

September 2018

Sixth Sense

From the Pastor

Pittsburgh is a busy city.

It is a city full of houses, full of people, full of cars. In the East End, we see people moving quickly in all directions, we hear joyful and angry voices, mixed with a great variety of street sounds and odors. We live in a busy, congested city, in which life manifests itself in all its boisterous intensity. But in the midst of this lively and colorful conglomeration of offices, houses, people, and cars, there are towers and steeples, pointing to the places set aside for the Holy.

Our church, and the synagogues and mosques that surround us, are like beautiful frames around empty spaces witnessing to the One who is the quiet, still, center of all life. Churches are not useful, not practical, not requiring immediate action or quick response. They are spaces without loud noises, hungry movements, or impatient gestures. They are tranquil spaces, strangely empty most of the time. Their presence speaks of something different from the hustle and bustle around them. They are not museums. The empty churches call and invite us to be silent, to kneel, to listen attentively, and to rest with our whole being. A city without these carefully protected, empty spaces is in danger of losing its real center. A society without these empty spaces is in danger of losing its soul.

The sacred space that is Sixth Presbyterian Church at Forbes and Murray has stood as a living reminder of God's presence in Squirrel Hill, and a prophetic witness to the Biblical values of inclusion, justice, and compassion for over a century. I believe that the time has come to preserve this sacred space, and all that it means to us and the surrounding community. It is why I hope, as the Fall begins, that you will consider deeply the opportunity before us to ensure that this sacred space where we do God's sacred work is sustained far into the foreseeable future. As our combined Capital and Annual Campaign will describe, there is really "no turning back" from the work we must do to take care of our church home.

Peace!

Vincent



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

September Worship and Preaching

September 2 – Song of Solomon 2:8-13, "The Blessing of Desire"

September 9 – Mark 7:31-37, "Be Opened"

September 16 – Mark 8:27-38, "Losing Life"

September 23 – Psalm 1, "Justice Through Liturgy"

September 30 – Ben Rumbaugh Guest Preaching



Sunday School at Sixth Church!

Rally Day is September 9th! We will begin Sunday School at 10 am. Parents are invited to join their children in their Sunday school classes on the first day to meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and share some rally day refreshments.

Preschool – Kindergarten led by Malena Howe, Megan Fogt, and Tricia Delnay. This class will meet in the large Sunday school room

1 – 2nd grade led by Linda May and Cyndi Dickson. This class will meet in the Sunday school room located across from the Pastor's Office

3rd – 5th grade led by Chris Pistorius and Joe Ashenden. This class will meet downstairs in The Ridinger Room.

6th – 12th grade led by Amy Whipple and Katrina Kennel. This class will meet upstairs in Jenny Newman's Office (across from the nursery).

Please visit the Sixth Church Website at www.sixthchurch.org to read our Child Safety Policy, General Safety and Health Policy, or Fall Children and Youth Calendar.

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 for some suggestions and links.

Fall dates:

Sept. 16, 30 / Oct. 14, 28 / Nov. 11 / Dec. 9

Parents are asked to escort their children to their rooms at the start of the Sunday School hour. If you will not be attending worship, please pick your child up from their Sunday School room. Sunday School students will be escorted to the sanctuary in time for 11 am worship. Children are encouraged to sit with their families and are always welcome in worship. Following the Time for Children, kids preschool through 3rd grade are invited upstairs for Extended Session for prayer time, songs, activities and play time.

Our Nursery and Extended Session staff this year are Meredith Harrison, Sonia Panic, Clove Rose, Emma Zentarsky, Bree Bolton, Isabelle Nelson, Bela Berg, and Hanna Pistorius. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers each week beginning at 10 am.

If you haven't already, please fill out the online Sunday School registration form available on our church website at www.sixthchurch.org. Registration helps us keep your contact information up-to-date in case of emergencies. We also ask that families register children who will be cared for in our church nursery.

Sacraments Class for Kids

We will be hosting a special time for kids ages preschool and up to learn about communion and baptism and help bake bread for World Wide Communion Sunday.

We will also be training those interested in being acolytes and water pourers at this session.



Saturday, October 6, 2018, 10 am to 12 pm

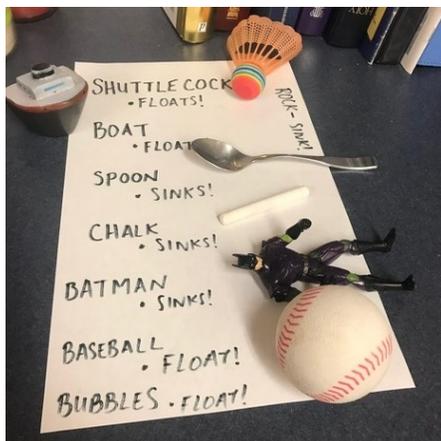
Youth Group Happenings, September

Sunday School Begins!: Sunday school class for junior and senior high will be held each week (10-10:45 am) upstairs in Jenny Newman's new office. Join Amy Whipple and Katrina Kennel for discussion on the week's scripture passages, current events, and other assorted topics. There will be donuts and drinks!

Youth Fellowship at Crazy Mocha: Youth are invited for coffee and conversation at Crazy Mocha on Murray Ave. from 6 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays, September 13, 20, and 27.

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

VBS, Sunday Fundays



We just wrapped up our version of Vacation Bible School - Sunday Fundays!

Kids were invited to stay after church for three consecutive Sundays to hear Bible stories, sing songs, and participate in fun crafts and activities.

Bible stories shared included Jesus sending out the disciples (Mark 6: 1-13), Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4: 35-40), Jesus walking on water (Mark 6: 45-52), and Jesus Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-21).

Our activities included a walk to the Children's Institute playground, making crafts and edible slime, a visit from pet therapy dog Luna, and making pretzels to share with neighbors.

A good time was had by all! Enjoy the great pictures, and thank you Linda May for taking some!



Sunday School

Preschool - Kindergarten



Malena Howe



Megan Fogt



Tricia Delnay

First and Second Grade



Linda May



Cyndi Dickson

Extended Session



Hanna Pistorius



Bela Berg

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade



Joe Ashendon



Chris Pistorius

Nursery



Sonia Panic



Izzy Nelson



Bree Bolton

Sixth through Twelfth Grade



Amy Whipple



Katrina Kennel



Clove Roses



Meredith Harrison



Emma Zentarsky

Sixth Presbyterian Church



Can you help? Sunday school and Extended Session are starting again! Here is a list of supplies that we can always use in the classrooms. Please bring any donations to the church office. Thank you!

Glue sticks
Cardstock

Washable Markers
Scotch Tape

White drawing paper

Snacks: Animal crackers, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, juice boxes

Thoughts about Bible Stories

It's that time again! Everyone is planning. Our kids are preparing to go back to school and Sunday school. We are planning the church year and getting all the things ready. It's easy to get caught up in all the preparations.

Here's something that I've been thinking about – we can only prepare so much and God will do the rest. I was reminded of that again over the summer.

At one of our vacation Bible school days in July, we were reading stories about Jesus and water. We read the scriptures in which Jesus calms the storm and Jesus and Peter are walking on water.

I made so many plans. I made sure we had crafts and fun activities planned to keep everyone's interest. Yet despite all the fun activities and things we had planned, I was reminded just how important and enough it is to just tell the stories.

I asked the kids, "What other stories about water do you remember from the Bible?" I got some of the responses you would expect:

"When God created the oceans."

"When Noah built the ark!"

But then, from small little voice on the other side of the room, I hear a tiny girl say, "Baptism" and "the story about the woman at the well."



Wow. She was half paying attention and looking at a book. She was pretty distracted and mad at someone for not sharing. But she could quickly recall the stories that she had learned. She was connecting the theme of water with ways that we are all connected to God and each other.

God is here and speaking to the kids through these stories.

We can make all the plans and create all the fun activities – but we can also trust the stories speak for themselves. And they will. And God will do the work.

– Jenny Newman

Why Shop at Farmers Markets?

As we transition into the fall, many farmers markets still have weeks or even months left in their selling season. Hopefully you've been shopping all summer at Squirrel Hill's farmers market near Sixth or, really, at any of Pittsburgh's fabulous farmers markets. If not, you're not too late!

In addition to convenience, freshness, and variety, farmers markets offer plenty of earth-friendly benefits. The produce at farmers markets will naturally all be in season. This means it didn't have to be grown in some far-off climate and shipped to you. Speaking of shipping, many supermarkets get produce from hundreds or thousands of miles away, sometimes via refrigerated vehicles. All that transporting burns fossil fuels, as do grocery buildings' heat, electricity, and air conditioning utilities, compared to farmers markets open-air vending.

Compared to factory farms and thousand-acre fields, family farms that produce most farmers markets' produce and goods generate less environmental waste in the forms of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and carbon monoxide. Many family farms, in fact, practice organic methods that eschew said chemicals, preferring natural methods that are easier on your body and the earth. Grocery store produce is sometimes exposed to procedures and gasses meant to stimulate ripening – how natural does that sound?

Since family farms' growing practices are typically more environmentally friendly, supporting these sustainable, natural growing practices by shopping at farmers markets supports environmentalism. Plus, for farmers, selling at farmers markets is usually more profitable than selling to big grocery store chains.

Supporting farmers and farmers markets is essential to their continuation. Pittsburgh has plenty of farmers markets, so make shopping there part of your routine.

– Keith Gillogly

It will soon be CROP Walk Sunday!

On Sunday, October 8, Sixth Church will join with other communities in the East End to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk, which is sponsored by Church World Service (cwsglobal.org). Church World Service has a steady, on-going presence around the world, relating every day to those in need, providing services to refugees and developing projects to help people become food secure.

This year the walk called "Pittsburgh East" will celebrate its 41st year of walking to END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME. 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Cooperative Ministries and Wilksburg Community Ministry. 75% goes to the hunger and development programs of Church World Service. Check the poster in the chapel to see some of the innovative ways CWS helps to make communities more stable and food secure.

None of us could do this alone; it is truly an effort which embraces the small contributions of many people. Last year we set a record when 30 people from Sixth Church participated! Will you join us this year?

You can sponsor our entire team or an individual walker with a donation on line! Go to www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburghpa.

The walk includes options for those people unable to walk the full SIX miles. We have a ONE-mile walk mapped out as an alternative. In other words, you can choose your own personal challenge. There will be lots more information forthcoming, and in the meantime, if you have questions, please ask Sue Koehler or Pam Twiss.



A Letter from the Coordinating Team for the Capital and Annual Campaigns

Last winter, many of you may remember taking a survey about whether Sixth should enter a Capital Campaign. By May, we had analyzed the survey results and made some important discoveries. More than 90 percent of you agreed that we needed a financial campaign to enhance Sixth's infrastructure, with key support for the restoration of the sanctuary windows, improved accessibility, plastering and painting.

More than 95 percent of you said that we should move forward in the fall with our campaign – and we are! There is “no turning back.” We are guided by Jesus, who said that “no one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” We are moving forward in love and optimism.

At Sixth, we are living in a time and place where we cannot turn back. We must be outside of our doors as an advocate for the voiceless, speaking up for the values of inclusion, justice, and compassion, in a society that is increasingly hostile toward some of God's children. It has been our mission at Sixth for 168 years. It needs to continue to be our mission as we join Jesus and move to Jerusalem, the Biblical symbol of salvation, where God's reign is clear, the creation is restored, and there are no more tears.

But just as we cannot turn back from this mission outside of our doors, we cannot turn back from the real challenges of taking care of our spiritual home. For years we have made deferred maintenance less of a priority to do more to feed the hungry, heal the sick, fight for fair public policy, and make marriage equality a reality. To continue to be about this work, we have to be about the work of taking care of our home, so that for generations to come, people of faith can find refuge and a commission to continue to do the work of justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

There is much to celebrate over the past several months. We were fortunate to have the sanctuary plastering and painting covered by our insurance. But over the summer, we re-examined the restoration needs for the sanctuary windows and found that we would need to spend additional funds to ensure that our newly reconstructed windows would receive the best ventilation and protection from the elements. Moreover, we learned that we should be inspecting our electrical system and fire prevention infrastructure. All these needs – and others – were not considered in our original lineup of projects to be covered in our Capital Campaign.

For these reasons, we have raised our Capital Campaign goal to \$500,000. Additionally, we are asking the congregation to provide \$340,00 in operational support for 2019. We need both campaigns to address deferred building projects and continue to be a mission-focused congregation. We are confident that, with hard work and faith, both goals are achievable.

But we know you have questions. We will host a tour of the church on Sunday, September 23, so that those interested can learn more about the infrastructure repair progress and future needs. Lauren Ward will be sharing Campaign updates with attendees at the Women's Retreat later in September. And materials related to the Capital Campaign are being revised to post on the Church website soon.

Importantly, we understand the need for continued dialog about these important steps. Together, through Christ, we can ensure a safe, welcoming church that can continue its vital mission and outreach.

Peace,

Lauren Ward, Leslie Kaplan, Bill Beggs, Peter Kaplan, Marnie Bertolet, and Marcus Robinson

September 2018 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sadie DeLucia Ethan Miller 7:00 pm, NA
2 Elise Bertolet Fred O'Leary 10:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	3 7:00 pm, NA	4 Frank Guyette Elizabeth Sindhi	5 10:30 am, Bible Study	6 6:30 pm, Lectio Group 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 7:30 pm, Choir	7	8 Judy Schryer 7:00 pm, NA
9 Rally Day! 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 4:00 pm, Fiberarts Guild 7:00 pm, Group of Ten 8:00 pm, NA	10 Sara Berg 7:00 pm, NA	11 Last day to register for the Women's Retreat!	12 10:30 am, Bible Study	13 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 6:30 pm, Lectio Group 7:30 pm, Choir	14	15 7:00 pm, NA
16 Martha Funderburgh 9:15 am, Ukulele Club 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 12:00 pm, Gun Safety 8:00 pm, NA	17 7:00 pm, 14th Ward Democrats 7:00 pm, NA	18 7:00 pm, Congregationa l Nominating Committee 7:00 pm, Fix It: Health Care at the Tipping Point	19 10:30 am, Bible Study 7:15 pm, Deacons	20 Megan Sindhi 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 6:30 pm, Lectio Group 7:30 pm, Choir	21 Ashley Bower Corey Bower 3:00 pm, Fiberarts Guild	22 Millie Barnes 7:00 pm, NA

September 2018 – Events and Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 Rob Beswick 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Worship 8:00 pm, NA	24 Karen Gaul 7:00 pm, NA	25 Sara DeLucia Peg Watt-Morse 7:00 pm, Congregational Nominating Committee	26 10:30 am, Bible Study 7:30 pm, Session	27 Daniel Cummings 6:00 pm, Youth Group (Crazy Mocha) 6:30 pm, Lectio Group 7:30 pm, Choir	28 Mary Lib Myers Women's Retreat	29 Women's Retreat 7:00 pm, NA

30
Susan Rothenberg
Larry Van Dyke
Women's Retreat
 8:00 am,
 Pittsburgh
 Great Race
 9:15 am,
 Ukulele Club
 10:00 am,
 Sunday School
 11:00 am,
 Worship
 8:00 pm, NA



New! Lectio Divina. Come join Pastor Vince and be still and know that God is God.

Lectio is a contemplative encounter with scripture. We will meet in the Parlor at 6:30 pm on Thursday nights in September.

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.



The Deadline for the October newsletter is Sept. 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...

"...There are four months of cold, and four of heat, leaving four months of indeterminate temperature. In February it snows. In March the Lake is a lake of ice. In September the students come back and the bookstores are full. Let X equal the month of full bookstores. The number of books approaches infinity as the number of months of cold approaches four. I will never be as cold now as I will in the future. The future of cold is infinite. The future of heat is the future of cold. The bookstores are infinite and so are never full except in September..." — David Auburn

"Of course! The path to heaven

Doesn't lie down in flat miles.
It's in the imagination
with which you perceive
this world,

and the gestures
with which you honor it." — Mary Oliver