



DECEMBER 16, 2025

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

The **Window**

A Note from the Pastor

December is dark and cold. The nights are the longest of the year. Most of the plants are brown and gray. Even the sky often feels gray. It's no surprise that in this time of year, we'd be grateful for evergreens that bring a little color and lights that pierce the darkness and flowers that find a way to bloom in the cold. We need some light and life this time of year!

We don't know what time of year it was when Jesus was born. But it is a remarkable thing that the church has chosen to set the Feast of the Incarnation among the longest nights of year. It is an act of abject defiance to the darkness of the world to proclaim that the light of the world has arrived in this season. It is an act of profound faith to look at everything that is gray and appears lifeless and say, "The Lord of life is coming into this world."

Every one of us needs the light of Christ to break into our darkness. Your darkness might be sin that you've been covering up even though you know it is eating your soul. Jesus' light is coming. It may be your own suffering or the suffering of someone that you love. Jesus' light is coming. It may be despair at the state of the world or concern for how you'll make ends meet. Jesus' light is coming. It may be that depression or grief has pulled you into a hole that you're not sure you can escape. Jesus' light is coming.

I pray that this season will be one that each of us embraces the abject defiance, the profound faith of this season. It may seem dark and lifeless, but that will not be the story of God's people.

The light is coming. Let it wash over you, bringing you hope, peace, and joy. Let it wash over you and convict you of your sin and free you from your shame. And when the Light lights up your life, don't forget to let it shine.

Waiting expectantly,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

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

Dec. 31 - Jan. 12 - Stacy Hays and Amy Buckley

Communion Offerings – The Communion offerings this month will go toward our Good Samaritan Community Assistance Fund which offers emergency utility assistance to local residents in need. We are in desperate need of funding for this program. You may give funds at any time; just designate them for assistance.

Adopt-a-Family - We will deliver on Friday, December 19, at 9 a.m. Please call or text Stacy if you are willing to help.

Christmas Office Closure – The church office will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday, December 24, 2024, until Monday, January 5, 2026, for the Christmas holidays. There will be no newsletter on December 23 or December 30.

End of the Year Monetary Gifts – If you would like to make donations to the church while the offices are closed, you may send them by mail or contact Julie Gray if you would rather hand deliver them.

Stewardship Update: We have received 45 pledges for a total of \$295,457.89 or 59% of the 2026 Operating budget of \$504,975.31. We also received 23 pledges for a total of \$35,886.99 or 120% 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.



Toy Drive

The toys collected on Sunday were donated to 4 County Electric to support their annual toy drive. Thank you for your willingness to spread some joy and to help those in need during the holiday season.



We are so proud of Mae Sugg. She was a mouse in the Mouse and Battle Scene in the Nutcracker. Great job, Mae!



Choir Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was truly a gift to our church and community! From the very first note, the sanctuary was filled with beautiful music, excellent singing, and a warm, friendly spirit that captured the heart of the season. The choir sang with joy, and the presence of friends and guests made the afternoon feel especially meaningful. We were blessed by phenomenal soloists, especially Mae and Helen, whose young voices shone with confidence and joy. Their singing reminded us that the Christmas story continues to be shared from generation to generation. After the concert, the fellowship continued with a fantastic cookie and cocoa reception, giving us time to visit, laugh, and celebrate together. Thank you to everyone who sang, played, attended, baked, and supported this beautiful event. It was a true celebration of community, worship, and the joy of Christmas.

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Dec. 17 - Barbara Iles and Amy Buckley

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Dec. 22 - Mary Carr Ecklund

Dec. 29- Helen Facella

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Dec. 28 - Laura Stewart and Shannon Wallace

Christmas Cookies and Cocoa

What a wonderful cookie reception we had after the Christmas cantata! Everyone seemed to really enjoy socializing. We want to thank Dee Echols and Beth Raines for organizing this event. We are also thankful for all the people who made the delicious cookies. Finally, we want to thank Holly Hitt, Julie Gray and Ron Crawford for creating such a festive venue.



Congratulations, Annie Barnes!

Annie Barnes works part time in the Child Development Center, and she also keeps the nursery on Sundays. We are so lucky to have her work with our children. Last week she was recognized as the 2025-2026 District Assistant Teacher of the Year in the West Point Consolidated School System.





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 11/30/2025

Total revenue received in Nov.	\$33,369.29
Total expenses in Nov.	(\$44,629.13)
Year to date revenue	\$448,729.24
Year to date expenses	(\$517,568.03)

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

ATTENDANCE December 14, 2025

Sunday School.....	42
Worship Service.....	95
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	14
Total Worship	109

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Tommy Bryan - NMMC - Tupelo

Dugan

Becky Landin
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
Albert & Wilma Lee
Becky Landin
Mary Carolyn Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's stepmother)
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)

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 21, 2025

11:00 AM

The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

"Joseph's Decision"

ANTHEM

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" - arr. Sorenson

Jessi Sugg, soloist

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Elizabeth Bailey

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.**