

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Trinity Sunday/Memorial Sunday)

May 26, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

[Matthew 28:19-20]

†

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new disciples in the name of the triune God.

P: *God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit grant us grace to fully live into this commandment.*

L: The biblical narrative useful provides insight into the communal nature of the Trinity.

P: *May we embrace unity in our diversity so that we may bring glory to God in all we do.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

64

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

* A MODERN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- # 885

Leader:

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

Leader & People:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love, as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:12-17

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

79

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (in unison)

Amazing God, we pray that through the Holy Spirit your preferred future for Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church will be made known to us. We ask that you use us to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our friends, family, and community. Give us the courage to follow the leading of your Holy Spirit wherever that may take us. Open our eyes so that we may see the new things you are already doing among us. AMEN.

~Joys and Concerns

~The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (We encourage you to share beyond your regular offering. The loose offering received today will go to The Evangelism Fund.

OFFERTORY

***Doxology** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" # 95
"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept our tithes and offerings, O Lord, together with our lives, to be used by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, for the expansion of your kingdom, in our local Community, and around the face of the earth, that many shall come to know your Son, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

Life in The Trinity-Lessons for Humanity

*CLOSING HYMN

88

"Maker, in Whom We Live"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation
Media Team: Phyllis Flowers & Paul Jassogne
Media Team (Live Streaming): Lee Ann Whitmer
Church Secretary: Lee Ann Whitmer
Custodian: Jeff Byerly
Pianist: Jackie Howard
Liturgist: Greg Howard
Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Allegheny West

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

May 26, 2024

(Trinity Sunday/Memorial Sunday)



Worship Service starts at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Children's Church (ages 5-13) starts at 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

Pastor's cell: 614-296-1081

Pastor's email: aaonabanjo@yahoo.com

Office email: sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com

Church: (740) 653-1196

Fax: (740) 653-6780

Website: 6thavegmc.org

Sunday, May 26, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Chapel)

Saturday, June 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Weekly Prayer Huddle (see details in announcements)

Sunday, June 2, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2024

Birthdays

27 Ruth Bowland

29 Lura Goff

Anniversaries

26 William & Doris Shauger

28 Ed & Sandy Gurile

28 John & Lou Ellen Reef

30 Pete & Kara Reed



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313

Luxe: Elaine Hill, Sheridan Wing, 108

Jim Robertson (Billie's brother), Sheridan Hall, 306

Jim Funkhouser, Eckert Wing, 207A

Main Street Terrace: Marilyn Lawson, 36

Primrose: Bill & Doris Shauger, 121

The Ridge: Fred Beougher, 140

Barb Cook, 103

Continued prayers are requested for:

Amanda Baker, Dave Bash, Sharon Byerly, Barbara Cook, John Cook, Ken Cook, Tommy Eblin, Walt Fawcett, Sharon Funkhouser, Clara Herrick, Cindy, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Mykel Henderly, Dixie Hoskinson, Joan Irwin, Elizabeth Jones, Jill Jubach, Eleanor & Bob Kane, Marilyn Lawson, Carl & Sharon Mathias, Jingur Nichols, Vicki Oatney, Beth Patton, Mark & Donna Shouldis, Rod Shouldis, Kathy Starner, Don Taylor, Carl David Tripp, Kara Whitmer-Beatty, Ralph Bay, Greg & Sandie White.

If you have a prayer concern or praise to share, please fill out a green prayer card found in the pew and give it to an usher before the worship service begins. Thank you for allowing us to pray for and with you!

Pastor's Bible Study: This holds on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. As we continue in joy of the Season of Pentecost, we will continue to explore some of the short Letters of the New Testament. We will start Paul's 2nd **Letter to Timothy** this week with **Chapters 1-4**. Please read the chapters for this week in advance. The Bible Study is open to all members of the community. In addition to the joy of worship and fellowship on Sundays, our time together during Bible Study is always a blessing. We also spend some time to pray at the end of the Bible Study for personal and general prayer requests. Please invite a neighbor or friend and thanks for making time to attend.

Lancaster Charge to Host Clergy Guest from Africa - Appreciation: We would like to thank our members for your support for the visit of Rev. Wilton Odongo, the President Pro-Tempore of the Kenya/Ethiopia Provisional Annual Conference to the Lancaster Charge on Monday May 20, 2024. The event was held here at Sixth Avenue GMC. Together with the other guests from Kenya – Rev. Bonface Wanyama and Deaconess Jacklyne Atotso Kezia, they will conclude their visit to the Allegheny West Provisional Conference of the GMC this week. They are scheduled to depart on Thursday May 30.

Sixth Avenue GMC – Called Church Conference: At the Special Called Church Conference held last Sunday May 19, an overwhelming majority of the members in attendance voted in support of the motion authorizing our Finance Team to utilize part of the proceeds from the sale of the Parsonage to meet urgent recurrent budget expenses to ensure that we can continue to stay on mission. Please be on the lookout for more information and update from the Finance Team Thanks!

Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference (PAC) – 2024 Annual Conference: We are pleased to share that our Annual Conference with the theme, “**Building Together**” was held at the Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, Mt. Vernon, OH from May 22-25. At the gathering, a special Miracle Offering was collected in support of the partnership between our Conference and the Kenya/Ethiopia Provisional Annual Conference. The Lancaster Charge was represented at the well-attended gathering by Pastor ‘Debo and our Lay Delegate, Carla Stalder of Mt. Zion GMC. Please check out the conference website for more details on the Annual Conference. A summary of decisions and actions taken will be provided once available.

Weekly Online Prayer Gathering: Please join our weekly online prayer gathering on Saturday mornings from **7:00-7:30am**. During the prayer huddle, we pray together for our church, local community, our nation, worldwide and personal concerns. Simply dial the Free Conference Call # **425-436-6200** from your phone and when prompted, enter the access code **603577** followed by the # key and you will be able to participate in this special time of prayer. The gathering is open to members of Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC and members of the public. Text prayer requests to Pastor ‘Debo at **614-296-1081** ahead of the prayer time. Let us come and unite in prayer for a great move of God in our midst.

Strategic Planning Team – Request for Prayers: As part of measures to help our community of faith discern the preferred future that God has for us, a **Strategic Planning Team** has been set up and is headed by our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham. One of the plans we have is to hire a Church Coach to walk alongside our Church and Mt. Zion GMC to discern God's direction. Please keep this team and our church leadership in your prayers and be on the lookout for ways to support this important work. Contact Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor ‘Debo with any questions.

LifeWise Academy “Evening of Impact”: We are pleased to share with members that an “Evening of Impact” for the LifeWise Academy has been scheduled for July 2, 2024 from 6-8pm. If you would like more information about LifeWise Academy or are interested in attending this event, please contact Pastor ‘Debo. Thanks!

Pastor's Corner:

Death – Not the Final Experience! (Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 & 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, NLT)

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.”

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.”

It is Memorial Day weekend and Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance by the families and a grateful nation. If there is any experience that brings home the reality of death, it is war. We know that as part of combat readiness, the men and women in the armed forces must continually go through training and some lives are even lost as part of routine training exercises. For the Gold Star families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the values of this nation, we express our heartfelt gratitude. Our nation is forever grateful for the service of your loved ones who served this nation under God with courage. We say THANK YOU. Their gallantry and bravery will always be remembered. We honor them today and always.

As a follower of Christ and Pastor, I know that death is a topic that most people like to avoid but avoiding discussions about death does not make it disappear or any less real. All we need to do is turn on our television or go online and read the stories of death, resulting from human wickedness, especially the horrors of war and the pervasive gun violence ravaging our nation. I am fairly certain that most people reading this have experienced the loss of a loved one and if you have not lost someone that is close to you, chances are that you know someone who has lost someone close to them and if you have not personally experienced the pain of death and bereavement, it is only a matter of time because it is a debt that we all owe.

All through Scripture, we read about death and the first mention is in the second chapter of the first Book of the Bible where we read these ominous words: “*The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him: “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to DIE.” (Genesis 2:15-16)*”. As God warned, the disobedience of the first man and woman not only led to spiritual death but eventually physical death.

Jesus talked freely about His imminent death, and this saddened His disciples, but He tried to help them focus on the fact that His death was a blessing in disguise. In **John 14**, Jesus told the disciples and all of us that in the face of death, we can trust and hope. He says: “*Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*” (**John 14:1-4**)

What we believe about the teaching of Jesus and the entire Bible matters and will inform how we react or respond in the face of death or on a day like this. The assurance that death is not the final experience is what our brother Paul also writes about in our focus text from his letter to the early believers in Thessalonica. In the face of death, we can comfort one another with the assurance that Jesus will come back to make everything right.

How can we prepare ourselves and others for what is going to be a common experience? **Psalm 90:12** gives us a clue: “*Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.*” The wisdom that God gives helps us to use our time here on earth to please God because when we die, there will be judgment (see **Hebrews 9:27-28**).

It is Memorial Day Weekend and someday, all of us whose eyes are reading this will only be memories for others. Until then, let us continue to fight the good fight, to keep the faith and finish the race in Jesus Christ.

Pastor ‘Debo

Romans 8:12-17

New International Version

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, “*Abba*,^[b] Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

John 3:1-17

New International Version

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^[d]

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^[g]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (May 26, 2024 – June 1, 2024):

(Scripture passages are from the New International Version (NIV) Bible unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday May 26

Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-14; Reflection Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die,”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How do you feel about the Bible’s teaching on the certainty of death? How are you preparing for this inevitable human experience?

Monday May 27

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Reflection Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:16

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Are you looking forward to the resurrection of the dead when Jesus Christ returns?

Tuesday May 28

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:4-17; Reflection Verses: Genesis 2:16-17

“And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: From this passage, do you fully understand how death entered the human family?

Wednesday May 29

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-17; Reflection Verses: John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can we have eternal life? Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Thursday May 30

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-7, 19, 27; Reflection Verses: John 14:2-3

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Are you looking forward to the place where Jesus has gone to prepare for His followers? How can you ensure you are ready to enjoy eternal life with Jesus and other believers?

Friday May 31

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; Reflection Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Do you believe the mystery that we will not all sleep but will all be changed?

Saturday June 1

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-8; Reflection Verse: Revelation 21:8

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can we escape the second death mentioned in this passage?