

APRIL 15, 2025

**The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi**

# *The* **Window**

## **A Note from the Preacher**

As a Christian, Easter is my favorite season.

For much of my youth, my mom was the children's minister at our church. The hectic nature of Holy Week and her responsibilities on Easter Sunday meant that a big Easter lunch wasn't in the cards for our family. So, we made a new tradition: the Easter Sunday picnic.

Everything could be prepared beforehand, and we could load up and go to the lake nearby and enjoy the beauty of spring.

While Christmas has its own joys, the simplicity of Easter made it a genuinely religious holiday. No one feels compelled to say, "remember the reason for the season," because the lack of wish lists, parties, menu planning, etc. make it a lot easier to focus on the main thing: Jesus' victory over the powers of sin and death. And because it's always on Sunday, I think it's much easier for worship to be the most important thing that happens on Easter.

Another thing that shaped my love for the holiday is that it's not just the Sunday morning celebration. The Holy Week services always served as an invitation to behold Jesus' incomprehensible gift: his own life and provided ways to remember that we participate in that mystery through things like foot washing and communion.

You probably know someone carrying a heavy burden: grief, illness, surgery recovery, financial needs, addiction, depression, anxiety. Maybe it's you carrying that burden.

Easter, of all holidays, is the day that as Christians we can hold together the reality of the brokenness that so often surrounds us and the hope that all things are being made new.

If you know someone longing for all things to be made new, pray that they might find a way to rest in Gospel hope, and that it might come to have new meaning through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Maybe even invite them to worship with us as we walk together to the garden, the cross, and the empty tomb.

in sure and certain hope,

Br. Chad





# ANGELS IN APRONS

Apr. 7 - Apr. 20 - Becky Shirley and LaDonna Helveston

Apr. 21 - May 4 - Elizabeth Bailey and Dee Berry

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

About fifty people attended the pancake breakfast on Sunday. We want to thank Jim Helveston, Jay Wood, Vic Johnson, Tommy Bryan, Andy Gray, Mark Bean and Gary Echols who prepared this delicious meal. We also want to thank Dee Echols for the decorations.



# on Missions



## Communion Offerings during Holy Week

Almost one in five people in Mississippi doesn't have enough to eat. Food banks are struggling to meet the demand as federal programs are cut. Our Communion offerings on Maundy Thursday and Easter will go to our Project Homestead Food Pantry in Clay County which does an excellent job meeting the needs of our community.

## PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

The Palm Sunday service was wonderful at FUMC. It began with people gathering in the Fellowship Hall to receive palm branches. Rachel led the group in the opening song of praise "This Is the Day." Then everyone processed down the aisle to as they sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" and placed the palm branches on the Altar. This processional was a wonderful beginning to the Holy Week services.



# HOLY WEEK

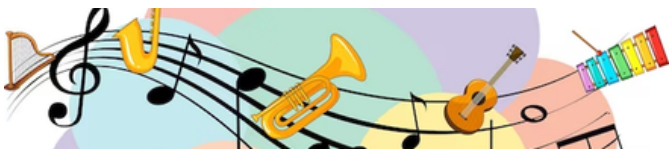
APRIL 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
6 P.M.

APRIL 18 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
12 NOON

APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE  
11 A.M.







## MUSIC NOTES

Some of our younger members are teaching us all how to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! I adore hearing the children sing "Doxology" and "Gloria Patri" on Sunday mornings at the top of their lungs! They truly embody what it is to praise the name of The Lord. Way to teach the adults how to do it! I'm so proud of you and can't wait for you to join the choir!

-Rachel

## CELEBRATIONS



We want to recognize two special accomplishments. Phil McClellan rang the bell on April 8th to celebrate the end of his cancer treatments. Phil never missed a choir rehearsal or performance during this time. Eli McKellar was West Point's top male shooter during the State Archery Competition. He scored 272 points. He has been on the archery team for two years.

We are so proud of these church members!

## YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

**Apr. 16** - Gloria Bunnell and Amy Lee

**Apr. 23** - Elizabeth Bailey

**Apr. 30** - Kathy Wood

**May 7** - Mary Carr Ecklund and Betsy McGlohn

## CHURCH MEETINGS

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

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

04/30/25 10:00am VBS Planning Meeting

## LIGHTHOUSE KIDS

**Children's Sunday School Teachers**

**Apr. 20** - Cheryl Bowen

**Apr. 27** - Jessi Sugg

## LUNCH BUNCH



Twelve people traveled to Louisville on Friday to have lunch at Market Cafe which is owned by the former West Point resident, Johnny Wooten. Everyone had a great time. As always, the group wants to thank Gary Echols for driving. The next trip will be to the on May 16<sup>th</sup> to the Pheba Diner. The van will leave the church at 10:30 a.m.



We will hold a church-wide luncheon Sunday, May 4, after the worship service to honor our high school seniors: Louis Facella, Kayleigh McNamee, Locke Myers, Kathryn Williams and Hazard Zepponi. Please contact Stacy if you can help serve/cleanup or prepare a dish.



# 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 03/31/2025

Total revenue received in Mar.	\$34,901.46
Total expenses in Mar.	(\$43,125.91)
Year to date revenue	\$95,615.66
Year to date expenses	(\$112,740.60)

### ATTENDANCE April 13, 2025

Sunday School.....	61
Worship Service.....	93
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	18
Total Worship.....	111

### ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



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

### In the Hospital

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### Our Members

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

#### Dugan

- Deb McGaughey

#### Traceway

- Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

#### Trinity

- Jean Sarsgard

#### 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

- 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 Jimmy Harrison



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.