



AUGUST 19, 2025

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Pastor

For the last several weeks on Sunday mornings, we've been talking about what we do in worship and why. My prayer is that this simple act provides an opportunity to see the way that our ritual (our habits of worship) serve to point us to the truth of the Gospel.

Part of that is gesturing towards the rhythm of worship. I worry that I haven't adequately emphasized the rich symmetry of it all.

Our worship has four basic activities: (#1) we gather, (#2) God speaks and we listen, (#3) we respond to God in faith, thanksgiving, and praise, and (#4) God sends us out into the world.

The gathering and the sending (#1 & #4) are mirrors of one another in the same way that God's word and our reply (#2 & #3) are mirrors of one another.

Paying attention to the subject of the verbs is important, too: **we** gather, **God** speaks, **we** respond, **God** sends. It makes for a nice rhythm. And yet, there's more to it than there may seem to be at first. When we pay close attention, we see that it all starts and ends with God. How and why would we gather if it weren't for God's activity; and what's the point of gathering if God isn't a part of the assembly? And when we reply, it's only because we've been brought from death to life by the divine Word.

And we're active in God's parts too. If God speaks, we're called to listen. And if God sends, we're supposed to go.

God is worthy of our praise. God listens to our prayers. God rejoices in our thanksgiving. God loves a cheerful giver. So we'll sing, we'll pray, and we'll bring our tithes. Maybe we'll even shout for joy.

But I pray we never lose sight of the way that God isn't just the object of our worship, he's the cause. He's not just the destination, he's the one who initiated the whole thing in the first place. And I pray also that we never lose sight of the way that the God who invites us in to worship always sends us out in mission as his hands and feet in the world.

It's never us or God. It's always us and God, God and us, in worship.

Let us love and worship the one who has loved us first and will love us to the end. Amen.

– Br. Chad

ANGELS IN APRONS

Aug. 11 - Aug. 24 - Jane Caston and Jason McKellar

Aug. 25 - Sept. 7 - Dee Berry and Elizabeth Bailey

Elevator - installation began on Aug. 13 and is on track to be completed by the end of the week. We'll text at the end of the week to let you know if it will be ready for Sunday.

Labor Day - The church office and the CDC will be closed on Monday, September 1st for Labor Day.

Sermon Series - This fall Bro. Chad is going to begin a sermon series on questions you have about the Bible and our Christian faith. You can [click here to use our online form](#). There are also some forms on the back table in the sanctuary.

School Supply Drive - We are holding our annual school supply drive. We have a box at the back of the sanctuary for you to place your donations, or you may order directly from Amazon and have the items sent directly to the church. The school supplies will be placed in our Blessing Box.

Retirement Celebration - On September 26, we'll celebrate Karen Cliett's (more than three decades!) faithful service in the CDC and wish her well as she enters retirement.

Child Development Center Chapel - The CDC Chapel has resumed. Please call the church office or Anna Dill if you are willing to help with this important ministry.

Lunch Bunch - The Lunch Bunch went to Lake Tiak-O'Khata in Louisville on Friday, August 15. In September the group will meet at Magnolias at the Ritz on Friday, September 19. Please let Donna Cook or Gail Foote know if you would like to attend.



Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

09/11/25	12:15pm	Congregational Care	Library
09/29/25	5:00pm	CDC Board Meeting	Library



Christ at Home

Our Christ at Home meal for August was taco salad with a variety of desserts. We want to thank all the volunteers who help make this ministry a success. We especially want to thank Dee Berry who shopped and cooked for the meal.



Backpack Snacks

We packed the first backpack snacks for the new school year this month. The church will provide 260 snack bags each month. These snacks go to students at Church Hill Elementary and Southside Elementary who need meals on the weekend. Please contact Stacy Hays if you would like to be a part of this ministry.



MUSIC NOTES

Sunday, as we gathered around the Lord's Table, our congregation lifted its voice in "Let Us Break Bread Together." What a powerful reminder that communion is not just about bread and cup—it's about unity, remembrance, and shared faith. As the music filled the sanctuary, the simple act of singing together deepened the meaning of the meal. Each voice became a prayer, each note a testimony of Christ's love for us. Just as one loaf and one cup unite us in the body of Christ, our song united us as a family of faith. Truly, worship is at its richest when Word, Sacrament, and Song come together in praise of the One who gave Himself for us. "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17).

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Aug. 3 - Cheryl and Chad Bowen

Aug. 10 - Gail Foote and Dee Echols

Aug. 17 - Erin and Janae Robinson

Aug. 24 - Linda Drake

Aug. 31 - Caroline and Bill Atkins

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Aug. 6 - Elizabeth Bailey and Nita Wyman

Aug. 13 - Gloria Bunnell and Lucy McKellar

Aug. 20 - Susan Johnson and Beth Raines

Aug. 27 - Stacy Hays and Dee Berry



CDC Fundraiser

The CDC is selling t-shirts as a fund-raiser. Adult shirts are \$20.00 and children's shirts are \$15.00. Orders may be placed by calling the church office or by signing the order sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Deadline is August 31st.


LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



Lighthouse Kids

The new Lighthouse Kids' unit is called Maker's Workshop. Last week the children learned about creation and what was created on each day. They helped tell the story of creation with props.

HOLY ROLLERS GAME NIGHT



**FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
FUN**

Wed
Aug 27
5:30 p.m.

Fellowship
Hall

BBQ,
Beans,
Dessert

Bring the family
and enjoy
playing
or just
watching the
competition!

Feel free to bring you
own games!

**Contact Stacy if you can
help with food!**



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
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 7/31/2025

Total revenue received in July	\$39,298.49
Total expenses in July	(\$38,480.61)
Year to date revenue	\$236,055.51
Year to date expenses	(\$265,038.43)

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

ATTENDANCE August 17, 2025

Sunday School.....	53
Worship Service.....	83
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	13
Total Worship.....	96

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Members

Bill Atkins
Elizabeth Bailey
Beverly Campbell
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

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

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 24, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Numbers 6:22-27 and Hebrews 13:21-22

SERMON

"Worship: Sending Forth"

Anthem

"God Is So Good to Me" - Sharpe and McDonald
Gary Echols, soloist

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Julie Gray

STREAM TEAM: Art Shirley

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.

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

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)