

Sixth Sense



April 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sixth Family,

As the neighborhood comes to life with the beautiful, blooming signs of spring, we find ourselves just days away from celebrating the joy of Easter. Throughout Lent, our theme has been "Tell Me Something Good," and there is no better news than the hope of new life we celebrate this season. The resurrection reminds us of the transformative power of gathering as a community to witness God's love in action.

That spirit of gathering extends far beyond Sunday mornings. Moving from the pews to the dinner table is one of the best ways to deepen our relationships. With that in mind, I am thrilled to invite any of our non-member regulars to a gathering for anyone who wants to move beyond Sunday attendance into deeper involvement with our church family.

Whether you have been worshipping with us for a few times, a few months, or even a few years but haven't become an official member, this class is for you. We will gather over dinner for four Mondays, from April 20 to May 11, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Together, we will learn more about Sixth Church, what it means to be Presbyterian, how to get involved, and potential paths to membership or leadership roles. Please reach out to me directly or scan the QR code in this newsletter for more details and to RSVP (*see back page*).

Our call to connection also extends to the earth itself. As the world wakes up for spring, our Earth Care Team is launching a wonderful new initiative: the Wild Indigo Guilds' Food Justice project. This is a beautiful opportunity to connect with creation by forming a small community to learn, dream, and build ecological restoration plans together. I encourage our church family of all ages to check out this hopeful spring project.

I look forward to celebrating the promise of spring and the joy of the resurrection with you all this Sunday – and don't forget to bring your finest recipe for our Annual Deviled Egg Taste-Off during coffee hour!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Charissa

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

Birdsong

*Every morning the sun rises,
majestic and steady.
She is greeted
in all her strength
with the joyous cacophony of birdsong.
I like to believe
this holy chorus
is the birds telling each other –
I'm here.
We made it through the night.
You're not alone.
What good, good news.
I think the resurrection is a bit like that.
God is here.
We made it through the night.
We are not alone.
What good, good news.*

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Join us for Holy Week!

April 2nd Maundy Thursday

7pm service—
In-person worship
with combined Agape
meal in Sixth's chapel

April 3rd Good Friday



Visit our prayer stations in the sanctuary!

Stop by Sixth Church anytime between:

9 to 11 AM

2 to 4 PM

or 6 to 8 PM

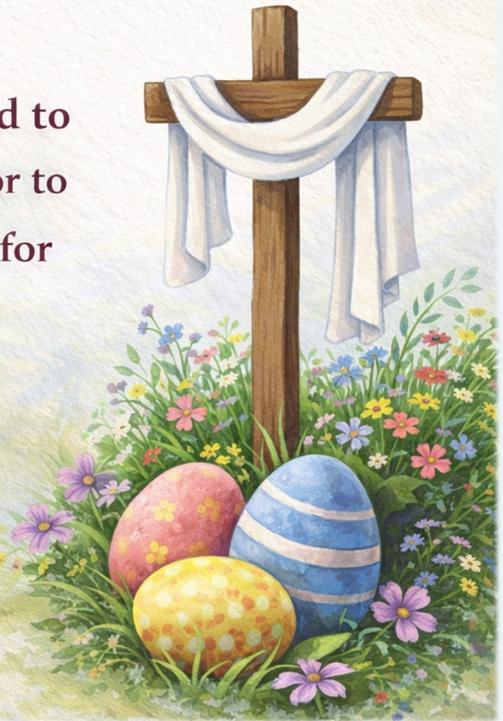
*Good Friday worship service at Church of the Redeemer
at noon (5700 Forbes Ave)*

April 5th- Easter

Students and their families are invited to the church lawn (weather permitting) or to the chapel during Sunday school hour for Easter activities. Join us for Easter egg hunting, and sharing the Easter story.

Worship at our traditional 11 AM, celebrated with communion and special music.

He is Risen!



FOLLOWING EASTER WORSHIP: Our Annual Deviled Egg Taste-Off



The SIXTH CHURCH DEVEILED EGG TASTE-OFF during coffee hour on Easter Sunday is on!

We'd love for you to participate by bringing in a plate/ container of deviled eggs on Easter Sunday.

Take them to the downstairs kitchen from 9:30am till the start of worship, so that the catering committee can refrigerate, plate and set them out with the coffee and other refreshments after the service.

Thank you! The more eggs, the merrier!

April Youth (7th-12th)

Weekly Youth Group
Thursdays - 4:30 to 7pm.

Dinner is served at 5.

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

April 9 @ELPC

April 16 @ELPC

April 23 @ELPC

April 30 @Sixth Church



Contact: Jenny Newman



young adult gathering



Sixth Church friends beyond
high school - 30ish are invited
to meet together for
fellowship and conversation.
Invite a friend and let's
connect!

7-8pm

Monday,
April 13th



It's Arts and Crafts
night! Bring something
you are working on -
but also craft options
will be provided!



Contact the church at
officesixthchurch@gmail.com
for more information and meeting location

Vacation Church School June 22-26 @ELPC

We are collaborating again with East Liberty Presbyterian Church in June for Vacation Church School. Last year VCS registration filled up quickly! Sign up for the week, or just a day, or whatever works for your schedule.

VCS is held from 9 am-3 pm, for children aged 4 through grade 5. Our theme this summer is #KidsConnect, where children wake up those neurons, get those synapses flowing, and jump on the wavelength of God's love! We will use our brain power as we connect with Jesus, family, and friends of all ages! As children learn and create together, they will find a place of belonging, make new friends, and follow Jesus' example of making room for all and loving one another. Each day includes worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, brain-building challenges, and active games. Teen and adult volunteers are needed as storytellers and camp counselors, to help with games and art, to help with lunch, and to model for kids that learning to love like Jesus is an amazing lifelong adventure!

[Camper Registration](#)

[Teen Volunteer Registration](#)

[Adult Volunteer Registration](#)



ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOP IN SCHENLEY PARK

Cultivating Intimacy With the Animate Earth:

An Experiential Workshop
by Way of Contemplative Spirituality

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

9:30AM - 3:30PM



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

To Register:
Scan the QR code, visit
www.sixthchurch.org
or [Click Here](#)

Our precious, sacred, animate earth is severely wounded. And yet, still, it is unfathomably glorious. In a heartening response, a great turning of consciousness and culture is emerging in these daunting days. Amidst all the intertwining crises afflicting our world – global warming, mass extinction, wars, authoritarianism, the obscene gap between rich and poor, hatred and prejudice, alienation from nature – it is becoming increasingly clear that humankind and the rest of nature can only flourish together.

Through contemplative/mystical Christianity, Zen Buddhism, and depth-oriented psychology, this experiential workshop will explore the spiritual and psychological dimensions of our interrelationship with the other-than-human natural world.

We will celebrate the beauty and joy that nature bestows, and grieve the destruction wrought by human folly. Despair and anger are understandable as nature is being greedily plundered. Yet it is also a privilege to be alive in an era when Earth so urgently needs our wisdom and care, when our contributions can make a real difference. Letting nature's infinite gifts touch, heal, and inspire us, we can go on to offer our distinctive gifts for the flourishing of all.

The spirit of the workshop will be one of warmth, wonder, open inquiry, mutual collaboration, and fun!

Worship participants will be asked to make a \$10 dollar donation to secure a spot. We will meet in the park across the street from Phipps Conservatory. More details will be provided upon registration.

Questions? Contact the church at officesixthchurch@gmail.com



Workshop Facilitator

Will W. Adams, Ph.D.



Dr. Adams is a professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Duquesne University. Over the years Will has served as a psychotherapist, ecopsychologist, and meditation teacher. Will's training includes four decades of practice with esteemed contemplative teachers, both Christian and Buddhist. He serves as Assistant Zen Teacher in the Sanbo Zen lineage. Will leads a meditation and contemplative prayer group every Tuesday at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 5:45-7:00. (Everyone invited, no experience necessary!) Will is the author of an ecopsychology/ecospirituality book, *A Wild and Sacred Call: Nature-Psyche-Spirit*. He is working on a new book entitled *Trauma, Love, and Meditation: Contemplative Dimensions of Healing*. His life is blessed with a wonderful wife, two marvelous children, two sweet dogs, dear friends, and a home in the woods.

WHAT TO BRING

Lunch and snacks for the day



Water
Bottle

Comfortable
weather-
appropriate
clothes

CROP Fundraising Update

Dear Sixth Church,

We have wonderful news to share about our 2025 Pittsburgh East CROP Walk. (We know this may seem late, but it takes time to get all of the data.)

- **The Pittsburgh East CROP Walk raised \$44,595.85, our highest total ever.**
- **The Sixth Church team raised \$12,550, our highest total ever.**
- **In the Church World Service “Cream of the CROP” list (top 100 teams), the Pittsburgh East CROP Walk finished at #32, also the highest ever for our Walk.**

Beth Simon of Waverly, our Walk Chair, characterized our team as “small but mighty.” We would not be “mighty” without the support of this congregation. Thank you!

We are grateful to be members of this thoughtful, caring congregation, and appreciate your commitment to living out the social gospel. Thank you, thank you!

Peace and blessings,
Sue Koehler and Pamela Twiss, co-chairs



April Birthdays

April 1	Sue Koehler Diana Wood	April 16	Meg Cummings	April 27	Frank Davoli
April 6	Kate Davoli Barb Parees	April 17	Kathy Heron	April 29	Carol Ladebue
April 8	Sheila Kier	April 18	David Bennett		
April 9	Bill Beggs	April 21	Jane Fox		
April 7	Charissa Howe	April 23	Tom Juring		
April 12	Peter Bower	April 26	Russ Loyd		



Sixth Church Earth Care Team - Food Justice



On Monday, April 13, we'll begin our Wild Indigo Food Justice Project. We'll start with weekly Foundation Meetings, *"Eight Themes for Exploration and Discovery"*. **The first meeting will be held on April 13** at 7:30 in the Chapel, both in person and on zoom*. The remaining 7 meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings, both in person and on zoom, until June 2.

Then we'll head outdoors to plant the crops we hope to distribute at the end of the summer. Does this sound ambitious? We hope so.



John Creasy

Evan Clendenin

<http://www.wild-indigo-guild.com>

Food Justice Project
Wild Indigo Guild @
Sixth Presbyterian Church!
Monday, April 13th
Then Tuesday Evenings 7:30 to 9pm



You are invited to join us for this timely focusing and hands-on project!

Wild Indigo Guild: Guilds begin with our eight experiential learning modules designed to help participants connect with God, others and the natural world. These eight modules are led by John and Evan in a small group setting.

8 Themes for Exploration and Discovery

1. Look with Wonder
2. Appreciate the Web of Interconnection
3. Coming to Know the Land
4. All Creation Groans
5. Imagine a New Way
6. Commit to Creation's Renewal
7. Engage In God's Restoration and Communal Action
8. Work With Our Hands



"Our culture is out of rhythm with creation, the future of our planet depends on us all. Wild Indigo Guild can help your church discover God's call to restoration and help your community pursue life giving action."

For more information or to register, contact Nora Johnson

**You will receive the Zoom link after registration if you choose to join remotely.*

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church- Wednesday, March 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONAL TIME

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube- 3/1 (85/39); 3/8 (95/47) 3/15 (95/36); 3/22 (110/19)
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - ◊ Thursday, April 30- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 1:00 p.m. Elder Kate Davoli approved to attend.
 - ◊ Thursday, October 1-Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 a.m. Elder Kate Davoli approved to attend
 - ◊ Thursday, December 10-TBD at 1:00 p.m.
- Clerk, Kathi Robinson-Dassel to attend **Minutes Reading** at Pittsburgh Presbytery, May 6, 2026 to review the 2025 Minutes.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- No immediate changes to bylaws-will continue to edit and update Administrative Manual
- Led discussion about Consent Agenda with goal of making meetings more efficient.

EXECUTIVE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Finance:** Elder Beth Hazlett continues to review and update methods of payment for contributions.
- **Personnel:** Elder Sara DeLucia reported that annual reviews will be wrapping up soon.
- **House:**
 - ◊ Elder Leslie Kaplan shared that work needs to be done in and around the sanctuary and she will be seeking quotes.
 - ◊ Elder Kaplan will be teaching a hydrangea pruning class, through Phipps Conservatory, at Sixth, one Sunday in April.
 - ◊ Church grounds clean-up has begun and will continue throughout spring.

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORTS: Written reports were reviewed and action taken as needed. There will be interesting events and opportunities during the Spring!

A Few Notes:

- **Nominating Committee:** Elder Sara Berg will convene a meeting of the committee and begin the process of finding officer candidates soon.
- **Engagement Committee:** Elder Kate Davoli shared that the committee had a meeting March 22, 2026. Attendees discussed the areas of engagement: welcome, events/fellowship, communications, and church growth, and provided excellent suggestions for possible steps forward for each of them. More information will follow.
- **Earth Care Working Group:** Wild Indigo Food Justice project will begin with an introduction on April 13 and meet the following Tuesdays (April 21) until June 2.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: Volunteers have been making coffee and providing snacks for Coffee Hours other than designated Sundays. Feel free to sign up-the sign-up sheet is on the big bulletin board in the chapel.

- **April 5- Easter-Fellowship takes point**
- **April 19- Earth Care**

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2026, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT & 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 May newsletter submissions is: **Monday, April 27th.**

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!

Connect More

Are you currently listed as a “friend of Sixth?” Or maybe you didn’t even know we have a directory of members and regular attendees (“friends”)?

Join us around the dinner table for a four-week gathering where we will explore:

- The history and heart of Sixth Church • What it means to be Presbyterian • Next steps for membership and leadership.



Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

Mondays, April 20 - May 11
Pastor Charissa’s House



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.

Sixth Presbyterian Church
1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

412-421-2752
officesixthchurch@gmail.com
www.sixthchurch.org