



JULY 14, 2026

**The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi**

The **Window**

A Note from the Pastor

'Again, you have heard that it was said to the men of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes," or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.

Matthew 5:33-37

Jesus seems deeply interested in his followers telling the truth.

In this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, he seems to be opposed to telling oaths for two reasons. First, no human is the rightful owner of anything on which they would swear. It's all the Lord's. Even our hair belongs to the Lord. (More of mine seems to be white each time I go the barber, and I have no say in the matter.)

But, there seems to be something else behind Jesus' command not to swear at all: you shouldn't need to. A "Yes," or a "No," should be reliable enough. If you tell the truth, there's no need to double down for extra credibility. If you need to pinky promise, it's because you aren't trusted.

We live in a world that seems less and less interested in the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. People will rant online about things they know little about. News sources will tell half the story to cater to their audience and shore up the the bottom line. Others will rabidly share other's half-truths and full-fabrications. And Christians get sucked into it too.

Jesus doesn't just care about the truthfulness of his followers. He *is* the truth. And if we're going effectively witness to him, our word has got to be reliable. We've got to tell the truth... the whole truth... whether it makes us look good or bad. That's where we'll find freedom. That's where our light can shine brightly in a world made hazy by misinformation and out-and-out lies. May all of our words be as trustworthy as a simple "Yes," or "No."

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

July 14 - July 27 - Dee Echols and Stacy Hays

Get Your Knives Sharpened! - Brother Chad is sharpening knives for \$5.00 each at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays from 4:00 pm - 6:00pm at the Mossy Oak Outlet Pavilion. All proceeds will go toward the mission trip to El Salvador.

QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2nd Quarter Contribution statements will be emailed this week. Please watch for an email from fumc@fumcwestpoint.com. If we do not have an email on file for you, you will receive your statement in the mail. If you have questions about your statement, please contact Julie.



RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, Aug. 8

First United Methodist Church
612 E. Broad Street, West Point

7a.m.-Noon

All proceeds go toward our Mission Trip in March.

Furniture, books, baby items, bedding, cookware, holiday decorations and more!

CHURCH MEETINGS

July 20 @ 4:30pm - CDC Board Meeting

July 28 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council



TO THE NATIONS
Declare His Glory

MATTHEW 28:19

Join us for a Mission Trip to El Salvador
March 6-March 13, 2027
\$750 per person
\$100 deposit per person due Sept. 1
Remaining balance due Dec. 31

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



Join us for a bbq
supper to introduce
our new youth director,
Ken Pickens

Wednesday, July 15

5:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

BBQ, BAKED BEANS, POTATO
SALAD, CHIPS AND DESSERT
WILL BE SERVED



Welcome, Dr. Ken Pickens

We are so thrilled to welcome our new youth minister Ken Pickens. Ken has been with the West Point School District for many years. He has been a math teacher, a defensive football coach, and principal at WPHS. He is now the West Point Schools Assistant Superintendent of Operations and is also an adjunct professor in educational leadership at Mississippi State University. Ken is a lifelong Methodist, and he was recently appointed as the new minister for Grace United Methodist Church in Columbus, MS.



Lighthouse Kids to the Mississippi Children's Museum

On Friday, July 10, the Lighthouse Kids traveled to the Mississippi Children's Museum in Meridian. The group of ten children and four adults had a wonderful time playing together and fellowshiping. The children played on slides, climbed jungle gums, put on a play in the theatre, served the adults in the restaurant, played with trains and water, and much more. They ate lunch beside the museum at Carver's Deli and then played more before coming home. We are so grateful for our Lighthouse Kids and for all the adults who drove and chaperoned to make this trip possible. Their next outing will be on the July 31st to the indoor playground Kidz-n-Play in Columbus.



Learning about the Senses in the CDC

The students in Preschool II have been learning about the senses. To help them understand the sense of touch, they created puppets that they can feel and manipulate.



Learning about Pentecost

The children learned about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit in Sunday School this week. To understand the Holy Spirit and how it works, the Bible compares it to things with which we are familiar. The children did an experiment with making a whirlwind in a bottle because the Holy Spirit is a storm bringing water that cleanses us, refreshes us, and quenches our spiritual thirst. They lit candles because the Holy Spirit is like a tongue of fire that rests on us and in us to give us warmth and strengthens our belief in God. They also made pinwheels to twirl with a fan because the Holy Spirit is like the wind, invisible and powerful, sustaining spiritual life and moving freely to transform our lives. Jessi Sugg taught the lesson, and she and some of the children explained what they had learned during the Children's Moments during the Sunday morning service. Thank you so much, Jessi, for teaching our children.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

July 5 -Gail Foote and Dee Echols

July 12 - Greg and Jessi Sugg

July 19 - Bill and Caroline Atkins

July 26 - Linda Drake
and Shannon Wallace

YOUTH HOSTS FOR JULY

July 1 - Barbara Iles and Gail Foote and
Betty Fulgham

July 22 - Amy Buckley and Stacy Hays

July 29 - Gracy Taylor and Lucy McKellar



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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 6/30/2026

Total revenue received in June	\$35,944.75
Total expenses in May.	(\$52,425.66)
Year to date revenue	\$205,556.71
Year to date expenses	(\$236,271.29)

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

ATTENDANCE July 12, 2026

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	83
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	16
Total Worship	99

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
 Gale Griggs
 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
 Mickey Burgess
 Edith Carlisle
 Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)
 Cora Chandler
 Janice Davis
 Elsie Dixon
 Tina Doster
 Corre & Tommy Foster & Baby Ellis
 Patsy Harrington (Bro. Chad's grandmother)
 AnnaBeth Harrison (former children/youth director)
 Rusty Iles
 Evan Johnson (Vic Johnson's brother)
 David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
 Lynda Mize
 Carole Higgins Morton
 Vickie Ogle (James Gammill's mother-in law)
 Sid Parker (Beth Raines' brother)
 Susie Purnell Randall
 Becky Rackley (Laura Stewart's aunt)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ruth 1:1-13

SERMON

"Baptism: A New Story"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Redeemed" - Weaver and Cowart

Rachel Wood, soloist

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Jay Wood

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.

Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother) Harold
 Gene Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)
 Ronald Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)
 Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)
 Sheila Wood

Family of Norma Morrison Cole