

MARCH 17, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# *The* Window

## A Note from the Pastor

*Who among you fulfills every jot and tittle even of the outward commandments of God? Doing nothing, great or small, which God forbids? Leaving nothing undone which he enjoins speaking no idle word? Having your conversation always "meet to minister grace to the hearers?" And, "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, doing all to the glory of God?" And how much less are you able to fulfill all the inward commandments of God? Those which require that every temper and motion of your soul should be holiness unto the Lord? Are you able to "love God with all your heart?" To love all mankind as your own soul? To "pray without ceasing?" "In every thing to give thanks?" To have God always before you? And to keep every affection, desire, and thought, in obedience to his law?*

John Wesley in *The Righteousness of Faith*

One of the hardest things that we experience in this life is our recognition that we don't measure up. Our first inclination, whether it's for ourselves or for others, is to dismiss the notion altogether.

We're not **that** bad. We know folks who are worse than we are. Or we have really good excuses.

We desperately want someone to convince us that we're ok. But, deep in our souls, we know even those assurances are baloney. We know, because we know our own hearts. We know the shame that we feel over the disordered desires of our heart and the faithless ways we live.

We might be able to convince others that it's all ok, but we know we can't fool God. So we do our best to stay away. We pray less. We let our Bible gather dust. We find reasons not to go to worship. We try to hide from the one who can actually make it better.

The great surprise of the Gospel is that we're never closer to the abundant life we desperately crave than when we realize how badly we've missed the mark. The thing that makes us want to run away is exactly the thing that should drive us into the arms of our loving savior. We don't need to be convinced that we *do* measure up. We must accept that we don't. Not even the best of us is good enough. The moment we accept that we can't do it on our own is the moment that we open ourselves to the one who loves us and offers his righteousness and glory to wear as our own. God will be merciful toward our iniquities and remember our sin no more.

Only by his grace,

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. 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.



### The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch went to Restaurant Tyler in Starkville on Friday, March 13, and everyone had a great time! The next outing will be to the Pheba Diner on May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate May Day.



### Christ at Home

We want to thank Dee Berry, Stacy Hays and Jerrilynn Patriquin for preparing the Christ at Home meal this month of chicken tenders, potato casserole, corn, green beans, rolls and dessert. Our deliverers were Elizabeth Bailey, Jane Caston, Donna Cook, Gary Echols, Jason McKellar, Charlotte and Bill Messier, Bob Seitz, Jimmy Tedford and Tammy Walters. Every month up to 60 meals are carried to people in our community and to some of our church members. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please let Stacy Hays know.

# 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** - Worship 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

This week's sermon reminded us of an important truth: the way of Christ is not the way of grasping for power. In a world that often encourages us to seek influence, control, or quick solutions, Jesus shows us a different path. He resisted the temptation to take shortcuts or seize power for Himself, trusting instead in God's greater purpose. As followers of Christ, we are called to the same posture of humility and trust. In worship, this truth is beautifully reflected in our music. When we sing, we surrender our voices and our efforts as an offering to God, trusting that He can use even simple acts of faith to do something greater than we could accomplish on our own. May we walk this week with humble hearts, remembering that while we may not hold the power to change the world, we serve the One who does.



### The Judy Shirley Circle

The Judy Shirley Circle met on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for their monthly meeting. Hostesses were LaDonna Helveston, Barbara Bryan and Tammy Walters. Gracy Taylor presented a wonderful program on Judas Iscariot. The next meeting will be Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome.

### CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

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

### WEDNESDAY SUPPER NEWS

During the season of Lent, we will have a meal for all ages at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights. Tammy Walters is doing a fantastic job of preparing these delicious meals. Because the crowd was less last week due to weather and spring break, the extra food was delivered to twelve of our members. Please join us this Wednesday night for the meal and other activities. After the meal the youth will meet at 6:00 in the Bryan Youth Center, Lighthouse Kids will meet in the Fellowship Hall and Brother Chad's "Giving Up" study will meet in the church library.



### 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 2/28/2026

Total revenue received in Feb.	\$33,898.17
Total expenses in Feb.	(\$36,444.50)
Year to date revenue	\$59,172.55
Year to date expenses	(\$68,772.34)

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

## ATTENDANCE March 15, 2026

Sunday School.....	51
Worship Service.....	78
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	15
Total Worship .....	93

## ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### In the Hospital

### Dugan

Deb McGaughey

### Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

### Our Members

Elizabeth Bailey  
 Liv Brand  
 Tommy Bryan  
 Helen Childress  
 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)  
 Corre & Tommy Foster & Baby Ellis  
 Rosa Gonzalez  
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)  
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)  
 Campbell Helveston  
 Rusty Iles  
 David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)  
 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 Case

Family of Bobby Lane Harper (Joe Neely's brother-in-law)

### Deployed Military

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



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

11:00 AM

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## SERMON

"Giving Up: Seeing as Mortals See"

## ANTHEM

"Dwell Within My Soul" - arr. Landon

**SOUND TECH:** Mike Gammill

**LAY READER:** Kristen Williams

**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.**