

refuge. 23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness; the Lord our God will destroy them.

### Sermon Scripture

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

### Sermon

"Faithful, Not Famous"

Rev. Nici Masters

### Hymn

"A Charge to Keep I Have"

UMH 413

### Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offering

"O Worship the King"

### Doxology

UMH 95

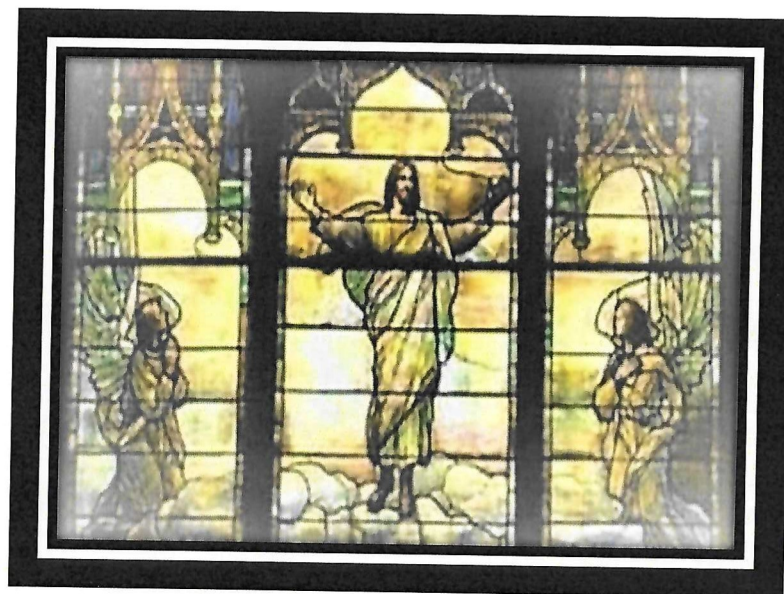
### Offertory Prayer

### Passing the Peace

### Hymn

"When We All Get to Heaven" v 1,2,4 UMH 701

### Benediction



## GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 23, 2026

301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554

Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor  
Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle  
Bell Choir Director – Val Huffman  
August Head Usher – Jeff Erdie

### Acolytes

Esme and Ollie Allen  
Haeden and Kenslie Futton  
Nora Rae Huffman

**The Celebration of Worship**  
**August 23, 2026**  
**Order of Worship**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**    "Cone, Christians, Join to Sing"                      Bells

**\*Call to Worship**

L: O Lord, God of vengeance, shine forth! Rise up, O Judge of the earth.

**All: The Lord knows the thoughts of humanity; He is our refuge and our strength.**

L: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation!

**All: He who fashioned the ear hears our prayers. He who formed the eye sees our hearts.**

L: The Lord will not reject His people or forsake His inheritance.

**All: Let us bring our lives to the only One who judges righteously. Come, let us worship God!**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open and all secrets are known, we bow before You. In a world full of pride, injustice, and human judgment, we take refuge in Your perfect justice. We thank You for the grace that calls us to be servants of Christ and stewards of Your mysteries. We pray that You would grant us the grace to be found faithful in all we do. Transform the secret purposes of our hearts so that they may be pleasing in Your sight. Guard us from the temptation to judge others and help us to rest securely in Your ultimate verdict. As we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, mold us, teach us, and guide us in Your truth. In Your holy and precious name we pray. Amen.

**Children's Chat**

Katie Musgrave

**Hymn**    "O Jesus, I Have Promised" v 1,2,4                      UMH 396

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 94

1 The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. 2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. 3 How long, Lord, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant? 4 They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting. 5 They crush your people, Lord; they oppress your inheritance. 6 They slay the widow and the foreigner; they murder the fatherless. 7 They say, "The Lord does not see; the God of Jacob takes no notice."

8 Take notice, you senseless ones among the people; you fools, when will you become wise? 9 Does he who fashioned the ear not hear? Does he who eye not see? 10 Does he who disciplines nations not punish? Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge? 11 The Lord knows all human plans; he knows that they are futile.

12 Blessed is the one you discipline, Lord, the one you teach from your law; 13 you grant then relief from days of trouble, till a pit is dug for the wicked. 14 For the Lord will not reject his people; he will never forsake his inheritance. 15

Judgment will again be founded on righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it. 16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evildoers? 17 Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. 18 When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. 19 When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. 20 Can a corrupt throne be allied with you - a throne that brings on misery by its decrees? 21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death. 22 But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9 – Prayer Team meeting  
August 12 – Dinner/Church on the Green – 5pm  
August 22 – GUMM Breakfast – Moms – 8:30 am  
August 24 – Yoga – Asbury - 10am  
August 25 – Finance Committee – Longe – 1pm

### ATTENDANCE

August 2 - 68  
August 9 - 91  
August 16 – 70  
August 23 –  
August 30 -

### 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](mailto:nicimasters@yahoo.com)  
Church E-mail – [gatewayumc@gmail.com](mailto:gatewayumc@gmail.com)  
Website – [gatewayumc-wv.org](http://gatewayumc-wv.org)  
YouTube Link – <https://youtube.com/gatewayumc.wv>

### Loose Change/Food Pantry Collection

Loose change (coins only) – Honey Bags  
Items for July – shampoo/deodorant



## WEBINAR EVENT – AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>

The trustees will host a FREE dinner prior to the Webinar Zoom August 24<sup>th</sup> for Gateway Congregation. It will be provided by Murials. The menu will be Rigitoni, Green Beans, Roasted Potatoes and Dessert. Tea, Coffee and Water will be provided.

The meal will be at 6:00pm and the Zoom at 7:00pm.

Reservations must be made by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Reservation information needed:

Name and number of attendees. Put this information in the collection plate or bring to the church office during regular working hours,. (Monday thru Thursday 9am till noon).

Any questions see Bud Ford, Chairman of the Trustees or Pastor Nici.

### Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

## *United Methodist Foundation Webinar Event*

*August 24, 2026*

The second webinar in The United Methodist Foundation's Online Academy of Faith and Generosity is happening Monday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. Are you wondering how to start or enhance a legacy giving and endowment program for your church or ministry?

Join Jeff Taylor and Kim Matthews for this webinar. Learn what an endowment is and how it can support ministry, who should be involved in creating one, and why a Gift Acceptance Policy is important. Learn how to market legacy giving opportunities and why impact stories are important. Join us for the A to Z of building an endowment program!

*Mary Priscilla Women's Group & Gateway United Methodist Men*

## **Baked Steak Dinner**

**Baked Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Salad & Dessert**

**Friday, September 18, 2026**

**3:30 – 6:30 PM**

**Dine-In or Take-Out**

**Gateway UMC – 301 Diamond St – Fairmont, WV**

**\$17.00 per dinner**

**Checks Payable to**

**Mary Priscilla Women's Group**



## Congregational Survey

### Defining Testimony HQ (THQ)

Testimony HQ (THQ) is a hub or “headquarters” to help people learn how to tell their God stories. We define testimony as “a good story that is also a God story,” and we believe that God stories have the power to build community. Stories told inside the church spill out into wider circles—the cities, towns, and neighborhoods where we live. When we “speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20), we become more connected to people, and we help people connect more with God and with our congregation. THQ helps churches make this change by integrating testimony as a focus of their ministry in the church as well as the wider community.

### Purpose of the Congregational Survey

We’re excited for you to complete this survey because it will provide critical information for your church’s successful participation in THQ. The honest input you give will help your church measure where it is now in relation to testimony as community engagement before it begins with THQ. Your name will be anonymous, so please provide transparent responses, and take your time with this survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.

### Accessing and Sharing the Survey

Per the THQ Cohort Covenant, at least 10% of your church’s members and constituents must complete the congregational survey by **September 15, 2026**. Below are two ways to share this survey with your congregation:

1. Click on this anonymous link to take the survey:  
[https://smu.az1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV\\_6x9nrOHVUIDRpDE](https://smu.az1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_6x9nrOHVUIDRpDE)
2. Publish this QR code for your congregation to scan and access the survey:



Thank you again for participating in this important work.

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

|                                | Current Year           |                          | Prior Year             |                          | Difference           |                        |        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------|
|                                | Current Period         | Y-T-D                    | Current Period         | Y-T-D                    | Current Period       | Y-T-D                  |        |
| Operation Receipts             | 12,691.38              | 123,016.93               | 12,700.42              | 91,287.13                | (9.04)               | 31,729.80              | 34.76% |
| Operation Expenditures         | <u>(12,874.90)</u>     | <u>(127,092.31)</u>      | <u>(13,282.41)</u>     | <u>(98,372.38)</u>       | <u>407.51</u>        | <u>(28,719.93)</u>     |        |
| Operation Profit               | <u><u>(183.52)</u></u> | <u><u>(4,075.38)</u></u> | <u><u>(581.99)</u></u> | <u><u>(7,085.25)</u></u> | <u><u>398.47</u></u> | <u><u>3,009.87</u></u> |        |
| Apportionment Payments         |                        | 28,922.00                |                        | 10,000.00                | -                    | 18,922.00              |        |
| Percent of Total Apportionment | 0.00%                  | 101.61%                  | 0.00%                  | 28.76%                   |                      |                        |        |
| Bank Balance End of Period     | 7,738.29               |                          | 13,580.17              |                          | (5,841.88)           |                        |        |

100% of 2026  
apportionment made

## Comparison Receipts To Budget For July 2026

