

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Third Sunday of Easter)

May 4, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*"Though you have not seen him [Jesus], you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:8-9, NIV)*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God promised to give Abraham a child through Sarah when they were both old and advanced in years.

**P: *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations just as God promised.***

L: Abraham did not waver in unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith.

**P: *Lord, let our belief in you who raised Jesus from the dead be credited to us as righteousness.***

L: Thomas refused to believe the testimony of others who saw the resurrected Christ before him.

**P: *Lord Jesus, as you said to Thomas, we are blessed because we have not seen you and yet have believed.***

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 616

*"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"*

## \*The Nicene Creed

# 880

## \*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

# 77

## 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

John 20:24-29

## MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**When Seeing Is Not Believing**

## HOLY COMMUNION

**Prayer after Communion:** Heavenly Father, thank you for this holy mystery in which you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses in the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

# 364

*"Because He Lives"*

## \*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

## Week At A Glance:

### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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

11:30 a.m. Strategic Planning Team (Parlor)

12:00 p.m. Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

### Saturday, May 10, 2025

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

1:00 p.m. Mother's Day Tea Party (Fellowship Hall)

### Sunday, May 11, 2025

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

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

## CELEBRATIONS IN MAY 2025

### Birthdays

4 Connie Cox

5 Nathan Trogus

6 John Mongold

6 'Lola Onabanjo

6 Cindy Henwood

9 Justin Chaffin

9 Samuel Onabanjo

### 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

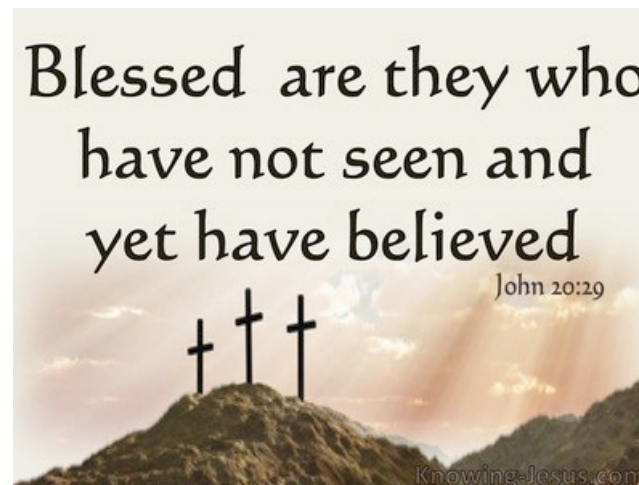
## Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

May 4, 2025

(Third Sunday of Easter)



## When Seeing Is Not Believing

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.

**Lectionary Based Messages:** As we journey on in the Season of Eastertide which is the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the birthday of the Church, we will be exploring some of the passages found in our Lectionary as we also reflect on the Special Days that we will celebrate between now and Pentecost Sunday. The following is a summary of the weekly Messages up to Trinity Sunday (June 15, 2025):

- May 4, 2025 (Third Sunday of Easter) – When Seeing Is Not Believing (1 Peter 1:3-9 & John 20:24-29)
- May 11, 2025 (Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day) – The Female Disciples of Jesus (Acts 9:36-43 & Luke 8:1-3)
- May 18, 2025 (Fifth Sunday of Easter) – A New Command (Acts 11:1-18 & John 13:31-35)
- May 25, 2025 (Sixth Sunday of Easter) – The Promise (Joel 2:28-32 & John 14:23-29)
- June 1, 2025 (Ascension Sunday) – Lift Off (Acts 1:1-11 & Luke 24:44-53)
- June 8, 2025 (Pentecost Sunday) – Promise Fulfilled (Acts 2:1-21 & John 20:21-23)
- June 15, 2025 (Trinity Sunday) – Life in The Trinity – Our Biblical Model (Romans 5:1-5 & John 16:12-15)

Please keep the Pastor and the Worship Planning Team in your prayers as they lead us in this season.

**Quarterly Congregational Meeting - Appreciation:** As was previously announced and communicated, our quarterly Congregational Meeting was held last Sunday April 27, 2025 and we appreciate all those who made out time to attend. At the meeting, attendees were told that starting Sunday May 4, 2025, we will no longer be using paper bulletins at our weekly worship services. If you would like to receive a digital copy of the bulletin and other information, please contact Lee Ann at the Church Office at 740-653-1196 or email [sixthgmc\\_email@yahoo.com](mailto:sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com). Copies of the bulletins can also be accessed at our website at 6thavegmc.org.

**Special Easter Offering:** The Annual Conference (AC) of the Allegheny West Annual Conference will be held from June 18-21, 2025, at the Mt. Vernon Nazarene University in Mt. Vernon, OH. In accordance with the special request from our Conference Superintendent, Bishop Jeff Greenway and the Chair of the Allegheny West Board of Ministry, Rev. Dr. Dan Gildner, we are asking our members and friends to prayerfully consider supporting our Special Easter Offering which has been earmarked to support the 2025 Annual Conference Miracle Offering to fund scholarships for training and ordination of clergy in the conference, with a goal of raising \$200,000 over the next year. Please refer to the special letter from Pastor 'Debo for more details. The cutoff date for the collection of this Special Offering will be Sunday May 4, 2025. Thanks for your support for this worthy initiative.

**Pastor's Weekly Bible Study:** We will continue this week with our study of the Book of Jeremiah with focus on **Chapters 10-14**. 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. Thanks!

**A Global Call To Prayer by GMC Assembly of Bishops:** Because of our belief in the power of prayer to overcome whatever challenges we may face, we invite all members to please plan to join the special Global Call To Prayer by the GMC Assembly of Bishops starting April 30 through Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025. This is a time to intercede—especially for our brothers and sisters on the continent of Africa due to the observed violent clashes between Methodist factions in Nigeria and the broader unrest sweeping across the continent from Ethiopia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, from Mozambique and Nigeria to South Sudan, Sudan, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Rwanda—conflict, political instability, demonstrations, terrorist activity, and civil wars persist in these countries. Please pick up a copy of the special announcement by the Assembly of Bishops at the information desk and plan to participate. We are also going to be inviting us to engage in special prayers for our community of faith as we discern practical next steps under the leading of the Holy Spirit in view of some of the challenges we are facing. Thanks!

**Evangelism Team News/Information:** The Evangelism Team is still asking for your support as they plan multiple events for the remainder of the year. **Please pick up a flyer at the Narthex for more details and reach out to Lee Ann with any questions.** Thanks!



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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (May 4, 2025 – May 10, 2025):

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

### **Sunday May 4 (Third Sunday of Easter)**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:9-22; Reflection Verses: Genesis 6:17-18

“I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why do you think Noah chose to obey God and build the ark? Have you ever sensed God calling you to do something unusual? How did you respond?

### **Monday May 5**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:1-22; Reflection Verse: Genesis 8:22

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will choose to believe the promises of God as contained in Scripture.

### **Tuesday May 6**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15:1-21; Reflection Verse: Genesis 15:6

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did Abram choose to believe the promises God made to him? (read **Genesis 12:1-3** for more insight). What promise (s) of God are you standing on right now? What do you need to do to make it a reality?

### **Wednesday May 7**

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

“He [Jesus] 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: Why did some of the Jews refuse to receive Jesus? What made you decide to put your faith in Jesus Christ? Who can you share your testimony with?

### **Thursday May 8**

Scripture Reading: John 1:29-42; Reflection Verses: John 1:40-41

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How did spending time with Jesus help to strengthen the belief of Andrew?

### **Friday May 9**

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-29; Reflection Verse: John 20:29

“Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why did Jesus tell Thomas that those who have not seen and yet have believed blessed?

### **Saturday May 10**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-7; Reflection Verse: Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How does our faith help us to believe even when we have not seen Jesus?

# 1 Peter 1:3-9

## Praise to God for a Living Hope

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

# John 20:24-29

## Jesus Appears to Thomas

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: God promised to give Abraham a child through Sarah when they were both old and advanced in years.

**P:** *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations just as God promised.*

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**P:** *Lord, let our belief in you who raised Jesus from the dead be credited to us as righteousness.*

L: Thomas refused to believe the testimony of others who saw the resurrected Christ before him.

**P:** *Lord Jesus, as you said to Thomas, we are blessed because we have not seen you and yet have believed.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

**#880**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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**