

**STEWARDSHIP FOR 2021**

2021 budget \$ 608,213.00  
Received Nov. 28, 2021 Budget 19,122.00  
Received to date, Budget 432,146.68  
Received Nov. 28 2021 Bldg. 695.00  
Received to date, Bldg. Fund 38,541.90

**ATTENDANCE NOV. 28, 2021**

Sunday School.....67  
8:45 Worship Service.....NA  
Worship Service.....146  
Virtual 11:00 AM Service... 28  
Total Worship.....174

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**SOUND TECH:** Julie Gray      **STREAM TEAM:** Andy Gray  
**LAY READERS:** 8:45AM Gracy Taylor      11:00 AM Ralph Weems



**THE WINDOW**  
o f  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
W est Point, Mississippi  
No vember 30, 2021

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Norma Atkins  
**Remember in Prayer**

**In the Hospital**  
Heather Cunningham - Merit Health River Oaks, Jackson

**At Home**  
Sue Rushing      Martha Bivens  
Jean Sarsgard      Betty Sue Shumpert  
Robert Darsey      Billy Buck Staggers  
Gail Wolanek      Ben Rosenkrans  
Hubert Caston      Jane Scott

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 5, 2021**  
**8:45 AM**  
**Tommy Bryan, Guest speaker**  
**11:00 AM**  
**Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6**  
**“Preparing Our Construction Sites”**  
**Rev. George Buell, Guest speaker**

**ONLINE GIVING QR CODE**



**DUGAN**  
Martha Priest  
Geonette Pendley  
Jennie Cantrell

**The 11:00 AM worship Service is broadcast on WKBB 100.9 FM and on Facebook Live at First UMC of West Point and You Tube.**

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*First United Methodist Church*      *Dated Material*  
*P. O. Box 293*      *No vember 30, 2021*  
*West Point, MS 39773*      **ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

U.S. POSTAGE  
NON-PROFIT  
WEST POINT, MS  
PERMIT NO. 7

**CHURCH STAFF**  
Rev. Dr. Darian Duckworth, 494-5133  
Rachel Wood, Music Ministries, 494-2198  
Stacy Hays, Family Ministries, 494-2198  
Judy Sanders, Children’s Ministries, 494-2198  
Camden Shock, Interim Youth Director  
Kaeley Tackett, Youth Intern  
Julie Gray, Office Manager, 494-1658  
Polly Grimes, Organist, 494-2198  
Jace Ferraez, Pianist, 494-2198  
Ron Crawford, Custodian  
Paul Fowler, Building Superintendent  
Dr. Barbara Ann Foster, CDC Director, 494-6811

**A Note of Deep Gratitude**

Dearly Beloved Friends,

I love how a large portion of the New Testament contains letters from pastor to congregation. Every week, this space in the newsletter feels like an “epistle” from my heart to yours, too (although I am no Peter, Paul, or John!). It may not always take the form of a letter, but I do see it as such.

This week is more specifically a personal “thank-you note.” On November 21, you presented me with the most thoughtful of gifts in honor of my doctorate. The framed certificate with its perfect words, the Ben Rosenkrans’ pen & ink of our beautiful church, and the bottomless well of cards are treasures around which I am still smiling. I am so grateful for the United Methodist Women and all of you in the congregation who coordinated and contributed to this outpouring of generosity.

Thank you for loving and supporting me throughout the completion of the doctorate and for honoring that accomplishment in our time of worship together. The Doctor of Ministry degree that I received is one intended to strengthen and build up the church, not only the intellect of one individual. My prayer throughout every assignment, transcript, and research was that the findings would be for the advancement of God’s kingdom and the good of his Church. I hope that the fruit it bears will bless you as much as you have blessed me in the process.

Know how thankful I am for each of you, and what an honor it is to serve as your pastor. As we move into this new year on the Church calendar, I look forward to the new thing God will do among us as we grow and learn together.

all good things to each of you,  
Dr . Darian

**SYMPATHY...** We extend sympathy to the family of Mrs. Bitsy Weaver who passed away on Tuesday, November 23. Graveside services were held on Friday, November 26.

# What's Happening at FUMC.....

## ANGELS IN APRONS

Nov. 22 - Dec. 5 - Bob & Nita Wyman

**Soups, Casseroles and Treats Needed** – We will provide our church shut-ins with small casseroles, soups and treats during the Christ At Home delivery on Wednesday, December 8. You can drop your items by the church anytime and we can place in the freezer or you can bring them to the church that morning by 9 a.m. Call or text Stacy at 662-295-3186 for more information.

**March of Angels** – The March of Angels will be held Sunday, December 5 during the 11 a.m. service. Children up to sixth grade are encouraged to bring an unwrapped Christmas gift to be placed under the tree. Gifts will be donated to Toys for Tots. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 to adorn your wings.

**Shoppers, Wrappers and Deliverers Needed for Adopt-A-Family** – We need volunteers to shop, wrap and deliver for Adopt A Family. We plan to wrap on Monday December 13 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You may also pick up some gifts to wrap at home if that is more convenient. We need boxes, wrapping paper, tape and bows. You can place these items in the shopping cart outside the Fellowship Hall. Gifts will be delivered on Wednesday, December 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Thanks to Bob Seitz and Stacy Weems for chairing this project. Call or text Stacy Hays to volunteer.

**Caroling and Selfies With Santa** – Make plans to join us for caroling on Sunday, December 12. We will leave from the church at 4 p.m. We will return to the church after caroling for chili and hotdogs and a special visit from Santa Claus. Thanks to the Good Shepherd Class for hosting this event.

**Volunteer to Decorate a Box** - We are partnering with Extra Table in Hattiesburg to participate in their Box Project. Extra Table has delivered boxes to the church that will be decorated and filled with healthy, shelf stable food. We will have the boxes

available for children, youth, families and individuals to decorate. Extra Table has provided us with a list of healthy choices to be placed in the boxes. We will have a packing party sometime in January, **but will need some of the boxes decorated and packed to be used for the Backpack Ministry in December.** Contact Stacy for more information.

**Poinsettia Time Again** - The United Methodist Women are selling poinsettias again this year to raise funds for their mission projects. The cost is \$20.00, and the deadline to purchase will be December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please remember and honor friends and loved ones by purchasing these lovely plants. The honorees' names will be listed in a booklet, which will be distributed on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and most of the poinsettias may be picked up on Saturday morning, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to keep at least 30 to place in the sanctuary during the Christmas season, and these poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. A poinsettia form can be found in the newsletter. Please return the form to the church office with your check stapled to it.



## MUSIC NOTES

Hello Church Family! First, I just want to tell all the Children in all our Children's Choirs what a great job they have done over the past few Sundays leading us into

worship with their beautiful voices! You have all worked super hard and it definitely shows when you sing for the congregation. Thank you for giving your time and talent to the Lord. Here are our volunteers for Children's Choir for the next few weeks:

### Meals:

12/1 - Cynthia Lyon

12/8 - Hillary White and Roxanne Brown

### Chaperones:

12/1 - Ivey Thoren and Tracey Holcombe

12/8 - Elizabeth Zeponi and Terri Myers

This Sunday, December 5, Elizabeth Stewart will be playing "Silent Night" for our Postlude. And we will be singing 3 hymns during Advent so I am really looking forward to singing with you all! Our Virtual Christmas Program should premier on Facebook on December 17 at 6:00 PM. There are lots of people working hard

learning scripture, songs, and stories to share with you on what I promise will be a magical night. The Chancel Choir is planning on singing a beautiful arrangement of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" for our 11:00 Service on December 19. And don't forget Christmas Eve! It is such a beautiful service and a special time for all. I hope to see you this Sunday.

Rachel



## LIGHT INTO A DARK WORLD

What is more tiresome than a dark night when you are not feeling well and cannot sleep?

The dark hours pass so slowly. At last, you see the dawn of morning. The birds begin to sing, and things begin to brighten.

The state of the world before Jesus came was like a long, dismal night. Israel's prophets described the people of that time as walking in darkness. God's Son had not yet been born into this sinful world.

For a long time, no one knew just when or where our Savior would be born. Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would bear the Son of God. Later the prophet Micah revealed the very town where the child would be born.

Yet nothing happened. As the years rolled by, the prophecies were gradually forgotten by many. There was no message from Heaven for over four hundred years.

But God knew just the right time to fulfill all the prophecies of the birth. He sent the angel Gabriel to the earth with a message for a virgin named Mary.

Gabriel knew the city, the right house, and even the very room where he would find Mary. He entered and greeted her as highly favored and told her that the Lord was with her.

Mary was frightened by her heavenly visitor, but Gabriel told her not be afraid. He told her that she was going to have a son, but the son was going to be very special. She was going to have the Son of God. Mary was told that He would be called the Son of the Highest, whose kingdom will last forever.

Mary wondered how such a thing could happen

to her since she was not married.

Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and God's power would rest on her. He assured her that nothing is too hard for God to accomplish.

Mary did not understand it all, but she was God's servant. Therefore, she was ready to do anything God asked her to do.

Through the power of God, Mary brought light into this dark world, when she gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.

Isaiah 7: 14 "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name, Immanuel."

Parents, as we enter this Christmas season remember to tell your children the light of Christmas is not on the tree, but rather, came with the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ, Mrs. Judy



Hello everyone, we will be meeting this Wednesday and Sunday 5:30-7 at the youth house. Please join us. If you are interested in hosting a meal for

our progressive dinner on the 19th of December please contact me at 601-917-3330.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Steve Brown

Susie Purnell Randall

Billy Buck Staggers

Mike Meeks

Howard Miskelly

Ann Miskelly

Ashley Britt

Ginger Martin

Elaine Jones

Robert Darsey

Mary Margaret Case

Pam Minx

Gail Wolanek

Carlene Brister

Bobbie Tumlinson

Herbert Wooten

Craig Carson

Ben Rosenkrans

Randy Michael

Bobbie Trenor

Heather Cunningham

Doug Browning

Karyl Buddington

Ann Miller

Price Brister

Ava Johnson

George Bryan

Liv Brand

Hattie Shell

Stanley Scott

Ted Judson

Doris Thomas

Ben Harlow

Tricia Lambert

Bob Drake

Joy Posey

Paula Fletcher

Marie Perkins

Tom Storey

Jane Scott

Hubert Caston

George Tucker

Exir Brennan

Family of Mrs. Bitsy Weaver