



JULY 8, 2025

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

The **Window**

A Note from the Preacher

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord.

(2 Samuel 6:15-19)

The freedom that David has dancing before the Lord is a beautiful and scandalous thing in this story. He's undignified as he dances for an audience of one. He's singularly concerned about what God thinks in that moment.

Sometimes this passage gets used as a way of saying that our worship should be entirely spontaneous and untethered from the ways others have worshiped in the past. That's silly. David goes from his dancing to giving offerings to God—burnt offerings and offerings of well-being that were ritually structured by Old Testament law.

And beyond David's actions, the rest of the story of bringing the ark to Jerusalem is terrifying. Just before David's dancing in the story, two men are driving the oxen pulling the ark. The ark is, of course, the center of Israel's worship. The oxen pulling it make the ark wobble and one of the men reaches out to steady it. He's not authorized to touch the ark and he dies. David is so thrown off by all of it and scared of the Lord and the ark that he leaves it where it is for three months before he finally brings it the rest of the way to Jerusalem.

These stories sitting next to each other encourage to hold on to two things at once:

- (1) Faithful worship includes taking God's presence and power seriously. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), and it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31).
- (2) Being in the presence of God is filled with joy and freedom and delight.

To say it differently, to worship is to take God seriously and to not take ourselves too seriously. I pray that as we worship as a community of faith, the form of our worship invites us to live in awe of God and in the freedom from others' judgement that comes with the truth of the Gospel.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

ANGELS IN APRONS

June 30 - July 13- Shannon and Lannie Wallace

July 14 - July 27 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Rummage Sale - We are now accepting donations for our annual rummage sale which is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, in the Fellowship Hall. If you have items you would like to donate, please call the church office to arrange a time for drop off. Please do not bring clothing or shoes.

Weekly Communion - Brother Chad and our youth intern Jon will be holding Holy Communion each Wednesday at 12 noon in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Unclaimed Dishes - There are many dishes in the church kitchen that have not been collected after events. The dishes will be on display in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 13th, and Sunday, July 20th. Please stop by and see if any of them are yours.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

07/10/25	10:00am	Congregational Care Com.	Library
07/17/25	10:00am	Worship Committee	Library
07/20/25	12:15pm	Leadership Committee	Library
07/21/25	5:00pm	CDC Board	Library



WEDNESDAY, JULY 9
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

5:30pm

First UMC
612 E. Broad, West Point

We're convinced having fun, sharing meals, singing, and talking about things that matter are some of the most transformative things adults can do with kids.

Bring your kids (or grandkids) to FUMC on Wednesday nights in July (9th, 16th, 23rd) as we enjoy one another and share in God's joy and grace.

on Missions

BLESSING BOX



We are in need of some food items and a few personal hygiene items for our Blessing Box. Please leave your donations in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall. You may also go to the church Facebook page to have items sent directly to the church.

FUN FRIDAYS

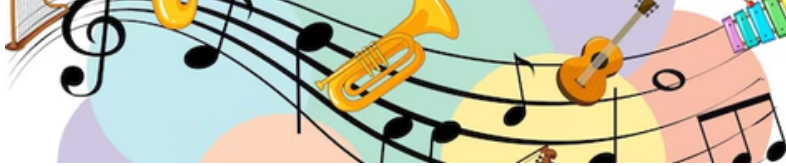


Once a month our church members provide special treats for the Child Development Center to let the staff know how much they are appreciated. We want to thank Cinzia Duncan, Gail Foote, Stacy Hays, Holly Hitt, Andrea Stevens, Laura Stewart, Kristin Williams and Kathy Wood for helping with this special day in June.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Kay Powell rang the bell on Tuesday, July 1, to celebrate the end of her cancer treatments. We are so proud of her!



MUSIC NOTES

Music has a unique way of bringing us together. When we sing or worship through music, our many voices become one—different notes, different parts, but all working in harmony. It's a beautiful reflection of the unity we're called to as the body of Christ. Just as a choir needs every voice to create a full sound, our church needs each person to live, love, and serve in tune with one another. Our Chancel Choir models this beautifully each week, offering their time and talent to help lead us in worship. As Scripture reminds us, "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5). May our songs continue to remind us that we are stronger, louder, and more joyful when we worship as one.

FUN TIMES IN THE CDC



Trip to the Buffalo Park

The school age children traveled to the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo in June. Everyone had a great time !

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

July 6 - Laura Stewart

July 13 - Jessi Sugg

July 20 - Becky Shirley

July 27 - Helen Facella

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

July 9 - Anna Dill & Donna Cook

July 16 - Cinzia Duncan

July 23 - Linda Drake

July 30 - Amy Buckley

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Fun at the Wallaces

We want to thank the Wallaces for hosting the youth for a swim party last week. Even though the weather was not ideal, everyone had a great time.



Camp Lake Stephens

Caston McCellar just wrapped up his last year at Camp Lake Stephens, a place he's been visiting since he was in the second grade. It is wonderful to see our UMC conference funds going to such great places and helping kids like Caston make awesome memories while growing in their faith.



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
Jon Burris, Summer 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 5/31/2025

Total revenue received in May	\$26,712.61
Total expenses in April	(\$44,942.80)
Year to date revenue	\$150,314.77
Year to date expenses	(\$190,091.39)

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

ATTENDANCE July 6, 2025

Sunday School.....	39
Worship Service.....	75
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	14
Total Worship.....	89

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 13, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-13

SERMON

"Worship: The Proclamation of the Word"

Anthem

"Here I am, Send Me with Have Thine Own Way"
arr. MacDonald

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Bob Seitz

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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
Beverly Campbell
R. B. Davis
Montez Ganss
Fox & Evelyn Haas
Caroline Harrell
Jordan Helveston
Austin Hill
Emerson Houston
Susan Johnson
Victoria Johnston
Charlotte Messier
Jerry Mize
Johnnie Newell
Kay Powell
Mike Reid
Ben Rosenkrans
Gracy Taylor
Gail Wolanek
Jimmy Wood
Kathy Wood

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Our Family and Friends:

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)
Rebecca Duncan (Elizabeth Bailey's neighbor)
Martin Edmondson (Tammy Walters' father)
Sandra Harpole
Rusty Iles
Mike Kellar (Gay Duke's brother-in-law)
Curtis Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's father)
Lynette Loud (Rachel Wood's mother)
Linda Mize
Carole Higgins Morton
Susie Purnell Randall

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Robbie Robinson
Ben Smith
Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
Moses Vernon (Amy Buckley's uncle)
Wes Williamson
Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

Family of Ann McClellan
Family of Jean Sarsgard