

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

February 9, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, 'Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?' Some claimed that he was. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' But he himself insisted, 'I am the man.'" (John 9:8-9, NIV)



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The disciples of Jesus saw a man born blind and asked Jesus who sinned that he was born blind.

P: *Loving God, please display your works in our lives to tell a powerful story to the world around.*

L: Jesus made some mud, placed on the man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.

P: *Just like the blind man obeyed and came back seeing, we must tell others how Jesus has healed us.*

L: The neighbors wondered if he was the man born blind and he joyfully shared his story.

P: *Lord, let us boldly share our story so others may give praise to you because of our testimony.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

156

"I Love to Tell the Story"

*The Apostles' Creed

881

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 1:11-24

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Grace Greater than Our Sin"

365

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

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Mike Stalder & Emily Stalder-Johnson, Jackie Howard (piano)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-12

MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**Week # 6 of Christian To The Core - Relevant Evangelism -
The Power of Your Story**

*CLOSING HYMN

389

"Freely, Freely"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

Week At A Glance:

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

11:00 a.m. Administrative Council Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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

Thursday, February 13, 2025

11:00 a.m. Evangelism Outreach Event

Saturday, February 15, 2025

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

Sunday, February 16, 2025

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

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

CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY 2025

Birthdays

10 Sondra Kern
10 Robert Trogus
10 Jerry Zumbro
13 Jackie Howard
15 Kathy Starner
21 Lloyd Helber
22 Marilyn Smith
25 Karen Baughman

Anniversaries

9 Keith & Sondra Kern

14 Bruce & Karen Baughman
14 E.J. & Kim Gurile, III

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

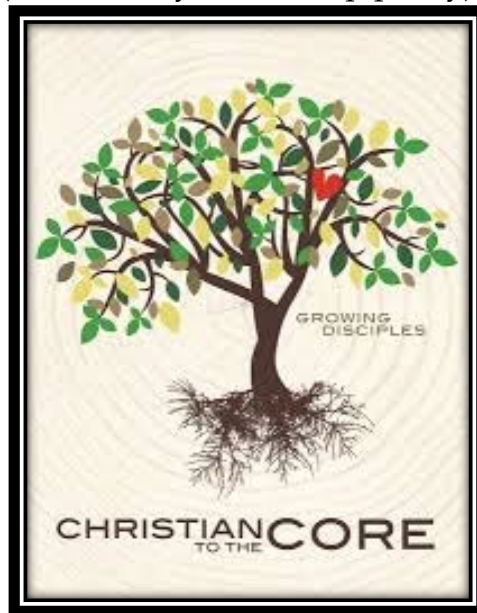
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

February 9, 2025

(Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)



Week # 6: Relevant Evangelism – The Power of Your Story

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



*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, 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.

Congregational Meeting – Appreciation:

The Church Leadership would like to extend its appreciation to all those who attended the Congregational Meeting last Sunday. Please mark your calendar for the next quarterly Congregational Meeting on Sunday April 27, 2025. More information will be shared closer to the date. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please reach out to our Lay Leader, **Dr. Gregg Witham**. Thanks!

New Year Message Series – Christian To The Core: We continue our “Christian To The Core” Message Series today with the Week # 6 Sermon entitled “**Relevant Evangelism – The Power of Your Story.**” We started the 12 Week Series on January 5, 2025 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/disciples 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. Based on research over two years, 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.**

The Message Series that will run through **Sunday March 23, 2025** will help us better understand what it means to be Christian To The Core as we follow Jesus all the way. The Week # 6 Session in the Message Series today will help us understand how Evangelism must be culturally relevant to be impactful and how we can leverage the power of our personal story to reach and connect with others and invite them to also follow Jesus. Please grab a copy of the Christian To The Core Curriculum and refer to the Message Notes in your bulletin for more details and insight on today’s Message. **Please see our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor ‘Debo for more details about starting a Small Group.**

Invite a Friend Sunday (March 2, 2025): As part of our plan to be more intentional in reaching out to others who are not yet part of the Church and in obedience to the commandment of Jesus to “GO” and make disciples of others, we would like to encourage all members to please prayerfully discern who they would like to invite to our service on Transfiguration Sunday, March 2, 2025. Please pick up an invite card at the Narthex to record the name (s) of those you would like to invite. We will be praying for God’s Spirit to move us all to obedience in this evangelism/outreach initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Ann Whitmer, Sue Griffin or any other member of the Evangelism/Outreach Team. Thanks!

Small Groups for New Year Message Series – We would like to continue to encourage members to consider joining one of our existing **Discipleship/Small Groups** so they can grow deeper and benefit more from the current New Year Message Series. We 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 Discipleship/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 – The Adult Discipleship/Sunday School Class being facilitated by our Lay Leader; Dr. Gregg Witham continues to meet weekly in the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:15am. The introduction of this Class was one of the feedback items received during the survey of members carried out early in 2024. 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 21-24**. We will also take time to review the teaching in our New Year Message Series, on **A Visionary Life – Overcoming Obstacles**. 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.

AED and HOLDS Training: On Wednesday February 19, 2025 at 11:30am, there will be a free training here at the Church for anyone interested in getting trained on how to safely operate the **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** equipment and also learn about additional hands on training, including CPR. Please let Lee Ann know if you are interested. We need at least six volunteers for this safety training. Thanks!

Giving Statements: We would like to extend out deepest gratitude to all those who gave financially to support our Community of Faith in 2024. For those who need a copy of their Giving Statement for 2024 for tax filing purposes, please contact Lee Ann Whitmer at the Church Office to obtain the document. We thank all our members and friends for their generous giving for which no goods or services were received in consideration of the donation.



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WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (February 9, 2025 – February 15, 2025):

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

Sunday February 9 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:1-20; Reflection Verses: Mark 5:19-20

“Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who do you need to tell how much Jesus has done for you? How can we follow the instruction of Jesus to the man healed in our Scripture passage?

Monday February 10

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-13; Reflection Verse: Mark 6:4

“Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can familiarity be an obstacle in sharing the good news with others? What do your unbelieving family members and friends think about your testimony as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Tuesday February 11

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-20; Reflection Verse: Matthew 28:19

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is your response to this commandment of Jesus called “The Great Commission”?

Wednesday February 12

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18; Reflection Verses: John 1:11-12

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who can you help to carry the good news to today by sharing your own story?

Thursday February 13

Scripture Reading: John 1:29-42; Reflection Verses: John 1:41-42

“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is your testimony about Jesus? Will you share with a family member today?

Friday February 14 (Valentine’s Day)

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-21; Reflection Verse: John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who can you tell about God’s love on this special day when we celebrate love?

Saturday February 15

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-12; Reflection Verse: John 9:9

“Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How has God’s amazing grace touched and transformed your life?

Galatians 1:11-24

Paul Called by God

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas^[a] and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

²¹ Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

John 9:1-12

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he said.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The disciples of Jesus saw a man born blind and asked Jesus who sinned that he was born blind.

P: *Loving God, please display your works in our lives to tell a powerful story to the world around.*

L: Jesus made some mud, placed on the man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.

P: *Just like the blind man obeyed and came back seeing, we must tell others how Jesus has healed us.*

L: The neighbors wondered if he was the man born blind and he joyfully shared his story.

P: *Lord, let us boldly share our story so others may give praise to you because of our testimony.*

***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 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (2/9/2025)

Christian To The Core – Week # 6: Relevant Evangelism

– The Power of Your Story

(Galatians 1:11-14 & John 9:1-12)

“His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed that he was. Others said,

“No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

(John 9:8-9, NIV)

CORE VALUE: God looks for men and women who live and teach the Gospel with cultural relevance, sensitivity, and power, so that the eternal truth of the Gospel will be understood and received in every culture of the world.

What is Evangelism? The proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Savior and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to him personally and so be reconciled to God.

(The Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization)

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION is from Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians **(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)**. Paul provides several key lessons from the passage:

- . A servant attitude is an important foundation for relevant evangelism.
- . The Gospel message does not change and cannot be compromised; however, the messenger’s methods should be adjusted to fit the audience.
- . Paul’s passion is shown in his willingness to do anything necessary, except change the message, to bring even one person to salvation.

Culture and Worldview - In order to be culturally relevant with the Gospel, it is important to under

stand the concepts of culture and worldview, two essential elements of human society that influence every person.

Culture: “Culture is all learned behavior; which is socially acquired, that is, the material and non-material traits which are passed on from one generation to another.” (Anthropologist Eugene Nida)

Culture is received from the past, and learned afresh by each generation.

Culture is an integrated system of beliefs about values, customs, and institutions.

Culture gives a sense of security, identity, dignity, and unity.

Cultures resist change, but every culture is in a constant and gradual state of change.

Worldview: “Worldview consists of the shared framework of ideas held by a particular society concerning how it perceives the world.”

Worldview has many functions:

Explains why the world came to be as it is and how it continues

Provides psychological reinforcement during times of crisis

Provides a comprehensive, uniform explanation of reality

The most important helper when it comes to Evangelization is the Holy Spirit because He reminds us of what Jesus taught us.

The Holy Spirit is an essential person of the Trinity in the process of evangelization. The Holy Spirit prepares the hearts of people. The Holy Spirit works in the heart of the lost.

The Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God

Methods for Evangelization: Mass Media, Internet Evangelism, Public Preaching, Serving those in need, Church Planting, Small Groups, Personal Evangelization

Personal Evangelization: The Power of Your Story

Every personal testimony should contain elements that help a seeker understand how the power of the Gospel changed our life and how Christ can change their life as well.

Life without Christ – Give a brief description of your life before following Christ.

How we became a Christian – Share what prompted you to seek Christ and how you encountered Him.

Life with Christ – Explain how your life fulfillment differs today from your past life – see “Before Jesus” and “After Jesus” examples below,

Invitation to Accept Christ – Invite the person to become a follower of Christ.

Before Jesus: Guilt, Strife, Jealousy, Emptiness, Fear of Death, Depression, Rejection, Loneliness, Selfishness, Pleasure Lover, Fear of spirits, witchcraft, and charms.

After Jesus: Forgiveness, Peace, Love, Fulfillment, Peace about Death, Hope, Acceptance, Friendship, Concern for Others, Satisfaction in God, Freedom from fear of spirits, witchcraft, and charms.