

The WORD

May 2026

Volume 57 Issue 5



Westville United Methodist Church

**Communion
May 3, 2026**

**“Reach up, Reach in, Reach out
Reach up to God, Reach in to know
God, Reach out in Love”**

Sunday Morning Schedule:

Sunday School 9:15 am –

Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15am

Drive In Service Radio Station 91.3

www.youtube.com@pastortobyquill1052



Community Meal

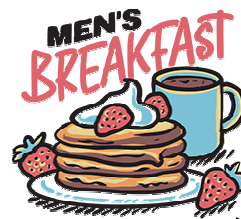
Free Community Meal May 20th

**5-6:30pm, Pulled Pork Sandwiches,
Hosted by Tri Kappa**

A message from Pastor at 6:30pm

Men's Breakfast

May 9th, 9 am



Vacation Bible School

July 25th

Mark your calendar!!!

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!!!

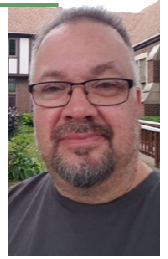
THE WORD is a publication of Westville United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.,
P.O. Box 619; Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-2314

******CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-noon /Tues.—Thurs. am**

Our Web Address is www.westvilleumc.org

In order to go green The Word will be e-mailed to you. Be sure to e-mail your address to Jane at
secretarywumc@csinet.net

Printed copies will continue to be available at the church for those who do not have e-mail.



.May 2026 WORD Article

From the Pastor's Desk

Friends,

Every year when May rolls around, I'm reminded that God must have a sense of humor. This is the month when the weather can't decide if it wants to be summer, winter, or "surprise, here's a thunderstorm just as you're grilling." Flowers bloom, allergies bloom even more, and the church calendar starts to look like someone spilled coffee on it and smudged everything together.

And yet—there's something wonderfully hopeful about May. It's the month when creation seems to clear its throat and say, "Alright, let's try this again." Trees bud. Kids start counting down to summer. Lawnmowers awaken from hibernation. And we, too, get a little nudge from the Spirit to stretch, breathe, and remember that God is still in the business of making things new.

This month, I've been thinking about how often we underestimate the power of small acts of kindness. Not the big, dramatic gestures—just the everyday stuff. The smile you offer a stranger. The text you send to someone who's been quiet lately. The way you let someone merge in traffic even though you're already running late and muttering under your breath. These tiny choices are like planting seeds. You don't always see what grows, but something does.

And honestly, the world could use a few more seed-planters right now.

A Little Prayer for May

*God of new beginnings,
As the earth wakes up around us, wake us up too.
Open our eyes to the small moments where love can take root.
Give us joy that bubbles up unexpectedly,
Courage that shows up when needed,
And grace that flows even when we're tired.
Bless our church, our families, and our community
With the kind of hope that grows quietly but changes everything.
Amen.*

A Call to Action

This month, I invite you to choose **one small act of kindness each day**. Nothing heroic. Nothing exhausting. Just one intentional moment of love—one seed planted. By the end of May, that's 31 seeds. Imagine what God can do with that.

Let's be a church that makes kindness unavoidable.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Toby

A Pastoral Word on Weariness and Mercy

Dear friends,

Just recently, I heard someone say something like, “Pastor, I’m trying to be compassionate, but I’m getting tired.” And honestly, I get it. Helping people—especially when their lives are complicated, messy, or stuck in the same patterns—can wear down even the most generous heart. It’s easy to start wondering whether our efforts make any difference, or whether we’re being responsible with the resources God has entrusted to us.

If you’ve felt that way, you’re not alone. Scripture actually assumes that we will grow weary. Paul writes, “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9). He doesn’t say *if we grow weary*—he says *when*. Weariness is not a failure. It’s a sign that you’ve been pouring yourself out.

But here’s the deeper truth: our generosity is not measured by the outcome in someone else’s life. It’s measured by our faithfulness to Christ.

Jesus never said, “Help only those who make good decisions.” He said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). Proverbs reminds us that “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord” (19:17). And in Luke 6, Jesus calls us to love those who cannot repay us, because that is the shape of God’s own mercy.

We help not because people always change, but because **we** are being changed. Mercy is a spiritual discipline. It stretches us, humbles us, and slowly forms us into the likeness of Christ. Sometimes the person we help grows. Sometimes they don’t. But every time we choose compassion over cynicism, the Holy Spirit grows something in us.

So if you’re feeling jaded, take a breath. Let God tend to your tired spirit. And remember: our calling is not to fix every life. Our calling is to be a community where Christ’s mercy is visible, even when it doesn’t make sense on paper.

May God give us wisdom in our stewardship, tenderness in our judgments, and hearts that stay open to the people Jesus loves.

You are loved – go and do likewise.

YOU ARE
LOVED

Join us in local missions!

Items needed for the Food Pantry:



- 5/3 Personal Hygiene: toothpaste, & brushes, soap, deodorant, sanitary napkins, tampons., shaving cream
- 5/10 Pastas, noodles, macaroni, sauces, Hamburger Helper
- 5/17 Sugar, flour, cake mixes, cooking oil, shortening
- 5/24 Drinks, juices, coffee, coffee filters, tea
- 5/31 Buyers Choice

TIME & LOCATION

Food Pantry Information:

The American Legion is now working in cooperation with the WMC Food Pantry ministry. Please drop off donations of the above mentioned items at the Legion. **For those receiving donations, items may be picked up at the American Legion on Thursdays from 4:30—5:30.**



IMPORTANT REMINDER

INFORMATION FOR THE WORD IS DUE BY May 26th IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY May 28th AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILED TO secretarywumc@csinet.net

**Family Life Center is available for rental for parties and celebrations.
Contact the church office at 219-785-2314 for more information.**

Save your pop cans and bring them to the church. The money earned from the can collection supports the Heifer Project.





A MAN BIGGER THAN I

A man bigger than I
had walked this land
before my time.

He was sent to us,
by his father from
above.

To show and teach
mankind how to love.

Miracles, many he performed
with a spoken word or the
touch of his hand.

He did this to show his love,
As he walked through this
troublesome land.

A man bigger than I
Tried his best to turn us
from our sinful and wicked
ways.
For in the end he knew,
Our souls would have to pay.

Before he left this land,
he left behind his salvation plan.
A one way ticket to the
promise land.

Frank Bagwell

God's Love

God's love, is there for me
and you.

For in my life I have come
To know this is true.

God's Love, is strong and
never fades away.
Just accept it in your heart
and it will always be there
to stay.

God's Love, will bring you
to new heights of joy.
The kind of happiness that
you felt as a young girl
or boy.

God's Love, has been proven
down through the years.
For it has mended many broken
hearts.
And has dried millions of tears.

Frank Bagwell: published Oct. 14, 1996
National Library of Poetry

“There’s a blessing in every moment.”

A little puzzle for you, answer next month if you don't find them all:

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paper. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat.

Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit: it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight."

Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers.

Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers.

Remember there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paper waiting to be found.

God Bless.

Sharing from Cathy Jo

Trustee Church Council April 13, 2026

Trustee: Present: Amanda, Kay, Richard, Evert, Alan, Cathy Jo, Jan, Pastor Toby, Jane, Kathie L, Sandi L

Jane will look into shades for the sanctuary via a link provided by Pastor Toby. The lawn looks great with all the work that has been done in the past year and a half by Alan and Lawn DR. Roy has offered to help get the light bulbs changed in the FLC and Jane has ordered the bulbs needed. Amanda stated that new oven mitts and hot pads are needed in the kitchen. Sandi and Cathy Jo will help with some donations. It was suggested that a diagram of the FLC light be made as the bulbs are changed as to which lights use which bulbs. A gentleman called and found in his father's papers a history of the Westville Methodist Church in LaPorte County. He is sending it to us. The fascia and soffit work has been completed by J B West. Nick has helped getting the flags up and will replace the ropes.

Church Council Kay opened with devotion. The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Discipleship: Amanda is ready to work on the nursery in the basement. She is working on possibly moving the nursery where the Jr. Hi class was and using the last room on the left as storage again. We will need a TV and sound for those managing the nursery. She has also ordered the VBS material for this summer. The theme will be Galaxy.

Worship: Pastor Toby and all of us are so great full for the help Roy is providing with our live streaming and tech issues. We are looking at streaming signal to be stronger. There will be a new sermon series beginning April 19th – Journey to Pentecost. June 7th begins a new summer series. We suggested that we give pastor Toby t-shirts and he must give his message based on the t-shirt given to him. J

Outreach: Kathie stated that the town wide cleanup will be this Saturday April 18th at 9 am. The make a difference club and 4-H club will again be assisting with this clean up day. We also received a Thrivent Grant for the snacks for the day. Care & share Plus is going well. The 3rd batch of meals will be prepared this weekend. (50 meals in each batch). We are providing 45 Friday snack bags at this time. Mark and Rob are working on the Blessing Box being enlarged using the grant money to pay for the supplies.

Resale Shop: Spring has arrived at the resale shop. We are also looking into widening our sale value by adding EBay for some of our sales. We have someone interested in working on this project.

Women of Faith: Jane sent out a letter of interest regarding WOF. She had 2 responses. Jane is going to set up an evening for the ladies of the church with refreshment and see again if there is interest.

Finance Reports were shared. There were no concerns

NB: Craft show is May 30th, 9-2pm

We will go over the names for removal from membership, having no response from letter sent in Jan. 2026. We have had two requests for removal from membership and several that wished to remain members. Cathy Jo presented information on Paramount's. We had a couple questions that Pastor and Cathy Jo will work on. Jane will be on vacation from April 20th – 30th.

Pastors Notes: There is a FB page is Portage call Portage 411. It is for people requesting help. Pastor thought it would be great to have something like this in Westville, if someone wanted to manage the page. It could be used for transportation and other requests for help. Pastor is happy with the tri fold wall in the sanctuary, but looking for it to have one more door on it. (4panel) May 2nd pastor will attend DCOM for an interview. Our first aid kits will be updated. Jane checked the QR code and was able to make it work.

Meeting adjourned Jane

Care & Concern

Kelly Murphy	Kristi – Health Journey
Pete Buckmaster	Jerry Adrian
Sheryl Elliott	Rita White
Nash & Family	Bob & Sheila McCaughey
Richard Lee	Donna Bunch
Tina Dickinson	Diane Toomire
Colleen Parker	Jerry McCall
Christopher Watson	Butch Weston
Warren Howard	Amir DuPuis
Aline DuPuis	Heather DuPuis
Sandy L	Brett
Jackie	Ron Warnke
Cassie McCarty	Josh Ellis
Lee Bently	Justyna Matyska
Paul Schaffer	Ben Bagwell
Kathy Hutchinson	Tina Stern

***Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression** *Unspoken Prayers **Families **Youth **First Responders
 **Law Enforcement

<u>The Care Corner</u>	<u>Guidance & Protection</u>
Adele Lundahl	Quinn Bacon Preston Wilson
	Aaron Hale Dylan Hale

All Military Personnel
 All Victims of War



**HAVE YOU
 TALKED
 TO GOD
 TODAY?**

*HE
 (cares) for you*

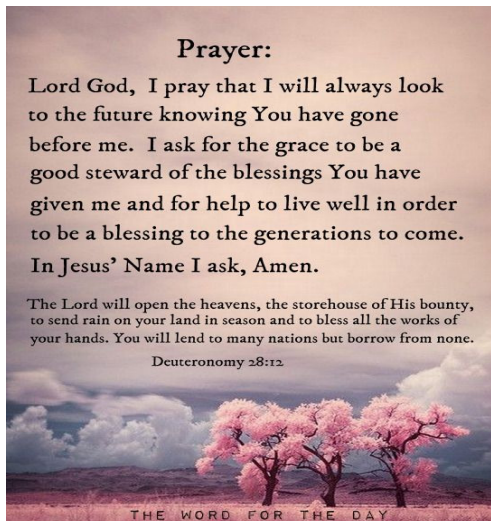
PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

Prayer:

Lord God, I pray that I will always look to the future knowing You have gone before me. I ask for the grace to be a good steward of the blessings You have given me and for help to live well in order to be a blessing to the generations to come. In Jesus' Name I ask, Amen.

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none.
 Deuteronomy 28:12



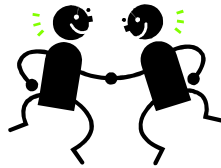
THE WORD FOR THE DAY

Pastor Toby Guill maybe reached @ **219-850-3768**
 Or email at **toby.guill@inumc.org**

******* Church Office Hours *******
Monday 9am—noon, Tues-Thurs am
My hours vary, please call 219-898-3077

May Birthdays

Kandi Jo Kaminski	1-May
Nikki Glassley	2-May
Lukas Klein	2-May
Cleone Colvin	4-May
Titus Emery	17-May
Joshua Ellis	19-May
Mary Lambert	23-May
Carmen Stark	24-May
Mary Howard	25-May
Alyssa Emery	26-May
Evert (Junior) White	26-May
Victoria Zimmerle	2-May



May Wedding Anniversary's

Rob & Sue Klett	24-May
Ron & Sheryl Elliott	26-May
James & Jill Carden	29-May
Jamie & Eric Poloncak	30-May
Randy & Melanie Bennett	31-May
David & Sunny McKee	31-May



Westville United Methodist Church

May Dates of Joining

5/17/2015	Erin Nittner
5/19/2013	Betsy Schramlin
5/19/2013	Alan Buvelot
5/19/2013	Jamie Poloncak
5/19/2013	Eric Poloncak
5/19/2013	Tammy May
5/4/1980	Janice Buchanan
5/4/1980	Kim Buchanan
5/14/1963	Ron Elliott
5/19/1974	Cindy Gilbert
5/11/1997	Amanda Hale
5/11/1997	Kandi Jo Kaminski
5/24/2009	Aaron Hale
5/24/2009	Eddie Kaczmarek
5/20/1973	Kathie Nichols
5/16/1954	Betty Townsend
5/24/2009	Evert White Jr.
5/24/2009	Samantha White
5/30/1982	Carol Wyels
5/30/1982	George Wyels
5/18/1952	Barbara Coates
5/24/2020	Layn Hill

WELCOME STATEMENT

“With open hearts, open minds and open doors; we welcome people of all races, nationalities theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect”.

Give as the Lord calls you to give:
be as generous to God as God has been to you!

Thank you for being Faithful Givers

Apr. Giving

Date	Worship	SS	Giving
3/29/2026	67	24	\$2,617.40
4/5/2026	88	26	\$3,459.05
4/12/2026	49	15	\$1,322.00
4/19/2026	57	17	\$1,263.00
4/26/2026			\$1,360.13

Your tithes and offerings maybe mailed to :

WUMC P O Box 619, Westville, In 46391






QR Code for giving...





May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Happy Birthday Cleone !!!!	5 TRI KAPPA FLC 4-9PM	6 	7 Resale shop 1-4pm	1 Kairos FLC	2 Kairos FLC/ FLC Rented All Day
10 	11  6pm	12 Resale Shop 9-12	13	14	15	16
17	18  Women of Faith Gathering 6pm	19 Resale Shop 9—12	20 Community Meal 5 –6:30pm FLC Hosted by Tri Kappa	21 Resale Shop 1-4pm	22	23 Resale Shop 9-12
24	25 	26 Resale Shop 9-12	27	28 Resale Shop 1-4pm	29	30 Church Craft Show 9-2 FLC Resale Shop 9-noon
31	June 1	2 Resale Shop 9-12	3	4 Resale shop 1-4pm	5	6 Resale Shop 9- noon