



SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

In Matthew 21:33-46, Jesus tells a parable about a vineyard owner.

The owner planted the vineyard, fenced it, made a place to press the grapes to get their juice, and built a tower so that it could be guarded. Then he leased it out. He set them everything they needed to make wine.

When the servants of the owner came to collect rent, the tenants didn't want to pay so they killed the servants. They did the same with another envoy of servants. So the owner sent his son expecting him to respect them. But they were even more motivated to kill him: if the heir is dead, maybe they can own the place themselves.

Obviously, this is short sighted. The owner isn't going to let them get away with the death of his son; they'll get what's coming to them.

But the most fascinating part of this passage isn't the parable, it's the religious leaders' response. When they heard it, "they realized he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds because the crowds regarded him as a prophet."

They **knew** Jesus was talking about them. They **knew** that they were the tenants who wanted the vineyard for themselves. They **knew** that they wanted to kill him so that they could have the vineyard for themselves. And what's their response? To try to arrest and kill Jesus. The irony is strong.

This is a nearly a universal response when someone points out that we're wrong. When we can't dispute the facts, we look for a way to silence our accuser. Admitting we're wrong seems like no option at all. Our obstinance when it comes to recognizing we are wrong can crush us, oppress those who love us most, and is a firm blockade on fruitful discourse.

But with Jesus, there is a better way. It's the way of repentance, confession, and peace, and it makes all the difference. Even the son's murder becomes an essential part of the story of our redemption... if we will accept it.

Jesus hasn't come to just tell us that everything is okay. He has come to set everything right. Everything includes us. He has to correct the places in our own lives where we are wrong. The religious leaders believed, but they weren't open to his grace through repentance. When we believe and repent, we experience Jesus no longer primarily as our accuser, but as our savior.

Resting in the grace of Jesus,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

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

Oct. 6 - Oct. 19 - Jessi Sugg and Stacy Hays

Life Line Screening - Life Line Screening will be here at First United Methodist Church of West Point on Monday, October 5, 2026 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001
- Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
800-324-9458 and use code: **HABC001**

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention



United
Women
in Faith

38th Annual Meeting of
United Women in Faith

The Central District of United Women in Faith will host the 2026 Mississippi Conference Annual Meeting of the United Women in Faith at West Point First United Methodist Church on October 9-10. One hundred and fifty women are expected to gather to worship, learn, support mission work, and carry out the business of the Mississippi UWF. The members of our Judy Shirley Circle will be joined by women from other UWF Units in the Central District to meet, greet, register, and feed the guests. Various speakers will present the messages on Friday night and Saturday. The offerings collected are designated for the MSU and MUW Wesley Foundations. Elizabeth Bailey, president of Central District UWF, asks for your prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide our work during this conference.

Blessing of the ANIMALS

Sunday, Oct. 4
at the Harrell Chapel
Beginning at 5:30 pm

All animals should be on a leash
or in a crate.

Church PICNIC AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, Oct 11
Waverly Waters Pavilion

Worship begins at 11 am
and lunch will follow.

A signup sheet for food is located
at the back of the sanctuary.

BBQ • Baked Beans • Potato Salad
Slaw • Dessert • Chips

*Bring your lawn chairs
and blankets and enjoy
good food and fellowship.*





Lighthouse Kids

Last Wednesday night the Lighthouse Kids reviewed all the scriptures and stories they have learned so far. They sang the song "All Creatures of Our God and King", which they have been learning over the last month. They love to use their bodies when they worship so they dance as well!



Thank You, Tammy Walters!

Tammy is such a blessing to our church! Not only has she has been preparing delicious meals for us on Wednesday nights, but she has also worked in the nursery and has helped teach Sunday school. Last week she helped our church meet the needs of others. Tammy took the leftovers from the Wednesday night supper and created a meal of bean burritos, chicken enchiladas and corn dip for the Men's Job Corps.

Come join us at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday night for Tammy's meal of chicken spaghetti, lima beans, salad and dessert. Following the meal the children, youth and adults will participate in their activities. Brother Chad would love to have you join him for his weekly Bible study. We hope to see you Wednesday night.



Studying the Bible Through Drama

"All the world's a stage", or at least white sheets of corrugated cardboard can be stages for the Sunday school children to act out a play about King David and Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. The children studied the story of King David honoring his promise to Jonathan and showing kindness to Jonathan's son by inviting Mephibosheth to eat a feast at his table. Wooden dowels, remnants of black curtains, and cardboard cutout of the characters allowed the children to act out the story. Thank you, Art and Becky Shirley and Katie Bowen and Tammy Walters, for teaching our children and thank you, Gracy Taylor, for creating such wonderful activities.

CHURCH MEETINGS

October 1 @ 5:30 p.m. - Personnel and Nominations

October 12 @ 10:00 a.m. - Worship Committee

October 19 @ 4:30 p.m. - CDC Board Meeting

October 19 @ 6:00 p.m. - Leadership Council

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

October 27 @ 6:00 p.m. - Student Ministries

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

September 27 - Katie Bowen and Tammy Walters
and Art and Becky Shirley

October 4 - Linda Drake

October 11 - No Sunday School



The Salt and Light Women's class will begin a series on the Gospels according to Broadway starting Sunday, October 4. The group will meet in the church library for the month of October. All are welcome to join us.



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/>

ATTENDANCE September 27, 2026

Sunday School.....47

Worship Service.....72

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

Total Worship84

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)

Susan Benson (Luann Purnell's sister)

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)

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)

Brad Judson

David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)

Bruce King

Chuck Lavender (Gracy Taylor's brother)

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 7:3-17

SERMON

"Samuel: Here I Raise My Ebenezer"

ANTHEM

"Heaven's Love Medley" - arr. Mauldin

SOUND TECH: Julie Gray

LAY READER: Bob Seitz

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.