

MARCH 24, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# The Window

## A Note from the Pastor

*"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest. And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee." (Matthew 21:9-11)*

*"Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you? And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified." And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified." (Matthew 27:21-23)*

It's really stunning the way things can shift in five days. On Palm Sunday, Jesus is met triumphantly in Jerusalem with people shouting Psalm 118, "Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" And in the same city by Thursday, the crowds' shouts are quite different: Kill him. Crucify him. Jesus has transformed from the most popular man around to public enemy #1 in a matter of days.

This contrast is one that we must reckon with in our own souls: Is Jesus going to save us, or do we need to be saved from him?

Lest we think the question is easy, we should remember Peter. Peter insisted he would never leave Jesus and before he knew it was denying that he had ever met the man. The choice may be clear, but it is not easy.

Lest we think it was just a problem in the first century, the desire for a triumphant king hasn't gone away. A crucial challenge for Christians is to remember that the narrow way Jesus invites us to walk is the way of a crucified savior. Do you want the victorious warrior on his steed or the man on the cross? Only one of them can save us.

Trusting in the precious blood of Christ,  
Br. Chad



## Angels in Aprons

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

**Apr. 7 - 20** - Becky Shirley and Ladonna Helveston

**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.

**Ferns** - The church is still selling 10 inch Kimberly Queen and Boston hanging ferns for \$22.00. The deadline to order is Easter Sunday, and the pickup date is Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 - 10:30am. All proceeds will go toward missions.

**Hydrangeas** - The J. B. Cook Class sold white hydrangeas to adorn our chancel area on Easter. These hydrangeas may be collected after the Easter service.

### CHURCH MEETINGS

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

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

**Apr. 9 @ 10:00am** - Congregational Care Meeting



### Congratulations, Dr. Laura Stewart!

Laura Stewart has been attending graduate school at the University of Alabama for several years to earn her Doctor of Communication and Information Science degree. On March 12 Laura successfully defended her dissertation. She is now officially Dr. Laura Stewart. Laura, your church family is so proud of you!!!



### Loaves and Fishes

Each month church members prepare approximately fifteen meals for our members who are sick or just need a healthy meal. Jane Caston, Gloria Bunnell and Becky Landin prepared the meals for March. Church members received meals of red beans and rice, Caesar salad, and cornbread. If you would like to help with this ministry; or if you know someone who needs a meal, please call the church office.

## First United Methodist Church Upcoming Events



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

Easter is approaching, and the choir is carefully preparing music that we hope will praise the name of our powerful God and bless your spirit as well. Each member of the choir dedicates time not only to choir rehearsals but also throughout the week by studying their music and listening to recordings. They also prepare their hearts and minds to sing in Spirit and Truth, to the praise and glory of our King! How are you preparing your hearts for Easter? Are you making room in your heart for the splendor and awe of our Savior? We cannot wait to worship with you on Easter Sunday!



### Revive at the Bryans'

Last week Tommy and Barbara Bryan invited Revive to come to their home for their weekly meeting. It was extremely special to everyone that Tommy Bryan was able to attend. He is such a valued member of the group, and his presence and input has been greatly missed. The group is studying intercessory prayer, and they discussed how to pray for others and for our church. They also discussed having a unified vision for our church and how to pray for that vision as we move forward.

### 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 and Kathryn Williams and  
Shannon Wallace



### Learning about Love

The children's Sunday school class learned about loving everyone including those who are your enemies and those who are different. They heard the Bible story from the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus talks about loving your enemies. Mae Sugg read Matthew 22:37-39 which talks about loving God and loving your neighbor. To culminate the lesson, the children stuffed personalized hearts and inserted pictures of people that appeared to be good, bad and different to emphasize that Jesus wants us to love everyone.

### WEDNESDAY SUPPER NEWS

Join us on Wednesday night at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fantastic meal prepared by Tammy Walters. 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.

### CDC CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

**Mar. 2** - Mary Carr Ecklund

**Mar. 9** - Tammy Walters

**Mar. 16** - Anna Dill

**Mar. 23** - Caroline Atkins

**Mar. 30** - Elizabeth Bailey



# 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 22, 2026

Sunday School.....	51
Worship Service.....	81
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	14
Total Worship .....	95

## 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 Dannan (Ben and Gen Thomas' son-in-law)



**Palm Sunday of  
 March 29, 2026  
 11:00 AM  
 SCRIPTURE LESSON  
 Ezekiel 37:1-14  
 SERMON  
 "Giving Up: Hopelessness"  
 ANTHEM  
 "Jerusalem, Behold Your King" -  
 Barrett and Angerman  
 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.**