

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

June 30, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."

[Hebrews 1:1-2, NIV]

†

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Liturgist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O Lord, our God, we declare with the psalmist that your name is majestic in all the earth.

P: Lord, you have set your glory in the heavens and take delight in the praise of your people.

L: O Lord, our God, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise.

P: We give you thanks and adoration for you are good and your love endures forever.

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

144

"This Is My Father's World"

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

Genesis 1:26-31; Hebrews 1:1-5

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Dr. McGuire

HYMN

"Jesus Calls Us"

398

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 Capital Improvement 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."

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

June 30, 2024
(Sixth 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

Psalm 8:1-9

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Steve McGuire

What Will Worship Do for Me?

***CLOSING HYMN**

454

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

***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
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Steve McGuire
Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

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, June 30, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

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

Saturday, July 6, 2024

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

Sunday, July 7, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024

Birthdays

5 Donna Ballmer
10 Elaine Hill
11 Ed Gurile, Jr.
12 Marilyn Lawson
13 Kelton Whitmer-Beatty
22 Larry Kilbarger
23 Emily Johnson
27 Jerry Peters
30 Lee Ann Whitmer
31 Betsy Dickson

Anniversaries

1 James & Sharon Funkhouser
4 Kenneth & Patricia Disbennet
10 Mike & Judy North
22 Chuck & Judy Wheatley



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 7-8**. 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 – As was shared last week, Pastor 'Debo is away this **Sunday June 30, 2024** as he is away in Nigeria, West Africa for a funeral and celebration of life of a dear departed relation. We once again welcome our Guest Preacher for today, Rev. Dr. Steve McGuire. During Pastor 'Debo's time away for the remainder of this week, we are pleased to share that Rev. Chuck Wheatley will assist as needed with pastoral care in emergencies. Please continue to pray for travel mercies for Pastor 'Debo during his time away. 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 updates on ways to support this important work. Contact Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor 'Debo with any questions.

Pastor's Corner:

Do Not Neglect Corporate Worship (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV)

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

If we think that the challenge of followers of Jesus Christ or Christians staying away from weekly worship gatherings and other forms of regular fellowship is a recent concern, we will be quite wrong. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews in our focus text took umbrage at those neglecting meeting together with other believers and reminded the recipients of the letter to intentionally make out time to gather with other faithful followers of Jesus Christ because it was essential to their growth in discipleship.

The Greek word *“paroxysmos”* translated as *“SPUR”* means to provoke or get into a fight with someone to make them do something they do not want to do or to get them to see things from our point of view. The word is only used in another place in the New Testament, and it was in respect of the *“sharp disagreement”* or *“dispute”* between Paul and Barnabas over their disagreement over John Mark (see **Acts 15:36-39** for more insight). To be clear, Paul and Barnabas engaged in a raucous shouting match on the issue of John Mark.

The need for mutual accountability in our Christian walk is underscored in our focus text – as brothers and sisters in Christ, we must always explore ways to encourage one another toward love and good deeds because these acts (or lack thereof) impact our collective witness. We meet for corporate fellowship and mutual edification like the early disciples so that we can follow in their footsteps.

According to the writer of Acts of the Apostles, the first century disciples *“devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer”* and *“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.”* (see **Acts 2:42, 46**) As they diligently came together, the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (see **Acts 2:47b**).

I want to challenge anyone reading this to take corporate gatherings seriously because of its vital importance to our spiritual growth. We should not continue in the habit of neglecting corporate worship because it has inherent benefits for our spiritual growth. When we come together to worship and seek the face of the Lord, we find encouragement and strength as we pray for one another, share our joys and carry one another's burdens. Because the Day of Christ's return is fast approaching, we must not give up on regular worship with other believers.

Jesus had a remarkably busy ministry life but as we read from the gospels, He was frequently at the synagogues where Jews gathered for worship, teaching and encouragement because it *“was his custom.”* (see **Luke 4:16**) If joining others for worship was customary for Jesus, we have no excuse to neglect or give up on corporate worship altogether. It is by regularly gathering with our imperfect brothers and sisters in the power of the Holy Spirit that we learn to better understand one another and love one another despite our imperfections. And this is part of our witness to unbelievers.

Whatever your excuse may have been for ignoring corporate worship in the past, I want to encourage you to form the habit of participating in weekly worship and other fellowship opportunities as we prepare to start a new month and the second half of the year 2024 this week. As a community of faith, we are going to be challenging and encouraging one another to take our discipleship to the next level to the glory of God and to our blessing. Jesus is always waiting to welcome us to worship. Let's not keep Him waiting.

Pastor 'Debo

Genesis 1:26-31

New International Version

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Hebrews 1:1-5

New International Version

God's Final Word: His Son

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"^[a]?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"^[b]?

Psalm 8
New International Version

Psalm 8^[a]

For the director of music. According to *gittith*.^[b] A psalm of David.

- ¹ LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
 in the heavens.
- ² Through the praise of children and infants
 you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
 to silence the foe and the avenger.
- ³ When I consider your heavens,
 the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
 which you have set in place,
- ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
 human beings that you care for them?^[c]
- ⁵ You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e]
 and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.
- ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
 you put everything under their^[g] feet:
- ⁷ all flocks and herds,
 and the animals of the wild,
- ⁸ the birds in the sky,
 and the fish in the sea,
 all that swim the paths of the seas.
- ⁹ LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (June 30, 2024 – July 7, 2024):

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

Sunday June 30

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:24-31; Reflection Verse: Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What was God’s reason for making mankind in His own image? How can humans be faithful to the creation mandate?

Monday July 1

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-25; 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: What is your understanding of the instruction given to the man by God? Explain.

Tuesday July 2

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4 & Hebrews 2:1-4; Reflection Verse: Hebrews 2:1

“We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why is it important to pay careful attention to what we have heard? What are the consequences of ignoring biblical instruction?

Wednesday July 3

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8:1-9; Reflection Verses: Psalm 8:3-4

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why do you think God is so mindful of human beings? How does the creation account in **Genesis 1:26-31** help you understand God’s care for humanity?

Thursday July 4

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:1-12; Reflection Verse: Galatians 5:1

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are believers called to exercise the freedom they have in Jesus Christ? How can you compare and contrast this freedom to the freedom enshrined in the American Constitution?

Friday July 5

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:13-26; Reflection Verse: Galatians 5:13

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will use the freedom I have in Christ to serve and bless others in His name.

Saturday July 6

Scripture Reading: John 4:13-26; Reflection Verse: John 4:24

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are worshipers called to worship God? Give a practical example.