



JANUARY 6, 2026

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

# *The* **Window**

## **A Note from the Pastor**

As you've traded out your full and well-worn 2025 calendars for the crisp fresh versions for 2026, I suspect you've at least thought about New Year's resolutions. Maybe you've made some. I'm personally more inclined to celebrate "National Quitter's Day" (which is on Friday if you want to write it on that new, clean calendar) than I am to make my own resolution. More than 80% of resolutions are in the trash by the second Friday in January.

On the other hand, I have a friend who celebrated 4 years of sobriety on January 1 because of a New Year's resolution. (Praise God!) Some resolutions do, in fact, hold for much longer than 2 weeks.

I'm not skeptical of New Year's resolutions because of their odds of success. I think resolutions embrace a few lies about the human condition: (1) changing our behavior is as simple as deciding to do so, (2) failing to succeed perfectly is reason to quit altogether, or (3) we can wait until the calendar is again on 01/01 to make a change.

Humans are complex creatures. We don't just have minds to make up. We have appetites that must be reined in. Sometimes those appetites overwhelm our will—sloth, greed, gluttony (which includes food, drink, and harder stuff), and lust have been problems since Adam and Eve ate the apple. And sometimes we've got to do more to kill those things than just decide we'll stop.

Part of the Christian life is embracing that God's grace is working in us and through us every day. We don't always do the things that we know we should. There's grace and forgiveness for that. But grace isn't an excuse to make the same mistake tomorrow. Failure yesterday isn't an excuse to stay on a bad path today. You don't have to wait to January 1 to make a change!

It may very well be that God is calling you to honor your body, or others, or him differently. But it's not because it's 2026. It's just another day where God's grace is new this morning. And if you experience change, it won't be because you white knuckled it. It will be because God's grace made it possible. So how can you be sure to saturate your life in God's grace this year? A few suggestions: (1) engage scripture more – personal reading, Sunday school, or weekly Bible study are all good places to start, (2) noon Communion on Wednesdays, (3) regular confession to God about your shortcomings and petition for God's grace to come to your aid.

Trusting God's grace and not my own resolve,  
Br. Chad

## Angels in Aprons

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

**Jan. 12 - Jan. 26** - Betsy McGlohn and Mary Carr Ecklund

**Lunch Bunch** – The Lunch Bunch will go to lunch at Georgia Blue in Starkville on Friday, January 16. Call Gail Foote or Donna Cook to sign up.

**Martin Luther King Day Office Closure** – The church office will be closed on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

**Judy Shirley Circle** – The Judy Shirley Circle will meet Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Elizabeth Bailey, Mary Carr Ecklund and Cinzia Duncan. We will study Chapter 8 in our book *Twelve Ordinary Men*.

**Stewardship Update:** We have received 45 pledges for a total of \$297,497.89 or 59% of the 2026 Operating budget of \$504,975.31. We also received 23 pledges for a total of \$36,210.99 or 121% 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.

## YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Jan. 7 - Mary Carr Ecklund and Betsy McGlohn

Jan. 14 - Elizabeth Bailey and Cinzia Duncan

Jan. 21 - Stacy Hays and Beth Raines

Jan. 28 - Tammy Walters and Jenny Caston

## CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 12 - Mary Carr Ecklund

Dec. 26- Charlotte Messier

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**Jan. 4** - Erin and Janae Robinson  
and Shannon Wallace

**Jan. 11** - Linda Drake and Shannon Wallace

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**Jan. 12** @ 4:00 Mission Meeting

**Jan. 12** @ 5:00 CDC Meeting

**Jan. 26** @ 5:30pm Leadership Council



# on Missions



## Adopt a Family Wrapping and Delivery



Last Backpack Deliveries of 2025

## Christmas Fellowship

Christmas is a time of coming together and celebrating the birth of Christ, our families, and our friends. Our church family enjoyed celebrating with each other during this time. We can be thankful for the good times and for each other as we begin the new year. The church staff wishes everyone a happy New Year.



**Choir Christmas Party**



**Revive Christmas Party**



**Women's Class Christmas Party**



**The Lighthouse Kids' Party**



**Christmas Eve Service**

We ended all these wonderful times of fellowship with the greatest celebration of them all, the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



# 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 January 4, 2026

Sunday School.....	51
Worship Service.....	80
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	13
Total Worship .....	93

## ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



## Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Sunday, January 11, 2026

11:00 AM

### The Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 1:1-14

### SERMON

“The Plan for the Fullness of Time”

### ANTHEM

“Thou Art Worthy” - Mills

**SOUND TECH:** Mike Gammill

**LAY READER:** Bob Seitz

**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.**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### In the Hospital

### Dugan

Deb McGaughey

### Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

### Our Members

Tommy Bryan  
 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)  
 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)  
 Stewart Hays (Stacy Hays' grandson)  
 Rusty Iles  
 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  
 Andy Williams  
 Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)  
 Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)  
 Sheila Wood

Family of Beverly Campbell  
 Family of Robert Darsey  
 Family of Jo Freeman