



JULY 22, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

"We observe each other's sins not to bewail them, but to make them subject of reproach, not to heal them, but to aggravate them, and excuse our own evil deeds by the wounds of our neighbors." -St. Gregory the Theologian

This week my social media feed was full of jokes about a man and a woman whose adultery was exposed on a jumbotron at a concert.

Then, as I was doing some homework for my doctoral program, I came across the above quotation. It's wild that something from the 300's could speak so well to what we see playing out in real time. We pay attention to sin so that we can mock others, not because we are interested in their healing. And other people's pain can numb our own sense of shame.

Gregory is right about this because he's parroting Jesus. Jesus' call to his followers was always that we take our own sin very seriously (cut off your hand, gouge out your eye) and that we be slow to judge others except in cases where we might be equipped to help them to grow and heal. I pray our congregation can follow Jesus and Gregory when it comes to our sin and others.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

An Update from the Leadership Council

- 1. Personnel and Nominations:** will soon begin their work to identify those who will move into leadership roles in 2026. If you are feeling called to serve or have noticed someone in our church whose gifts are underused, contact Robin McCormick or Br. Chad.
- 2. Finance:**
 - Our finances compared to the same time last year are very strong, and we give thanks to God for his provision.
 - We are beginning to plan for the budget for next year. Ministry leaders should submit budget requests no later than September 10 to be considered for the 2026 budget.
- 3. Trustees:**
 - Approved repair/replacement of HVAC units for the sanctuary chancel area and office
 - Approved repair to steel on fellowship hall exterior steps near the parking lot
 - Anticipating elevator replacement will begin after the Rummage Sale. The Elevator will be out of service 2-3 weeks
- 4. New Committees:** We have established a Kitchen Committee to help keep the kitchen in good order and well-supplied and a Congregational Care Committee to organize church members to visit, write cards, and call church members. If you would like to help, let us know!

ANGELS IN APRONS

July 14 - July 27 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

July 28 - Aug. 10 - Barbara Iles and Holly Hitt

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.

Lunch Bunch - The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at the Central Station Grill in Starkville on Friday, July 25th. The van will leave the church at 11:00am. Please call Gail Foote or Donna Cook to sign up.

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.



6/30/2025 Giving Statements

Giving Statements have been emailed to the address we have on file. If we don't have an email address for you, a statement has been mailed. Please check your email to see your statement.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

08/18/25	5:00pm	CDC Board Meeting	Library
08/17/25	12:15pm	Leadership Council	Library



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING
THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL
YEAR ARE ASKED TO BRING
THEIR BACKPACKS
TO CHURCH THAT MORNING
TO BE BLESSED.

We will also kick off our School Supply Drive on that day. A tub will be located at the back of the sanctuary for you to place your supplies in.



WESLEY FOUNDATION INVITATION



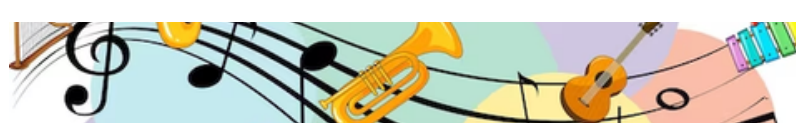
You're invited to lunch at MSU Wesley Foundation! Please join us for our Summer Luncheon on Thursday, July 24th, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m in the Worship Center at Wesley Foundation. For a donation of any amount, you'll enjoy a delicious variety of soups, salads, sandwiches, and desserts while fellowshiping with friends and supporting Wesley's ministry to students at State. The summer season is an important time of gathering financial support for ministry that happens throughout the year. Thanks for your support of United Methodist Collegiate Ministry at MSU!

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING
DONATIONS
FOR THE TEXAS FLOOD VICTIMS.



PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO FUMC
AND WRITE "TEXAS FLOOD" ON
THE MEMO LINE. DEADLINE TO GIVE IS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH

"CARRY EACH OTHER'S BURDENS, AND
IN THIS WAY, YOU WILL FULFILL THE
LAW OF CHRIST." - GALATIANS 6:2



CHILDREN & YOUTH

MUSIC NOTES

This week, Brother Chad reminded us of the power of the sermon—the way God speaks through words to challenge, comfort, and call us to action. But did you know that music, too, can convey a message? Every anthem, every hymn, every note sung by our Chancel Choir carries its own message of hope, truth, and grace. In fact, some of the most powerful sermons are the ones that stay with us long after the last note fades. As we continue to worship together, may we listen not only with our ears but with our hearts, for in both sermon and song, God is speaking.



Flowers for Our Members

We were able to take flowers to some of our members again. We want to thank Dee Echols and Barbara Iles for arranging them.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

July 27 - Helen Facella

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

July 23 - Linda Drake

July 30 - Amy Buckley



State Swim Meet

Hayden Wallace and Caston McKellar participated in the 205 Long Course State Swim Meet in Tupelo, MS. They made it to the finals in several events. We are so proud of these young men.



Lake Junaluska Youth Trip

Last weekend (July 12-15) the youth went on their summer trip to Lake Junaluska, NC. There, they praised the Lord with a number of other youth groups led by M28 and their staff. They worshipped in song, conversation, prayer, and dance. They played and swam, enjoying the blessings God gave during this trip. God moved and spoke to each of us that were on the trip, including myself. We want to thank the church for the ways they have supported us this summer and enabled us to go to Lake Junaluska and encounter Jesus in a new environment.

-Jon



WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

First UMC
612 E. Broad, West Point
5:30pm

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, night, July 23, as we enjoy one another and share in God's joy and grace.



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 6/30/2025

Total revenue received in June	\$46,442.25
Total expenses in June	(\$36,466.43)
Year to date revenue	\$196,757.02
Year to date expenses	(\$226,557.82)

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

ATTENDANCE July 20, 2025

Sunday School.....	51
Worship Service.....	87
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	5
Total Worship.....	92

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



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
Mike Reid
Ben Rosenkrans
Gracy Taylor
Gail Wolanek
Jimmy Wood
Kathy Wood

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Our Family and Friends:

Ted Berry
Wayne Brand
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)
Steve Mitchell (Charlotte Portera's son-in-law)
Lynda Mize
Carole Higgins Morton

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 27, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-13

SERMON

"Worship: The Word that Expects a Response"

Special Music

"Til the Storm Passes By" - Lister
Gary Echols - soloist

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Julie Gray

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.

Susie Purnell Randall
Robbie Robinson
Ben Smith
Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
Moses Vernon (Amy Buckley's uncle)
Wes Williamson
Bob Wilson (Joni Seitz's father)
Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

Family of Mary Anne Milburn
Family of Randy Ferguson