

MARCH 18, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

The Preacher Won't Stop Talking About Sin

[Or, Finally, A Message from the Preacher About Sin (pt. 2)]

In the minds of some folks, there are two kinds of preachers: There are those who never talk about sin. And those who never talk about anything else. I am proud to say accusations have been levied in both directions against me.

When I was a senior in college, I had an opportunity to assist one of my professors in teaching a course in the Fall and Spring semester. The Spring semester course was called "The Seven Deadly Sins." The professor had never taught the course before, so I got to assist with the construction of the syllabus from the ground up.

I thought it would be an interesting study in historical theology. And it was, but there was something unexpected about this particular academic endeavor:

It was one of the most convicting experiences of my life.

No one intended it to be. But, I had spent years cultivating this image of myself as a good kid. Called into ministry since sixth grade. Didn't drink before my 21st birthday. The most trouble I got in in high school was failing to clean my room.

But Pride, Envy, Sloth, Greed, Wrath, Gluttony, and Lust are not first matters of outward action. They're the deadly sins because they are matters of the heart.

And, as I learned about them in the academic study, I had to come to grips with how much I needed God's grace and mercy for darkness that continued (continues!) in my own heart.

Charles Spurgeon is commonly credited with saying, "Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore lightly of the Saviour." I have found this to be true.

And I'm not sure there is any better time than Lent for us to take our sin seriously. Not because our sin defines us, but because understanding our sin can give us profound gratitude for our Savior.

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

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Elevator – After doing a final round of due diligence on the elevator modernization project, the Leadership Council determined to move forward with Bagby Elevator Company. They are an independent, union company and have provided excellent and cost-effective service to the church for years. The total cost is estimated at \$81,600. We will be working hard to raise the money to fund this project to ensure that worship and ministry is open to everyone at First UMC

Financial Update– Giving in the month of February remained strong, though not quite as strong as in January. As of the end of the month, the year-to-date budget deficit is just under \$9,000. We feel that we remain on track to stabilizing our financial picture over time.

New Leadership Teams – The Leadership Council approved a Personnel and Nominations approval to establish a “Kitchen Committee” and a “Congregational Care Team.” We’ll share more as those groups take shape.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Handy Crew – If you have a keen eye for detail or some handy skills (painting, carpentry, a strong back), please join us for a short meeting on Sunday after church. We’ll be organizing the work of our new “handy crew” and walking around the church property to identify places that might need some attention.

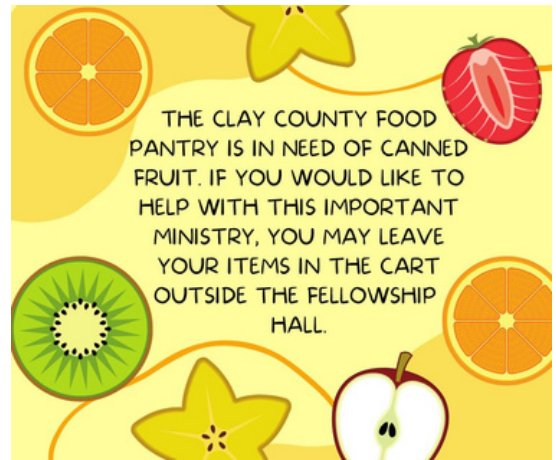
Women’s Class - We have begun a women’s Sunday school class that is meeting during the Lenten season to study **Give It Up!** The class meets in Room #107 (the Good Shepherd classroom). Gathering time will be from 9:45 to 10:00 am with Bible study from 10:00 to 10:30 AM.

Men’s Class - A Lenten men’s class is meeting to study “Jesus’ Journey to the Cross.” Any men who are looking for a Sunday School Class are welcome. This class meets in Room #205 at 9:45 AM.

Hydrangeas -The J. B. Cook Class is selling white hydrangeas for Easter. Each hydrangea will sell for \$25. Call the church office to place your order by April 6th.

Ferns for Missions - The church is selling ferns again this year. 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.

on Missions



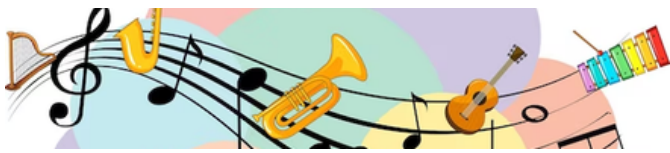
We recently held a food drive for the West Point Fresenius Kidney Care food pantry which provides nourishing foods for patients with limited income. Shown above are some of the employees of this organization. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the outreach.

First United Methodist Church

Upcoming Events

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

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



MUSIC NOTES

Thank you so much to the Wesley Fellowship Sunday School Class for purchasing 30 new copies of one of our favorite anthems, "Holy Spirit, Live in Me," in honor of Elizabeth Bailey, Jerry Mize, Phil McClellan and Donna Cook. Several Sundays ago, the Chancel Choir sang this anthem from old, torn, hard-to-read copies. It is a special anthem for me as it was the first anthem I taught to the Chancel Choir many years ago when I came to interview for the Director of Music position. I'm so thankful you saw something in me and allowed me to lead the music at our wonderful church. I'm also thankful to the Wesley Fellowship Sunday School class for donating fresh copies of one of our favorite and memorable anthems!

LUNCH BUNCH



The Lunch Bunch traveled to Peppers in Columbus last Friday for their monthly outing, and thirteen people attended. The next trip will be to the Market Street Cafe in Louisville on Friday, April 11th.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Meetings will be held in the church library.

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|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 03/23/25 | 12:15pm | Handyman Crew |
| 03/30/25 | 8:45am | Worship Committee |
| 03/30/25 | 3:00pm | Student Ministries |

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS

The Lighthouse Kids will resume this Wednesday, March 19th at 5:15pm. They will be studying how Jesus knows and cares for everyone.

Children's Sunday School Teachers

Mar. 23 - Becky Shirley

Mar. 30 - Laura Stewart

NEWS FROM THE CDC



Linda Drake led the CDC children in chapel. She talked about all kinds of objects that provide light such as candles, lamps, flashlights and sunlight. She then told the students that God provides light in all our lives. Thank you, Linda, for your dedication to these children and the CDC.



Brother Chad leads chapel for the after school children each Monday at 3:30.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Mar. 19 - Stacy Hays and Ann McClellan

Mar. 26 - George and Luann Purnell



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.	\$31,118.63
Total expenses in Feb.	(\$38,029.70)
Year to date revenue	\$60,714.20
Year to date expenses	(\$69,614.69)

ATTENDANCE March 16, 2025

Sunday School.....	58
Worship Service.....	81
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	19
Total Worship.....	100

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Fox Haas - NMMC WP

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

Our Members

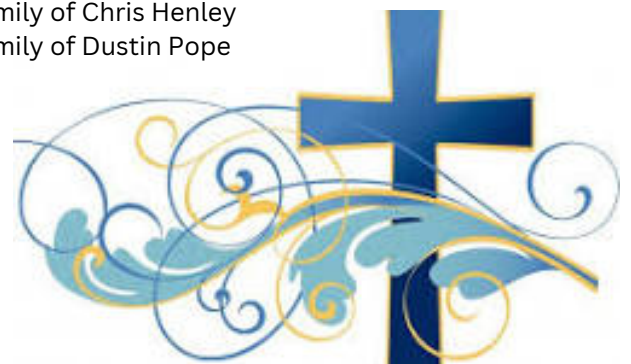
- Elizabeth Bailey
- Louise Campbell
- Donna Cook
- Montez Ganss
- Evelyn Haas
- Jordan Helveston
- Austin Hill
- Emerson Houston
- Victoria Johnston
- Phil McClellan
- Charlotte Messier
- Jerry Mize
- Johnnie Newell
- Kay Powell
- Mike Reid
- Ben Rosenkrans
- Abby Scott
- Gracy Taylor
- Jimmy Wood
-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

Our Family and Friends:

- Jenn Barnhill
- Annie Barnes
- Ted Berry
- Bobby Bounds
- Joe Brownlee
- Edith Carlisle
- Mary Margaret Case
- Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
- Robert Darsey
- Marcus Davidson
- 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
- Steve Roberson
- Robbie Robinson
- Ben Smith
- Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
- Moses Vernon (Amy Buckley's uncle)
- Tammy Walters
- Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

- Family of Alan Flynt
- Family of Chris Henley
- Family of Dustin Pope



Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 23, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 15:18-16:4

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

“Expecting and Accepting the Rejection
of the World”

Anthem

“That Wonderful Name Medley” - arr. Mauldin

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

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.**