

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, April 12, 2026



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.

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217
412-421-2752 / officesixthchurch@gmail.com
www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 12, 2026, 11:00 am
2nd Sunday of Easter

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude “This Joyful Eastertide” arr. Paul D. Weber

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Introit “That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright” Benjamin Harlan

That Easter day with joy was bright: the sun shone out with fairer light
When, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!
His risen flesh with radiance glowed; his wounded hands and feet he showed.
Those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.
O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess;
To you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.
O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival,
For you will be our strength and shield from every weapon death can wield.
All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise.

Call to Worship

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his mercy,
God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
We rejoice, for we are children of God.
We proclaim our faith: no power can overcome Christ’s love, and as his body, we have
received salvation.
In love and joy, we praise the Lord!

*Hymn “Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!” 239

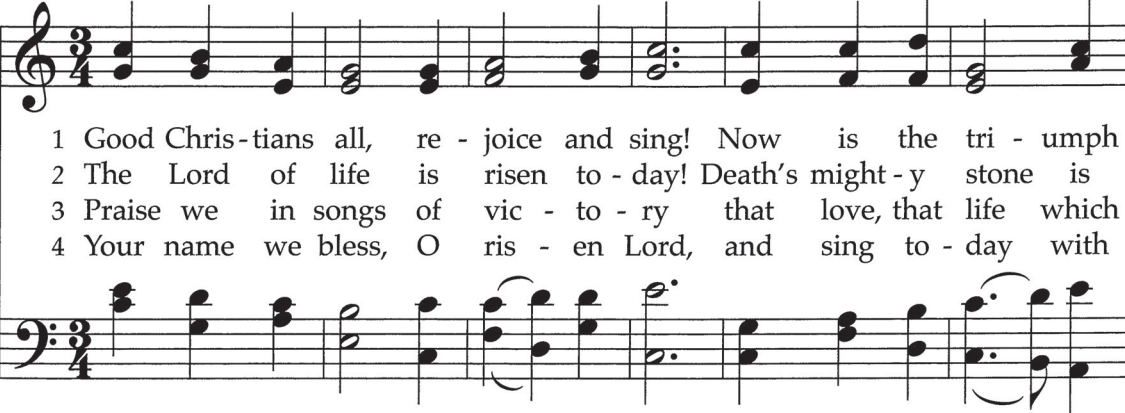
*Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

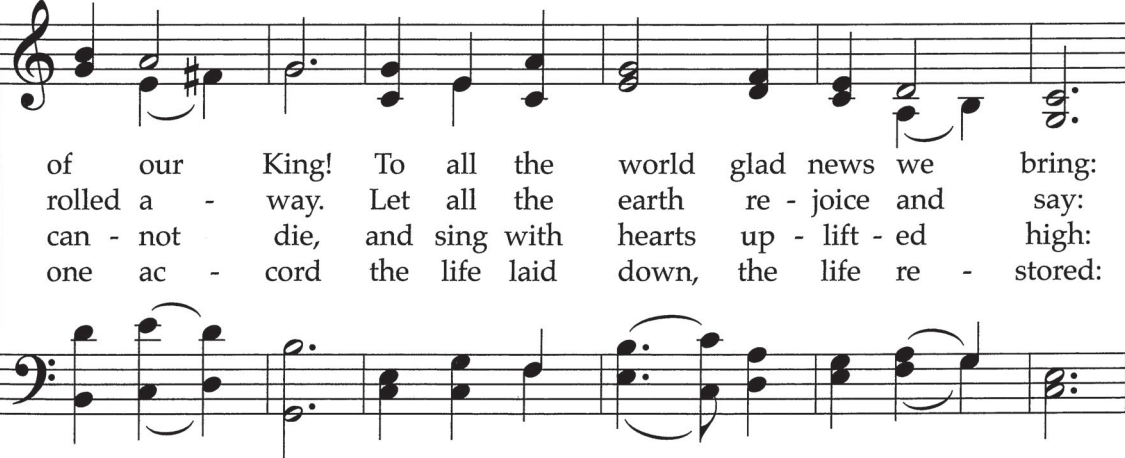
Prayer of Confession

Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, imbuing us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and again. We experience your presence, but are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace.

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239



1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This 20th-century Easter text is both a song of encouragement (stanzas 1-3 directed to the congregation) and a song of praise (stanza 4 addressed to the risen Christ), all ending with joyous alleluias. It was written specifically for the dancelike 17th-century tune found here.

Silent Confession

Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy

579

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two staves. The first staff contains two measures of music, each with a circled melodic line above the lyrics. The second staff contains two measures, with a long horizontal line above the lyrics indicating a sustained note.

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The final measure of the fourth staff has a circled melodic line above the lyrics.

Time of Wonder

Jenny Newman

*Exchange of Peace

Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Minute for Mission

Peter Watt-Morse

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. **Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9, p. 281

*Second Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31, p. 141

Response to the Scripture Readings

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe

*Hymn

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

231

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

Prayers of the People

As led between petitions, all are invited to respond: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

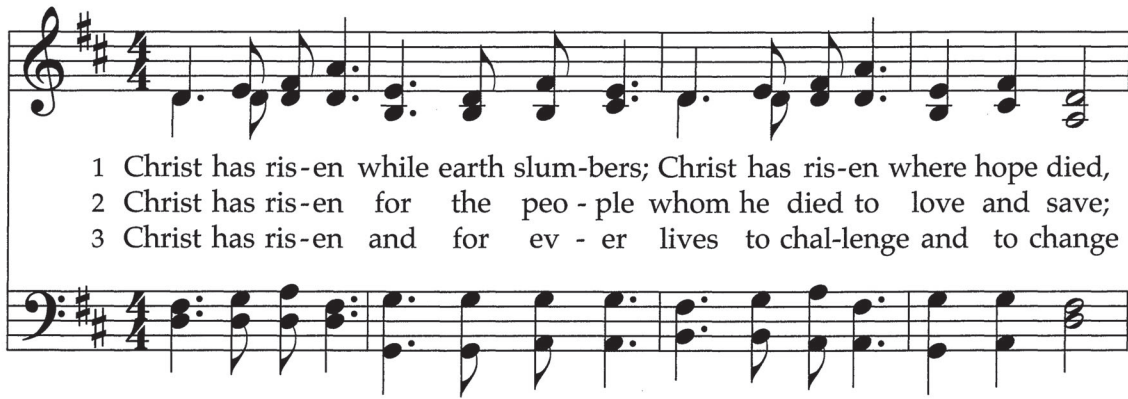
1 John 3:16–17

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

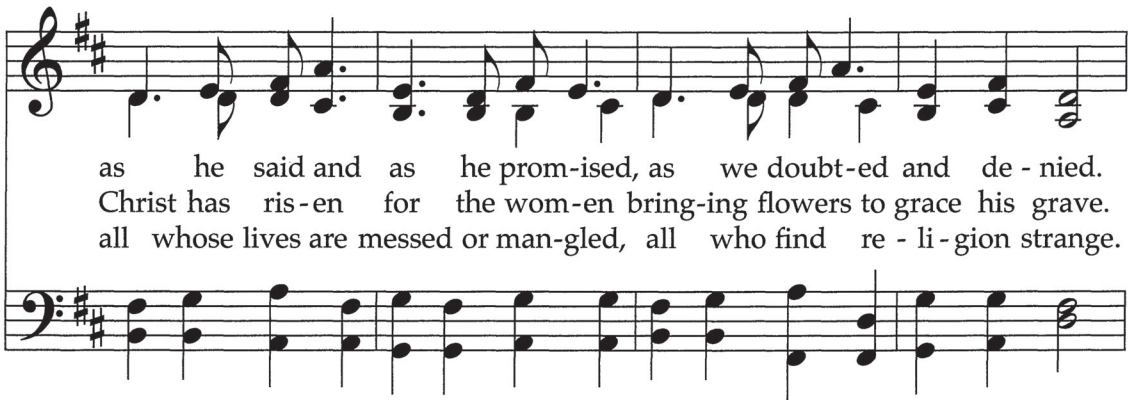
For our electronic giving option, scan QR code:



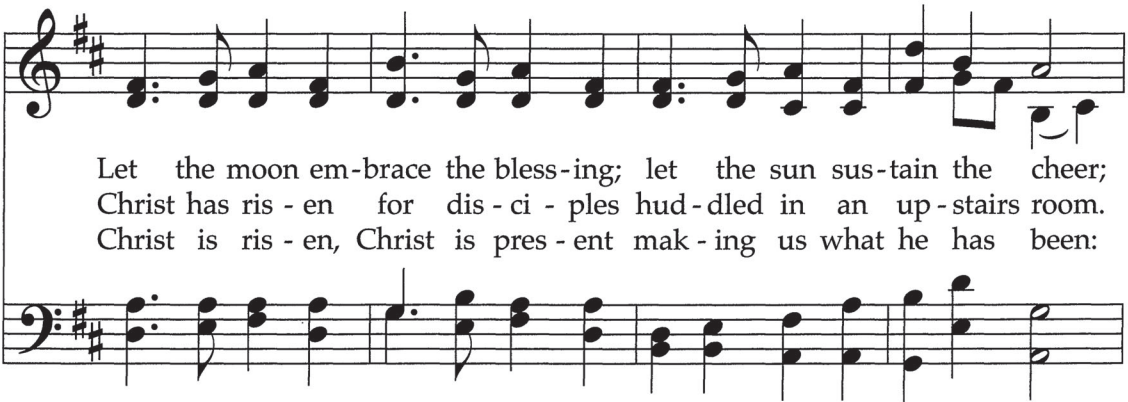
Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



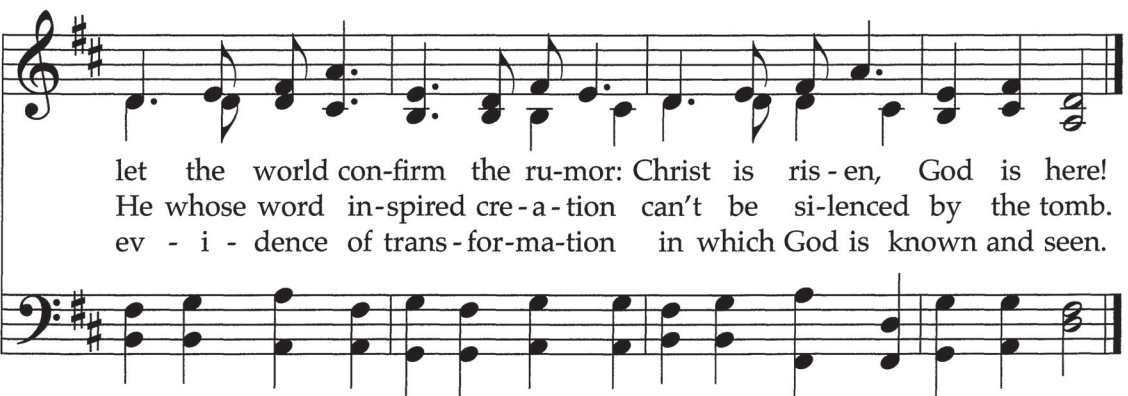
1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
ev - i - dence of trans-for-mation in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

Offertory Anthem "Most Glorious Lord of Life" William H. Harris

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin
And, having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win,
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou didst die,
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live forever in felicity;
And that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again;
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy, with love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" 608

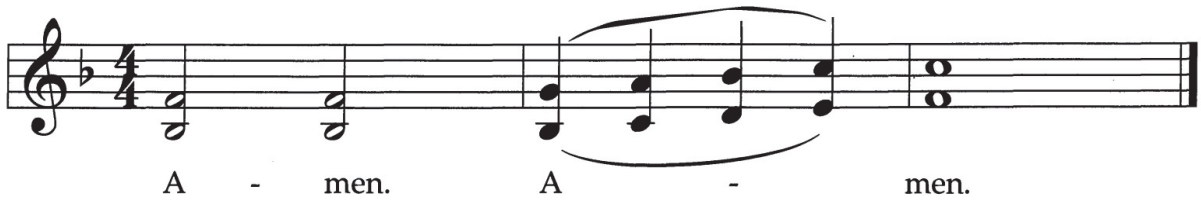
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn** "Thine Is the Glory" 238

Benediction *All are welcome to join in singing:*

May the peace of our Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

***Amen**  599

Postlude "Wie schön leuchtet" Johannes Petzold

Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish.

**Those who can may stand*

Church Announcements

Today's Service:

Kate Kennedy (liturgist); April Clisura (pastoral prayer); Kirk Howe (livestreaming); Alice Scales, Judy Schryer, Amy Whipple (ushers)

Liturgy resource: From *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, April 12, 2026. Used by permission. © 2026 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). calltoworshipjournal.org

Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic-tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai-ment
 he greets us, scat-ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad-ness
 with-out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death-less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing
 to thy home a - bove.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio *Joshua* and moved to *Judas Maccabeus* in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

Coffee Hour After Service Today

Refreshments can be found in the chapel after worship.

Peace and Justice Working Group Meeting Today

Peace and Justice meeting in the parlor after worship today. All are encouraged to join/attend!

Sixth Church Earth Care Team - Food Justice: ***First Meeting Tomorrow!***



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 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. (See the poster in the chapel/sanctuary or our April newsletter for more information.)

To register, please contact Nora Johnson.

Contact info can be found in our April Newsletter and on the poster in the chapel & sanctuary.

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



TOMORROW!

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!



Email Shay or Jenny for more information & meeting location.

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.

**Email Pastor Charissa or scan the QR code below for details/to RSVP.
Children and families are more than welcome to attend!**



Please RSVP if you
would like to attend.

**Mondays, April 20– May 11
6:00-8:30 PM
Pastor Charissa’s House**



Adult Education Workshop in Schenley Park, *new date* May 30th

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. The spirit of the workshop will be one of warmth, wonder, open inquiry, mutual collaboration, and fun! For more information and registration, follow this QR or go to www.sixthchurch.org. →



Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church:

Sunday, April 12 (after worship)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
Peace and Justice Meeting (12pm-1:45, Parlor)
Gun Safety Committee (12p-1m, Sanctuary)
MCC Start Date (1:50pm-3:30pm, Parlor)
Fiberarts Guild (2-5pm, Chapel)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Monday, April 13

Young Adult Group (7-8pm, *ask for details*)
Food Justice Project (7:30-9pm, Chapel & Zoom)

Tuesday, April 14

Staff Meeting (10am, Office)

Wednesday, April 15

Bible Study (10:30-11:30am, Zoom)
14 Ward Democrats (7-9:30, Chapel)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (7-9pm, Parlor)

Thursday, April 16

Youth Group (4:30-7pm, ELPC)
Choir Rehearsal (7:30-8:30pm, Chapel)

Friday, April 17

League of Women's Book Club (10:30am-12pm, Chapel)
Tri Lam (2-5pm, Parlor)

Saturday, April 18

AA-Turning Point (5-6pm)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (6-9pm, Parlor)
NA-Squirrel Hill Group (7:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, April 19

Sunday School (10am)
Choir Rehearsal (10am, Sanctuary)
Worship (11am-12pm, in-person & streaming)
Earth Care Celebration & Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
MCC (1:50-3:30pm, Parlor)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here:



or send us an email at officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

Join Us In Leadership: A Call to Serve

Dear Members of Sixth Church:

As we celebrate our first year with our new pastor, we are filled with excitement and hope for a future of growth and stability for our church family. In this spirit, the Nominating Committee invites you to inquire about the possibility of stepping into a leadership role as an elder or deacon.

We are seeking nominations for 4 elders and 3 deacons who have a vision for the future and are committed to our values of inclusivity, justice, service, and acceptance. We want leadership that reflects the beautiful diversity within our congregation and helps us celebrate our differences while embracing our unique strengths.

Elections for these important, 3-year term positions will be held in May, with new leaders beginning their ministry in July. If you feel curious about serving or would like more information about what these roles involve, we encourage you to fill out this nomination form. You are also welcome to submit the names of others who you believe embody the qualities needed for leadership.

Please send your nominations or inquiries by **Wednesday, April 22**. Together, we can help build a strong foundation for a future that honors our shared values.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Nominating Committee members: Sara Berg, April Clisura, Jan Myers-Newbury, Peter Kaplan, Peter Watt-Morse, or contact Pastor Charissa directly.

Let's explore this opportunity to grow and serve our church as we move forward together in faith, equity, and love!

With hope for our church's future,
Your 2026 Nominating Committee

To submit this form, please place it in either our offering plate during the church service, or leave it in the church office. Alternatively, you can submit online by scanning this QR code →



Thank you!

Join Us in Leadership: A Call to Serve

Your Full Name: _____

If you are nominating someone else, the Nominee's Full Name:

Nominee's Email Address: _____

Nominee's Phone Number: _____

How long has the Nominee been a member of Sixth?: _____

Have you (or the Nominee) served as an elder or deacon before?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes– Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes– Deacon | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure |

Please indicate which leadership role you are interested in (or think the Nominee would best fulfill) :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elder | <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|

If you are interested in serving as an elder, please indicate if you have interest in learning more about a particular committee (or think your Nominee would be a good fit)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee: House (Building and grounds) | <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement: (Welcome/Growth, Fellowship, Communications) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee: Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Outreach: (Church & Community, Peace & Justice, More Light, Gun Safety, Earth Care) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee: Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Any of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship: Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure, but I'm open to learning more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship: Nominating | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Formation: (Christian Education, Worship and Music) | |

Please tell us about your interests, what calls you to leadership at Sixth, and what is your hope for the future of Sixth?

Please tell us about your interests, what calls you to leadership at Sixth, and what is your hope for the future of Sixth? If you are nominating someone else, please tell us why you think they would be a good candidate for leadership.

