

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them, 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Sermon

"Waiting on the Holy Spirit"

Rev. Nici Masters

Hymn

"There's a Spirit in the Air" v 1,4,6

UMH 192

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

"Dreamers and Doubters"

arr. McDonald

Resounding Joy

Doxology

UMH 94

Offertory Prayer

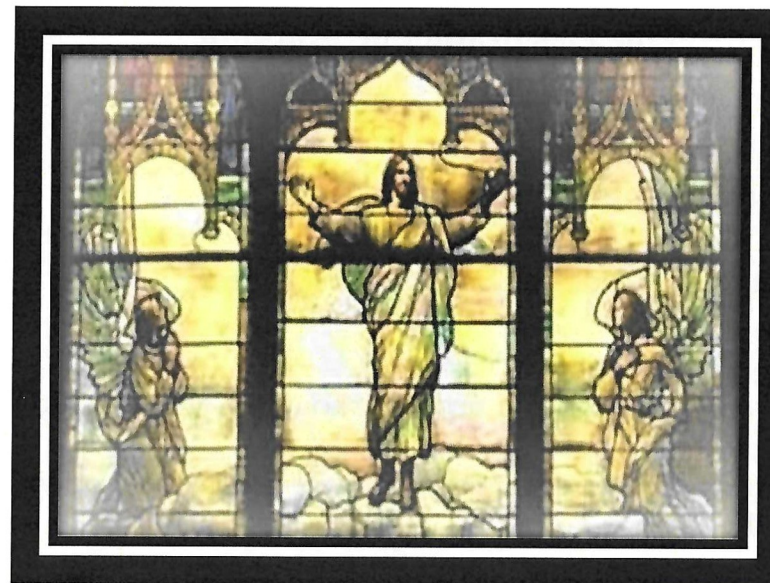
Passing the Peace

Hymn

"Soon and Very Soon"

UMH 706

Benediction



**GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

MAY 17, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor
Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle
Bell Choir Director – Val Huffman
May Head Usher – David Nuzum

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen
Haeden and Kenslie Futton
Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

Order of Worship

Announcements

Prelude "God Give Us Christian Homes"

***Call to Worship**

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

All: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.

L: God chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

L: Sing praises to our ruler, sing praises!

All: For God is the ruler of all the earth; let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us, though you are the creator of the universe, you chose to dwell among us. In human flesh you made yourself known to us and revealed your great love. We praise you, gracious God, for your love revealed in Christ Jesus. We give thanks for your continued presence in our daily lives, for you are always guiding our hearts toward you. As we follow, may others also see your love. AMEN.

Hymn "Spirit Song" UMH 347

Children's Chat Katie Musgrave

Scripture Reading

Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. 2 For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. 3 He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. 4 He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. 5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets. 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. 7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. 9 The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

Sermon Scripture

Acts 1: 1-11

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the time or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

PRAYER REQUESTS

Faye Dodd, Rusty Freeland, Mary Beth Furbee, Carol Hall, Ezra Hall, Lisa Kerns, Jeff Kerns
Linda Lomicka, Charlotte Merriman, Sally Morrison, Dan Ross, Madalee Wilson

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20 – Snack Pack Prep – 1pm - Asbury

May 23 – GUMM

May 24 – Prayer Team Meeting

May 25 – Memorial Day – Office Closed

MAY ATTENDANCE

May 3 – 75

May 10 – 100

May 17 –

May 24 -

May 31 -

Gateway Contact Information

Church Office Phone – 304-363-7847

Pastor's Phone – 219-242-4678

Pastor's email – nicimasters@yahoo.com

Church E-mail – gatewayumc@gmail.com

Website – gatewayumc-wv.org

YouTube Link – <https://youtube.com@gatewayumc.wv>

Loose Change/Food Pantry Collection

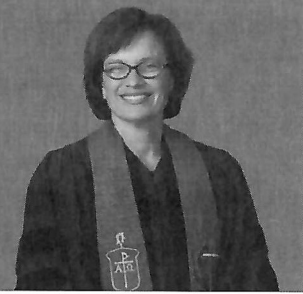
Loose change (coins only) – Honey Bag

Items for April – pancake mix/syrup

Items for May – peanut butter/jelly

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT

 West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

The West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church is experiencing God's renewal. Foundational to this renewal is our commitment to being **rooted in love** for God and others.

One way to move from words to action is through the 2026 Annual Conference offering, which centers on two initiatives that are truly rooted in love. Both of them develop leaders who share loveGod's love with others.

The newly established Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines seeks to strengthen theological education outside the United States, where access to advanced theological training remains limited. While 71% of clergy in the United States hold a master's degree in theology, fewer than 5% of clergy outside the U.S. have similar preparation. Through this effort, the church hopes to equip 500 additional graduates each year for faithful leadership and ministry.

At Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center, young people encounter the love of Christ, discover belonging, and begin forming the kinds of relationships and faith foundations that last a lifetime. Supporting camp scholarships is one more way we invest in the next generation of disciples and leaders for the Church.

I love the witness of pairing these two ministries together, one reaching across the globe to strengthen theological education and one nurturing faith formation right here in West Virginia. Together, they remind us that our calling to be rooted in love is both local and global.

I invite every local church to participate in this year's offering which will have a multiplied impact in West Virginia and across the world. We ask that you consider publicizing this opportunity in your church newsletter, bulletin and/or on the church web-site, speak about it from the pulpit and consider receiving a special offering during worship on May 17 or another Sunday

before Annual Conference. Then bring those gifts with you to Annual Conference in June. Congregations may also continue to contribute through June 30, 2026.

As we gather for the 2026 Annual Conference Session under our theme, **Experiencing God's Renewal: Rooted in Love**, let us respond to God's generosity with generous hearts of our own. Every offering given becomes part of a larger story of transformation, equipping leaders, forming disciples, strengthening ministries, and sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to embody the connectional spirit of The United Methodist Church. I look forward to seeing how God will multiply these gifts for ministry and mission. You can learn more about the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines through [The Endowment Fund for Theological Education](#). You can learn more about Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center through [Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center](#).

Ways to Give

At Annual Conference:

Offerings will be collected during worship services throughout the Annual Conference Session. Checks should be made payable to WV Conference Treasurer. Please do not place designations on the memo line.

Online Giving:

Individuals may give online now through June 30, 2026, using the Conference giving page:

[2026 Annual Conference Offering Fund](#)

Church Gifts:

Churches may remit gifts through June 30 by mailing a Church Remittance Form and check payable to WV Conference Treasurer.

Please indicate: 2026 Annual Conference Offering Fund – Fund 945.

For questions regarding donations, please contact Belinda Johnson, Receipts Specialist, at 304-344-8331, Ext. 400.

West Virginia, thank you for your long-standing commitment to our Annual Conference offering. I look forward to the impact we will make on Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center and the Endowment for

Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Your generosity is inspiring!

It is a joy to serve as your bishop. Blessing to each of you in all that you do.

In Christ,

Debbie

Debra Wallace-Padgett

Resident Bishop

Holston and West Virginia Conferences

West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 2313 | Charleston, WV 25328

www.wvumc.org | wvumc@wvumc.org