

August 2018

# Sixth Sense

## From the Pastor

There have been no summer doldrums at Sixth Presbyterian Church.

Even though we have spent most of our summer out of our sanctuary while it is being replastered and repainted, worship has been lively and well-attended in the comfortable confines of our Chapel. When our Squirrel Hill community felt beleaguered by the grim news of immigrant children separated from their families, 700 people crammed into our sanctuary to pray and resolve to work for their reunion. Our children have been busy with summer fun days and camp, our Deacons have been assembling care packages for the homeless and helping out some of our members, our people have been out in the streets in solidarity with those who are advocating for public health, criminal justice, and access to affordable and safe water. We have been worshipping on Saturday evenings with our LGBTQIA friends of color at Judah Fellowship, and late in August we will be pulling out a number of recently discovered photo albums when we celebrate our church's 168th birthday.

Our reputation in the city continues to be that we are a faith community that advocates for the values of inclusion, justice, and compassion. Throughout the summer, people who attended our event on fracking and our prayer vigil for immigrants have come back to join us for worship. We welcomed yet another family into our fellowship this summer and baptized their youngest child.

There is much in our world that is grim and at odds with our values. But Sixth continues to serve as a refuge for those who are looking for a faith that is unafraid to think critically and act out in the world decisively. Confident in God's faithfulness, let us continue to be about the proclamation that Christ is reconciling all things to Himself.

Peace!

Vincent



SIXTH  
*presbyterian*  
CHURCH

## August Worship and Preaching

August 5 – Rev. Myra Kazanjian preaching

August 12 – II Samuel 18, "David and Absalom"

August 19 – I Kings 3:3-14, "Wisdom to Lead" (Sixth Church's 168th Birthday!)

August 26 – Rev. Sarah Robbins preaching

*Photo by Linda May*



# Sixth Church and God's Creation

## Are you recycling right?

Sixth loves recycling. We're glad we can provide bins for hard-to-recycle items and stuff that would otherwise end up in the trash. But what about recycling everyday materials? Are you doing it right?

Recycling right isn't as common as it should be – but who can blame us? Learning which bin to use, which tiny plastic numbers are acceptable, and (for some of us) which week the recycling trucks will be out takes real effort. We've all, at some point, said the heck with it and tossed recyclables in the trash.

So, step one to recycling right is easy: recycle – don't just say the heck with it. Pittsburgh collects plastics numbered 1-5 and 7. Beyond that, clean your recyclables (odd as it sounds). Rinsing plastic or glass recyclables helps keep pests out of recycling facilities. Cleaning is important because in single-stream, mixed recycling containers, sauces, liquids, etc., can spill onto paper and cardboard, making it unrecyclable. On that note, greasy pizza boxes, or otherwise greasy or soiled paper and cardboard, should be thrown out.

Recyclables are commonly rinsed upon arriving at facilities, so a little shake and rinse is all that's needed beforehand. But does the water use outweigh the benefit of recycling? Probably not, as long as you use cold water. And skip the soap.

Whenever possible, separate materials to make sorting recyclables at the facility easier. Remove metal lids from glass jars. Unscrew the hard plastic tops from soda bottles (and put them in the new bin at Sixth!). Tear off plastic handles from cardboard boxes.

Don't forget to flatten and bundle recycled cardboard. You probably know that Pittsburgh collects paper products like newspapers, magazines, and junk mail. But you can also recycle paperboard, phone books, and softcover books (a few cobwebs shouldn't hurt anything). Styrofoam is a no, as are coffee cups (due to their waterproof plastic lining).

Finally, stick with a recycling bin if you can – those blue recycling bags serve only to gum up the machinery at recycling facilities.

There's so much more to know about recycling right. Check out this recent Post-Gazette article to learn more: [newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/recycling/](http://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/recycling/)

– Keith Gillogly



## August Youth Group

**Weekly Youth Fellowship:** Youth are invited for coffee and conversation at Crazy Mocha on Murray Ave. from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays, August 2 and 23.

For more info, Contact **Jenny Newman** (412) 720-6392 or [Jenyrunew@gmail.com](mailto:Jenyrunew@gmail.com)

## Ukulele Club

This fall we are starting a Ukulele Club for children and youth who want to learn. We will meet twice a month before Sunday school from 9:15 to 9:45 am. Kids in Kindergarten and up are welcome to participate!

We will have some classroom instruments for those who are interested in trying it out. If you would like to purchase your own please visit the Children and Youth Blog on the church website at



[www.sixthchurch.com](http://www.sixthchurch.com) for some suggestions and links.

**Fall dates:**  
Sept. 16, 30  
Oct. 14, 28  
Nov. 11  
Dec. 9



# Christian Education Announcements

**Christian Education Committee:** The Christian Education Committee will meet following worship (11 am) on Sunday, August 1 in Jenny Newman's office.

**Sunday School Teacher Gathering:** There will be a training / gathering for all Sunday school teachers of children and youth following worship (11 am) on Sunday, August 26. Lunch and child care will be provided.

**Child Care Staff Training:** There will be a training for all paid Nursery and Extended Session staff on Wednesday, August 29 at 6 pm.

## Mark Your Calendars for Rally Day! Sunday School Starts Sept. 9

Fall is Right around the corner!

Sunday school for children in youth in preschool through high school start at 10 am on Sept. 9.

Please fill out our Sunday School Registration form that can be found on the church's website at [www.sixthchurch.org](http://www.sixthchurch.org).



**Sunday Funday VBS was held for three Sundays in July. More pictures to come!**

# Realization

I got caught in the rain today. I thought I had waited it out! It was only drizzling when I decided to go out of the store, a paper bag of groceries in my hand. But on my way to the bus stop I noticed the rain was getting stronger. As I was approaching the bus stop – and getting pretty wet – I saw my bus departing. Hmm... The next one would come in half an hour. There was no shelter at the stop. So I decided to keep walking. I wasn't quite finished with my rain song anyway!

I had barely walked for two minutes when my paper bag lost handles and started falling apart. I saved what I could of it, put the bag under my arm and walked on. I was just wondering how soon I'd have a bunch of loose groceries on me when I noticed a man parking his car some distance ahead, getting out of the car, and walking towards me, a cloth bag in his hand. He had noticed that I was having trouble and thought the bag would help. I thanked him. The man drove off, and I walked on, carrying my groceries in a sturdy bag now. A minute later, the rain completely stopped!

We're always at the right time and right place – Sometimes to help and sometimes to be helped.

More love enters the world in either case.

More gratitude and kindness can be felt.

– Alina Vinyarsky



## The Deacon Community Building Fund

Do you see a need that isn't being met yet, either among a group of people in our church family or within our larger community? Could the need be addressed by members of your 6th Church family working together in a meaningful way? Would some start-up money allow for some positive change to help meet this need? We'd like to hear your ideas.

The Deacons have some flexible funds to offer as seed money for an innovative way to help people in need while working together. It can be a need that seems minor and fixable rather easily with some funding and community member involvement, or one that might involve a longer commitment but needs the seed money to get the momentum going. Regardless, we'd like the money to be used to inspire some form of community involvement for people in the church, rather than donating it to a worthy (but already existing) agency or charity.

Be creative! No idea is unworthy of submission! Please submit your ideas by September 30, 2018. You can use this weblink: <https://goo.gl/forms/DBoQ6BlnqSXc6s3W2>, or the paper forms available on the table in the office, put into the Deacon mail slot once completed. Your submission should include as much detail as you are able.

Thank you!

The Deacons

# Attention All Women! Women's Retreat 2018



The Women's Retreat Weekend will be at Crestfield, Friday evening, September 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday morning September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be an option for coming Saturday only. The Rev. Susan Rothenberg will be our retreat leader. More information on details and cost will be forthcoming. Any questions, please contact Pam Howe at [howepjs@yahoo.com](mailto:howepjs@yahoo.com) or 412-343-7438.

Susan has given us this description of the topic for the weekend:

## God, Improv, and the Art of Living: Getting from "Yes But" to "Yes And"

When most of us think about improvisation, often referred to as "improv," we might think about Second City in Chicago, an improv troupe which counts among its alumni such comedy greats as Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, and Jim Belushi among many others.

What does the art of improvisation have to say to the Church which often says that God has a plan for our lives, whereas improv teaches there is no master plan at all? But what if God isn't an immutable taskmaster, but a creative collaborator?

This September at the Sixth Church Women's Retreat, Rev. Susan Rothenberg will lead us through an exploration of improv, guided by a new book entitled, *God, Improv, and the Art of Living* by Presbyterian pastor and improv enthusiast MaryAnn McKibben Dana. In her book, Dana suggests that the principles of improv are present in Scripture, and continue to be experienced in the lives of God's people today. She believes the lessons learned in improv translate into tools and practices that can guide our emotional, social, vocational, and spiritual lives.

At Crestfield, we'll think about Scripture texts which reveal God's improvisational nature, and consider how we are invited into God's creative work. We'll look at our own personal stories and see how we are all improvisers, particularly when life surprises or challenges us. Plus, we'll enjoy some reflective group exercises and fun activities taken from the world of improv.

Still not convinced that improv is for you? Maybe a quote about improvisation from Tina Fey's *Bossypants* will convince you:

"It plays among the arts.

It's indispensable in parenting.

It shows up in business, science, and sports.

It can help sharpen memory, stave off dementia, and combat writer's block.

And it will change your life and reduce belly fat"

Sadly, the fine print in *Bossypants* admits that improv does not really reduce belly fat. But it will change your life! See you in September!

## August 2018 – Events and Birthdays

| Sunday   | Monday                                   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | <b>1</b><br><b>Checkers</b><br><b>Delabar</b><br><b>Gregson Vaux</b>             | <b>2</b><br>6:00 pm,<br>Youth Group<br>(Crazy Mocha)                           | <b>3</b><br><b>John Sennott</b>                    | <b>4</b><br><b>Bob Gersch</b><br>7:00 pm, NA               |
| <b>5</b><br><b>Norma Farquhar</b><br>10:00 am,<br>Worship<br>11:00 am,<br>Christian<br>Education<br>Meeting<br>11:00 am,<br>Church &<br>Community<br>7:00 pm,<br>Group of Ten<br>8:00 pm, NA | <b>6</b><br>7:00 pm, NA                  | <b>7</b><br><b>Verna Robinson</b>  | <b>8</b><br><b>Chris McDonald</b>  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br><b>Nora Johnson</b>                   | <b>11</b><br><b>Anna Watt-Morse</b><br>7:00 pm, NA         |
| <b>12</b><br><b>Denise DeJong</b><br><b>Beverly Gaddy</b><br>10:00 am,<br>Worship<br>11:00 am,<br>Nominating<br>Committee<br>8:00 pm, NA   | <b>13</b><br>7:00 pm, NA                 | <b>14</b><br><b>Paul Watt-Morse</b>  | <b>15</b><br><b>Kathi Robinson-Dassell</b><br>7:00 pm, 14th<br>Ward<br>Democrats | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br><b>Dee Hunter</b><br><b>Josh Lowe</b> | <b>18</b><br>9:00 am,<br>House<br>Committee<br>7:00 pm, NA |
| <b>19</b><br><b>Lesa Rosamond</b><br>10:00 am,<br>Worship<br>8:00 pm, NA   | <b>20</b><br><b>Sixth</b><br>7:00 pm, NA | <b>21</b><br><b>Olivia Van Dyke</b><br>7:00 pm, New<br>Sanctuary<br>Pittsburgh | <b>22</b><br>7:30 pm,<br>Session   | <b>23</b><br><b>Malcolm Juring</b><br>6:00 pm,<br>Youth Group<br>(Crazy Mocha) | <b>24</b><br><b>Dante McDonald</b>                 | <b>25</b><br><b>Dex Guyette</b><br>7:00 pm, NA             |

# August 2018 – Events and Birthdays

| Sunday   | Monday                   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                        | Friday    | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>26</b><br>10:00 am,<br>Worship<br>11:00 am,<br>Sunday school<br>teacher<br>meeting/<br>lunch<br>11:30 am,<br>Sunday School<br>training<br>8:00 pm, NA | <b>27</b><br>7:00 pm, NA | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br><b>Myra Kazanjian</b><br><b>Chris Sennott</b><br>6:00 pm,<br>Nursery and<br>Extended<br>Session Staff<br>training | <b>30</b><br><b>Robin Bower</b> | <b>31</b> |          |



## 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**



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**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.*



**The Deadline** for the September newsletter is August 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!

## Food for Thought...

"I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer—its dust and lowering skies." —Toni Morrison

"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." —Sylvia Plath

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color." —Natalie Babbitt

"The crickets felt it was their duty to warn everybody that summertime cannot last for ever. Even on the most beautiful days in the whole year—the days when summer is changing into autumn—the crickets spread the rumor of sadness and change." —E.B. White