

MARCH 31, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# The Window

## A Note from the Pastor

*Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'*

*Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. (Matthew 26:6-16)*

You probably know that "Christ" isn't Jesus' last name. It's the Greek word for "anointed." In Hebrew, the word is "Messiah." The Jewish hope for a Messiah is the hope for one of David's sons to reign as the anointed one.

This woman has brought expensive *oint*-ment to an-*oint* Jesus.

It doesn't have quite the gravitas of Samuel anointing Saul or David. Matthew doesn't even give us a name for the woman. Maybe they've forgotten who they believe Jesus is because no one expects the Messiah to be sitting at the table of a leper's house.

Surely, if they thought this was the anointing of the Messiah that they've been waiting for for generations, they'd want the best ointment. Instead, the disciples worry that maybe it's wasteful. There are the poor to worry about after all.

What a thing to say in the presence of the one who feeds thousands with a boy's snack! It wasn't about the money. Judas' silver coins are probably worth about 1/3 of that ointment in the alabaster jar. It wasn't about the poor. In fact, Jesus told the disciples in the chapter before that when they care for the poor, they care for him without realizing it.

It's a question of devotion. They don't see Jesus' value. They don't know what he's worth. This week is a good time for us to examine our hearts and ask what Jesus is really worth to us. And to let him show us what we're worth to him. Spoiler alert: ***It's everything.***

~ Br. Chad



## Angels in Aprons

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

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

**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.

**Communion Offering** - The Communion offering this month will benefit Safe Haven. Safe Haven is an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. They strive to provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention in a loving, caring and secure environment.

**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.

**Office Closure** - The church office will be closed to the public on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be no newsletter on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Camp Lake Stephens Clean-up Day** - Camp Lake Stephens is holding a winter storm clean-up day on Saturday, April 11, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please contact Brother Chad if you are interested in helping.

**Mission Trip Interest Meeting** - If you are interested in future mission trips, please attend the meeting on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, after church in the library.



# HOLY WEEK

## Services

April 2 (Maundy Thursday)	6 P.M.
April 3 (Good Friday)	NOON
April 5 (Easter Sunday)	11 A.M.

First United Methodist Church - West Point  
612 E. Broad  
662-494-1658

### WEDNESDAY SUPPER NEWS

We are so fortunate to have Tammy Walters plan and prepare our Wednesday night suppers. She was assisted by Jane Caston and Becky Landin last Wednesday night. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and chocolate cake. Tammy, everyone appreciates the work you are doing. You have created a wonderful environment for our church members to relax and socialize before they move to their different study groups.

There will be no supper this Wednesday, April 1, due to the Holy Week activities. The meals and regular activities will resume Wednesday, April 8, at 5:30pm.

# MUSIC NOTES

The promise of joy is on the horizon. But first, we must experience the deep sorrow and anguish of Holy Week. I didn't grow up with liturgical seasons. The church I attended as a child did not observe holy days or celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. I began participating in Lent as an adult, not fully understanding all that I was doing, but hoping it would lead me closer to Christ. I realized in my first year of participating in Lent that the joy of Easter is much greater and more intimate when I practice observation and meditation during Holy Week. This week can be hard. It's hard to walk with Jesus with the cross on his back. It's hard to see the nails driven into his hands. It's hard to see the crown of thorns on his brow. It's hard to see his friends and family abandon him. But living this week with Jesus is the core of who we are: People who aren't afraid to suffer, people who aren't afraid to sacrifice all the pleasures and comforts of life for each other. My invitation to you is to live with Jesus this week and then experience the joy of Easter together as the people of God, singing praises to his Holy Name. - Rachel



## Palm Sunday Celebration

The church had a beautiful Palm Sunday service. Everyone who was able congregated in the Fellowship Hall to collect palm branches, process down the aisle and sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" as Kendal played the organ. Then the palm branches were placed on the altar. The choir sang the beautiful anthem "Jerusalem, Behold Your King. Finally, Brother Chad preached the uplifting sermon "Giving Up: Hopelessness."

# PALM SUNDAY



## The Road to Jerusalem and Holy Week

The children's Sunday school class learned about Jesus' ride to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday from Luke 19:18-40. They learned that the people welcomed Jesus by saying, "Hosanna" and waving palm branches. They also learned about Holy Week. The children then created palm branches and Holy Week wreaths to help them remember what they learned.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**Apr. 5** - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart  
and Shannon Wallace

**Apr. 12** - Art and Becky Shirley  
and Shannon Wallace

**Apr. 19** - Helen Facella  
and Shannon Wallace

**Apr. 26** - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart  
and Shannon Wallace

## CHURCH MEETINGS

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

**Apr. 20 @ 4:30pm** - CDC Board Meeting

**Apr. 28 @ 6:00pm** - Leadership Council



# 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 29, 2026

Sunday School.....	56
Worship Service.....	97
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	17
Total Worship .....	114

## 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  
 Kailey Harrell - Ben Harrell's wife  
 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  
 Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)

Harold Gene Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)  
 Ronald Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)  
 Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)  
 Sheila Wood

### Deployed Military

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



**Easter Sunday**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**11:00 AM**  
**SCRIPTURE LESSON**  
 Romans 6:3-11  
**SERMON**  
 "The Cross Looks Different Now"  
**ANTHEM**  
 "Then Came the Morning - arr. Hamby  
 Gary Echols, soloist  
**SOUND TECH:** Ray Purnell  
**LAY READER:** Dee Echols  
**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.**