

Sixth Sense



From the Pastor's Desk

May 2026

Dear Sixth Family,

As we move deeper into the vibrant, blooming days of spring, the month of May brings us wonderful opportunities to gather, celebrate, and put our faith into action.

On Sunday, May 24th, we celebrate Pentecost—the day the Holy Spirit breathed new life into the early believers and birthed the church. It is always a joyful Sunday, and this year it will be even more special as we will also be hosting a reception of new members. I can think of no better way to celebrate the birthday of the church than by officially welcoming new friends into our Sixth Church family! Don't forget to wear your red!

The following week, on Sunday, May 31st, we will take our celebration outdoors for our Worship in the Park. This is a beautiful opportunity to worship together amidst God's creation and enjoy some fresh air and fellowship before the summer season officially begins. May 31st will be the last Sunday we worship at 11am before moving to 9:30am to avoid the heat of summer in June, July, and most of August.

We are also preparing to celebrate Pride Sunday on June 7th. As a proud More Light congregation, showing up for our LGBTQIA+ siblings is a vital part of how we embody Christ's love in the world. There are three specific ways you can get involved with Pride this year:

- March with LAMP: Sixth will once again join our fellow queer-affirming neighboring congregations in the LAMP (LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh) parade contingent. You can simply show up on the day of the march! (*More details on page 5.*)
- Table the Booth: If you want to help table the booth at the end of the march, please review the [sign up](#) information on page 5 of this newsletter.
- Join the Human Chain: There is some discussion going on about making a human chain barrier against haters. Some folks in LAMP are organizing a group to stand in front of them and make it harder for them to do that. If you want to step up for that and create a barrier of love, let Kate Davoli know to put you in touch with the organizers!

Whether we are gathering to welcome new members, worshipping under the trees, or taking to the streets to stand up for love and justice, I give thanks for the many ways this community continues to show up.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Charissa

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

May Youth Group

(7th-12th)

Weekly Youth Group

Thursdays - 4:30 to 7 p.m.

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.

May 7 @ELPC

May 16 @ELPC

May 21 @6th Church

Contact: Jenny Newman

Graduates

Friends! It's that time of the year again. Please let us know if you, anyone in your family, or any friends of Sixth Church are graduating from high school, college, or beyond!



Email any graduate information to:
Jenny Newman

Sunday School

The last day for Sunday school classes will be May 24. Join us for the Church picnic and worship in Highland Park on May 31. Summer worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. on June 7. Nursery care for infant and toddlers and Extended Session will be held during worship throughout the summer.

Vacation Church School

June 22-26 @ELPC

There is still time to register with East Liberty Presbyterian Church in June for Vacation Church School. 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.** Teen and adult volunteers are needed as storytellers and camp counselors, to help with games and art, to help with lunch, and hang out with the most amazing kids!

[Camper Registration](#) [Teen Volunteer Registration](#)

[Adult Volunteer Registration](#)



Celebrating the Baptism of Austin Brown.



6th/ELPC youth group this week went to visit and volunteer at the African Healing Garden created by Ms. Betty in Larimar.



Sunday School students participated in the recent Squirrel Hill Clean-up Patrol. During the Sunday school hour they picked up enough to fill a large garbage bag!

ADULT EDUCATION WORKSHOP IN SCHENLEY PARK

We want to hear from you.
REGISTER TODAY!

Cultivating Intimacy With the Animate Earth:

An Experiential Workshop
by Way of Contemplative Spirituality

Saturday, May 30th, 2026

9:30AM - 3:30PM



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

Sixth Church Earth Care Team

The next Michael's Recycling Brothers pickup will be on **Sunday, May 17th**. Nora and Cliff will transport. Please [visit sixthchurch.org](http://sixthchurch.org) for instructions. Earth Care is listed under Congregational Life.



Reception of New Members

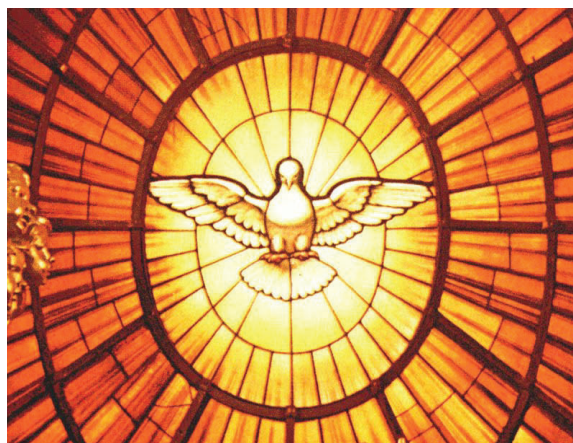
We are delighted to celebrate the reception of new members on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th.

If you have previously attended Sixth Membership Classes but are not yet a member and would like to join now, or if you are a member at another PCUSA congregation considering transferring your membership, please contact Pastor Charissa for more information.

Meaning of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge of God through the work of his Holy Spirit. The celebration of God's ongoing work in the world is found in the recognition of the work done through His people as He pours out His presence upon them. It is a time for all of us to commit to a renewal of purpose, mission and calling.

**The Day of Pentecost is May 24th.
All are invited to wear red attire to service!**



Pride March on June 7th

Come out and celebrate while we share God's love with all God's people!



Sixth is a proud participant in LAMP – the LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. We are excited to again celebrate Pride in Pittsburgh this summer! While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups across various neighborhoods, the one Pride event LAMP will participate in this year is the Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival after worship on Sunday, June 7.

There are two ways to participate:

1. Walk with the LAMP contingent in the Pride Parade march!

The march begins at noon on Liberty Avenue and concludes at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival takes place. There is no need to sign up for the march! Right after worship service, bus downtown to LAMP's location in the lineup which is on Liberty Ave between 13th St and 14th St. Look for East Liberty Presbyterian's white van (shown in the group photo above).

2. Volunteer at the booth!

We need volunteers to set up, tear down, and staff the booth during the festival on Sunday, June 7.

Please visit this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44AFA82BABFE3-63762035-pride#/>.

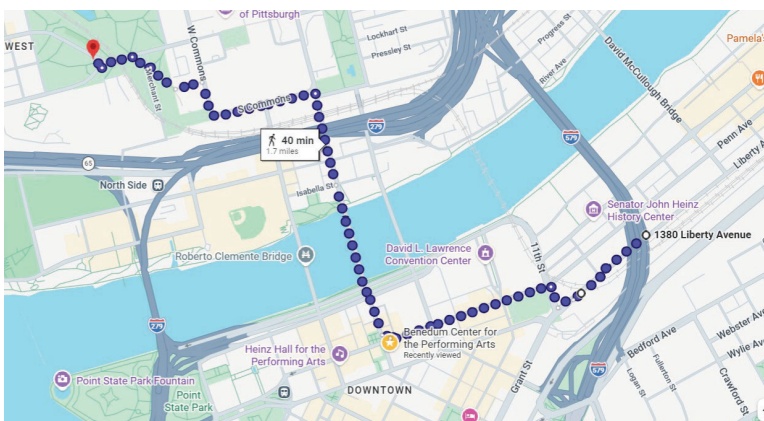
All booth volunteers are invited to a Zoom Orientation at 7pm on Wednesday, May 27th:

<https://zoom.us/j/98708429177?pwd=QyGVYnvaTFCEvt2fZk4ywWfqgDbg.1>

Meeting ID: 987 0842 9177

Passcode: 853178.

While not mandatory, attendance is encouraged, especially if this is one's first time volunteering for LAMP at the booth.



For any further questions, email Kate Davoli.

Picnic and Worship in the Park

May 31 at 11 am

Rhododendron Shelter at Highland Park

We're bringing back the grill!

Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, along with buns and all the fixins.

You're bringing your own plates...

In the interest of our efforts to be an Earth Care Congregation, the Kitchen Fellowship Committee is suggesting that you bring a plastic plate(s) from home to use for dining, if you are able to do this. There will be some paper goods available for those who are unable to "bring your own." Cutlery will be supplied (and subsequently washed) by the Kitchen Fellowship Committee.



and side dish, salad, or dessert to share!

Worship will be starting at 11 am. If you are able, it would be good to bring outdoor chairs or a blanket. If you need to unload items, it is fine to drive down close to the shelter, but then we ask you to move your car back to the road (unless this presents mobility difficulties for you). We will provide a few folding chairs.

May Birthdays



May 1	Tom Cummings	May 21	Mikki Danielson		
May 12	Leslie Kaplan	May 26	Karl Greenley	May 30	Cliff Johnson
May 14	Gail Luley	May 28	Dana Thompson	May 31	Marnie Bertolet

ATTENTION: Care Closet Help



The deacons are requesting **donations of socks** for the care closet (adult sizes, athletic or crew style). New or nearly-new condition. Please put donations in the box labeled care closet in the chapel. Thank you!



Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church- Wednesday, April 22, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONAL TIME

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: (In Person/You Tube - 3/29 (126/35); 4/2 Maundy Thursday (43); 4/5(164/44) 4/12 (90/30); 4/19 (100/27)
- Pittsburgh Presbytery 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - ◊ Thursday, April 30- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 1:00 p.m. **Elder Kate Davoli to attend.**
 - ◊ Thursday, October 1-Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 a.m. **Elder Kate Davoli to attend**
 - ◊ Thursday, December 10- TBD at 1:00 p.m.
- Clerk, Kathi Robinson-Dassel- **Minutes Reading** at Pgh Presbytery on May 6 to review the 2025 Minutes.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Will do a trial of starting summer worship at 9:30 a.m., starting June 7, 2026.
- Reception of New Members approved for May 24.
- Continued review of Administrative Manual-building use policies updated.

EXECUTIVE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Finance:**
 - ◊ Elder Beth Hazlett stated that pledges seem low, but that is typical for this time of year.
 - ◊ The gas bills over the winter were very high
 - ◊ Funds have been drawn from appropriate areas of the budget to fund the Engagement Committee needs for 2026.
- **Personnel:** No report
- **House:** Elder Kaplan has determined several areas within the church that will need some serious updating/replacement. More information and financial discussions will be needed.

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 noted that only one person has self-nominated and two people have been suggested but need to agree to serve. The committee will continue to seek Elder and Deacon nominees.
- **Engagement Committee:** Elder Kate Davoli shared exciting plans for reaching out and connecting with many different groups to encourage attendance and participation in the church community.
- **Several working groups/committees** have plans to participate in at least one Squirrel Hill Night Market, sharing information about the many ways we are actively involved in important issues.

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.

- ◊ May 10- Executive Committee
- ◊ May 31- Worship in the Park
- ◊ June 7- First Sunday at 9:30- Encourage attendance after church at the Pride Parade and activities taking place downtown.

NEXT MEETING: June 24, 2026, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The deadline for June newsletter submissions is:
Monday, June 8th.

The June newsletter release date will be
Monday, June 15th.

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!

New Sixth Sense Schedule

We're adjusting the newsletter schedule. Beginning in June, *Sixth Sense* will be released on the 15th of each month.

This change allows our Session members and our committee/working group chairs more time after the monthly Session meetings to prepare announcements and submit upcoming event details to the church office.

Going forward:

- Submissions are due by the 8th
- Newsletter goes out on the 15th



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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