

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Lent began as a season of 40 days of preparation for folks who were preparing to join the church. They would fast, pray, and count the cost of following Jesus as they prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday.

Then the church realized that the practice of preparation might not just be good for those who were joining the church, but for those who were already members of the church! For those who were already Christians, the forty days became a time to reset and reconnect with God.

Every year, some folks grow a bit disconnected from the church or wander from their faith. It could be because of significant sin. Or it could be because they've just gotten busy with other things. Or maybe life has been full of suffering or grief in a way that they've grown angry with God.

Whatever the reason, I believe that it is a beautiful thing that the church has a season oriented around saying, "Come back! Join us as we prepare to observe the love of God who will stop at nothing, not even death, to be in relationship with us. And be a part of it as we celebrate God's triumph of life over death and love over sin on Easter morning.

I don't think it's much of a secret that sometimes church folks are cynical about the folks who find their way back to church around Christmas and Easter.

But this Lent, I hope that you will actively pray for folks who might feel far from God that they would embrace this season as a chance to lean into repentance, self-denial, and spiritual discipline expecting to experience the freshness and joy of God's grace. And I hope that if God puts it on your heart to reach out to someone who has been away, that you'll take this season as a natural time to invite them to find their way home.

And if you yourself have been feeling far from God, I pray that Lent would be a time for you to experience God's persistent presence and profound love again or for the first time.

In His Steps,
Br. Chad



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

After every Leadership Council Meeting, it is our intention to provide an update in the newsletter so that you can be informed about what's happening in the church.

If you have any questions, about the work we're doing, please ask!

Finance

God's provision and your generosity combined to make for a strong start to the year, with significantly improved income when compared to this time last year. We finished the month with a small deficit and pray that the positive trends will continue.

Trustees

Elevator – The elevator is operational again! Because parts for our current elevator have gotten difficult to find and the lead time on new elevators is long, we have decided to move ahead on replacing the current elevator, which could take as much as 6 months. The cost will be around \$83,000. Keep your eyes out for how you can support our efforts to raise money to fund this project that ensures that everyone can participate in the life of our church.

Personnel and Nominations

Handy Crew – We're working to organize folks who might have skills to maintain the church property. Keep an eye out over the next few weeks for opportunities to get involved and put your knowledge and skill to work!

Kitchen Committee – The staff needs some help keeping the kitchen in order and stocked. We're working to put together a team to help.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper

March 4, 5-6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

If you would like to pick up your meal under the portico, sign up by calling the church office or on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary



Enjoy the meal with us in the Fellowship Hall if you can, or sign up to take some pancakes to go.

on Missions

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.

ANGELS IN APRONS

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

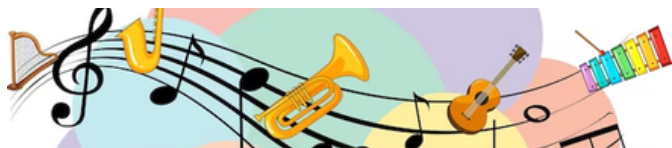
Feb. 24 - Mar. 9 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

Mar. 10 - Mar. 23 - Caroline Atkins and Helen Facella

LUNCH BUNCH



The Lunch Bunch had a great time at Harvey's on Valentine's Day. Fifteen people attended, including new members, Mark and Suzanne Bean, and a former member, Sue Jolly. Join the group on March 14th for their next outing to Peppers in Columbus.



MUSIC NOTES

Did you know singing is a natural boost for your mind and body? When we sing, our brains release endorphins and oxytocin—chemicals that create feelings of trust and connection. At the same time, singing lowers cortisol levels, reducing stress and anxiety. That means singing can help ease anxiety and depression! But the benefits don't stop there. Singing strengthens concentration and memory; for those with dementia, it can even help reconnect them with their own stories. It also boosts the immune system and increases pain tolerance. Now, here's the amazing part—these benefits double when we sing in a group. Yes, double! Group singing fosters a deep sense of community and unity. Studies have shown that when people sing together, their heartbeats synchronize. Their hearts literally beat as one. This is why singing is so powerful and matters so much to God. When we lift our voices together, we aren't just making music. We are creating harmony in becoming one with each other and God!

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Feb. 19 - Cinzia Duncan

Feb. 26. - Holly Rollers Game Night



HOLY ROLLERS

GAME NIGHT AT FUMC FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 5:30 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

TACO SOUP AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED.

IF YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN PLAYING, JOIN US FOR THE MEAL AND CHEER ON THE COMPETITORS!

THE VAN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PICK UP ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RIDE. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND LET US KNOW!

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.

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



The Lighthouse Kids continued their new unit *Food Fight*, learning about four amazing friends who stopped at nothing to bring their friend to Jesus so he could be healed.



Children's Sunday School Teachers

Feb. 23 - Jessi Sugg

Mar. 2 - Lona Rosetti

Mar. 9 - Linda Drake

NEWS FROM THE CDC



Lona Rosetti did a great job leading chapel this week. She read the book *When God Made You* to the children. Then she led them in singing "Jesus Loves Me." Thank you, Lona, for helping in this important ministry.

CDC Chapel

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
Ella Willow, Youth Intern
West Loden, 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

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)

More detailed financial information is available here:
<https://fumcwestpoint.com/monthly-financial-summary/>

ATTENDANCE February 16, 2025

Sunday School.....41
Worship Service.....77
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....19
Total Worship.....96

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
Louise Campbell
Donna Cook
Ben Davis
Montez Ganss
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

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 23, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-20

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"Humble Service in Context"

Anthem

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

arr. Hayes

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Vic Johnson

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.