

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Third Sunday after Pentecost)

June 9, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

[2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV]

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

Liturgist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained what was said in the Scriptures concerning Himself.

P: *Lord, Holy Spirit, grant us grace to understand the Holy Scriptures that point to Jesus Christ.*

L: The resurrected Christ opened the minds of the disciples so they could understand the Scriptures.

P: *Lord, open our minds to behold the wondrous things hidden in your inspired Word.*

***ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***OPENING HYMN**

462

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

AFFIRMATION FROM 1st Timothy

889

Leader:

There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

People:

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, indicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. 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

John 5:31-40

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Judy Wheatley

HYMN

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

601

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 Good Samaritan 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."

Sunday, June 9, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

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

Thursday, June 13, 2024

5:30 p.m. Evangelism meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2024

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

Sunday, June 16, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024

Birthdays

- 4 Ian Smith
- 7 Charles Crist
- 9 Adeline Singer
- 10 Melissa Kilbarger
- 11 Betty Rogers
- 16 Robert Page
- 17 Larry Downs
- 17 Tammy Witham
- 27 Jane Patterson
- 29 Larry Raymond



Anniversaries

- 11 Curtis & Sarah Witham
- 22 Mark & Stephanie Brunney
- 23 Gregg & Tammy Witham
- 24 Tim & Lori Schaffer
- 28 Ed & Sonya Chaffin
- 28 Bill & Jane Pool



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, Billy Jefferies, 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, 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. We will study Paul's Letter to Philemon and also start the Letter to the Hebrews this week with chapters 1 and 2. This Letter whose author is unknown was written about AD 68 with its main audience the Jewish Christians in the Diaspora. 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. Ms. Judy Wheatley will help facilitate Bible Study during Pastor 'Debo's vacation.

Engagement of Pastoral Coach – Invitation: As was shared by the leadership at our Congregational Meeting held on Sunday **May 19, 2024**, as part our ongoing discernment of the preferred future that we believe God has been preparing our community of faith for, we have invited **Rev. Doug Lynn, a Certified Pastoral Church Coach and Counselor** to walk alongside us for a short season as a Church Coach. Rev. Lynn was our Guest Preacher on Sunday May 5. The next steps as he carries out this important assignment is for him to meet with members of the congregation. Depending on the preference of the member, Rev. Lynn can be invited as a guest to your home or you can ask to meet with him at any of the Coffee Shops in Lancaster. You can also ask to meet with Rev. Lynn at the Church. The available days to meet with Rev. Lynn would be either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. This process involves both churches of the Lancaster Charge – Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC. These meetings would be an opportunity for Rev. Lynn to “Listen, Inquire, and Make Observations” about the life of our particular community of faith. Rev. Lynn wants to “hear from those that are concerned about the life of their respective congregations before making any specific recommendations.” It is anticipated that this process would be completed no later than July 2024 depending on when the requested meetings with members are finalized. Please contact Lee Ann at the Sixth Avenue Church Office to ask about when you can meet with Rev. Lynn. The meetings will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis. We strongly urge our members to take advantage of this opportunity to share their thoughts with Rev. Lynn. Please refer to the circular letter to members from the church leadership for more details. Thanks!

Pastor 'Debo's Vacation - Pastor 'Debo will be away on vacation for the next two Sundays – **June 9** and **June 16, 2024** and will also be away on Sunday **June 30, 2024**. Arrangements have been made for Pulpit Supply during the Sundays that Pastor 'Debo will be away. During Pastor 'Debo's time away, we are pleased to share that Rev. Chuck Wheatley will assist as needed with pastoral care in emergencies. Please join our leadership in wishing Pastor 'Debo a restorative vacation with his family and safe travels. If you have any questions, please contact Dottie Raymond, SPPRC Chairperson. Thanks!

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.

Pastor's Corner:

The Uniqueness of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for TEACHING, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, and for TRAINING in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

According to polls conducted in recent years, not all who profess to be believers place a high premium on the Word of God even though they believe it is the guide or rule book provided by God for us. After the death of Moses, God appointed Joshua to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land and gave him the following command: *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”* (Joshua 1:7-8)

When we fast forward to the New Testament, in our focus text for today, Paul reminded his protégé Timothy of the inherent value in the Holy Scriptures that he had been taught from childhood, especially the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. Without Scripture, we will all be totally clueless on how to make ourselves right with God. Thankfully, the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus alone has been revealed in Scripture. How to obtain salvation or eternal life is an open book examination but the sad reality is that folks are still going to fail because of their neglect of the unique gift from God that provides the answer.

Our brother Paul summarized for us the foundational importance of the Bible with the following profound truth: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for TEACHING, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, and for TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17) What does this mean for us?

Right from the time of the fall in the Garden of Eden recorded in Genesis 3, the devil has continued to entice humans to go against the plan and will of God for humanity. From that time to now, not much has changed and we still continue to face the challenges of living counterculturally, saying yes to God and no to the allurements of the world around us.

While I cannot cover all the benefits of Scripture in this post. Let me briefly highlight some of the inherent benefits of Scripture that Paul identified for us in our focus text mentioned earlier:

- **The Bible Teaches** – As **John 6:45** tells us, when we read the Bible, we are presenting ourselves for inspired teaching from God in the power of the Holy Spirit. While it is important that we make out time to be diligent students of the Bible on our own, it is important that we also do this in partnership with other faithful believers. **Are you allowing the Bible to teach you?**
- **The Bible Reproves** – One of the many important reasons why we must read, understand and correctly interpret the Bible is that it serves as a mirror to point out what needs to be removed from our lives and what we need to add. The Bible tells us what is sinful by God's standards and we will do well to deny and bring our lives into compliance with God's revealed will. **Proverbs 14:12** warns *“There is way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death”*. **Let us hearken to the reproof of Scripture.**
- **The Bible Corrects** – Just as we have to change course or direction when the GPS or Navigation System or Map tells us we have taken a wrong turn or exit, Scripture provides a roadmap that helps us to successfully and faithfully navigate from point A to B and ultimately to point Z. God's correction comes in many ways and sometimes through discipline when we are deliberately living outside His revealed will. God uses discipline to correct us for our good when we are wrong just the same way loving parents will hold their children accountable through discipline.
- **The Bible Trains** – the Bible provides the training in righteousness that is required to please God. Prophet Isaiah reminds us why we need God's training provided in Scripture: *“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”*

Without intentionality, we will not be able to avail ourselves of the nuggets of truth that Scripture provides. But when we take time to study and internalize God's Word, we are able to fully understand the treasure that is ours.

Today is another opportunity to take advantage of the spiritual nourishment that Scripture provides for us. **Are you spiritually hungry and thirsty?**

Pastor 'Debo

John 5:31-40

New International Version

Testimonies About Jesus

³¹ "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

³³ "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

³⁶ "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You study^[a] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

1 Thessalonians 2:10-13

New International Version

¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (June 9, 2024 – June 15, 2024):

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

Sunday June 9

Scripture Reading Joshua 1:1-9; Reflection Verses: 1 Samuel 3:9-10

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Are you careful to obey the instruction contained in the Bible? How are you being blessed by your obedience?

Monday June 10

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1:1-6; Reflection Verses: Psalm 1:1-2

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night?”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night.

Tuesday June 11

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13; Reflection Verse: Isaiah 55:11

“... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you standing on the promises of God’s unfailing Word?

Wednesday June 12

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-13; Reflection Verse: Isaiah 6:8

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can you respond like Isaiah to God’s mission to reach others today?

Thursday June 13

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11; Reflection Verse: Matthew 4:4

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How often do you feast on God’s Word? Are you living on physical bread alone?

Friday June 14

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36-49; Reflection Verses: Luke 24:44-45

“He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How is the Holy Spirit helping you to understand the Scriptures?

Saturday June 15

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Reflection Verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What four things is Scripture useful for according to this passage? (see Pastor’s Corner for more insight).