

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

June 23, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."*

*[Hebrews 11:1-2, NIV]*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The disciples were in a boat without Jesus and the wind was against it and they became fearful.

**P:** *Lord, remind us that even when we cannot see you, you have promised to always be with us.*

L: Jesus said to His frightened disciples, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

**P:** *Lord, confident of your presence, we will step out of our comfort zone unafraid of the wind.*

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 534

*"Be Still, My Soul"*

## AFFIRMATION FROM 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Ephesians 6:10-20

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

# 452

## 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."*

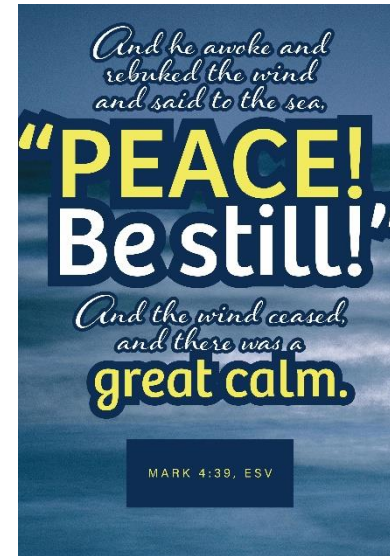


GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Allegheny West

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church  
1004 West Sixth Avenue  
Lancaster, OH 43130

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June 23, 2024  
(Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)



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

### 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

Mark 4:35-41

### MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

**"In The Eye of the Storm - Be Still!"**

### \*CLOSING HYMN

# 512

"Stand by Me"

### \*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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo  
Pastor's cell: 614-296-1081  
Pastor's email: [aaonabanjo@yahoo.com](mailto:aaonabanjo@yahoo.com)  
Office email: [sixthgmc\\_email@yahoo.com](mailto:sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com)  
Church: (740) 653-1196  
Fax: (740) 653-6780  
Website: [6thavegmc.org](http://6thavegmc.org)

**Sunday, June 23, 2024**

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

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

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

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

**Sunday, June 30, 2024**

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

**FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024**

**Birthdays**

27 Jane Patterson

29 Larry Raymond

**Anniversaries**

23 Gregg & Tammy Witham

24 Tim & Lori Schaffer

28 Ed & Sonya Chaffin



**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, Ed Gurile, Clara Herrick, Cindy, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Mykel Henderly, Dixie Hoskinson, Joan Irwin, Billy Jeffery, 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 continue our study of the **Letter to the Hebrews** this week with **Chapters 5-6**. This Letter whose author is unknown was written about AD 68 with its main audience the Jewish Christians in the Diaspora. The important message of this letter about the supremacy of Jesus and the sufficiency of His atoning sacrifice will be encouraging to us as we journey together. 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. Dr. Gregg Witham will help facilitate Bible Study this week in the absence of Pastor 'Debo.

**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 Time Away** - Pastor 'Debo will be away on **Sunday June 30, 2024**, for a trip to Nigeria, West Africa for a funeral and celebration of life of a dear departed relation. Arrangements have been made for Pulpit Supply for that day. 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 safe trip to Africa and back. If you have any questions or need additional pastoral support, please contact Dottie Raymond, SPPRC Chairperson or Lee Ann Whitmer at the Church Office. 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. Come and unite in prayer for a great move of God in our community of faith.

**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:**

##### **With Jesus in the Boat, We Can Smile at The Storm (Mark 4:35-38, NLT)**

*“As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, **“Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.”** So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, **“Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”**”*

In our focus text for today, after a very active day teaching many parables, when evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, *“**Let us go across to the other side.**”* (Mark 4:35) If there is anything we know about Jesus from reading the gospels, it is that nothing happened to Him by accident or came as a surprise. Jesus as God in the flesh had foreknowledge of everything that He encountered during His earthly ministry. Jesus knew everything that was going to happen before they occurred and we read about this in the gospel accounts.

For instance, He predicted that one of the Twelve would betray Him and that the others would abandon Him after His betrayal and arrest; that He would be killed but after three days He would be raised back to life and also promised to send the Holy Spirit to continue teaching the disciples. He even told Peter that despite all his assertions that he was ready to suffer with Him, Peter would deny knowing Him three times before the rooster crowed twice. Everything that Jesus predicted or spoke about came to pass. While Jesus also shared some of the future occurrences that would precede His second advent with the disciples, He chose not to reveal certain things to them.

That is what makes this unexpected storm during the sea crossing quite interesting. Leaving the crowd behind, the disciples set out with Jesus on a journey across the Sea of Galilee when unexpectedly a great windstorm arose and the waves started pounding the boat and it was taking in so much water that the experienced fishermen who were now disciples of Jesus became so frightened. When unexpected storms come our way – like the doctor telling us about a previously undetected serious health diagnosis during our annual physical, our employer suddenly telling us that our position has been eliminated in the ongoing restructuring five years away from retirement, your spouse of twenty-five years suddenly telling you they want a divorce and you can imagine other scenarios. What do you do?

The disciples were scared and they realized that while the storm was raging and tossing their boat up and down, Jesus was sound asleep on a cushion in the boat. Afraid for their lives, they woke Jesus up. In the midst of a powerful storm that scared experienced veterans of the sea, Jesus was taking a well-deserved nap. In what seemed to be a mild rebuke of their Master, they said to Jesus, *“Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”* How many times have you wondered where Jesus was when the storms of life wanted to capsize your boat? Do you resort to self-help or call upon the Lord in times of trouble? The disciples did the right thing by waking Jesus up.

*“When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, **“Silence! Be still!”** Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.”* (Mark 4:39) After demonstrating His power over nature, the wind and the sea, Jesus turned to the even more frightened disciples and asked them, *“**Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?**”* (Mark 4:40)

If you are going through a storm right now that is threatening to destroy you, the question that you need to ask is “Am I in the center of God’s will? Am I running away from God like Jonah the reluctant messenger and the storm is perhaps punishment for my rebellion?” If you are however confident that you are doing God’s will, then echo the words of the hymn, “Be still my soul, the Lord is on your side.”

The truth is while God has total control and power to still the raging storms of life, He may allow the storms to rage to help us develop perseverance and to deepen our faith. Our God is a mighty fortress and a very present help in times of trouble (see **Psalms 46:1-3**). With Christ in the vessel with us, we can truly smile at the storms of life. The beautiful hymn by Katharina von Schlegel translated by Jane Borthwick, “Be still my soul” captures our confidence so eloquently:

*“Be still my soul, your God will undertake, to guide the future, as in ages past. Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake, all now mysterious, shall be bright at last. Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know the Christ, who ruled them while he dwelt below.”*

It does not matter what you may be going through at this moment or what you will face in the future. Our God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5b**). I also encourage you to read one of my all-time favorite promises of God found in **Isaiah 43:1-2**. Jesus is a trustworthy anchor in the storms of life, even when He is asleep. **Let us never doubt Him.**

**Pastor 'Debo**

## **Ephesians 6:10-20**

New International Version

### **The Armor of God**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

## **Mark 4:35-41**

New International Version

### **Jesus Calms the Storm**

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

## **WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (June 23, 2024 – June 29, 2024):**

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

### **Sunday June 23**

Scripture Reading Genesis 15:1-20; Reflection Verses: Genesis 15:5-6

“He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be. Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Which promise of the Lord are you holding on to in this season of your life?

### **Monday June 24**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-19; Reflection Verses: Genesis 22:7-8

“Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Can you recall a time when God provided for your need miraculously? How did that strengthen your faith in God?

### **Tuesday June 25**

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17:7-24; Reflection Verse: 1 Kings 17:14

“For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What inspiration do you get from the miraculous provision for the widow and her family by God? Where is God’s Spirit encouraging you to take a step of faith today?

### **Wednesday June 26**

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41; Reflection Verses: Mark 4:40-41

“He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is your greatest fear today? Do you have faith that Jesus can remove it?

### **Thursday June 27**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23:1-6; Reflection Verse: Psalm 23:4

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil because Jesus is with me.

### **Friday June 28**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7; Reflection Verse: Isaiah 43:5b

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you;”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Do you truly believe that God is with you? Why or why not?

### **Saturday June 29**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-12; Reflection Verse: Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you daily walking by faith and not by sight?