



MAY 5, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

Miracle Sunday Initiative

One of the things that has been obscured through the great Methodist ordeal of the last few years in the United States is that God is doing some incredible work through the United Methodist Church around the globe.

New churches are being planted. People are coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ. God is calling people to shepherd the church through preaching and leading the church in sharing the sacraments.

Given the significant growth that we've seen in Europe, Africa, and the Philippines, it's a little staggering that we haven't done a better job of supporting the people that God is calling into ministry there.

While 71% of United Methodist pastors in the United States have a Master's Degree in Theology, only 5% of our clergy in the rest of the world have been afforded the same opportunity. One of the primary reasons for this is funding. In the U.S., we have 13 United Methodist Theological Seminaries. Those seminaries have a combined endowment of \$1.2 billion dollars. In addition to that money, they receive funding support from the United Methodist Church budget each year. The Annual Conference also offer financial support to future clergy who attend seminary.

The Mississippi Annual Conference is exceptionally generous to our seminarians. We offer to pay half of their tuition in exchange for a promise to serve in the United Methodist Church in a pastoral capacity for four years upon graduation. It's a significant investment in our clergy that bears good fruit through the leadership of our pastors. Mississippi's generosity for me as a seminarian was a huge piece of the puzzle that allowed me to finish seminary with no debt.

Those called to ministry in other parts of the world don't have anything like the same support, even as the cost to educate clergy is much lower there. Most of the 20 theological schools elsewhere around the globe have limited financial support and very little endowment if any at all.

Miracle Sunday is a one-time initiative to establish a permanent endowment that can help us ensure that clergy around the globe are better trained for the work of ministry. Your gift will help the UMC reach its goal to assist an additional 500 faithful disciples get the training that they need to be faithful pastors.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

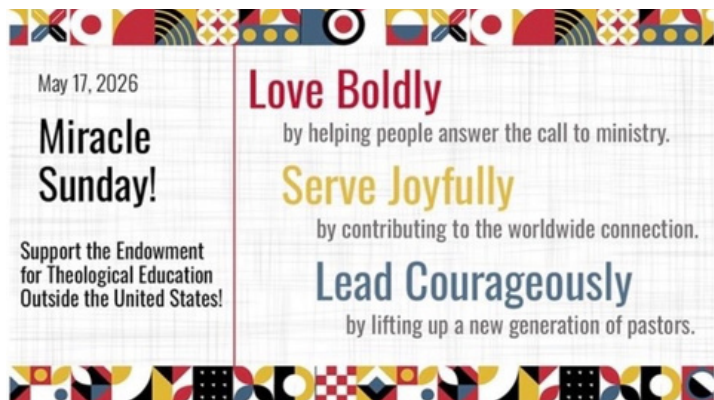
Angels in Aprons

May 5 - May 18 - Robin McCormick and Gale Griggs

May 19 - June 1 - Luann Purnell and Anna Dill

Judy Shirley Circle - The Judy Shirley will meet on Monday, May 18, in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Luann Purnell, Barbara Iles and Gracy Taylor. Gracy Taylor will present a summary of our book, *Twelve Ordinary Men*. This will be the last meeting until the fall.

No Newsletter Next Week - There will be no newsletter next week because Gail will be on vacation.



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.

CHURCH MEETINGS

May 5 @ 6:00pm - Personnel and Nominations

May 18 @ 4:30pm - CDC Board Meeting

May 26 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council



We are now accepting donations for our annual Rummage Sale, which is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8, in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have items you would like to donate, please call the church office to arrange a time for drop off. No clothing or shoes please!

All proceeds will go to missions.

*Let's join together
Helping The Harrells*



Samuel, Kailey, Levi, + Lucy

Thank you to all who are reaching out to help The Harrell Family during a time of critical recovery. They are truly overwhelmed by the outreach, prayers, and love they have received over these last few weeks. They are incredibly grateful for the shared strength that has carried them through the hardest parts of this journey.

If you are interested in helping them, we invite you to donate towards their medical fund we created to help ease additional stress. Following a series of unexpected events, they face mounting medical expenses, alongside the stress of Kailey's recovery and adjusting to a newborn. Any contributions will provide vital assistance, helping to cover medical costs and allowing the family to focus on what truly matters: their baby's health, Kailey's healing, and their new family of four. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and show that our community stands strong in times of need. We thank you for supporting Samuel, Kailey, Levi, and Lucy during their road to recovery.

Ways you can give:

- Deposit a check at Renasant Bank. Checks should be made payable to Samuel Harrell and must be labeled on the memo line: "Harrell Medical Fund." You can deposit it yourself or mail it to P.O. Box 1337 West Point, MS 39773, Attn: Tim Obrien.
- You can Venmo Kaileycharrell with the description "Harrell Medical Fund."
- If you would like to donate cash or in a special way, please contact Cady Livesay at 334-300-1766 to organize details.

*Please continue to cover
Samuel, Kailey, Levi, + Lucy in prayer*



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch went to the Pheba Diner on Friday, May 1. Everyone had a great time! It was such a treat to have Cindy Lott, a former church member join us. Cindy even brought dessert for us to sample. The group will take the month of June off, but they will resume their monthly lunches in July.

Senior Sunday

Save the Date!

Sunday, May 17

Senior recognition during the 11 a.m. service followed by a church-wide luncheon honoring Caston McKellar in the Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

May 3 - Helen Facella and Shannon Wallace

May 10 - Bill and Caroline 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

KIDS PLAY AND PICNIC

MAY 9, 2026, 10:00-12:00
KIDSTOWN

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS

- PLAY
- ICE CREAM
- LUNCH
- FELLOWSHIP



The Toolbox of Prayer

Prayer is a powerful tool that God has given us to communicate with Him. Jesus even taught us a special prayer, the Lord's Prayer, so that our communication with God would be most effective.

This week in Sunday school the children learned about Jesus teaching his disciples and others the Lord's Prayer. They used picture cards to practice learning the prayer. Then they built their own personal toolbox full of tools, each one representing a way that prayer is a tool for us to communicate with God.



A Busy Wednesday Night

The Fellowship Hall was bustling with activity last Wednesday night. Tammy prepared a delicious supper of chicken spaghetti, salad and dessert for all the small groups. Then the youth and children packed the last backpack meals for the 2025-2026 school year.



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 May 3, 2026

Sunday School.....	40
Worship Service.....	69
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	11
Total Worship	80

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:

Ted Berry
 Wayne Brand
 Joe Brownlee
 Edith Carlisle
 Pam Chambliss (Superior Services employee)
 Norma Cole
 Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
 Elsie Dixon
 Tims Dowdle - Jane Caston's brother
 Breann Duke
 Corre & Tommy Foster & Baby Ellis
 Kailey Harrell - Ben Harrell's wife
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
 Rusty Iles
 David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
 Curtis Lewellen (Lona Rosetti's father)
 Buddy McGee
 Lynda Mize
 Carole Higgins Morton
 Susie Purnell Randall
 Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 5:12, 18-21

SERMON

"The Lord's Supper:
The Paschal Mystery"

ANTHEM

"There In a Quiet Upper Room" - Mengel

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Jay Wood

STREAM TEAM: Jason McKellar

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

Family of Thomas Prisock (nephew of R. B. Davis)

