

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Today, we'll start with a bit of a personal confession: for much of my life in ministry, I've been attracted by accounts of tradition that give it a little more grit than the saccharine bits that have been thoroughly embraced by our popular culture. You don't have to hang around me long to hear my well-worn speech about how most of our "holidays" are really just well-marketed gifts by Hallmark, florists, and candy makers that we've taken hook, line, and sinker.

There are the rumors about St. Nicholas striking a member of the Arian party at the Council of Nicaea, You won't find any mention of a donkey in the biblical accounts of the Christmas story. You won't find Father's Day or Mother's Day on a liturgical calendar. And for all the fear of witches and vampires, Halloween started because we're uncomfortable with death.

Giving my proclivities, the Feast of St. Valentine's is a better holiday than Christmas! We've taken the feast day of a man who was imprisoned for caring for persecuted Christians, was imprisoned, healed the eyes of his jailer's blind daughter, and then was bludgeoned to death and turned it into an excuse for three-year olds to give Paw Patrol cards to each other.

But, to my own surprise, that's not what I need to say about Valentine's Day this year. This year, I think I (and maybe all of us?) need a little less cynicism and correction and a little more celebration and appreciation.

Love is a tremendous gift. It's the thing that makes life in this hard world bearable, even enjoyable. The love of friendship; of parents; of children; of grandparents; of siblings; of co-workers; of neighbors; of God... it is all a profound gift.

And marriage is so beautiful that Paul insists it is an embodied analogy for Christ's love of the church. So whatever you do to celebrate Valentine's Day, make sure you find a way to give thanks to God for his love and the love of the people he's put in your life.

If you're married, it's a great opportunity to revisit your vows and remember the covenant that you have made before God and the church. And give thanks for the ways the love God has given you to share has brought life and light and joy.

If you aren't married, know that only 5% of the men and women who have been canonized as saints were married. While romantic love and marriage are a tremendous gift, they are far from the only way to have a full and faithful and love-filled life.

Celebrating love,
Br. Chad



Angels in Aprons

Feb. 10 - Feb. 23 - Jane and Jenny Caston

Feb. 24 - Mar. 9 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

Good News - The elevator is now working!!!

Holy Rollers Game Night - Mark your calendars now for our Holy Rollers Game Night for youth and adults on Wednesday, February 26th at 5:30 p.m. We will enjoy taco soup together and then play games. If you aren't interested in playing games, then please come anyway, have a bowl of soup and cheer on the competitors! It's going to be a fun night! **There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to bring a pot of taco soup, crackers/chips, sandwiches or cornbread.** Call the church and let Gail know if you would like to ride the van. You don't want to miss this time of fellowship.

Lunch Bunch - The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at Harvey's in Columbus on Friday, February 14. The van will leave the church at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday Bible Study - Do you want to see our church grow? Do you want to grow as a follower of Jesus? Do you want to help others grow as followers of Jesus? Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30 as we talk about what it means for us to live as disciples.

Communion Offering - Our communion offering for February supports the Project Homestead Food Pantry. The food pantry serves 412 families or over 800 individuals each month. These numbers do not even include the emergency situations that are referred by various churches or City Hall. Many of our church members help with this program on a regular basis. A total of \$422 was collected on Sunday, but if you were not able to give at that time you may send a donation to Project Homestead Food Pantry, PO Box 891, West Point, MS.



on Missions



Backpack Ministry

The Good Shepherd Classroom was the location for our monthly packing of backpack snacks. These 200 bags are delivered each month to Church Hill and South Side, our Bright Horizons partners, for children who may need a little extra food over the weekend. Bags are handed out each Friday. Thanks to all the volunteers who help unbox, sort and pack the bags each month. And to Ron Crawford who loads and unloads the tubs for delivery and manages the huge boxes of supplies as they come in. It really does take a village, and we are so thankful for ours! Contact Stacy if you would like to be a part of this special ministry.

Fresnius Kidney Care Food Pantry Drive

- Canned fruit (no mandarin oranges)
- Unsalted nuts
- Sunflower seeds
- Peanut butter
- Tuna (canned or packets)
- Canned chicken
- Canned salmon
- Canned sardines
- Dried or canned pinto beans
- Quick or old-fashioned oats
- Small bags of spaghetti noodles
- Small bags or rice (not seasoned in a box)
- Grits
- Unsalted crackers
- Atkins brand protein bars

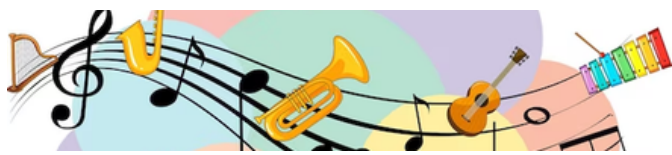
You may leave in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring only the food items listed.



California Wildfire Relief

The church will be collecting donations during the month of February for the victims of the California fires. You can designate your gift by writing "wildfires" on the memo line of your check or giving envelope.



MUSIC NOTES

The Chancel Choir thanks and appreciates Kindal Gammill for all he does to support us and make our music beautiful! Our worship service wouldn't be the same without him. We are truly blessed to hear his music every Sunday!

YOUTH NEWS

The youth met last Wednesday night to celebrate our youth intern Lance Dalton. Lance worked with our youth for two years, and is transitioning to a full-time career and preparing to get married this summer. We are grateful for his presence and leadership with our youth.



The church wants to celebrate the hiring of two new youth interns, West Loden and Ella Willow. West is a junior Chemical engineering student at Mississippi State and loves hiking. Ella is also a junior at Mississippi State and is studying Human Development and Family sciences. She grew up in the Franklin, TN area and is a devoted long-distance runner. We are thrilled to have them be a part of what God is doing in the lives of our young people.



YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Feb. 12 - Jane Caston

Feb. 19 - Barbara Iles

Feb. 26. - Holly Rollers Game Night

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



The Lighthouse Kids continued their new unit *Food Fight*. The kids learned about Nicodemus. They matched pictures of old things with pictures of new things to demonstrate how Jesus makes us new, and they also played a game which illustrated this concept. In one picture Collier and William were acting out interaction between Nicodemus and Jesus.



Children's Sunday School Teachers

Feb. 16 - Cheryl Bowen

Feb. 23 - Jessi Sugg

NEWS FROM THE CDC



The CDC is again honoring the staff once a month with Fun Fridays. Staff birthdays for the month are celebrated, and snacks are provided. We want to thank Katie Bowen, Caroline Atkins, Ray and Lynn Purnell, Gail Foote and the Wesley Fellowship Class for providing the snacks for January.

CDC Chapel

Feb. 17 - Lona Rosetti

Feb. 24 - Caroline Atkins



First United Methodist Church

WEST POINT

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Chad Bowen, Pastor, 494-5133
 Rachel Wood, Music Ministries, 494-2198
 Stacy Hays, Family Ministries, 494-2198
 Lance Dalton, Youth Intern
 Julie Gray, Financial Secretary, 494-1658
 Gail Foote, Office Manager, 494-1658
 Kindal Gammill, Pianist
 Ron Crawford, Custodian
 Karen Cliett, CDC Interim Director, 494-6811

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 12:44-50

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

“His Commandment Is Eternal Life ”

Anthem

“Total Praise” - arr. Raney

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Bob Seitz

STREAM TEAM: Jason McKellar

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 01/31/2025

Total revenue received in Jan.	\$34,639.41
Total expenses in Jan.	(\$31,584.99)
Year to date revenue	\$34,639.41
Year to date expenses	(\$31,584.99)

If you would like to review more financial information,
 please click on the
 link:<https://fumcwestpoint.com/monthly-financial-summary/>

ATTENDANCE February 9, 2025

Sunday School.....	55
Worship Service.....	71
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	19
Total Worship.....	90

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Montez Ganss - NMMC - WP

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
 Louise Campbell
 Donna Cook
 Ben Davis
 Fox & Evelyn Haas
 Jordan Helveston
 Austin Hill
 Emerson Houston
 Victoria Johnston
 Phil McClellan
 Jerry Mize
 Johnnie Newell
 Kay Powell
 Mike Reid
 Ben Rosenkrans
 Abby Scott
 Gracy Taylor
 Kathy Wood

Our Family and Friends:

Jenn Barnhill
 Ted Berry
 Bobby Bounds
 Joe Brownlee
 Edith Carlisle
 Mary Margaret Case
 Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
 Robert Darsey
 Ellie Delk (Rachel Wood's niece)
 Martin Edmondson (Tammy Walters' father)
 Rusty Iles
 Mark Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
 Susan Latham (Stacy' Hays' sister-in-law)
 Lynette Loud
 Kiley McNamee
 Linda Mize
 Carole Higgins Morton
 Susie Purnell Randall

Robbie Robinson
 Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
 Moses Vernon (Amy Buckley's uncle)
 Tammy Walters
 John Walker (Brandon Walker's son)
 Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

Family of Brad Buckley (Bob Buckley's Brother)
 Family of Betty Lynn Webber Cameron
 Family of Bettye Jo Campbell (Tommy Bryan's sister)
 Family of Billy Clemons (Rider Clemons' father)
 Family of Maxine Cook (Johnnie Newell's sister)
 Family of Pat Dennis (Becky Landin's sister)
 Family of Rev. Dale Funderberg (WP First Baptist Minister)
 Family of Andy Portera
 Family of John Walker