



# Sixth Sense



December 2025

Dear Family,

As the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, we prepare our hearts and our community for the season of waiting and wonder. Advent invites us to slow down even as the world speeds up around us, making space for holy anticipation.

This December brings beloved traditions and new celebrations. Our children and youth will share the Christmas story through our annual pageant on December 14th, followed by our Christmas Luncheon. On December 8th, we'll host the "Make the Yuletide Gay" concert, featuring award-winning artists celebrating inclusion and joy through holiday music.

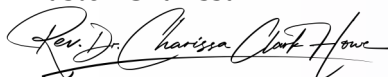
For those carrying grief or struggling during this season, we'll join our siblings at Waverly Presbyterian for a meaningful Longest Night service on December 21st. Our Christmas Eve service will feature candlelight, carols, and communion as we welcome the Christ child once again.

And don't pack away those holiday sweaters and PJs too quickly! On December 28th, we'll gather in cozy comfort for a casual service of lessons and carols, complete with hot chocolate and fellowship. We will also have the joy of receiving new members and celebrating some baptisms that morning!

If you have participated in membership classes here or another PCUSA church in the past and are interested in joining Sixth this December, please reach out to me as soon as possible. If you are new to the denomination and would like to know more about our church, our denomination, and possible membership, please let me know and I'll get you information on our upcoming membership classes that will be starting in January during the Sunday school hour.

May this season of preparation open our hearts to wonder, deepen our connections with one another, and remind us of Emmanuel - God with us.

Pastor Charissa



## WORSHIP

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December 7th  
Communion Sunday.

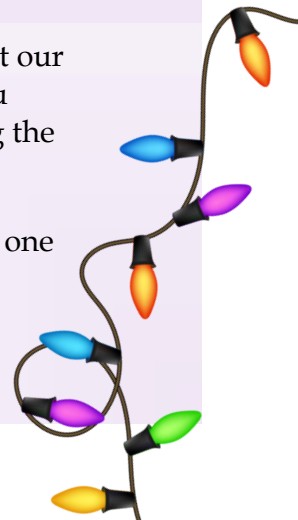
December 14th  
Jenny Newman and Shay Carter will help the children/youth lead this year's Christmas Pageant, with the annual Christmas Lunch afterwards.


December 21st  
11AM service at Sixth;  
*Longest Night Service* at Waverly Presbyterian at 7pm

December 24th  
*Christmas Eve*  
7PM candlelight and Communion service, with special music to begin at 6:45PM.

December 28th  
Lessons and Carols! Casual & comfy service at 11AM, no education hour at 10AM.

January 4th  
*Epiphany* celebration with Communion & fellowship, no education hour at 10AM.





# YOUTH DECEMBER

**Thursday Youth Group**  
4:30 to 7 p.m.  
*Dinner is served at 5.*

**Dec. 4- @ELPC**  
**Dec. 11 - @ELPC**  
**Dec.18 - @ SixthChurch**

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsals:**  
**Dec. 7 @12 p.m. (following worship)**  
**Dec. 13 @ 10 a.m.**

**14  
DEC**

**CRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**11 A.M. DURING WORSHIP**

**Be at the church at 10 a.m. to get ready!**

For more info:  
Janny Newman

412-720-6392



## Sunday School and Child Care

There will be **no Sunday school on Dec. 28 and Jan 4**. We will have nursery care and Extended Session on those days during worship. There will be nursery care available for infants and toddlers during our Christmas Eve service at 7.

## Advent Resources

Please stop by our tables in the Chapel and Sanctuary or devotionals, Advent calendars, and other materials to celebrate and journey through the Advent season at home.

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: [online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/)



*Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*

*A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](https://sanctifiedart.org)*

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

## Make the Yuletide Gay- December 8th

Order your tickets today! We're so excited to be hosting this event- it's less than a week away.



Follow [this link](#) or scan the QR code below for tickets!



## Save the Date– Unity Brass Concert

December 20th at 3pm. More details to come.

## COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

Following the Christmas Eve Service, we enjoy cookies and punch as we greet friends and family from near and far away. Please bring a plate of home-baked cookies if you are able to. Leave them in the Chapel or the small upstairs kitchen before the start of the service. Thanks – *The Fellowship Committee*

## Poinsettia Memorials

We offer two options for honoring loved ones at Christmastime:

- You can buy a poinsettia for \$8 and have a name placed in the Memorial Booklet in honor or memory of a loved one. You can then take your flower home after the Christmas Eve service.
- The second option will be to have a loved one's name placed in the Memorial Booklet as before but instead of buying a flower, you will be donating \$8 or more to the Deacons Fund.



*Deadline for orders is December 14th. Order forms will be with the bulletins during Dec 7th and 14th service; alternatively, you can email or call the church office.*

## Annual Christmas Lunch Sunday, December 14 *Everyone Is Welcome!*

Immediately following the Annual Christmas Pageant



**Tables will be festively set.**

**Meat and beverages will be provided.**

**Bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.**

**(Think about doubling the recipe!)**

If you are planning to attend, please drop this form in the offering plate or return it to the church office. A copy of this flyer will be included with the bulletins on Dec 7th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert

## 2025-2026 Stewardship Campaign Update

As of printing, we are currently at 84.90% of our goal with \$56,404.50 to go. The Stewardship Committee wants to thank all of you who have already submitted your pledge. For those that haven't yet, or for those who are considering a first time pledge, please consider submitting your pledge as soon as possible so that we can finalize our 2026 Budget. It's easy to do, just e-mail Kelly (officesixthchurch@gmail.com) with the amount you plan to pledge to Sixth for 2026 or [submit online](#).

As the Stewardship testimonials from our fellow congregants articulate, **Caring for One Another in a Changing World** means caring for our staff, our programs & events, and our building which not only enriches us, but also enriches our neighbors and community. Your pledge allows Sixth to continue caring.

Thank you,

*The Stewardship Committee (Patty Halverson, Beth Hazlett, Peter Kaplan & Barb Parees)*

## Earth Care News

### Avoid (Black) Plastic-

Do you flip your pancakes with a black plastic spatula? Did your last food delivery come in black plastic containers? When you were enjoying a quick meal at a fast food restaurant, did you eat it with black utensils? When we look around, it seems that black plastic is all around us.

According to [Beyond Plastics](#), "Black plastics [made from recycled legacy plastics] are more likely to contain unregulated amounts of toxic chemicals including heavy metals and flame retardants which can leach into food and pose a hazard to human health." Moreover, black plastic is often not recycled because the infrared light technology used to sort plastics at materials reclamation facilities cannot detect the color black. As a result, these black plastic items end up in landfills or incinerators instead.



Although the [initial study that revealed unhealthy levels of toxins in black plastics has since been corrected](#), plastic should be avoided when touching food, especially for cooking. Heat can cause plastic to degrade and create the opportunity for microplastics and nanoplastics to be consumed.

The next Michael Brothers church pick to recycle plastic items will on **Sunday January 11** by Jan Myers-Newbury.

*Submitted by Lynn Kawaratani*

## Beware of Scam Emails

A reminder that spam and spoof emails continue to be an issue- not only here at Sixth but throughout the Presbytery. Beware of emails requesting that you run a "discreet errand" or asking for our directory. Our staff will never ask you to share confidential information over email. If a matter is confidential, we will ask you to call or text us directly. When in doubt, call the church office or Pastor Charissa.

## **Session Meeting Highlights**

### **Sixth Presbyterian Church– Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONAL TIME:**

At 7:05 pm, Pastor Charissa led a guided reflection, and those who wished to, shared moments of charity, compassion, or spiritual discernment. These were followed by opening prayer.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

- Worship: In person/YouTube- 10/26 (81/36); 11/2 (129/33); 11/9(96/46)
- Correspondence:
  - ◊ Request from East Liberty Presbyterian Church for Letter of Transfer for Scott Bell.
  - ◊ Request from Amanda Zeglin to obtain Letter of Transfer from Sunset Hills UPC in order to join Sixth.
  - ◊ From Presbyterian Stewardship & Funds Development-" Please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, finance committee, pastoral leadership, session and congregation for your gracious and faithful support" in response to Peace & Global Witness Offering and Christmas Joy Offering.
  - ◊ From Pittsburgh Presbytery concerning per capita owed and change where Special Offerings are sent. Treasurer Erik Fogt received the information as well.
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2025 Meeting Schedule
  - ◊ Thursday, December 11 – Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, at 1PM. Elder Tom Twiss approved to attend. NOTE: Due to a change in focus for the December meeting, Elder Amy Whipple will attend. Elder Twiss will attend the following meeting.

#### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Pastor Charissa highlighted information in her written report, including Advent activities beginning November 30, and cleaning and organizing that will be scheduled for January. She will be attending the December Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting and will be making a request to approve a baptism soon.

#### **COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Finance: Pledges are currently below budget expectations for 2025.
- House: Work that has been contracted is in the works and other issues in the building will be addressed. Harry Kirk, building administrator, will handle snow removal this winter.
- Stewardship: Pledges are coming in and are well on the way to achieving the goal set for 2026.
- Worship: Advent planning is well in hand.
- Peace and Justice: The Gaza event is planned for November 23. A flyer, *Take Action for Gaza!* will be available.
- 50 have signed up, so far, to attend *Make the Yuletide Gay* on December 8.
- Gun Safety-Minute for Mission, November 16.

#### **DEACONS REPORT:**

- Deacons have not met this month.



### COFFEE HOUR:

- December 14, 2025- Christmas Pageant and potluck lunch
- January 4, 2026- Deacons
- February 2, 2026- Choir

### NEXT SESSION MEETINGS:

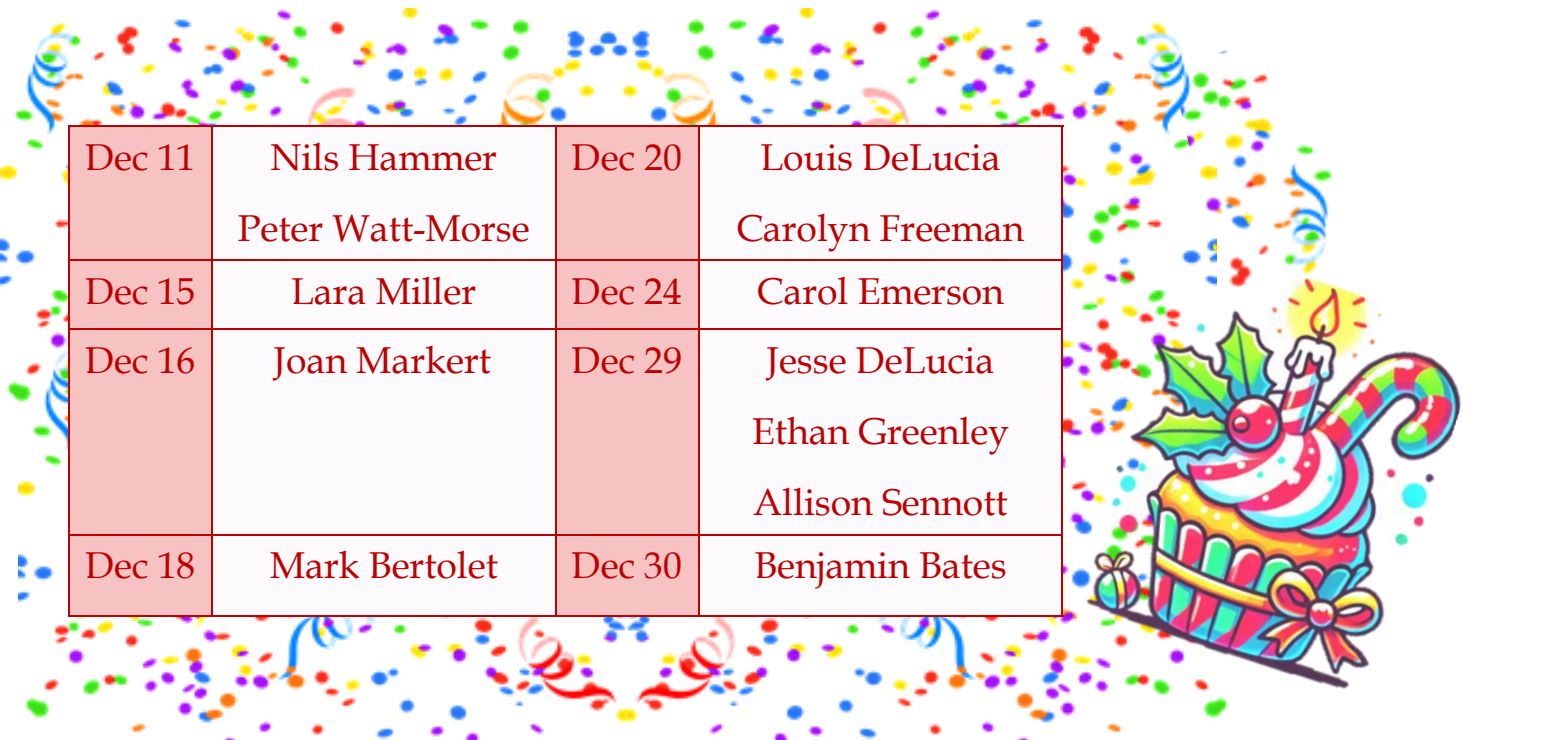
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 7pm
- Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7pm

### WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER:

As there was no other business, Elder Twiss moved that the meeting be adjourned. Pastor Charissa closed with prayer at 8:20 p.m.

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

## December Birthdays



Dec 11	Nils Hammer Peter Watt-Morse	Dec 20	Louis DeLucia Carolyn Freeman
Dec 15	Lara Miller	Dec 24	Carol Emerson
Dec 16	Joan Markert	Dec 29	Jesse DeLucia Ethan Greenley Allison Sennott
Dec 18	Mark Bertolet	Dec 30	Benjamin Bates



### Are we missing your birthday?

*If you're a member or regular attendee of Sixth (in person or livestream),  
we want to celebrate you!*

*Send us a quick email and we'll make sure you're added to our birthday list.*





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

**The deadline** for January newsletter submissions is: **Monday, December 29th.**

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!

# Coffee Shop Office Hours

THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, PASTOR CHARISSA WILL BE CAMPED OUT AT COMMONPLACE COFFEE FROM 8-10 AM FOR CASUAL "OFFICE HOURS." WANT TO JUST HANG OUT AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE? HAVE QUESTIONS? JUST WANT TO GET TO KNOW THE PASTOR? SEE YOU AT THE COFFEE SHOP!

JANUARY 28

8-10 AM

COMMONPLACE COFFEE  
FORBES AVE., 15217

DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE SHOP OFFICE HOURS IN DECEMBER. SEE YOU IN JANUARY!



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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