

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Baptism of the Lord)

January 12, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend." (Exodus 33:9,11)



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Scripture warns us that friendship with the world means enmity against God.

P: *Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

L: God promised through the Prophet Jeremiah that He will be found by those who seek Him.

P: *Lord, in this New Year, let us seek you with all our heart and grow in intimacy with you.*

L: The Lord would speak to Moses face to face as one speaks to a friend.

P: *Loving God, help us to grow in our intimacy with you by abiding in Jesus your beloved Son.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

472

"Near to the Heart of God "

*The Apostles' Creed

881

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 33:7-14

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Take Time to Be Holy"

395

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (in unison)

~Joys and Concerns

~General Prayers & Intercession

~The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

895

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***Doxology** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" # 95

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 15:1-8

MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

Week # 2 of Christian To The Core – Intimacy with God

*CLOSING HYMN

419

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

Week At A Glance:

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. Adult Discipleship/Sunday School (Chapel)

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 13, 2025

11:00 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Parlor)

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

5:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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

Saturday, January 18, 2025

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

CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY 2025

Birthdays

1 Pat Disbennet
2 Fred Beougher
10 Tae'lyn Wallis
12 Michael Stalder
13 Phyllis Flowers
18 Carol Davis
19 Krista Spangler
25 Tim Schaffer
25 Doris Shauger
25 Lou Ellen Reef
26 Sonya Chaffin
26 Howard Eblin
27 Angela Trogus
30 Sharon Funkhouser

Anniversaries

27 Carl and Sharon Mathias

MINISTRY TEAM/STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation

Media Team: Jessica Thomas, Daniel Onabanjo & 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

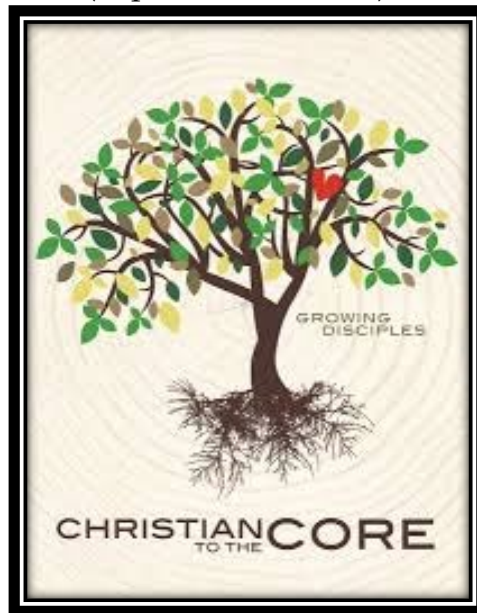
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

January 12, 2025

(Baptism of the Lord)



Week # 2: Intimacy with God

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: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo
Pastor's email: aaonabanjo@yahoo.com
Office email: sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com
Church: (740) 653-1196
Fax: (740) 653-6780
Website: 6thavegmc.org



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313

Luxe: Jim Funkhouser, Eckert Wing, 207A

Primrose: Bill & Doris Shauger, 121

The Ridge: Fred Beougher, 140

Continued Prayers are requested for:

Sharon Byerly, Phyllis Flowers, Ed Gurile, Clara Herrick, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Joan Irwin, Eleanor & Bob Kane, Carl & Sharon Mathias, Carla (Mathias), Vicki Oatney, Michael Parrish, Beth Patton, Rod Shouldis, Kathy Starnier, Don Taylor.

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!

*Please note: Names will be removed from the bulletin prayer list after three Sundays and will only be added if a new request is made.



Inclement Weather Policy: When a **Level 2** or higher Snow Emergency is issued for the City of Lancaster or Fairfield County in general, all church events will be cancelled. This includes worship services, meetings, and other activities. Please check your local TV listings for more information (ABC 6 & 10TV).

New Year Message Series – Christian To The Core: As previously mentioned, in this New Year, we want to be more than ever committed to living faithfully into the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20** and also into deeper discipleship. We started the 12 Week Series that will take us through the **Eight Core Values** that have been identified after detailed research and prayerful discernment as foundational to living a life of faith and obedience to the Great Commission mandate of Jesus and His instruction to us to be witnesses recorded in **Acts 1:8**. The **“Christian To The Core” Curriculum** was developed by the **International Leadership Institute (ILI)** to equip leaders and promote the spread of the gospel. This aligns with the mission of the **Global Methodist Church (GMC)** to make disciples of Jesus and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. As the ILI global team of leaders met, they focused on a very important question: **What is the single most important factor impacting the acceleration of the spread of the Gospel?** The answer to the question was **LEADERSHIP** empowered by the Holy Spirit. In order for us to be able to faithfully and confidently obey the Great Commission, we are going to help one understand the foundation principles that will be taught during this Message Series.

Through fervent prayer, in-depth discussions, and two years of research, the ILI team identified the answer to the development of leadership values. They discerned that the best Christian leaders live by Eight Core Values that affect who they are and everything they do. The values are: **Intimacy with God - Passion for the Harvest - Visionary Leadership - Culturally Relevant Evangelism - Multiplication of Leaders - Family Priority - Faithful Stewardship and Integrity**. Through the partnership between the ILI and the GMC, we will all have access to the rich materials that will help us stay connected and develop these critical leadership values. The Message Series will start on **Sunday January 5, 2025**, and run through **Sunday March 23, 2025**. The Week # 2 Session in the Message Series today will cover **“Intimacy with God”** and will help us better understand how going deeper in our relationship with the Lord will help us to grow into more devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. Because we know that nothing happens without prayer, we request all members to continue to be in prayer that this Message Series will build on and sustain the crucial work that has been done in the past and launch us into a new season of impactful ministry of reaching others with the gospel. **Please see our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor ‘Debo for more details.**

Small Groups for New Year Message Series – We would like to encourage members to strongly consider joining one of our existing **Discipleship/Small Groups** so they can go deeper and benefit more from the Message Series. A Small Group has been formed by a group of ladies at the Church with the goal of meeting weekly to discuss the Christian To The Core Curriculum. Please contact Sue Griffin for more information about this Small Group. We encourage the formation of more Small Groups to help us maximize the benefit from this spiritual journey. We will include information on Small Groups in subsequent weeks. Thanks!

Adult Discipleship/Sunday School Class – We would like to remind everyone that the Adult Discipleship/Sunday School Class being facilitated by our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham which started at the beginning of October 2024 is held weekly in the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:15am. The introduction of this Class was one of the feedbacks received during the survey of members carried early in 2024. This gathering will offer an opportunity to discuss topics that will be of interest to those who attend. They are currently using a Bible Studies For Life Series Resource titled **“Thrive: Living on Purpose – Navigating Family Conflict”** published by Lifeway. The group will also be considering how best they can leverage the additional resources offered as part of our New Year Message Series. Please contact Dr. Witham with any questions. Thanks!

Pastor’s Bible Study: We had our first gathering in 2025 last week and started the study of the Book of Isaiah. We also took time to review the introductory chapter for the Christian To The Core Curriculum. Please mark your calendar for our weekly time of study and growing deeper on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. This Bible Study remains open to all members of the community and we also pray for personal and general requests. Please invite a neighbor/friend to join us.



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WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (January 12, 2025 – January 18, 2025):

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

Sunday January 12 (Baptism of the Lord)

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

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did Jesus ask John to baptize Him? What does your baptism mean to you?

Monday January 13

Scripture Reading: John 1:19-28; Reflection Verses: John 1:26-27

“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is the difference between John’s baptism and our baptism? (see **Matthew 28:19**)

Tuesday January 14

Scripture Reading: John 1:29-34; Reflection Verse: John 1:33

“And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Did you receive the Holy Spirit at your baptism? Are you being led by the Spirit (see **Romans 8:14**) What is the fruit of the Spirit’s presence in your life? (see **Galatians 5:22-23**)

Wednesday January 15

Scripture Reading Acts 19:1-7; Reflection Verses: Acts 19:4-5

“Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Would you like to know more?

Thursday January 16

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:7-14; Reflection Verse: Exodus 33:14

“The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why do we need the Lord’s to go with us in this New Year? How are you planning to spend quality time in God’s presence this New Year?

Friday January 17

Scripture Reading: Psalm 42:1-11; Reflection Verse: Psalm 42:1

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Does your soul pant for God daily like the deer pants for streams of water?

Saturday January 18

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8; Reflection Verse: John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is your plan to abide in Jesus the Vine this New Year? Have you told anyone?

Exodus 33:7-14

The Tent of Meeting

⁷ Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. ⁸ And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. ⁹ As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. ¹⁰ Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. ¹¹ The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

Moses and the Glory of the LORD

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

John 15:1-8

The Vine and the Branches

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Scripture warns us that friendship with the world means enmity against God.

P: Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

L: God promised through the Prophet Jeremiah that He will be found by those who seek Him.

P: Lord, in this New Year, let us seek you with all our heart and grow in intimacy with you.

L: The Lord would speak to Moses face to face as one speaks to a friend.

P: Loving God, help us to grow in our intimacy with you by abiding in Jesus your beloved Son.

***The Apostles' Creed**

881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell, the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

MESSAGE NOTES – Baptism of the Lord (1/12/2025)

Christian To The Core – Week # 2: Intimacy with God (Exodus 33:1-14 & John 15:1-8)

“Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.” (Exodus 33:7)

CORE VALUE: God looks for consecrated men and women who lead from an intimate relationship with God.

The choice is ours: to cultivate a rich, fruitful inner life with the Lord, or let it remain stagnant and barren.

Examples of Intimate Relationships:

BEST FRIENDS, PARENT AND CHILD & MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

SOME BARRIERS TO INTIMACY

BARRIER # 1: SUPERFICIALITY

Jesus described superficiality in the parable of the sower:

“Some [seed] fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.”
(Matthew 13:5-6)

GOD’S ANSWER: GO DEEPER

STOP TO REFLECT - How deep is my relationship with God?

BARRIER # 2: FAILURE TO PRIORITIZE

Jesus said: “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”
(Luke 6:46)

GOD’S ANSWER: THIRST FOR GOD

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”
(Psalm 42:1-2)

STOP TO REFLECT: How much do I desire time alone with God?
Do you pant for God?

BARRIER # 3: WRONG FOCUS: INFORMATION INSTEAD OF INTIMACY

“GOD’S ANSWER: PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

One can know a great deal about God without really knowing Him.
One can know a great deal about godliness without much knowledge of God.

STOP TO REFLECT: How can I be more intentional in practicing daily spiritual disciplines?

BARRIER # 4: UNCONFESSSED SIN

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
(Isaiah 59:1-2)

GOD’S ANSWER: CONFESS AND REPENT

STOP TO REFLECT: Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES: THE PATH TO INTIMACY WITH GOD

The most common and helpful disciplines involve Prayer, Worship, the Bible, and Service.

Intimacy is a choice and a commitment. The choice is ours: To intentionally cultivate a rich, fruitful, inner life with the Lord, or let it remain stagnant and barren.

FOR OUR PRIVATE TIME (FOR YOU AND THE LORD ONLY)

- .Make a list of what would have to happen in order for you to know God in a more intimate way.
- .Write down at least one specific action you will take to seek deeper intimacy with the Lord.
- .During this week, spend time in prayer to “purpose in your heart” or to “make up your mind” that you will not allow anything to stop you from seeking the Lord in order to see Him “face to face.”
- .Our goal during these days is to fellowship with each other, to learn, and most of all, to know God at the deeper levels of intimacy!