



FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Pastor

...He turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. (Luke 14:25-32)

The story goes that someone once asked JP Morgan how much his yacht cost. He quipped, "If you have to ask, you can't afford it." For regular people, his answer rings true more often than we'd like. If I'm inclined to ask for the amount when a menu item is listed at "Market Price," I probably can't afford it.

Talking about what things cost is seen as impolite for most of us. Obscuring costs is normal. Jesus isn't interested in being accused of a bait and switch. He's got transparent, no haggle pricing for becoming a disciple: it's going to cost you everything. Even the good things. Even the best things.

But even all in, we've shown up to buy a mansion with pocket change. Just because we know Jesus' price doesn't mean that what we have to offer is enough. We can't afford it, but Jesus really has paid it all. If it cost him everything, why should we presume we can get off for less?

We're excited to be free of some of the stuff that Jesus invites us to give up: he gladly takes our sin, our failures, our guilt, our shame. But other stuff isn't so easy: our time; our money; our attention; our social position; our comfort.

As we enter the season of Lent, we're going to spend some time on Sundays and during the week reflecting on what it means to surrender everything to Jesus. I can't imagine a more important conversation to have, and I hope you'll be a part of it.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Feb 9 - Feb 22 - Jane and Jenny Caston

Feb. 24 - Mar. 9 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

Giving Up Study – Through the season of Lent, Br. Chad will be teaching a study on surrendering to God. Join us on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. If there is interest, we may also have a week-day option for the study.

Blessing Box - We continue to be in need of canned food and other shelf stable items for our Blessing Box. You may leave your donations in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall. Contact Stacy in you would like to have the Amazon link to have your items sent directly to the church.

Game Night - Mark your calendars for our next game night which will be Wednesday, March 4.



The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch had a great trip to Harvey's on February 13. The next trip will be on March 13 to Restaurant Tyler in Starkville.



The Judy Shirley Circle

Nita Wyman, Wilma Hinshaw and Becky Landon hosted the Judy Shirley Circle on Monday night. After delicious snacks, Wilma Hinshaw presented a program on some of Jesus' lesser known disciples. The next meeting will be March 16th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to attend.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

MUSIC NOTES

As we approach Ash Wednesday, we prepare to enter the season of Lent — a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent invites us to slow down, to examine our hearts, and to draw closer to God. It is not a season of sadness, but of honesty and hope — remembering both our human frailty and God’s endless grace. In worship, the music of this season often becomes quieter and more reflective, helping us listen more closely for God’s voice. These moments of stillness remind us that faith grows not only in celebration but also in contemplation. As we begin this Lenten journey together, may we open our hearts to God’s transforming love and walk faithfully toward the promise of Easter.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” — Psalm 51:10



The Armor of God

Grades 3-6 are studying about the spiritual armor of God described in Ephesians 6:14-17 through meaningful Bible stories and hands-on activities. This week they studied Elisha and the Servant. They learned how God helps to open people’s eyes with his presence. Thank you, Shannon Wallace, for bringing this study to our children.

CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

Feb. 9 - Elizabeth Bailey

Feb. 16 - Charlotte Messier

Feb. 23 - Linda Drake

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Feb. 1 - Bill and Caroline Atkins

Feb. 8 - Art and Becky Shirley and Shannon Wallace

Feb. 15 - Marc Stewart family

Feb. 22 - Linda Drake and Shannon Wallace

YOUTH SUPPER HOSTS

Feb. 4 - Bill and Caroline Atkins

Feb. 11 - Susan Johnson and Holly Hitt

Feb. 18 - Jane Caston and Gloria Bunnell

Feb. 25 - Shannon Wallace and Lucy McKellar



Galentine’s Party

The Women’s Sunday School Class had a wonderful time at their Galentine’s Party. They would like to thank Helen Facella for hosting this event.



CHURCH MEETINGS

Feb. 23 @ 5:00pm - CDC Meeting

Feb. 24 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council

Mar. 3 @ 5:30pm - Personnel and Nominations



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 1/31/2026

Total revenue received in Jan.	\$25,274.38
Total expenses in Jan.	(\$32,327.84)
Year to date revenue	\$25,274.38
Year to date expenses	(\$32,327.84)

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

ATTENDANCE February 15, 2026

Sunday School.....	43
Worship Service.....	56
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	12
Total Worship	68

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Charlotte Portera, NMMC - WP

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Our Members

Liv Brand
 Tommy Bryan
 Evelyn Haas
 Caroline Harrell
 Jordan Helveston
 Austin Hill
 Emerson Houston
 Barbara Iles
 Susan Johnson
 Victoria Johnston
 Charlotte Messier
 Jerry Mize
 Johnnie Newell
 Ben Rosenkrans
 Billy Buck & Judy Staggers
 Jimmy & Kathy Wood

Our Family and Friends:

Ted Berry
 Wayne Brand
 Joe Brownlee
 Edith Carlisle
 Mary Margaret Case
 Pam Chambliss (Superior Services employee)
 Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
 Ellie Delk (Rachel Wood's niece)
 Rosa Gonzalez
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
 Rusty Iles
 Curtis Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's father)
 Lynette Loud (Rachel Wood's mother)
 Lynda Mize
 Carole Higgins Morton
 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 Fox Haas
 Family of Gene Killingsworth

First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026
11:00 AM
SCRIPTURE LESSON
 Ephesians 3:14-21
SERMON
 "Incomprehensible Love, Unfathomable Power"
ANTHEM
 "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" - arr. Kirkland

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill
LAY READER: Gloria Bunnell
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.