



MAY 19, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC  
West Point, Mississippi

# *The* Window

## A Note from the Pastor

Last week, I received an email from the chair of a committee (not at First UMC.) The subject of the email was "Reminder of Board Meeting Change." I skimmed the email. The first sentence read - "... we changed the board meeting to May 18<sup>th</sup> due to Memorial Day." So, on Monday, I drove to Starkville for the meeting. No one was there.

I pulled up the email on my phone. The second sentence of the email said, "At our April meeting, we again changed the date to June 1<sup>st</sup>." At least I made it home in time for supper, I guess?

One of the distinctive teachings of Methodism is an emphasis on what we call "Christian perfection." And it's rooted in some pretty clear, but often neglected, passages of scripture. Things like:

*You, therefore, must be perfect,  
as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

(Matthew 5:48 RSV)

Believing in Christian perfection doesn't mean that we're naive about the way world works. Humans aren't born perfect.

- We have limited understanding. Sometimes we get confused.
- We have disordered affections. Sometimes we love the wrong things. Sometimes we love good things in the wrong way.
- We have disordered wills. We don't always know what is right, Even when we do know, we don't always do it.

But by God's grace, we can be made perfect in love.

On this side of glory, we'll still have misunderstandings. I should have read that email more closely. It also could have been written a little more carefully. That kind of thing is unavoidable. We will always make mistakes. In that sense, we will never be perfect.

But by God's grace, we can learn to love the right things. We can learn to always do what we believe is the right thing. We can be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, which means our love is matched with joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, and self-control.

Sometimes we really beat ourselves up about honest mistakes or when our actions don't produce the effects that we hoped for. Those things are bound to happen. Where we should be really concerned are those places where our love has grown cold. Taking God's call to perfection seriously frees us to repent when we are wrong and to learn to love God and neighbor even as Jesus has loved us.

In Christ,  
Br. Chad

## Angels in Aprons

**May 19 - June 1** - Luann Purnell and Anna Dill

**June 2 - June 15** - Julie Gray and Lona Rosetti

**Wednesday Night Activities** - Wednesday, May 20, will be the last night for children and adult Wednesday night activities until the fall. The youth will continue to meet and have their meals in the Bryan Youth Center.

**Memorial Day Office Closure** - The office will be closed on Monday, May 24, for Memorial Day.

**Summer Office Hours** - The Personnel and Nominations Committee approved summer office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:30pm Monday - Thursday beginning Monday, June 1, through at least through July 31. Then we will reevaluate.

**Save the Date** - We will have a fish fry on Sunday, June 7, at 5:00pm at The Harrell Barn.. Contact Stacy if you can help with set up and clean up.

## Helping the Harrells

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*

## CHURCH MEETINGS

**May 26 @ 6:00pm** - Leadership Council

**June 15 @ 4:30pm** - CDC Board Meeting

**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.**

First United  
Methodist Church

# Vacation Bible School

## The Potter's Clay

Monday, June 8-Wednesday, June 10  
5:15 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Ages 3 years to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
Fellowship Hall  
Meal Provided



**For more information, call the church office at 662-494-1658**



## Congratulations to Jim and Ladonna!

On Friday, Jim and Ladonna Helveston will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. During these 50 years, they have welcomed two sons, a daughter-in-law and two lovely granddaughters. They have also been cherished members of our church family. We hope they have a wonderful day, and they will enjoy the many years to come.



### Celebrating Caston McKellar

Caston McKellar was honored on Sunday by the church. He was recognized in the morning worship service and was presented a Bible from the Judy Shirley Circle. After the service a luncheon was held in his honor in the Fellowship Hall. We are so proud of Caston and all of his accomplishments!



### The Importance of Mothers

As Jesus was being crucified on the cross, he ordered his brother James to take care of his mother Mary. In another place in the Bible, Jesus as a boy of 12 is described as respecting his mother and his father. On Mother's Day, in the Sunday school class, the children created gifts to honor their mothers. They colored and decorated a wooden trophy for a "Best Mother" award and a framed card with flowers made from their handprints.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

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

**June 7** - Linda Drake  
and Shannon Wallace

### A Night of Fellowship and Learning

The children had special activities on Wednesday night. Gracy Taylor helped the mothers and daughters create special beaded necklaces. At the same time, Art Shirley introduced the boys to the streaming system that he uses on Sunday mornings. Thank you, Gracy and Art, for enriching the lives of our children.





# 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 4/30/2026

Total revenue received in Apr.	\$26,429.55
Total expenses in Apr.	(\$34,652.73)
Year to date revenue	\$134,620.38
Year to date expenses	(\$150,018.37)

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

## ATTENDANCE May 17, 2026

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	95
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	10
Total Worship .....	105

## 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)

## Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

11:00 AM

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-13

## SERMON

"The Lord's Supper:  
Holy Communion"

## ANTHEM

"Holy Spirit, Live in Me" - arr. Schrader

**SOUND TECH:** Mike Gammill

**LAY READER:** Julie Gray

**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.

