

# Sixth Sense



May 2025

Dear Saints,

Somehow this is my last newsletter note to you all. On Sunday May 18th, my time with you as your Interim Pastor will end, and with that comes a deep well of emotions and thoughts. I will save those reflections for you all for my final sermon and goodbye letter, but wanted to convey how much I will miss this wonderful community of faith!

As I journey to Scotland on a pilgrimage to connect with our ancestors in the faith, I will be keeping these quotes from Rachel Held Evans close in my heart. I hope that you enjoy them as well!

"Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."

"This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there's always room for more."

"But if the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation."

See you in May,  
Rev. Sarah Robbins, Interim Pastor

## WORSHIP IN MAY

Worship in May comes with several exciting services, where we will mark important transitions in the life of this church. I am thankful and blessed that these celebrations are finally here.

**May 4th-** Pastor Sarah will be away on continuing education. Rev. Susan Rothenberg will be filling the pulpit. Communion will be celebrated.

**May 11th-** Pastor Sarah and Jenny Newman will be leading the service, along with the confirmation students. Students will be joining the church, and we will celebrate a baptism! The Christian Education committee will be hosting a fellowship in the chapel after.

**May 18th-** Pastor Sarah's last Sunday and last day at Sixth. Please come and share your hugs and well wishes as we end our interim time together!

**May 25th-** [Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe will lead worship for the first time as your next installed pastor! Come welcome her and her family as you join in ministry together!](#)

# May Youth

## Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 4 - 12:30- 2pm

Lunch will be provided!

Wednesday, May 7 - 6:45pm

Meet with Session

Sunday, May 11- 9:45am Confirmation Sunday

## Weekly Youth Group

May 1

@ ELPC - 4:30 to 7pm

Join us at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 Highland Ave. Please enter at the Highland Ave. door.

May 8

@ ELPC - 4:30 to 7 p.m

We will be having a cookout!

Join us at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 Highland Ave. Please enter at the Highland Ave. door.



## Graduates

Friends! It's that time of the year again.

Please let us know if you, anyone in your family, or any friends of Sixth Church are graduating from high school, college, or beyond! Email any graduate information to: Jennyrunew@gmail.com

## Sunday School

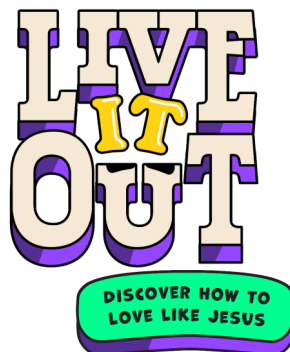
The last day for Sunday school classes will be **May 25**. Join us for the Church picnic and worship in Highland Park on June 1. Summer worship will begin at 10am on June 8. Nursery care for infant and toddlers and Extended Session will be held during worship throughout the summer.

## Vacation Church School @ ELPC

Registration for Vacation Church school is currently full, BUT please email Jenny Newman at Jennyrunew@gmail.com if you would like to have your child added to the waitlist. Teens in grades 6-12 and adult volunteers are still needed, June 23-27, 9 am-3 pm, and can register online here:

[Youth Volunteers](#)

[Adult Volunteers](#)



## Confirmation Sunday

Join us in Worship on **May 11** as we welcome our Confirmation Class members Lia Casci, Zoe Casci, and Louie DeLucia.

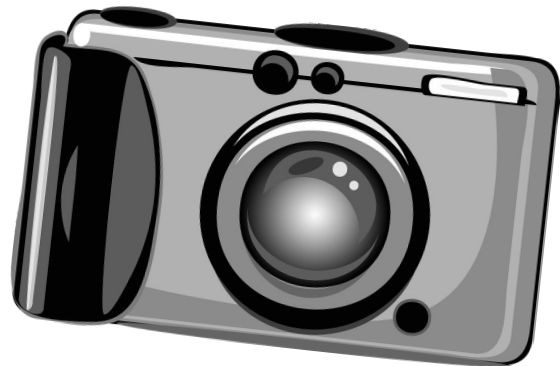


## Sixth Photo Directory Effort

Sixth is excited to announce a picture collection effort! We will be collecting pictures to include in our recently updated directory.

The picture collection effort will run from April 30 to May 11, with an option to submit your pictures online through this form <https://forms.gle/bZ4Qv57DnLGqTySG6>. The other option is to attend one of our four in-person sessions for photographs; please use the same form to select a timeslot and let us know who will be attending.

For those interested in submitting their photographs online, this document [Tips and Tricks for Picture Formatting - Sixth Presbyterian Church](#) has some guidance on how to format and submit your picture in the correct format.



## 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. There will be some paper goods available for those who are unable to "bring your own." 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). We will provide a few folding chairs.

## Pittsburgh Pride March & Festival

Sixth is a proud participant in LAMP - the LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. We are excited to again celebrate Pride in Pittsburgh this summer with our fellow affirming congregations!

While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups and in different neighborhoods around the area, **the ONE Pride event LAMP will be participating this year is Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival on Sunday, June 1 (the same Sunday as Worship in the Park).**

The parade march will begin at noon on Liberty Avenue concluding at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival will take place. More information will be coming about how to get involved, even if you're planning on attending worship that day in the park shelter.

Come out and celebrate while we share God's love with all God's people!



## May Birthdays



May 1	Tom Cummings	May 21	Mikki Danielson		
May 12	Leslie Kaplan	May 26	Karl Greenley	May 30	Cliff Johnson
May 14	Gail Luley	May 28	Dana Thompson	May 31	Marnie Bertolet



### May Earth Care Corner: Supporting Pollinators

By Lynn Kawaratani

Now that spring is here, you may have noticed bees, butterflies and hummingbirds hovering about the flowers. Pollinators like these are responsible for producing most of the food we eat, many of the fibers we wear and medicines we rely on. We can help support them as well. By planting flowering perennials (which last through multiple growing seasons), shrubs and trees, we can make a garden for pollinators thrive in and for us to enjoy as well.

Leslie Kaplan has created such a beautiful place at Sixth Presbyterian Church near the Murray Avenue entrance. A triangular plot of land covered in mulch is now dotted with plants that attract pollinators. She started with bright yellow Heliopsis Helanthoides, purple Joe-Pye Weed, and two tall False Indigo hybrids with colorful names Blueberry Sundae and Vanilla Cream II. We can all watch the garden grow and take shape every Sunday as we head into worship.



Are you interested in starting a pollinator haven in your own yard? [The Phipps](#)

[Pollinator Gardening](#) Guide is a great reference. The guide recommends choosing native plants since they have co-evolved with native pollinators and are best suited for the local climate, creating a “pollinator buffet” by planting large swaths of the same species to attract pollinators, and considering plants that bloom in sequence since pollinators need food throughout the growing season.

We can all do our part to support the pollinators who are busy working this season and in turn create a healthier planet.



## 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.

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**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- April 22, 2025

## CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube-3/23, (67/78); 3/30, (93/61); 4/6, (75/53); 4/13, (110/47); 4/17, Maundy Thursday, (39); 4/20, Easter Sunday, (164/66)
- Sixth Church Roll Review: Clerk Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Elders Peter Kaplan and Barb Parees have met once to review available documents.
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2025 Meeting Schedule:
  - ◊ Thursday, May 22 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church at 1:00 PM- Sara DeLucia will attend.
  - ◊ 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:

- Rev. Sarah away; Elder Kate Davoli will preach on April 27 and Rev. Susan Rothenberg on May 4.
- There is a plan and meetings scheduled with Rev. Charissa Howe for her transition as pastor of Sixth.
- Elder Marcus Robinson has submitted a check list and project plan for an updated, digital photo directory.
- Session will meet with the confirmation class on May 7, 2025, in anticipation of their confirmation on May 11, 2025. This will be the last official meeting with Pastor Sarah as moderator.
- Session will continue discussions about Committee Restructuring and Creating a more Welcoming Community.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- FINANCE and PERSONNEL had nothing new to report.
- STEWARDSHIP will have a meeting in May.
- HOUSE
  - ◊ The pizza oven will be removed from the kitchen.
  - ◊ Looking to hire an exterminator and someone to do gutter/roof repair.
  - ◊ Leslie Kaplan is installing a new pollinator garden across from the ramp and supervising other landscaping.
- NOMINATING: The committee, (Sara Berg (chair), Tom Juring, Marie Guyette, April Clisura, and Kathi Robinson-Dassel) has begun the work of seeking nominations and assessing needs for Session and Deacon members. The Congregational meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2025 at which time officers will be elected.
- Church and Community, More Light, Christian Education, and Earth Care shared their reports in the Session packet.

DEACONS/CARE LIST updated.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: APRIL 27: Earth Care to host coffee hour for Earth Day; MAY 11: the confirmation class will be joining the church and CE will host coffee hour; MAY 18: Sarah's last Sunday; MAY 25: Charissa's first Sunday; JUNE 1-Church Picnic

## NEXT SESSION MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, May 7, 7pm: To meet with confirmation class.
- Wednesday, May 21, 7pm: First meeting to welcome Pastor Charissa.

*Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session*



The **deadline** for the June newsletter is:  
**Monday, May 26th.**

Please email articles and announcements to the church office at [officesixthchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officesixthchurch@gmail.com).

You can also put printed copies on the office desk.

Thanks you!

## **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](mailto:april.clisura@gmail.com) or calling the church office.



*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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