

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Seventh Sunday of Easter)

(Ascension Sunday & Mother's Day)

May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

[Acts 1:8]



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: With the disciples watching, Jesus was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

P: *As surely as Jesus ascended into heaven, He will return from heaven in the same way.*

L: While we await His return in glory, we must obey the mandate of Jesus to tell others about Him.

P: *Lord, help us to faithful witnesses to your Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

181

"Ye Servants of God"

*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.

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Lord, Speak to Me"

463

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

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.

~Joys and Concerns

~The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (We encourage you to share beyond your regular offering. The loose offering received today will go to The Good Samaritan Fund.

OFFERTORY

***Doxology** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" # 95
*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here
below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost. Amen."*

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

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:44-53

MESSAGE Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo
Roadblocks to The Victorious Easter Life – Failure to Witness

***CLOSING HYMN** # 593
"Here I Am, Lord"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation
Media Team: Phyllis Flowers & 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 12, 2024

(Seventh Sunday of Easter)

(Ascension Sunday & Mother's Day)

**...repentance and
forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed
in HIS
NAME
to all nations ...**
LUKE 24:47, NRSV

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: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo
Pastor's cell: 614-296-1081
Pastor's email: aaonabanjo@yahoo.com
Office email: sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com
Church: (740) 653-1196
Fax: (740) 653-6780
Website: 6thavegmc.org

Sunday, May 12, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

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

Saturday, May 18, 2024

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

Sunday, May 19, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2024

Birthdays

14 Alan Fick
14 Karen Trogus
16 Abby Tener
18 Sam Strawn
19 Emily Maiden
19 Ayden Thress
21 Ralph Bay
24 Shirley Mowery
25 Elizabeth Singer
25 Grace Singer
27 Ruth Bowland
29 Lura Goff

Anniversaries

19 Jerry & Donna Dickson
26 William & Doris Shauger
28 Ed & Sandy Gurile
28 John & Lou Ellen Reef
30 Pete & Kara Reed



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313
Donna Ballmer, 219

Luxe: Elaine Hill, Sheridan Wing, 108
Jim Robertson (Billie's brother), Sheridan Wing, 305
Jim Funkhouser, Eckert Wing, 207A

Main Street Terrace: Marilyn Lawson, 36

Primrose: Bill & Doris Shauger, 121

The Ridge: Fred Beougher, 140
Barb Cook, 103

Continued prayers are requested for:

Amanda Baker, Dave Bash, Sharon Byerly, Barbara Cook, John Cook, Ken Cook, Tommy Eblin, Walt Fawcett, Sharon Funkhouser, Clara Herrick, Cindy, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Mykel Henderly, Dixie Hoskinson, Joan Irwin, Elizabeth Jones, Jill Jubach, Eleanor & Bob Kane, Marilyn Lawson, Carl & Sharon Mathias, Jingur Nichols, Vicki Oatney, Beth Patton, Mark & Donna Shouldis, Rod Shouldis, Kathy Starner, Don Taylor, Carl David Tripp, Kara Whitmer-Beatty, Ralph Bay, Greg & Sandie White.

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!

Pastor's Bible Study: This holds on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. As we continue in the Season of Eastertide and approaching Pentecost, we will continue to explore some of the short Letters of the New Testament. We will continue Paul's 1st **Letter to Timothy** this week with **Chapters 3-4**. Please read the chapters for this week in advance. The Bible Study is open to all members of the community. In addition to the joy of worship and fellowship on Sundays, our time together during Bible Study is always a blessing. We also spend some time to pray at the end of the Bible Study for personal and general prayer requests. Please invite a neighbor or friend and thanks for making time to attend.

Lancaster Charge to Host Clergy Guest from Africa: We are excited at the opportunity to host Rev. Wilton Odongo, the President Pro-Tempore of the Kenya/Ethiopia Provisional Annual who will be visiting our Conference with two other delegates, the Rev. Bonface Wanyama and Deaconess Jacklyne Atotso Kezia. The event will be held at Sixth Avenue GMC on Monday May 20, 2024 starting at 6:30pm. This is a joint event by the Lancaster Charge (Zanesville Circuit) of the Allegheny West Provisional Conference of the GMC comprising Sixth Avenue GMC and Mt. Zion GMC. The guests will be itinerating through the Zanesville Circuit and other parts of our Conference from Friday May 17 through Wednesday May 29. Please check out the information Desk for the flyer but note the summary of activities for our Circuit below:

- **Sunday May 19th** from 5-7pm: Rolling Plains GMC, 3350 Moxahala Park Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701. Picnic on the lawn, Praise & Worship and Puppet Ministry.
- **Monday May 20th** from 6:00pm: Sixth Avenue GMC, 1004 W. Sixth Avenue, Lancaster, OH 43130 – Mission Night with Rev. Wilton Odongo as Guest Speaker. There will be refreshments.
- **Tuesday May 21st** from 6:00pm: Hocking Hills Church, 13580 Maysville Williams Rd, Logan, OH 43138 (Across from Logan-Hocking MS) – Praise & Worship and Dessert Bar.

Please keep the expected guests and their families, host churches and both Conferences in your prayers for a successful visit to the US to build new missional partnerships. Please contact Pastor 'Debo for additional information. Thanks!

Sixth Avenue GMC – Called Church Conference: This serves to inform all members and friends of Sixth Avenue GMC that the Administrative Council has requested that our Presiding Elder, Rev. John Alice call a Church Conference for Sunday, May 19, 2024. Please recall that at our Charge Conference held on Sunday October 22, 2023, members voted based on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council for the sale of the Church Parsonage at 951 Pratt Avenue, Lancaster, OH 43130. This meeting has been called for the express purpose of presenting a motion before members for our Finance Team to utilize part of the proceeds from the sale of the Parsonage to meet urgent recurrent expenses to ensure that we can continue to stay on mission. All professing members are eligible to attend and vote at the meeting. Under the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the GMC, it is provided as follows: "No real property on which a church building or parsonage is located shall be mortgaged or sold to provide for the current budget or operating expense of a local church without the approval of sixty percent of the members and the full awareness of and consultation with the presiding elder (district superintendent). We are in consultation with our Presiding Elder and look forward to having members vote to ratify the recommendation of the Administrative Council. Please be on the lookout for more information on this important meeting where other pressing matters related to next steps for our community of faith will be discussed. If you have additional questions, please contact Paul Jassogne, Administrative Council Chair, Dr. Gregg Witham, Lay Leader & Chair of Strategic Planning Team or Pastor 'Debo. Thanks!

Weekly Online Prayer Gathering: Please join our weekly online prayer gathering on Saturday mornings from **7:00-7:30am**. During the prayer huddle, we 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 in this special time of prayer. The gathering is open to members 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. Let us come and unite in prayer for a great move of God in our midst.

Strategic Planning Team – Request for Prayers: As part of measures to help our community of faith discern the preferred future that God has for us, a **Strategic Planning Team** has been set up and is headed by our Lay Leader, Dr. Gregg Witham. One of the plans we have is to hire a Church Coach to walk alongside our Church and Mt. Zion GMC to discern God's direction. Please keep this team and our church leadership in your prayers and be on the lookout for ways to support this important work. Contact Dr. Gregg Witham or Pastor 'Debo with any questions.

Pastor's Corner:

What Goes Up Must Come Down

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3, NIV)

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11, NIV)

The gathered disciples of Jesus witnessed a disappearing act almost two thousand years ago and the Church now celebrates this historic moment as Ascension Day. The Day is traditionally celebrated forty days after Easter (Resurrection Day), and it fell on Thursday May 9, 2024. The Sunday immediately after is celebrated as Ascension Sunday and the gathered faithful commemorate the return of Jesus to heaven in corporate worship.

Jesus took time to prepare His disciples for this time of transition but told them it was not going to be a permanent separation. Some of us reading this may have come across the phrase, ***"What goes up must come down."*** This phrase simply means that things that go up are expected to come down eventually because of gravity. Humans have been able to perform incredible feats in the field of space exploration and we have "conquered" the Moon since the first human landing in 1969. The distance that manned space shuttles or unmanned rockets travel is mind boggling and we know that things sometimes go awry when accidents happen either during the ascent or descent of the shuttles or rockets.

We also see many accounts in Scripture of angels coming down from heaven as special messengers from God. God Himself came down in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ to become one of us for a season. After completing His mission here on Earth, Jesus in the full view of His gathered disciples ascended to heaven where Scripture tells us He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty until He will return one day to judge the world. In the case of Jesus, what came down had to go back up.

In our second focus text from Acts 1, we read an important message from the two angels to the bewildered disciples: *"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."* The angels basically corroborated the assurance Jesus gave to His disciples that He would return to take them to be with Him someday when everything is ready. Sadly, there are some folks who do not believe in the existence of a literal heaven and hell. There are some who believe that if heaven exists, everyone is going to go to heaven anyway because God is too kind and loving to send anyone to hell if it truly exists. The first part about God loving everyone is correct, but the second part is not correct because God is not going to send anyone to hell. What we personally decide when it comes to our faith ultimately will determine where we end up in eternity.

What we believe matters and one of the underlying reasons we celebrate Ascension Day is to remind us of the unchanging truth of Scripture – that Jesus Christ has returned to heaven for a season and when the set time comes, He will return to make things right permanently. While we await His return, we are to proclaim the Good News in word and deed that Jesus is not just one of the ways to get to heaven but the **ONLY WAY**. His resurrection gives us this assurance. This Jesus will come back to earth just as He returned and as we look forward to His return, I encourage us to be like Stephen and the many great cloud of witnesses through the history of the Church and proclaim the mystery of our faith with confidence: **"CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN; CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN."** "Come, Lord Jesus."

Pastor 'Debo

Acts 1:1-11

New International Version

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Luke 24:44-53

New International Version

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (May 12, 2024 – May 18, 2024):

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

Sunday May 12

Scripture Reading Acts 1:1-11; Reflection Verses: Acts 1:7-8

“He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you witnessing to Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit where you are?

Monday May 13

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:12-26; Reflection Verses: Acts 1:21-22

“Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why is this important?

Tuesday May 14

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:44-53; Reflection Verses: Luke 24:50-51

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Do you believe that Jesus who ascended will return in glory? Why or why not?

Wednesday May 15

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Reflection Verse: 1 Thessalonians 3:16

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will boldly witness to the resurrection of Jesus as I await His return in glory.

Thursday May 16

Scripture Reading: John 13:31-14:7; Reflection Verse: John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you looking forward to Jesus coming back to take you to be with Him?

Friday May 17

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:1-11; Reflection Verse: Revelation 22:7

“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you keeping to the words of the prophecy found in Scripture?

Saturday May 18

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:12-21; Reflection Verses: Revelation 22:20-21

“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How does the promise of Jesus to return for His faithful followers give you confident assurance? Who can you share this blessed assurance with today?