

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law, 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Hymn "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH 127

Sermon "Training, not Trying" Rev. Nici Masters

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Offering "We Will Run the Race"

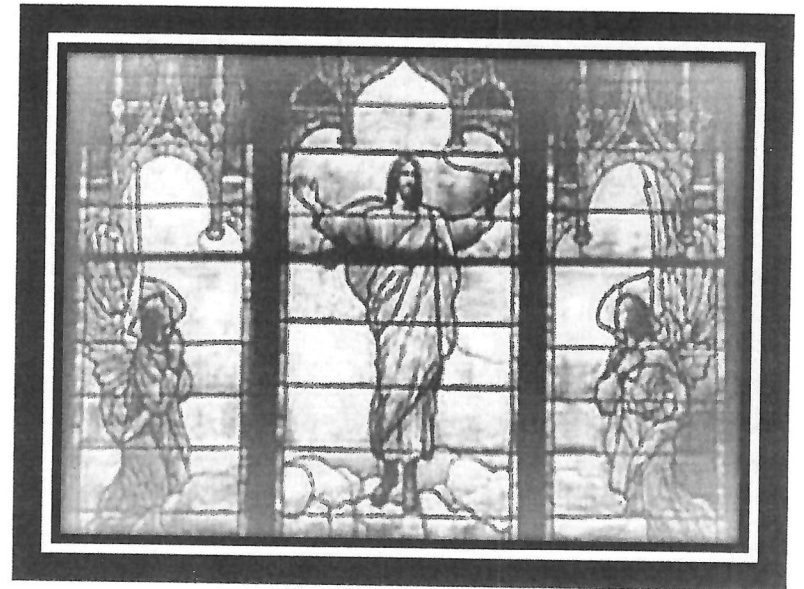
Doxology UMH 95

Offertory Prayer

Passing the Peace

Hymn "Lord Dismiss Us" UMH 671

Benediction



GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor

Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle

Bell Choir Director – Val Huffman

September Head Usher – David Nuzum

Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen

Haeden and Kenslie Futton

Nora Rae Huffman

The Celebration of Worship

September 13, 2026

Order of Worship

Announcements

Prelude

"We Will Run the Race"

*Call to Worship

L: Come, all who seek to run the race of faith!

All: We gather to fix our eyes on the prize, laying aside every weight.

L: The Lord has set us free, not to serve ourselves, but to become servants to all.

All: May we gladly surrender our rights for the sake of the gospel.

L: Let us not run aimlessly or beat the air, but train our hearts to worship in spirit and truth.

All: We worship the One who gives us strength, running together for a crown that will last forever.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands. Your law is perfect, reviving our souls and your words are sweeter than honey. We gather today in awe of your majesty and grateful for the truth that guides our steps.

Lord, as we look to your Word today, we confess that the race of faith requires our all. Forgive us for the times we have run aimlessly or lived only for ourselves. By your Holy Spirit, train our hearts for true discipleship. Grant us the humility of Christ to surrender our rights, the flexibility to serve our neighbors, and the discipline to press on toward the eternal prize. May the words of mouths and the

meditations of all our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Chat

Becky Jones

Hymn

"Lead On O King Eternal"

UMH 580

Scripture Reading

Psalms 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold, they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them here is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. 14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Sermon Scripture

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Woody Dennison, Faye Dodd, Rusty Freeland, Mary Beth Furbee, Carol Hall, Ezra Hall
Linda Lomicka, Charlotte Merriman, Dan Ross, Madalee Wilson, Kay Young

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13 – Church Picnic
September 14 – Mary Priscillas – 4pm – Lounge
September 15 – Finance Committee – 10am
September 18 – Baked Steak Dinner – 3:30pm – 6:30pm
September 21 – Yoga – Asbury – 10am
September 22 – Charge Conference – 6pm
September 26 – GUMM Breakfast – 8:30am – Moms
September 27 – Prayer Team after Worship

ATTENDANCE

September 6 - 76
September 13 -
September 20 –
September 27 –

THANK YOU!

Thank you to my new and old friends for the birthday cards
and to those who visit me.

Madalee Wilson

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

Anyone who would like to sing for the cantata is invited to attend
rehearsals each Wednesday evening at 6pm.

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

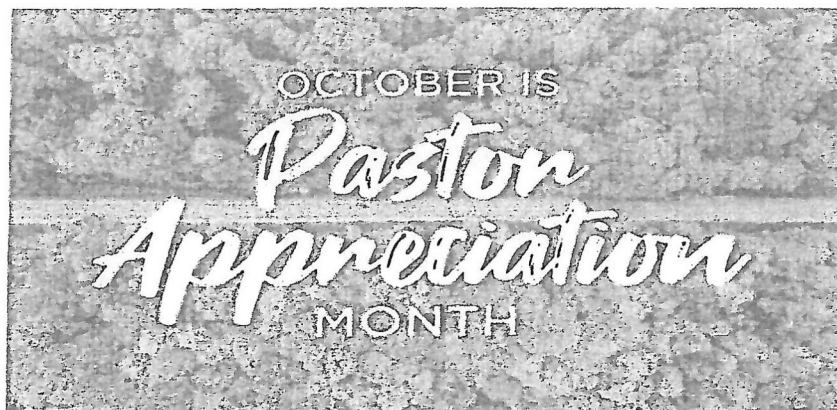
Website – gatewayumc-wv.org

YouTube Link – <https://youtube.com@gatewayumc.wv>

Loose Change/Food Pantry Collection

Loose change (coins only) – Honey Bags

Items for September – Baby Food



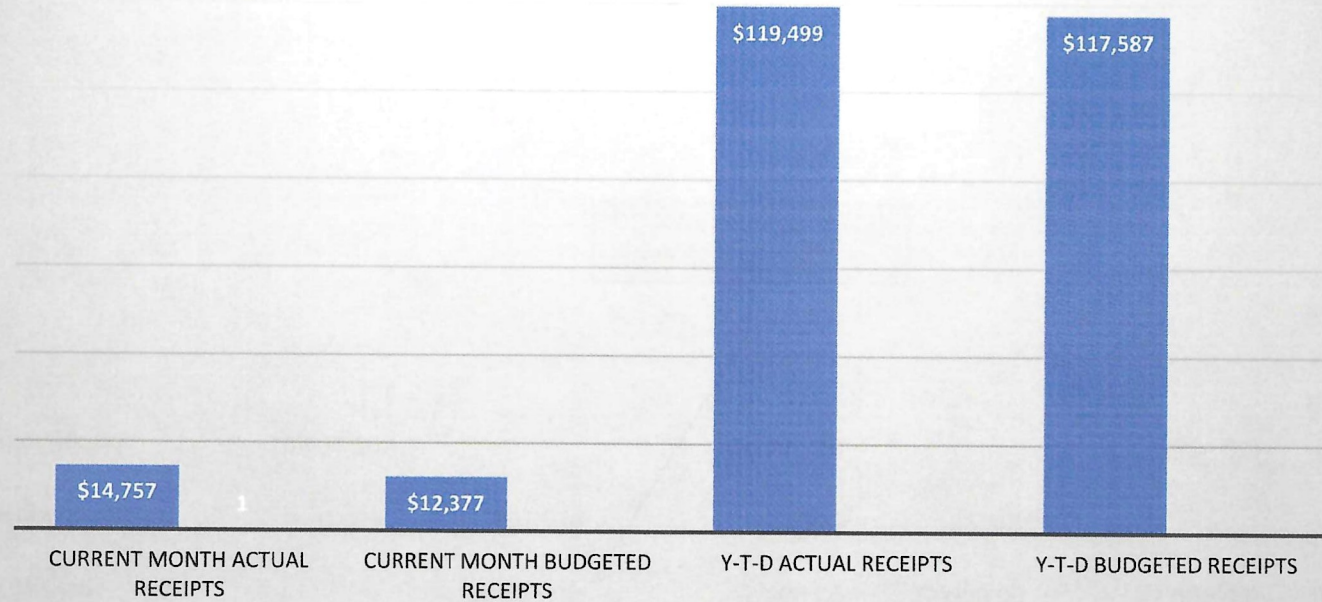
October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we want to honor Pastor Nici with a monetary gift from our church family and with a reception.

Monetary gift contributions can be given to David Nuzum, to Marj, or dropped in the collection plate (marked Pastor Appreciation) by Sunday, September 27, 2026.

The Reception will be Sunday, October 11, 2026, directly after worship service in the Chapel area.

SPRC Committee

Comparison Receipts To Budget For August 2026



Gateway United Methodist Church
Financial Activity Summary
For the Period Ended August 31, 2026

	Current Year		Prior Year		Difference		
	Current Period	Y-T-D	Current Period	Y-T-D	Current Period	Y-T-D	
Operation Receipts	14,758.35	137,775.28	12,788.72	104,075.85	1,969.63	33,699.43	32.38%
Operation Expenditures	<u>(12,135.49)</u>	<u>(139,187.20)</u>	<u>(15,546.95)</u>	<u>(114,123.57)</u>	<u>3,411.46</u>	<u>(25,063.63)</u>	
Operation Profit	<u><u>2,622.86</u></u>	<u><u>(1,411.92)</u></u>	<u><u>(2,758.23)</u></u>	<u><u>(10,047.72)</u></u>	<u><u>5,381.09</u></u>	<u><u>8,635.80</u></u>	
Apportionment Payments		28,922.00	5,000.00	15,000.00	(5,000.00)	13,922.00	
Percent of Total Apportionment	0.00%	101.61%	17.57%	52.70%			
Bank Balance End of Period	10,401.70		10,617.70		(216.00)		

100% of 2026
apportionment made