



JUNE 23, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Pastor

Be joyful always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances.

For this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire. Do not treat prophecies with contempt.

Test everything. Hold on to the good.

Avoid every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

*May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ.*

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)

One thing that constantly disorients me when I read the letters in the New Testament is the way that commands (Be joyful! Pray! Give thanks! Test! Hold on!) get mixed up with promises (He will do it!).

In his book *What's Wrong with the World*, G.K. Chesterton insists, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it's been found difficult and left untried." Chesterton isn't saying that no one has really tried Christianity. He's saying that many who have rejected the faith have done so not because it is unbelievable, but because they don't think that anything worth believing would be so difficult.

When I read commands like these from the conclusion of 1 Thessalonians, I'd rather read them as questions. Be joyful... always? Pray... continually? Give thanks... in all circumstances? Avoid evil... every kind? It all sounds too hard. It might be easier not to try. God can't really expect so much of us... can he?

My hesitancy is evidence of my weak faith. Do I really trust that God can sanctify me "through and through?" Can he really make me blameless in spirit, soul and body?" The text anticipates all of my questions and offers answer: He's faithful. **He. will. do. it.**

At First UMC, we're striving to be the kind of Christians that take the commands **and** the promises of scripture seriously. Without the promises, the commands will drown us. Without the commands, we're almost guaranteed to settle for a feeble, diluted version of the promises. Held together, they start to look like the Gospel.

Read the passage above again. God actually expects it. **He** will do it. We should believe God on both counts.

All other ground is sinking sand,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

June 16 - June 29 - Stacy Hays and Amy Buckley

June 30 - July 13 - Shannon and Lannie Wallace

Lake Junaluska Youth Trip – The youth will be attending a camp with M28 Ministries from July 7 – July 10 at Lake Junaluska. Please be in prayer for these youth and adults: Eli McKellar, John Marlin Stewart, Hayden Wallace, Levi Rose, Jon Burris, Galen Walter and Chad Bowen

Save the Date – Please mark your calendars for a special Wednesday night meal on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30. During this time we will introduce our new youth minister Ken Pickens to the congregation. We are so excited to welcome Ken to our church staff.



Happy Birthday, Kay Powell!

We want to wish Kay Powell a happy birthday. She will be 96 years old on Saturday, June 27. Happy birthday, Kay!

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, Aug 8
Fellowship Hall



We are collecting individually wrapped snacks for the youth to have on the van for their trip to Lake Junaluska in July. Small bags of chips and cookies, as well as packages of cheese and crackers and other goodies would be appreciated.

You may leave your donations in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall or in Stacy's office.

Join us for our Wednesday morning Bible Study: The Way of Salvation.

Explore the Word. Reflect with purpose.



**JUNE 24-JULY 29
11 A.M.**

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP CLASSROOM

*Bring your heart, your Bible, and your pen;
let's grow together in faith.*



CHURCH MEETINGS

June 23 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council

June 30 @ 10:00am - Worship Committee

July 13 @ 4:30pm - Student Ministry Meeting

July 20 @ 4:30pm - CDC Board Meeting

Make plans now for our Mission Trip to EL SALVADOR!



March 6-13, 2027
\$750 per person
\$100 deposit due
September 1, 2026
Remaining balance due
December 31, 2026

We will stay at the Methodist Mission and projects will include church construction, food distribution and Vacation Bible School.

Contact Stacy, Julie or Chad for more information.



Help us stock up on supplies for our CDC!

Find the wish list at

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2CV7CB4NQZCPG?ref=wl_share

Please click this link to go to the wishlist.

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CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

June 21 - Kristen and Kathryn Williams
and Shannon Wallace

June 28 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart
and Shannon Wallace

YOUTH HOSTS FOR JUNE

June 17 - Nita Wyman, Anna Dill and
Elizabeth Bailey

June 24 - Mary Carr Ecklund and Betsy
McGlohn



The Disciples' Third Encounter with Jesus

In John, Chapter 21, the disciples have their third encounter with Jesus after the resurrection. They have gone fishing and, as morning arrives, they see a figure on the beach. It is Jesus. He said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Jesus had fixed a beach breakfast of bread and fish for the disciples. In Sunday School class, the children made beach sandboxes with colored sand and seashells. They adorned the top of the boxes with a wood fire, bread and fish, emulating Jesus' beach breakfast. Thank you, Helen Facella, for teaching our children.



Busy Times at the CDC

The CDC has been busy lately with special activities. They hosted Muffins for Mom in May and Donuts for Dad in June. They have been making cookie and engaging in STEM learning activities.



Brother Chad at the Farmer's Market

Do you have knives that will not cut because they are dull? Well, we have a solution for you. Brother Chad is sharpening knives each week at the Farmer's Market for \$5.00 each. All proceeds will go to our mission trip. Please round up your dull knives and make your way to to Farmer's Market each Thursday from 4:00 pm - 6:00pm at the Mossy Oak Outlet Pavilion.



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
Jon Burris, Youth Intern
Galen Walter, Youth Intern
Ron Crawford, Custodian
Kenya Lee, CDC Director, 494-6811

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 5/31/2026

Total revenue received in May	\$34,991.58
Total expenses in May.	(\$33,827.26)
Year to date revenue	\$169,611.96
Year to date expenses	(\$183,845.63)

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

ATTENDANCE June 21, 2026

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	91
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	7
Total Worship	98

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
Donna Cook
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:

Ted Berry
Wayne Brand
Joe Brownlee
Edith Carlisle
Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
Cora Chandler
Elsie Dixon
Tina Doster
Tims Dowdle - Jane Caston's brother
Corre & Tommy Foster & Baby Ellis
Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)
AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
Rusty Iles
David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
Bonnie Miller (Gail Foote's friend)
Lynda Mize
Carole Higgins Morton
Vickie Ogle (James Gammill's mother-in law)
Susie Purnell Randall
Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:15-23

SERMON

"Baptism: Grace You Can't Earn"

ANTHEM

"Sinner Saved by Grace" - arr. Mauldin

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Barbara Iles

STREAM TEAM: Andy Gray

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.



Pot Throwing with Critz at VBS