

APRIL 1, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# *The* Window

## A Note from the Preacher

*Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one. (Matthew 5:37)*

It's April Fool's Day. I suspect by the time that you read this, someone has already tried to trick you today. Maybe they even succeeded.

It's good that we have a day every year when there's permission (within reason and with respect) to give a hard time to the people that we love. Laughter is a gift from the Lord. To be honest, I was tempted to incorporate some chicanery in this space this week. But all my ideas were either too dull or too over the top.

It's good that we have a day for hijinx and deception.

Beyond the fun, there's a profound truth wrapped up in April Fool's Day: One day where anyone could be lying to you is a reminder of how much the truth sits at the center of our relationships. Life is not possible if we don't trust one another.

It seems like our world is more comfortable than ever with half-truths, tall tales, deception, double standards, equivocation, and lies. The last five years have made it harder than any period in my lifetime to know whom to trust.

It shouldn't be this way among Christians. If the message of Jesus is an invitation to eternal life and the hope of all of creation, we can't risk diminishing our witness by being like the rest of the world.

When Jesus instructs his followers not to take oaths, it's an invitation to be a reliable witness. If you always speak the truth, there won't be any need to make more secure promises about it when it's really important. In the south we might say, "Mean what you say and say what you mean."

In a world that seems to be losing its ability to distinguish between truth and fiction, may the Church always be a place where the truth is spoken in love.

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

**Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast** - Please join us Sunday, April 13 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a church-wide pancake breakfast. Donations will be accepted with all proceeds going to the Elevator Fund. Thanks to Tommy Bryan for chairing this event.

**Lenten Sunday School Classes** - It's not too late to jump in the women's class, meeting in Room #107 that is discussing the study **Give It Up!** or a men's class which is studying "Jesus' Journey to the Cross" in room #205.


**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, April 6, 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 Pick Up** - Ferns may be picked up THIS Saturday, April 5th from 9:00-10:30 AM.

**Lunch Bunch** - The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at Market Street Café in Louisville on Friday, April 11. The van will leave the church at 10:30. Call Gail Foote or Donna Cook to sign up.

**First United Methodist Church**



**Upcoming Events**

APRIL 6	<b>Deadline to Order Hydrangeas</b> Pick up after the Easter Service
APRIL 13	<b>Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m.</b> <b>Palm Sunday Service 11 a.m.</b>
APRIL 17	<b>Maundy Thursday Service 6 p.m.</b>
APRIL 18	<b>Good Friday Service 12 noon</b>
APRIL 20	<b>Easter Service 11 a.m.</b>

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

# on Missions



## Communion Offering for Safe Haven

Our communion offering for Sunday will benefit Safe Haven. Safe Haven is an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. They strive to provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention in a loving, caring and secure environment that will uphold their dignity and self-worth as individuals.

## MISSIONS IN THE CDC

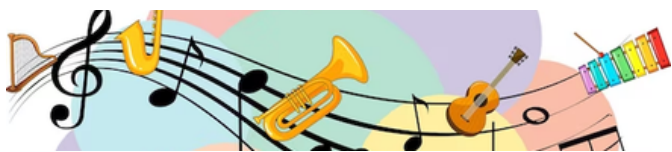


## Fun Friday in the CDC

Each month the church recognizes the CDC staff members with treats to show appreciation for their hard work. Jane Caston, Beth Raines, Gloria Bunnell, Lynn Posey and Cinzia Duncan provided the food and drinks for March. Katie Bowen made a beautiful and delicious strawberry cake for the occasion. The CDC Board appreciates the support that the church gives to the center. They also want to thank these ladies for their time and effort in providing this wonderful event for the staff.

## CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

Mark your calendars for our Church Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 26th, from 8-12. More information will be coming soon.



## MUSIC NOTES

In this Lenten Season, I tried to add to my routine by praying three times a day. I downloaded an app to help me because I felt like I wasn't really good at praying. This app reads scripture and asks you to reflect and pray. It was nice for the first week. The second week, something started to happen. I couldn't wait to shut my door and pray. It filled me to overflowing daily, and I saw a massive difference in my perceptions and mood. I added singing a praise song or hymn this week after my prayer. I can't tell you the happiness that has invaded my heart from spending time with Jesus. I have begun to experience his love in a way I didn't think possible. I encouraged the choir to join me in this prayer endeavor and you to join me as well! I invite you into the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is The Lord. If you are interested in downloading the app I am using it, you can find it here:

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>  
Rachel



### Congratulations, Mae!

We want to congratulate Mae Sugg who was honored as a Rotary Reader for March. Mae, we are so proud of you!

## YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

**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

## LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



The Lighthouse Kids learned how Jesus walked on the water, and Peter went to meet him. Then they reenacted the event with Collier playing Jesus and Logan acting as Peter. To reinforce the lesson, they played a game where the kids tried to blow a ping pong ball across the water. What an engaging lesson!



Bill and Caroline Atkins led the children in Sunday school. They watched and discussed a video comparing David and Jesus. Jesus was perfect, but David was human like us, He made mistakes, but Jesus still loved him. Then they made hearts for Jesus necklaces. Thank you, Bill and Caroline, for investing in our children.

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**Meetings will be held in the church library.**

04/28/25 5:30 pm CDC Board meeting



# 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 30, 2025

Sunday School.....66  
 Worship Service.....99  
 Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....20  
 Total Worship.....119

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

## 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  
 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  
 Larry West (West Loden's grandfather)  
 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 Bob Lee  
 Family of Shirley Coleman Stewart (Nita Wyman's Cousin)

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 6, 2025

11:00 AM

### The Gospel Lesson

John 16:16-33

### SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"Life Is Better in the Spirit"

### Anthem

"Victory Medley" - arr. Mauldin

**SOUND TECH:** Julie Gray

**LAY READER:** Kristen Williams

**STREAM TEAM:** Andy Gray

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.

### ONLINE GIVING QR CODE

