

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

An Invitation from the Preacher

A week from tomorrow, we'll enter into Lent by observing Ash Wednesday. That means you have right at a week to discern what your Lenten practice(s) might be.

Often, at this time of the year, I try to point folks to a variety of practices from which they can pick to observe a holy lent. A renewed or expanded commitment to read scripture devotionally a specific amount of time in prayer, abstaining from certain foods or other goods for the duration of the season, or actually fasting for all or a portion of one or more days in a week are great practices.

Of course, you can do any of those things (or others!) to observe a holy lent this year. But I want to commend one Lenten practice to our whole congregation: wholeheartedly commit to communal practices of worship and study.

Maybe that looks like resolving to be present and engaged in worship every week unless physical limitation prevents you. For others, it might be making a commitment to be in Sunday School every week (we're starting two new classes, one for women and another for men the first Sunday of Lent. For others, it might be resolve to be present for our Lenten Wednesday Night study.

God is present to us everywhere, not just at church. And the Holy Spirit can teach and inspire us anywhere, not only in church. But seeking God with others in worship and study is a way that God has seen fit to can be like MiracleGrow for us as we seek to grow in God's love, grace, and faith.

It is my prayer that Lent proves to be not only an opportunity for you who read the newsletter weekly to resolve to grow, but for others too. Those others might be folks who God has put on your heart to invite re-engage with church or lean in to study in this season that was designed just for that purpose.

Following Jesus with you,
Br. Chad



ANGELS IN APRONS

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

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

OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE LENTEN SEASON:

Women's Class - We will have a Women's Class during the Lenten season starting Sunday, March 9th to study **Give It Up!** - a Lenten study that reflects on all the things that hold our attention, occupy our minds and monopolize our time, yet still isolate us from God and the world around us. The class will meet in Room #107 (the Good Shepherd classroom). Gathering time will be from 9:45 to 10:00 am with Bible study from 10:00 to 10:30 AM. If you are interested in being a part of this class, please contact Julie Gray.

Men's Class - Starting March 9th, a Lenten Men's class will begin to study "Jesus' Journey to the Cross." Any men who are looking for a Sunday School Class are welcome. The class will meet in Room #205 at 9:45 AM.

Ferns for Missions - We will be selling Ferns again this year for our Lenten Mission project. 10 inch Boston Hanging and Kimberly Queen ferns are available for sale through March 30th. Ferns are \$22 each and pick up will be on Saturday, April 5th from 9:00-10:30 AM. Call the church office to order.



**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. All donations will go toward our Volunteers in Missions Fund.

Fresenius 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

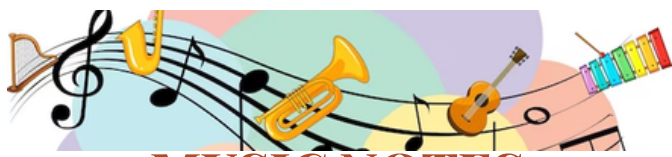
You may leave in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring only the food items listed.



Our communion offering for March 2nd will go to UMCOR. UMCOR provides relief and response to global natural and human-made disasters such as the California wildfires and Hurricane Helene. This organization supplies survivors with food, water, shelter, clean-up and long-term rebuilding and psychosocial support measures.

Ash
WEDNESDAY
March 5
We will hold two services:
12 noon and 6 p.m.
"Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."



MUSIC NOTES

Psalm 139:13-14 says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." God created us in His image, carefully and intentionally forming every part of us. One of the incredible gifts He gave us is our voice. Did you know that your voice is unique? No one who has ever lived—or ever will—sounds exactly like you. God designed your voice with purpose. It is fearfully and wonderfully made. Singing is an intricate, instinctive process built into us by our Creator. We can refine our voices with practice, strengthening the muscles that shape our sound. But the ability to sing is something God placed within us from the start. Why? Because our voices were not just given for speech—they were also given for worship. Ephesians 5:19 encourages us to "speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." Singing is a gift designed by God to glorify Him! So, during Sunday worship, sing like no one but God is listening because he loves your voice! (And so do I!)

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Feb. 26 - Holly Rollers Game Night

Mar. 5 - Betsy McGlohn and Mary Carr Ecklund

Mar. 12 - No Youth

Mar. 19 - Stacy Hays and Ann McClellan

Mar. 26 - George and Luann Purnell



LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



The Lighthouse Kids began their new unit, "Up All Night," which teaches how God knows everyone from the inside out. Wednesday night they learned that God loves us more than anything, and he takes care of us. He does not want us to worry but to take our problems to him in prayer.

Children's Sunday School Teachers

Mar. 2 - Lona Rosetti

Mar. 9 - Linda Drake

JUDY SHIRLEY CIRCLE



The Judy Shirley Circle met on February 17th to continue their study Twelve Ordinary Men, which examines the lives of Jesus' twelve disciples. The hostesses were Nita Wyman, Wilma Hinshaw and Cinzia Duncan.

The circle agreed to sponsor Fun Fridays for the child development center staff through the Loaves and Fishes Committees. On the last day of each month the staff will be honored with special treats and a birthday cake for those who have had birthday that month. The circle members feel that supporting the individuals who work with our children is an important mission for the circle. Thank you, circle members, for supporting this program.

NEWS FROM THE CDC

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 23, 2025

Sunday School.....45
Worship Service.....88
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....20
Total Worship.....108

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

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
Jimmy Wood
Kathy Wood

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

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
Marty Ivy
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

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

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 Andy Cliett (Karen Cliett's brother-in-law)
Family of Rev. Dale Funderberg (WP First Baptist Minister)
Family of Andy Portera

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, March 2, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 13:1-20

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"How to Identify a Disciple"

Anthem

"Take My Life and Let It Be" - arr. Rouse

Jessica Dunn, flute

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray

LAY READER: Gloria Bunnell

STREAM TEAM: Art Shirley

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.