

Sermon When Forgiveness Feels Impossible
Rev. Nici Masters

Hymn "Jesus Calls Us" v 1,4,5 UMH 398

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

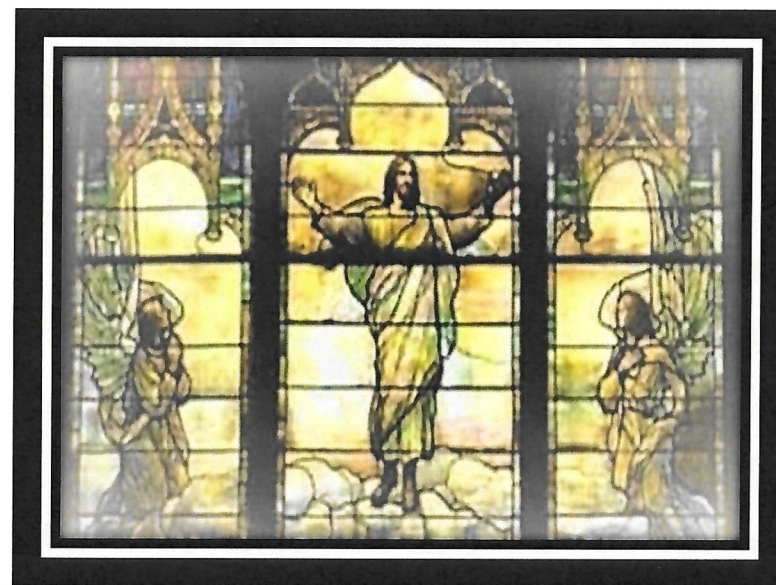
Offering/Doxology "I Just Keep Trusting My Lord"
arr. Barrows Resounding Joy

Offertory Prayer

Passing the Peace

Hymn "I Surrender All" v 1,2,4 UMH 354

*Benediction



GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor
Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle
Bell Choir Director – Val Huffman
March Head Usher – Rob Moore

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen
Haeden and Kenslie Futton
Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

Let us worship the Spirit in silence - Be still and know that I am God

Order of Worship

Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship:**

L: We gather today in the presence of the One who is just and holy.

All: We come seeking the peace that only God can provide.

L: The Word instructs us: "Do not take revenge my dear friends but leave room for God's wrath.

All: We surrender our grievances and lay our anger at Your feet.

L: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink,"

All: Teach us to overcome evil with good. Let us worship the Lord, who calls us to a higher way of love.

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today humbled by Your Word. We confess that when we are wronged our first instinct is often to strike back or harbor resentment. We ask for Your strength to resist the cycle of retaliation and the grace to trust in Your perfect justice.

Lord, transform our hearts so that we do not permit evil to control us. Give us the courage to respond with kindness where there is cruelty and love where there is hate. As we worship, renew our minds so that we may see our neighbors-and even our enemies-through Your eyes of

mercy. We pray for those currently facing conflict that they may find the power to forgive as You have forgiven us. May our lives this week be a testament to Your goodness, proving that light always triumphs over darkness. We ask all of this in the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

Children's Chat

Val Huffman

Opening Hymn "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

UMH 328

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 25:13-22

13 Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master. 14 Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given. 15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone. 16 If you find honey, eat just enough-too much of it and you will vomit. 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house-too much of you and they will hate you. 18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor. 19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble. 20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day or like vinegar poured on a wound is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. 22 In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

Sermon Scripture

Romans 1:19-21

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge, I will repay, says the Lord. 20 On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bob Dicken, 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

March 15 – Prayer Team meeting – 11am
March 18 – Lenten Luncheon
March 25 – Lenten Luncheon
March 28 – GUMM Breakfast
March 29 – Palm Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon following Worship
April 2 – Maundy Thursday service – 7pm
April 3 – Good Friday service – 7pm
April 5 – Sunrise service and Breakfast

MARCH ATTENDANCE

March 1 -72
March 8 - 85
March 15 -
March 22 –
March 29 –

REMINDER

During the Lenten Luncheon series, remember to park in the parking lot, not on Diamond Street so that persons with limited mobility can use this area. Thanks!!

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS

Don't forget to pick up a Lenten Coin folder from the table in the Welcome Room and insert your daily quarter as you pray. This donation will be applied to the New Canopy we are all enjoying and other projects the trustees are doing throughout "Our Church". Thank you in advance for your contributions.

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 March – caned soup

Items for April – pancake mix/syrup

**Gateway United Methodist Church
Financial Activity Summary
For the Period Ended February 28, 2026**

	Current Year		Prior Year		Difference		
	Current Period	Y-T-D	Current Period	Y-T-D	Current Period	Y-T-D	
Operation Receipts	14,679.19	26,746.46	9,881.44	19,750.05	4,797.75	6,996.41	35.42%
Operation Expenditures	<u>(10,672.39)</u>	<u>(30,807.39)</u>	<u>(9,578.58)</u>	<u>(30,481.80)</u>	<u>(1,093.81)</u>	<u>(325.59)</u>	
Operation Profit	<u>4,006.80</u>	<u>(4,060.93)</u>	<u>302.86</u>	<u>(10,731.75)</u>	<u>3,703.94</u>	<u>6,670.82</u>	
Apportionment Payments		-		-	-	-	
Percent of Total Apportionment	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
Bank Balance End of Period	7,752.74		9,933.67		(2,180.93)		

Increase in cash receipts of \$6,996 from prior year.

