

MARCH 10, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# *The* Window

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give things, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire. Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

(Hebrews 12:28-13:2)

At the first meeting every year for the leadership team of my youth group, our youth minister would lay out his expectations for the leaders. Much of it was what you'd expect about setting a good example in terms of faithfulness and witness. But there were also expectations in terms of hospitality. What would we do as leaders to make sure that there was a place for others?

One of the absolutely forbidden things surprised me. And it still sticks with me for its simplicity: Never take the last empty seat at a table. Start a new table instead.

The logic was simple: as a leader, other people are probably going to gravitate to your table anyway. But even if they don't, you know that you belong. You're not going to feel left out. Those things might not be true of the next person who is looking for a place to sit. So, leave that spot for them. Or open up a whole table of new spots for them when they join you.

One thing I love about our church is that we want everyone to know that they're welcome. One way that we can do that is by making sure that we've made sure they have a seat. Maybe literally, ensuring they have a seat at a table in the Fellowship Hall or on our pew in the sanctuary. But it may be more figurative too - what do we need to do to ensure that others know they belong?

As we get closer to Easter, I hope that we'll have some strangers join us. They might come because you've invited them and made it clear that they have a place here. I hope we treat every one of them like an angel sent from heaven. And together, I hope we worship God with reverence and awe.

In the name of Christ who is friend to all,  
Br. Chad



## Angels in Aprons

**Mar. 10 - 23** - Caroline Atkins and Helen Facella

**Mar. 24 - Apr. 6** - JoAnn Tedford and Barbara Bryan

**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. During the season of Lent, we will have a meal for all ages at 5:30pm. Classes will follow at 6:00pm.

**Hydrangeas** - The J. B. Cook Class is selling white hydrangeas to adorn our chancel area on Easter. Each hydrangea will sell for \$25. Call the church office to place your order by March 22nd. There are also order forms at the back of the Sanctuary.



**Lunch Bunch** – The Lunch Bunch will go to Restaurant Tyler in Starkville on Friday, March 13. The van will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. Please let Donna Cook or Gail Foote know if you plan to go.



## Backpack Meals

We want to thank Susan Johnson, Lisa Gammill, Beth Raines, Linda Drake, Caroline Atkins and Gail Foote for packing our backpack meals for the month of March. Each month the church sends 240 packages of food to Church Hill and Southside for children who may need food to eat over the weekend. If you would like to help with this important ministry, contact Stacy Hays.

# FERNS FOR SALE

**10 inch Kimberly Queen**

or

**10 inch Boston Hanging**

**\$22 each**

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS  
EASTER SUNDAY.**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
OUR MISSIONS.**

**PICKUP DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

**9:00-10:30AM**

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**662-494-1658**

**TO ORDER.**

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**Mar. 23 @ 4:30pm** - Student Ministries Committee

**Mar. 24 @ 6:00pm** - Leadership Council

**Mar. 30 @ 5:00pm** - CDC Board Meeting

**June 30 @ 10:00am** - Ministry Committee

## First United Methodist Church Upcoming Events



March 22 - Deadline to order hydrangeas

March 29 - Palm Sunday Service - 11 a.m.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service - 6 pm

April 3 - Good Friday Service - 12 noon

April 5 - Easter Service - 11 a.m.

April 5 - Last day to order ferns

April 11 - Fern pickup - 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

**Please join us each Sunday.**

**Sunday School 10 a.m.**

**Worship Service 11 a.m.**

**Please join us each Wednesday.**

**Communion 12 noon**



# MUSIC NOTES

Last Sunday's message reminded us of a truth that can sometimes be difficult to hold: God cares for us deeply, but that does not mean we will never face hardship. Faith is not a promise that life will always be easy. Instead, it is the assurance that we are never alone in whatever comes our way. Throughout Scripture, we see that God walks with His people through every season, through celebration and through struggle. Even in the moments when life feels uncertain, God's presence remains steady and faithful. Music often gives voice to this truth. Many of our hymns and songs acknowledge both the challenges of life and the hope we have in God's unfailing love. When we sing together in worship, we remind one another that God's care surrounds us. May we continue to trust in that promise, knowing that whatever we face, God is with us every step of the way. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." — Psalm 46:1



## Children's Sunday School

Last Sunday the children learned about Nicodemus who came to visit Jesus with questions about eternal life. Jesus told Nicodemus that to have eternal life he must be born again. The children learned that believing is accepting and following the Holy Spirit. Then they created a shadow box of Jesus and Nicodemus talking to help them remember the lesson. Thank you, Linda Drake and Elizabeth Stewart, for teaching. A special thanks goes to Gracy Taylor for creating this craft activity to supplement the lesson.

## CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

- Mar. 2** - Mary Carr Ecklund
- Mar. 9** - Tammy Walters
- Mar. 16** - Anna Dill
- Mar. 23** - Caroline Atkins
- Mar. 30** - Elizabeth Bailey



## Game Night Fun

Everyone had a great time at Game Night. Thank you, Tammy Walters, for preparing the fabulous meal!

## WEDNESDAY SUPPER NEWS

During the season of Lent, we will have a meal for all ages at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Youth will then meet at 6:00 in the Bryan Youth Center.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Mar. 1** - Greg and Jessi Sugg and Shannon Wallace
- Mar. 8** - Linda Drake and Elizabeth Stewart and Shannon Wallace
- Mar. 15** - Erin and Janae Robinson and Shannon Wallace
- Mar. 22** - Gail Foote and Dee Echols and Shannon Wallace
- Mar. 29** - Kristen Williams 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 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 March 8, 2026

Sunday School.....	49
Worship Service.....	77
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	16
Total Worship .....	93

## ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### In the Hospital

### Dugan

Deb McGaughey

### Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

### Our Members

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

### Our Family and Friends:

Sammy Beal  
 Ted Berry  
 Wayne Brand  
 Joe Brownlee  
 Edith Carlisle  
 Pam Chambliss (Superior Services employee)  
 Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)  
 Rosa Gonzalez  
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)  
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)  
 Campbell Helveston  
 Rusty Iles  
 Curtis Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's father)  
 Lynda Mize  
 Carole Higgins Morton  
 Susie Purnell Randall  
 Robbie Robinson  
 Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)  
 Harold Gene Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)  
 Ronald Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)  
 Andy Williams

Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)  
 Sheila Wood

Family of Mary Margaret Dill Case  
 Family of GF Watson (Amy Buckley's cousin)

### Deployed Military

Matt Dannon (Ben and Gen Thomas' son-in-law)



## Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

11:00 AM

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

## SERMON

"Giving Up: Fame and Power"

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - arr. Wood

Rachel Wood, soloist

**SOUND TECH:** Ray Purnell

**LAY READER:** Jay Wood

**STREAM TEAM:** Andy Gray

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.**