

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Word
August 18, 2024
11:00 AM

The Chiming of the Worship Hour

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude “Then Sings My Soul” arr. Cook

The Lighting of the Candles

The Introit “Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord” Hopson

The Opening Prayer

**The Hymn of Praise No. 154 (vs. 1, 2, 4, 6)* “All Hail the Power”

The Children’s Moments

The Intercessory Prayers

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

The Apostle’s Creed No. 881

**The Congregational Hymn - Insert (all verses)* “Love Lifted Me”

The Giving of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” Gabriel
Rachel Wood and Gary Echols

**The Doxology*

**The Gospel Lesson*

John 3:22-36

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there, and people kept coming and were being baptized. ²⁴ (John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.)

²⁵ Now a discussion about purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” ²⁷ John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom who stands and hears him rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.”

³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. ³³ Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. ³⁴ He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life but must endure God’s wrath.

Reader: This is the Word of God.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

**The Gloria Patri*

The Anthem “Ride On, King Jesus” arr. Kern

The Sermon “He Must Increase, I Must Decrease”

**The Hymn of Invitation No. 189 (vs. 1, 3, 4)* “Fairest Lord Jesus”

**The Benediction*

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Choral Benediction “Go Now in Peace” Sleeth

**Postlude* “In the Garden” arr. Cook

*The flowers on the Altar are dedicated to the Glory of God
and given in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Liston Sage, Jr. and
Keith Allen Sage
by the Sage children and grandchildren.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEK

Harvey's Lunch Trip - The Wesley Fellowship Sunday School Class is sponsoring a lunch trip on August 23rd to Harvey's in Columbus. We will leave the church at 11:00 and return about 1:00. Gary Echols will drive the van. If you would like to go, please let Donna Davis or Gail Foote know. The deadline to sign up is Monday, August 19th.

School Supply Drive – We will hold our annual school supply drive during the month of August. We will have a box at the back of the sanctuary for you to place your donations, or you may order directly from Amazon and have the items sent directly to the church. A link to Amazon will be sent out on Remind. The school supplies will be placed in our Blessing Box.

Get ready to grow! Beginning September 4, we'll be hosting an adult study at the church from 5:30 - 6:30 during the semester. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Lighthouse Kids' Volunteers Needed - Our Wednesday night children's activities will resume on Wednesday, September 4. We are excited to learn about Jesus, study God's word, sing songs, and play games! Volunteers are needed to help us provide the best experience for our children! We need two volunteers per Wednesday. Volunteers are responsible for picking up food at SunFresh at 4:45, serving the food at 5:15, cleaning up, and then helping the children with a craft/activity from 6:15-6:45. Each activity/craft will be sent to the volunteers ahead of time so that everyone will have ample time to prepare. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available at the back of the sanctuary. Please consider helping us love and teach the Word of God to our future!

New Texting Provider – Beginning August 19th, the church will be using a new texting provider. Our former provider, Remind, is increasing its pricing. If you already receive texts through Remind, we will add you to the new list unless you opt out. If you do not currently receive texts and would like to be added to the list, contact the church office.

***First United Methodist Church
612 East Broad Street
West Point, MS 39773***

August 18, 2024



***Rev. Chad Bowen, Pastor
Rachel Wood, Music Ministries
Stacy Hays, Family Ministries
Kindal Gammill, Pianist***