

Sixth Sense



September 2025

Friends,

As summer winds down and we move into September, I find myself settling into the rhythms and routines of ministry here at Sixth. These past weeks have been filled with joy and gratitude as I've gotten to know many of you. I continue to welcome opportunities to connect - whether over coffee, a meal, or simply a conversation. Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email if you'd like to schedule time together.

We have an exciting programmatic year ahead! Our Sunday school format is being refreshed to create more opportunities for meaningful connections across our congregation. The music ministry continues to flourish - Shay offered new choir member training and refresher sessions for current members. Sixth has a wonderful tradition of tackling challenging musical pieces with skill and dedication.

Jenny and I will be incorporating educational moments about our liturgy throughout the year. These brief explorations will help us understand the rich meaning behind our worship practices - whether you're new to Presbyterian worship or have been participating for decades.

You may have noticed a new statement in our bulletin that reflects our commitment to being a welcoming community: *"We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions, and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us."* Our hope is that as you gather in your action groups, committees, study groups, and more, this (or a version of it) can be shared at the beginning of the meeting to remind everyone of our commitment to one another, even when community isn't always easy. This statement, recently approved by Session, beautifully captures our desire to create space where everyone can fully participate in our shared ministry.

As we enter this new season together, I'm filled with gratitude for the warm welcome I've received and excitement for all that lies ahead. May we continue to grow together in faith, fellowship and service.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Charissa

WORSHIP

Sept. 7th-- Worship moves back to 11am!
Communion Sunday, Coffee Hour

Sept 14th-- Installation Sunday

- 11am service: Church Officers' Ordination/Installation
- 4pm service: Pastor Charissa's Installation

Sept. 21st-- Guest preacher, Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley from the Presbytery Foundation, Lunch Seminar to follow worship

Sept. 28th-- *(Day of Pgh's Great Race, plan your commute accordingly)*



Sunday School

It's that time again! Sunday school begins at 10am Sept. 7, followed by worship at 11am.

If you are new to us, please fill out our [Children and Youth Registration](#). If you have already completed this in previous years you don't have to do it again. But, please let us know if your contact information has changed. Parents are asked to please review our [Health and Safety Guidelines](#) and our [Safe Child Policy](#).

Join us after worship Sept. 7 for a special coffee hour to kick-off our new church year.



All educators in our congregation will be recognized with a gift from Blessed be Educators.

Sunday School Classes:

We will be using lectionary-based curriculum from Feasting on the Word and SparkHouse.

- ♦ **Toddlers - Preschool** will meet in the nursery upstairs led by Kate Smith and our nursery staff.
- ♦ **K-4th Grade** will meet in the large Sunday school room upstairs and will be led by Linda May.
- ♦ **5th-7th Grade** will meet in the Chapel and will be led by Jenny Newman.
- ♦ **8 -12th Grade** will meet in the Youth Room upstairs and will be led by Joe Ashenden.

Children in Worship

While we believe that children are a vital part of our worshipping community and welcome them in worship. We understand that sometimes it can be challenging for them to sit through an entire service, so infants and toddlers are welcome in the nursery at any time. Preschool through 3rd grade children are welcome to attend Extended Session during worship following the Passing of the Peace. Extended Session is held in the large Sunday school room on the second floor.

This year, we are inviting all children to remain in worship on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of every month.)

Our church nursery is located on the second floor and nursery care is available each week at 10 a.m. until the conclusion of the worship service.



Sunday Songs

Start your morning with Song! Sunday school students of all ages are invited to join Jenny Newman and music director Shay Carter for a time of singing each week before Sunday school and choir practice.

9:45am on Sundays
(meet in the Chapel)



Worship Adventure

Children and youth are invited to join Jenny Newman and Pastor Charissa for a special time at the church to learn about worship and sacraments. We will be baking break for Communion the following day and training acolytes and water pourers.

Saturday, Oct. 4
10am to noon



Weekly youth group gatherings with our friends East Liberty Presbyterian Church are back! New this year, we will meet one week a month at Sixth. Please, mark your calendars.

Thursday youth group is held from 4:30 to 7pm with dinner served at 5pm.



Youth Group (7th-12th)

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 11 @ ELPC
Sept. 18 at ELPC
Sept. 25 at Sixth



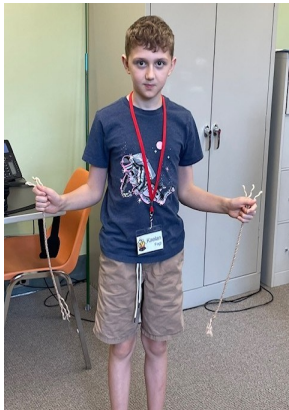
Squirrel Hill Market Night
Sept. 27 – 6 to 8pm

Youth are invited to join Jenny on the church lawn to offer free popcorn and lemonade to our neighbors.



Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Students attending youth group at ECLP or participating in service projects and events must complete our Universal Permission Form found on the Sixth Church website.



Vacation Church school with East Liberty Presbyterian Church in June



Eve Guyette and Jenny Newman at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium national conference



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school with Bill Guy will resume at **10am on Sept. 7** and meets in the church parlor. Bill's description of the class:

The Bible class will for the near and long term future be studying the prophecies of Isaiah. This class has no set format or goal. Each session usually begins with close study of some verses from the book being studied, but from that point on anything goes. Comments, objections, and reflections from class members are crucial. This is a discussion group, not a lecture. Over months and years (long ago we took 3 1/2 years to study Jeremiah--not to be superficial) most of the issues of our faith come up for repeated consideration. Perhaps the most important aspect of our discussion is application of the Bible to the current political and social turmoil.

Virtual Wednesday Bible Study

A lectionary-based Bible study and discussion is held each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Please email the church office to be added to the weekly email containing the meeting link.

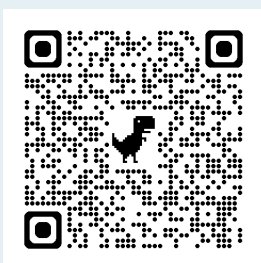
CPR/Stop the Bleed Training

*6pm on Wednesday, Sept. 17
in Sixth chapel*

Congregation members will have the opportunity to attend a CPR and Stop the Bleed training provided by the Center for Cardiac Survival at the University of Pittsburgh. Ushers, staff, and church leaders are encouraged to attend. The training will be geared toward teaching modified CPR to older adults (65+) although all ages are invited to attend. Participants under 65 may be required to pay a \$17 fee to obtain certification cards if interested.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/Nwe9jgCMWtGfZLSJ6>

Please register ASAP as the class size is limited.



Contact Jenny Newman at Jennyrunew@gmail.com if you need more information.

Safety at Sixth

We hope to create and maintain a culture of safety here in our building, in our programming, and in our community. In the pews you will find cards that contain details for our designated meeting locations that are identified in our evacuation plan. These locations will serve as nearby places we are asking you to gather in the event there is an emergency, and we need to evacuate the building. If the situation arises, use the closet exit and go to the location that is the safest to access.

We encourage all that enter our building to be observant and familiarize themselves with the layout of our space and all the doors to enter and exit the building. We have an AED device located near the bathrooms near the Murray Avenue door. Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are placed throughout the building as are fire alarms throughout the building that can be pulled in case of an emergency.

Keeping our building a safe place is the responsibility of all of us.

We encourage you to reach out to staff and our church leaders if you have any concerns, ideas, or would like further training and information.

Time for the CROP Hunger Walk!

Am I my brother's keeper?

Who is responsible for hunger, especially in far-off countries. As Christians, we try to take seriously that we are our brothers' keepers. How do we help? How do we not look away? Our denomination's vehicle for support abroad is **Church World Service**.

Why is this year so important? With the recent end of USAID's support, hospitals have been forced to close refugee camps in Thailand and other countries. CWS teams are now struggling to meet refugees' medical, food, shelter, and education needs – needs USAID used to help meet. This is just one example of the devastating impact from the ending of USAID.

How can we help? One way is to support the annual CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service. Sixth Church is a long-time CROP champion! We will have a team of walkers this year, and donors are encouraged to support their efforts.

Here are the details:

Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 12, 2:00 p.m.

Walk begins and ends at Waverly Church, corner of Forbes and Braddock (new location)

There are two walk lengths to accommodate all walkers.



When you make a donation, where does the money go?

75% goes to Church World Service, where the programs focus on immediate hunger needs but also on sustainable development – providing seeds, baby chicks, or wells – with instructional support. 25% remains local, where it will support the hunger programs of Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.

Click on this link to join the walk and/or to donate:

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



 September Birthdays 					
Sept. 1	Ethan Miller	Sept. 8	Judy Schryer	Sept. 20	Megan Sindhi
Sept. 2	Sadie DeLucia Elise Bertolet	Sept. 10	Sara Berg	Sept. 25	Sara DeLucia Peg Watt-Morse
Sept. 4	Carol Beggs Frank Guyette Elizabeth Sindhi	Sept. 16	Martha Funderburgh	Sept. 30	Susan Rothenberg

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Below are some Planned Giving Factoids that have been developed by the Presbyterian Foundation that we think are helpful. *(Continued from the July/August Sixth Sense Issue.)*

Planned Giving Factoid Four

ASSUMPTION: Planned gifts are always complex and costly.

ANSWER: False

Most planned gifts are as simple as adding a sentence or changing the name of a beneficiary; still many are complex, which is justified by attractive financial and tax benefits to the donor and heirs.

A Simple gift example: the most frequent planned gift is the charitable bequest. In most cases, a bequest might be written into a giver's plan while they are already writing or revising their insurance policies, retirement account, will or trust, adding little-to-no added time or cost.

A Complex gift example: A giver may wish to make a gift of appreciated assets, real estate or business interests. That gift might create a trust or other instrument that returns benefits to the donor and heirs of a recurring source of income and/or a way to minimize taxes. When these strategies come into play, there are increased planning and costs, yet the benefits are intended to exceed the costs and effort.

Important tip: It is extremely important for a giver to consult with a qualified advisor who understands the giver's situation and can advise whether their preferred planned gift is revocable – or not.

Planned Giving Factoid Five

ASSUMPTION: How many people leave a bequest in their will.

ANSWER:



While only 1 out of 20 estates have a charitable component, more than 5 times that indicate that they would like to make a bequest. 28% said they would like to leave a planned gift; they just ask to be reminded.

Planned Giving Factoid Six

ASSUMPTION: *Planned gifts are not for me. I can't let go, because I might need it. Is it possible to change my mind?*

ANSWER: YES

Some of the most common planned gifts are revocable up until the giver's death. A revocable gift means that the giver can continue to use these assets and accounts during their lifetime – and can change, add, or withdraw their intentions during their lifetime. In these cases, the actual gift (and any potential tax benefits) does not occur until death of the giver.

So, writing a revocable gift is a relief to many. In fact, nearly half of planned giving donors change their planned gifts over their lifetime. And that's ok:

44% increase their number of gifts*

5% decrease their number of gifts*

- "Leaving a Legacy" by Giving USA in 2019. A survey of planned givers.

Important tip: *It is extremely important for a giver to consult with a qualified advisor who understands the giver's situation and can advise whether their preferred planned gift is revocable – or not.*

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church– August 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Charissa opened the meeting at 7pm., with a minute of silent reflection followed by the opening prayer.

The 2028 Class of Elders were invited to the first several minutes of the meeting. Peg Watt-Morse and Beth Hazlett attended via ZOOM, Amy Whipple, Nora Johnson, and Leslie Kaplan attended in person. Following introductions, the incoming class was excused. Pastor Charissa shared thanks and gratitude for the class of 2025 for their hard work and service.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube-6/15 (57/47); 6/22 (59/34); 6/29(55/48); 7/6 (85/39); 7/13 (50/58); 7/20 (57/35); 7/27 (/85); 8/3 (70/42); 8/10 (52/43); 8/17 (62/22); 8/24 (71/28)
- Correspondence- Pastor Charissa received a brochure from The Rev. Dr. Laura E Strauss, pastor of Sunset Hills UPC, detailing the [Washington DC Pilgrimage](#) that will take place October 26-29, 2025.
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - ◊ Thursday, October 2– [Crestfield Camp and Conference Center](#) at 10AM. Elder Kate Davoli approved to attend.
 - ◊ Thursday, December 11 – Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, at 1PM

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Charissa highlighted several items for approval and review. Her report included dates and activities that will be included elsewhere in the newsletter.

- Request time to attend two separate retreats, with limited impact on availability. September 30-October 2, Pittsburgh Presbytery Retreat and October 10-12, annual retreat with another pastor, coverage provided for worship on October 12 by Pastor Susan Rothenburg.
- Joint Board training on October 25.
- Will begin reviewing/revising administrative manual
- We will digitize minutes and send books to the Presbyterian Historical Society for safe keeping. They remain as property of Sixth and can be accessed as needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS were reviewed and approved as needed.

DEACONS held a ZOOM “Meet and Greet” with incoming class of Deacons. Their next scheduled meeting will be in September. Elizabeth McGuier will assume role as chair. Many thanks to Linda Davoli for her leadership.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- Session unanimously agreed that an ongoing presence from various groups/individuals of Sixth, in the Squirrel Hill Night Markets held monthly, June-September, would be a positive way to share our message with the community.
- Session agreed on a basic plan for committee restructuring; will implement some changes and reassess regularly.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: Sept. 7- Christian Education, Sunday School begins; Oct. 5- Worship, World-Wide Communion; Nov. 9- Stewardship, Dedication Sunday; Dec. 14- Christmas lunch, Pageant

NEXT SESSION MEETING: Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 7pm.

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm with closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The Sixth Sense newsletter comes out on the first Wednesday of the month.

The deadline for October newsletter submissions is: **Friday, September 26th.**

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!



Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe

Service of Installation

to the pastorate at

Sixth Presbyterian Church

SEPT 14 4 PM

1688 Murray Ave;
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

no rsvp needed
questions:

Rev.charissa.howe@gmail.com



SIXTH
presbyterian CHURCH



**Presbyterians for
Earth Care**

AN ECO-JUSTICE NETWORK



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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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