



AUGUST 11, 2026

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

The **Window**

An Invitation to Wednesday Bible Study.

One of the most formative experiences of my growth as a Christian was attending a Bible Study led by Pastor John Ward. Pastor Ward was not a Methodist; he was a fundamentalist. And he loved scripture.

Every Monday night, he would lead a two-hour (two hours!) Bible Study at his home for high school and college students. He would sit in his rocking chair with his Bible in English in front of him and one in Greek just beyond that so that he could re-translate anything that he thought needed a little more clarity.

In about four years of Bible Study with Pastor Ward, we barely made it through the book of Hebrews (13 chapters) and the three letters of John (7 chapters). I knew, somewhere in my gut, that I didn't always read scripture the same way that Pastor John did. But I deeply admired his love of God's word and his commitment to study and teach it.

So, when I started looking at colleges, one of the requirements was that they have an ancient Greek language program so that I could learn to read the Greek text for myself. And so continued my lifelong quest to learn to read Scripture well.

Over time, my studies led me to put my finger on one of the tensions that I felt between my own faith and Pastor Ward's. He would insist that Scripture's meaning was manifestly clear. But if it was so clear, why did he and I feel so much urgency to study so extensively in order to understand it? And after all of that, why didn't we agree?

I have never doubted Pastor Ward's sincere faith. But I do think some of his ways of reading scripture are flawed. I suspect you've felt these tensions yourself. People whose faith you admire – maybe people whose faith has deeply shaped yours – who disagree with you about weighty matters. But how should we read it?

It's my hope that talking about the Bible – where it came from, what sorts of things are inside it, and how we should read it – will provide some framework for you to read scripture yourself and to be a discerning listener when you listen to others (including me!) preach and teach.

What do you need to know to read the Bible? What practices make for faithful biblical interpretation? Who should be your conversation partners as you read? We'll take up these questions and others as we embark on "Bible Study" together. I hope you'll join at 11am or 6pm on Wednesdays.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

August 11 - August 24 - Jane Caston and Jason McKellar

Wednesday Bible Study - Brother Chad will begin a new Bible study on Wednesday, August 11, at 11:00 am and 6:00pm. The study will focus on different topics concerning the *Bible* such as: What is it? How did it come to be? How should we read it? Everyone is welcome.

Holy Baptism - On Saturday, August 15, at 6:30 pm, we will baptize one of our confirmands (Maddie Myers) at a beautiful lake near the Barton Ferry boat ramp. Everyone who would like to come is invited. Bring a lawn chair, some bug spray, and wear some comfortable shoes. Drive east down Yokohama Blvd/Barton Ferry Rd. Not far past Darracott Rd., there will be a sign directing you to turn right. Follow the gravel drive up to the lake.

School Supply Drive - Our annual school supply drive for our Blessing Box began on August 2nd. Place your donations in the box in the back of the sanctuary or purchase from Amazon and have the items sent to the church.

Mission Trip - Join us for a mission trip to El Salvador on March 6-13, 2027. The price is \$750 per person. A deposit of \$100.00 will be due on September 1 with the remaining balance due on December 31, 2026. The group will stay at the Methodist Mission, and projects will include church construction, food distribution and Vacation Bible School. Contact Julie, Stacy or Chad for more information.



Fish Fry

Join us!
Sunday, August 30
Harrell Barn
5 PM



SAVE THE DATES

August 12 - Regular Wednesday Night Activities
Begin

Meal : Begins at 5:15

Programming (Youth Fellowship, Lighthouse Kids,
Bible Study) - Begins at 6:00

August 16 - Confirmation and Confirmation Lunch

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

AUGUST CHURCH MEETINGS

August 17 @ 4:30pm - CDC Board Meeting

August 25 @ 6:00pm - Leadership Council





Our Rummage Sale Was a Success!

We want to thank the numerous people who helped make our rummage sale a success. We especially want to thank Julie Gray, Stacy Hays and Ron Crawford. Julie and Stacy organized all the details and volunteers, and Ron helped in so many ways. Without these three individuals and all the volunteers, the rummage sale would not have been a success. We also want to thank Mary Carr and Bob Ecklund for the sign that they made and to everyone who donated items for the sale. The remaining items will either be kept for next year or donated to Palmer Home and the Christian Women's Job Corps.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER HOSTS FOR AUGUST

August 12 - Jane Caston and Holly Hitt

August 19 - Susan and Vic Johnson

August 26 - Beth Raines and Jane Caston

CHILDREN'S AUGUST SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

August 2 - Linda Drake
and Shannon Wallace

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

August 16 - Gail Foote
Mark and Suzanne Bean

August 23 - Erin and Janae Robinson
and Lucy McKellar

August 30 - Helen Facella
and Lynn Purnell



Swim Parties

The children and youth had back to school swim parties to kick off the new school year. We want to thank Jim and Ladonna Helveston for hosting the children and Lannie and Shannon Wallace for hosting the youth. Everyone had a great time! The regular activities for the children and youth will begin this Wednesday, August 13, with a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.



The Children Continue to Learn about Faith in God by Studying Moses

For several Sundays the children have been learning about faith through the study of Old Testament people of faith. This week's lesson focused on the faith of Moses, in particular his trust in God that He would deliver the people of Israel from the Pharaoh of Egypt. The younger children created a poster showing the ten plagues that God visited upon Egypt to get the Pharaoh to release the Hebrew people. They glued plastic frogs, flies, locusts, cows, horses, hail, and other items to the poster to represent the various plagues.



First United Methodist Church

WEST POINT

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Chad Bowen, Pastor, 494-5133
 Rev. Dr. Ken Pickens - Pastor to Youth
 Rachel Wood, Music Ministries, 494-2198
 Stacy Hays, Family Ministries, 494-2198
 Julie Gray, Financial Secretary, 494-1658
 Gail Foote, Office Manager, 494-1658
 Seth Matlock, 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 June	(\$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 August 9, 2026

Sunday School.....	61
Worship Service.....	102
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	15
Total Worship	117

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

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

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

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
 Sid Parker (Beth Raines' brother)
 Susie Purnell Randall
 Becky Rackley (Laura Stewart's aunt)

Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost and Confirmation

August 16, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Judges 21:25

SERMON

"Samuel in Context:
There Was NO King in Israel"

ANTHEM

"Ride On, King Jesus" - arr. Kern

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Gracy Taylor

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.

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 Brucie Lyon
 Family of Vickie Ogle (James Gammill's
 mother-in law)