

MARCH 25, 2025

The Window

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

A Note from a Proud Preacher

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

We had a visitor in church on Sunday. One of you saw him sitting outside as you came into the church and invited him in. Others of you helped me greet him as he tried to find a place for what everyone could tell was probably all that he had to his name.

During the Sunday School hour, I sat and talked with him. It was obvious that his mind wasn't making all of the right connections, but his intelligence was obvious nevertheless. Another group of you spoke with him and helped him find a seat in the sanctuary while I went to get ready for worship. You were kind. You listened even when his stories rolled into one another. You welcomed him into the house of God.

But you also recognized that his instability could be a risk for other folks worshipping with us. When he moved around the sanctuary somewhat unpredictably at the beginning of worship, you became even more attentive. You were vigilant and took steps to make sure that we were as safe as we could be. And you did it all in a manner that was appropriate, discerning, and discrete.

Afterwards, you were eager to make sure that we met any needs we could for him. And we were able to provide him with some lunch and help him continue back towards his home.

I couldn't be more proud to be your pastor.

I'm not sure that there is anything more difficult to navigate in the Christian life than when our responsibility to love someone exists in tension with our responsibility to love someone else. The church should be a place where everyone is welcome to experience and know the grace of God. **And**, the church should be a place where we look after the safety and well-being of one another.

As those things were potentially in tension on Sunday, you showed who you are as a community of faith by being attentive to both needs and refusing to choose one over the other.

This, I believe, is a sign of the light of Christ moving in our midst.

Grace and peace,
Br. Chad



ANGELS IN APRONS

Mar. 24 - Apr. 6 - JoAn Tedford and Barbara Bryan
Apr. 7 - Apr. 20 - Becky Shirley and LaDonna Helveston

Lenten Sunday School Classes – It’s not too late to jump in! A women’s class, meeting in Room #107, is discussing study **Give It Up!** - a Lenten study that reflects on all the things that hold our attention, occupy our minds monopolize our time, and isolate us from God and the world around us. Gathering is 9:45-10:00, and the study is from 10:00-10:30. A men’s class is studying “Jesus’ Journey to the Cross” in room #205, starting at 9:45.

Communion Steward Training – Many of you indicated on the survey that you would be willing to help with Communion. There will be a training on Sunday morning at 10:30 in the fellowship hall for everyone interested. We would love to have you.

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.

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**

on Missions



Loaves and Fishes

Beth Raines, Gloria Bunnell and Jane Caston are shown as they wait for the delivers to pick up the meals that they have prepared for members of our church. This ministry is sponsored by the Judy Shirley Circle.

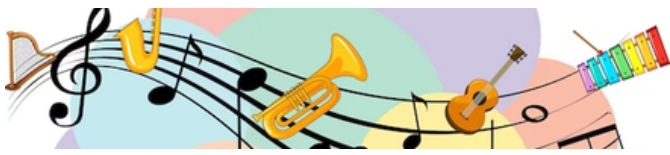


**Canned Fruit
 Needed for the
 Clay County
 Food Pantry**

Christ at Home

Each month our church provides meals to approximately fifty people in our church and community. We are so appreciative of all the church members who participate in this important ministry. One of the recipients is Montez Ganss. She is shown below with Cinzia Duncan who often delivers for Christ at Home.





MUSIC NOTES

I would like to thank the congregation for allowing me to sing for you and for everyone's generous love offering. I look forward to singing every week. The church is overflowing with love and kindness. No matter what kind of day I have had, I know that when I walk through the church doors, I will be greeted with a warm smile by a caring soul. God answered my prayers when I was first asked to sing with the choir. I had been tired and stressed from juggling school and the financial challenges college brings. Through the love offering put together by the congregation, I am no longer stressed and worried; I am at peace. I am thankful and very appreciative of everyone who contributed to the offering; it means a lot for the congregation to be so welcoming to a new face. I love to sing, but the people every Wednesday night and Sunday morning are what make this opportunity so amazing. Meeting each of you while growing closer to God is an honor and a blessing. I pray you have a great day, and I will see you on Sunday morning.

Thank you. Conner Stingley

YOUTH NEWS



Jane Caston's 80th Birthday Celebration

Jane Caston does so much for the youth in our church. She organizes the volunteers who provide the meals each Wednesday night. She also is the person who makes sure that they have drinks and snacks in the youth house. To show their appreciation, the youth provided a cake for her 80th birthday celebration.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Meetings will be held in the church library.

03/30/25 8:45am Worship Committee
03/30/25 3:00pm Student Ministries

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS

The Lighthouse Kids resumed last Wednesday night. They learned about the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with oil. Then the group made something beautiful out of oil. They put food coloring in water and added the dyed water to oil. The result looked like a lava lamp.



Children's Sunday School Teachers

Mar. 30 - Laura Stewart

NEWS FROM THE CDC



Helen Facella led the CDC children in chapel last week. She read the book *School for Bears* where the mama grizzly bears teach their cubs about different things. She told them that teachers and parents are like the bears. They want to teach children about God, to be good and kind, to help others and to love everyone.

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Mar. 26 - George and Luann Purnell
Apr. 2 - Barbara Bryan and Judy Staggers
Apr. 9 - Cinzia Duncan
Apr. 16 - Gloria Bunnell and Amy Lee
Apr. 23 - Elizabeth Bailey
Apr. 30 - Kathy Wood



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)

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

ATTENDANCE March 23, 2025

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

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
 Montez Ganss
 Fox & 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
 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
 Campbell Helveston
 Rusty Iles
 Marty Ivy
 Mark Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
 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
 Wes Williamson
 Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

Family of Bobby Berry
 Family of Bobby Bounds
 Family of Madge Brooks Ivey (Jason McKellar's Grandmother)
 Family of Dustin Pope



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 30, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 16:4b-15

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"Life Is Better in the Spirit"

Anthem

"Dwell Within My Soul" - arr. Landon

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Tommy Bryan

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.**