

Sixth Sense

January 2026



Dear Sixth Family,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the beginning of 2026. As we step into this new year, I find myself pausing to reflect on the incredible journey we just shared through Advent and Christmas.

The holiday season was truly filled with light, laughter, and community. We celebrated joy and inclusion with the "Make the Yuletide Gay" concert, witnessed the story of Jesus through the eyes of our children at the nativity pageant, and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship at our Christmas luncheon. We shared laughs during our "Best Christmas Pageant Ever", movie night and, finally, gathered in the holy quiet of our candlelight Christmas Eve service to welcome the Christ child once again.

As we move from the manger to the journey of the Magi, we look for new ways to seek God in the coming year. To help guide us, "star words" were passed out during worship on Sunday, January 4th. Each star contains a word for you to reflect on and pray over throughout 2026.

If you were unable to join us last Sunday, please know that the stars will remain available at the church for the rest of January.

May this new year bring us closer to one another and to the light of God.

With gratitude and excitement for our shared journey,

Pastor Charissa

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



Worship Note: Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after service on Sunday, February 1st.

Sunday School resumes 10am on January 11th!

January Youth (7th-12th)

Weekly Youth Group- Thursdays

4:30 to 7pm. Dinner is served at 5pm.

Join us as we gather with our friends from East Liberty Presbyterian Church to share a meal, fellowship and Bible Study.

Jan. 8 @ELPC

Jan. 15 @ELPC

Jan. 22 @ELPC

Jan. 29 @Sixth Church



Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com



Thank you to the youth from Sixth and ELPC that helped put together 100 care bags for the Deacons, which were then donated to East End Cooperative Ministry.



A lovely night full of terrific music! We're grateful for all those that attended "Make the Yuletide Gay" with artists Flamy Grant, Crys Matthews and Heather Mae.

Christmas Pageant 2026





We had a wonderful time hosting Shadyside and Unity Brass for their Christmas concert! It was a fun afternoon filled with beautiful music from the dectet, and readings by Rev. Ralph Lowe and WQED's Jim Cunningham.

Stewardship Committee Update

THANK YOU, to everyone who has pledged for 2026!!

We mailed out 109 Stewardship Packets; our Stewardship Goal was \$373,635 with an ask of a 3.5% increase over what people pledged in 2025. We received 75 pledges worth \$350,513.50 which is 93.81% of our Stewardship Goal.

While we lost 11 pledging units, we gained one new pledging unit and three returning pledging units.

We hope that those who were not able to pledge in 2026 will still donate when they are able. There is still time to pledge for 2026 and we will always take a new pledge anytime during the year.

Sixth would not be Sixth without your generosity.

Thank you, the Stewardship Committee
Patty Halverson, Beth Hazlett (Interim Chair), Peter Kaplan (Outgoing Chair), Barb Parees, and Peg Watt-Morse (Incoming Chair)



Earth Care News

The next Michael Brothers church pick to recycle plastic items will be this **Sunday, January 11**. Jan Myers-Newbury will transport. Please visit sixthchurch.org for instructions. EarthCare is listed under Congregational Life.

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church– Wednesday, December 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONAL TIME:

Pastor Charissa began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a devotional, read by members of Session, followed by a time of prayer.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In person/YouTube- 11/16 (100/49); 11/23 (95/29); 11/30(84/39); 12/7 (95/34); 12/14 (108/63)
- Roll Review: Clerk, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, shared the list of those who were contacted concerning membership status and the current update.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Charissa shared monthly activities and ongoing projects in her written report. She had two requests for action, which were approved:
 - ◊ Approval for December 28th: Reception of Member by reaffirmation of faith - Amanda Zeglin, and Baptism of Rowan and Violet Zeglin
 - ◊ Congregational meeting – according to bylaws needs to be between last Sunday of January and second Sunday of Feb. Meeting will be held February 1, 2026

COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS:

- Finance: Pledges continue to be below budget. 2026 draft budget was presented.
- Personnel: Blessed with a wonderful staff. Christmas bonuses given.
- House: Snow removal going well. Power shovel purchased and used. Furnace work to be completed so sanctuary will be warmer.
- Stewardship: 2026 campaign wrapping up.
- Worship: Communion dates approved for 2026
- Engagement:
 - ◊ Planning to look at ways to encourage church attendance and ultimately membership of new people.
 - ◊ Provide information at college campuses about the church.
 - ◊ Young adults' network within church has had some positive interest.

DEACONS REPORT: Deacons had two requests for discussion.

- Budgeted stipend approved for Steel City Table meal preparation
- Approval for Deacons to investigate use of name tags for congregation

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Erik Vogt agreed to another year as Treasurer and was approved unanimously.

COFFEE HOUR: January 4, 2026– Deacons; February 2, 2026– Choir

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7pm

WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER: Elder Peg Watt-Morse closed in prayer at 8:35pm.

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



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

The deadline for February newsletter submissions is: **Monday, January 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!



January Birthdays

Jan 2	Scott Bell
Jan 11	Debbie Phillips Meghan Jones
Jan 13	David Myers-Newbury
Jan 18	Jennifer Joy
Jan 26	Vicki Guy



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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