



APRIL 28, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# The Window

## A Note from the Pastor

You see, the apostle says, We, being many, are one loaf, one body (1 Cor 10:17). That is how he explained the sacrament of the Lord's table; one loaf, one body, is what we all are, many though we be. In this loaf of bread you are given clearly to understand how much you should love unity. I mean, was that loaf made from one grain? Weren't there many grains of wheat? But before they came into the loaf they were all separate; they were joined together by means of water after a certain amount of pounding and crushing. Unless wheat is ground, after all, and moistened with water, it can't possibly get into this shape which is called bread. In the same way you too were being ground and pounded, as it were, by the humiliation of fasting and the sacrament of exorcism. Then came baptism, and you were, in a manner of speaking, moistened with water in order to be shaped into bread. But it's not yet bread without fire to bake it. So what does fire represent? That's the chrism, the anointing. Oil, the fire-feeder, you see, is the sacrament of the Holy Spirit.

~ *St. Augustine, Sermon 227*

This quotation comes from a sermon that St. Augustine preached for Easter. He points out with beautiful simplicity how bread serves for us as a reminder that the church, the body of Christ in the world, is not made up of a single grain of wheat. Instead, it's made of grain that's been milled into flour and then united together with water as its bonding agent.

The fasting that Christians do before baptism and the removing of their old ways of being? That's the milling of the flour. And the water of baptism? That's the water that unites us into one loaf of bread. The Spirit that descends on the church at Pentecost? That's the fire that turns the bread from dough to loaf.

Whenever you see the bread of Communion, I hope you'll think about where it came from and how it was made. And I hope you'll reflect on how you, as a grain of wheat, are incorporated by baptism and the work of the Spirit into the very body of Christ.

In Christ,  
Br. Chad

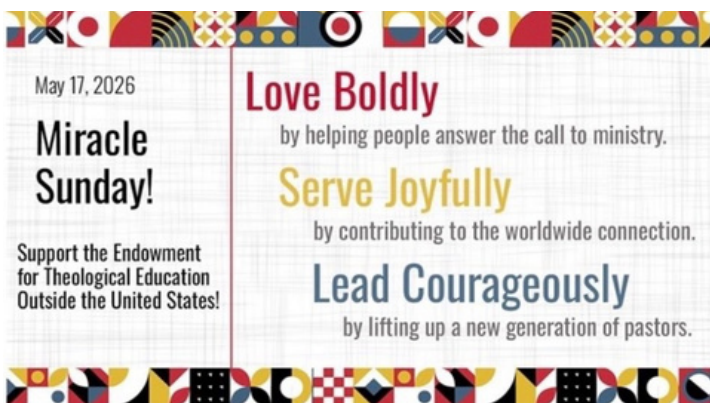
## Angels in Aprons

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

**May 5 - May 18** - Robin McCormick and Gale Griggs

**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.

**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.



## CHURCH MEETINGS

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

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

**May 5 @ 6:00pm** - Personnel and Nominations

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



## Sunday Breakfast

We want to thank all the people who helped make our Sunday breakfast a success. Jim Helveston, Vic Johnson, Jay Wood, Andy Gray, Mark Bean and Bob Wyman cooked most of the delicious food. In addition, Gloria Bunnell furnished fruit, LaDonna Helveston made the cheese grits, and Stacy Hays brought the donuts. We also want to offer special thanks to Stacy Hays and Jim Helveston for organizing this event. We raised \$363 for Missions!



## PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF FUMC CDC

The CDC Board needs your help honoring the teachers during

## Teacher Appreciation week.

If you would like to make a donation, please put your donation (either check or cash) earmarked on an envelope or memo line: *Teacher Appreciation Week*. You can drop your contribution in the black box across from the CDC Director's office or put in the collection plate on Sunday mornings.

**DEADLINE FOR DONATION:  
MAY 1, 2026**

**TEACHER APPRECIATION  
WEEK  
MAY 4-8, 2026**

# MUSIC NOTES

This week, we were reminded of a simple but powerful truth. Just as our bodies need bread to live, our souls need worship to thrive. When we neglect worship, we begin to run on empty. We become spiritually tired, disconnected, and we search for something to fill us. But in worship, we are nourished. We are renewed. We are reminded of who God is and who we are in Him. Worship is not just something we attend; it is something we need. It feeds us, strengthens us, and sustains us for the days ahead. As Brother Chad shared, Jesus is as essential to our souls as bread is to our bodies. One beautiful way to experience this nourishment is through music. The choir strives each week to worship in Spirit and Truth, offering not just songs, but heartfelt praise to God. And there is always room for more voices. If you are seeking a deeper connection with God, others, and the life of the church, consider joining us. Come be part of something that feeds the soul!

“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” — Matthew 4:4



## The Shoes of Peace

Last Sunday the 4th-6th grade Sunday school class focused on Ephesians 6:15 and learned how their trust in God can bring them peace and help them walk in peace with others. Putting on their shoes of peace symbolizes readiness to walk in faith. They decorated “shoes of peace” to emphasize this concept.

Then they watched a short video showing how a boy named Lucas applied his armor to deal with everyday situations at home and school.

Thank you, Shannon Wallace, for your continued dedication to teaching this group.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

**May 3** - Helen Facella

**May 10** - Caroline & Bill Atkins  
and Shannon Wallace

**May 17** - Gracy Taylor, Dee Echols and Gail Foote  
and Shannon Wallace

**May 24** - Art and Becky Shirley and  
Shannon Wallace

**May 31** - Erin and Janae Robinson  
and Shannon Wallace



**A sign-up sheet for needed food items for this event is located on the table at the back of the sanctuary.**



# 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 26, 2026

Sunday School.....	44
Worship Service.....	72
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	12
Total Worship .....	84

## ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### In the Hospital

### 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

### Dugan

Deb McGaughey

### 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)  
 Tims Dowdle - Jane Caston's brother  
 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)

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

11:00 AM

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 15:1-18

## SERMON

"The Lord's Supper:  
 The New and Everlasting Covenant"

## ANTHEM

"Remember Me" - Pethel

**SOUND TECH:** Julie Gray

**LAY READER:** Vic Johnson

**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.**

### Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

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)