

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2023

2023 budget \$ 610,027.33
Received November 26, 2023 Budget 5,144.00
Received to date, Budget 404,497.10
Received November 26, 2023 Bldg. 95.00
Received to date, Bldg. Fund 38,920.00

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray
LAY READER:

ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Sunday School.....24
8:45 Worship Service.....NA
Worship Service..... 72
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....34
Total Worship.....106

STREAM TEAM: Art Shirley
CDC CHAPEL: 12/4 Caroline Atkins



THE WINDOW

o f
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
West Point, Mississippi

November 28, 2023

Remember in Prayer

In the Hospital

At Home

Kenny Dill
Robert Darsey
Montez Ganss
Ann Miller

1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2023
11:00 AM
New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-7
SERMON
“God Among Us”
ANTHEM
“The Holly Carols”

DUGAN
Jennie Cantrell
Deb McGaughey
Mary Anne Weems

WAVERLY CARE
Bobbie Tumlinson
Jean Sarsgard

TRACEWAY
Evelyn O’Hara Wallace
Betty Sue Shumpert

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



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 *Dated Material*
P. O. Box 293 *No vember 28, 2023*
West Point, MS 39773 **ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**U.S. POSTAGE
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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
Jessi Sugg, Children’s Ministries 494-2198
Lance Dalton, Youth Intern
Julie Gray, Financial Secretary, 494-1658
Ron Crawford, Custodian
Paul Fowler, Building Superintendent
Karen Cliett, CDC Interim Director, 494-6811

Worship in Advent: Song, Word, and Spirit

Sunday begins the wonderful season of Advent, where we prepare the homes of our heart and the our church’s home for the coming of Jesus our King. As is our tradition, we will share in the hanging of the greens this Sunday, December 3, which includes a wonderful “lessons and carols” rhythm. We share in some verses of Scripture, then sing, and repeat. This year, we are going to follow the pattern every Sunday of Advent. After all, we have a lot of favorite songs to sing, and we also need to be in the habit of speaking God’s Word as much as possible—as we welcome the Word made flesh.

Here is brief overview of each service, and I hope you will hang on to this description as you prepare your heart each Sunday for worship. Let us welcome the Holy Spirit into our heart as a church, and we will witness Him make all things new!

Dec. 3: We will hang the Greens, share in Holy Communion, and enjoy a meal afterwards. This is the perfect Sunday to invite a friend! Just bring yourself and a big appetite.

Dec. 10: We ask everyone to bring an unwrapped toy for the Blessing of the Tree and bring it forward at the appropriate time in the service. These toys will be a part of our “Blessing Box” ministry, as Jessi has shared with you.

Dec. 17: ‘Blue Christmas’ is more than an Elvis song! It is also a term used for a worship service that allows space for people to grieve during the holiday season. It reminds us that everyone is not always ‘happy’ during the holidays, and we will pray for the hurting while also celebrating with joy the hope of Jesus.

Dec. 24: We have two opportunities for you to worship on Christmas Eve. At 11AM we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in Word and Song. At 5PM we will have our service of Holy Communion, Carols, and Candlelight.

I so look forward to worshipping with you this holy season. Let us look for His arrival together!

all good things to each of you,
dr. darian

What's Happening at FUMC.....

ANGELS IN APRONS

Nov. 20 - Dec. 3 Bob & Nita Wyman

Dec. 4 - Dec. 19 - Robin McCormick & Gale Griggs

Christmas Poinsettias - The Judy Shirley Circle is selling poinsettias again this year to raise funds for their mission projects. The cost this year will again be \$20.00. Please remember and honor friends and loved ones by purchasing these plants.

The honorees' names will be listed in a booklet which will be distributed on December 10th. Forty poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas season. People who would like to pick their plants up early may do so on Saturday, December 9th, in the Fellowship Hall. The remaining poinsettias may be collected after the Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

Flower Calendar - The following dates are open on the 2024 Flower Calendar: 1/28, 9/8, 9/22 & 9/29, 11/3 and 12/8. If you would like to place flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please call the church office to reserve a spot.

Adopt A Family – The families for Adopt A Family have been chosen. If you are willing to shop for a family, please call the church office. The JB Cook Class will provide all the toys and the Good Shepherd Class will provide the cleaning supplies. Please also let us know if you will be wrapping your family's gifts or if you will need us to wrap. We plan to wrap on Monday, December 11th at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, so if you need your gifts wrapped, please deliver to the church by Friday, December 8th at noon. All gifts will be delivered on Thursday, December 21 beginning at 9 a.m. We will also need volunteers to deliver. If you would like to make a donation toward this important ministry, please write AAF on the memo line of your check. Contact Stacy if you can help in any way. Special thanks to Bob Seitz for chairing this project again this year.

Christmas Meal – Join us Sunday for our Christmas meal following the Hanging of the Greens church service. Hosted by the JB Cook Class. Thanks to Ann McClellan for donating the ham and to everyone who has signed up to bring a side dish or dessert. Any leftover food can be used for our Christ At Home meal on December 6th.

Meals for Shut-Ins – We will be providing meals and treats for our church shut-ins as part of the Christ At Home delivery on Wednesday, December 6th. Please let Stacy know if you can provide small servings of casseroles, desserts, or other treats. You may bring your items that morning by 9 a.m. or any day prior to the 6th and we can place in the freezer.

Communion Offering – Our Communion Offering for the month of December is the United Methodist Children's Home.

Mission Trip - We are planning a mission trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma December 26th-January 1. We will be partnering with a church on a ranch that offers a Christmas Break Camp for kids as well as a New Year's Revival. Our team will help prep and run these events and minister to the kids and their families. If you are interested in going or want more information, please contact Stacy at 662-295-3186.



MUSIC NOTES

Hello Church Family!
I hope you all had an amazing Thanksgiving! I want to take this time to thank our two piano

substitutes during the months of November and December, Dr. Wang and Mrs. Diona Berry. Your servant hearts are beautiful, and we are all so thankful that you are willing to share your gifts with us to aid us in worship. Thank you for all you have done and all you will do.

Now, we approach the Advent Season. When I was growing up, I attended a church that did not celebrate liturgical seasons. I'm grateful now for each season and the independent spirit each season possesses. I feel as if I can draw closer to the mystery of Jesus through the reflections and worship services of each season. This advent, I'm reflecting on hymns that help to express the

mystery and awe of God becoming man in the form of Jesus. Today, I have chosen the hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" and, in particular, these lyrics:

Angels and Arc Angels
May have traveled there
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss

Take a minute to reflect on these words and ask the Holy Spirit to show you meaning in the lyrics above.

I can't wait to worship with you on Sunday!
Rachel



I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! During November, we talked a lot about what we were thankful for and ways we can show gratitude. We are going

to continue expressing our thanks and gratitude to God in the weeks to come. On December 6, the Lighthouse Kids will be having a birthday party for Jesus during our Wednesday night activities! Moms, now is the time to clean out your gently used toys and books. These will be the presents your children will bring to the party, which will then bless those in need within our community. If you can't make it on Wednesday, please let me know and I can collect your donated items.

Also, on December 10, we will have the Blessing of the Tree during the 11:00 service. We are asking all adults and children to bring one unwrapped toy to be placed under our Blessing Tree.

Help spread the joy by donating a toy!

Jessi



Upcoming Youth Events:
November 29 @ 5:00 PM Pack Backpacks

December 3 @ 1:00PM Ice Skating in Oxford - sign up by November 29.

December 20 @ 5:30PM Live Nativity Scene
January 12 - 15 Strength to Stand Youth Conference - Pigeon Forge, TN - sign up by December 17th.
SUPPER HOST: November 29: Lucy McKellar & Jane Caston



Celebrating Our CDC

The Fellowship Hall was bustling with activity on Friday, November 17th, when the Child Development Center held its annual Thanksgiving meal for its children, parents and staff. Everyone enjoyed a lunch of turkey and dressing, sweet potato casserole, corn, green beans, rolls and cake. The children and staff made placemats for the tables, and the preschool children dressed as pilgrims and Indians. Approximately ninety parents, children and staff attended. The CDC would like to thank Julie Gray, Holly Hitt, Gary Echols, Pam Carson, Elizabeth Bailey, Jean Dill, Wilma Hinshaw, Jane Caston, Darian Duckworth, George Purnell and Gail Foote who volunteered and helped make this event successful.

LET US PRAY...

For our Members

Beverly Campbell

Kathy Wood

Kenny Dill

Jordan Helveston

Donna Cook

For our Constituents:

Deb McGaughey

For our Family and Friends:

Mary Margaret Case (daughter of Kenny Dill)

Susie Purnell Randall (daughter of George & Luann Purnell)

Karen Cliett

Robert Calvert (father of Anita Keys)

Brenda Loveless (mother of Phil McClellan)

For our Nation and World:

War in Ukraine and Israel

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.