



MARCH 4, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

On Ash Wednesday, we'll talk about the significance of Ashes as a sign of grief. When you boil it all the way down, there are two things that Christians grieve: sin and death.

These two things enter the world with our rebellion, and they wreak havoc on the whole of the created order. And ashes are a helpful symbol for the destruction that sin and death leave behind.

There will be plenty of time for penitence. Forty Days (not including Sundays) that we'll set aside to fast and pray, to grieve and mourn our brokenness, and to turn our attention to God.

We can't shortcut the hard work of repentance. We can't avoid examining our hearts. We should take account of the ways that we have gotten overly attached to the comforts and pleasures of this world.

But, before we enter into this season, it's helpful to remember that we won't stay in the ashes any more than Jesus will stay in the tomb.

As Hannah prays, "The Lord raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's and on them he has set the world."

We shouldn't—we can't—avoid the grief of pain and death. But there is a light on the other side of the darkness. For all who need mercy, the Lord will lift us out of the ash heap and invite us to sit with the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lord's.

No amount of grieving our sin can merit God's mercy. No amount of tears can let us overcome death of our own power. But the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus comes to us in our shortcomings and sin, in our weakness and frailty, and saves us.

As we feel the weight of sin and death, may we never lose sight of the one who will lift us out of the ash heap.

In His Grace,
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.

Game Night - Game Night was a tremendous success! Over fifty children, youth, and adults gathered for food, fun and fellowship. The individuals who attended are already requesting another event.



on Missions



Hydrangeas - The J. B. Cook Class is selling white hydrangeas to adorn our chancel area on Easter. They will only be ordering 75, so get your orders in quickly. You may purchase these hydrangeas in memory or honor of a loved one which will be listed in a special booklet. Each hydrangea will sell for \$25, and planting instructions will be included. Call the church office to place your order by April 6th. All proceeds will go to the Elevator Fund.

Communion Offering - Our communion offering for March 2nd goes 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. A total of \$265 was collected.

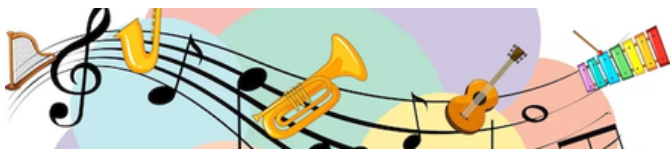
Ash
WEDNESDAY

+

March 5

We will hold two services:
12 noon and 6 p.m.

"Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."



CHILDREN

Children's Sunday School Teachers

Mar. 9 - Linda Drake

Mar. 16 - Caroline Atkins

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to Jessica Dunn for playing flute so beautifully last Sunday during our anthem. Jessica is a senior Music Education major at Mississippi State University. With over 10 years of experience playing the flute, she has participated in several prestigious ensembles, including the Famous Maroon Band, Wind Ensemble B, Symphonic Band, and the MSU Flute Choir. Before attending MSU, she earned an Associate of Arts degree from Jones County Junior College. Jessica is passionate about sharing her love for music with younger generations. She aspires to teach music at the middle and elementary school levels, hoping to inspire and nurture the next generation of musicians.



NEWS FROM THE CDC



The children and staff members had a great week last week. Caroline Atkins taught the children about the fruits of the spirit, and she brought fruit for them to eat to help them remember the lesson.

The staff celebrated Sandra Bailey's birthday with Fun Friday. They enjoyed a birthday cake made by Katie Bowen, sausage and biscuits, chips, fruit and drinks. Thanks to Dee Echols, Anna Dill, Katie Bowen, Gail Foote and Cinzia Duncan for providing these treats.

YOUTH NEWS



YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

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



Ella and West, the new youth interns, are a wonderful addition to our church. West is shown above meeting with the youth, and Ella and Elizabeth Stewart helped with Communion on Sunday. The youth also really enjoyed getting to know them during Game Night. Ella and West, we are so glad that you are here.



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
- Kenya Lee, CDC 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/>

In the Hospital

Jerry Mize - NMMC WP

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

Our Members

- Elizabeth Bailey
- Louise Campbell
- Donna Cook
- Montez Ganss
- Fox & Evelyn Haas
- Jordan Helveston
- Austin Hill
- Emerson Houston
- Victoria Johnston
- Phil McClellan
- Charlotte Messier
- Johnnie Newell
- Kay Powell
- Mike Reid
- Ben Rosenkrans
- Abby Scott
- Gracy Taylor
- Jimmy Wood
- 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
- 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
- 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)

First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 9, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-31

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"Love, Obedience, and the Holy Spirit"

Anthem

"Holy Spirit, Live in Me" - arr. Schrader

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Julie Gray

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.

ATTENDANCE March 2, 2025

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	95
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	15
Total Worship.....	110

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



Fun at Game Night