



Sunday June 9, 2024

2024 Daily Circuit



Meet Our New Ordained and Commissioned Elders

Full Elder Todd Hurley



Todd Hurley, born and raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, is grateful to now serve in the West Virginia Conference. He and his wife, Debbie, their daughter, Lindsey, and their precious canine companion, Cocoa Puff, live in Morgantown, where Todd pastors the people of the Avery/Woodland Charge. Todd is also a member of the West Virginia Conference Communications Team. With a passion for evangelism, preaching the gospel, and leading people on a path of discipleship, Todd is now an ordained elder going into his 14th year of full-time ministry, seven of which are here in West Virginia. Todd loves watching "All Elite Wrestling," reading Stephen King, bird watching, and finding ways to be creative in ministry by making God-sized dreams a reality to reach people for Jesus Christ.

Provisional Elder Sarah Wilmoth



Sarah Wilmoth is a lifelong United Methodist from Fairmont, West Virginia. Her home church is Barrackville UMC in the MonValley District. She graduated as a religious studies major from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2021 and most recently graduated from Duke Divinity School with her Master of Divinity. She also completed certificates in Methodist Studies and Faith-Based Organizing, Advocacy, and Social Transformation. Sarah has a love for God and a passion for justice in her home state. She enjoys spending her time in nature, likely to be found in a hammock with a book at a state park or on the water in a kayak. She also loves to sew quilts, embroider, cook, garden, play music, and she cannot wait to get a dog to run around the parsonage yard. She works with the WV Annual Conference Camping Team and Safe Sanctuary Team to develop, guide, and protect God's youngest disciples. She has been appointed to the New Cumberland Charge in the Northern District, encompassing Trinity UMC and Point Pleasant UMC. She is excited to see where God is at work in West Virginia and how she can be part of this story.

Provisional Elder Sarita L. Robinson



Sarita L. Robinson, born and raised in Manila, Philippines, has a heart for mission. She served six years as a missionary in the Philippines, establishing the Sidewalk Sunday School outreach in Manila's slums, and spent nine years in Ukraine planting a church and training leaders.

Sarita and her husband, Wade, a CLM, met during a mission training conference in Alabama and married in 2009. They co-founded Grace Recovery Church and Mobile Kids Connection outreach, part of Cornerstone Ministries. In 2022, Sarita became the associate pastor of Cornerstone Ministries, The United Methodist Church.

Sarita holds dual bachelor's degrees in Political Science and National Security and Intelligence, and a master's in Criminal Justice from Fairmont State University. She completed her M.Div. at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2023, highlighting her dedication to her faith.

As associate pastor, Sarita is a beacon in the community. She and Wade have dedicated themselves to mission work in Sierra Leone, West Africa, Nigeria, Thailand, Ukraine, and the Philippines. She established the Ukrainian Refugee outreach within the West Virginia Conference, supported by local churches. Sarita embodies Jesus Christ's grace, love, and mercy, nurturing disciples. She will begin a year-long chaplaincy residency at WVU Medicine in August 2024.

Provisional Elder Caitlin Ware



Caitlin Ware is from Flemington, West Virginia. Her home church is Bailey Memorial UMC in Rosemont (Mon Valley). Caitlin served as Interim UM Liaison and Spiritual Life Coordinator at WVWC '20-'21. She serves with the WVUMC Communications, Justice & Advocacy, and Higher Education teams. Caitlin is focused on the reclamation of West Virginia's land, people, and story beginning with God's movement from below in the coalfields of West Virginia. She enjoys being outdoors, reading, and playing instruments. She graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2020 and Duke Divinity School in 2024. She is being appointed to the three churches of the Blackwater Charge.

Conference Celebrates Evangelism, Mission



Photo by Jonathan Nettles

Betty Rizer, center, receives the Harry Denman Evangelism Award on Friday at Annual Conference. Read more at www.wvumc.org.

By John Langenstein

The West Virginia Annual Conference celebrated ministry across the connection during the business sessions this week.

Seven “One Matters” awards were given to churches that have shown excellence in outreach, evangelism, and mission—as marked by at least one baptism or profession of faith in the previous year.

Three Harry Denman awards were given to those who demonstrated personal excellence in evangelism.

The Francis Asbury Award was given for excellence in higher educational ministry marked by an honoree with a passion for community and social justice.

Global Ministries also gave a mission award for excellence in missional work in local and connectional ministry.

For a full list of recipients and a description of their good work, look for the awards story on our conference website at www.wvumc.org.

Greetings from the AME Church



Photo by Melissa Paugh

Rev. Alton B. Dillard, Sr., presiding elder of the West Virginia and Pittsburgh District Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, delivers the ecumenical greeting Thursday evening at Wesley Chapel. “When we have the covenant of God in front of us, God will do wondrous stuff in our lives,” Dillard preached. “It’s time to put the Spirit of God in front of us. ... Where the Spirit of God is, there’s freedom, there’s liberty.”

Called and Chosen



Photo by Jonathan Nettles

Outgoing Conference Lay Leader Kristi Wilkerson delivers the 2024 Laity Address.

By Jim Minutelli

“I stand here today with deep gratitude, grateful for the opportunity to have had these last four years with you. It has been nothing short of life-changing for me. And as I’ve reflected on those years, I’ve been reminded of some of the most significant partnerships in my life ...”

Those were the words spoken by Kristi Wilkerson in her Laity Address to the Annual Conference, as she reflected on her tenure as West Virginia Conference Lay Leader.

For the full story, visit www.wvumc.org.

Conference Honors Saints



Photo by Melissa Paugh

Candles are lit in memory of clergy, clergy spouses, and surviving spouses of deceased clergy during Saturday’s Memorial Service.

By John Langenstein

The West Virginia Annual Conference remembered the life and legacy of ministers and their spouses at the Saturday session of Annual Conference. They were assured by 2 Timothy and John 12 that God’s love goes beyond this world and into the world to come. The Saints in Heaven and on Earth joined in “Marching to Zion,” speaking to the day when the Church would be together once again. Rev. Kevin Lantz spoke from 1 Thessalonians 2.

The goodness of God was celebrated with a choral offering, “How Can I Keep from Singing.” As the congregation prayed the Beatitudes from Matthew 5, they prepared their hearts to honor those who had passed in the past year. The congregation gave thanks, singing “For All the Saints,” in memory of those who now have a home in the Church Triumphant.

For the full list of those honored in this service, visit our website: www.wvumc.org.

Celebrating 12 Years with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball



WVUMC File Photo

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball celebrates Holy Communion at the 2015 Annual Conference.

By John Langenstein

The conference on Saturday celebrated 12 years with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball as its episcopal leader.

How did the conference distill 12 years of ministry and mission into a single celebration? The answer is simple: It never could! The legacy of Bishop Steiner Ball is immense.

From her 2012 election at the jurisdictional conference in Charleston, West Virginia, to her presiding over the General Conference session of the Postponed 2020 General Conference, the work the bishop has accomplished alongside the conference could never be summarized in a single day.

This year’s Annual Conference gathering sought to tell just a few of the stories of the projects with which she helped, the prayers she prayed, the messages she gave, and, of course, the songs she sang.

The conference was proud to celebrate the ways in which the bishop has lived into the promise she made upon her election to the office of bishop, “I will try to do my best to faithfully walk with you to build God’s kingdom in this world.”

Visit our conference website for the full recording of the Saturday evening session including the celebration of Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball. You may also access the video that was produced to highlight her work within the conference.

The WVUMC Communications Team would like to thank you for reading our Daily Circuit! Special thanks to Bill Eades, photo editor, and Rev. Todd Hurley and Jonathan Schwitzerlette, newsletter designers. Also, special thanks to GNTV for providing AV and livestream services for the 2024 Annual Conference. Read our daily business wrap-ups and more at www.wvumc.org.



West Virginia Conference
The United Methodist Church