

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE



SIXTH SENSE

A letter from the pastor

I am so incredibly glad to be back with you all! My time away on vacation was wonderfully refreshing, and I return to you with a renewed spirit, rested, and filled with deep gratitude for our shared ministry. Summer is in full swing, and it is a joy to dive back into our life together.

Speaking of summer adventures, I have absolutely loved seeing where the Spirit—and your rubber ducks!—have been taking you. Please keep taking your ducks on your travels and sending in those fantastic photos so we can see how God is moving with you. If you haven't started yet, it's never too late to grab a duck (or print a picture of one) and lean into your new summer spiritual practice. Whether you are reading through the book of Acts, exploring centering prayer, or taking quiet prayer walks in your neighborhood, these little ducks are a great reminder that God is always with you and your church family loves you.

While our regular Coffee Shop Office Hours are taking a break for July, I am thrilled about our casual summer hangouts! Please feel free to drop in once in a while or every time:

- **A Walk in the Park:** Please mark your calendars for our next gathering on **Saturday, August 8th at 10:00 AM**. We'll be exploring a new trail together, and strollers and dogs are completely welcome to join the fun!
- **Matcha Monday:** Stop by Kyo Matcha (5864 Forbes Ave) on **Monday, July 20th between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM**. Pop in for a quick hello or stay a while to hang out and enjoy some tea or ice cream.
- **Pub Theology:** As a quick reminder, this will launch next month on **Tuesday, August 4th at 7:30 PM**. We will meet in the upstairs area at the Squirrel Hill Cafe (catty-corner from the church). We will have a theological topic and an optional book recommendation to discuss.

I am so excited for this season of connection, exploration, and spiritual growth, and I can't wait to hear all about your summer adventures.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Charissa

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Charissa".



Attention! Attention! Mark your calendars, folks. **We return to our usual 11AM service starting August 23rd.** That day will be Sixth Church's **Welcome Sunday** where we give a special welcome to any newly arriving college students and other visitors from the community. There will be no committee meetings or special events that day so that we're all free to socialize in the chapel after worship. You don't have to bring anything but your smile!

SIXTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Youth Summer

JULY & AUGUST

(7th-12th grade)

Bubble Tea Time: @ Kyo Matcha (5864 Forbes Ave)
July 7 and Aug. 18



Lawn Hang Out: Join us on the church lawn for conversation, games, and snacks (of course)
5-8 p.m. Aug. 26 (during Market Night)



Youth Engaged in Service

YES

WEEKEND OF
SERVICE AND FUN



FRIDAY-SUNDAY
JULY **31-2** AUG
10am - 10:30am

OVERNIGHT
SERVICE PROJECTS
FUN ACTIVITIES
& MORE

for Youth who have
finished 7th -12th grade.
RSVP to Jenny Newman
or Sara Hackett



AT SIXTH AND EAST LIBERTY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Christian Education Committee

Let's talk about adult education

Join Jenny Newman for a time to share ideas, and plan for the upcoming church year. For those who prefer to join remotely, Zoom links will be available upon request from the church office.

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 28

BREAKING BREAD IN THE PARK

We will meet at Blue Side Park Shelter
in Frick Park (Beechwood Blvd.)

AUGUST 1 | AT 6 PM

We will provide
beverages and
snacks. Pack a picnic
for yourself and bring
something to share!

Don't forget your
cardboard for the slide!

In case of inclement
weather, we will meet in
the chapel at Sixth Church

www.sixthchurch.org



The next Michael Brothers Recycling date
will be Sunday, August 9th.

Looking for Coffee Hour Helpers

We're looking for folks who are able to lend a hand with Sunday coffee hour after worship. We're grateful to already have a volunteer to make the coffee, but we do need a few people to bring some snacks and help set them out in the chapel, along with the cold drinks and cups. **Are you available to help out? Sign up using the sheet on the chapel bulletin board!**



Created for Community

Awareness, Access, and Belonging in the Church

Join us for a time of learning and conversations about how the church can reflect God's hospitality by recognizing and understanding human diversity as part of God's creation. Workshop sessions will focus on how we can build worshipping communities that provide space, opportunity, and a participatory environment for all.

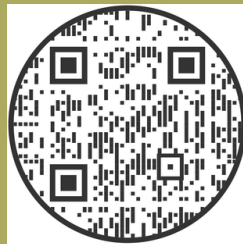
Hosted by:

SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

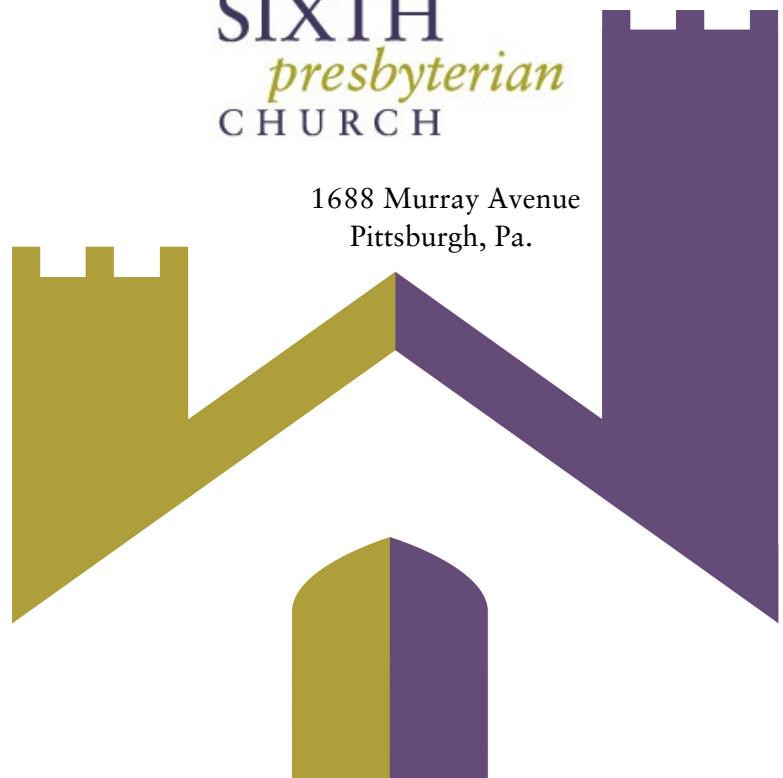
Lunch will be provided
during each workshop

To register for the sessions
please use the QR code or
visit the church website at
www.sixthchurch.org



If you would like to participate in the
workshops virtually, please register, and we will
send you a Zoom link.

Contact the Church office or email Jenny Newman
for more information.



July 26

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

August 30

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

September 27

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Considering Cognitive Changes

Neurodiveristy

Engaging Hearing and Vision Differences

This workshop series will be accompanied by a discussion on the book "My Body is Not A Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church" by Amy Kenny.

Rubber Duck Challenge

Keep sending us your photos!



Sneak a peek at what our ducks- and our church family- have gotten up to so far this summer!



Time for the CROP Hunger Walk!

Am I my brother's keeper?

Who is responsible for hunger, especially in far-off countries? As Christians, we try to take seriously that we are our brothers' keepers. How do we help? How do we not look away? Our denomination's vehicle for support abroad is **Church World Service (CWS)**.

Why is this year so important? With the loss of USAID funding, the more than 100 million people forcibly displaced around the world face increasingly dire situations. CWS teams continue to struggle to meet refugees' medical, food, shelter, and education needs – needs USAID used to help meet. Church World Service also continues to advocate for refugee and asylum relief here and abroad. Food security is also an increasing problem locally and overseas. Church World Service works with communities to address food insecurity, by helping families access nutritious food. Assisting communities to develop sustainable food access in the context of global climate change is a focus of Church World Service.

How can we help? One way is to support the annual CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service. Sixth Church is a long-time CROP champion! We will have a team of walkers this year, and donors are encouraged to support their efforts.

Here are the details:

Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 11, 2:00 p.m.

Walk begins and ends at Waverly Church, corner of Forbes and Braddock. There are two walk lengths (1.5 or 4 miles) to accommodate all walkers.



When you make a donation, where does the money go?

75% goes to Church World Service, where the programs focus on immediate hunger needs but also on sustainable development – providing seeds, baby chicks, or wells – with instructional support. 25% remains local, where it will support the hunger programs of Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (WCM). WCM currently provides needed nutritional support to over 5,000 households in our area. These are our neighbors. You or someone supporting you as a walker may be able to double the value of a donation to the CROP Walk. Some employers will match the contributions of their employees. For example, Google is a corporation that does this.

Click the link below or scan QR to join the walk and/or to donate:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/pittsburghpa>



How to Donate to Sixth Presbyterian Church Online

Hi Members & Friends of Sixth, it's been brought to our attention that we haven't had a "How To Donate Online" in a number of years. Hopefully, the instructions below make sense:

Click on the **Donate Now** button on the [Sixth Homepage](#) or scan the QR code in a Sunday Bulletin that will take you to [Sixth's Donation page](#)



SIXTH

presbyterian CHURCH

Give Now

Sign in

My Donation

Recurring

One-time

Fund

\$ Amount

+ Add Donation

Choose either the Recurring tab or the One-Time tab depending on how often you plan to give. Select General Pledge from the Fund dropdown, and enter your amount.

Disregard the following Optional Fund Dropdown section of the page

Fund Dropdown (optional)

Fund

\$ Amount

+ Add Donation

Scroll down to the "I'd Like To Give By" section. Select how you want to donate, and fill in your information. If you are donating by Credit Card, Debit Card or Apple Pay, we would appreciate you checking the "Add 2.5% to help cover Administrative Fees" since Amplify charges us fees for all donations except those through ACH.

I'd Like To Give By


Credit Card


Debit Card


Apple Pay


Bank Account



▼

▼



Billing Information

☐ Add 2.5% to help cover Administrative Fees

Then click on the Submit! button at the bottom of the page and you will receive an e-mail confirming your donation.

Please let Beth Hazlett, Finance Committee Chair, or Kelly Johnson, Office Administrator, know if you need assistance or have any questions.



Kelly Johnson at the church office: 412-421-2752

The General Assembly Adopts Overtures on Israel/Palestine with Sixth's Support

Tom Twiss

During the last week of June, the recent General Assembly of the PC(USA), with the support of Sixth Presbyterian Church, passed two powerful overtures related to Israel/Palestine. One overture enacted divestment of the denomination from two major corporations. Another explicitly condemned as genocide Israel's assault on Gaza since 2023.

In 2023 Sixth's Justice Team (the earlier incarnation of the Peace and Justice Working Group) voted to recommend that Session support for an overture [On Engagement with General Electric and Palantir Technologies, Inc. for Possible Divestment](#). The overture rationale noted the repeated involvement of the products of the two companies in military assaults and human rights violations in Yemen, China, and the U.S.—but especially in Palestine. The overture called for the PC(USA)'s Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin focused engagement with General Electric (GE) and Palantir Technologies, Inc. that could result in divestment. Our Session and the Session of Valley View PC were two of the first sessions in the U.S. to support this overture, and the Pittsburgh Presbytery was one of many presbyteries to endorse it. The overture was approved unanimously by the 2024 General Assembly. Subsequently, following two years of attempted engagement, MRTI [called upon](#) the 2026 GA to divest from Palantir and General Electric Aerospace (one of the three companies created by a division of GE in 2024). On Monday June 29, that recommendation was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

Another initiative considered at Sixth was an overture [On Recognizing that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide](#). The overture called for recognition that Israel's war in Gaza, perpetrated with U.S. support, constituted genocide; directed the church to lobby Congress for an arms embargo against Israel; and encouraged Presbyterians to boycott Israeli products until Israel complies with all international human rights laws, including the prohibition of genocide. Sixth's P&J Working Group endorsed this overture in the fall of 2025, sending it to our Session where it was approved unanimously. After Valley View PC also supported it, the Pittsburgh Presbytery became one of several presbyteries to endorse it.

The relevant committee of the PC(USA) and the General Assembly subsequently amended the overture to read that Presbyterians should refrain from buying products of Israeli companies “whose work and/or products contribute to violations of international laws concerning genocide,” condemned “unequivocally all attacks by all parties involved in this conflict,” condemned “unequivocally the ongoing assault by Israeli settlers on Palestinians in the West Bank, “ and condemned “unequivocally the Israeli military's targeting of

Palestinian children in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank." After a former moderator of the PC(USA), the Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu Akel, [spoke movingly in favor of the overture](#) on Tuesday June 30, it was approved by a vote of 454 to 15.

A final overture we did not have a chance to discuss at Sixth was [On Affirming Kairos Palestine II: A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide](#). That overture affirmed that the [Kairos Palestine II document](#), published by the Palestinian Christian Ecumenical Initiative in November 2025, is “a prophetic cry from our Christian siblings in the Holy Land,” and it commended Kairos Palestine II for study and prayerful engagement in all PC(USA) congregations, presbyteries, and theological institutions. That overture was adopted by a vote of 447 to 21.

People might be interested in seeing some of the articles on these overtures that have already appeared on the websites of [The New Arab](#), [Religion News Service](#), [Democracy Now](#), and the [Council on American–Islamic Relations](#). Thanks and congratulations to the P&J Working Group and our Session at Sixth for their continuing and prophetic work for peace and justice!



JULY

- 2-- Brenda Flores, Tim Howe
- 6-- Virginia McQuown
- 7-- Malena Howe
- 9-- Kurt Thompson
- 12-- Joseph Ashenden
- 15-- Cyndi Dickson
- 20-- Pamela Bower
- 29-- Thoren Vaux
- 31-- Cheryl Kubelick

AUGUST

- 1-- Gregson Vaux
- 3-- John Sennott
- 7-- Verna Robinson
- 10-- Nora Johnson
- 12-- Denise DeJong, Beverly Livingston
- 14-- Paul Watt- Morse
- 15-- Kathi Robinson-Dassell
- 17-- Dee Hunter, Levi Howe
- 19-- Lesa Rosamond
- 23-- Malcolm Juring
- 25-- Dex Guyette

SEPTEMBER

- 1-- Ethan Miller, Sadie DeLucia
- 2-- Elise Bertolet
- 4-- Frank Guyette, Elizabeth Sindhi
- 8-- Judy Schryer
- 10-- Sara Berg
- 16-- Martha Funderburgh
- 20-- Megan Sindhi
- 24-- Carol Beggs
- 25-- Sara DeLucia, Peg Watt-Morse
- 30-- Susan Rothenberg

Session Meeting Highlights

Sixth Presbyterian Church–Wednesday, June 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/DEVOTIONAL TIME: Pastor Charissa began with readings and prayers from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, with the theme of redemption and second chances. She followed with a prayer to begin the meeting.

WELCOME TO NEW SESSION MEMBERS: New elders were welcomed and many thanks offered to the outgoing class of 2026.

CLERK’S REPORT:

- Worship: (In Person/You Tube– 5/31 Worship in the Park (75); 6/7 (62/54); 6/14 (68/23)
- Presbytery Meeting Schedule, 2026
 - 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. Elder Amy Whipple approved to attend.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Continuing work on the administrative manual. Each month, a section will be reviewed and revised as needed.
- Pastor Charissa’s summer schedule and list of activities is included in her report shared in June’s Session information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - Finance: Elder Beth Hazlett reported
 - An internal audit was done as routine check
 - Discussed importance of making sure checks, especially of the Church & Community funds, are cashed in a timely manner.
 - Looking for an assistant treasurer.
 - Personnel: Elder Sara DeLucia and Rev. Charissa reported
 - Rev. Charissa is on vacation from June 18-July 1.
 - Rev. Caitlin Werth of Waverly Presbyterian will handle any emergencies.
 - Jenny Newman will preach on June 20
 - Rev. Evan Clendenin will preach on June 27
 - House: Elder Leslie Kaplan reported
 - Continuing to work on furnace issues and replacing light bulbs in sanctuary
 - Something (bunnies?) ate the marigolds
 - Blueberries have been planted
- MEMBERSHIP:
 - Stewardship working group is planning a meeting for July
 - Nominating group needs to add at large members and a chair
- ENGAGEMENT:
 - More Light working group needs to look into replacing the More Light banner. Elder Kate Davoli will check choices and costs.
- MISSION:
 - Church & Community is making use of the bulletin board to share information and to highlight working groups and youth group
 - Gun Safety working group is hoping to discuss relevant aspects of gun violence with physicians

DEACONS REPORT included in the packet.

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS: August 30- TBD

NEXT MEETING: August 26, 2026, 7p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Charissa closed in prayer at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The deadline for **SEPTEMBER newsletter submissions** is:
Tuesday, September 8th

The September newsletter release date will be
Tuesday, September 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!

MONTHLY HANGOUTS

Drop in once in a while or every time!

PUB THEOLOGY

1st Tuesdays – 7:30 PM – Location TBA
Starting August 4, 2026
Each month we'll have a theological topic to discuss and a book recommendation for those who want to read about it as well.

A WALK IN THE PARK

2nd Saturdays – 10:00 AM – Locations vary
Starting July 11, 2026
Strollers and pets are welcome! This is a casual time to get out in nature and spend some time together.

MATCHA MONDAY

3rd Mondays – 4-6 PM – Kyo Matcha (5864 Forbes Ave)
Starting July 20, 2026
Pop in and hang out for some matcha tea or ice cream!

COFFEE SHOP OFFICE HOURS

Last Wednesdays – 8:30-10:15 AM *new time*
Commonplace Coffee
No CS hours in June or July, resumes in August.
Come have a cup of coffee and hang out.



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