

What's Happening at FUMC.....

ANGELS IN APRONS

Apr 24-May 7 Robin McCormick/Gale Griggs

May 9-22 Debbie Hinshaw/Stacy Hays

NMMC Newborn Care Closet – We are now accepting items for the NMMC-Women's Pavilion Nursery Care Closet for newborns. This project will help newborns in need go home with essentials. Items needed are diapers and wipes, diaper cream, baby shampoo and soap, diaper bags, blankets and burp cloths, sleepers and onesies, bibs, bottles, and nipples, socks and booties, pacifiers, and gentle laundry detergent. They will accept used car seats in good condition as long as the date has not expired on the sticker. You may leave your items in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall.

The Sound of Music – The Golden Triangle Theatre in Columbus will present The Sound of Music May 19th, and May 20th at 7 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, May 21st at 2:30. Jace Ferraez will play the role of Captain Von Trapp. Tickets are going fast so if you are interested in attending, please let Stacy know. Ticket prices for priority seating are \$40 for adults and \$25 for children. General admission tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children.

Tornado Relief – we are accepting monetary donations for the communities affected by the March 24th tornadoes in Mississippi. Please designate "tornado relief" on your check. To date we have raised \$4,801. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far!

Lenten Offering – We raised \$3,866.44 for our Lenten Offering which will go to the Clay County Food Pantry. Thanks for your support!

Volunteers for Tornado Relief – We are beginning to make plans to send a group to help with the tornado clean-up. If you are interested in going, please let Stacy know. After we get a group together, we will make plans to meet and decide on a date or dates.

Catholic Church Blood Drive – The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold a blood drive from 1-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall behind the church on Wednesday, May 24th. To make an appointment, contact their church office at 662-494-3486.

MUSIC NOTES

Hello Church Family!

Make sure you mark your calendars for May 14. Both Children's Choirs will be singing for the 11:00 service that day and they are going to be fantastic! There will be a Children's Choir Party on May 17 with Pizza and Ice Cream and Awards! I am very proud of the children and all the hard work they have been putting into Children's Choir. These children are so wonderful and they really love to sing and to worship. I know that God is proud of each of them. Make sure you encourage them to continue to sing and make a joyful noise to The Lord!

Rachel

Senior Sunday - Sunday, May 7 will be Senior Sunday. Our seniors will be recognized during the 11 a.m. service and asked to share their plans for after graduation. United Women in Faith will present each senior with a special gift. Our graduating seniors are Josie Facella, Camille Jester, Kyla Stroud and Collins Trolio.

Mission Trip – We have scheduled a mission trip to Guatemala December 26th-31st. We will be distributing food to needy families, coordinating some kind of event for the children, such as a Vacation Bible School with a Christmas theme as well as doing other outreach work. If you are interested in going or would like more information, let Stacy know.

On May 14th, we will be taking up a special offering for the **Sunday Fund** which goes to the Methodist Senior Services to assist older adults. This includes the Henry Clay and Dugan.

Calling all kids!



At children's choir last week, I began our time with a familiar bible study from Mark 2:2-12. The children listened eagerly as I told them about the paralyzed man being lowered through the roof to receive healing from Jesus. One child exclaimed, "Jesus is magical! He has magic healing power." Another said, "That man had some really good friends to carry him all that way!" Yes, my friends. Both are true! Before Jesus performed his miracle, he said, "My child, Your sins are forgiven!" They were very happy to know that no matter how many mistakes they make, Jesus always forgives them. I am overjoyed that my sins are forgiven each and every day! Thank you so much for sharing your children with me. They bring so much joy and wisdom to whomever is willing to listen!

Jessi

A Mother's Day Brunch will be held on May 14 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All mothers and children are invited!

Vacation Bible School will be June 11-14, 5:30pm - 8:00pm. Please let Jessi know if you would like to volunteer!

FUMC Youth Join us for Wednesday Night Supper at 5:30 with a meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Youth House.

The **Ruth Weems Circle** will meet on Monday, May 15th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Eunice Coleman, Linda Drake and Stacy Weems. We will study "Week 4: Rahab" in our book Women of the Bible.

**Unless told otherwise, we will leave these names on the prayer list for two months. Please update us on anyone you have added to the list.*<http://www.fumcwestpoint.com>*

LET US PRAY...

For our Members:

Doris Bruce
Bill Messier
Beverly Campbell
Jordan Helveston
Montez Gans
Deb McGaughey

For our Family and Friends:

Lynda Bell (mother of Hillary Haas)
Mary Margaret Case (Daughter of Kenny Dill)
Susie Purnell Randall (Daughter of George and Luann Purnell)
Zach Bryan (Scot Bryan's nephew)
Mary Clair Ford
Shannon Greenan
Ted Judson (brother of Deb McGaughey)
Emily Jones
Polly Briggs (sister of Alice Hughes)
Tommy Briggs (brother-in-law of Alice Hughes)
Family of Dr. Bill Billington
Family of Donna Serio (sister of Debbie Bond)
Family of Rita Davis Prisock (sister of R.B. Davis)
Christine Montgomery
Abby Bates
Elena Jameson (Ben Jameson's wife)
Robert Rosenkrans (Ben Rosenkrans' nephew)
Camillia Zepponi

For our Nation and World:

War in Ukraine, Mass shootings in our country, Turkey and Syria
MS tornado victims and recovery

Thank you for the compassion for those affected by the recent MS tornadoes. You gave \$4,801.00 which will go to UMCOR for tornado relief.

Thank you to everyone who supported our giving campaigns over the last few weeks. We collected \$3,866.44 for our Lenten project – The Project Homestead Food Pantry.

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2023

2023 budget	\$610,027.33
Received 4/30/23	\$11,417.00
Received to date, Budget	\$169,533.10
Received 4/30/23 Bldg.	\$910.00
Received to date, Bldg. Fund	\$15,275.00

ATTENDANCE April 30, 2023

Sunday School.....	52
8:45 Worship Service.....	34
11:00 Worship Service.....	117
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	49
Total Worship.....	151

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray **STREAM TEAM:** Andy Gray
COFFEE & JUICE: Good Shepperd Class
CDC CHAPEL: 5/1 Debbie Hinshaw 5/8 Pam Carson
LAY READER: 8:45 AM 11:00 AM Bob Seitz
CHILDREN’S CHURCH: 5/7 Allie and Jud Judkins 5/14 Samantha and Drew Laird
ACOLYTES: 5/7 Collier Sugg and Anna Colby Brister 5/14

**Remember in Prayer
In the Hospital**

	AT HOME
Jean Sarsgard	Robert Darsey
Montez Ganss	Ann Ross
Ann Miller	Max Hinshaw
Bubba Atkins	

DUGAN	WAVERLY CARE	TRACEWAY	Online
Jennie Cantrell	Bobbie Tumlinson	Evelyn O’Hara Wallace	Giving
Deb McGaughy	Mary Ann Weems	Betty Sue Shumpert	



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 7, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 AM
1 Peter 2:2-10
“Christ Our Cornerstone”**

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.

**First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 293**

West Point, MS 39773

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Darian Duckworth, 494-5133
Rachel Wood, Music Ministries, 494-2198
Stacy Hays, Family Ministries, 494-2198
Jessi Sugg, Children’s Ministries 494-2198
Lance Dalton, Youth Intern
Julie Gray, Financial Secretary, 494-1658
Melanie Sanders, Office Manager 494-1658
Polly Grimes, Organist
Dr. Garrett Torbert, Pianist
Ron Crawford, Custodian
Paul Fowler, Building Superintendent

Dated Material
May 1, 2023

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THE WINDOW
of
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
West Point, Mississippi

May 1, 2023

A Pastoral Letter

Dearly Beloved Friends,

Over the past few months, the word I have heard most often to describe disaffiliation in the United Methodist Church is, “confusing.” How true this is with so much information at our fingertips! As I wrote in this space two weeks ago, the process of gathering accurate information has been challenging, and I apologize that we have not given you anything formally yet. That changes as of today though, as I bring you an update from the Administrative Council.

The Council met on Sunday, April 30, and approved that our church enter into a season of discernment with the formation of a discernment committee to be led by me as your pastor, shepherd, and spiritual leader. This is something that I have desired to assemble and lead you in for months, and with the Administrative Council’s blessing, now is the time to start.

This is very important: *discernment is not disaffiliation*. Discernment is consistent listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit in community. Disaffiliation is a process that churches may enter into *after* a season of discernment. What I’ve been charged with doing is gathering and overseeing a discernment committee who will lead our congregation in learning and listening to God together. Our district superintendent, Rev. Paulette Buford-James tells us that discernment includes the following: “fasting, prayer, study of scripture, information gathered and surveying of the congregation by a straw poll vote.”

Every week on the inside of this newsletter will be a short update on the progress of assembling and gathering the discernment committee, followed by updates when we start meeting. Once a month, I’ll provide a longer update in this space, and we will send additional mailings as necessary.

As I shared with the Council on Sunday, I share with you: I love you. I am honored to serve as your pastor. Trust me to lead you, and I trust you to be led by the Holy Spirit. Let us move forward in faith that God is doing and will do great things through our church.

all good things, as always, to each of you,
dr darian

New Baby: We congratulate Gus and Mona Elliott on the birth of their daughter, Mara Louise, April 23, 2023 . Proud grandparents are Debbie and Johnny McComic.