

VISION 2026

Gateway Community Church

Helping people to love and serve Jesus



**CHRIST, OUR
UNCHANGING HOPE**

Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today,
and FOREVER!

Hebrews 13:8

CHRIST, OUR UNCHANGING HOPE

Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and forever!

~ Hebrews 13:8

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness!

~ Lamentations 3:22-23



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MATT TINSLEY

Chair of Council



On **Monday November 24 at 7:30pm**, we will have the opportunity to meet again as a Congregation at our annual fall Congregational Meeting. The main reason for the November Congregational Meeting is to review the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

As we near the end of our fiscal year, I want to thank all of you that have financially contributed to our church family. Over the last couple years, we've been trying to grow towards more consistent giving to alleviate some of the stress and pressure that our leaders feel late in the year, and you have responded! As we've gone through the year, we've been much closer to our pace goals. We hope and pray this generosity, and consistency will continue as we finish strong and head into a new year. **We are grateful for all the people that give of their time, talents, and treasures.**

Over the past year, it has been wonderful to welcome so many new people who now consider Gateway their home. Our mission, to

help people love and serve Jesus,

has been clear not only in our Sunday worship and preaching, but also in the vibrant ministries happening throughout the week. In a cultural moment when churches across North America are experiencing decline, it is encouraging to see how God continues to work through Gateway and use His people right here in our community.

In this booklet you will find extensive information on what is happening at Gateway with updates from our staff and some volunteers. On page 25 you will also find a detailed copy of the proposed 2026 Budget. There is much work, thought, and prayer that goes into the budget each

year and the process starts months in advance. Ministry leaders, and staff are consulted for the various ministry budgets, fixed costs like insurance, utilities, etc., are reviewed again, and a draft budget is formulated. It first goes to the Governing Council where it is reviewed, adjusted and was approved by that body. Following that approval, it was brought to full Council and was approved there on November 5th. **Now, the 2026 Budget, is in front of you with a motion brought forward by the full Council of this Church.** We take the finances very seriously and strive to balance keeping the budget as low as possible, while fairly compensating our staff and pastors, covering the fixed expenses of our beautiful campus, and supporting ministries that continue to see growth.

As a Council we are made up of three bodies: The Ministering Deacons, Ministering Elders, and the Governing Council. Each September, new members join. It is not always easy work, but I believe it to be rewarding work as each of these individuals serve the Church with the gifts, talents and skills that the Lord has entrusted them with.

You can find a full list of our elders and deacons, as well as our staff, on page 27. We invite you to see who they are and introduce yourself to them if you have not yet met them.

The church has always been a community of imperfect people following a perfect Savior, which means leadership and relationships can sometimes feel messy or challenging. Yet even in good times or challenging times, Scripture calls us to think the best of one another, extend grace, and trust that our leaders are seeking to serve Christ faithfully. When members and leaders work together in humility, mutual respect, and good faith, the church becomes a place where God shapes us, strengthens our unity, and continues His work through us, despite our imperfections.

With that in mind, we invite you to uphold all our Elders, Deacons, and staff in prayer – asking that the Lord would provide wisdom and grace; as well, we encourage you to look for opportunities to support, encourage, and bless them.

And as always, we invite you to reach back out to us, as your Elders and Deacons, should you have any questions about our church family and community,

Thank you!



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Jason Maarhuis *Ministering Elder*

Last year, I was asked to let my name stand to take on the role of Ministering Elder. After a season of prayerful discernment, I felt that the Lord was inviting me to take on this role, and through the process, my name was affirmed, by you, my church family. I'm honoured to be called and affirmed in this role, and I look forward to seeing how the Lord will work through me, and our team of Ministering Elders to enact the care of His church.

I see the Lord growing His community here at Gateway as **evidenced by the recent steady increase in new members and requests for baptisms and Professions of Faith**, this is a joy to see!

I appreciate my fellow Ministering Elders: Allan Mulder, Nathan Hilderman, and our chairman, Tim Vaandrager; as well as working alongside our Pastors as a unified team.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you, to pray with you, or just have a cup of coffee and talk about life.

TIM VAANDRAGER

Ministering Elders Chair



I am currently serving in my Fourth year as Ministering Elder and my first year as Chair of the Ministering Elders.

One of the areas of our involvement in our church family, that I have really enjoyed being a part of is our **Starting Point Classes** (Membership & Profession of Faith for prospective members). These classes are led by our pastors, and Rich Vanderwal. The class walks participants through what it means to be a reformed church, and how our church organizes itself in that context, all guided by the four Profession of Faith questions. Through this class, participants are encouraged to write and share their testimony, and it has been a privilege to be able to hear these testimonies of God's goodness, over the years that I have been a Ministering Elder. These classes have led to some great conversations, that have been a great learning experience for me, and I hope for many of the individuals who have attended the classes as well.

Another area of being a Ministering Elder that I have really enjoyed is **visiting with our church family members**. The visits that I have made, have been uplifting experiences that have been a blessing to be a part of. For myself as our church has grown over the years the visits have been a great way to put a face to a name that I may not have met just yet.

All of our elders would love the opportunity to connect with you! If you would like to arrange a visit with your elder, please reach out to us (see our whole team on page 27). We truly appreciate sitting down and visiting with you.



WINNIE LANGELAAR

Deacons Missionary Liaison



Diagonal work can mean many things; however, as deacons, we want to **show mercy**, promote and inspire **faithful stewardship**, **hospitality**, and be an **encouragement to our neighbours**.

How do the deacons do this? There are various projects and programs, including food drives for Archway, distributing benevolence funds to those in need within our community, and supporting refugees and missionaries.

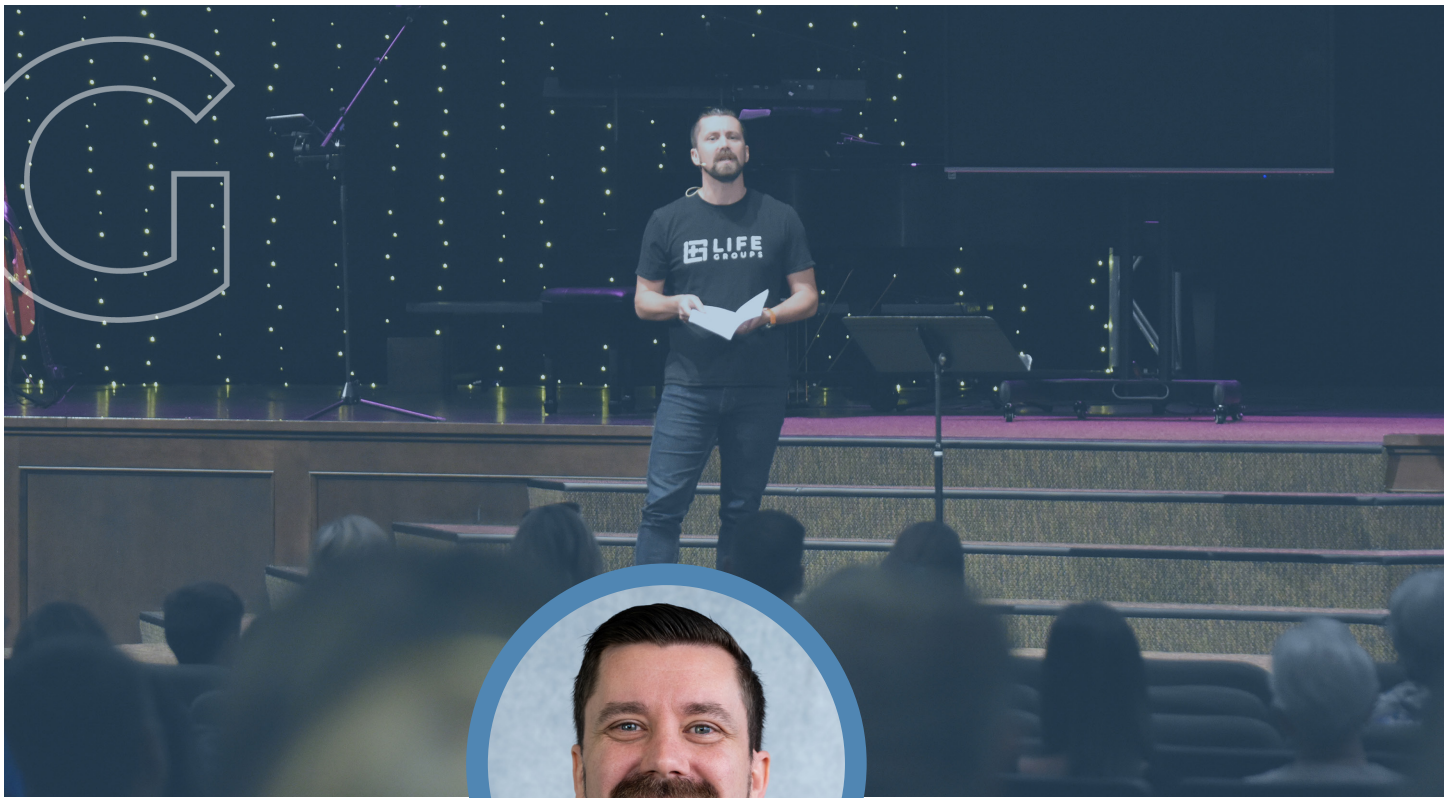
Missionaries may or may not be members of our congregation; yet, since we support them, they are considered part of fulfilling Gateway's values by being our hands and feet to the world. This year, the deacons have approved and encouraged the creation of the **Our Missionaries** page on Gateway's website. The page is a resource where you can find information about the work of our **six** missionaries' ministries.

We see **Howard & Jannie Johnson (NAIM)**, who are involved in working among the indigenous peoples in BC by hosting Supper Clubs and providing opportunities for people to learn to trust Jesus, even in the face of pushback in the community. **Leslie Arends (Esther School)** is working in Zambia, providing Christian education within the Zambian educational system. **Monique Mattatal (GAiN)** is involved in projects to provide water for villages in Benin and Tanzania. **Tyler Couperus (GAiN)** focuses on disaster relief and preparedness in various countries worldwide. **Lianne Tuin (Adventures in Missions)** is discipling and guiding teams and is involved in helping communities in the countries they visit. **Jack DeKroon (P2C)** is busy gathering supplies and constructing churches in Haiti.

The webpage keeps us up to date on what is happening in their ministries and provides us with ways to pray and be a blessing and encouragement to our missionaries, as well as their communities.

Find the missionaries page online:

GATEWAYCRC.ORG/GROW/OUR-MISSIONARIES



JUSTIN CARRUTHERS

Lead Pastor



There are two words I think about often: **Shema** – the Hebrew “to hear,” encapsulating the Greatest Commandment: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.*” **Kavanah** – the Hebrew word “holy intent,” inviting you to consider *why* you do anything at all. Placed together, **She-ma Kavanah**, paints a vision for life: **With all you’ve got (Shema), for the glory of God (Kavanah)! I want to live my life that way!**

When I drive my kids to school, we recite “*The Shema*,” first in Hebrew, then in English. Yes, my kids recite it in Hebrew. Yes, they’re cool. Yes, they’re pastors’ kids. I do this because of the words that follow: **These commandments...are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.** I know that my kids will face a day full of decisions - how to treat teachers and classmates; whether to step in when someone is bullied; whether to apply themselves. As they face those decisions, I want to instill this vision: Do it with all you’ve got, for the glory of God!

As dad, it is my calling to impress these truths into daily life, when we walk, talk, rise, and sit. But this calling extends beyond parenting. Jesus repeats the Shema in Matthew 22, inviting all of us, married or single, with kids or without, to build our lives around it. As we lean into this “*Shema Kavanah*” life, our focus for the year becomes clear: to grow as a people who practice daily, life-shaping habits of discipleship, rooted in **God’s Word**, nurtured in **community**, and extended through **mission**.

Friends, as you read the ministry reports in this booklet, you’ll see God shaping us in these ways. From the newborns in our nursery to our vibrant senior’s ministry, God is discipling His people. Please pause and pray for each ministry as you read. Here are just a few things I invite you to join us in praying for in 2026.

A Vision for Sticky, Lasting Faith. As a church, we boldly aspire for faith to be “sticky” for our children and youth. Research from the Fuller Youth Institute highlights a sobering trend: 40–50% of active high-school seniors drift from faith after graduation. We want to buck that trend! It also identifies three practices that powerfully help faith endure: (1) Parents modeling weekly worship and simple, consistent faith practices at home, (2) Intergenerational relationships in the church, (3) The “5:1 ratio,” five caring adults investing in every young person.

Thus, in 2026, we aspire to grow in these areas by:

- 1. Equipping parents as primary disciplers.** Resourcing families so spiritual habits take root at home.
- 2. Build toward the 5:1 ratio.** Surrounding every teen with caring adults: parents, small-group leaders, mentors, and invested members.
- 3. Deepening worship-first integration for kids and teens.** Children and teens regularly leading in worship.
- 4. Resourcing parents with simple, meaningful tools.** Weekly conversation starters, family devotion guides, training nights.
- 5. Strengthening intergenerational rhythms.** Serving opportunities, meals, shared experiences—practices that weave our lives together.

All of this is about helping faith take root, grow strong, and endure.

Thank You, and We Need Your Help! This past year, I have seen God at work through you. If we listed every volunteer role, the number would exceed 400—a remarkable picture of generosity. Thank you! Your joyful service is one of the strongest testimonies to God’s work among us. This year we are building new teams around hospitality, prayer, and event planning. You will hear more in the weeks ahead. For now, please pray that the Lord brings the right people to these important roles.

Deep Gratitude. I want to express profound thanks to our Council and staff. They serve with prayerful diligence and humility. It is a privilege to serve alongside them. Their dedication, prayerfulness, and joyful service amaze me. They show up week after week with a sincere desire to see God’s Kingdom work expand, and they do so with energy and joy. Gateway, please continue to bless and encourage them.

A Personal Note: Sabbatical 2026. Lord willing, this summer I will take my first sabbatical—a time to refresh the heart, sharpen the mind, and renew the soul. It will include prayer retreats, family reconnection, and, God willing, a site visit to Israel in preparation for a future church trip. If all goes well, I hope to lead many of you there in 2027. Thank you for praying for me and for the elders walking with me through this process.

Finally, from Julie and me. Thank you! This congregation is our family. We feel loved, supported, prayed for, and uplifted by you. It is a joy to serve as your pastor. I bless and thank God for each of you. Gateway, let’s continue to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength, and teach the next generation to do the same, **with all we’ve got, for the glory of God!**



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

John & Theresa
Van Dop
First Impressions

Shortly after we started attending Gateway, we were invited to join the First Impressions team. **We were especially grateful for the warm welcome we received,** coming in right after Covid. At the time, we didn’t know many people and weren’t sure we could serve well. But welcoming others into worship turned out to be something entirely different. A friendly face at the door can help set the stage for open hearts in worship.

Serving in this way also gave us the opportunity to meet people, both regular attenders and those visiting for the very first time.

That experience eventually led us to join a Life Group, and later we were invited to lead one. Not only was this a fantastic way to enter our new community, but is such a meaningful way to see it grow and be so meaningful to others!



JASON McNABB

Pastor of Worship

We have heard it said many times, and it bears repeating here again. Here at Gateway, our mission statement is:

Helping people to LOVE and SERVE Jesus.

As we read this statement, we can see at least a few themes start to emerge that are integral for our church's services of congregational worship.

The first theme is our aim to help people to **love Jesus**, a goal that must surely involve revealing who He is and what He does, and through that to develop a love for Jesus that is informed by our growing understanding of God and the love He has for His people, expressed most fully in the giving of His one and only Son, Jesus the Saviour. And so, Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is this:

***You shall LOVE THE LORD your God with all your HEART
and with all your SOUL and with all your MIND.***

Matthew 22:36 | ESV

Taking this scripture passage seriously, at Gateway we aim to craft services of worship that participate with this high and holy calling, as we learn to love the Lord with our hearts and minds through the songs of worship that we sing together and as we proclaim truths of scripture over one another in our corporate services of worship. We see to this, at least in part, by incorporating *psalms*, *hymns* and *spiritual songs* in our services that proclaim and actually teach us about our great God, the creator and master of the universe; about the realities of our sin, and our great need of a Saviour; and about God's grace that is ours through the redeeming work of Christ.

The second theme that emerges from our church's mission statement is that we aim to help people to **serve Jesus**. One way that we seek to fulfill this calling is to *engage, equip* and *mobilize* gifted people from the body of Christ to serve in the context of the Gateway Worship ministry team. I count it a special joy to be able to work with such a large number of people in the Gateway Worship ministry, each of whom has been created by God and given gifts and a servant heart to share in the work of ministry together. For this group, made up of our Production Team, Worship Bands and the Gateway Choir & Orchestra— it is a privilege and a passion to serve by sharing out of our gifts.

*For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus TO DO good WORKS,
which God prepared in advance for us TO DO.*

Ephesians 2:10 | NIV

Recently we have seen a number of new families and individuals coming to Gateway, each man and woman among them having been gifted in various ways. The ministry of Gateway Worship provides opportunities for those with applicable gifts to **do the good works** that God has prepared for them. It is a tremendous joy for me to see people willingly step into these ministry roles, and to see the ways that their contribution builds into our worshiping community.

Looking ahead, I am excited and hopeful to see God raise up others who will share their gifts with our church family. Perhaps some of those people are currently still growing up, who are just now attending our children and youth programs. Perhaps there are others still that have not yet found their way to Gateway.

Whomever the Lord Jesus appoints to serve in our midst, we can trust by God's grace that He will establish and sustain us, and all the more as we resolve to grow in our love and service to Christ.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Joel Huizing
Gateway Worship

I have been a part of Gateway Worship since I joined the church twenty years ago. **I am thankful for the opportunity to use my gifts in the church and be able to play music with so many other great musicians and singers.** I always look forward to seeing what songs are picked for Sunday and how we as a team will incorporate them into the service.

Being involved in the worship ministry at Gateway has definitely challenged my skills and broadened my musical horizons. There are new songs being introduced alongside songs we regularly play, I enjoy learning and applying the new songs on the drums and with the different teams. Between the Sunday worship teams and the Easter and Christmas services with the Gateway Choir and Orchestra, it has been quite an adventure musically for me!

I can see God's hand at work moving people to come to our church and am excited to see where He leads Gateway in the coming years.



GATEWAY
COMMUNITY CHURCH



ADAM VAN DOP

Pastor of
Congregational Care

I want to thank you, the church family of Gateway Community Church for being such an encouraging body of Jesus, for me personally as a pastor amongst you, for my family, and for the community at large. I hear often through my interactions with you all that you all care so deeply for each other, you meet for coffee with friends, you invite guests for lunch, you check in on our elderly, you carpool other kids, *and so much more!*

We talk often of our eight values, and the one that continually stands out to me, is the one that outlines how we aspire to be a community of faith where everyone is **known, loved, and accounted for**.

To **know** everyone, means that as soon as someone interacts with our church at a weekend worship service, being a guest at a Life Group or Youth night, or a first timer to Coffee Break, we desire to learn how God has led our lives to intersect at this very point. But it's more than getting to know our guests, it's about us as a community continually seeking ways to be a community of faith. Worship services, Life Groups, Fall Festivals, Weekends of Service, Ice Skating, Seniors at Krause Berry Farms, are all ways that we strive to get to know each other better!

To **love** everyone, means that we'll care for our whole community, members and non-members alike! As everyone, in the Lord's family need and desire spiritual and life care. So, we set ourselves up to do just that. Our staff, Life Group Leaders, Care Team Leaders, and Ministering Elders, all seek to model this love for our whole community, as we connect with our church family on a regularly basis.

To **account** for everyone, means that to the best of our abilities, we watch all these relationships and interactions. From monitoring attendance

in our Life Groups, to tracking the conversations we have with our guests, to receiving reports of meaningful connections that our Care Team Leaders and Ministering Elders are making.

So much of my work as Pastor of Congregational Care, has to do with this value. I enjoy regularly being in touch with our Seniors, in phone calls, visits in homes, in coffee shops, care homes, and by hospital beds. It's truly an honor to be welcomed as a pastor in those places. I also enjoy working alongside Pastor Justin to put together our Sermon Guides for our Life Groups, and its included Leadership Material.



Another aspect of my work is following up with our guests. Ivonne Grabowski, a recent guest who has been reading through materials like “*Our Faith*” (a booklet that includes the Heidelberg Catechism, and Belgic Confession), and “*Reformed*” (by Bob DeMoor, who writes about the core tenants of our Reformed faith), wrote to me about her growing faith:

It's great to see and be convicted of so many thoughts that I didn't even know I had, as well as examining the underpinnings that had shaped the way I've been doing church and worship my whole life.

As we pursue pastoral interactions with our members and guests, we see the Lord not just upholding His church, but we also see Him growing His church! Both elements are vital, and very special parts of ministry at Gateway. It's been very exciting to see that the Lord is drawing His people to Himself through our church family! And all together, we are discovering just how passionate we are about how we *all belong, body, and soul, to our faithful saviour, Jesus Christ.*

In all this, I truly see the Lord caring for His whole flock. I love opening up the book of Ezekiel as I have the opportunity to lead the Benedictions in our services and to share a little about God's passion for His people who often feel lost when apart from their Shepherd. I share these words, as a paraphrase of Ezekiel 34:30-31,

You shall know that I am the Lord, your God, and that with the fellowship of believers, you are My sheep, you are My people, and I will care for, provide for, and nurture every single one of you.

***I will bless you, and I will protect you.
I will smile upon you, and I will extend My grace to you.
I will show you favor, and I will grant you My peace. AMEN.***

That's my prayer for us all as we go into a new year of ministry together, that we would see and experience the Lord going ahead of us – because after all, Gateway Community Church – is first and foremost, the Lord's Church. *It's not ours. It's His.* And He will do with it, what He desires – and it's my sense that He intends to care for His people within it, and to bring us more people to love.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Hank & Alice Roos *Life Group Leaders*

When approached soon after joining Gateway and asked to consider leading a **Life Group** we felt unsure of our abilities to do it well. Ultimately, we accepted the challenge as it provided us the opportunity as newcomers to become part of the Gateway family and now 4 years later, we are glad we did!

Not only do we spend more quality time in the Word, we as a group have also grown closer to each other. As leaders we have experienced in ourselves and see it in the group in general the ability to accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ despite our differences.

Our service project the last 3 years has been providing a good meal out on the street to some of Abbotsford's homeless through the 5 and 2 Ministries which has been well received and has blessed us as well.

Our Life Group has become family and we look forward to our evenings together **where studying Gods' Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship draws us closer to God.**



GATEWAY
COMMUNITY CHURCH



JOSH CHAMBERLAIN

Interim Youth
Director

Few things in life are greater than sharing the Gospel and discipleship. Teaching the Word of God at our Summit youth nights (grades 9-12) on Thursdays has quickly become one of my favorite times of the week. The youth pile in, laughing, or running to the nine-square, sitting in the corner with some friends, grabbing some snacks. They all wait until Nevaeh starts the games and Matt leads the worship with some volunteer Youth. We then move to the teaching where we are moving through Galatians - Ephesians - Colossians. We then finish the nights off with some small group discussions!! Many of us Christians will use the term “*Mountain Top Experience*” to describe a spiritual moment that was particularly powerful or meaningful. The goal is that Summit Youth nights can be that for the youth.

Getting to teach youth about God, Scripture, and the life of the church is both important and a blessing; doing that every week is both a *weighty responsibility* and a *joyful experience*. In my preparations I find myself wondering how the truth of the passage we are studying will help these youth? Will they care about it? Will this passage change their hearts? Will this push them to grow closer to God? But after the teaching, when they come back from their small groups, I hear all of these beautiful stories from the leaders; about the wonderful conversations they had in their groups. I see their hearts wrestling with the passages and topics. The questions they ask are earnest and sincere. **Our youth genuinely want to learn and grow to understand more about God.**

The youth are also crazy! With almost 140 youth registered and a little less than that each Thursday we are having a loud, chaotic, wonderful time! The volume in the Multi Purpose Room is deafening, but many of these youths are enjoying themselves. We have youth volunteering as

worship leaders. They are nervous but they want to be there and lead their peers in worshipping the Lord. As a ministry leader it is everything to see them desire God. When I teach and involve the youth by asking questions, I get a lot of good answers and further questions that we get to discuss, and they want to participate and be a part of the conversations. One youth asked, “*How is God outside of time?*” and another asked “*Where is God if He made the universe, is there a place where He is?*” The Youth of Gateway are looking for God. They want Him, seek Him, desire Him, and are moving towards Him.

Our youth would not be able to seek Him in the way they do, and I would not be able to teach them in any effective way if it wasn't for the ministry of volunteer youth leaders. **Our volunteer leaders are not just good servants of Christ but a necessary part of discipleship.** They pour into our students every ounce of their love. They walk with them through difficult and good times, through simple and complex questions. They are able to spend more building relationships in ways that Nevaeh or I, cannot with 140 youth. The fruit is evident! When the leaders arrive at Summit they are surrounded by their groups. The youth leaders are not just chaperones, but they are adults who mentor these youth towards Christ.

Summit Youth nights are led by Nevaeh, a lot of volunteer leaders, and myself; without the support of Gateway's staff, we would not be where we are! God has placed great people to lead His church, and we, Nevaeh and I, desire their discipleship and mentorship. Each member of our staff, Justin, Adam, Jason, Evan, Shena, and Carol, have endlessly supported and supplied us with anything we need to lead Summit and EDGE. We were welcomed onto the staff team with open arms with gratuitous levels of support and love.

As we think about all of the meetings, prayers, discussion, and all of the wrestling through how this ministry should be run in continuity with scripture and the CRC ministry ideals, as well as our specific context at Gateway, our fellow staff have modeled for us how to do ministry with the youth by being such beacons of Christ's light and love.

This ministry has been a blessing not just to participate in, but one of the greatest blessings of my life. And I thank God that I was asked by Him to participate in it. I see youth being loved by God and His church, and I see youth responding in wonder and love to their God.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Sydney Kornelius
*Summit Youth
Leader*

Volunteering at Summit Youth has been an amazing experience. The highlight of my Thursday nights is the time spent in our small groups. I have loved watching my youth girls grow and ask questions to deepen their faith. I really value this time because I can disciple them, and they can also be disciples to each other, offering their opinions and beliefs. **It has been amazing watching these girls build each other up in their faith and pour into each other's lives.**

One of my biggest highlights surrounds the idea of sharing testimonies. At the beginning of the year, I suggested to my girls the idea of sharing our testimonies in our small group. I did not know how they would respond. However, they all showed interest in writing testimonies or parts of their story and sharing them with our group. This was so encouraging for me and one of my highlights so far.

I feel so honored to be leading these girls who are willing to be vulnerable and share how God is working in and through their lives!





NEVAEH LETOURNEAU

Interim Youth
Coordinator



Over the past few months, I've had the incredible privilege of being part of **EDGE** Youth (grades 6-8), and I can truly say that God is moving in this ministry. Every Wednesday night, around 100 preteens pour through the doors, full of energy, laughter, and curiosity, ready to experience all that **EDGE** has to offer. The name "**EDGE**" stands for **Every Day God Encounters**, and week after week, *that's exactly what we see happening.*

Though **EDGE** is only an hour and a half each week, that time is intentionally focused on what matters most: **studying God's Word, building Christ-centered community, and helping students live missionally** in their everyday lives. We begin each night by creating space for connection through games, laughter, and shared experiences that show our students that *they belong*. But everything points towards the moment when we open Scripture together. Our teaching time is centered on knowing who God is, understanding His character, and learning how to follow Jesus in practical, tangible ways. After teaching, we move into small groups where walls come down, friendships form, and faith begins to take root.

Working with middle schoolers is an adventure in the best way possible. Conversations can shift from "Guess what I had for lunch?" to deep theological questions that catch you completely off guard, which is what makes **EDGE** so special. These students are curious, bold, and honest. One night, a Grade 6 student asked me, "*If someone is a really good person but doesn't follow Jesus, will they still go to heaven?*" Questions like that remind me why this ministry matters. **Our role isn't to have every answer, but to walk alongside students as they wrestle with Scripture, explore their doubts, and discover who Jesus is for themselves.** We desire small groups to be a place where students feel safe to ask, wonder, and grow; a place where the Word of God becomes alive and personal.

I'm continually amazed by the team of leaders God has provided for this ministry. Our core team, a group of four veteran leaders, has been an incredible gift. As both Josh and I stepped into new leadership roles this year, they offered steady support through wisdom, encouragement, and prayer. They have helped us navigate transitions, strengthen systems, and dream about where God is leading EDGE for the year. Alongside them, our fifteen youth leaders faithfully show up each week to guide small groups, build relationships, and pour into the lives of our preteens.

These leaders are more than volunteers. **They are mentors, encouragers, and examples of what it looks like to follow Jesus daily.** They serve with joy, patience, and creativity, whether that means calming a chaotic group, cleaning up spilled snacks, or offering a listening ear to a student who's having a tough night. Their presence shapes this ministry in ways that go far beyond the program itself. They live missionally by investing intentionally in these students, modeling Christlike love, and helping each youth see that they are known, valued, and loved by God.

As I reflect on these past few months, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for what God has done and for the people He is using to do it. Our prayer is that these moments will lead to lifelong discipleship as students continue encountering Jesus in everyday life.

To the parents and families who entrust us with your children each week, *thank you*. It is a privilege to partner with you in guiding your kids as they discover who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. And to our church family, your prayers, encouragement, and support make this ministry possible. EDGE is not an isolated program; it is a shared work of our whole community, united in the mission of raising up the next generation of disciples.



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Emily McNabb
EDGE Leader

I was initially asked to be an EDGE leader through casual conversation - in fact, I thought it was a joke. I was not only new to Gateway, but I had recently revisited my faith after some turbulent teenage years. I had considered youth ministry one day, but I figured I needed to do some work on myself before I was ready.

After attending one week, I knew this calling was meant to be. Youth group was such a fun space for me when I was in middle school, and to be a part of providing that same thing for the girls coming after me is such a cool full circle moment. Seeing God at work in these girls and being able to facilitate it has been such a blessing.

These girls ask such bright questions, and it sets my heart on fire seeing God at work in them. They are passionate, and they are so curious. It is such a blessing to build connections and share in devotion with these girls, week after week!

God is so faithful and good, which is constantly on display at our EDGE nights.





SHENA GORTER

Director of
Children's
Ministries

In Psalm 78:1, the Lord speaks,
*Give ear, O my people, to My teaching; incline
your ears to the words of My mouth!*

God invites His people to listen to His teaching and join Him reaching the next generation. Imagine Israel singing Psalm 78:4,

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

We are not to keep the truth for ourselves, but are called to share it with the next generation. The “we” in verse 4 is not just parents. While parents are the primary discipplers of the children, it doesn’t fall exclusively on their shoulders.

We have our goal as a church body to teach truth to little hearts and to model the gospel community. We do this by extending multiple opportunities to hear the gospel from a young age from nursery, story hour and to Kids church (age 3-grade 3), to GEMS and to Cadets (grades 3-5), not only for our church members, but also extending the mission to children within our local church community.

We have 60 different children coming on Sunday mornings between the ages of 0-8. We have 45 GEMS signed up this year, with 25 of those girls being from our community. Cadets has 32 boys signed up, with 17 of them from the community. These are incredible testaments to the gospel being proclaimed, as it continues in Psalm 78:6-7,

So the next generation would know [the commands], even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a gathering for Children's Ministry Directors in the Christian Reformed Church to explore what parents in today's day and age need for support from their local church to raise disciples from early development. How can we strengthen and encourage parents to raise their children in practical and spiritual ways that point them to Christ? How do we partner and come alongside families in providing spiritual guidance, showing that all areas of life point to our Creator? The data is being gathered from numerous congregations and conclusions are being drawn to say this: parents want ways to incorporate simple, daily habits into their lives, and would love to find meaningful ways to find community and develop relationships within the church. What's the biggest hurdle? *Time and consistency.*

Recently, Pastor Justin gave a sermon from Proverbs 3 and 9 (November 2, 2025), encouraging parents to begin with the Bible. Open it. Include it in your daily habits. Talk about it with your children. Are you reading the Bible with your children? In the seasons ahead, we hope to provide resources that help you find simple ways to make spiritual disciplines a part of your daily habits as a family.

We understand time and consistency are also a challenge when it comes to volunteering. **We are so thankful for all our volunteers in our Kids ministries who help teach and equip our young ones to learn the gospel message.** Did you know we have over 100 volunteers in Kids Ministries? We see that these inter-generational relationships have lasting effect, caring for the children beyond their school years, and helping kids feel loved and accounted for, not just because they are a student, but because they belong to our faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I look forward to learning more through our children, our ministries, our volunteers and through the network of Children's ministry leaders, to try and embellish the partnership between parents and the church, so that you know we are here with you and for you, and for your children, and your children's children. **May our God be praised for generations to come!**



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Grant Bouwman
*Cadet Head
Counsellor*

This year, I have taken on the role of Head Counselor for Cadets (boys grades 3-5). When asked, "*why do you volunteer?*" I have to respond:

It's for the boys.

I remember what it was like to be an active boy: the need to run, explore and work with my hands. Cadets provides a way that we can develop relationships with them, not in an academic way, but in a welcoming environment where we teach the gospel and about Godly character.

I remember going to help out at skating for my son's school class, and as I tied laces, I could engage with so many other boys and ask them about their day. The teacher looked at me strangely, wondering how I knew so many of them, and I shared that I was their Cadet Counselor at Gateway.

Having positive male role models and that mentorship mentality is yet another way that these boys can feel they belong and are a part of the body of Christ.



EVAN PATER

Facilities Manager



We give glory, honour, and thanksgiving to God for blessing us with the privilege of using His facility. Every room, corner, and gathering space reminds us of His faithfulness and provision over these past 75 years. **This building is far more than walls and floors.** *It is a place where God's people gather, where His Word is shared, where fellowship*

grows, and where hearts are strengthened for His purposes. We recognize that nothing we do here is by our own strength, but entirely by His grace, grace that calls us to be biblically driven in all we build, relentlessly missional in all we pursue, and deeply community focused as we serve one another and our neighbours for His glory.

As we gather for meetings, ministries, and worship, each use of the facility is an opportunity to honour the Lord. Preparing spaces with care, using them respectfully, and leaving them ready for the next group is an expression of our gratitude. **Stewardship of our facility is an act of worship**, not only in what we say or sing, but in how we care for this resource God has entrusted to us.

This past year, I have had the joy of serving more deeply in production and worship, troubleshooting technical issues, training new volunteers, and ensuring media, graphics, and lighting enhance our services. Collaborating with volunteers to provide seamless support has been a true blessing.

It is a privilege to connect with guests, colleagues, contractors, and members of Gateway. May every interaction we have, be an opportunity to share Jesus' love and help others grow to serve Him. **Thank you, Gateway, for faithfully being His hands in our city.**



CAROL CONWAY

Office Administrator



As Gateway Community Church steps into another year of ministry, these passages from Hebrews and Lamentations remind me, both personally and in my work, of God's steady hand over our community:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23

In the office, I have the privilege of seeing how His faithfulness shows up not only in the big moments, but also in the ordinary rhythms that keep our ministry moving forward.

This Vision Report invites us to reflect on how the Lord is leading us, and from my vantage point, I see His guidance shining through countless interactions: church family stepping in to serve with joy, staff supporting one another with grace, and people reaching out and connecting in meaningful ways. One of the great joys of my role is witnessing firsthand how our church family lives out its calling, often in ways that many never see. Whether coordinating communication, supporting ministry teams, or helping people feel connected, **I am encouraged by the unity and purpose God is shaping among us.**

As we focus on studying God's Word, growing as a caring community, and staying missional in all we do, I'm excited to see how He continues to shape Gateway. **Even administrative tasks can feel like an act of worship** when they help position our church to follow God's leading more faithfully.

May we keep leaning into God's steady love and daily mercies as He grows His church, one day, one conversation, and one small act of service at a time.



PHIL VANLAAR Infrastructure Development Task Force



In the last year I've enjoyed working with a group of volunteers as part of the **Infrastructure Development Task Force** to review the long-term management of the church campus' buildings and property. On the surface, this work may not seem to be that missional, but **God has given us this incredible church campus for us to use as a tool for growing His kingdom** through corporate worship, providing church ministries & programs, and leading community events and activities. All this is for us to be a light for the Lord, in our community. When you stop to think about all of the meetings, events, and activities that occur in and outside of our facility, we see that it is truly a gift that God has given to us!

With this gift of the campus and facilities, comes costs that include normal maintenance but also repairs and replacement. Over the last year, we met each month, to review an in-depth list of every single component of our entire property and facility, and then we assessed when each component would need replacing and how much we expected it to cost. Engineering and architectural drawings were scanned and digitized, and contractors and other specialists were approached to give their opinions on the lifespan of everything from paint on the walls to HVAC units.

God says to diligently manage the assets that have been placed in our care:

*Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,
give careful attention to your herds;
for riches do not endure forever,
and a crown is not secure for all generations.*

Proverbs 27:23-24

Governing Council formed this group to assess the potential large expenses that could occur in then next 30 years on the church campus, including building and property components that may need to be repaired or replaced.

The goal was to have long-term visibility that would allow planning for our church to start saving funds now in preparation for repairs that may happen 10, 20 or 30 years from now.

The result was a model that outlined every major component, such as building roofs, furnaces, paint and flooring etc., and how much approximately Gateway will need to save each year to meet the funding requirement. The annual saving will minimize the need to suddenly raise funds for unexpected failures in the campus buildings.

I am thankful that God has given us knowledgeable volunteers who used many hours of their time to work together to assess the campus and build this detailed model. Most of the volunteers have experience in the construction, development, or finance aspects of industry that allowed their talents to be leveraged for this specific project.

We expect that this project will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that the planning stays up-to-date and key components' lifespans continue to be reviewed for accuracy. **With God's blessings, our Gateway Community Church campus will continue to benefit our church family, both its members and guests, as well as our neighbouring community for years to come.**

This is a key element of our mission to *help people to love and serve Jesus*.

Other than myself, our team comprises of:

- Sam Vanderveen
- Evan Pater
- Keith Van Delft
- Milt Walker
- Darren Bowman



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Milt Walker
Building & Grounds

The dedicated volunteers on the Building and Grounds team have a mandate to see that **God's house is a safe and welcoming place for our church family**: young and old, staff and visitors. To that end we ask for God's guidance before each meeting starts, and before every decision is made. We are all aware that He has blessed us with a beautiful facility, surrounded by grounds that are testament to the colourful majesty of nature. A nature He created.

Gateway is a busy, busy place with multiple ministries devoted to God's Word and the B&G volunteers work toward making sure the roof doesn't leak, the lights are working, the rooms are warm and inviting while at the same time, in the multi-purpose room, the young people can have fun playing their games. I believe each member of the team has heart for, and a feeling we are serving His purpose and His people.

I am grateful to serve alongside the B&G team of: Ben Arends, Ryan Van Dorp, Kevin Grootenboer, Tom DeRover, Phil Van Laar, & Evan Pater.





2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Patterns of giving beyond the Gateway General Fund

Gateway Community Church, in 2025 gave **\$373,970.00** over and above the 2025 budget to organizations and special causes both near and far.

Here are a few highlights of these gifts:

Benevolence:
A fund used to extend God's mercy to people in need. **\$35,577.00**

Canadian Food Grains Bank:
Which the Canadian Government matches x 4. **\$37,317.00**

Abbotsford Community:
Includes: Abbotsford Food Bank, Starfish Backpacks, Salvation Army, Telecare Crisis Line, & Cyrus Centre. **\$22,114.00**

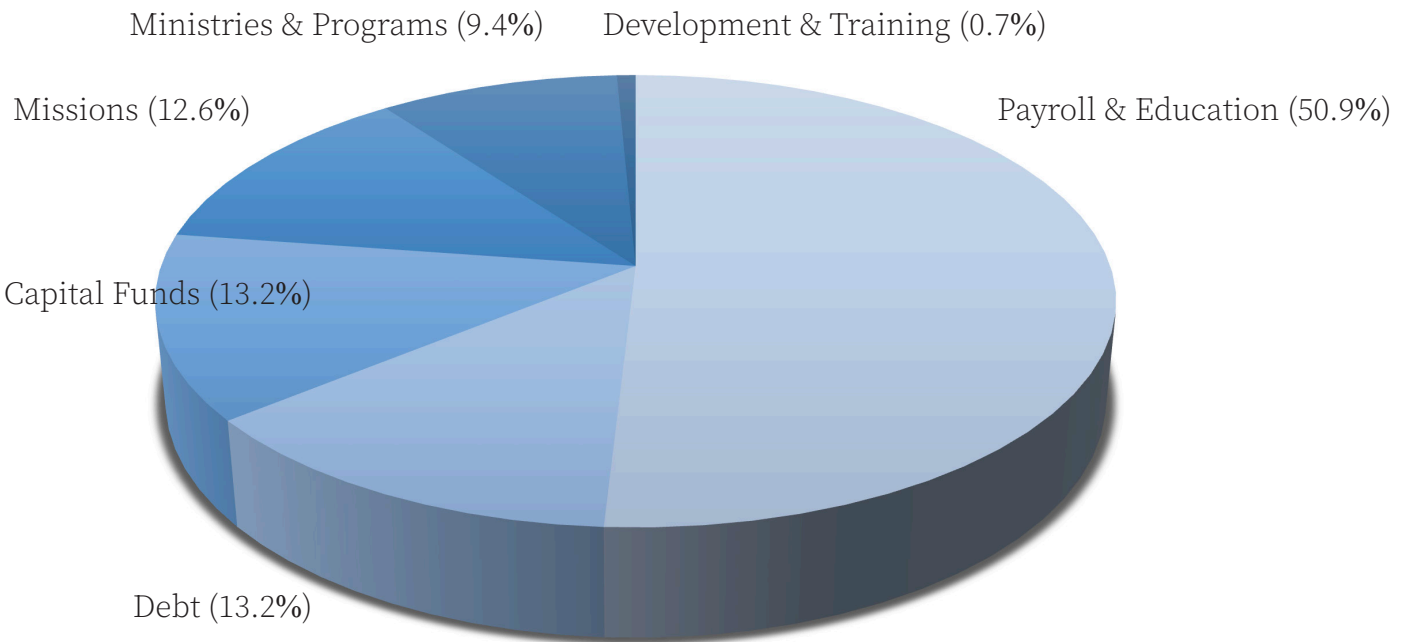
Debt Reduction:
Funds collected to specifically pay down Gateway's debt. **\$185,0833.00**

Power to Change:
Support for Jack DeKroon's work in Haiti **\$14,389.00**

Our mission, together as a Church family at Gateway is:
HELPING PEOPLE TO LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET*

Presented to the Congregation, by Council



<i>Budget Group</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>National Average</i>
Payroll & Education	\$765,000	50.9%	60%
Debt	\$198,400	13.2%	3%
Facilities & Capital Funds	\$198,660	13.2%	14%
Missions**	\$188,916	12.6%	8%
Ministries & Programs	\$140,886	9.4%	15%
Development & Training	\$11,000	0.7%	n/a
Annual Total***	\$1,502,862		

* This projected budget is our best guess framework for ministry for the coming year. Any giving over and above expenses is set aside into our Operational Savings Fund account. This helps us to both bridge any temporary shortfalls, and take advantage of exciting opportunities.

** This is the amount we budget for Missions. Through Special Offerings, we give much more to Missions. See previous page.

*** Benevolence, Tuition Relief, and Special Offerings are not included in the graph above.

Per member, per month: 2022: \$291.58 2023: \$291.30 2024: \$288.13 2025: \$296.25 **2026: \$289.90**

These per member numbers do not reflect the expectation upon each member for their giving patterns, but simply provide us with a metric to gauge the overall movement in the budget.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, November 24, 7.30pm



1. Welcome & Devotions
2. Songs of Worship
3. Minutes of the previous Congregational Meeting of March 3, 2025 for information
4. Presentation of the proposed 2025/2026 Budget
 - **MOTION:** *That Gateway Community Church approve the 2025/2026 Budget as presented. (2/3 majority is required)*
5. Song of Worship
6. Report on the votes for Proposed Budget
 - **MOTION:** *To destroy the ballots.*
7. Updates:
 - Debt Reduction Drive
8. Closing Song & Prayer

Refreshments and fellowship in the lobby

**Note: 50 Members are required for quorum*



GATEWAY COUNCIL & STAFF

Our whole ministry team, and how best to connect with them!



Matt Tinsely
Chair of Council
matt@matttinsley.ca



Lynette Brandsma
Governing Elder



Nathan Gorter
Governing Elder



Phil VanLaar
Governing Elder



Bryan Kornelius
Governing Elder



Tim Vaandrager
Chair of Ministering Elders
sales@vaandragnurseries.com



Jason Maarhuis
Ministering Elder



Allan Mulder
Ministering Elder



Nathan Hilderman
Ministering Elder



Ron Vanderwal
Chair of Deacons
ron@rhmechanical.ca



Trevor Arends
Deacon



Brad Luymes
Deacon



Winnie Langelaar
Deacon



Steve Dykshoorn
Deacon



Marlene DeJong
Deacon



Justin Carruthers
Lead Pastor
justin@gatewaycrc.org



Adam Van Dop
Pastor of Congregational Care
adam@gatewaycrc.org



Jason McNabb
Pastor of Worship
jason@gatewaycrc.org



Shena Gorter
Director of Children's Ministries
shena@gatewaycrc.org



Carol Conway
Administration
office@gatewaycrc.org



Evan Pater
Facilities Manager
evan@gatewaycrc.org



Josh Chamberlain
Interim Youth Director
josh@gatewaycrc.org



Nevaeh LeTourneau
Interim Youth Coordinator
nevaeh@gatewaycrc.org



GATEWAY

COMMUNITY CHURCH

gatewaycrc.org | office@gatewaycrc.org | 604.859.5908
2884 Gladys Ave. Abbotsford BC, V2S 3Y2