

10:45 am Worship Service

May 24, 2026

SERMON

"A Wild Goose Chase"

Rev. Zachary L. Bay, Rev. Kristy Bay

First Lesson– Genesis 11:1-9

Second Lesson– Acts 2:1-21

FAB Staff

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Huntington, WV 25701
Change Service Requested

From the Pastor...

Justo L. Gonzalez, a United Methodist minister and professor and scholar of church history, once renamed *The Acts of the Apostles*. For any who bristle at that notion, consider the disagreement between two academic heavyweights. Religious historian Bret Nongbri argues for that "titles," which were subscript at the ends of the manuscripts, were likely original. Biblical scholar Bart Ehrman argues that New Testament Gospels were originally untitled, and that the early church later added titles for practical and theological reasons related to the process of canonization. Either way, what we can say is that ancient writers did not "title" their writings like modern writers title ours. If Ehrman is right, there were no "titles" until later readers and scholars added them in. Even if Nongbri is right, the "titles" of the writers of the NT Gospels were not titles but subscripts at the end of the work. Either way, I'm with the Vedanta teacher Swami Chetanananda: "The older I get, the less I know. It's wonderful—it makes the world so spacious."

I very much like Justo Gonzalez calling *The Acts of the Apostles* "The Gospel of the Spirit" in the title of his biblical commentary. His point in doing so is not to get titles in Bibles changed, but to say: The Holy Spirit, not Peter or Paul, is the main character of this unique NT book. Reading Gonzalez's commentary for a seminary course persuaded me. I have read Acts with an eye for what the Holy Spirit is up to in every story, ever since.

This coming Sunday is the Day of Pentecost. For all that word and its derivative "Pentecostal" has come to mean since the early 20th century, "Pentecost" simply means "fiftieth." It is the 50th day after Easter. We get this word from Acts 2, where the Spirit Jesus promised shows up. The Bible is full of theophanies in which God reveals Godself. The Burning Bush and the thunder and lightning on Sinai count. The transfiguration of Jesus counts. And, the Spirit appearing "like the rush of a violent wind" and filling "the entire house" with "divided tongues, as of fire" is another one.

This coming Pentecost Sunday, the tongue of the sermon will be divided. I will share the pulpit with another able preacher: Rev. Kristy Bay. She and I will preach Pentecost together.

Kristy and I have done this before. I dreamed up this idea in my pastoral study years back while pondering Fred Craddock's teaching that a sermon on a biblical text should be as faithful to the form of the text as it is to the content of it. One way to get at that on Pentecost Sunday is to have a polyphonic sermon, I thought.

This Sunday, Kristy and I will together bring a word in worship. The sermon will focus in on *The Gospel...the "good news"...of the Spirit*. Contrary to common readings, Acts is not a rulebook by which we decide how faithful we are to God by how closely we imitate "the early church." Rather, Acts is another wild and wondrous story about "God with us"—in every breeze, in every breath—"always, to the end of the age. Amen."

~ Rev. Zach Bay



Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

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Worship God wholeheartedly. Love one another unconditionally. Help people meet Jesus.
Help each other become more like Jesus. Love our hurting world.



FIFTH AVENUE BAPTIST
youth

Come Join Us!

For sign-ups & info, please visit
fifthavenuebaptist.org/ministries/youth

**YOUTH
COFFEE
SHOP**

JOIN US IN THE FAB LAB FOR A
CUP OF COFFEE PREPARED BY
OUR YOUTH!



2026
*Fab
Camp*
JULY 23-26

CHECK IN: JULY 23, 4-6P
CHECK OUT: JULY 26, 4P
COST: \$50, DUE BY JULY 1

REGISTER ON REALM!



YOUTH WORSHIP
SERVICE
Wednesday nights this summer!
Beginning June 3

6-8 pm



WBS 2026

We're Going on a trip!



Volunteer
Registration



Participant
Registration

But we need volunteers to help get us there!

If you're available to volunteer to help out please contact
Rachael Gibson or a member of the Children's Commission.

LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

CALENDAR | May 24–30

Sunday, May 24

- 9:00 Coffee & Doughnuts (FAB Lab)
- 9:30 Sunday Morning Bible Studies
- 10:45 Worship & Live Stream
- 6:00 Recovery Point Game Night

Monday, May 25 *Memorial Day*

Office Closed

Wednesday, May 27

- 6:00 Pastor's Bible Study: Extended Session w/ Dr. Rob Ely
*** Bring Your Own Dinner**
- 7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 29

Central City Elementary Staff Lunch

PRAYER CONCERNS

Mary Barnett	Harry Main
Judy Booth	Pat Mann
George Branch, friend of Emma Dix	Francis McGuire
Joyce Bunch	Suzanne Nieman, friend of Jerrie Hussell
Bill Call	John Pelfrey
David Cantrell, stepbrother of Jim Isaac	Cindy & Steve Perry, niece & nephew of Mary Madsen
David Crowe	Bill Ransbottom
Bill Denman	Allen Reasons
Carolyn Dickens	Justin Reynolds, nephew of Janet Jarrell
Natalie Swann Dodge, great niece of Jack Lively	Larry Shannon, friend of Janet Jarrell
Martha Hagan	Patti & Mike Shaver Sr.
Bud Harbour	Barbara Sheils
Earl Heiner	Doug Sheils
Anne Jameson, niece of Mary Madsen	Gerry Smith
Janet Jarrell	Kay Smith
Linda Lawrence	Jack, Becky & Haley Stephenson, friends of Martha Hagan
Kim Lively-Smith, daughter of Jack & Jackie Lively	David Stone, friend of Martha Hagan
Greg Lunsford	Bob Turner
	Lance Tyo Family, family of Cathy McGuire
	Terri Waldeck
	Debbie Wilson

If you or someone you have added to the Columns Prayer list can be removed, please call or email the church office.

Ministry Action Budget: May 17, 2026

Envelopes	16,666.86
Online	25.00
Total	16,691.86
Given To Date	316,998.12
MAB Expenses To Date	381,377.55
Overage/(Shortage)	(64,379.43)

Designated Funds

Total Designated Funds	0.00
Designated Gifts To Date	5,425.00



Don't forget, FAB is enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Link your current Kroger Rewards account at kroger.com. Search **Fifth Avenue Baptist Church** or **Non-Profit Organization #TU434**, then click Enroll.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

May

- 24** Jennifer Strickland
- 25** Barbara Sheils
- 26** Staige Davis, David Martin, Chandler Ratcliff
- 27** Kirk Jennings, Nick Duffield
- 28** Audrey Jennings
- 30** Jordan Stump, Wendy Goodenough



May ALM
Huntington Addiction
Wellness Center

- Laundry detergent
- Bath towels & wash cloths
- Shower shoes (men's & women's, all sizes)
- Body wash (men's & women's)
- Notebooks
- Pens

Let's
CELEBRATE NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

MEET ON THE GRASSY PLAYGROUND FOR HOMEMADE ICE CREAM AND GAMES.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO MAKE ICE CREAM PLEASE CONTACT BEV SAUVAGEOT (304) 544-0960.

Sponsored by W&E

JULY 19 | 5PM