

**TO SEE  
GOD'S  
LOVE &  
POWER  
TRANSFORM  
THE WORLD**



# THE GOSPEL

It's all about the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ. The Gospel, communicated to us in the Bible, defines the three most overarching matters in the universe:

## GOD

There is one—and only one— true God. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is infinite in love, holiness, and all other perfections. He is all-powerful, and He is all-knowing. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

## HUMANITY

Man—both male and female—is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and love. Although man has tremendous potential for good, the entire human race is marred by an attitude of pride and disobedience toward God called “sin.” This attitude separates man from God.

## THE MESSAGE

Before anything was ever created, God, in His Divine will, determined to bring salvation to the human race. Through Adam's disobedience, sin came into the world, affecting all creation and every person. Though sin separates the human race from God, the Gospel, or Good News, is God's way of reconciling that relationship. Through His grace, God redeems those who, by faith and repentance, surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. Christ died in our place on the cross (the righteous dying for the unrighteous), was buried, and rose again the third day. Those who surrender their lives, by faith, to Jesus Christ are forgiven of their sin, received into God's family, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and become a part of God's great reconciling work for His creation. In the last days, those who are in Christ will be resurrected from the dead, given a new incorruptible body, and saved from the judgment and wrath of God. They will be with God for all eternity in the new creation.

# HIS WORKMANSHIP

Because of who we are in Christ, we have all been called into a life-long transformation of becoming more and more like Christ. This transformation takes place through the power of the Holy Spirit, given to each believer at salvation. Our relationship with Christ calls us into community with other believers, calls us to be His ambassadors, calls us to live missionally, loving one "another", loving our "enemies", loving our "neighbors" and sharing His story with everyone and calls us to care for the sick, the orphaned, the widowed, the homeless, the neglected and the voiceless. We do these things not because "we have to", but rather because "we get to". Through every moment, we remember who we are in Christ, use every opportunity and circumstance as a means of worship to Him, make much of His name, extend His kingdom and bring Him glory. We hold on to His promises and wait for the day when He will return, making all of creation new, healing our wounds, wiping away our tears and to destroying sin, Satan and death once and for all. Simply put, this gospel calls everyone to respond to God's message on three distinct, but inseparable, levels:

## PERSONAL

The gospel affirms being "made right" before God through repentance and faith in Jesus, becoming more like Christ daily by continual surrender to His Word and the Holy Spirit, giving evidence of God's continued work in our lives and using our God-given gifts to advance His kingdom, and anticipating the day when God will perfect His people in His presence.

The gospel always affirms community. God's communities are local congregations, where Christians, who have given evidence of their faith and repentance through believer's baptism and life renewal, live out their faith in environments of prayer, fellowship, service, worship, and discipleship with love and accountability to each other.

## CONGREGATIONAL

## SOCIAL

The gospel is global and eternal. The church is entrusted with taking Christ's message everywhere, both to glorify God and to show His love for all people. We live this out locally, nationally and internationally.

## **OUR HISTORY**

Gateway officially began on August 13, 2006 in Pikeville, NC with Thayer Stamper as founding pastor. The church's first members were driven by a desire to reach and disciple a new generation of Christians using modern mediums and methods to communicate the timeless gospel of Jesus Christ. Following ten weeks of meeting at the Goldsboro Family YMCA, the congregation moved to its first long-term location in rented space at 118 S. Berkeley Blvd in Goldsboro in November of that year. A little more than two years later, Gateway purchased property at 401 S. Main St in Pikeville, where we have worshiped since.

## **OUR NAME**

The name "Gateway" has both spiritual and geographical meaning:

First, it comes from a combination of two words, both used by Christ, to describe his divine role in coming to us. In John 10:7,9, Jesus called himself the "Gate" for his sheep, the only point of rightful access to the safety and security of the home prepared for them. In John 14:6, He also called Himself the "Way," as well as the "truth" and the "life." The combination of those two words was perfect for the church that God has called us to be... In our community and beyond, for a generation that needs to know the true God, we are to point others to the divine truth, power, and love that are in Christ, and in Him alone. We are to be an access point for those who need to hear the gospel, an entryway for those who will respond to the gospel, and an opportunity for spiritual growth and maturity for those who will be disciplined in the gospel.

Second, Goldsboro, and the greater Wayne County area, was once known in NC as the "Gateway to the East," a transportation and shipping hub that was vital in receiving and sending goods to and from the Carolina coast. In fact, public transportation in modern Goldsboro pays tribute to that designation, calling itself "Gateway." Our name, therefore, gives us both a link to the timeless truth of Christ and a link to the local community where we are blessed to serve.

## **OUR AFFILIATION**

Though Christians all around the world express their worship in different kinds of churches, as we understand the Scriptures and church history, we have been led to express our congregational identity as "Baptist." Since her inception, Gateway Community Church has been an autonomous member of both the Baptist State Convention of NC (BSCNC) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), supporting its many entities and ministries here in America and around the world. While we do support other local, national, and international ministries, our affiliation with the BSCNC and SBC reflects both the heart of our agreement with other baptists theologically and the cooperation we share in evangelizing people groups, planting churches, and equipping Christians to reflect the glory of Jesus Christ. For more information about the Southern Baptist Convention, check out <http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/acloserlook.asp>.

## **OUR POLITY**

Gateway Community Church is a staff-led congregation overseen by a body of biblically qualified and selected elders called the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The church staff, led by the lead pastor, oversees the day-to-day ministry of the church, while the ELT are authorized and empowered to have general oversight of the church's mission, financials, and long-term vision.

## OUR BELIEFS

Guided by the Scriptures, Gateway lives out the faith passed down to us in our 21st century world. The Scriptures consistently affirm these answers in its 66 books (both the Old and New Testaments). The Scriptures also provide the foundation for our congregation's Statement of Faith, a document not only to be believed, but to be practically applicable to our church and members' lives. That Statement reads as follows...

**GOD:** There is one—and only one—living and true God. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is infinite in love, holiness, and all other perfections, He is all-powerful, and He is all-knowing. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

**MAN:** Man—both male and female—is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and love. Although man has tremendous potential for good, the entire human race is marred by an attitude of pride and disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates man from God. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3–6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1–2)

**ETERNITY:** Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or united with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Both heaven and hell are places of eternal existence. (John 3:16; 1 John 2:25, 5:11–13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15)

**JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. He took human nature upon Himself and was born to the virgin Mary. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Matthew 1:22–23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1–5, 14:10–30; Hebrews 4:14–15; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Romans 1:3–4; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Timothy 6:14–15; Titus 2:13)

**SALVATION:** Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by repenting of sin and trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith, continues as one matures through discipleship, and is made complete in heaven. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

**THE BELIEVER'S SECURITY IN CHRIST:** Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the believer's self-effort. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security. (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10–14; 1 Peter 1:3–5)

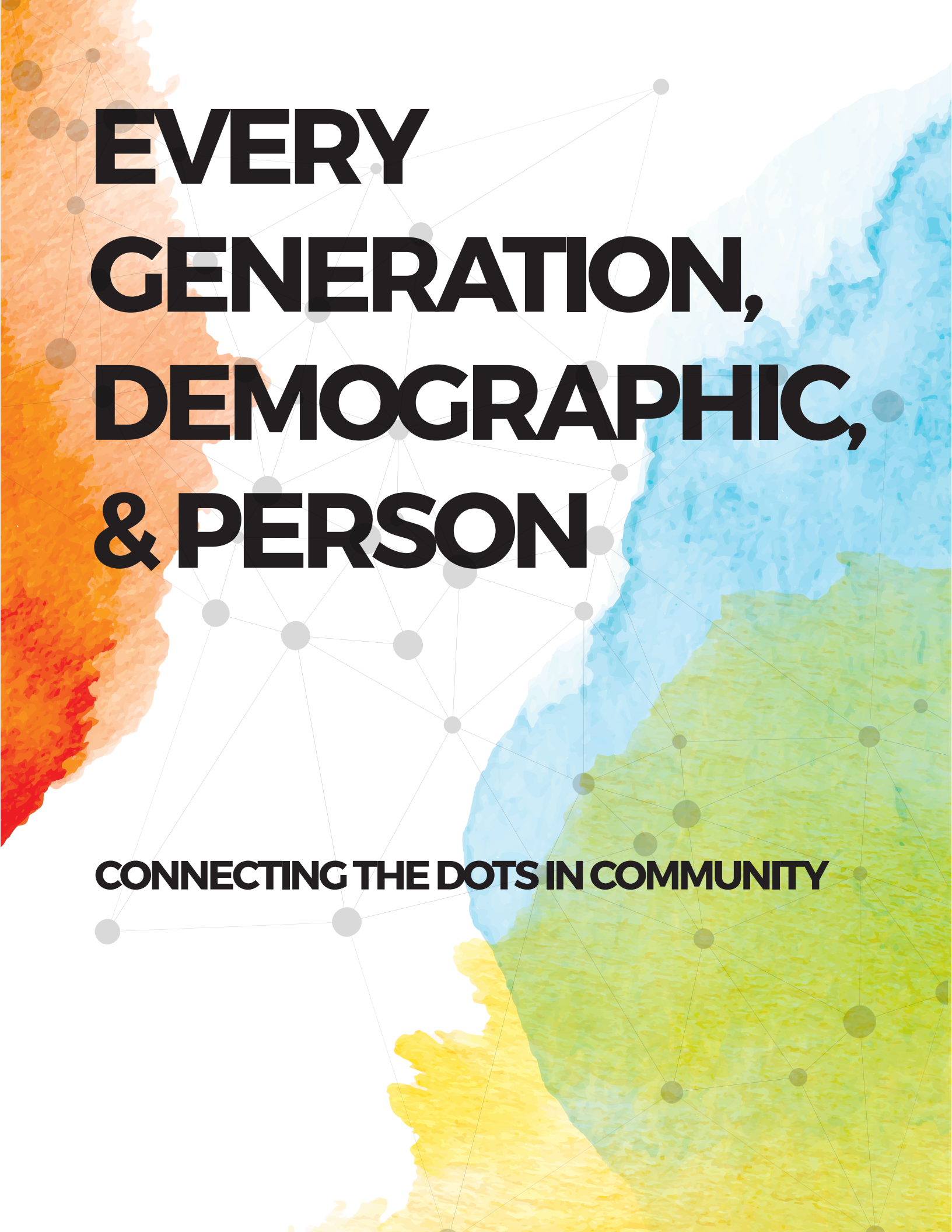


**THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to enable men to understand truth and to make them aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live and operate under His control daily. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7–13, 14:16–17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

**BAPTISM AND COMMUNION:** Christian baptism is a believer's immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the first act of obedience and symbolizes the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin and former way of life, and the believer's commitment to walk in newness of life in Christ. It also testifies to faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Communion (The Lord's Supper) is a symbolic act of obedience in which believers, through sharing the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember Jesus' death and anticipate His second coming. (Matthew 3:13–17; 26:26–30; 28:19–20; Mark 1:9–11; 14:22–26; Luke 3:21–22; 22:19–20; John 3:22–23; Acts 2:41–42; 8:35–39; 16:30–33; 20:7; Romans 6:3–5; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23–29; Colossians 2:12)

**THE FAMILY:** God has designed the family as the foundation for human society. It is made up of people related to each another by marriage, by blood, or by adoption. Marriage is the union of a man and a woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the relationship between Christ and the church. Marriage also provides the basis for intimate companionship, the true context for God's gift of sexuality, and the biblical means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife have equal value before God because both are created in His image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband should love his wife as Christ loves the church. He has a divine responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to her husband's servant leadership just as the church willingly submits to Christ's leadership. She has a divine responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to model God's pattern for marriage to their children. They also have the responsibility to teach spiritual and moral values to their children and to lead them, by example and through loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical wisdom and truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. (Genesis 1:26–28, 2:15–25, 3:1–20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26–28; Psalms 51:5, 78:1–8, 127:3–5, 128, 139:13–16; Proverbs 1:8, 5:15–20, 6:20–22, 12:4, 13:24, 14:1, 17:6, 18:22, 22:6, 15, 23:13–14, 24:3, 29:15, 17, 31:10–31; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, 9:9; Malachi 2:14–16; Matthew 5:31–32, 18:2–5, 19:3–9; Mark 10:6–12; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Corinthians 7:1–16; Ephesians 5:21–33, 6:1–4; Colossians 3:18–21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3–5; Titus 2:3–5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1–7)

**THE BIBLE:** The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit and testifies to Jesus Christ, the focus of divine revelation. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. The Bible is the supreme standard by which all human conduct and religious opinions should be tried. (Luke 24:25–27; 2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Psalm 119:105, 160; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

The background features a network diagram with grey dots and lines. Overlaid on this are four large, irregular watercolor shapes in orange, blue, green, and yellow, which appear to represent continents or regions.

# **EVERY GENERATION, DEMOGRAPHIC, & PERSON**

**CONNECTING THE DOTS IN COMMUNITY**



# GATHERING

At Gateway, we gather as a community redeemed in Christ, to worship God, to build one another up in greater faith in and obedience to Him, and to draw unbelievers to Christ as we proclaim him as Savior and Lord.

Christian gatherings in the New Testament were active in singing , praying , partaking in the Lord's Supper, teaching and learning , exercising spiritual gifts, reading Scripture , giving generously , exhibiting outward expressions of worship, and obeying the Holy Spirit as He revealed God's will. (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians. 3:16; Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8; 1 Corinthians 11:24-28; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor.inthians 14:26; 1 Timothy 4:13; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Acts 2:45; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; John 4; 1 Corinthians 14)

In our community gatherings we intentionally pursue united worship through:

## MUSIC

- Praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through worship leadership and congregational singing
- Integrating biblical truth in song
- Welcoming an atmosphere that promotes a Spirit-led lifestyle of worship
- Promoting intergenerational and intercultural unity
- Integrating planned & spontaneous times of worship rooted in dependence on and gratitude to God
- Valuing of excellence, beauty, and quality in art
- Affirming individual expressions of praise within the context of community

## ORDINANCES

- Baptizing new believers
- Observing and participating in the Lord's Supper



# PRAYER

- Recognizing prayer as an anchor of our dependence on, submission to, and faith in God's sovereignty
- Knowing that it is a God-given necessity for illumination, intercession, agreement, thanksgiving, adoration, confession, and petition
- Providing for intentional times of community-wide prayer and promoting personal daily prayer
- Emphasizing communication with God through prayer that has both form and freedom (Matthew 6; Romans 8:26-30)

# PREACHING & TEACHING

- Recognizing that the Bible is the supreme standard by which all human conduct and religious opinions should be tried
- Realizing that the Holy Spirit of God brings illumination, power, conviction, and life to the Scriptures
- Preaching/teaching that is diligently prepared, yet dependent upon the Spirit of God to provide it with power
- Emphasizing the Scriptural command to preach/teach the Scriptures to bring repentance, initial faith, and continued discipleship to God's people
- Promoting the individual necessity/responsibility of personal Bible study
- Providing Scriptural resources for spiritual growth

# SERVICE & STEWARDSHIP

- Assisting/promoting new and existing relationships among those who attend our services
- Contributing our resources, time, financials, and belongings to the mission of the Church
- Tithes and Offerings contributions to Local/National/International Ministries
- Displaying truth, encouragement, and love for believers and nonbelievers
- Emphasizing gifts and roles for all members



THIS IS CO





COMMUNITY

# GATEWAY KIDS



## AGE MATTERS TO US!

There is nothing more important for us than to ensure that everyone hears the gospel of Jesus Christ on a level that he/she understands. That's why age-appropriate worship is one of our key values. For our youngest attendees, Gateway Kids is the age-appropriate worship and learning environment where the gospel comes to life, in fun, creative, and challenging ways. Of two things, you can be absolutely certain... children at Gateway will learn about Jesus, and they'll have a blast doing it!

## SAFETY IS A PRIORITY.

Children's safety is our priority. We screen each volunteer with an interview and federal background check (before training), monitor all hallways and exits during the service, and check-in each child with a unique identification number and a matching parents' tag. Should a child need mom or dad during the service, we will flash the child's identification number and last name on the screen in the main auditorium. For your children's safety, during check-out, parents' tags are matched with children's tags before we release children into an adult's care.

## GROWTH FROM THE BOTTOM UP

We believe a church grows from the bottom up! The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Rest in the fact that we believe in your child. We spend countless hours praying and preparing for our GCC Kids environments every week! Every resource, volunteer, and moment together is an investment! As each child grows, they become more aware of God's purpose and love through the Gateway Kids' experience and they ultimately find their destiny is in Christ.

# ENVIRONMENT



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A loving & safe environment that introduces children (Birth-Age 4) to Jesus. Preschool years are vital to your children's development. They grow so quickly on so many different levels (physically, socially, emotionally, mentally), and Gateway's preschool ministry exists to help them (and you) as they grow spiritually. During this time, we concentrate on three simple and basic truths that set the tone for your children's later spiritual development. Those three truths are: *God Made Me, God Loves Me, and Jesus Wants To Be My Friend Forever*



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An energetic environment for elementary students (Kindergarten-5th grade) that builds young Christ followers. According to Luke 2:52, "Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man." The Big Top is Gateway's way of helping parents foster their children's growth, especially "in favor with God and man." As children enter elementary school, they become more aware of the world around them, they learn that decisions have consequences, they learn more about their relationships with family and their friendships with others, and they learn that certain things are beyond their ability to control. Every lesson envelopes one of three basic truths: *I Should Treat Others the Way I Want to Be Treated, I Need to Make the Wise Choice, I Can Trust God No Matter What*



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For young children who are still clinging to mom and dad, we've created the Family Room. We strive to keep our adult environment as distraction-free as possible. The Family Room is an area where parents can feel comfortable while hearing the Word and engaging in worship with their children. It features comfy seating space, small toys and activities for children, as well as one-way glass and a speaker system so that the worship and Word can be experienced live as it's happening in the auditorium.



A photograph of a young man with a black backpack, seen from the side, looking out over a lush green town and hills under a clear sky. The word "STUDENTS" is overlaid in large white letters.

# STUDENTS

Students are bombarded with expectations, obstacles, and circumstances beyond their control every day. Through our student ministry at Gateway, we present the truth of Scripture in love to every situation that they may encounter. This is best accomplished by partnering with the students' families. Our student ministry is meant to "add to & come along side" the family in its effort to raise up students to who they are called to be through and in Christ. Our student ministry is comprised of these key facets:





We recognize that our Christian lives cannot be (and were never intended to be) disconnected from our everyday lives or detached from our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those within our own congregation. The Scriptural truth we hear in our worship services must intersect the lives that we live in our families, careers, and communities as well as in the relationships we have with other believers in Christ.

To promote this intersection and practical application for our adults, we provide discipleship and relational opportunities for:

## CONNECTION & FELLOWSHIP

- Life Groups - providing the context for intimate fellowship, evangelism and continuing discipleship within the body
- Men's/Women's Fellowship - giving opportunities for scriptural and healthy relationships to grow among women who are seeking to grow in their relationship with God and for men who are seeking the same.

## SERVICE

Affirming 1 Peter 4:9-10 ("Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."), we encourage all of our members (students and adults) to serve in some capacity. Whether it's serving in one of our children's/student services, assisting our attendees in guest services, working with our worship ministries, or serving in any other capacity, service to those in the body should be a priority for anyone serious about demonstrating and living out his/her faith. These times of service, however, are not limited to our weekly services. They include a lifestyle of service, lived out in the world in personal everyday circumstances, in addition to special directed efforts conducted by Gateway and other Kingdom ministries.





# K I N G D O M   C O M E





People everywhere need the Gospel - here at home and abroad. Our vision is that, by 2026, Gateway will contribute 50% of our gross fiscal budget to local, national, and international missions partners, outside our four walls.



# 50

**BY 2026**



# STEWARDSHIP

Our goals are driven by the Gospel and to see God's Kingdom advanced through us, and we budget and spend accordingly. Our specific budget will change every year, and our most recent budget information is always available at our Guest Services Counter. You may, however, want to know our *priorities* in how we use the resources God gives to us through His people. In a nutshell, here is how we break it down:

## PERSONNEL

In keeping with our standard practice here at Gateway, our personnel budget stays well below 50% of our total budget.

## OPERATIONAL

It comes as no surprise that every church, like every company (and every family) has bills. These operational expenses go toward our mortgage, utilities, insurance, and other things that help us to minister effectively in our community.

## MINISTRY

These expenses provide the large and small resources that provide means for ministry. However, our ministry is bigger than just what happens here. Every month, a percentage of your contributions go toward ministry at home and abroad through ministries like the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, pro-life and pregnancy care centers, care for orphans and widows, and victims of sex trafficking. Overall, our total ministry budget makes up just under 28% of our entire budget, with at least 7.85% of that ministry budget going to outside ministries. Our goal is that by 2026, half of ALL our contributions to Gateway will be given away to like-minded Kingdom ministry partners outside of our four walls. We have all confidence that your faithfulness and generosity will play a part in what God is ultimately doing!





# MEMBERSHIP

One of the best words to describe the local church is “family.” As your own families are composed of different individuals with various interests, roles, personalities, and abilities, so is the local church! Christ saves us individually, but He has no desire to simply leave us to live our lives alone. He strategically unites us as the local church where, collectively, we use our diverse gifts, perspectives, and resources to accomplish great things for His glory. The local church also provides the context for Jesus-centered community, teaching, service, worship, encouragement, accountability, and continuing maturity. Simply put, your local church family is the “hub” where we unite ourselves to the work that glorifies Christ, grows us in Christ, and demonstrates to those around us the love of Christ.

Membership at GCC is all about affirming service, accountability, and consistency. This commitment begins with faith in Jesus for salvation and following, if one hasn’t already, the obedience of believer’s baptism. Every member has an expectation among the body to be active in:

**SERVICE**

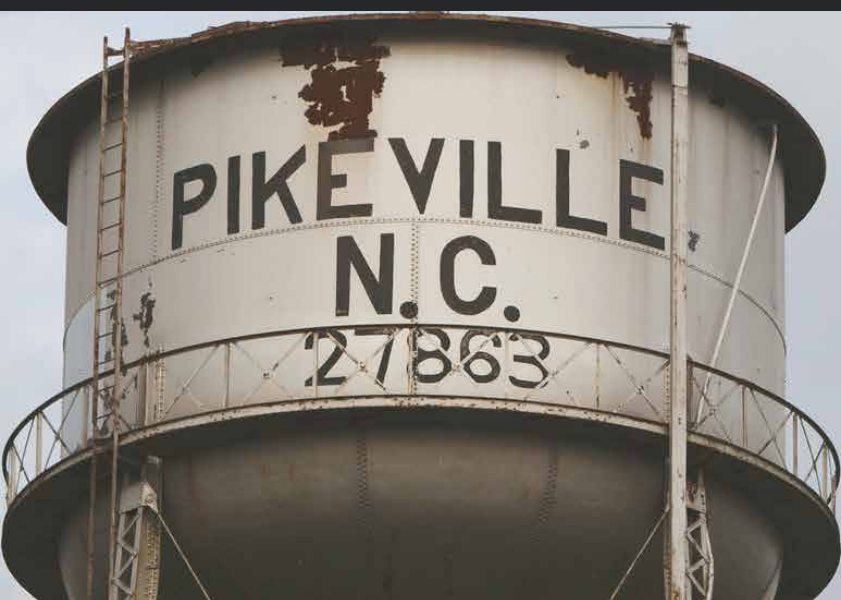
**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**PRAYER**

**RELATIONSHIPS**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

From this place of commitment, the local body functions to fulfill the Great Commission: make disciples and share the Gospel! Multiple times a year, we host Jumpstart: an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and consider if Gateway is the place the Lord would have you use your gifts and ministry calling!



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