



SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Things were going well on Sunday morning. I was eager for the last week of Camp Meeting. Some good old hymns and no need to wear a robe in the midst of the heat. I put on my nearly white khakis (that I'm never sure if they're **quite** khaki enough to wear after Labor Day), made myself a cup of coffee, and headed to the church.

The travel coffee cup at hand was a giant, golden-yellow tumbler with the Gadsden Flag on it. The Gadsden Flag is the yellow flag with a rattlesnake on it that says "Don't Tread on Me." It emerged in the Revolutionary War as a part of the U.S.'s rebellion against the oppressive practices of the King George III. In more recent years, it's been adopted as a sign of resistance by political factions again, making its meaning a little hard to pin down.

It's not a cup I would ever buy myself. But I find some delight in its irony.

The cup came into my possession because it was left at the church by a man who needed help. He had gotten stranded in West Point. After he worshipped with us one Sunday morning, we helped him get a bus ticket home. This symbol of defiant independence had been left behind by a man who needed some grace. After about a month of the cup sitting in the church kitchen, I washed it and began to use it. Despite its intended message, the cup is, for me, a reminder that all of us need some help from time to time.

But I usually only get it out around people who know its story. Sunday, I decided that I should probably pour my coffee into a different cup before I came out to the Fellowship Hall to visit with people before Sunday School.

The top of the cup came off awkwardly and spilled coffee all over my nearly white khakis. If it hadn't been camp meeting, I could have just stayed in my office until I was ready to put on my robe and no one would have been any the wiser. Instead, I had to go home and change my pants.

But did I **really** have to go home and change my pants? In looking back, part of me wonders if it might have been a better witness for the preacher to come to the last week of Camp Meeting month exactly as I was: in coffee stained summer khakis, carrying a bright yellow coffee mug that publicly insists on my self-reliance and more quietly serves as a reminder that we all need a little help from time to time.

May you know God's grace that meets you right where you are today, no matter what mess you've made for yourself.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Aug. 25 - Sept. 7 - Dee Berry and Elizabeth Bailey

Sept. 8 - Sept. 21 - Becky Shirley and LaDonna Helveston

Wednesday Bible Study - Brother Chad teaches a Bible study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The study focuses 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.

Courtyard Clean-up - A group is organizing to do some landscaping maintenance around the church. If you'd like to help prune, weed, or plant contact Vic Johnson.

Mums for Missions - Order your Mums by September 27. A one gallon is \$10 and a three gallon is \$20. Yellow, bronze, white, red and lavender are the colors available. Contact the church office to place your order. Mums will be available for pick up on Wednesday, October 14, at the Bryan Youth Center. The pickup time will be announced later. Proceeds will support the mission trip to El Salvador.

Church Office Closed and No Newsletter - The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, due to Labor Day. There will also be no newsletter on Tuesday, September 8.

CHURCH MEETINGS

September 3 @ 5:30 p.m. - Personnel and Nominations

September 21 @ 4:30 p.m. - CDC Board Meeting

September 22 @ 6:00 p.m. - Leadership Council



FISH FRY

Due to the heat, we are rescheduling the fish fry.

Please join us
**Wednesday,
Sept. 16 at
5:15 pm in the
Fellowship Hall for
fried catfish, French
fries, hush puppies,
slaw and dessert.**



A sign up sheet for desserts is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Backpack Snacks

We had a great group of people who packed 240 backpack snacks for children at Church Hill and Southside who need extra food over the weekend. Thanks to Anna Dill, JeriLynn Patriquin, Barbara Iles, Lona Rosetti, Julie Gray, Becky Shirley and Ron Crawford for their dedication to this project. If you are interested in participating in this important ministry, please contact Stacy.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER HOSTS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 2 - Jane Caston, Becky Landin and
Barbara Iles

September 9 - Lannie and Shannon Wallace

CHILDREN'S SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

September 6 - Bill and Caroline Harrell
and Gail Foote and Dee Echols

September 13 - Linda Drake
and Shannon Wallace



Please Join Us on Wednesday Night

Please join us for our Wednesday night supper. This Wednesday Tammy Walters is preparing a delicious meal of chicken in a creamy sauce, yellow rice, lima beans, salad, rolls and dessert.

All ages are welcome, and there are activities for everyone. Last Wednesday 46 people braved the stormy weather to join us. Supper begins at 5:15, and then at 6:00 the adults move to the Bible Study Class with Bro. Chad, youth go to the Bryan Youth Center with Ken, younger children meet with Rachel and Jessi Sugg will teach the older children. We hope to see you this Wednesday night.

We want to thank all our helpers from last Wednesday night who prepared, set up, served and cleaned up from the meal. Thank you, Tammy Walters, Ladonna Helveston, Becky Landin, Barbara Iles, Jay Wood and Gloria Bunnell. Vic and Susan Johnson also helped the week before. It takes a village to carry out events in our church, and we appreciate everyone who helps!!!



Working Together

In the early church, not unlike our church today, there were many jobs to do. Those church members learned that, to get everything done, they had to work together. In Sunday school, the children engaged in several activities that required them to work together to accomplish a goal. They also learned to see themselves in the "mirror" as a disciple of God to do His work here on earth.



Fun Friday in the CDC

Donna Cook, Dee Berry, Robin McCormick and Barbara Iles prepared a wonderful selection of treats for the CDC staff last week. Thank you, ladies, for supporting this ministry in our church.



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 7/31/2026

Total revenue received in July \$26,556.04

Total expenses in July (\$43,021.41)

Year to date revenue \$232,112.75

Year to date expenses (\$279,292.70)

More detailed financial information is available here:

<https://fumcwestpoint.com/monthly-financial-summary/>

ATTENDANCE August 30, 2026

Sunday School.....49

Worship Service.....76

Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....16

Total Worship92

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

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 Wood

Our Family and Friends:

Sara Kate Algood (Donna Cook's daughter)

Ted Berry

Wayne Brand

Joe Brownlee

Mickey Burgess

Edith Carlisle

Caryl Currier (Gloria Bunnell's sister)

Cora Chandler

Janice Davis

Elsie Dixon

Tina Doster

Danny Foote

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)

Chuck Lavender (Gracy Taylor's brother)

Lynda Mize

Carole Higgins Morton

Sid Parker (Beth Raines' brother)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 2:12-17

SERMON

"Samuel: Scoundrels for Priests"

ANTHEM

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" - arr. Wood

Rachel Wood, soloist

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray

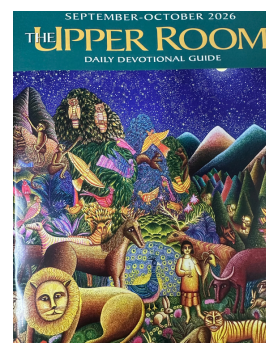
LAY READER: Gloria Bunnell

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.



New Upper Rooms

The new *Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides* are in. They are located on a table at the back of the sanctuary and on the table as you enter the church. Please take one. We want them to be used.