

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Service of Word and Table

UMH 13

Offering/Doxology

"I Love You, Lord"

arr. Schrader

Resounding Joy

Offertory Prayer

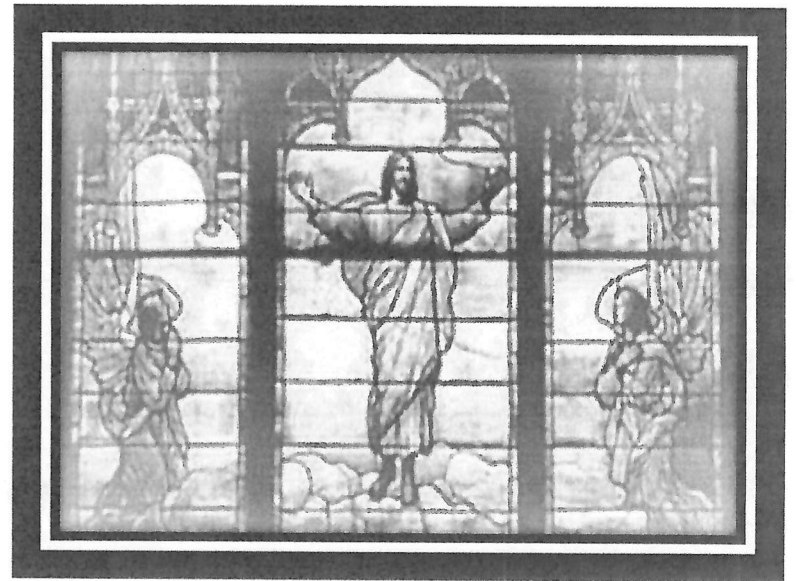
Passing the Peace

Hymn

"Wonderful Words of Life"

MH 600

*Benediction



**GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

MARCH 1, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor

Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle

March Head Usher – Rob Moore

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen

Haeden and Kenslie Futton

Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

Order of Worship

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

L: We have been given a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.

All: God reconciled us to God's self through the witness of Jesus Christ.

L: No longer do we need to fear.

All: Hope has been given to us.

L: So we are now ambassadors for Christ. God is making God's appeal to all humankind through us - in all that we say, think and do.

All: Praise be to God who has placed God's trust in us. We will strive to serve God faithfully. Amen.

Opening Prayer

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. Amen.

Children's Chat

Becky Jones

Opening Hymn "How Can We Sinners Know" v 1,2,4
UMH 372

Scripture Reading

Genesis 45: 4-15

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 4 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me, don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me - you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise, you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.

12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." 14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Sermon Scripture

Luke 15: 11-32

Sermon "How Do We Apologize?" Rev. Nici Masters

Hymn "Amazing Grace" v 1,2,4 UMH 378

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 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- 52

IN MEMORY

Faye Dodd is remembering her mother, Rosalie Dodd.
Her birthday was March 2.

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

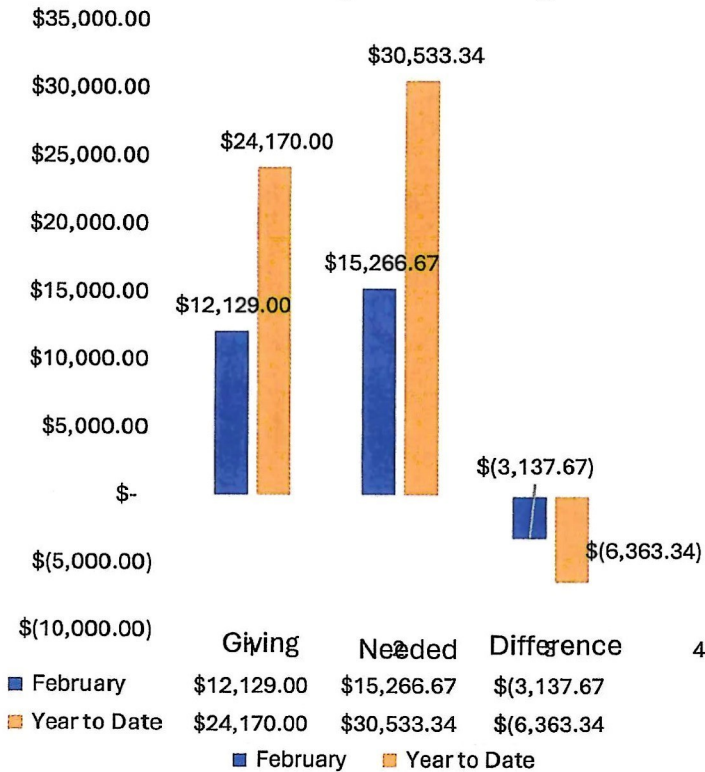
Loose change (coins only) – Honey Bag

Items for January – coffee-tea-cocoa

Items for February – canned meat

From the Finance Committee

February 2026 Giving



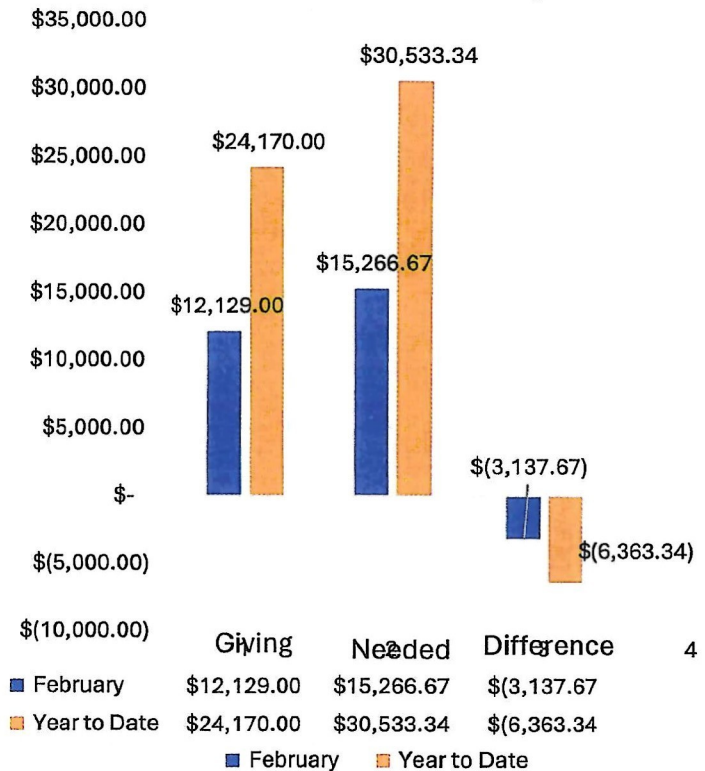
February's weather allowed us to hold church services each Sunday, but the slick weather kept our attendance low.

The Finance Committee asks that you consider an automatic payment plan for your church giving. Some options are:

- Tythe.ly (<https://www.gatewayumc-wv.org/give>) allows you to pay by bank, credit card or Apple Pay
- Auto bill pay through your bank or credit card

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The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"