

Confession and Pardon

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept your repentance, forgive your sins, and restore you by the Holy Spirit to newness of life. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

Tithes/Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All things come from you, O God and with praise and thanksgiving we return to you what is yours. You created all that is and with love, formed us in your image. When our love failed your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior that we might have abundant and eternal life. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all that you have done, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us all join together in saying the Lord's Prayer.

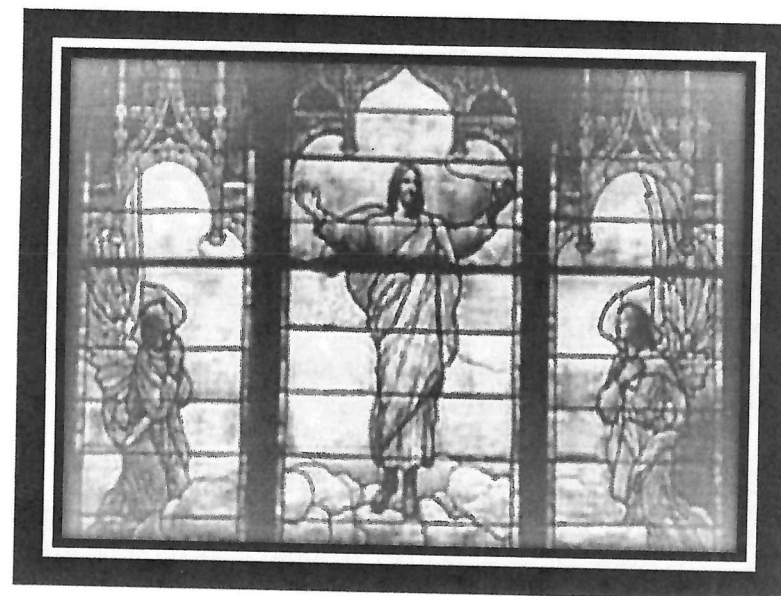
*Hymn

"I Surrender All" v.1,4,5

UMH 10-11

UMH 354

Benediction



GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor

Bev Slagle, Music Coordinator

Val Huffman, Bell Choir Director

March Head Usher - Rob Moore

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen

Haeden and Kenslie Futton

Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

Ash Wednesday

Order of Worship

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

*Opening Prayer

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

UMH 269

Scripture Lesson

Esther 4: 1-3

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done that which is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have sinful since my mother conceived me.

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 61; 1-3

*Hymn

"Just as I Am" v 1,3,5

UMH 357

Sermon Scripture

Job 2: 3-10

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty day session of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: By self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow our heads in a moment of silence before our Creator and Redeemer.

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Offering/Doxology

"Reach Out and Touch"
Resounding Joy

Offertory Prayer

Passing the Peace

Hymn

"He Touched Me"

UMH 367

*Benediction



GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor

Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle

Bell Choir Director – Val Huffman

February Head Usher – Paul Phillips

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: The Way of Mercy**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

All: He forgives all our sins and crowns us with loving kindness.

L: Lord, teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

All: Not just seven times, but seventy times seven.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer: Seventy-Times-Seven Grace

Gracious God: We come before you with humble hearts, recognizing that we stand in need of your mercy. Thank you that your love is not based on our perfection, but on your character – merciful, compassionate and abounding in love. Lord, we confess that we often hold onto grudges and struggle to forgive, keeping count of offenses when we should be extending grace. As we read your word today, we ask you to soften our hearts. Heal our old wounds and free us from the heavy burden of bitterness. Teach us to live out the radical, “seventy-times-seven” forgiveness that Jesus taught. As we receive your love-which removes our sins as far as the east is from the west-empower us to extend that same forgiveness to others. Fill this place with your Holy

Spirit, that our worship may reflect the transformative power of your grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, Amen.

Children’s Chat

Christy Miller

Opening Hymn

“Freely, Freely”

UMH 389

Scripture Reading

Psalm 103: 8-13

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Sermon Scripture

Matthew 18: 21-22

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered. “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Sermon

“What is Forgiveness” (1st Sunday of Lent)

Rev. Nici Master

Hymn

“Grace, Greater than our Sin” v 1,2,4

UMH 385

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 January – coffee-tea-cocoa

Items for February – canned meat

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

February 25 – First Lenten Luncheon
February 28 – GUMM Breakfast – Valley Chapel – Lady-friends invited
March 2 – Mary Priscilla meeting – 4pm
March 3 – Trustee meeting – 10am
March 4 – Lenten Luncheon
March 5 – NOW meeting – 6:30pm
March 8 – Daylight Saving Time begins
March 11 – Lenten Luncheon
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

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

February 1 – 56
February 8 - 65
February 15 - 82
February 22-

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.