

Sixth Sense

October 2025



Dear Sixth Family,

As autumn settles in and the leaves begin to change, I find myself filled with gratitude for the vibrant community we share. The energy and warmth I experience each Sunday reminds me of what makes our church so special.

Fall brings new energy to our congregation as students and professors from nearby universities, families with school children, and others settling into their "regular" schedules find themselves drawn in through (or back through) our doors. Our welcoming spirit is one of Sixth's greatest gifts, and it's wonderful to see how naturally our community embraces newcomers. A gentle approach often works best - a warm hello and perhaps introducing them to someone who shares their interests. The key is creating space for visitors to feel at home and seen while discovering our community at their own pace.

As our community continues to grow and evolve, we're working on some exciting changes to how our session committees function and communicate. Though we're still finalizing the details, I'm confident these adjustments will help us better connect our vibrant ministries and create even more ways for everyone to engage in the life of our church. In the meantime, please continue the wonderful ministry work you're already doing.

Finally, I'm thrilled to announce that we'll be **hosting musical artists Flamy Grant, Heather Mae, and Crys Matthews on December 8th for their "Make the Yuletide Gay" tour.** Stay tuned for ticket information - this promises to be a joyful celebration of music and inclusion.

With gratitude,
Pastor Charissa

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Dr. Charissa Clark Howe".

WORSHIP

Oct. 5th-- World Communion Sunday,
Coffee Hour

For this worship service, you are invited to dress in a way that is representative of your family's country or culture of origin.

Oct. 12th-- Guest Preacher, Rev. Susan
Rothenburg, (*Crop Walk at 2pm*)

Oct. 19th-- (*National LGBT Center Awareness Day*)

Oct. 26th-- 1st Moment for Stewardship



Photo credit: Sydney Valiente

A DAY IN PICTURES: INSTALLATION SUNDAY



Officers were ordained/installed to their church leadership positions during the morning service on September 14th....

... followed by a lovely time of worship and fellowship in the evening, where Sixth formally and joyfully welcomed Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe as the installed pastor of Sixth Presbyterian Church!



October

Youth (7th-12th)



Thursday Youth Group

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



Oct. 2
Oct. 9
Oct. 16
Oct. 23



Oct. 30th Costume Party!

At Sixth Presbyterian Church
4:30 to 7pm Dinner is served at 5pm.

Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Crop Walk

Oct. 12 is the annual Crop Walk for Church World Services. The event raises funds to fight hunger locally and around the world. The walk starts at **2pm** at Waverly Presbyterian Church. You can join the team from Sixth Church and walk with us by visiting here: [Sixth Church Crop Walk Team](#)

Winter Youth Retreat

The Pittsburgh Presbytery Youth Winter Retreat will be held at Camp Crestfield **Dec. 5-7**. More details and registration coming soon. In the meantime, please let Jenny know if you would like to attend.



Students attending youth group at ECLP or participating in service projects and events must complete our Universal Permission Form found at: <http://www.sixthchurch.org/christian-education/>.

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, and other fun activities!



Saturday, Oct. 4
10 am to noon

Please RSVP to
Jennyrunew@gmail.com
if you will be attending!



Thank you to everyone who attended out CRP/Stop the Bleed Training!
And we thank The Center for Cardiac Arrest Survival at the University of Pittsburgh and their trainers.

2025 CROP Hunger Walk

The CROP Hunger Walk is at 2pm on October 12!

Sixth Church has a team for the walk, and guess what. . .

They range in age from 6 to 86!

There's still time to join the team. And there's definitely time for you to support their efforts with a donation. Your money will support programs of Church World Service.

\$10 will buy a 2-week food packet for a Ukrainian refugee in Moldova.

\$22 will buy five chickens for a family in Kenya.

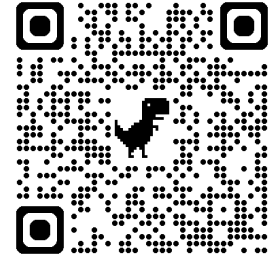
\$60 will buy a pig for a family in Tanzania.

\$100 will buy a household latrine in Cambodia.

\$300 will buy a rainwater harvesting system for a household in Georgia.

It's easy to [sign up/donate using this link](#) or the QR code →

If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to CWS/CROP.



Earth Care News

Good News! The city of Pittsburgh has made a significant change in what they will accept for recycling. They will now take opaque plastic containers like yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream and cups or tubs. Lids should still be put in Michael's recycling.

Please put the following items into the Pittsburgh recycling:

- Any bottle, jug or jar that is made of plastic
- Dairy + Soup cups and tubs made of opaque plastic
- Metal cans and tins including aerosol cans
- Metal lids OK if ATTACHED.

Any number or shape plastic not accepted curbside can be brought to the church such as clam shell or take out cups and containers and plastic lids. This also includes styrofoam containers with a number on them of 1-7.

If you do not live in Pittsburgh and cannot recycle them, please put your opaque plastic containers together and still bring them to the church.

Also, it would be helpful to have more people willing to take the plastics out to Michaels Brothers. It takes about 35 minutes to drive from the church. They are always open so you can go anytime that is convenient to you. We have been taking out the plastics every other month. Please contact Pam Howe at howepjs@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

Our next pick-up will be Sunday, October 26 by Patty Halverson.

Good News!

Now You Can Recycle More Containers!

Some of these new items include: yogurt tubs, butter tubs, cottage cheese, and sour cream containers.



Image courtesy of the *City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Environmental Services/ Curbside Recycling* (pittsburghpa.gov)

Stewardship Campaign October Update

The Stewardship Goal and Budget

At its September meeting, the Session approved the Stewardship Campaign goal for this year's Stewardship Campaign. The Session approved a goal of \$373,635 for the Campaign. This represents a 3.50% increase from the \$361,000 in pledges received during last year's campaign. This reflects a \$12,635 increase in the amount of pledges we are seeking from the members and friends our congregation.

The Campaign's 3.5% percentage increase is higher than last years 2.0% increase, and was supported by the Church Treasurer, Finance Chair, Personnel Chair, the House Chair, and the next Stewardship Chair.

The reasons for the pledge increase are caused by a potential revenue shortfall and likely expense increases.

On the revenue side, we are budgeting a significant decline in donations that are not part of a pledge made by a Church member or friend. This number has fallen substantially during the past two years. We have budgeted a modest increase in drawings on our Memorial Funds, which will partially offset the decline in non-pledge income.

On the expense side, major increases include budgeting a 3% increase in compensation for our wonderful staff, an increase in staff benefits, increases in water & sewer and natural gas, and a substantial increase in snow removal costs, which greatly exceeded this year's budget. Concerning snow removal, we expect that snow removal costs will be roughly half of this year's actual expenses, as custodian Harry Kirk has agreed to assume this task, for which he will receive payment in addition to his salary.

Apart from these costs and some minor increases in office and worship expenses, most Church expenses will not increase.

This year's stewardship brochure and letter will provide you with more information on the proposed stewardship budget. Of course, the actual budget for 2026 will be subject to the success of the Stewardship Campaign.

The Stewardship Committee and key Church leaders have given serious consideration to this year's Stewardship Goal, and we offer our deep and prayerful thanks for your generous pledges.

The Stewardship Campaign

Although the Stewardship Campaign has yet to officially begin, a great deal has already gone into its planning.

Earlier this Summer, we agreed on a Stewardship Campaign theme which appeared in the Sunday bulletin each Sunday in August.

(Continued on next page)

We have recruited a great set of Church members to share their love of Sixth Church, both in writing and during the worship service. Written pieces will appear in the Stewardship brochure and the November edition of Sixth Sense.

We have scheduled the Stewardship mailing for **Friday, October 17th**, and the content of the mailing is largely written.

We warmly invite you to Dedication Sunday, which will take place on Sunday, November 9th during the Sunday Church service. After the service, the Stewardship Committee will provide refreshments, and the traditional Dedication Sunday Cake!

If you haven't already turned in your pledge card by November 9th, please bring it for presentation during the Dedication Sunday Church Service.

Thank you very much for your generous support of our congregation!

The Stewardship Committee:

- Patty Halverson
- Beth Hazlett
- Peter Kaplan (Chair)
- Barb Parees
- Reverend Dr. Charissa Howe (ex officio)

With Special Thanks to:

Kelly Johnson, Office Administrator, who plays a major role in the success of each year's campaign!

October Birthdays			
Oct. 1	Kyle Esbin	Oct. 16	Lori King
Oct. 3	Claire Bertolet Kirk Howe Harry Kirk	Oct. 20	Jenny Newman
Oct. 7	Erik Fogt	Oct. 31	Peter Koehler
Oct. 10	Patty Halverson		



Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church– September 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Howe began the meeting at 7:06 PM. Elders and Rev. Howe shared one thing they were grateful for from their week.

CLERK’S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube-8/31 (65/51); 9/7 (97/43); 9/14 (88/45); 9/14 Installation of Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe (120/65); 9/21 (71/24)
- 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. **Elder Tom Twiss approved to attend.**

PASTOR’S REPORT:

- Rev. Howe would like to host a seminary intern for the next school year. Their stipend for the full academic year is \$4350. This is \$543.75/month for eight months of the year: four months in 2026, then another 4 in 2027 for that school year, no student over the summer, resume with that student or a new student in September.
 - ◊ The request will go to the Finance Committee for review prior to a Session vote.
- Rev. Howe would like Sixth to pair with Waverly for a Longest Night service held at Waverly on Sunday, December 21.
- Contracts have been completed and Sixth is officially booked as a tour venue for the Flamy Grant.

COMMITTEE & ACTION TEAMS

- Reports reviewed and approved as needed.

DEACONS REPORT AND CARE LIST:

- September meeting minutes and Care List reviewed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- Music Director Shay Carter McGraw requested use of the building for piano lessons at a to-be-determined rental rate as well as use of the building for piano recitals at the regular rental rate.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

- Oct. 5- Worship, World-Wide Communion
- Nov. 9- Stewardship, Dedication Sunday
- Dec. 14- Christmas lunch, Pageant

NEXT SESSION MEETING: SATURDAY, October 25, 2025, after officer training and potluck (officer retreat start time is 10am).

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm with closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Amy Whipple, Elder



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

The deadline for November newsletter submissions is: **Wednesday, October 29th.**

Please email articles and announcements to the church office at officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

You can also put printed copies on the office desk.

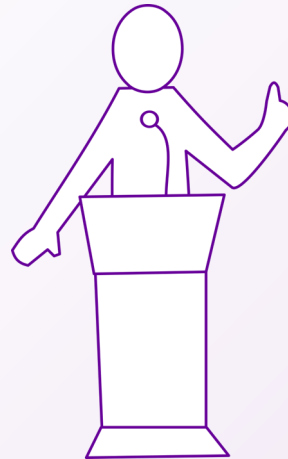
Thanks you!

Liturgists for Sunday Worship

Are you interested in being a liturgist some Sunday?

Contact officesixthchurch@gmail.com and we will be sure to include you on our quarterly sign-up email.

The current sign up sheet can be found [here](#). We have a few openings left this season. Thank you for being a part of our worship life!



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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