

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

Recently at the PIIN Banquet, I had a brief, private moment with the keynote speaker, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. I asked him what is most misunderstood about the Civil Rights Movement in our culture today. He said privately what he later said in his address. *"Martin Luther King did not know what he was doing,"* Young said. *"We were flying by the seat of our pants. We tried things that failed miserably. At other times, we were at the right place at the right time. We were just determined to never get comfortable with racism, prejudice, and inequality. We were committed to being maladjusted."*

His words reminded me of something King himself said once from prison. *"The nature of our struggle is so immense, that we need as many maladjusted people in our movement as humanly possible."*

I am grateful for all the maladjusted people at Sixth Presbyterian Church who refuse to accept "the way it is." In worship, through our charity and work for reform, we seek to witness to the truth that people of faith will not accept a world where might makes right and money talks. It is at times a struggle, because there is so much wrong, so much injustice, so much indifference. But we remain committed to the One who makes all things new, trusting that even though the arc of the universe is long, it always bends toward justice.

Peace!

Vincent

May 2018



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

May Worship and Preaching

May 6 – I John 5:1-6, "Truth Decay"

May 13 – Psalm 1, "Growing Roots"

May 20 – Ezekiel 37:1-6, "Getting Back to Life" (Pentecost Sunday)

May 27 – Rev. Shanea Leonard Preaching (More Light Sunday)



Sixth Church and God's Creation

The interfaith organization, North Hills Community Outreach, began growing food in its garden in 2011. They operate 3 food pantries in the North Hills, donating produce raised to serve more than 1,400 families. The garden is located in Bellevue, with volunteers doing most of the work.

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association has released its report on the state on Nine Mile Run Stream, in lower Frick Park. After a restoration project to create wetland habitat and clean up the stream, some fish have returned to the waterway, but it remains too high in bacteria, lead, and aluminum. This is mostly due to run-off from the surrounding city neighborhoods; heavy rains also cause sewer overflows that impact the stream. The water is not yet safe enough for recreational fishing.

Due to pollution, the state could not stock trout in Turtle Creek this year. Abandoned mine run-off has affected the waterway between Export and Trafford. The Kiski-Conemaugh River Watershed also is experiencing problems from excess iron in run-off from old mines, and aluminum is polluting Roaring Run, which flows into the Kiskiminetas River. In recent years, the watershed saw significant improvements in water quality, but some older water treatment facilities are failing to do the job. Funding is scarce to clean up and maintain facilities such as water treatment ponds.

The Western Pennsylvania Business Plan for Restoration of Healthy Forests and Freshwater Habitat is a new, grant-funded collaborative effort. It will improve habitat for species such as eastern brook trout and American woodcock; when these and other key species thrive, they serve as indicators of healthy ecosystems. Western Pennsylvania will host projects in 11 geographic areas, to focus on improving freshwater quality and reconnecting fragmented forests.

—Heather Lyle



For Earth Day, we heard an inspiring message from guest preacher Sarah Robbins; reintroduced our recycling system; introduced a new collectable, plastic bottle caps; and during the coffee hour, we celebrated earth-friendly food practices and facts. We had organic and locally-sourced veggies, fruit, deviled eggs, and breads, and we served Fair Trade coffee. We used recycled paper napkins and washable dishes.

We also used the opportunity to display information about how food production and consumption affects our ecosystems. Here's the fact of the month, as we move into the season of backyard grilling:

Due to cattle farming's tremendous strain on resources, producing one 1/3-pound hamburger requires 660 gallons of water.

—Nora Johnson

"Happiness," Alina Vinyarsky

Happiness is following your heart,
Being true to yourself.
Happiness is jumping off a cliff,
Feeling Lord hold your hand.

Happiness is seeing the blue sky
As if for the first time.
Happiness is feeling compassion
And not irritation.

Happiness is being touched
By the things big and small.
Happiness is feeling awestruck
At life web that binds all.

Happiness is knowing you're blessed
No matter what's to come.
Happiness is knowing when to rest and
How to act when it's time.

Happiness is going like a child
Into the world each day.
Happiness is not knowing everything,
Knowing that it's okay.

Having your heart open,
That's what happiness is.

Session Notes: March 2018

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved to approve the minutes from Congregational Meeting on 1/28/18, Stated Meeting on 2/28/18, and Called Meeting on 3/11/18. **Motion** was seconded and approved (without alteration).

• CLERK'S REPORT

Worship Attendance: 3/4 was 110, 3/11 was 112, 3/18 was 150, 3/25 was 133.

- The pastor officiated the wedding of John Alton Johnston and Kathryn Jane Ayers on March 17 at their home.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finance:

Elder Erik Fogt reviewed the February Financial report, noting a small surplus of budget funds as of 2/28/18 (\$37.24). He mentioned that Adult Christian Education is already over budget – Elder Chris Pistorius plans to discuss with children educator Jenny to see if this may be a reporting error.

House:

Elder Leslie Kaplan announced that we receive a grant from the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation (PHLF) for \$5,000, payable after we complete the proposed work. It was moved, seconded, and passed that: 1. The \$5,000 grant from PHLF be accepted, 2. \$15,000 from the house budget be utilized for necessary masonry work, (\$5,000 to be reimbursed from the grant upon completion), and 3. The manual's requirement of 3 contracting bids be waived. **Motion** was moved, seconded, approved. The necessity of the repairs was discussed (structural soundness, gaps in masonry likely causing the water leakage in the sanctuary and walls, the need to complete the exterior repair prior to internal renovation, safety). The work will be done by Mariani & Richards, Inc.

The computer proposal was reviewed. Pastor Vince plans to revise the request for cost consideration/approval at April's meeting.

Leslie will be scheduling a housecleaning and a church clean-up day on the spring calendar.

Motion to approve the Choral Commission was moved, seconded, and approved. The congregation will be

made aware of the commission and a small group (Sue Koehler, Linda Davoli, and Chuck Herrold) has been secured by Gail to begin working on the project. Details are still being modified around the composer's ownership rights as well as the church choir's rights to use the music ongoing.

DEACON'S REPORT

No report, March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

OLD BUSINESS

Child Safety Policy...this is still being modified.

Feasibility Study: Elder Lauren led a thorough discussion around the Feasibility Study for raising the needed funds for the Capital Campaign. It was determined that 5 decisions will be needed for the May session meeting.

Pastor Vince and Elders Leslie and Lauren plan to meet about steps to take in order to proceed with the Capital Campaign in the fall, additional elders are invited to join as well.

NEW BUSINESS

More Light resource list: Elder Marcus Robinson representing the More Light Committee asked (in writing prior to the meeting) that session members consider how best to share/promote an LGBTQIA resource list being compiled (Elder Heather Vallone led this discussion). The consensus was that once a quality list of resources is compiled by the More Light Committee representing the total trajectory of sexuality, it could be made available for internal purposes and education within the church. Whether to make the information available for more public access could be determined at a future date.

—Jen Joy, Clerk of Session

Capital Campaign Update

Thanks to so many of you for completing the online survey this February. The results were important for us to assess our readiness to enter a Capital Campaign at Sixth. The great news is that the church overwhelmingly believes that we can raise funds urgently needed to restore our sanctuary windows and make accessibility updates and additional repairs throughout the church. We want to share the survey findings with you. To that end, we are summarizing the data to reflect key findings and formatting them so that they are easy to review. The survey results will be shared with everyone in June.

Given our findings, Session has voted to run a dual fundraising campaign (our regular Stewardship Campaign and a Capital Campaign) this coming fall. The goal is still being finalized, and we will share it with the congregation as soon as possible.

Over the next few months, we will identify others who wish to help with the campaign. Some of you have already volunteered, and we will be in touch! But we welcome others to help us with the different tasks important to the Campaign's success. As part of our efforts, we will be hiring a consultant for a limited scope of work, and we will report more about this activity in June.

Please feel free to come to any of us with questions or ideas about the Campaign. We want to hear your thoughts, as we will be preparing a new Campaign Q&A for the September Sixth Sense. Again, thank you for your input and guidance as we work together to ensure that Sixth continues to serve generations present and future.

Yours in Christ,
Leslie Kaplan and Lauren Ward

Global Links



700 Trumbull Dr ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15205

- * Global Links helps third world countries, disaster stricken areas, and local homeless women, men, and children.
- * Global Links gathers supplies from volunteer donations, hospitals, and clinics.
- * Some needed items are:
 - * Gauze
 - * Ace Bandages
 - * Band Aids
 - * Ensure/Boost
 - * Pads, Tampons
 - * Baby Diapers
 - * Triple Antibiotic Ointment

Anne Ward is a member of Sixth and a senior at The Ellis School on Fifth Avenue. For her senior project she is working with an Ellis alumna and current employee at Global Links to learn more about the nonprofit world and help Global Links fulfill its need for donations. There will be a labeled box located in the Sanctuary to collect your donated supplies. Thank you!

More Light Sunday: Rev. Shanea Leonard Preaching



Join us Sunday, May 27 for More Light Sunday. Rev. Shanae will be preaching. Leonard, the only out, black, ordained, woman minister in the region, founded Judah Fellowship in 2011 as a multicultural, affirming, family ministry with a focus on social justice. Through the church, as well as her various positions throughout the city (including chair of Mayor Bill Peduto's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council), she's working to make Pittsburgh a more inclusive place.

Christian Education Announcements

Sunday School: Please be reminded that our last day of Sunday school is May 27. Nursery Care and Extended Session will be available each week throughout the summer beginning June 10.

Graduate information needed!: We will be recognizing graduates at this years Picnic in the Park on June 3. Please let us know who is graduating this year, from where, and what's next! Please send any info via email to Jenny Newman at Jennyrunew@gmail.com.

VBS, Save the dates! Join us for Sunday Fun Days!: Mark your calendars for our Vacation Bible School program which will be held this year from 10 am to noon Sundays on July. This year's dates are July 15, 22, and 29. More information to come.



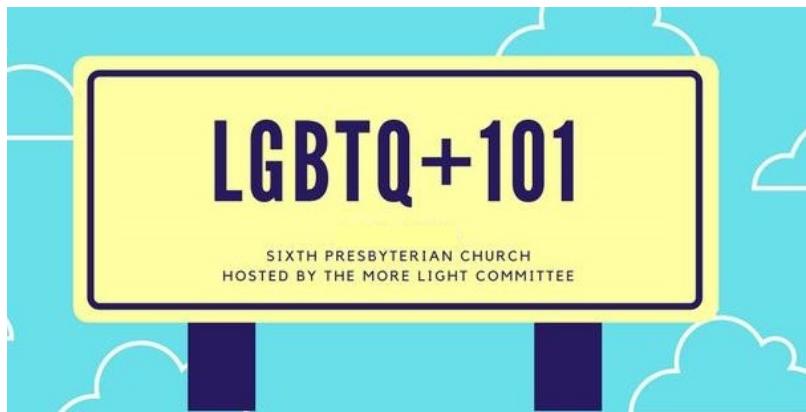
A Poem from Grades 1-5 Sunday School Class

Jesus

Loving, caring

Helps, teaches, prays

Amazing, impressive, crucified, risen Christ



Join us for a special education program hosted by the More Light committee at **9:30 am, Sunday, May 20**, in the Chapel. Our guest speaker will be Ted Hoover, PERSAD Community Safe Zone Coordinator.

Ted will be presenting LGBTQ+ 101, which is a basic training covering fundamentals of the LGBTQ experience. He will look at current terms, definitions, and vocabulary; examine the social context of discrimination and examine some the disparities experienced by LGBTQ youth. The presentation will feature an extended look at SOGIE (Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity & Expression) with an exploration of the challenges and issues facing trans people and a discussion of current best practices for working with that population. The program finishes with a brief discussion of current legal issues affecting the LGBTQ community and an outline of local and national resources.

Youth Happenings May

Sunday School - Sunday school class for junior and senior high is held each week (10 - 10:45 am) upstairs in Jenny Newman's new office (formerly Gail's music office). Join Amy Whipple and special guest stars for discussion on the week's scripture passages, current events, and other assorted topics. There will be donuts and drinks! Sunday school ends May 27!

Youth Movie and Game Night: Youth 7th through 12th are invited to come for fellowship, food, movies and games at the church from 6 to 9:30 pm, Friday, May 4. Please let Jenny know if you will be attending.

Weekly Youth Fellowship: Youth are invited for coffee and conversation at Crazy Mocha on Murray Ave. from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays, May 3, 10, 17, and 24

For more info contact **Jenny Newman** at **(412) 720-6392** or **Jennyrunew@gmail.com**

Squirrel Hill Cleanup Day!



Worship in the Park! Sunday, June 3 at 11 am

Rhododendron Shelter at Highland Park

Everyone is welcome for a Celebration of Children's Education with Sunday School Teacher Recognition

Followed by Our Annual Church Picnic

During a special children's worship, we will have a time to recognize our Sunday School teachers and thank them for their faithful service this year.

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

NEW THIS YEAR!

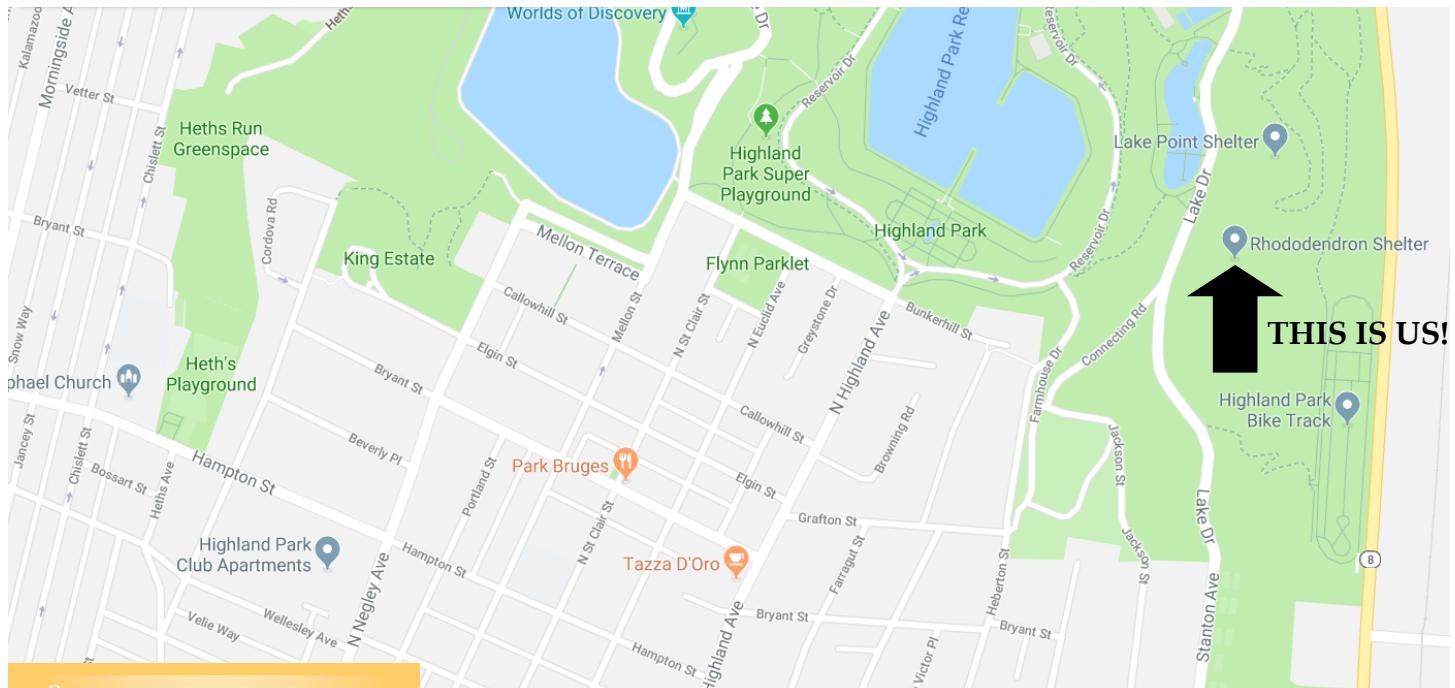
In the interest of our efforts to be an EarthCare Congregation, the Fellowship Committee is suggesting that you bring a plastic plate/s from home to use for dining, if you are able to do this. There will be paper goods available for those who are unable to "bring your own."

Cutlery will be supplied (and subsequently washed) by the Fellowship Committee, as we have done for the past several years.

Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share

You may also want to bring folding chairs or lawn blankets

Questions? Need a ride? Contact the church office at 412-421-2752 or office@sixthchurch.org

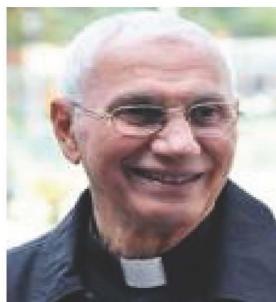




A Christian Voice for Palestine

*Building a base of active support for
Palestinian freedom in U.S. churches*

THE IMPORTANCE OF JERUSALEM TO CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND JEWS



The public is invited to a FREE
lecture by
the Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek

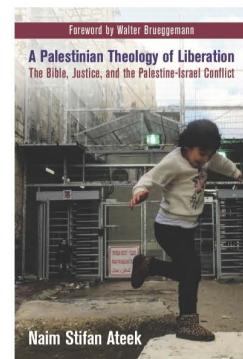


Monday, May 14, 7:30 PM.
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Auditorium
616 N. Highland Pittsburgh 15206

Naim Stifan Ateek is a Palestinian priest in the Anglican Communion and founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

His latest book will be available for sale

*A Palestinian Theology of Liberation:
the Bible, Justice and
the Palestine - Israel Conflict*



May 2018 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tom Cummings	2 11:00 am, Bible Study	3 Sharon Van Dyke 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir	4 Jan Maxwell	5 7:00 pm, NA
6 9:00 am, More Light Educational Program/ PERSAD 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:15 pm, Worship Committee (Parlor) 2:00 pm, Alopecia Support Group 8:00 pm, NA	7 7:00 pm, NA	8	9 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:00 pm, 14th Ward Democrats	10 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir	11	12 Leslie Kaplan Family Retreat 10:00 am, Course in Miracles (outside group) 7:00 pm, NA
13 Family Retreat 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	14 Gail Luley	15	16 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:15 pm, Deacons	17 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir	18	19 8:00 am, Sixth Garden Day 7:00 pm, NA

May 2018 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	21 Mikki Danielson Maggie Ritchey David Wood 7:00 pm, NA	22	23 Erin Cummings 11:00 am, Bible Study 7:30 pm, Session	24 6:00 pm, Youth group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir	25 7:00 pm, Three Rivers Tibetan Cultural Center	26 Karl Greenley 10:00 am, Course in Miracles (outside group) 7:00 pm, NA
27 Chris Gaul 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	28 7:00 pm, NA	29	30 Cliff Johnson 11:00 am, Bible Study	31 Marnie Bertolet 7:30 pm, Choir		

Coffee for Sale!

We have coffee for sale! Stop by the church office to buy a bag of coffee from our mission partners in El Porvenir!

Regular or dark roast ground or whole bean: \$13

Decaf ground or whole bean: \$14



Sixth Presbyterian Church
1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-421-2752
office@sixthchurch.org
www.sixthchurch.org

Dated Material - Do Not Hold

Address Service Requested



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.

Food for Thought...



The Deadline for the June newsletter is May 15th. Please email articles and announcements to Amy in the church office (office@sixthchurch.org).

You can also put printed copies on her desk.

Thank you!

"You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink." —G.K. Chesterton

"As Harold took a bite of Bavarian sugar cookie, he finally felt as if everything was going to be okay. Sometimes, when we lose ourselves in fear and despair, in routine and constancy, in hopelessness and tragedy, we can thank God for Bavarian sugar cookies. And, fortunately, when there aren't any cookies, we can still find reassurance in a familiar hand on our skin, or a kind and loving gesture, or subtle encouragement, or a loving embrace, or an offer of comfort, not to mention hospital gurneys and nose plugs, an uneaten Danish, soft-spoken secrets, and Fender Stratocasters, and maybe the occasional piece of fiction. And we must remember that all these things, the nuances, the anomalies, the subtleties, which we assume only accessorize our days, are effective for a much larger and nobler cause. They are here to save our lives. I know the idea seems strange, but I also know that it just so happens to be true." —Stranger than Fiction