

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Third Sunday after the Epiphany)

January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*"Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.' I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work."*  
(Nehemiah 2:17-18, NIV)

†

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In the creation narrative, we are reminded that we serve a God whose will and purpose are in alignment.

**P:** *Our Father in heaven, give us a clear sense of your purpose and vision for our life through your Spirit.*

L: Jesus was anointed to proclaim good news, freedom for prisoners and oppressed and recovery of sight for the blind.

**P:** *Lord Jesus, help us to embrace your mission to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

L: Nehemiah was saddened about the situation in Jerusalem and he wept, mourned, fasted and prayed before God.

**P:** *Loving God, let our hearts break for the needs around us and grant us vision to do something about it.*

**\*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

# 547

"O Church of God, United"

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

# 881

**\*Gloria Patri**

Hymn # 70

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 2:11-18, 19-20

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

# 451

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

Jackie Howard, piano

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 9:35-38

MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

Week # 4 of Christian To The Core - The Power of Vision

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

# 581

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

**\*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

## Week At A Glance:

### Sunday, January 26, 2025

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

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

### Wednesday, January 29, 2025

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

11:30 a.m. S/PPRC meeting in the Parlor

5:30 p.m. Evangelism meeting

### Saturday, February 1, 2025

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

## **CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY 2025**

### Birthdays

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

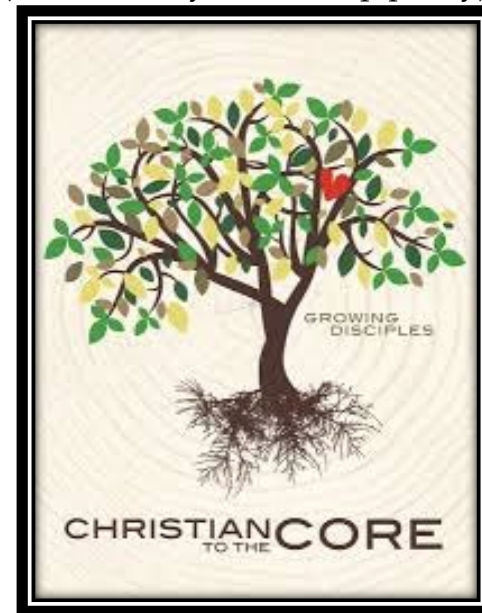
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

January 26, 2025

(Third Sunday after the Epiphany)



## **Week # 4: The Power of Vision**

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](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)



\*Jane Patterson now resides at Magnolia Terrace, 1110 North Market St., Galion, Ohio 44833 Room 56

**Magnolia Terrace:** Jane Patterson, 56

**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:** We continue our “Christian To The Core” Message Series that is designed to help us individually and collectively live 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 started on **Sunday January 5, 2025**, and will run through **Sunday March 23, 2025**. The Week # 4 Session in the Message Series today will cover “**The Power of Vision**” and will help us better understand how passion for the harvest drives vision and a desire to know God’s vision for our lives as individuals and as a Community of Faith. **Please refer to the Message Notes in your bulletin for more details and insight on today’s Message.** We urge everyone to continue to pray that this Message Series will build upon and sustain the crucial work that has been done in the past and relaunch us as a community of faith 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 about starting a Small Group.**

**Small Groups for New Year Message Series** – We would like to continue to encourage members to strongly consider joining one of our existing **Discipleship/Small Groups** so they can grow deeper and benefit more from the New Year Message Series. We currently have two Small Groups that have been formed here at Sixth Avenue GMC: Please contact **Sue Griffin** for more information about the Small Group that meets on Wednesdays for lunch and fellowship after Pastor’s Bible Study and the Adult Sunday School Small Group – please contact **Donna Dickson** for more information. We encourage the formation of more Small Groups to help us maximize the benefit from this spiritual journey. We will continue to 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 last year continues to meet 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 out early in 2024. This gathering will offer an opportunity to discuss topics that will be of interest to those who attend. They are planning to start using the “Christian To The Core” for their time together. Please contact Dr. Gregg Witham with any questions and for more information. Thanks!

**Pastor’s Weekly Bible Study:** We will continue our study of the Book of Isaiah this week by looking at **Chapters 11-14**. We will also take time to review the teaching in our New Year Message Series, on **The Power of Vision**. 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.

**Notice of Quarterly Congregational Meeting:** We will be having a meeting of the members and friends of the Church on **Sunday, February 2, 2025** immediately after the worship service at 12:00pm. Please mark your calendar for this important gathering and refer to the communication to all members and friends last week on the scheduled meeting. Light refreshments will be provided during the meeting. Updates about the church will be shared at the meeting. Thanks!



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## **WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (January 26, 2025 – February 1, 2025):**

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

### **Sunday January 26 (Third Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-11; Reflection Verses: Nehemiah 1:3-4

“They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.” When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How do you react/respond when you hear sad news about persecution or oppression of believers in Christ? How do you feel about others experiencing tragic and devastating situations due to no fault of theirs?

### **Monday January 27**

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 2:1-10; Reflection Verse: Nehemiah 2:10

“When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where is God’s Spirit nudging you to act on behalf of others? How will you respond?

### **Tuesday January 28**

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 2:10-20; Reflection Verse: Nehemiah 2:18

“I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can we motivate others to join us in doing the Lord’s work?

### **Wednesday January 29**

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 3:1-16; Reflection Verse: Nehemiah 3:5

“The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What lesson can we learn from the nobles of Tekoa who did not support the work?

### **Thursday January 30**

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 3:17-32; Reflection Verses: Nehemiah 3:27-28

“Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel. Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can we inspire others to embrace the work of revitalization/rebuilding?

### **Friday January 31**

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17; Reflection Verse: John 13:15

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What are we learning from the example of Jesus who served others, including Judas?

### **Saturday February 1**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:20-28; Reflection Verse: Matthew 20:28

“.. just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can having the mind of Jesus help make a difference in our discipleship?



## **Nehemiah 2:11-18, 19-20**

### **Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls**

<sup>11</sup> I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

<sup>13</sup> By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal<sup>[a]</sup> Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; <sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

<sup>17</sup> Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

<sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

<sup>20</sup> I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

## **Matthew 9:35-38**

### **The Workers Are Few**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

## MESSAGE NOTES – Third Sunday after the Epiphany (1/26/2025)

### Christian To The Core – Week # 4: The Power of Vision KNOWING GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE (Nehemiah 2:11-18, 19-20 & Matthew 9:35-38)

*“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, - and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.”*  
(Nehemiah 2:17-18, NIV)

**CORE VALUE:** God looks for men and women who are biblically committed to cast vision, set goals, mobilize the Body of Christ, and overcome obstacles in order to reach the nations for Christ.

Vision is the single most important factor that differentiates good leaders from great ones.

**WHAT THEN IS VISION?** - “Vision for ministry is a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants, and is based upon an accurate understanding of God, self, and circumstances.”

George Barna

#### Reflection Questions: Are you a visionary leader or disciple?

.I have a clear sense of the primary need I am called to meet.

.I spend the majority of my time working specifically toward my life's central goal.

.I am confident that God is the source of vision for my life.

I have experienced deep and powerful emotions, even pain at times, just thinking about my greater goals.

.I talk about God's vision for my life frequently to those who are close to me and those who are under my authority.

**SCORING: ADD YOUR SCORE AND SEE WHERE YOU LAND ON THIS SCORING CHART:**

42—49: I am a solar observatory telescope.

35—41: I have eagle vision.

28—34: I miss some of the fine print.

21—27: I am a little nearsighted.

7—20: Who turned out the lights?

## WHAT IS VISION LIKE? Three analogies are helpful:

**EYE OF THE EAGLE** - An eagle can see farther than other animals. In the same way, visionary leaders and disciples see beyond a maintenance mentality and envision a mission that makes an apostolic difference for Christ.

**A MAGNIFYING GLASS** - A magnifying glass brings objects into clearer focus. Vision from God allows a leader or disciple to see with greater clarity and focus.

**BANKS OF A RIVER** - The banks of a river provide direction for the flow of the water. Vision provides direction and keeps us moving in the direction that God wants to take us.

**THE BENEFITS OF VISION:** vision clarifies purpose, establishes clear priorities, sets standards of excellence, inspires expectation, motivates commitment, maximizes productivity, expands horizons, fuels passion, and provides focus for reaching your fullest potential.

#### SIX STEPS in the Birth of Vision: - Nehemiah's Story:

- **1. SEE THE NEED - VISION IS...** Birthed in human experience and Based upon a human need (Nehemiah 1:1-2).
- **2. FEEL THE NEED** - VISIONARY LEADERS and DISCIPLES ARE WILLING TO... Intentionally put the need in their heart. They FEEL the pain personally (Nehemiah 1:4a).
- **3. BOND TO THE NEED** - GOD BONDS... Chosen servants to needs to bring the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven (Nehemiah 1:4b).
- **4. FEEL A BURDEN FOR THE NEED** - WE FEEL A BURDEN FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (Nehemiah 1:4c) AND BURDENS... Birth great visions and Provide passion for the vision.
- **5. BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD MEET THE NEED (Nehemiah 2:5)** - THIS CRUCIAL STEP OF STEPPING OUT TO MEET THE NEED  
Requires obedience  
Requires acting in faith  
Acknowledges the power of God  
Validates your accountability to God and people
- **6. TAKE AN INITIAL ACTION TO MEET THE NEED (Nehemiah 2:11-15)** - WHEN THIS STEP OF ACTION IS TAKEN, A LEADER...  
Launches the vision  
Takes a step of faith involving risk  
Moves from the private arena to the public arena  
Moves toward fulfilling his or her greater life purpose

Every leader and indeed every disciple called to follow Jesus of Nazareth must answer the two questions below:

**What is my purpose?**

**What is my vision?**

If you can answer these questions, then... Your life is about to change forever.



**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In the creation narrative, we are reminded that we serve a God whose will and purpose are in alignment.

*P: Our Father in heaven, give us a clear sense of your purpose and vision for our life through your Spirit.*

L: Jesus was anointed to proclaim good news, freedom for prisoners and oppressed and recovery of sight for the blind.

*P: Lord Jesus, help us to embrace your mission to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

L: Nehemiah was saddened about the situation in Jerusalem and he wept, mourned, fasted and prayed before God.

*P: Loving God, let our hearts break for the needs around us and grant us vision to do something about it.*

**\*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**