

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany)

February 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*"[Jesus] replied to him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?'
Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers.
For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister
and mother.'"*

(Matthew 12:48-50, NIV)

†

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God chose Abraham so that he will direct his children and his household to follow the right paths.

P: *Lord, help us direct our family to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just.*

L: Apostle Paul affirmed the sincere faith passed on to Timothy by his grandmother and mother.

P: *Lord, help us to give our family the right foundation by training them in your ways.*

L: Joshua declared, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

P: *Loving God, teach us to prioritize our family relationships even as we model Christlike virtues.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

710

"Faith of Our Fathers"

*The Apostles' Creed

881

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Happy the Home, When God is There"

445

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

"Bind Us Together"
(Jackie Howard, piano)

TFWS # 2226

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 12:46-50

MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**Week # 8 of Christian To The Core - Family Priority -
God's Building Block for Society"**

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Lord, May Church and Home Combine"

695

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

Week At A Glance:

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

Saturday, March 1, 2025

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

Sunday, March 2, 2025

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

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

CELEBRATIONS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

Birthdays

25 Karen Baughman

Anniversaries

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: Dr. Gregg Witham

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Allegheny West

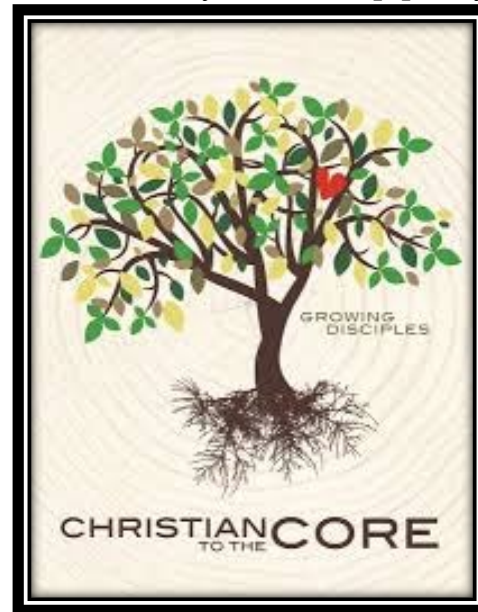
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

February 23, 2025

(Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany)



Week # 8: Family Priority - God's Building Block for Society"

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



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 Starner, 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.

Q2 Congregational Meeting – Mark Your Calendar:

The Church Leadership would like to extend its appreciation to all those who attended the Q1 Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 2. 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 # 8 Sermon entitled “**Family Priority – God’s Building Block for Society**” We started the 12 Week Series on January 5, 2025 and it 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 which 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 # 8 Session in the Message Series today will help us understand how the Family is so important to God’s plan by serving as the building block for society. The most important lessons we learn in life are learned through our families, and the most important lessons that we teach in life are to our children. 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!

Ash Wednesday Service: We will kick off the Lenten Season next week with **Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30pm**. It will be a combined service of the Lancaster Charge - Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC. The service will be hosted by our Church. Please invite your family members and friends. Also, you can mark your calendar for our Good Friday Service on Friday April 18, 2025 at 6:30pm. It will be held at Mt. Zion GMC, 5495 Lancaster Circleville Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130.

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 31-35**. We will also take time to review the teaching for the week from our New Year Message Series: “Family Priority – God’s Building Block for Society” 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.



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.

Q2 Congregational Meeting – Mark Your Calendar:

The Church Leadership would like to extend its appreciation to all those who attended the Q1 Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 2. 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 # 8 Sermon entitled “**Family Priority – God’s Building Block for Society**” We started the 12 Week Series on January 5, 2025 and it 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 which 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 # 8 Session in the Message Series today will help us understand how the Family is so important to God’s plan by serving as the building block for society. The most important lessons we learn in life are learned through our families, and the most important lessons that we teach in life are to our children. 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!

Ash Wednesday Service: We will kick off the Lenten Season next week with **Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30pm**. It will be a combined service of the Lancaster Charge - Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC. The service will be hosted by our Church. Please invite your family members and friends. Also, you can mark your calendar for our Good Friday Service on Friday April 18, 2025 at 6:30pm. It will be held at Mt. Zion GMC, 5495 Lancaster Circleville Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130.

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 31-35**. We will also take time to review the teaching for the week from our New Year Message Series: “Family Priority – God’s Building Block for Society” 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.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (February 23, 2025 – March 1, 2025):

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

Sunday February 23 (Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany)

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Reflection Verses: Deuteronomy 9:6-7

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you teaching God’s commandments to your biological and spiritual children?

Monday February 24

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:46-50; Reflection Verses: Matthew 12:48-50

“[Jesus] replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How do you understand the definition of the family of God by Jesus?

Tuesday February 25

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24-2:3; Reflection Verses: Genesis 1:27-28

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

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What was God’s purpose for creating the male and female?

Wednesday February 26

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:16-33; Reflection Verse: Genesis 18:19

“For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did God choose Abraham? What lessons can we learn from this focus text?

Thursday February 27

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:19-21; Reflection Verse: Luke 8:21

“[Jesus] replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you putting God’s Word into practice daily?

Friday February 28

Scripture Reading: Psalm 133:1-3; Reflection Verse: Psalm 133:1

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is your understanding of unity amongst God’s people? How can you promote this type of unity?

Saturday March 1

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47; Reflection Verse: Acts 2:42

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What lessons can we learn from the early church in the area of fellowship?

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Love the LORD Your God

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

⁴⁸ He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

***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 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany (2/23/2025)
Christian To The Core – Week # 8: Family Priority – God’s Building
Block for Society

(Deuteronomy 6:1-9 & Matthew 12:46-50)

“[Jesus] replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” (Matthew 12:48-50, NIV)

CORE VALUE: God looks for men and women who are convinced that the family is God’s building block for society and who make their families a priority in developing leaders and disciples.

Family is the foundation for all cultures. It constitutes the root of every human society.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION - God created family and the best way to understand the family is by examining the Bible.

The First Family - The Bible begins with a family (Genesis 1:28).

The Trinity and Family - God created humankind “in His own image” (Genesis 1:27).

Singleness - Singleness is a gift from God and was modelled by Jesus Christ.

Marriage – it is a model of the relationship between Christ and the Church. It is an exclusive holy covenant between one man and one woman.

God’s Perspective on the Family Relationship - Every Christian needs to feel God’s heartbeat for the family.

God’s Foundation for the Family - God supplies us with three critical elements for the foundation of our homes.

The Word of God - God’s Covenant - Intimate Relationship

As families, we participate in fellowship with the Lord and with His broader family, the Church.

Character Traits Related to the Family: Good Caregiver and Family Manager. The Christian leader and disciple must care for his or her family properly and provide good leadership in the home (1 Tim. 3:4,12).

Loving and Gentle: The leader must care for his or her family with love, respect, and self-control so the home is peaceful (1 Tim. 3:2–3).

Character Traits Related to Marital Life: Monogamous, Godly Spouse:

Character Traits Related to The Children: Leadership In The Home, Obedient Children

Six Characteristics of Strong Families:

Strong Commitment - Strong families believe in the value of the family and consider family a priority in their lives.

Spending Enjoyable Time Together - Strong families spend time together doing meaningful things.

Good Communication - Strong families communicate.

Appreciation and Affection for Each Other - Strong families express appreciation for each other; they are intentional about encouragement and support.

Ability to Solve Problems and React in Crisis - Strong families deal with conflict in healthy ways.

Shared Spiritual Life - Strong families have a shared spiritual life where, in the case of Christian families, the Bible, prayer, and worship are central.

Reflection Questions: Considering the characteristics of strong families above, answer the following questions:

Where is my family strongest?

Where do we need to improve the most?

Conclusion: Whether our family is a blessing, or our family is experiencing great dysfunction, we are called to love our family the way it is and prayerfully work in the power of the Holy Spirit to help our family become what God created and desires it to be.