

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

August 11, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" [Esther 4:14]*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

P: *We will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

L: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

P: *Lord, even when we are in distress, we will trust in your name to protect us and give us victory.*

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 117

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

## \*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

Esther 4:1-17

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

"My Hope Is Built "

# 368

## 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."*

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

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August 11, 2024  
(Twelfth 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](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)

**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**

Romans 8:31-39

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

**"Courage Driven by Our Convictions – Queen Esther"**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

# 700

"Abide with Me"

**\*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

**Sunday, August 11, 2024**

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

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

**Saturday, August 17, 2024**

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

**Sunday, August 18, 2024**

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

**FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2024**

**Birthdays**

14 Jen Lentz

14 Charletta Shahan

14 Curtis Witham

16 Kara Reed

17 Kyle Trogus

17 Pastor 'Debo Onabanjo

**Anniversaries**

13 Jeff & Vivian Shumaker



**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 continue our study of the First Epistle (Letter) of Peter this week. The authorship is ascribed to "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ," and it is directed to "God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia," (see **1 Peter 1:1**). Peter was the foremost apostle of Jesus Christ and was an acknowledged leader of the Jerusalem church and the audience were Jewish Christians in exile. Church tradition tells us that Peter himself was martyred during Nero's persecution of Christians. In the short but powerful letter written about AD 60-64, Peter gives believers instructions on holy living even in the face of suffering and persecution. We will cover **chapters 3-4** 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.

**New School Year/Backpacks Blessing:** As students prepare to return to school later this month, please join us for our Annual New School Year/Backpacks Blessing next **Sunday, August 18** during our worship service. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship to receive a special blessing for the coming school year. We will also pray for all school administrators, employees, parents and home school parents as they prepare for another year of mentoring our young people. Please invite your family and friends to bring their children for this special time.

**Summer Message Series:** We continue our **Summer Message Series, "Courage Driven by Our Convictions"** as we explore the biblical story of heroism by **Queen Esther** today. In this Message Series, we are talking a deeper dive into the lives of courageous men and women, ordinary characters whose stories are captured in the Bible who through the courage of their convictions were used by God to do supernatural exploits. Courage borne out of our convictions is the confidence to act in accordance with one's beliefs. It is also the determination to do what we believe is right regardless of whether others approve or agree with us. The Message Series which started on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> will run through Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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!

**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.

**Global Methodist Church (GMC) Convening Conference – 40 Day Prayer Guide Now Available:** We are excited that the Convening General Conference will hold next month, September 20-26 in San Jose, Costa Rica. A lot of preparation is being made for a successful time of holy conferencing for the approximately 350 delegates that will represent the Provisional Annual Conferences and Districts from all across the world. The Convening Conference Prayer Committee has prepared a 40 Day Prayer Guide for every Global Methodist to use from Wednesday August 7 to Sunday September 15. Limited copies of the 40 Day Prayer Guide are available for those interested. Please pick up your copy from the Information Stand in the Narthex. We encourage everyone to please take the time to be engaged in this time of prayer (and fasting after consultation with your medical care team) for a successful gathering. If you have any questions about the Convening General Conference, please contact Pastor 'Debo who is one of the elected delegates that will be representing the Allegheny West Provision Annual Conference at the global gathering. Thanks!

## Pastor's Corner:

### Courage In The Face of Danger – Queen Esther Takes a Risk (Esther 4:15-16, NIV)

*"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."*

The Book of Esther is an interesting historical book that gives us some insight into the lives of the Jews in exile. For those familiar with the Book, the most interesting thing you would notice is that the name of God is not mentioned anywhere in the Book but that does not mean that God is absent in the Book. Even though the Jews who were chosen by God to represent Him to the world had been sent into exile as punishment for their sins, God did not abandon them. In a strange twist of events, a young Jewish woman named Hadassah (who was also known as Esther), cousin of Mordecai the Jew became the queen after king Xerxes removed the former queen Vashti for refusing to obey his request to come and appear before him and his guests. While having a weeklong feast for his nobles and high officials, the king had sent a message to Queen Vashti to come and display her beauty before the men gathered for the party. We are not really sure how the king wanted the queen to appear so others could gaze at her beauty, but the queen refused to appear before the king. Highly offended, the king consulted his advisers and deposed the queen. Arrangements were made to find another queen for the king.

To cut the long story short, out of all the beautiful ladies that were brought to the king's harem, Esther pleased the king, and she was chosen as the new Queen. However, a wicked royal adviser known as Haman had a beef with the Jews. The root of the hatred of Haman for the Jews could be traced to the enmity between two people groups. Haman's ancestor's, the Amalekites were ancient enemies of the Jews and because Mordecai, Esther's uncle who had adopted her was a Jew who refused to bow down to Haman like others did, Haman planned to destroy all the Jews throughout the empire of king Xerxes. Haman was able to convince the king to approve his wicked plan to destroy all the Jews and this provides the setting for our focus text for today.

Mordecai was counting on Esther to intervene. Esther, even though queen could not just appear before the king without being invited and she told Mordecai that she had not been invited to see the king for thirty days. So much for being the queen. It was in response to Esther's initial refusal to go before the king, her husband uninvited that Mordecai sent the following message to queen Esther: *"Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"* (**Esther 4:13-14**)

Queen Esther responded in the words of our focus text above. The lesson for us from this story is that we cannot afford to keep quiet in the face of evil or injustice being experienced by others, especially fellow believers. It does not matter whether those facing persecution either here in the US or all over the world are known to us or not. Because they are part of the Body of Christ, we are called to share in their sufferings and their pain (see **Galatians 6:2**).

To do what on the surface could have resulted in her death, Esther asked for Mordecai and all the other Jews in Susa, the capital city to join her in seeking help from God through fasting. In the Old Testament, fasting was usually a way for the Jews to seek the Lord's face and help in difficult times. Esther received favor from the earthly king because she had taken her case before the unseen but ever-present heavenly King of kings and Lord of lords.

We can do the same today by humbling ourselves in prayer and fasting as we seek the Lord's help. God has promised to hear us when we pray and seek His help in our times of trouble. It is however important that we develop close intimacy with God in times of peace so that when conflicts and persecution arise, we can approach Him knowing that He deeply loves and cares for us.

**Pastor 'Debo**

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (August 11, 2024 – August 17, 2024):

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

### Sunday August 11

Scripture Reading Esther 1:1-22; Reflection Verse: Esther 1:14

“Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times and were closest to the king—Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memukan, the seven nobles of Persia and Media who had special access to the king and were highest in the kingdom.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who do you consult when it comes to making important decisions?

### Monday August 12

Scripture Reading Esther 2:1-11; Reflection Verses: Esther 2:10-11

“Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why was it important for Esther to follow the counsel of her uncle Mordecai? Who can benefit from a mentoring relationship with you?

### Tuesday August 13

Scripture Reading Esther 2:12-23; Reflection Verses: Esther 2:21-22

“During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When have you taken the risk of exposing a sinister plan or action by others?

### Wednesday August 14

Scripture Reading: Esther 3:1-15; Reflection Verse: Esther 3:2

“All the royal officials at the king’s gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why do you think Mordecai refused to kneel or pay honor to Haman?

### Thursday August 15

Scripture Reading: Esther 4:1-17; Reflection Verse: Esther 4:16

“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: When have you done the right thing at great personal risk? What was the outcome?

### Friday August 16

Scripture Reading: Esther 5:1-14; Reflection Verse: Esther 5:5

“Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is the Lord asking you to do today to honor His holy name? Will you obey?

### Saturday August 17

Scripture Reading: Esther 6:1-14; Reflection Verse: Esther 6:11

“So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What can we learn from the turn of events in this chapter? Do you trust God’s plan?

## **Esther 4:1-17**

### **Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help**

**4** When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. <sup>2</sup> But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. <sup>3</sup> In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup> Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

<sup>6</sup> So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

<sup>9</sup> Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, <sup>11</sup> "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

<sup>12</sup> When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and

deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

<sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

## **Romans 8:31-39**

### **More Than Conquerors**

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[b]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.