



DECEMBER 9, 2025

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

# *The* **Window**

## **A Note from the Pastor**

*And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'*

(Luke 1:46-55)

For the last two weeks, as we've lit the candles in our Advent wreath, we have prayed together the prayers of women who are overjoyed to be expecting children who will play key roles in God's work to establish his reign on earth. Hannah praises God for the reversal of fortune that comes with the Lord's work: the rich, the poor, the barren, the powerful, the weak and the rulers all find their lives turned upside down (1 Samuel 2:1-10). Mary's prayer shares many of those themes, too, as you can see above.

This coming week, we'll pray the Canticle of Zechariah, which bursts forth exuberantly from him after the birth of his son following months of silence (Luke 1:67-79). He was silenced because he had trouble believing it when an angel told him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have the child that they had given up hope of having. For the last Sunday of Advent, we'll read the song of Simeon, who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died and recognizes Jesus as the arrival of his salvation. (Luke 2:29-32)

If you're looking for a way to keep the "reason for the season" in front of you, I can't recommend more highly that you pray one or more of these prayers each day. You could pray one of them for the rest of Advent, or alternate between them, or set 4 times in the day and pray one of them at each of those times. Prayer shapes the desires of our hearts and thoughts of our minds. And we could do far worse than remembering in prayer that God is bringing the fullness of salvation to us.

Waiting Expectantly,  
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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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:** We have received 42 pledges for a total of \$291,197.89 or 58% of the 2026 Operating budget of \$504,975.31. We also received 19 pledges for a total of \$33,246.99 or 111% 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.



### Christmas Reception

We enjoyed a Christmas reception Sunday afternoon at the beautiful home of Mrs. Caroline Harrell. Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and fellowship. Thank you, Ms. Caroline for opening your home to us. Many thanks as well to all those who provided food.





## Choir Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert is almost here, and our hearts are overflowing with anticipation! This Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m., our sanctuary will be filled with the beauty of traditional Christmas carols, the warmth of community, and the elegant sound of a string quartet joining our Chancel Choir. What makes this concert truly special is that it isn't just a performance — it's a celebration for the whole church. Every carol includes a congregational verse, giving each person a chance to lift his/her voice and be part of the music. When the church sings together, something holy happens; we are united, encouraged, and reminded of the joy we share in Christ. We hope you'll bring friends, neighbors, and family to experience this afternoon of music and worship. Come ready to sing, to smile, and to celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth with your church family. It will be a beautiful, joy-filled concert — and it won't be the same without you!



All of the choir members are working hard to prepare for the Christmas concert, including Mae Sugg and Helen Wood who will be featured in “Away in a Manger.” In addition, Jessi Sugg has a solo in “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and everyone will be glad to know that Gary Echols will be singing “Mary, Did You Know?”

## Congratulations, Tyler

We want to congratulate one of our youth. Tyler Johnston and his partner, Caylon Thompson, finished third at the team tractor driving event at the district competition in Belden.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**Dec. 7** - Cheryl Bowen and Robin McCormick

**Dec. 14** - Becky Shirley and Shannon Wallace

**Dec. 21** - Gail Foote and Dee Echols and  
Shannon Wallace

**Dec. 28** - Laura Stewart and Shannon Wallace

## 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

**Dec. 15** - Charlotte Messier

**Dec. 22** - Mary Carr Ecklund

**Dec. 29** - Helen Facella





# 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 December 7, 2025

Sunday School.....	53
Worship Service.....	68
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	16
Total Worship .....	84

## 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)  
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)  
 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 Kay Stewart (Marc Stewart's stepmother)

**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**  
**The Scripture Lesson**  
 Matthew 11:2-11

## SERMON

"Greater than the Greatest"

**SOUND TECH:** Mike Gammill

**LAY READER:** Vic Johnson

**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.**