

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Epiphany Sunday)

January 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19)*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: At the dawn of a New Year, we follow in the footsteps of the Magi seeking the Christ Child.

**P:** *Thank you Lord for your promise that those who seek you with all their heart will find you.*

L: The Magi followed the star and went to Herod's palace seeking the One who has been born King of the Jews.

**P:** *In this New Year, Spirit divine direct our steps to seek Jesus where He may be found.*

L: The Psalmist describes God's Word as a lamp for our feet and a light on our path.

**P:** *Loving God, in this New Year, help us not to stray from your precepts and your statutes.*

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 245

"The First Noel"

## \*The Nicene Creed

# 880

## \*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:14-21

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

"We Three Kings"

# 254

## 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

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

## MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**Week # 1 of Christian To The Core - The Core**

COVENANT RENEWAL (with Hymn # 606 - see bulletin insert)

## HOLY COMMUNION (see bulletin insert or on screen)

**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

# 188

"Christ Is the World's Light"

## \*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

## Week At A Glance:

### Sunday, January 5, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

### Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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

### Saturday, January 11, 2025

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

## CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY 2025

### Birthdays

1 Pat Disbennet  
2 Fred Beougher  
10 Tae'lyn Wallis  
12 Michael Stalder  
13 Phyllis Flowers  
18 Carol Davis  
19 Krista Spangler  
25 Tim Schaffer  
25 Doris Shauger  
25 Lou Ellen Reef  
26 Sonya Chaffin  
26 Howard Eblin  
27 Angela Trogus  
30 Sharon Funkhouser

### Anniversaries

27 Carl and Sharon Mathias

### MINISTRY TEAM/STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation

Media Team: Jessica Thomas, Daniel Onabanjo & Paul Jassogne

Media Team (Live Streaming): Lee Ann Whitmer

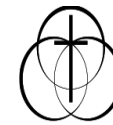
Church Secretary: Lee Ann Whitmer

Custodian: Jeff Byerly

Pianist: Jackie Howard

Liturgist: Greg Howard

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
Allegheny West

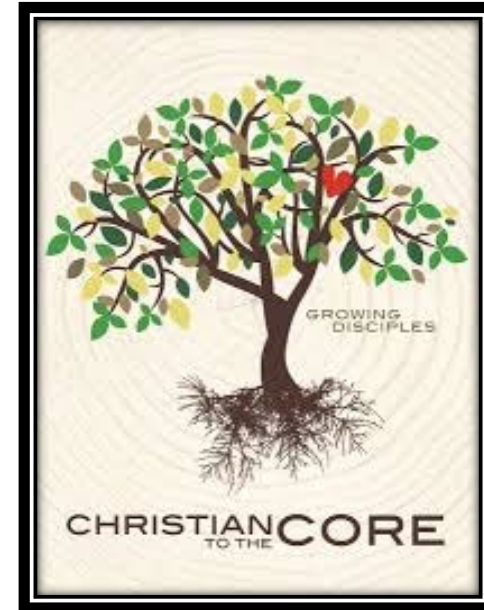
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

January 5, 2025

(Epiphany Sunday)



### Week # 1: The Core

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)



**Bennington Glen:** Jane Patterson

**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, Joan Irwin, 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.

Thank  
you 

We would like to thank members of the Church for their expression of love through the Special Christmas Staff offering, greeting cards, cookies and other gifts. May God richly bless and keep you!

**Pastor 'Debo, Lee Ann, Jackie, and Jeff.**

**New Year Message Series – Christian To The Core:** As we begin this New Year, we want to be more than ever committed to living faithfully into the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20**. We are excited to share that we will be starting this 12 week Series that will take us through the Eight Core Values that have been identified after detailed research and prayerful discernment as foundational to living a life of faith and obedience to the Great Commission mandate of Jesus and His instruction to us to be witnesses recorded in **Acts 1:8**. The **Christian To The Core Curriculum** was developed by the **International Leadership Institute (ILI)** to equip leaders and promote the spread of the gospel. This aligns with the mission of the **Global Methodist Church (GMC)** to make disciples of Jesus and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. As the ILI global team of leaders met, they focused on a very important question: **What is the single most important factor impacting the acceleration of the spread of the Gospel?** The answer to the question was **LEADERSHIP** empowered by the Holy Spirit. In order for us to be able to faithfully and confidently obey the Great Commission, we are going to help one understand the foundation principles that will be taught during this Message Series.

Through fervent prayer, in-depth discussions, and two years of research, the ILI team identified the answer to the development of leadership values. They discerned that the best Christian leaders live by Eight Core Values that affect who they are and everything they do. The values are: **Intimacy with God - Passion for the Harvest - Visionary Leadership - Culturally Relevant Evangelism - Multiplication of Leaders - Family Priority - Faithful Stewardship and Integrity**. Through the partnership between the ILI and the GMC, we will all have access to the rich materials that will help us stay connected and develop these critical leadership values. The Message Series will start on **Sunday January 5, 2025**, and run through **Sunday March 26, 2025**. The First Session in the Message Series will cover “**The Core**” and we will touch on the “Time-Tested Core Values for Christian Living” for those who want to be disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ. Because we know that nothing happens without prayer, we request all members to please be in prayer that this Message Series will build on the crucial work that has been done in the past and launch us into a new season of impactful ministry and commitment to reaching others with the gospel. Please see Pastor ‘Debo for more details.

**Covenant Renewal Service on January 5, 2025:** At the start of a New Year, Methodists in the tradition started by Rev. John Wesley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century come together to renew their covenant by participating in a Covenant Renewal Service. We are glad that you have made out time to join us today, January 5, 2025 which is Epiphany Sunday for this important service.

**Pastor’s Bible Study:** We invite you to please mark your calendar for our weekly time of study on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Even though we have always studied a Book of the Bible during our time together, we are going to be exploring the Christian to the Core as part of our weekly gathering which will help us to reinforce the messages from our worship time on Sundays. **We will however begin the study of the Book of Isaiah as part of our journey at the beginning of this year. More details will be discussed at our first gathering fir this year on Wednesday January 8, 2025.** 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.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** When a **Level 2** or higher snow emergency is issued for the City of Lancaster or Fairfield County in general, all church events will be cancelled. This includes worship services, meetings, and other activities. Please check your local TV listings for more information (ABC 6 & 10TV).



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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (January 5, 2025 – January 11, 2025):

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

### Sunday January 5 (Epiphany Sunday)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12; Reflection Verse: Matthew 2:12

“And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What new route are you sensing God’s Spirit leading you to travel this New Year?

### Monday January 6

Scripture Reading: Numbers 22:1-20; Reflection Verses: Numbers 22:12-13

“But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed.” The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak’s officials, “Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What lessons do we learn about Balaam’s doublemindedness? How can we completely trust in the Lord this New Year for guidance and direction? (see **Proverbs 3:5-6** for more insight)

### Tuesday January 7

Scripture Reading: Numbers 22:21-35; Reflection Verse: Numbers 22:31

“Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Where do you need the Lord to open your eyes in this New Year? Are you ready?

### Wednesday January 8

Scripture Reading Numbers 24:15-19; Reflection Verse: Numbers 24:17

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is the significance of the star mentioned by Balaam in this prophetic message?

### Thursday January 9

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34; Reflection Verses: Matthew 6:33-34

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What are you worried about regarding tomorrow? Do you take Jesus at His Word?

### Friday January 10

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:13-29; Reflection Verses: Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Have you found the narrow road that leads to life? How is your journey on this road?

### Saturday January 11

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Reflection Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:12

“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How does this passage speak to you? What do you think about the examples shared?

## Isaiah 43:14-21

### God's Mercy and Israel's Unfaithfulness

<sup>14</sup> This is what the LORD says—

your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

“For your sake I will send to Babylon

and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,<sup>[a]</sup>

in the ships in which they took pride.

<sup>15</sup> I am the LORD, your Holy One,

Israel's Creator, your King.”

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea,

a path through the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> who drew out the chariots and horses,

the army and reinforcements together,

and they lay there, never to rise again,

extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

<sup>18</sup> “Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

<sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>20</sup> The wild animals honor me,

the jackals and the owls,

because I provide water in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland,

to give drink to my people, my chosen,

<sup>21</sup> the people I formed for myself

that they may proclaim my praise.

## Matthew 2:1-12

### The Magi Visit the Messiah

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L: At the dawn of a New Year, we follow in the footsteps of the Magi seeking the Christ Child.**

*P: Thank you Lord for your promise that those who seek you with all their heart will find you.*

**L: The Magi followed the star and went to Herod's palace seeking the One who has been born King of the Jews.**

*P: In this New Year, Spirit divine direct our steps to seek Jesus where He may be found.*

**L: The Psalmist describes God's Word as a lamp for our feet and a light on our path.**

*P: Loving God, in this New Year, help us not to stray from your precepts and your statutes.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

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.

### **The Breakthrough Prayer**

**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.**

## MESSAGE NOTES – Epiphany Sunday (1/5/2025)

### Christian To The Core – Week # 1: The Core (Isaiah 43:14-21 & Matthew 2:1-12)

*“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” [Matthew 2:1-2]*

The wise men or Magi demonstrate for us what our purpose should be – we must be constantly seek to be in the presence of Jesus so that we may worship Him.

When we say something or someone is **ROTTEN TO THE CORE**, it means that thing or person is thoroughly bad and there is nothing good or beneficial in them.

Becoming a **CHRISTIAN TO THE CORE** is not something that happens by accident but takes intentional strategic steps to embrace the transformation that only the Spirit can bring about in our lives.

What is the single most important factor impacting the acceleration of the spread of the Gospel? The answer to the question by International Leadership Institute (ILI) research and study of the life of great Christian leaders was **LEADERSHIP** empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### What are the qualities of Christian leaders who are changing history?

The best Christian leaders live by Eight Core Values that affect who they are and everything they do. The values are:

**Intimacy with God - Passion for the Harvest - Visionary Leadership - Culturally Relevant Evangelism - Multiplication of Leaders – Family Priority - Faithful Stewardship – Integrity.**

THE EIGHT CORE VALUES are essential for effective Christian leadership and discipleship.

**INTIMACY WITH GOD** - God looks for consecrated men and women who lead from an intimate relationship with God.

**PASSION FOR THE HARVEST** - God looks for men and women who share a passion for those without Christ.

**VISIONARY LEADERSHIP** - God looks for men and women who are biblically committed to cast vision, set goals, mobilize the Body of Christ, and overcome obstacles in order to reach the nations for Christ.

**CULTURALLY RELEVANT EVANGELISM** - God looks for men and women who live and teach the Gospel with cultural relevance, sensitivity, and power, so that the eternal truth of the Gospel will be understood and received in every culture of the world.

**MULTIPLICATION OF LEADERS** - God looks for men and women who disciple, coach, and mentor other leaders who in turn become leaders of leaders who effectively train others.

**FAMILY PRIORITY** - God looks for men and women who are convinced that the family is God’s building block for society and who make their families a priority in developing leaders.

**FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP** - God looks for men and women who are faithful stewards of finances, time, and spiritual gifts in their personal lives and leadership with the result that people are reached with the Gospel.

**INTEGRITY** - God looks for men and women of integrity who live holy lives and who are accountable to God and to the Body of Christ.

**Rank each statement below from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).**

- .I have an intimate relationship with God.
- .I am compelled by Christ’s passion for the lost to reach people who are without Christ.
- .I discovered God’s purpose for my life, and I am living out that purpose.
- .I share God’s love with people in the hope that they will become followers of Jesus.
- .I am intentionally investing time to develop other leaders to bring the Kingdom of God on earth.
- .My family is a priority in my life and leadership.
- .I am a faithful steward of the time, money, and spiritual gifts that God has given me.
- .I am committed to integrity in every area of my life and in all circumstances.

## NEW YEAR COVENANT RENEWAL

### Hymn #606 "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine"

(Words: Charles Wesley)

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,  
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;  
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;  
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.
2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;  
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.  
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;  
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us  
now.
3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,  
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;  
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,  
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!

### OPENING PRAYER (Congregation)

O God, Searcher of all our hearts,  
you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own.  
As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace,  
and to enter anew into covenant with you,  
reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.  
Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being,  
and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus  
Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

#### INVITATION (Pastor)

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.  
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.  
Christ has many services to be done.  
Some are more easy and honorable,

others are more difficult and disgraceful.

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,  
others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.  
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ  
except by denying ourselves.

It is necessary, therefore,  
that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.  
He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.

Christ will have no servants except by consent;  
Christ will not accept anything except full consent  
to all that he requires.

Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

**Let us now affirm our readiness of our own freewill to follow  
the way of Christ as we renew our covenant:**

### Wesley Covenant Prayer (Congregation)

I am no longer my own – but yours  
Put me to what you will – rank me with whom you will  
Put me to doing – put me to suffering  
Let me be employed for you – or laid aside for you  
Exalted for you – or brought low for you  
Let me be full – let me be empty  
Let me have all things – let me have nothing  
I freely and heartily yield all things - to your pleasure and  
disposal  
Glorious and blessed God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – you  
are mine and I am yours  
So be it – and may the covenant I have made on earth be  
ratified in heaven. Amen