

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Second Sunday in Lent)

March 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. "*

*(Romans 12:2, J. B. Phillips New Testament)*

†

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?"

P: *"The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god."*

L: The Pharisees and the Herodians were opposed to Jesus but still acknowledged Him as a man of integrity.

P: *Holy Spirit, help us to live in accordance with the truth so our words and actions always match.*

L: Like Apostle Paul, we must fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith.

P: *Loving God, help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us by fixing our eyes on Jesus.*

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 465

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

## \*The Apostles' Creed

# 881

## \*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

## SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:1-8

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

"O Come and Dwell in Me"

# 388

## 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

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Jackie Howard, piano

## SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:13-17

## MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**Week # 11 of Christian To The Core - Integrity - Running The Race of Life and Finishing Well**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

# 402

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

## \*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

## Week At A Glance:

### Monday, March 17, 2025

Final Day to turn in your donations for the Chicken Noodle Dinner

### Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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

### Saturday, March 22, 2025

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

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Chicken Noodle Dinner

### Sunday, March 23, 2025

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

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

## CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH 2025

### Birthdays

16 Jerry Dickson

18 Diane Cochran

### 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: Greg Howard

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Allegheny West

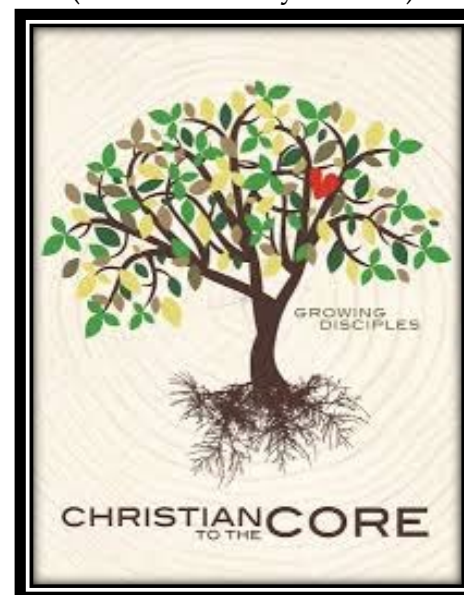
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

March 16, 2025

(Second Sunday in Lent)



## Week # 11: Faithful Stewardship – Integrity – Running The Race of Life and Finishing Well

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)



**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.

**Weekly Online Prayer Gathering:** Please join our weekly online prayer gathering on Saturday mornings from 7:00-7:30am to 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. The gathering is open to members and friends 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.

**New Year Message Series – Christian To The Core:** We continue our “Christian To The Core” Message Series today with the Week # 11 Sermon entitled “**Integrity – Running The Race of Life and Finishing Well.**” 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 next **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 # 11 Session in the Message Series today will help us understand how Integrity and Accountability to God, Self, a Core Group and to the larger Body of Christ are important if we are to run the Race of Life and Finish Well. Please grab a copy of the Christian To The Core Curriculum and refer to the Message Notes in today’s bulletin for more details and insight on today’s Message. **Please see our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor ‘Debo for more details if interested in starting a Small Group.**

**Evangelism Team Special Announcement:** On **Saturday March 22** from 1-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall (Church Basement), we will be having a Chicken Noodle Dinner for Guests from our Community and Members. It is a free meal, but we encourage a Love Offering. Take outs will be \$3.00. Please consider supporting this event with either your monetary donation, chicken broth or canned chicken. Volunteers are also very much appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to volunteer to serve. Please have any donations for the chicken dinner, whether it's monetary, canned chicken or broth, to the church by Monday, March 17th. This gives us time to figure what we still need. Thank you very much! **If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lee Ann.**

**Administrative Council/Leadership Retreat:** This is to inform all members of the Administrative Council and those in leadership positions that there will be a Leadership Retreat on **Saturday April 5, 2025** from 9am to Noon in the Fellowship Hall. This Retreat will enable us prayerfully discern the Vision and Mission that God is calling us to embrace in this season through the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit. The Retreat is open to every member of the Church. Please contact Pastor ‘Debo or our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham if you have any questions or want to provide a suggestion or feedback for consideration at the Retreat. Thanks!

**Quarterly Congregational Meeting:** 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!

**Invite a Friend Sunday Dates:** The “Invite a Friend Sunday” is an intentional outreach and evangelism initiative aimed at encouraging our members to live invitationally. This program is also driven by our desire 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 (**Matthew 28:18-20**). The following are the dates for the “Invite a Friend Sunday” for the remainder of 2025: **Sunday June 1, Sunday August 3 and Sunday November 2**. Please mark these dates on your calendar and be on the lookout for the special cards to help you record the names of a family member, friend or a neighbor to invite.

**Small Groups for New Year Message Series** –We have two Small Groups that have been formed here at Sixth Avenue GMC to encourage deeper engagement with the Christian To The Core Teaching Series. 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 that meets at 9:30am on Sundays with our Lay Leader Dr. Gregg Witham as Coordinator.

**Good Friday Service:** Please 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. If you would like to sing with the Choir on that day, please contact Jackie Howard. Thanks!

**Pastor’s Weekly Bible Study:** We will continue our Study of the Book of Isaiah this week with focus on **Chapters 45-50**. We will also review the teaching for this week from our New Year Message Series. Please mark your calendar for our weekly time of study on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.



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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (March 16, 2025 – March 22, 2025):

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

### Sunday March 16 (Second Sunday in Lent)

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Reflection Verses: 2 Timothy 4:6-7

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What are you doing to finish well like Apostle Paul? What are your challenges?

### Monday March 17

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1:1-6; Reflection Verses: Psalm 1:1-2

“Blessed is the one who does not **walk** in step with the wicked or **stand** in the way that sinners take or **sit** in the company of mockers, but whose **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and who **meditates** on his law day and night.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What are the prescribed steps to blessedness based on this passage?

### Tuesday March 18

Scripture Reading: Psalm 24:1-10; Reflection Verses: Psalm 24:3-4

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will embrace holiness by having clean hands and a pure heart before the Lord.

### Wednesday March 19

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:15-27; Reflection Verse: Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who are those who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Who will be refused entry?

### Thursday March 20

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:13-17; Reflection Verse: Mark 12:14

“They came to [**Jesus**] and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did they call Jesus a “man of integrity? Are you a person of integrity?

### Friday March 21

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:9-18; Reflection Verses: 2 Timothy 4:14-15

“Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can we identify hypocrites and impostors in the Body of Christ?

### Saturday March 22

Scripture Reading: James 1:19-27; Reflection Verse: James 1:22

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you living into the two fold instruction in this passage?

## **2 Timothy 4:1-8**

**4** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**6** For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

## **Mark 12:13-17**

### **Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar**

**13** Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. **14** They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax<sup>[a]</sup> to Caesar or not? **15** Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” **16** They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

**17** Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

And they were amazed at him.



**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?"

P: *"The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god."*

L: The Pharisees and the Herodians were opposed to Jesus but still acknowledged Him as a man of integrity.

P: *Holy Spirit, help us to live in accordance with the truth so our words and actions always match.*

L: Like Apostle Paul, we must fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith.

P: *Loving God, help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us by fixing our eyes on Jesus.*

**\*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 – Second Sunday in Lent (3/16/2025)  
Christian To The Core – Week # 11: Integrity – Running The Race of Life  
and Finishing Well  
(2 Timothy 4:1-8 & Mark 12:13-17)

*“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.” (Romans 12:2, J. B. Phillips New Testament)*

**CORE VALUE:** God looks for men and women of integrity who live holy lives and who are accountable to God and to the Body of Christ. Integrity glorifies God, protects leaders from stumbling, and encourages growth.

Two basic elements enable us to finish well in “the race marked out for us.” The **first** is to be a person of INTEGRITY, who is the same on the inside as on the outside.

The **second** is to live in active fellowship, receiving the encouragement and ACCOUNTABILITY that we need from others who are in the same race and share the same goal of finishing well.

**BIBLICAL FOUNDATION** - The Psalmist shows us that integrity has inward and outward aspects: “Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior.” (Psalm 24:3–5)

A person of integrity is the same in heart, mind, and actions, regardless of circumstances. Put in simple terms, integrity is being the same in heart, mind, and actions. **We can think of integrity in three dimensions:**

**Integrity is WHAT I AM: WHOLE**

God desires that we be whole or complete in Christ. Integrity means beliefs, attitudes, words, and actions that are consistent with God’s nature. Jesus models integrity by living a whole and integrated life in which His inner life (intimate relationship with the Father) and outer life (the life the world saw) were consistent (Mark 12:14)

**Integrity is WHAT I STAND ON: A COMMITMENT TO MY PROMISES**  
Integrity means we are faithful to the words we speak and the promises we make: Jesus said: “All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No;’ anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” (Matthew 5:37)

**Integrity is WHAT I DO: ACTIONS CONSISTENT WITH MY PROMISES**  
Our beliefs must be reflected in our words and actions. It is critical that our actions be consistent with God’s command for integrity. There must be congruence between our words and our actions. (Matthew 7:21)

**ACCOUNTABILITY: ENCOURAGEMENT TO LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY**

A personal commitment to integrity is a good start, but it is not enough. The secret to living a life of integrity is to live in active fellowship, receiving the encouragement and **accountability** that we need from others who are running the same race and share the same goal. There are four levels of accountability:

ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD (Romans 14:12)

ACCOUNTABILITY TO OURSELVES (1 Timothy 4:16)

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AN INTIMATE FEW (Proverbs 27:17)

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH (1 Corinthians 12:27)

**Finishing Well:** While Jesus Christ is our perfect exemplar, we also have other biblical character - Apostle Paul is a great example:

Apostle Paul He STARTED RIGHT (Acts 9:20-22)

Apostle Paul FINISHED WELL (2 Timothy 4:7)

Apostle Paul Fought the Good Fight

Apostle Paul Completed the Race

Apostle Paul Kept the Faith and Finished Well

King Solomon is the example of a leader who did not finish well. King Solomon STARTED RIGHT. King Solomon FINISHED POORLY

**HOW DO WE LOSE INTEGRITY? — ONE STEP AT A TIME**

**THE BIG FOUR - MONEY, SEX, POWER, AND PRIDE:** These first four factors are the most obvious and common reasons so many Christian leaders do not finish well. They are described in 1 John 2:15–16: “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”