

Sixth Sense



October 2024

A word from our Interim Pastor

Saints,

I am looking forward to the month of October, not only because Harry Kirk, Jenny Newman and I will celebrate birthdays, and hopefully age with grace and wisdom-- but also because it is a month filled with education and preparation.

As you will see in this edition of the newsletter, there are many opportunities to expand our knowledge of our world and one another:

- Tom Twiss, Peter Gilmore and Leila Richards have been hard at work preparing speakers and space for us to learn more about Gaza and Palestine. This four part series will be a time of deep learning and consideration of how we respond out of our faith to suffering and conflict.
- Prospective new members are invited to join myself and Jenny on Sunday October 13th at 10am in the chapel-- to learn more about others who are new to Sixth, what the leadership is up to, and what it means to be a member of the PC (USA). It's a time to ask questions, have them answered and consider membership in this community of faith.
- On Saturday Nov.2nd, Sixth has the privilege of hosting author Cole Arthur Riley. You can check out the flyer that is in this newsletter for more information (page 11). This event is free to members of Sixth-- and is being put on by Pittsburgh Presbytery's Alliance for Repair and Reconciliation. Please let me know if you are able to help with this event, or have any questions!

Know that I am praying alongside each of you, as we expand our knowledge and worldview, as we prepare for the elections, and as we work in solidarity with one another for peace and justice.

In Christ,
Rev. Sarah Robbins, Interim Pastor.



World Communion Sunday

On **October 6th**, we will remember our connection with other Christians around the globe by celebrating World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity – in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

For the World Communion Sunday worship service, you are invited to dress in a way that is representative of your family's country or culture of origin.

Join Our Choir

The choir has started up again and is looking for singers in all parts! If you've ever thought about joining the choir, this is the perfect time to do it.

If you have questions, ask [Kirk Howe](#), or just **come to rehearsal at 7:30pm on Thursday**.

Prospective New Members Gathering

If you have ever wanted to know more about church membership, have held off joining because of Covid and transitions, NOW is the time to come and see! Jenny Newman and Rev. Sarah Robbins will gather folks together and talk about membership, answer questions about Sixth, and talk about what the future holds.

Come join us! **Sunday, October 13th at 10am in the chapel.**

To let us know you'll be there, please email Rev. Sarah (sarahrobbins1025@gmail.com) or Jenny Newman (jennyrunew@gmail.com).

October

Youth (6th-12th)

Sunday School :
10 a.m. every Sunday

Youth Group: 4:30 to 7 p.m.
Thursdays at East Liberty
Presbyterian Church. Dinner is
served at 5. Please enter through
the entrance at 116 Highland
Ave.

Oct. 3 Oct. 10
Oct. 17 Oct. 24



Crop Walk

Oct. 13 is the annual Crop Walk for Work Vision. The event raises funds to fight hunger locally and around the world. The walk starts at **2 p.m.** at South Avenue Methodist Church. Youth are also needed to help clean up following the walk at 4 p.m. Please contact Jenny with questions or for more info. You can join the team from Sixth Church and walk with us by visiting here:

[Sixth Church Crop Walk Team](#)

Students attending youth group at ECLP or participating in service projects and events must complete our Universal Permission Form found at: <http://www.sixthchurch.org/christian-education/>

Corn Maze
Fall Adventure with ELPC

Oct. 20
12:30—5 p.m.

We will be going to Gearhead Farms which has a corn maze, hayrides and other fun things. Please bring \$20 for entrance fee and lunch. We will be meeting at ELPC and traveling together in their church van. RSVP to Jenny by Oct. 18.



Contact: Jenny Newman
Jennyrunew@gmail.com

Blessed Be Educators

Prayer Breakfast: Blessed Be Educators will hold its annual Prayer Breakfast from 9:15 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 in the Church of the Redeemer parish hall. Carlow University President Kathy Wilson Humphrey will deliver the message and the morning year's message. Tickets for the event are \$10 if purchased by check or cash; \$10.87 if purchased electronically. Contact Mary Ann Hvizdos for tickets (mahvizados@verizon.net; 412-807-1611). Children are welcome and a free-will offering will be taken.

Virtual Book Club: begins Friday, October 18, 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to Join BBE's virtual book club (Zoom platform) will be held from 7 t to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18. The book club will meet monthly from October to February. Ordained Pastor and certified counselor Rev. Rhonda Higgin will facilitate discussion on the book *The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness: Preparing to Practice* by Rabbi Rami Shapiro. This book explores Judaism's Thirteen Attributes of Lovingkindness and how to cultivate a life of goodness. The book club is free and participants purchase their own book. Contact Mary Ann Hvizdos for more information or to join. (mahvizados@verizon.net; 412-807-1611).

Embracing Our Future With Faith– Welcome to This Year’s Stewardship Campaign!

Autumn is upon us, and at Sixth Church that means our annual stewardship campaign will soon begin. Look for your pledge packet – letter, pledge card, and brochure – in late October.

This year’s stewardship campaign finds us at a crossroads. The Pastoral Nominating Committee will soon begin interviewing candidates to serve as our permanent Pastor, and the Music Director Search Committee is also at work. At the same time, life at Sixth goes on much as it has in past years.

This combination of change and continuity is healthy! It shows that we are **“Embracing our Future with Faith,”** the theme that we have chosen for this year’s stewardship campaign.

We have faith that through our thoughts and prayers, God will guide us to a bright future. We also believe that the remarkable strengths of our congregation – including the talents of our members and staff – will preserve, enhance, and grow all that we love about Sixth Church.

In keeping with this theme, the stewardship campaign looks faithfully to the future. To ensure that we can attract the candidate we choose as our future pastor, we are budgeting a competitive salary offer based on guidance from the Pittsburgh Presbytery. At the same time, we are also planning to offer our Christian Education Director, Custodian, and Office Administrator well-deserved salary increases. We also need to cover the increased cost of employee health benefits, as well as higher water and sewer rates.

Your pledges, which account for three-quarters of our annual income, are essential for us to realize this vision. We have set a pledge goal of \$357,000, which represents a 2% increase above the \$350,000 you pledged during last year’s campaign. **We are therefore asking you to add 2% to the amount you pledged for 2024 and make that your pledge for 2025.** By doing so, you will faithfully – and optimistically – embrace a bright future for Sixth Church.

Thank You!

The Stewardship Committee (Patty Halverson, Beth Hazlett, Peter Kaplan, and Barb Pares), and the Reverend Sarah Robbins (ex officio).

Rise of Christian Nationalism: Attack on Democracy & Freedom of Religion

Three documentaries, three Sundays, three conversations.

Where & When? **6pm at First Unitarian Church**
(605 Morewood Avenue, Pgh, PA)

October 6: *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy*

October 13: *Prayer for Armageddon*

October 20: *God and Country*



Sponsored with PIINPA.org and Commonwealth of Oakland.

October Birthdays

Oct. 1	Matt Cummings Kyle Esbin	Oct. 16	Lori King	Oct. 29	Stuart Gaul, Jr.
Oct. 2	Kevin McCann	Oct. 18	Lennon Franz	Oct. 31	Peter Koehler
Oct. 3	Claire Bertolet Kirk Howe Harry Kirk	Oct. 20	Jenny Newman		
Oct. 7	Erik Fogt	Oct. 23	Stuart Gaul		
Oct. 10	Patty Halverson Metta Loyd	Oct. 25	Sarah Robbins		



The CROP Hunger Walk

Walk with us!

Our enthusiastic group begins at South Avenue Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg. You have some choices – 1 mile, 1.5 miles or 5.2 miles. Your personal challenge is up to you.

The CROP Hunger Walk is October 13 at 2:00pm.



Donate to support the walkers!

Your money will go far.

75% will go to Church World Service and its great programs of sustainable development. Places around the world where hunger problems are ongoing need more than a band-aid. They need a future in which food and water are assured.

25% will go to Wilkinsburg Community Ministry and its food programs. So the food challenges of our nearby neighbors are not forgotten.

VISIT THIS SITE TO SIGN UP TO WALK OR TO DONATE:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/sixth-presbyterian-church-3>

Pamela Twiss and Sue Koehler, co-chairs

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Abbreviated Session Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2024, 7 p.m.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Worship: In Person/YouTube: 7/28-(63/50); 8/4-(55/49); 8/11-(47/55); 8/18-(54/47); 8/25 (64/45); 9/1-(50/30); 9/8-(65/35); 9/15-(94/23)
- 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
- Event: <https://www.garfieldfarm.com/events/watercolors>
- Correspondence:
 - ◊ Information about Deacon/Elder training tomorrow, through Pittsburgh Presbytery, shared with members via email.
 - ◊ Flyer from MHY Family Services, sharing the impact of support.
 - ◊ Information from *Broad Street Love* and request to be in touch.
 - ◊ Request from Camp Crestfield for contribution to their capital campaign. Shared with Deacons as well.
 - ◊ Request from Anna Woomeer from Just Harvest to do a Minute for Mission to share information and volunteer opportunities. **Request approved.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion to approve the Agenda for September 18, 2024, Session Meeting.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the Session Stated Meeting, July 24, 2024.
- The Christian Education committee seeks approval to continue joining in partnership with East Liberty Presbyterian Church for youth ministry. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.
- The Stewardship Committee requests the Session's approval of the pledge goal for this year's Stewardship Campaign.
- Motion to approve Gun Safety committee members participating in Squirrel Hill Night Market event on our property/sidewalk on September 28th.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously, with a correction to the July minutes.

JUSTICE CORE TEAM:

- Four part class series.

PASTORAL REPORT:

- Many people are expected to attend when author Cole Arthur Riley speaks at Sixth on November 2, 2024. More help would be appreciated.
- Improvements need to be made to the wifi system. Rev. Robbins is seeking assistance with this issue.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

FINANCE: Elder Peter Watt-Morse reported that the income/expenses are more balanced for a variety of reasons. The water bill continues to be unusually high. Elder Funderburgh and others will do a walk through the church to be sure there are no obvious leaks or running water.

PERSONNEL: Elder Sara DeLucia reported that the Personnel Committee (Elder DeLucia, Marry Lang, Patty Halverson, Barb Parees) has a promising candidate for Music Director.

HOUSE: Elder still needed as chair.

STEWARDSHIP: Elder Peter Kaplan highlighted items as presented in the Session Packet. By the end of October, the campaign will be in full swing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Reports as presented in packet.

- Worship
- Gun Safety

DEACONS: Reports as presented in packet.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: Covered in other reports

COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

- October 13-Worship Committee
- November 3- Stewardship

NEXT MEETING: October 23, 2024, 7 p.m

Respectfully Submitted, Kathi Robinson-Dassel, Clerk of Session

Update from the PNC:

Members of Sixth’s PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) have continued to move forward in the process of finding the next pastor for Sixth! During this season of early fall, the PNC has initiated a screening interview process with potential candidates while also prayerfully reviewing the PDPs (Personal Discernment Profiles) of candidates who have submitted a full application. We will continue this process to build a pool of qualified candidates for further interviews. The PNC appreciates the congregation's support throughout this process and encourages those with questions to reach out via email at sixthchurchPNC@gmail.com. Please keep the PNC members and our efforts in your prayers.

Erik Fogt, PNC Chair; Joe Ashenden, Vice Chair

Kit Ayars; Pamela Bower; Andrew Swenson; Peg Watt- Morse; and Mary Radcliffe

EARTH CARE NEWS:

Is Giant Eagle Getting Rid of Plastic?



The short answer is “Not that much.” There are two issues here: one is replacing the single-use plastic bags with brown paper bags for a while, but apparently there was pushback from customers and they now charge 10 cents for a sturdier, reusable, but still plastic bag.

The other issue is all the other plastic in use at Giant Eagle stores. Our friend Melissa McSwigan* has an eagle eye for plastic and contacted Giant Eagle in May. Below is her letter. When Melissa did not receive an adequate response from initially contacting customer service, she sent a letter to Giant Eagle management and hopes this will get them thinking about plastic in a more in-depth way.

Hi Giant Eagle,

Your stores are a community asset/necessity and you are involved in some good initiatives – but boy is there a lot of plastic in the bakery dept, produce, prepared foods, etc. !! Some is generated by Giant Eagle, while others comes from other suppliers. As you likely know, these plastic containers (for croissants, cookies, etc.) despite having a plastic recycling triangle/number are not recyclable in the City of Pittsburgh and this is true for a number of other municipalities.

The global recycling crisis has been in the news for a number of years where China no longer wants our plastic for a number of reasons and the City of Pittsburgh dramatically reduced what containers it will accept. (There is a rare exception where Michael Brothers Hauling has apparently has found some way to recycle some plastic that the City won't take, but it means people need to separate and take their plastic there and most will not do this). All those cookies, croissants, etc. could be in plastic bags or something better (boxes?). Plastic is contaminating everything in our world- from our oceans, lakes, parks and in our own bodies as it doesn't decompose (it will outlive all of us). The average person may consume 5 grams of plastic a week (about the amount in a credit card)! It's poisoning us, wildlife, and our soil and water.

Giant Eagle could be a leader and take meaningful steps to reduce your plastic footprint –especially with regard to your own products. Nothing will happen overnight – but a concerted effort /and moving toward the goal of reduction is something Giant Eagle really must do and can do.

*Melissa picks up Brita water filters from us for recycling. Michael Brothers doesn't take these filters, but Melissa collects them and sends them to TerraCycle.

~Nora Johnson

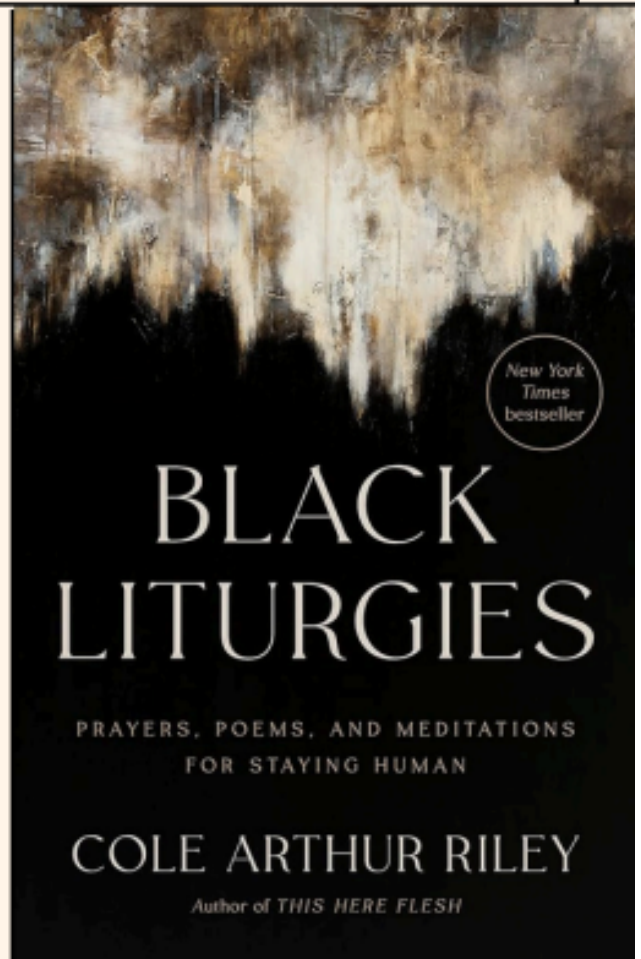
PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY'S
ALLIANCE FOR HONOR AND REPAIR
INVITES YOU TO

A DAY WITH COLE ARTHUR RILEY

Cole is the creator of *Black Liturgies* and author of *This Here Flesh*. She is a native of Pittsburgh and will be offering her wisdom and sharing from her liturgies.

NOVEMBER 2, 2024
9AM - 2PM

SIXTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1688 MURRAY AVE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15217



FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
TO REGISTER SCAN
THE QR CODE



ENTRY FEE:
\$20/PERSON



The deadline for the November newsletter is: **Monday, October 28th.**

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!

“Our liturgies begin with dignity, because that is where any kind of liberation begins: with an awareness that you are worthy of so much more than whatever form your chains have taken today. For now, you are here – breathing, being, granting a gift that cannot be replicated. Your simple, miraculous, necessary existence.”

Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*

Cole Arthur Riley is coming to Sixth Church on November 2nd! (See flyer on page 11).

To register, visit:

<https://form.jotform.com/242466134554053>.



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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