

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

July 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

[Daniel 3:17-18]



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

P: Lord, because you are our refuge and our fortress, we will place our trust in you always.

L: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego defied the king's orders and refused to bow to the golden image.

P: Lord, give us the courage of our convictions not to serve man-made gods or idols.

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

452

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

*AFFIRMATION FROM ROMANS

- UMH 887

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! 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

Daniel 3:1-30

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

526

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 Foundation Dinner 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."

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church
1004 West Sixth Avenue
Lancaster, OH 43130

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

Congregational Hymn
"Cares Chorus"

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:1-8

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo
"Courage Driven by Our Convictions - The Hebrew Boys"

***CLOSING HYMN**

130
"God Will Take Care of You"

***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

July 21, 2024
(Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)



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, July 21, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

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

Saturday, July 27, 2024

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

Sunday, July 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2024

Birthdays

22 Larry Kilbarger

23 Emily Johnson

27 Jerry Peters

30 Lee Ann Whitmer

31 Betsy Dickson

Anniversaries

22 Chuck & Judy Wheatley



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313

Luxe: Elaine Hill, Sheridan Wing, 108

Jim Robertson (Billie's brother), Sheridan Hall, 306

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, Dorothy Dunn, Tommy Eblin, Walt Fawcett, Sharon Funkhouser, Ed Gurile, Clara Herrick, Cindy, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Mykel Henderly, Dixie Hoskinson, Joan Irwin, Billy Jeffery, 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, Kara Whitmer-Beatty, 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. We will start the study of the short Epistle (Letter) of James whose authorship according to church tradition has been ascribed to James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ. He was a leader of the Jerusalem church and the audience were Jewish Christians, most likely Jerusalem believers who had become scattered after the martyrdom of Stephen. In the short but powerful letter written perhaps before AD 50, James emphasizes the need for living the Christian life by embracing good deeds motivated by faith. We will cover **chapters 1-2** this week - please read the chapters 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 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.

AWAKEN – Lay Equipping Weekend – We are pleased to announce this special event by the Discipleship Team of the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference from Friday September 6 to Saturday September 7 at Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, 207 S. Court Street, Marysville, OH 43040. This event is designed for individuals and teams who want to grow in their spiritual leadership, and **Awaken** is also the first component of our Certified Lay Ministry training. The rest of the training will be completed through four daylong equipping sessions focused on congregational care, teaching the Bible, being Global Methodist, and missions/evangelism. The cost is \$50 and will include snacks, breakfast and lunch. At the September Awaken event, more information will be shared for the additional sessions for those interested. Please see the flyer in the Narthex for more details. If anyone feels led to attend this equipping event, please contact Pastor 'Debo to learn more. Thanks!

Grief Share Program: We are pleased to announce that we are once again planning to hold the Grief Share Program at our Church this Fall if we are able to get enough people to register. Grief Share is a nondenominational program offered by local churches. People of all faiths (and those who do not practice a faith) are welcome and will feel comfortable attending. The program includes practical information from the Christian Bible. Please be on the lookout for more information. Questions? Contact Pastor 'Debo.

Engagement of Pastoral Coach – Invitation to Participate: We appreciate those who have already signed up in response to the recent circular letter to all members and announcements during worship. As part our ongoing discernment of the preferred future that we believe God has been preparing our community of faith for, we have invited **Rev. Doug Lynn, a Certified Pastoral Church Coach and Counselor** to walk alongside us for a short season as a Church Coach. This information was also shared by the leadership at our Congregational Meeting held on Sunday **May 19, 2024**. Rev. Lynn was our Guest Preacher on Sunday May 5. The next steps as he carries out this important assignment is for him to meet with members of the congregation. Depending on the preference of the member, Rev. Lynn can be invited as a guest to your home or you can ask to meet with him at any of the Coffee Shops in Lancaster. You can also ask to meet with Rev. Lynn at the Church. The available days to meet with Rev. Lynn would be either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. This process involves both churches of the Lancaster Charge – Mt. Zion GMC and Sixth Avenue GMC. These meetings would be an opportunity for Rev. Lynn to *“Listen, Inquire, and Make Observations”* about the life of our particular community of faith. In his own words, Rev. Lynn wants to *“hear from those that are concerned about the life of their respective congregations before making any specific recommendations.”* It is anticipated that this process would be completed no later than July 2024 depending on when the requested meetings with members are finalized. Please contact Lee Ann at the Sixth Avenue Church Office to ask about when you can meet with Rev. Lynn.

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. Come and unite in prayer for a great move of God in our community of faith.

Pastor's Corner:

Courage in the Face of Intimidation – The Hebrew Men in Babylon (Daniel 3:16-18, NLT)

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

We learn a lot about courage with conviction from some Hebrew young men taken to exile in Babylon. Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego together with other youths were being groomed for service to the Babylonian king who had ordered a special diet for them from his own table so that they could grow strong. Daniel was, however, determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine from the king’s provision and asked for permission for him and his three friends not to eat the unacceptable foods (see **Daniel 1:1-8**).

When we display strong conviction based on God’s standard of righteous living, even though it may cost us in many ways, we should never compromise on what we believe. Because the four Hebrew men had determined not to dishonor God, they quickly rose to positions of prominence in the land of Babylon, and this created the perfect opportunity for their courage and conviction to be further tested. King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue that was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then commanded that all the prominent leaders through Babylon and its provinces should come for the dedication of the statue he had made. This set the stage for a major showdown.

While everyone bowed to the statue at the sound of the musical instruments, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow and this was reported to the king. Even though the king was enraged when he got the news, he ordered that they should be brought before him. When they arrived in their robes and turbans, the king questioned them regarding their refusal to bow to the golden image and gave them one more chance to capitulate. He threatened to have them thrown into the blazing furnace if they refused (see **Daniel 3:13-15**).

The Bible records in our focus text above one of the most powerful instances of courage with conviction when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told the king they would not bow to the graven image. The king became furious, and his face became distorted with rage, and he commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. He ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind the three Hebrew boys and throw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. And because the king in his anger had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in the furnace (see **Daniel 3:19-23**). For refusing to bow before the statue, the three Hebrew men were thrown into the roaring flames.

But the king suddenly noticed that instead of the three men thrown into the fiery furnace, there were now four people walking around in the fire unbound and unharmed *“and the fourth looked like a son of the gods.”* (see **Daniel 3:24-25**) The king then called them out of the fire and when they stepped out, they all saw that the fire had not touched them in any way – not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. **THEY DIDN’T EVEN SMELL OF SMOKE!** Because of the courage and conviction that the Hebrew men demonstrated in the face of danger, Nebuchadnezzar praised their God who sent an angel to rescue His servants who trusted in Him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. The king declared that there is no other god who can rescue like this (see **Daniel 3:28-29**). The Hebrew men were promoted to even greater positions of honor in the province of Babylon (see **Daniel 3:30**).

Our courageous actions can open the door for us to lift up the name of Jesus. Some biblical scholars have suggested that it was the preincarnate Christ who joined the three Hebrew men in the fire. I encourage you to read **Isaiah 43:1-2** for some insight on what God promises us in the face of danger. We are called to be change agents by being uncompromising. Where can you courageously make a difference for Jesus today?

Pastor 'Debo

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (July 21, 2024 – July 27, 2024):

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

Sunday July 21

Scripture Reading Daniel 1:1-21; Reflection Verse: Daniel 1:8

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When have you refused to join others in doing something wrong even when it was popular?

Monday July 22

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1-15; Reflection Verse: Daniel 3:12

“But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When have you shown courage of your conviction like the three Hebrew men?

Tuesday July 23

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:16-30; Reflection Verse: Daniel 3:25

“He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Can you recall when you felt God’s peaceful presence with you during a storm?

Wednesday July 24

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:16-31; Reflection Verses: Matthew 10:19-20

“But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why is taking Jesus at His words helpful in our times of trouble and persecution? When have you experienced the help of the Holy Spirit?

Thursday July 25

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:32-42; Reflection Verses: Matthew 10:32-33

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: In what ways can we acknowledge Jesus before others? Why is it important not to disown Jesus even in difficult times?

Friday July 26

Scripture Reading: John 16:1-15; Reflection Verses: John 16:1-2

“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: With the help of the Spirit, I will remain steadfast to the very end.

Saturday July 27

Scripture Reading: John 16:16-33; Reflection Verse: John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Do you have peace in Jesus Christ? How does this give you blessed assurance?

Daniel 3

New International Version

The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,^[a] and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. **2** He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. **3** So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: **5** As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. **6** Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 At this time some astrologers^[b] came forward and denounced the Jews. **9** They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! **10** Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, **11** and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. **12** But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your

Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[c] from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

New International Version

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.