



JULY 28, 2026

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

The **Window**

A Note from the Pastor

The start of the school year always arrives with its own energy. There's the frenetic acquisition of everything on the school supply list. (At least everything except that one thing that's on the list, but no store in a three county radius seems to have for sale). There's the stress over new teachers and classmates. The anxiety that settles in before the first day of new rhythms. The joy of seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

The irony of education these days is that what we test students on is only a tiny sliver of what they need to learn in school. Certainly they need to learn their reading, writing, and arithmetic. They need some baseline knowledge in history and science, art and geography.

But knowing that Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492 only gets you so far. What we really want from education is well formed adults. We hope that graduates become good citizens, friends, and employees. That their virtues lead them to be described as servant hearted; life-long learners; hard working; virtuous; considerate; discerning; thoughtful; kind and compassionate; peacemakers; generous.

As you pray for everyone who is headed back to school over the next few days, I hope that you'll pray that God would give students, teachers, administrators, and everyone else the grace that they need to meet every moment with the wisdom, perseverance, patience, and love that is needed. And that, through the love and support of our educators, that students might discover their God-given abilities, their God-given dignity, and their God-given strength to persevere through every challenge.

If you're headed back to school, bring your backpack Sunday so that we can pray God's grace over you.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

July 28 - August 10 - Barbara Iles and Holly Hitt

Wednesday Activities - There WILL BE Wednesday Bible Study or Holy Communion this Wednesday, July 29.

Lighthouse Kids - The Lighthouse Kids will eat lunch at Chick-fil-a and then travel to Kidz-N-Play indoor playground on Friday, July 31, from 10:30am until 2:30pm.

Confirmation Luncheon - There is a signup sheet for needed food items for the August 16th confirmation luncheon in the back of the sanctuary.

Save the Dates - Please place the following events on your calendars for August.

August 2 - Blessing of the Backpacks/School Supply Drive begins

August 5 - Special Night for Children and Youth Children will travel to the Helvestons', and youth and parents will go to the Wallaces'.

August 8 - Rummage Sale - 7:00am until noon

August 12 - Regular Wednesday Night Activities Begin

August 16 - Confirmation and Confirmation Lunch

August 30 - Fish Fry - 5:00pm @ The Harrell Barn

CHURCH MEETINGS

July 28 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council

August 17 @ 4:30pm - CDC Board Meeting

RUMMAGE SALE



We will accept items for the rummage sale thru July 31. Please bring items to the Fellowship Hall and leave at the table by the door. We will place items in the proper place.

Communion Offering for August: Contact Helpline

The mission of Contact Helpline is to provide both telephone crisis intervention and be an initial point of contact to the entire range of available community resources. Contact Helpline is also committed to providing daily calls to the elderly or senior citizens who live alone in the following counties: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston,

662-328-0200



School Is Back in Session!

Our Backpack Ministry for the 2026-2027 school year has begun! Each month, volunteers pack 240 bags of food to be distributed at South Side and Church Hill (our Bright Horizons partners) to children who may need extra food over the weekend. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this special outreach project a success each year.

Our School Supply Drive begins Sunday, Aug. 2!

Items collected will be used for the Blessing Box

You may leave your supplies in the cart outside the Fellowship Hall or at the drop off location at the back of the sanctuary.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING
THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL
YEAR ARE ASKED TO BRING
THEIR BACKPACKS
TO CHURCH THAT MORNING
TO BE BLESSED.



CHILDREN'S AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

August 2 - Linda Drake
and Shannon Wallace

August 9 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart
and Tony and Lona Rosetti

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



Fun in Infant B in the CDC

The children in Infant B love books, flashcards and blocks. Their teachers are doing a great job of keep them engaged.

In this picture the children are totally involved in playing with blocks, and their teachers also say that they are constantly looking for new age-appropriate books for these children.



The Children Learn about Faith in God

For the next several weeks the children will be learning about faith in God through a study of Old Testament people of faith. This first lesson was on the faith of Abraham and Sarah. The children made a layered picture of a starry sky, reflecting God's promise to make Abraham and Sarah's descendants more abundant than the stars in the sky. Then they packed a backpack and traveled with them to a new promised land. Finally they played a game about all the times Abraham and Sarah put their faith in God. We want to thank Art and Becky Shirley for teaching on Sunday.



What a Wonderful Wednesday Night at Youth!

Ken Pickens met with the youth on Wednesday night, and it was a great beginning. He wants to grow the youth program, and he also wants to get them more involved in the community and in small mission projects.

Lannie and Shannon Wallace will host the youth on Wednesday, August 5th, for a back to school swim party. All youth and their parents are encouraged to attend. Please meet at the church at 5:30pm.



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

Rev. Dr. Ken Pickens - Youth Minister

Galen Walter, Youth Intern

Ron Crawford, Custodian

Kenya Lee, CDC Director, 494-6811

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 7/30/2026

Total revenue received in July \$35,944.75

Total expenses in July (\$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 26, 2026

Sunday School.....37

Worship Service.....63

Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....12

Total Worship75

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:11-20

SERMON

"Baptism: Mission Critical"

ANTHEM

"Peace Like a River with Amazing Grace"

arr. Raney

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Dee Echols

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.

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)

Evelyn Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)

Harold Gene Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)

Ronald Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)

Scott Trull

Jeana Whitacre

Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' mother)

Sheila Wood

Family of Byron Acker

Family of Brucie Lyon