

MARCH 11, 2025

# *The* Window

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

## Finally, A Message on Sin from the Preacher (pt. 1)

As Christians, we're often pretty comfortable talking about sin. Just not our own. More than once, I've had a well-intentioned church member come to me and say, "Preacher, why don't you preach more about sin."

Various responses seldom seem satisfactory. There's the biblical reply: "I preach about sin when it comes up in the text I'm preaching." There's the appeal to theology: "Preaching is ultimately about God's grace, not our failure." Those things are rarely satisfying because what the person is concerned about is that we aren't taking sin seriously.

I've found that the more effective response is to ask them which sins they think I should preach about more. Inevitably, this is an easy question to answer. It usually sounds like some variation of what I thought made me a "good Christian" as a youth: Don't drink (at least underage). Don't smoke (or vape or do heavier drugs). Don't have sex (outside of marriage). Or maybe it's from the 10 Commandments.

It's the follow-up question that usually gets them mumbling: "Which of those are you struggling with?"

We're pretty comfortable talking about sin, so long as it's someone else's.

The truth is that most of us are more than willing to say, "I know I'm a sinner. We're all sinners. We all need God's grace."

But when it comes right down to it, we can't name a single sin we committed yesterday. Or in the last week.

Alternatively, we might have one from those lists that we're *really* worried about, but couldn't name any others.

Part of the problem is that we've lost our vocabulary to talk about sin. The early church believed that all sin could be traced back to one of 7 root sins ("the seven deadly sins") and those categories can give us the vocabulary that we need to think about our own hearts and lives.

If you ever wished Methodists would talk more about sin (or even if you haven't!), I hope you'll make it a priority to join us beginning next Wednesday (3/19) at 5:30pm in the library.

The great thing about learning more about our sin is that it makes us even more aware of the overwhelming abundance of God's grace.

In His Grace,  
Chad



# ANGELS IN APRONS

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

**Mar. 24 - Apr. 6** - JoAn Tedford and Barbara Bryan

## OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE LENTEN SEASON:

**Women's Class** - We have begun a Women's Class that is meeting 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 meets 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. Come join us.

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

**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.

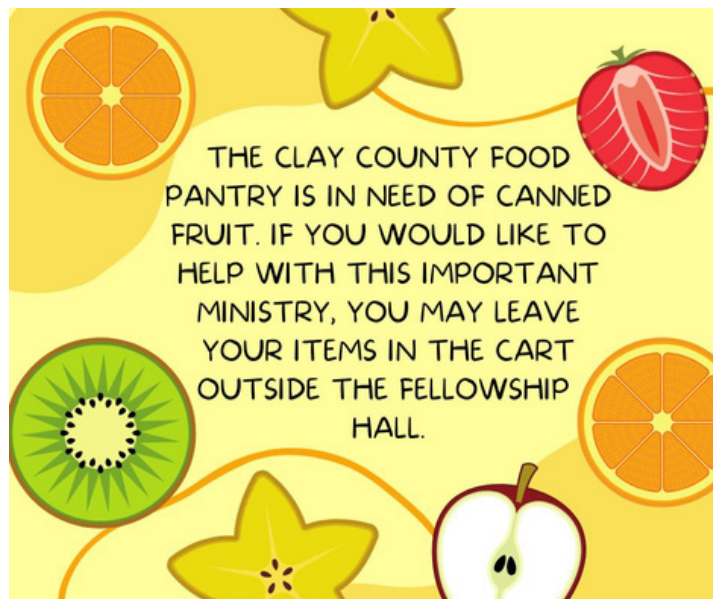
**Judy Shirley Circle** - The Judy Shirley Circle will meet on Monday, March 17th, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Barbara Bryan, LaDonna Helveston and Linda Drake. They will study Chapter 3 of their new book *Twelve Ordinary Men*.

**Lunch Bunch** - The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at Peppers in Columbus on Friday, March 14. The van will leave at 11:00. Call Gail Foote or Donna Cook to sign up.

**Meetings** - All of the following meetings will take place in the church library.

03/11/25	5:30pm	Personnel & Nominations
03/16/25	12:15pm	Leadership Council
03/23/25	12:15pm	Handyman Crew
03/30/25	8:45am	Worship Committee
03/30/25	3:00pm	Student Ministries

## on Missions



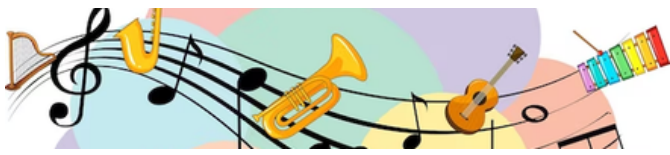
**Ferns for Missions** - We will be selling Ferns again this year for our Lenten Mission project. 10 inch Boston Hanging and Kimberly Queen ferns are available for sale through March 30th. Ferns are \$22 each and pick up will be on Saturday, April 5th from 9:00-10:30 AM. Call the church office to order.

## First United Methodist Church

# Upcoming Events

MARCH & APRIL	<b>Lenten Sunday School Classes</b> Rooms #107 and #205 @ 9:45
MARCH 5	<b>Deadline to Order Ferns</b> Pick up on April 5th @ 9-10:30
APRIL 6	<b>Deadline to Order Hydrangeas</b> Pick up after the Easter Service
APRIL 13	<b>Palm Sunday Service</b> 11 a.m.
APRIL 17	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> 6 p.m.
APRIL 18	<b>Good Friday Service</b> 12 noon
APRIL 20	<b>Easter Service</b> 11 a.m.

Please join us on Sunday mornings  
Sunday School at 9:45 and Worship Service at 11



## MUSIC NOTES

This week, I've been thinking about The Holy Spirit and how He manifests himself in my life. I hear his voice when I ask myself how to react in certain situations or when I reflect on my day and feel guilty for something I said or did. I'm sure the Holy Spirit talks to us all differently. One way the choir has experienced him is through prayer on Sunday mornings. We pray before we begin the worship service and ask Him to fill our hearts with praise and help us sing well so that we can usher you into the presence of God through song. Many choir members comment on how much they feel the Holy Spirit helping us through the anthem every Sunday. How does the Holy Spirit speak to you?



We were extremely blessed during the Ash Wednesday Service. One member stated that it was the most meaningful one that she could remember. Several of the youth were there, and for several it was the first Ash Wednesday Service they had attended.



The Youth at the Ash Wednesday Service

## YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

**Mar. 12** - No Youth

**Mar. 19** - Stacy Hays and Ann McClellan

**Mar. 26** - George and Luann Purnell

## CHILDREN

The Lighthouse Kids will not meet this Wednesday, March 12th, due to Spring Break. They will resume next Wednesday, March 19th.

### Children's Sunday School Teachers

**Mar. 16** - Caroline Atkins

**Mar. 23** - Becky Shirley

## NEWS FROM THE CDC



The CDC Board is extremely pleased to announce that Kenya Lee is the new director of FUMC Child Development Center. Kenya has a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's and specialist's degrees in special education. She taught for 17 years in the Choctaw County Schools where she was selected as Teacher of the Year in 2012 and Teacher of the District in 2013. Her supervisors reported that she was excellent in the classroom and has superior communication skills.

Kenya has been working in the CDC for several months and has been an exceptional staff member. She will continue to work with Karen Cliett who will remain as the assistant director and Anna Dill who has been given the title executive director to acknowledge the tremendous work she does for the CDC as a volunteer.

The CDC Board is excited about the future and grateful for God's provision as Kenya begins her tenure as director.



# 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 02/28/2025

Total revenue received in Feb.	\$32,192.47
Total expenses in Feb.	(\$38,029.70)
Year to date revenue	\$66,831.88
Year to date expenses	(\$69,614.69)

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

### ATTENDANCE March 9, 2025

Sunday School.....	47
Worship Service.....	66
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	19
Total Worship.....	85

### ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### In the Hospital

Jerry Mize - NMMC WP

### 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)  
 Sandra Harpole  
 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  
 Ben Smith  
 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 Alan Flynt  
 Family of Chris Henley



### Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 16, 2025

11:00 AM

### The Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-17

### SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"Fruit that Lasts"

### Special Music

"I Believe He's Alive" - Rowell & Wood

Gary Echols, soloist

**SOUND TECH:** Ray Purnell

**LAY READER:** George Purnell

**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.