



SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

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

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

(1 Corinthians 9:24-26)

My calendar and my thermometer say it's still summer for a few more days. But you and I know better because fall starts when football does.

We've come into the season where the discussion of wins and losses is central to every conversation, where the love-to-hate-you spirit of rivalries drive some friendships and test others.

The work that makes those wins and losses possible is really staggering: two-a-day practices; nutrition regimens; tired muscles; sore bruises; scorching heat; and studying the playbook and film when you aren't on the field.

In ancient Greece, winners were given olive wreaths at the Olympics. Competitors did all that work for a wreath that would dry out in a couple of weeks. Today, athletes invest so much for rings that will be rarely worn and for trophies whose sheen will likely fade over time. Andy Roddick made the news a while back for throwing away nearly all of his tennis trophies. His wife was out of town. When she got back, she was surprised they were all gone. He explained, "They don't mean success to me. They don't define me. I don't care to have these material things around the house." All the effort for stuff that doesn't last.

I suspect that every week in football season, there are folks who are in church most Sundays who do and say things that aren't honoring to Christ. And I think, mostly, it's because they've forgotten that all the glory available on the football field is temporary.

If athletes are willing to work so hard for temporary glory, what lengths should we be willing to go so that we and others can wear an eternal crown? What are you training for? What are you racing for?

I pray it is the things that last.

In Christ,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

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

Sept. 22 - Oct. 5 - JoAn Tedford and Barbara Bryan

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.

Judy Shirley Circle - The Judy Shirley Circle will resume next Monday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a lesson, business meeting and potluck. We will not have hostesses at this meeting. Just bring whatever finger food, snacks, etc. you would like. All women of the church are welcome.

Life Line Screening - Life Line Screening will be in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 5, to screen for chronic diseases such as atherosclerosis, peripheral arterial disease, or other vascular conditions. Pre-registration is required.

CHURCH MEETINGS

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

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

October 25 @ 3:30 p.m. - Charge Conference



MUMS FOR MISSIONS

1 gallon for \$10 and 3 gallon for \$20.

Yellow, white, bronze, red and lavender available.

Deadline to order is Sunday, Sept. 27. Pickup will be Wednesday, Oct 14. at the Bryan Youth Center. Time for pickup will be announced later. Proceeds will go toward our mission trip to El Salvador
Call the church office at 662-494-1658 to place your order.



SEPTEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER HOSTS

September 2 - Jane Caston, Becky Landin and Barbara Iles

September 9 - Lannie and Shannon Wallace

September 16 - Revive Members

September 23 - Jason and Lucy McKellar



Caroline Harrell Turns 89!

Caroline Harrell turned 89 on September 5. She celebrated with all of her family including her seven children. We hope she had a wonderful day, and we wish her many more birthdays.

CHILDREN'S SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

September 6 - Caroline Harrell
and Gail Foote and Dee Echols

September 13 - Linda Drake

September 20 - Erin and Janae Robinson
and Mark and Suzanne Bean



Wednesday Nights Are for Everyone!!!

Everything is happening on Wednesday nights! Church members are sharing a meal together, Brother Chad is conducting Bible study, the youth are focusing on the book of Matthew, the youngest children are learning about the Tower of Babel and the older ones are participating in activities which demonstrate how to include others who don't fit in. We want to thank Tammy Walters for preparing a delicious meal and Lannie and Shannon Wallace for hosting the meal.

Come and be a part of the action each Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. This Wednesday we will have the fish fry and a mid-week worship service.



Studying Lydia Using all the Senses

Successful learning engages all the senses. The lesson for both Sunday School classes on September 6 was about Lydia, a Philippian woman, who was a dealer in purple cloth. The children learned how she became a believer in Jesus Christ after hearing Paul preach. They **heard** the story, **saw** a video about it and pictures of Lydia, **smelled** the odor of sea snails used in making purple dye, and **touched** an actual sea snail shell. The lesson culminated with the children receiving an envelope of purple cloth in which they placed a "letter" about Lydia. We want to thank teachers Gail Foote, Dee Echols and Caroline Atkins .



Grandparents Day in the CDC

A wonderful group of grandparents came to eat breakfast with their grandchildren last week. They enjoyed sausage and biscuits, fruit, juice and fellowship during this event.



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 8/31/2026

Total revenue received in August \$46,584.93
 Total expenses in August (\$42,736.56)
 Year to date revenue \$278,697.68
 Year to date expenses (\$322,029.26)

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Ben Rosenkrans - NMMC WP

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

Dugan

Deb McGaughey

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
 Micki Dowdle (Jane Caston's niece)
 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)
 Bruce King
 Chuck Lavender (Gracy Taylor's brother)
 Lynda Mize

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-11

SERMON

"Samuel: The Call of a Prophet"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Wayfaring Stranger" - Traditional Folk Song
 Gary Echols, soloist

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Elizabeth Bailey

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.

ATTENDANCE September 13, 2026

Sunday School.....41
 Worship Service.....66
 Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....12
 Total Worship78

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



Traceway

Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Carole Higgins Morton
 Sid Parker (Beth Raines' brother)
 Susie Purnell Randall
 Becky Rackley (Laura Stewart's aunt)
 Harold Gene Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)
 Ronald Tedford (Jimmy Tedford's brother)
 Scott Trull
 Jeana Whitacre
 Jim & Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' parents)
 Sheila Wood

Family of Evelyn Vernon Smith (Amy Buckley's mother)

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.

