



SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

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

The Window

A Note from the Pastor

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

What's your story?

This is one of the more intimidating ways I've been asked to introduce myself. But it assumes something about what it means to be human: who we are isn't easily captured with one moment in time. Who we are is more like a story – with a setting (time and place), characters (people), actions (what we do), and experiences (what happens to us) than it is a snapshot.

In the midst of all of the noise of the world, it can be hard to find the narrative thread of our own lives. But we aren't passive characters in our story; we have agency. We shouldn't confuse ourselves; we aren't the author. There's a lot that remains far beyond our control. But we do get a say.

So, what's your story? What's your song? What's the refrain of your life?

For those who are in Christ, our story is written in the light of the Gospel: We are heirs of salvation. We've been purchased by God. We're born of the Holy Spirit and washed in the blood of the Lord who makes us as white as snow.

In a world where a lot of folks seem more inclined to tell the story of those they're against, it is a striking thing to tell the story of the maker of all things who is for his enemies, those who have alienated themselves from him by sin. The Good News of Jesus is, indeed, a better story.

When you tell the story of your day, who are the main characters? Is it the people who annoy or disgust you? Is it the celebrities (artists, athletes, news anchors) you admire? What role do you play? Do you imagine you have any say in how the story goes? Are you trying to be the hero?

Most importantly, where is God in your story? Is God the main character? Altogether off screen? Something in between?

I think I could do a better job of letting God be the hero of my story and letting all of the folks against whom I want to rage be the minor characters that they are. I want my story to be characterized by praising my Savior all day long.

Glad to be a part of God's story with you,
Br. Chad

ANGELS IN APRONS

Sept. 22 - Oct. 5 - JoAn Tedford and Barbara Bryan

Glad You Asked! (Study) - Sometimes a sermon isn't enough! As we consider questions on Sunday mornings, you might find yourself wanting to agree, argue, analyze, affirm, or ask about the sermon. There may also be some questions that we can't get to on Sunday mornings that we can consider together on Wednesday nights. We'll start next Wednesday at 5:30. Don't miss it!

Mums for Missions - We are now taking orders for mums. One gallon is \$10 and a three gallon is \$20. Yellow, bronze, white, red and lavender are the colors available. Call the church office at 662-494-1658 to place your order. **Deadline to order is this Sunday, September 28.** Pick up will be Saturday, October 4th, from 9-11 a.m. at the Bryan Youth Center. All proceeds will go toward our next mission trip in 2026.

FALL PICNIC

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy some good food and fellowship! A sheet to sign up to bring food and drinks is located at the back of the sanctuary.

We will have a bouncy house for the kids!

SUNDAY, SEPT 28TH
FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE

WAVERLY WATERS
PAVILION

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 5
2025

The Harrell Chapel
4:30 p.m.

BRING YOUR ANIMAL TO BE BLESSED BY
BROTHER CHAD. PLEASE HAVE YOUR
PET ON A LEASH OR IN A CRATE



on Missions



September Loaves and Fishes

We want to thank Lona Rosetti, Becky Shirley, Stacy Hays, Amy Buckley, Gracy Taylor and Gail Foote for providing the meal for Loaves and Fishes this month. The recipients were treated to chicken spaghetti, green bean casserole, salad, grapes, red velvet cake and a roll. We also want to thank Beth Raines, LaDonna Helveston, Donna Cook and Cinzia Duncan for delivering.



Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

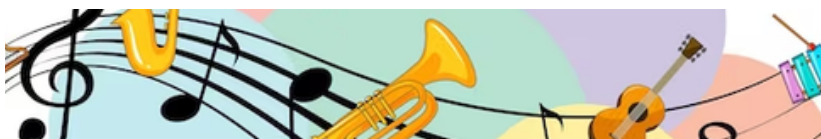
All meetings will be held in the library.

09/29/25 at 5:00pm

CDC Board

10/06/25 at 5:30pm

Leadership Council



MUSIC NOTES

The choir celebrated the return of Gary Echols this week, and we thank God for his healing! It was a joy to see him not only singing with us again, but lifting his voice in a solo. God has been so faithful, and we give thanks for answered prayers and for the reminder that every note sung in worship is itself a prayer rising to heaven. This week, Brother Chad reminded us of the beautiful mystery of our faith—that Jesus is fully God. In His prayers, Jesus showed us the way: to seek the Father's will, to find strength in His presence, and to live in constant communion with Him. We are a blessed congregation!



September Lunch Bunch

Seventeen people met at Magnolias as the Ritz for lunch and fellowship on Friday. For our next event, we will travel to Georgia Blue in Starkville on October 31st. The van will leave the church at 11:00. Please let Gail Foote or Donna Cook know if you would like to go.



CDC Chapel

Linda Drake led the CDC chapel on Monday. The children learned that God lights our way if we believe in him, and he will lead us to do right instead of wrong. She used a flashlight to illustrate her message to the children.



Lighthouse Kids

We have such a great group of Lighthouse Kids! The group includes ages four through eleven, and the older kids are wonderful to include and help the younger ones. Everyone feels welcome and included. We are so proud of these children!!! The Lighthouse Kids meet every Wednesday night at 5:15pm.

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Sept. 8 - Caroline Atkins

Sept. 22 - Linda Drake

Sept. 29 - Lona Rosetti

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sept. 7 - Caroline and Bill Atkins

Sept. 14 - Gail Foote and Shannon Wallace

Sept. 21 - Linda Drake and Shannon Wallace

Sept. 28 - Erin and Janae Robinson
and Shannon Wallace

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Sept. 3 - Betsy McGlohn and Mary Carr Ecklund

Sept. 10 - Cinzia Duncan and Jane Caston

Sept. 17 - Anna Dill and Donna Cook

Sept. 24 - Barbara Iles and Elizabeth Bailey



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
Ella Willow, Youth Intern
Ron Crawford, Custodian
Kenya Lee, CDC Director, 494-6811

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 8/31/2025

Total revenue received in Aug	\$27,868.10
Total expenses in Aug	(\$32,807.77)
Year to date revenue	\$263,923.61
Year to date expenses	(\$297,846.20)

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

In the Hospital

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
Beverly Campbell
Montez Ganss
Evelyn & Fox Haas
Caroline Harrell
Jordan Helveston
Austin Hill
Emerson Houston
Susan Johnson
Victoria Johnston
Charlotte Messier
Jerry Mize
Johnnie Newell
Mike Reid
Ben Rosenkrans
Billy Buck & Judy Staggers
Gracy Taylor
Gail Wolanek
Jimmy Wood
Kathy Wood

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)
AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
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

Dugan

Becky Landin
Deb McGaughey

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 28, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Joshua 6:10-15

SERMON

"Glad You Asked: Is God "On Our Side?"

Does God Take Sides?

Special Music

"No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus" - Gretzinger

Rachel Wood, soloist

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Jay Wood

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.

ATTENDANCE September 21, 2025

Sunday School.....	56
Worship Service.....	87
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	11
Total Worship.....	98

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace