



Sixth Sense

A word from our Interim Pastor

June 2024

The month of June is filled with opportunities to advocate, seek justice and love one another well.

June is Pride month in Pittsburgh, so we are enthusiastically participating in the Pride March on Saturday June 1st. Join Pastor Sarah and her family, along with folks from Sixth and other Presbyterian churches at 10am along Liberty Avenue between 11th Street and 16th Street in the Strip District.

June 2nd- We get to gather for worship at 11am in the park, followed by lunch. This worship service will be focused on God's wildly inclusive love. We will worship in a different way than last year (through activities) and soak up the goodness that is God's creation. Communion will be celebrated. (There will be no worship service in the sanctuary.)

June 9th- We will welcome in the new leadership! We will begin worship at 10am, followed by a brief congregational meeting to elect officers. After, we will break bread in the air-conditioned chapel where we can get to know one another better. (Note the time change to summer worship.)

June 16th and 23rd- Worship services will focus on the lectionary passages of Psalm 9 and 20, and the Gospel of Mark chapter 4.

And finally on June 30th-- Elder Chris Berg will lead worship while Pastor Sarah is at the PC (USA) General Assembly serving as a commissioner for Pittsburgh Presbytery. We give thanks that Chris has plans to come under care of this presbytery, and that he will offer his gifts in worship. Chris Berg is the spouse of Elder Sara Berg, and parent to Elena and Bela Berg.

PC (USA) 2024 General Assembly News: Live Into Hope

From June 23-July 5th, Pastor Sarah will be engaged in committee work at the national level. She has been assigned to the Polity Committee, which will meet first online and then in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah.

If you'd like to follow along with the work that will be happening in our denomination, please make good use of the following links:

- <https://ga-pcusa.org>
- <https://www.syntrinity.org/featured/lake-erie-pittsburgh-bringing-overtures-to-226th-general-assembly-2024/>
- <https://www.pc-biz.org/resources>

With hope,
Rev. Sarah Robbins, Interim Pastor

Breaking Bread

Fellowship lunch at the church. Come eat with us!

11 a.m. (after worship) Sunday, June 9

6 p.m. Thursday, June 20

Youth Service – Hot Metal Bridge/The Table

5 to 6:30 at Hot Metal Bridge Church. Contact Jenny if you need transportation to and from 6th.

Tuesday, June 11

Market Night - Church lawn from 6 to 8 p.m.

Youth along with youth from ELPC hosting a table on our church lawn during Squirrel Hill Market Night from 6 to 8 p.m. We will be serving free lemonade and passing out stickers, rainbow flags and other items.

Saturday, June 29

Volunteer at Vacation Church School

Need community service hours? Sign up to volunteer at Vacation Church School at ELPC **June 24-28** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up for as many days as you would like. Contact Jenny for the registration link.

June

Youth (6th-12th)

Youth Mission Learning Trip

Youth from Sixth Church are invited to join ELPC youth on a mission/learning trip to **Washington DC. Aug. 4-9**. Students entering 7th-12th are invited to travel to Washington DC. to stay at the Friends Place, a Quaker guest house and learning center blocks from the nation's Capitol. We will be visiting the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, and serving alongside agencies working for food justice in DC. We will also be visiting museums and monuments. The cost for the week will be \$450 per student. The group will travel to DC using the ELPC church bus. More details will be available as planning progresses. Please contact Jenny Newman to register and more info.

Sixth Presbyterian Church

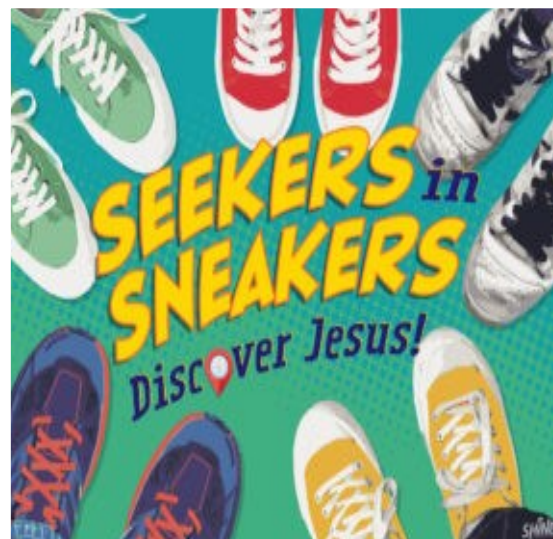
Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Students attending youth group at ECLP, serving at Hot Metal, or participating in outside events must complete our Universal Permission Form found at <http://www.sixthchurch.org/christian-education/>

Vacation Church School

Don't forget to register for Vacation Church School at ELPC **June 24-28**, 9 am-3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus! Participants will use their investigative skills to discover Jesus and explore the stories of those who experienced and brought about change in the world around them after an encounter with Jesus.

Volunteers needed! Youth (6th grade and older) and adults are needed! Whether you can come 1 day or 5 days we would love to have you!



Note: Currently registration is full but we have saved room for Sixth members and friends who would like to attend or volunteer. Please contact Jenny Newman to register.

Youth Mission Learning Trip

Details listed above! We have financial help available. Please contact Jenny Newman for more information and the registration link.

Graduations and Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following Sixth Church members and Friends! If we have missed anyone please let us know!

Blight Greenley graduates from Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School. They are taking a gap year and want to study art therapy or theater in the future. Blight recently became certified to work as a lifeguard and will be working at the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival. Blight's parents are Janet Greenely and Karl Greenely.

Gloria Howe is graduating from CAPA and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh. Gloria's grandparents are Kirk and Pam Howe.

Hanna Pistorius will graduate with a degree in Environmental Studies from Drexel University on June 14th. During the nearly 5-year program, Hanna completed more than a year of cooperative work experiences (internships). In addition to environmentally focused subjects like "Cities and Climate Change" and "Environmental Politics", she fitted in topics like modern design, and modern dance. Hanna now works at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the temple-like building at the top of the Rocky Steps. Hanna's parents are Sharon Manley and Chris Pistorius.

David Rothenberg graduates from Purdue University with a B.S. in Computer Engineering. He'll be starting a position as a civilian with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana in July. David's parents are Susan and Mitchell Rothenberg.

Daniel Lang Cummings graduates from New York University School of Medicine with his MD. Daniel's parents are Mary Lang and Tom Cummings.

Malena Howe earned a master's degree in psychology from the University of Phoenix.



Confirmation Students (left to right): Eve Guyette, Sadie DeLucia, and Calvin Tantalo

Read with Me!

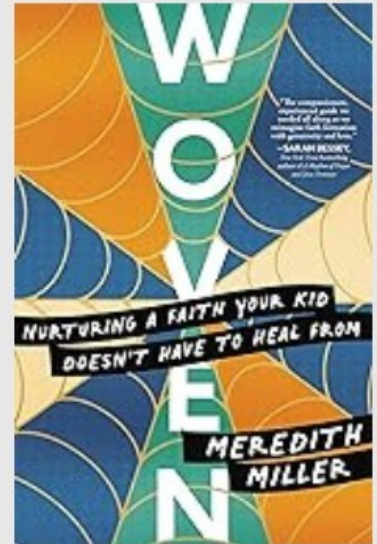
Jenny Newman

Jennyrunew@gmail.com

In June and July, I will be reading the book "Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From" by Meredith Miller. Read along with me!

I have a few extra copies for borrowing. The book is also available on Audible and through your favorite local bookshop.

Let's talk about it! Join me after worship on **June 16** and **July 14** in the parlor. I'll bring the coffee.



Join the AME congregation from the Southwest PA District and our Ten allied Churches for the Pittsburgh Juneteenth Celebration and Reparations Worship
Donations for The Bethel Housing Project

Sunday,
June 16, 2024,

at Bethel AME Church,
2720 Webster Ave, Pittsburgh, PA.

Reverend Dr. Dale B. Snyder, Sr., Pastor.



11:00 AM Preacher:
Bishop Kurt Kusserow
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Synod Bishop

2:00 PM Preacher:
Bishop Errenous E. McCloud, Jr.
Third Episcopal District, AME
Church

Picnic and Worship in the Park

June 2 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 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 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.

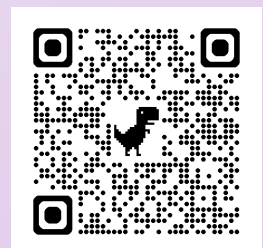


March and Parade

Lineup will begin at 10am along Liberty Avenue between 11th Street and 16th Street in the Strip District. You do not need to RSVP to march in the parade with Sixth and the other LAMP congregations, but if you want to be apprised of meetup times and places please [email Kate Davoli \(kdavoli@gmail.com\)](mailto:kdavoli@gmail.com).

Parade begins at noon. Festival table open from 11am to 9pm.

Volunteer for the shared booth:



Church & Community Committee Allocations to Independent Committees: Gun Safety, Earth Care, Justice Team, and More Light

As it has in recent years, the Church & Community Committee (C&C) has set aside roughly 30% of its budget for block grants to the four independent Church committees which advocate for change – Gun Safety, Earth Care, the Justice Team, and More Light. The committees each choose non-profit organizations to support with their block grants. This year, each committee received \$2,280, for a total of \$9,120.

All four independent committees have provided C&C with their choices, and C&C has submitted their requests to the Church Treasurer for funding.

Gun Safety Committee:

Cease-Fire PA – Cease Fire PA is Pennsylvania’s leading advocate for safe gun laws. Cease Fire has built a coalition focused on a multi-pronged strategy to cut all forms of gun violence.

Amount of Grant: \$1,200.

Everytown for Gun Safety – Everytown was created in 2013 from the merger of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety in America. It is one of the nation’s leading gun safety advocates. **Amount of Grant: \$540.**

South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace – was founded in 2005 by a local foundation, several community grassroots organizations, local service providers, and faith-based institutions in response to a shooting death of a Carrick High School student. It is committed to the prevention of violence in the South Pittsburgh communities. **Amount of Grant: \$540.**

Earth Care Committee:

Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future – Penn Future was created in 1998 as a statewide environmental advocacy organization. Since its founding, Penn Future has achieved significant legal and policy victories that reduce pollution and protect the environment. **Amount of Grant: \$570.**

Three Rivers Waterkeeper – Waterkeeper’s mission is to protect the water quality of the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio Rivers, and their respective watersheds. Its vision is to have drinkable, fishable, swimmable water in the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio Rivers, and their respective watersheds. **Amount of Grant: \$570.**

Garfield Community Farm – Garfield Community Farm strives to advance food sovereignty, environmental justice, and resiliency in the Garfield community. It does this by increasing access to fresh produce, providing educational opportunities, and demonstrating ecological restoration through urban agriculture. **Amount of Grant: \$570.**

Bread for the World – Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to ending hunger. Its mission is to combine faith and advocacy to urge elected leaders to advance policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and across the world. **Amount of Grant: \$570.**

Justice Team:

Israel/Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) – IPMN was established by action of the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s 2004 General Assembly to advocate for Palestinian rights. IPMN membership is open to any Presbyterian who wants to work with us to advocate for a just peace in Israel/Palestine.

Amount of Grant: \$1,140.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship – “Relying on God’s grace, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship imagines a world of peace where all God’s creation can thrive. In local and global communities, we will use every nonviolent means to disrupt and transform the culture of domination that normalizes racism, ecocide, militarization, and war.” **Amount of Grant: \$1,140.**

More Light Committee:

Shepherd Wellness Community – The Shepherd Wellness Community’s mission is to help people living with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness. It is the only HIV/AIDS Community Center in Southwest Pennsylvania. SWC hosts congregational meals and programs in a community setting for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. **Amount of Grant: \$760.**

SisTers Pgh – SisTers PGH is a BLACK and TRANS-led nonprofit organization that serves the transgender community of Southwestern Pennsylvania. It provides holistic, supportive services, including housing, rent/utility support, emergency shelter, and a drop-in center for trans persons experiencing homelessness, domestic and sexual assault, gender-based violence, and those living with HIV. **Amount of Grant: \$760.**

LAMP (LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh) – LAMP envisions a Pittsburgh where LGBTQIA+ people are nurtured, connected, and know they are loved by God. Its mission is ministry at the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and Christian identities through connecting folks to God, each other, and resources inside and outside of faith communities. **Amount of Grant: \$760.**

EARTH CARE NEWS

Updates on Michael’s Brothers Collections

Next collection will be **July 14**. Pam Howe will transport it.

New- You can recycle any plastics 1-7. They no longer need to be separated and can be placed in one paper bag or box. Some produce bags have numbers on them, which they will also take. Please stack similar sizes to reduce the amount of space they take up.

We will also take old Christmas tree lights and metal.

Metal (foil, metal lids, disposable pie tins-placed in a separate bag) Please put metal cans in curbside recycling.

We are no longer collecting batteries at the church. They can be recycled at Frick Environmental center or at Staples stores. All sorts of electronics can also be recycled at Staples.

Any questions? Contact Pam Howe at howepjs@yahoo.com.



Sixth Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Sarah Robbins and Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session, were present.

Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
Joseph Ashenden	X	Peter Kaplan	X	Scott Bell	X
Tom Juring	X	Marcus Robinson	X	Sara Berg	E
Lori King	E	Barb Parees	X	Joan Markert	X
Greg Winner	X	Peter Watt-Morse	X	Tom Twiss	X

Rev. Robbins began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a time of sharing, followed by the opening prayer, taken from Being Here by Pádraig Ó Tuama.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube: 4/21 (82/52); 4/28 (104/54); 5/5 (60/50); 5/12 (91/55); 5/19 (74/18)
- Presbytery Meetings for 2024
 - ◊ Thursday, October 3 - [Crestfield Camp and Conference Center](#) at 10:00AM
 - ◊ Thursday, December 12 - [Northmont United Presbyterian Church](#) at 1:00PM

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Motion to approve the Agenda for, May 22, 2024, Session Meeting**
- **Motion to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, April 17, 2024.**
- **Joe Ashenden, on behalf of the PNC sought approval from Session for reformation of the Communications committee. This committee would work to update the website so that we can accurately represent our community to candidates. Approval unanimous electronically.**
- **Asking session approval for the youth group (along with ELPC youth) to host an outreach table on the lawn (or on the sidewalk) on Saturday, June 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The groups will give away free lemonade, stickers, rainbow flags, etc.**

As there were no additions or corrections, **Elder Greg Winner moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Rev. Robbins shared that the General Assembly will take place from June 25-July 5, 2024. The initial meetings will be via ZOOM, then in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Chris Berg will be leading worship on June 30, 2024; Kate Davoli will be leading worship on July 7, 2024, with Rev. Robbins officiating communion.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

FINANCE: Elder Peter Watt-Morse reported that pledges continue to run below expectations, but expenses are down as well. New hires will affect financial outcomes.

HOUSE:

- Elder Tom Juring shared an update on repairs within the church. He also reported that the House Committee is still working on a revision of policy for outside groups using the building.
- Elder Winner continues to be in touch with Carriage House to determine if Sixth is an appropriate option for their program in an emergency situation.

STEWARDSHIP: Elder Peter Kaplan reported that the kick-off meeting of the Stewardship committee, to begin planning for the 2025 campaign, will be held tomorrow, May 23.

PERSONNEL:

- On May 9, 2024, Douglas-Jayd Burn shared his intention to resign, effective June 10, 2024. A search committee is being formed to find a replacement organist/choir director.
- Rev. Robbins' current contract as interim ends at the end of July. The Personnel Committee recommends we extend the contract of Interim Pastor, Reverend Sarah Robbins to January 31, 2025. The recommendation passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

PNC:

- Elder Joe Ashenden shared the edited Statements and MDP.
- Elder Peter Watt-Morse and Rev. Robbins reported that there are changes in the way the salary and benefits are offered to pastors. **Following a discussion about appropriate salary range, Elder Watt-Morse moved to establish minimum-maximum salary for new pastor that will include family coverage. The motion passed unanimously.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elder Sara Berg, chair of the nominating committee, was unable to attend. Rev. Robbins shared that the nominating committee expects to be ready for the Ordination/Installation scheduled during Worship on June 9, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Reports included in the packet were referenced.

Elder Tom Twiss shared a recommendation from Church and Community to receive a special offering. The committee moved that Sixth take up its Peace & Global Witness Offering Sunday Sept. 15. The motion passed unanimously.

DEACONS MEETING/CARE NOTES: Reports were referenced.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: None.

NEXT MEETING: June 19, 2024; 7 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Rev. Robbins closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session



The deadline for the July/
August newsletter is:
Monday, June 24th.

Please email articles and
announcements to the church
office at
officesixthchurch@gmail.com.

You can also put printed
copies on the office desk.

Food for Thought...

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

— Nelson Mandela



June Birthdays



June 4	David DeJong	June 13	Colin Miller Andrew Morgan	June 22	Kyle Miller
June 8	Kate Kennedy	June 18	Isabella Berg Eve Guyette Rainer Loyd	June 24	Chris McAdams
June 11	Mary Lang	June 19	Jean Moore	June 28	Lori Swensson
June 12	Kate Brennan Margaret Miller	June 20	Christine Tyndall	June 29	Malachi Cornelius-Bates Liam Greenley



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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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