

JANUARY 13, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Pastor

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

I love asking this question – it gives insight into what really animates a young person, allows them to put words to their dreams, and invites them to think on how they might use what God has given them in the world.

I remember in third grade, when we had to answer this question, I stood up and proudly proclaimed, "I'm going to be the first woman president of the United States." What a beautiful thing that children can dream of impacting the world!

On the other hand, our language often betrays our idols. What we "want to **be**" becomes equated not only with what we want to **do**, but specifically what we want to do **for work**. With a simple question, our identity gets mapped onto our place within the economy.

I'm called to be a pastor. It's what I do for pay. It's also part of how I serve God. It's not all of who I am. I also want to be a good husband, father, brother, and son. I want to be a faithful Christian. I want to be a good citizen of my state, country, and world. I want to be virtuous - kind, generous, joyful, peacemaking, patient, disciplined, and courageous. I want to have childlike faith.

These are things that we don't necessarily encourage folks to say when we ask the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" But maybe we should. And maybe we should keep asking it when we're grown, too. "What do you want to be?" It's important that we keep asking, because long before and long after we work for pay, we are. And who you are is beloved by God.

We don't have to stop asking the question to kids or even change how we ask it. But we can let the question be a reminder: what we do is not all of who we are.

When we confuse those things it leads us into all kinds of problematic ways of living, of viewing our neighbors and their worth, and of responding to the brokenness of the world. I'll talk about some of those in this space in the next few weeks.

Abiding in Christ,
Br. Chad



Angels in Aprons

Jan. 12 - Jan. 25- Betsy McGlohn and Mary Carr Ecklund

Jan. 26 - Feb. 8 - Gen Thomas and Stacy Hays

No Communion - There will be **NO COMMUNION** on Wednesday, January 14th.

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 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. There will also be **NO NEWSLETTER** next week.

Judy Shirley Circle – The Judy Shirley Circle will meet Monday, January 19th, 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*.

Lighthouse Kids - Lighthouse Kids will begin this Wednesday at 5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. A new 2026 schedule for volunteers for the Lighthouse Kids is on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Volunteers are responsible for picking up food at Sun Fresh at 4:45pm, serve the food at 5:15pm, cleaning up, then helping with the children with an activity/craft from 6:15 to 6:45. If you are interested in helping, please sign up or contact Rachel Wood.



Our hearts break for one of our CDC employees who lost family members in the tragic shooting over the weekend.

If you would like to help her family as they deal with this tragic loss, you can make a donation to the church. Please write "Arkeria and family" on the memo line.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Jan. 26 @ 5:30pm Leadership Council

Feb. 23 @ 5:00 CDC Meeting

on Missions



Thanks to Our Volunteers

During the Christmas season, we all enjoy the beautiful decorations that adorn our church, but do we ever stop to think how they get there? We come to church and the wreaths, trees and poinsettias are all there. The Fellowship Hall looks so festive. Please thank all the people that you know helped create this festive environment. Also thank Jane Caston for coming several times a week to check the poinsettias, so they would look beautiful each Sunday. We are so fortunate to have all of our wonderful volunteers!



December CDC Fun Friday

Cinzia Duncan, Mary Carr Ecklund, Betsy McGlohn and Katie Bowen provided the goodies for the December Fun Friday. We want to thank all of the church members who helped with this ministry for our CDC staff member during 2025.



MUSIC NOTES

A new year brings fresh beginnings, renewed hope, and new opportunities to grow in faith. As we step into this season together, one beautiful way to deepen our walk with Christ is through service – and the choir is a wonderful place to begin. Singing together draws us closer to God, to one another, and to the heart of our church. It's a space where friendships are formed, faith is strengthened, and gifts are joyfully offered back to God.

If you've ever considered joining the choir, let this be your invitation. You don't need to be perfect – just willing. As we dedicate our talents and our time to the Lord, He uses them to bless others and shape us in ways we never expect. In this new year, may we each find a new song to sing and a new way to serve.

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Jan. 12 - Mary Carr Ecklund

Jan. 26- Charlotte Messier

Thank you, Gracy and All the Children's Sunday School Teachers!

Gracy Taylor has been such a blessing for the children's Sunday school class. Not only has she created activities to go along with the lessons, but she has collected and organized all needed supplies.

Our wonderful Sunday school teachers implement the activities. Linda Drake taught the children on Sunday using the activity that Gracy had created. She then helped them explain their lesson and projects to the congregation.

This particular lesson from Isaiah 11:1-9 is a prophecy given to Isaiah by God to provide hope for the Israelites in captivity. The last part of the passage describes the peace that Jesus will bring to the world in terms of how the animals will live with one another.

The children created a diorama from the scriptural description of the animals. They decorated their scenes with trees and grass and even a stump with a green pipe cleaner representing "a shoot from the stump of Jesse." Being able to see the scripture and to do something with it makes the Lord's words have meaning especially for younger children. Thank you, Gracy, Linda and all the children's Sunday school teachers, for creating and implementing activities for our children that are fun and meaningful.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Jan. 4 - Erin and Janae Robinson
and Shannon Wallace

Jan. 11 - Linda Drake and Shannon Wallace

Jan. 18 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart
and Shannon Wallace

Jan. 25 - Bill and Caroline Atkins
and Shannon Wallace





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 12/31/2025

Total revenue received in Dec.	\$83,268.64
Total expenses in Dec.	(\$37,885.89)
Year to date revenue	\$531,994.88
Year to date expenses	(\$555,640.33)

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

ATTENDANCE January 11, 2026

Sunday School.....	53
Worship Service.....	73
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	16
Total Worship	89

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18, 2026

11:00 AM

SERMON

Amy Hutchinson, Guest Pastor

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision” - arr. Forrest

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Kristen Williams

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)
 Jean Green
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
 Stewart Hays (Stacy Hays' grandson)
 Rusty Iles
 Wilma Lee
 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 Theo Coggins
 Family of Robert Darsey
 Family of Boyce Davis
 Family of Martin Edmondson (Tammy Walter's father)
 Family of Jo Freeman
 Family of Lonnie Peebles