



APRIL 21, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# *The* Window

## A Note from the Pastor

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching, and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

*(Ephesians 4:14-15 NIV)*

We live in a world full of people who are tossed back and forth by the waves. They're blown here and there like a plastic grocery bag that becomes a sail in a 20 mile an hour gust, only to get pushed in a different direction when the wind shifts. I suspect that, at least once recently, you've been in a conversation that decried the "cunning and craftiness" or the "deceitfulness" that happens in our media and politics.

I can't tell you how much I value the kind of maturity that speaks the truth in love with an end towards growing up into Christ. I'm exasperated with the immature conversations that happen on social media, lacking as they so often are in wisdom.

I don't think I'm the only one craving something a little more solid. I suspect you are. I know that there are people in our community who are.

But how do we move from being easily carried infants to being deeply rooted? The rest of ch. 4, both before and after this text, is the answer to the question. These are some of things Paul says:

- Live a life worthy of your calling
- Be humble, gentle, patient, and forbearing in love
- Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- Get connected to the body of Christ, where God equips folks for ministry
- Be built up along with the rest of the body of Christ until we are built up in the (a) unity of faith, (b) knowledge of the Son of God, and (c) become mature, becoming like Christ in every way.
- Grow through your connection to others in the body of Christ.

It's not the kind of thing that fits in a punchy graphic on Instagram. It's not the kind of thing that will go viral on Tiktok. Growing in community and helping others grow in community, is, however, the kind of project that is worthy of this life and the life of the world to come. Invest in the relationships that the church provides. Let others invest in you. See how much you can become like Jesus and how much harder it is to get blown around by the wind or knocked around by the waves. If you want to learn more, I hope you'll join us on Wednesday Night.

In Christ,  
Br. Chad

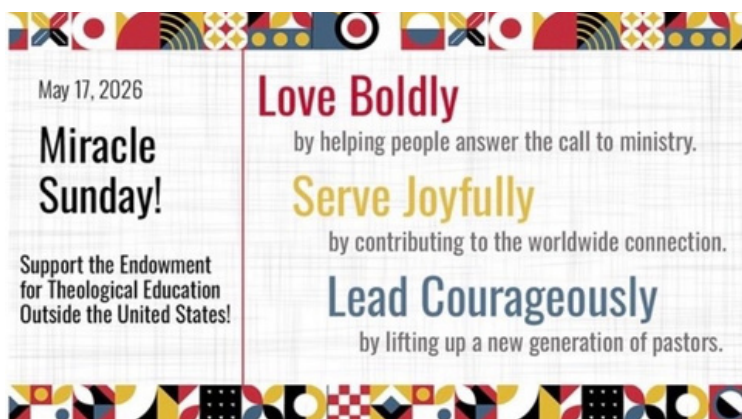
## Angels in Aprons

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

**Lunch Bunch** - The Lunch Bunch will go to Pheba Diner on Friday, May 1. The van will leave the church at 10:30am. Please let Gail Foote or Donna Cook know if you would like to attend.

**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.

**1st Quarter Contribution Statements** have been emailed. Please look for an email from Realm with your FUMC giving statement attached. If you have questions, please contact Julie.



May 17, 2026

# Miracle Sunday!

Support the Endowment for Theological Education Outside the United States!

**Love Boldly**  
by helping people answer the call to ministry.

**Serve Joyfully**  
by contributing to the worldwide connection.

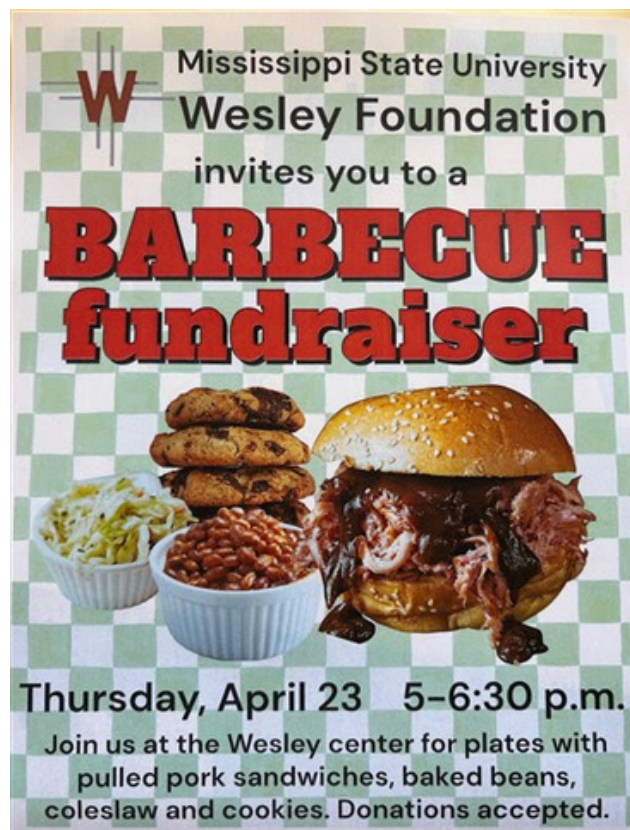
**Lead Courageously**  
by lifting up a new generation of pastors.




# 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.**



Mississippi State University  
**Wesley Foundation**  
invites you to a  
**BARBECUE fundraiser**



**Thursday, April 23 5-6:30 p.m.**  
Join us at the Wesley center for plates with pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and cookies. Donations accepted.



### Lunch at the Wesley Starkville Wesley Foundation

Our church served lunch to the Starkville Wesley Foundation during their Rooted Retreat. This two-day event provided two meals, biblical teaching, worship and community to the students. We want to thank Dee Berry who provided most of the food.

# MUSIC NOTES

In the quiet stillness, something stirs: a soft sense of peace, a tender whisper of love, like a gentle embrace you can almost feel. A tear rises, and in that moment, you recognize the presence of the Lord's Spirit with you. How deeply He longs to meet you, to look upon you, to wipe away your tears, to hold you close, and to bring you comfort. Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you. As you reflect, consider listening to "Be Still My Soul" or "What a Beautiful Name" and let the words guide your time with Him. He is there, watching and waiting for his beloved child to call upon His Name.

Rachel



## Lighthouse Kids

The older group in the Lighthouse Kids has been learning about how God calls us to "Be strong and courageous." They created shields to emphasize that they were putting on the armor of God.



## The Children Learn about Temptation

On Sunday the children learned about the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil as told in Luke 4:1-13. The teachers used suckers to explain what it means to be tempted. Then the children realized that forty days is a long time as they counted out forty tootsie rolls together and placed them in jars.



## College Connection

The Judy Shirley worked on cards to send to our college students during exam time. Each card contained a gift card, so the students can treat themselves to a meal.



## 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** - George and Luann Purnell  
and Shannon Wallace

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

## CHURCH MEETINGS

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

**May 4 @ 4:30pm** - Student Ministry Meeting

**May 18 @ 4:30pm** - CDC Board Meeting



# 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 April 19, 2026

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	74
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	14
Total Worship .....	88

## 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  
 Gen Thomas  
 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)  
 Breann Duke  
 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)

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

11:00 AM

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 12:1-13; 24-28

### SERMON

"The Lord's Supper:  
 A Meal That Tells a Story"

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"In Remembrance" - arr. Kadidlo  
 Rachel Wood, soloist

**SOUND TECH:** Mike Gammill

**LAY READER:** Gloria Bunnell

**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)