



DECEMBER 2, 2025

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

The **Window**

A Note from the Pastor

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,
(Matthew 3:7-8)*

There are many joys in the season of Advent, but there is one thing that grieves me every year: we are so eager for Christmas that we are inclined to skip over the preparatory waiting of Advent.

We want the parties, the eggnog, the carols, and the cheer. We don't particularly want John the Baptist to call us a brood of vipers. We don't want anyone to imply that we might need to flee from the wrath to come. We'd prefer not to repent of our sins.

Part of the discipline of Advent is to acknowledge the time that we're in. We are in the dark, but the light of the world will break through at any moment. The world is harsh and cold, but our savior might arrive before you finish reading this article. We're encumbered by the weight of guilt and shame, but the one is coming whose burden is easy and his yoke is light.

This week, I hope you're asking: Am I ready (at least as much as I can be) for the arrival of Jesus?

Whenever I ask that question of myself, there are almost always immediately some things I feel shamed about. That's a good place to start with repentance. When Jesus comes back, I hope I'm not distracted with meaningless stuff on my phone instead of being engaged with my family. When Jesus comes back, I hope I'm not gossiping about "the latest." When Jesus comes back, I hope I'm not so intent on developing my wish list that I've been distracted from the needs of my neighbors.

Preparing for Jesus begins with repentance. Not just by feeling sorry for our sin, but also by acknowledging our failures and embracing the responsibility to live differently.

Are you ready for the arrival of Jesus, the one who is God in the flesh? Are you ready to worship him with your whole heart? Are you ready for your righteous judge to step into your world? Probably not. So let's take advantage of this time to get ready.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Dec. 1 - Dec. 14 - Shannon and Lannie Wallace

Dec. 15 - Dec. 28 - Linda Drake and Holly Hitt

Poinsettia News - Poinsettias will arrive on Friday, December 12th. If you would like, you may pick up your plant on that Friday from the men's classroom at the back of the sanctuary from 9:00 until 10:30. We would like to keep 65 to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall during the Advent season.

Stewardship Update: On Sunday, November 30th we received 29 pledges for a total of \$207,776.00 or 41% of the 2026 Operating budget of \$504,975.31. We also received 13 pledges for a total of \$25,116.00 or 80% of the 2026 Building Fund budget of \$30,000.00. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please bring it by the church office or call Julie. Thank you for your continued support of FUMC.



Hanging of the Greens

We had a beautiful Hanging of the Greens service this year. We want to thank everyone who participated and prepared the sanctuary for this event. Dee Echols did a great job of organizing and planning for this service. This is the first year that we are using the new Advent candles that were given by Beverly Campbell and her family in memory of her husband, Carlisle. Jay Wood and his family lit the first candle to begin the Advent season. The beautiful tree was given last year by Linda Drake in memory of her husband Bob. The lights and candles remind us of the star of Bethlehem and the reason for this season.



on Missions



WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SHOP FOR 5 REMAINING FAMILIES ON OUR ADOPT- A- FAMILY LIST.

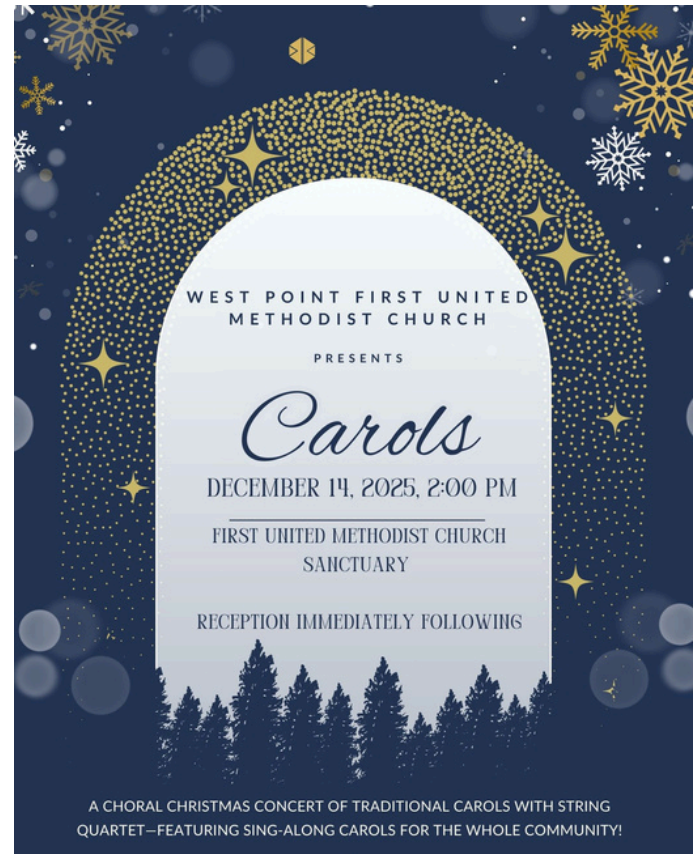
WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WRAP ON MONDAY, DEC. 15 AT 9 A.M. AND VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER ON FRIDAY, DEC. 19. DONATIONS TO THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY ARE ALSO NEEDED.

CONTACT STACY OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP.



MUSIC NOTES

As we prepare for our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m., we are thrilled to share that our music this year will be beautifully enriched by a live string quartet. This talented ensemble—Zach Williams, Dr. Daniel Stevens, Jakob Vernon, and Dr. Amy Catron—bring extraordinary artistry to our program. Two of these musicians are esteemed faculty members at Mississippi State University, and two are gifted music students. We are grateful for their contributions and are excited to share this special musical experience with our entire community. Bring your friends and family and come be a part of this concert where voices and strings come together to celebrate the season.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Dec. 7 - Cheryl Bowen

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Dec. 3 - Donna Davis & Anna Dill

Dec. 10 - Gracy Taylor & Lona Rosetti

Dec. 17 - Barbara Iles & Amy Buckley

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 8 - Elizabeth Bailey



CDC Thanksgiving Feast

The CDC would like to thank all the church members who helped with the annual Thanksgiving lunch. Holly Hitt and Julie Gray were responsible for the lovely decorations. Julie Gray, Stacy Hays, Ladonna Helveston, Barbara Iles, Anna Dill, George Purnell and Gail Foote helped set up, serve and clean up. Thank you, for all of your help.





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 10/31/2025

Total revenue received in Oct.	\$29,794.54
Total expenses in Oct.	(\$33,067.55)
Year to date revenue	\$322,134.79
Year to date expenses	(\$378,263.90)

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

ATTENDANCE November 30, 2025

Sunday School.....	46
Worship Service.....	76
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	14
Total Worship	90

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Tommy Bryan - NMMC - Tupelo

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Our Members

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

Our Family and Friends:

Ted Berry
Wayne Brand
Joe Brownlee
Edith Carlisle
Mary Margaret Case
Pam Chambliss (Superior Services employee)
Mike Colbert (Kiley McNamee's father)
Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
Robert Darsey
Marcus Davidson
Ellie Delk (Rachel Wood's niece)
Martin Edmondson (Tammy Walters' father)
AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
Rusty Iles
Becky Landin
Curtis Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's father)
Lynette Loud (Rachel Wood's mother)
Lynda Mize

Carole Higgins Morton
Dianne Ramsey (Kiley McNamee's mother)
Susie Purnell Randall
Robbie Robinson
James Stockton
Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)
Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)
Sheila Wood

Family of Leann Simpson
Family of Cheryl Sundbeck

2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

SERMON

"The Hope of the Gentiles"

The Special Music

"See Amid the Winter's Snow" - Forrest
Rachel Wood, soloist

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray

LAY READER: Andy 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.