

MAY 6, 2025

The Window

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

A Note from the Preacher

*The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun: Alleluia*

Now that we're a couple of weeks out from Easter, it seems like the world has moved on. And I worry that, in some ways, my heart has too. There are tasks to be done. The old worries have reclaimed my attention. The old stressors feel as heavy as ever.

Which means that it is a gift when I remember that the battle is done. The victory is won. And the song of triumph has begun.

It's not all up to me. Or you.

And if Easter is any indication, our God is up to the task to make all things new. That's worth celebrating for at least a few more weeks, if not for an eternity.

Resting in sure and certain hope,
Br. Chad

Meet Jon Burris

Jon Burris will be joining our staff at First UMC. His primary focus will be discipling our youth. In addition to that work, he'll be assisting Br. Chad with various projects and have other opportunities to grow in his gifts in ministry. We could not be more thrilled that God is bringing Jon to West Point for the Summer. Hear from Jon in his own words:

I was raised on the Mississippi gulf coast where my parents served as pastors in the United Methodist Church. I graduated from Biloxi High School in 2020, and went to college to where I earned a B.S. in Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. There, I felt a call on my life to pursue vocational ministry, and served as the youth pastor of Sumrall Methodist Church my last two years of college.

After graduating in 2024, I knew God wanted me to attend seminary to prepare for the future mission he had for my life. Last fall, I started my Master of Divinity at Asbury Theological Seminary where the Lord has been shaping and forming me. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve this summer as the youth pastor, and I cannot wait to see what God has planned.



ANGELS IN APRONS

May 5 - May 18 - Robin McCormick and Gale Griggs

May 19 - June 1 - Luann Purnell and Anna Dill

\$82,000

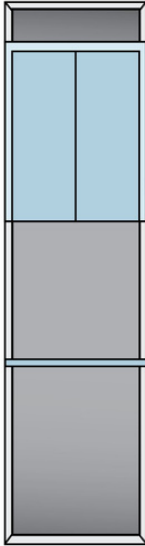
\$79,719

Be lifted up,
O ancient
doors, That
the King of
glory may
come in!

Elevator
Replacement
Fund



First United Methodist Church



ELEVATOR FUND

We have received a total of \$79,719 for the Elevator Fund which leaves us with a balance of \$2,281. Your donations make a big difference as we aim to meet our goal.

CHURCH NEWS

Lunch Bunch - The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at the Pheba Diner on Friday, May 16. The van will leave the church at 10:30. Call Gail Foote or Donna Cook to sign up.

Judy Shirley Circle - The Judy Shirley Circle will meet on Monday, May 18th, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Luann Purnell, Barbara Iles and Gracy Taylor. They will study Chapter 5 of their book *Twelve Ordinary Men*.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Meetings will be held in the church library.

05/13/25 5:30 pm Personnel & Nominations

5/18/25 12:15 pm Leadership Council

05/19/25 5:00 pm CDC Board Meeting



on Missions

COMMUNION OFFERING

Our Communion offering Sunday benefitted Mississippi Methodist Senior Services. This organization has provided affordable housing and services to seniors since 1962. Dugan, the Henry Clay, Trinity and Traceway Manor are all part of this organization. A total of \$299.00 was collected.

BACKPACK SNACKS

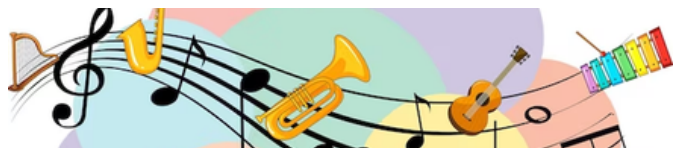


Our youth and children worked together to pack the last 150 backpack snacks for this school year. We are so proud of them, and their willingness to help children in our community.

COLLEGE CONNECTION



The Judy Shirley Circle met in April for their monthly meeting and prepared gift cards for our college seniors. The circle prepares these gift cards twice a year during exam time, so that our college students have an inspirational note and a treat from the church.



MUSIC NOTES



Rachel Wood and Mark Bean performed "He's Always Been Faithful" for our special music on Sunday. Thank you for sharing your talents with us.

CONGRATULATIONS



1. Fox Haas just killed another turkey at the age of 94.
2. Locke Myers won the DAR Good Citizen Award.
3. Mary Campbell Gray Dragoo was nominated and recognized for *Interior Design Magazine's* 30/30 program, which celebrates the region's top 30 designers under 30.
4. Kathryn Williams' and Locke Myers' relay team won second place at the state competition in both the 4A Girls' 4x200 Relay and the 4A Girls' 4x100 Relay. Kathryn Williams also won third place in the 4A 100m Hurdles.

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



The Lighthouse Kids had a great night learning about Jesus' trial. They also played games and shared a meal together.

SENIOR SUNDAY



Senior Sunday was wonderful! During the church service the seniors briefly spoke about their futures, and then they were presented Bibles from the Judy Shirley Circle. After the worship service, a church-wide luncheon was held to honor our seniors: Louis Facella, Kayleigh McNamee, Locke Myers, Kathryn Williams and Hazard Zepponi.

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

- May 7** - Mary Carr Ecklund and Betsy McGlohn
- May 14** - Game Night
- May 21** - Gail Foote and Dee Echols
- May 28** - Dr. Joe Stephens' Sunday School Class



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)

More detailed financial information is available here:

<https://fumcwestpoint.com/monthly-financial-summary/>

ATTENDANCE May 4, 2025

Sunday School.....48
 Worship Service.....92
 Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....12
 Total Worship.....104

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
 Beverly Campbell
 Louise Campbell
 Montez Ganss
 Fox & Evelyn Haas
 Caroline Harrell
 Jordan Helveston
 Austin Hill
 Emerson Houston
 Susan Johnson
 Victoria Johnston
 Carolyn Lott
 Phil McClellan
 Charlotte Messier
 Jerry Mize
 Johnnie Newell
 Kay Powell
 Mike Reid
 Ben Rosenkrans
 Gracy Taylor
 Jimmy Wood
 Kathy Wood

Dugan

Deb McGaughey
 Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Trinity

Jean Sarsgard

Our Family and Friends:

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
 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 Ryan McCurdy (nephew of Steve Roberson)



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 11, 2025

11:00 AM

The Gospel Lesson

John 21:1-14

SERMON

Rev. Chad Bowen

"I Am Going Fishing"

Anthem

"I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary"
 arr. Mauldin

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Bob Wyman

STREAM TEAM: Jason McKellar

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.**