

APRIL 14, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

Pardon our Progress

I never quite know how to feel about the signs that say something like "Please pardon our progress." On the one hand, I appreciate that it refocuses the inconveniences of construction work towards the improvements that will be made and away from whatever the negative impact is in the present. On the other, it's not the progress that is bothering me (and therefore requires forgiveness), it's the inconvenience.

We live in a world where spin and communications sometimes make it hard to just tell the truth. And that means that sometimes the truth is refreshing.

So, I hope that you'll note some repairs and improvements we'll be making around the church over the next couple of months. And that you'll pardon us for the times that they are an inconvenience. And, as always, if you'd like to give financially or time/effort to the cause, it will be greatly appreciated.

Some of what we've been working on:

- Trim and paint around the church. (We've got some major plaster repairs in the vestibules outside the sanctuary and in the choir suite that are on hold until we have some more funds.)
- Tree trimming and removal at the Bryan Youth Center.
- Handrail installation and modification for easier navigation on stairs on in the courtyard, on the exterior stairs at the parking lot, and into the sanctuary to make for safer ingress and egress
- Adding metal caps to walls that extend above the roof in the Fellowship Hall building to stop water intrusion.
- And, the largest project, masonry repair on the parking lot side of the building over the stair well near the playground. This work will start sometime in the next few weeks, and will require us to use a different entrance for some period of time.

If you have any questions about the work that we're doing around our facilities, or if you have noticed something that needs to be addressed, feel free to talk to me or Vic Johnson (our chair of trustees). If you see Vic or the folks that are working with them on these things, please be sure to thank them for the ways that they are making it possible for our church to live into our mission.

In Christ,
Br. Chad



Angels in Aprons

Apr. 7 - 20 - Becky Shirley and Ladonna Helveston

Apr. 21 - May 4 - Elizabeth Bailey and Dee Berry

Mission Trip Interest Meeting - If you are interested in an upcoming mission trip planned for March 2027, please attend the meeting on Sunday, April 19th, after church in the library.

Judy Shirley Circle - The Judy Shirley Circle will meet Monday, April 20, at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Jane Caston, Gloria Bunnell and Beth Raines. The members will complete cards for the College Connection and have a short devotion.

Church-wide Breakfast - Please join us Sunday, April 26, at 9:00am for a church-wide breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you, Jim Helveston, for chairing this event.

Women's Sunday School Class - The Women's Sunday School Class has just begun a study of the book *What If God Wrote Your To-Do List?* They would like to invite all women who are looking for a Sunday school to join them at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. The class meets downstairs on the first floor om Room #107

CHURCH MEETINGS

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

Apr. 28 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council

May 4 @ 4:30pm - Student Ministry Meeting



Maundy Thursday Service

If you were not able to attend the Maundy Thursday service this year, please try to attend next year because it is such a moving service. The service included Holy Communion, footwashing and stripping the altar which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus. As the candles, paraments, cross and Bible were removed, excerpts of Matthew's account of Jesus and the disciples in Gethsemane. The service ended with the loud closing of the Bible.



Mission Projects

We want to thank everyone who purchased plants this year. All proceed will go toward our future mission projects.



Breakfast is served!

JOIN US SUNDAY, APRIL 26, FOR A CHURCH-WIDE BREAKFAST AT 9 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Donations will be accepted with all proceeds going to missions.

MUSIC NOTES

Isn't our choir amazing? Each individual voice works tirelessly to learn and polish their part. Yet when we come together in worship, something even more beautiful happens. Those individual voices blend into something greater than themselves. Together, we become one sound, one offering, united in praise. Isn't this what the Lord calls us to do? To love one another, to work together, and to worship as one body? In choir, we have discovered a special kind of family. We share a common purpose, lifting our voices in service and joy, and supporting one another along the way. It truly is a beautiful thing. In the coming weeks, several of our members will be traveling or undergoing surgery, and we will miss them dearly. Because of this, we are inviting new members to join us and help continue this meaningful ministry. Yes, YOU are invited! If you've ever thought about singing with the choir, now is a wonderful time to join. We rehearse at 8:30 on Sunday mornings and would love to welcome you to our choir family. Come be a part of something beautiful!



Christ at Home

We want to offer our appreciation to everyone who helped with Christ at Home this month. Stacy Hays, Julie Gray, Amy Buckley, Dee Berry and JerriLynn Patriquin prepared meals for 60 people. Elizabeth Bailey, Donna Cook, Gary Echols, Ladonna Helveston, Phil McClellan, Bill and Charlotte Messier, Greg Sugg, Jimmy Tedford and Nita Wyman delivered the meals. Thank you, volunteers for your dedication to this ministry.

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 -
and Shannon Wallace

Apr. 26 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart
and Shannon Wallace

CHILDREN



Learning about the Miracles of Jesus

On Easter Sunday the children learned about the empty tomb and how Jesus arose from the dead. They imagined how the women felt when they found the stone rolled away and Jesus was gone. Then they constructed a model of the scene to help them visualize the events. Last week they learned about how the blind man Barnabas was sitting by the side of the road when a large, noisy crowd of people came by. Barnabas realized from what people were saying that Jesus was the center of the crowd. He had heard the stories of Jesus' healing miracles and he believed. Barnabas called to Jesus, competing with the noise of the crowd. Jesus heard him, called him forward, and healed him. Then the children made an interactive figure of Barnabas going from blindness to sight and noisemakers, using them to simulate the story of Barnabas. How wonderful it is for the children to be able to experience the miracles of Jesus!



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 3/31/2026

Total revenue received in Mar.	\$49,018.28
Total expenses in Mar.	(\$46,593.30)
Year to date revenue	\$108,190.83
Year to date expenses	(\$115,365.64)

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

ATTENDANCE March 29, 2026

Sunday School.....	45
Worship Service.....	66
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	10
Total Worship	76

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
 Evelyn Haas
 Caroline Harrell
 Jordan Helveston
 Austin Hill
 Emerson Houston
 Susan Johnson
 Victoria Johnston
 Charlotte Messier
 Jerry Mize
 Johnnie Newell
 Charlotte Portera
 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)

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:13-29

SERMON

"The Lord's Supper:
 Broken Bread; Open Eyes"

ANTHEM

"Come Be Fed" - Schram and Staggers

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Andy Gray

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.**

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)