

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

August 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:8-9]

†

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Like the Israelites of old, we are challenged to throw away other gods, fear and serve God with all faithfulness.

P: *Loving God, we declare like Joshua: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

L: In our own strength, we are not able to serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

P: *Spirit of truth, grant us grace to make God's word a lamp for our feet and a light on our path.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

600

"Wonderful Words of Life"

*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

Joshua 24:14-28

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

420

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 Evangelism 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."



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Allegheny West

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 "Living for Jesus" TFWS 2149
(Congregation Singing)

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Timothy 3:10-17

MESSAGE Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo
"Courage Driven by Our Convictions – Joshua Son of Nun"

***CLOSING HYMN** # 664
"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

***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

August 25, 2024
(Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost)



All scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness...

2 Timothy 3:16, 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, August 25, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

5:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

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

12:00 p.m. SPPRC Meeting (Parlor)

Thursday, August 29, 2024

5:30 p.m. Evangelism Team meeting

Saturday, August 31, 2024

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

3:30 p.m. Foundation Dinners

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2024

Birthdays

25 Lundy Drake

26 Heather Pool

26 Rebeka Jean Raymond

28 Marjorie Farkas

29 Brittany Singer

30 Betty Bright

31 Angela Persinger



FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

Birthdays

3 Sharon Mathias

4 Orion Thress

8 Art Dickson

9 Daniel Onabanjo

11 Dottie Raymond

15 Nicole Layne

16 Paul Jassogne

17 Bruce Goff

25 Autumn Brunney

25 Tonya Rowland

26 Mark Brunney

26 Clara Herrick

27 Donna Dickson

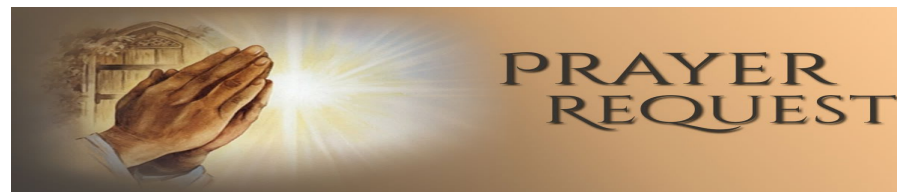
27 Charles Shafer

28 Kathy Shafer

Anniversaries



26 Paul & Dotty Jassogne



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 First Epistle (Letter) of John this week. The authorship is ascribed to John, the disciple "whom Jesus loved" who also wrote the Gospel of John named after him. The original recipients of the letter were the believers in western Asian Minor, now part of modern Turkey and John wrote to assure these believers of the certainty of their faith and to also refute heretical doctrines teaching that Jesus was not fully human and fully divine. John wrote to his readers to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (see **1 John 4:1**). John was part of the inner circle of apostles/disciples along with Peter and James his older brother. The warnings in the letter as with all warnings in Scripture continue to be relevant for us as we contend for the faith. We will do well to pay careful attention to his warnings. We will cover **chapters 1-3** this week - please read the chapters in advance. This 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.

Summer Message Series: We continue our **Summer Message Series, "Courage Driven by Our Convictions"** as we explore the biblical story of courageous leadership displayed by Joshua the son of Nun who led the biblical nation of Israel into the Promised Land after the death of Moses the servant of God. In this Message Series, we are talking a deeper dive into the lives of some of the courageous men and women, ordinary human characters like us 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. This Message Series which started on Sunday July 14th will run through Sunday September 1st.

AWAKEN – Lay Equipping Weekend – You can still register for 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. If anyone feels led to attend this equipping event, please contact Pastor 'Debo to learn more. Thanks!

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!

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.

Pastor's Corner:

Courageous Leadership Demands Obedience to Scripture – Joshua's Example

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15)

After the death of Moses, God repeatedly told Joshua when he became the leader of the young Israelite nation to be strong and very courageous and not to be afraid. God told Joshua: *"This is my command – be strong and courageous!" Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*" (**Joshua 1:9**)

God impressed on Joshua the importance of living by the Word in order to be able to lead the people in the right path. God also said to Joshua: *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."* (**Joshua 1:7-8**).

Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land and were able to subdue nations stronger than them because the Lord was with them. Joshua, despite the enormity of the task before him trusted in the Lord and was able to lead the Israelites successfully.

Towards the end of his life, Joshua challenged the people to jettison other gods and hold firmly to the Lord alone. He challenged them because he realized that the people were wavering in their convictions. Joshua was however willing to take a stand alone based on his personal convictions and said to the people: *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* (**Joshua 24:15**) Motivated by Joshua, the people also responded that they will serve the Lord but Joshua warned them that God is a holy and jealous God who will hold them accountable if they renege on their promise to serve Him.

Joshua's courageous conviction challenged the people he led to examine themselves and to also make a commitment to serve the Lord. In his hymn, "I and My House will serve the Lord" based on **Joshua 24:15**, Charles Wesley the brother of John Wesley shared with us how the head of a family who wants to fulfill his God given purpose to lead his family right can truly live out that commitment. There are four principles that contemporary believers can learn from the hymn regardless of the role they are called to play at home or in society:

- **Be Obedient to God's Word** – The first test of our declaration to want to serve the one true God will be evidenced by our obedience to His Word.
- **Set a Fair Example for Others** – our professions and actions must match. We must be people of integrity. There must be no conflict in our private and public lives.
- **Be A Model Follower of God** – we must like Apostle Paul be able to ask others to imitate us as we also imitate Jesus Christ.
- **Tell Others About God's Grace** – we must not only embrace the virtues that points to Jesus our perfect exemplar, but we must also intentionally tell others about the grace of God that invites everyone into a relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

Just as God set up Joshua and the Israelites up to succeed, I have absolutely no doubt that God has set us up for success by giving the inspired writings in the Bible to be a roadmap for us. Just as we can get lost if we do not follow the guidance of our navigational guide, be it a printed map or a modern GPS based device, any Christian or professing follower of Jesus that fails to take the time to understand what is required of Christian disciples will find the going very rough, frustrating and disastrous.

Jesus reminds us in **John 13:17**: *"Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."* We are going to be blessed not because we know stories of the Bible or those of Jesus and His teaching but living courageously in faithful obedience to the commandments in Scripture.

Pastor 'Debo

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (August 25, 2024 – August 31, 2024):

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

Sunday August 25

Scripture Reading Joshua 1:1-18; Reflection Verses: Joshua 1:7-8

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where do you need to be strong and courageous as you follow God’s Word?

Monday August 26

Scripture Reading Joshua 2:1-11; Reflection Verse: Joshua 2:11

“When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How can knowing that God is on your side help you to face the future unafraid?

Tuesday August 27

Scripture Reading Joshua 2:12-24; Reflection Verses: Joshua 2:24

“They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where do you need to have confidence in what the Lord can do on your behalf?

Wednesday August 28

Scripture Reading Joshua 3:1-17; Reflection Verses: Joshua 3:14-16

“So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where do you need to take a step of faith so you may experience the miraculous power of the Lord in this chapter as the Israelites did?

Thursday August 29

Scripture Reading: Joshua 4:1-24; Reflection Verse: Joshua 4:23

“For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How does God’s faithfulness in the past give you confidence in Him for the future?

Friday August 30

Scripture Reading: Joshua 5:1-15; Reflection Verse: Joshua 5:11

“The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where are you trusting the Lord for a new thing or blessing?

Saturday August 31

Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:1-28; Reflection Verse: Joshua 24:15

“..... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Like Joshua, I will lead my household to fear and serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:14-28

¹⁴ "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷ It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

²¹ But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD."

²² Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."

"Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.

²³ "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him."

²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. ²⁶ And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD.

²⁷ "See!" he said to all the people. "This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God."

²⁸ Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

A Final Charge to Timothy

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.