



OCTOBER 7, 2025

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

The **Window**

A Note from the Pastor

On Sunday, I tried to answer the question, “Can I participate in church if I don’t believe the theology?” The answer to the question is, of course, a full-throated, “Yes!” If God can love us when we’re sinners and enemies, surely, in God’s love, we can love those who doubt or deny what we believe. And it’s our hope that, in the midst of our community, that God will be evident in a way that assuages doubts and brings comfort, hope, joy, and peace.

While I didn’t get to address it in the course of the sermon, there’s an often unexplored/undiscussed idea lurking behind this question: What are the things that Christians should/must believe in order to be a Christian? This is the question of dogma.

Closely connected to dogma is the question of Biblical authority.

Must one believe that every character and action in Scripture is historically and scientifically true and verifiable? That every command in scripture must be followed by every Christian today? What about miracles? Angels? Demons?

No one submitted a question directly about Biblical authority, but there are several questions that raise it intrinsically. This week our question is, “What is the role of women in the church?” There are passages of scripture that, taken in isolation, seem to clearly prohibit women from leading in the church in some roles, including the role of pastor. And yet, the United Methodist church has women in leadership in every level of the church.

Does that mean that we don’t believe in the authority of scripture? Some would certainly assert that about us. On Sunday, I will try to make the opposite case: that the reason we ordain women is because of the witness and authority of scripture. The difference in our practices and others is not whether the Bible is authoritative, but how it should be read.

Is the Bible authoritative for our faith and behavior? Absolutely? How is it authoritative? That’s a question that requires more space than the newsletter affords. I’ll hope to see you Wednesday night and Sunday morning as we dip our toe in those waters. Bring a friend!

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Oct. 6 - Oct. 19 - Jessi Sugg and Stacy Hays

Oct. 20 - Nov. 2 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

Church News

Glad You Asked! (Study) - Brother Chad's study meets every Wednesday at 5:30. He leads discussion of his sermon topics from the Sunday before. Everyone is welcome!

Crock Pots - Please pick up your crock pot from the kitchen. We have several that were brought to help with the football meal.

FUMC T-shirts - The FUMC t-shirts are in. You may pick yours up in the church office.

United Women of Faith - The Judy Shirley Circle will host the Central District United Women in Faith First Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 18th. Please be in prayer for this group as they organize the new Central District.

Sunday School Announcement - There will be no Sunday school on October 26th due to Worship in the Park.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

All meetings will be held in the library.

10/09/25 at 10:00am Congregational Care Committee

10/13/25 at 5:30pm Personnel and Nominations

10/20/25 at 5:00pm CDC Board



on Missions



Women's Job Corp Meal

Last week the church provided a meal for the Christian Women's Job Corps. This organization provides free job and life skills training in a Christian environment. The women enjoyed the meal of tenderloin, rice consomme', green beans, sweet tea, and red velvet pound cake and chocolate cupcakes for dessert. We want to thank Tammy Walters, Dee Berry and Stacy Hays for preparing and serving this meal

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Oct. 6 - Mary Carr Ecklund

Oct. 13 - Anna Dill

Oct. 20 -

Oct. 27 -

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Oct. 5 - Tammy Walters and Shannon Wallace

Oct. 12 - Practice for Children's Sabbath

Oct. 19 - Becky Shirley and Shannon Wallace

Oct 26 - No Sunday school due to
Worship in the Park

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Oct. 1 - Bill and Caroline Atkins

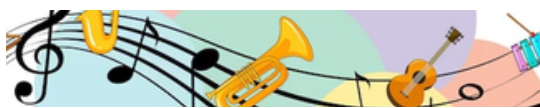
Oct. 8 - Art and Becky Shirley

Oct. 15 - Gloria Bunnell and Nita Wyman

Oct. 22 - Lucy McKellar and Shannon Wallace

Oct. 29 - Dee Echols and Gail Foote





MUSIC NOTES

Save the Date: Choir Christmas Concert

Mark your calendars and join us for a joyful afternoon of music and worship at our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary! This year's concert will feature traditional Christmas carols accompanied by a beautiful string quartet.

What makes this concert extra special is that it's not just a performance—it's a celebration for the entire church family! The congregation will have the opportunity to sing along with the choir on every carol, so come prepared to lift your voice and share in the joy of the season. Bring your friends, your family, and your Christmas spirit. It's going to be a heartwarming afternoon of community, carols, and praise as we celebrate the birth of Christ together!



Lighthouse Kids

The Lighthouse Kids had a great time learning about the twelve spies sent by Moses to scout out the land of Canaan for forty days as a possible future home for the Israelite people.



Blessing of the Animals

October 4th was the Feast of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals. Blessing of the Animals is celebrated around this day to honor his teachings on respect and kindness to animals and to recognize them as gifts from God. Brother Chad performed a beautiful ceremony at the Harrell Chapel on Sunday afternoon. We had a wonderful crowd of animal lovers and pets. We want to express our appreciation to the Harrells for hosting this lovely celebration.



Congratulations to Our Youth Swimmers!

Caston McKellar and Tyler Johnson participated in the North Mississippi Swim Meet over the weekend. Caston won first place in both of his individual events, the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. Caston's and Tyler's relay team received second and fifth places. Both Caston and the relay team will travel to the state meet in two weeks. Hayden and Logan Wallace swam in the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools State Meet a few weeks ago. Hayden won third place in the 100 meter backstroke. We are so proud of these young men!!



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 09/30/2025

Total revenue received in Sept.	\$28,416.64
Total expenses in Sept.	(\$47,350.22)
Year to date revenue	\$292,340.25
Year to date expenses	(\$345,196.35)

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

ATTENDANCE October 5, 2025

Sunday School.....	43
Worship Service.....	69
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	19
Total Worship.....	88

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dugan

Becky Landin
Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey
Beverly Campbell
Kenny Dill
Evelyn & Fox Haas
Caroline Harrell
Jordan Helveston
Austin Hill
Emerson Houston
Susan Johnson
Victoria Johnston
Charlotte Messier
Jerry Mize
Johnnie Newell
Beth Raines
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
Valeda Carmichael
Mary Margaret Case
Pam Chambliss (Superior Services employee)
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
Linda Neely
Susie Purnell Randall
Robbie Robinson
James Stockton
Ben Smith
Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
Moses Vernon (Amy Buckley's uncle)
Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)
Wes Williamson
Bob Wilson (Joni Seitz's father)
Donald Wilson (Terri Myers' father)

Family of Montez Ganss
Family of Billy Hays

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 12, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 14:33-36

SERMON

Glad You Asked: "What Is the Role of Women in the Church?"

Anthem

"City of Heaven" - arr. Poelinitz
Gary Echols, soloist

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: William Sugg

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.