in the recognition of the work done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them. It is a time for all of us to commit to a renewal of purpose, mission and calling.

*The Day of Pentecost is June 8th.
All are invited to wear red attire and bring red foods to enjoy after service. More info on page 4.*



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