

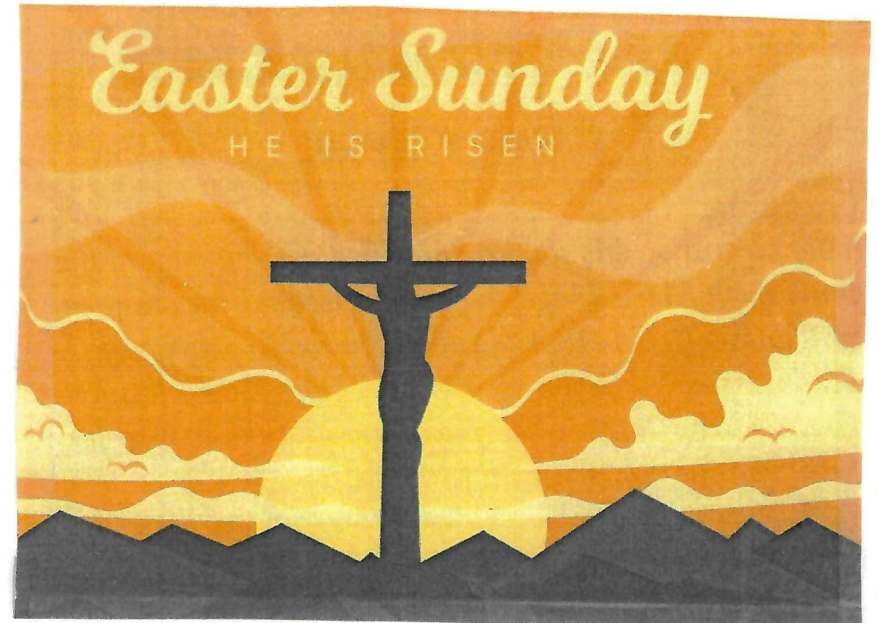
Benediction

P: The tomb is empty, Christ has risen.

*As you journey in faith, may your life be full,
your love be abundant, and your hope be eternal.*

*Live this day and always for Christ Jesus because the
Risen Christ lives in you.*

All: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!.



**GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

APRIL 5, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor

Bev Slagle – Music Coordinator

Val Huffman - Bell Choir Director

April Head Usher – Jeff Erdie

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen

Haeden and Kenslie Futton

Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

EASTER SURPRISE

Order of Worship

Greeting

This morning, this joyous morning, we journey to the tomb with Mary Magdalene and discover the stone is rolled away. An empty grave remains to prove my Savior lives. With joy we discover that Christ Jesus has risen. Come, let us offer praise and thanks to God for fulfilling the resurrection promise.

Call to Worship

P: Christ has risen!

All: Christ has risen indeed. Faith, hope, and joy are alive.

P: A new age is dawning and death cannot harm us.

All: God of all creation we praise you.

P: God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered in this garden to worship you and celebrate your victory.

Hymn "Easter People Raise Your Voices" UMH 304

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 7:9-14

9 "As I looked, thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated and the books were opened.

11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing

fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 13 "In my vision at night I looked and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

New Testament Reading

John 20:1-18

Meditation

Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection"

UMH 303

Closing Prayer (Unison)

Lord, we have so much to be thankful for this Easter morning. In the chill of the morning air, we do feel the warm blessing of your Spirit. We can rejoice this day because our tendency toward disbelief is overcome by our capacity for faith. We are truly amazed that a cross of crucifixion has been transformed into symbol of new life, a symbol of eternal life.

We are thankful that you come to greet us in a garden of hope, trust, and faith. We thank you that a dark and empty tomb has emerged into a garden of light and living. In all our days we shall live for Christ, the resurrected and risen Savior. Amen.

EASTER FLOWERS- 2026

IN HONOR OF GATEWAY UMC
FROM SKIP GLASSCOCK

IN MEMORY OF BECKY PHILLIPS
FROM BUTCH PHILLIPS