



Remarks and Messages

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1-18-2021

Martin Luther King, Jr. Gospel Festival

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Recommended Citation

Nugent, S. Georgia, "Martin Luther King, Jr. Gospel Festival" (2021). *Remarks and Messages*. 1.

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MLK Gospel Fest
Georgia Nugent Remarks
January 18, 2021

Good evening-and welcome to the 2021 Gospel Fest! Illinois Wesleyan is especially proud to have been hosting this event for 31 years.

I have a very personal appreciation of the Gospel Fest. Last year was my first year to experience it, because I was new to Illinois Wesleyan. I was SO struck by the tremendous energy in the room. And I also want to say how touched I was by the warm reception of this community to a newcomer.

It is really regrettable that we can't gather together in Westbrook Auditorium this year and feel the electricity of coming together. But we have learned to be creative with these online solutions, and I'm confident that we will still have a positive and uplifting experience of music making and celebration, as we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

These are difficult days for our democracy. By coming together in this gathering, I believe we are doing what is most necessary for the future: appreciating our common humanity and our common aspirations for a better world.

I hope that you enjoy tonight's program. Thank you for joining with us.