



OCTOBER 6, 2026

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

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Life is so beautiful. Life is so hard. ~ Kate Bowler
from *Everything Happens for a Reason And Other Lies I Have Loved*

Sometimes it's nearly impossible to find the right things to say. Sometimes it happens because we're overwhelmed by something good: beholding something beautiful, or meeting someone we admire, or trying to talk to a love interest. **Life is so beautiful.** But sometimes, we have no words for the opposite reason: **life is so hard.**

This week has been one of those weeks. A pastor friend died unexpectedly. Then our community lost Perry Green. And then there was the car accident that impacted two families and the whole Oak Hill community.

These are the kinds of things that leave us without words. The cruelty of the world can strip away the thin veneer of our platitudes and steal away all of our easy answers. I think that's why Job's friends sat for 7 days in silence with sackcloth and ashes, and it's why Jesus wept over the death of his friend Lazarus, even though he knew he was about to raise him from the dead.

Sometimes, we treat our hope to spend eternity with God like it can make us immune from the difficulties of this life. We think maybe we can bypass grief and suffering and fast forward right to glory, but it doesn't work like that.

In fact, it's in the ashes that Christian hope (the genuine article, not a cheap veneer) is most likely to be found. The Good Shepherd is with us in the valley of shadows and death. And he prepares a feast for us even while we are surrounded by enemies. And his Spirit prays for us with groans that are too deep for words when we don't know what to say.

There is a Word who comes to us. His light cannot be extinguished by any amount of darkness. A Lord who comes to us. He suffered and died before he was raised. And that Lord begins to show us that the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is at work in us, too.

Christian hope isn't denial; it's defiance. That life is hard is an indisputable fact. There's no way to just skip to the good part. Sickness, sorrow, pain, and death, will do their worst. It's only when we feel all of their weight that we can sense the audacity of Paul's hope in Romans 8: the sufferings of the present moment aren't worth comparing to the glory about to be revealed. I pray that, on the other side of what is heavy for you, you can sense the incomparable glory that is about to be revealed.

In audacious hope,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

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

United Women of 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.

Sunday, October 11 - There will be **NO** choir practice or Sunday school on October 11, and the worship service and picnic will be at Waverly Waters. We look forward to seeing you there.

CHURCH MEETINGS

October 8 @ 10:00 a.m. - Congregational Care

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

October 4 - Linda Drake

October 11 - No Sunday School



Scenes from Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4, at the Harrell Chapel



Wednesday Night Supper

Last week Tammy fixed a delicious meal of chicken spaghetti, lima beans, salad and dessert. We want to thank Gloria Bunnell, Becky Landin, Becky Shirley and Gail Foote for helping. This Wednesday night Tammy will make hamburgers with all the fixings and dessert. Come and join us.



Wednesday Night Hosts

October 7 - Holly Hitt and Jane Caston

October 14 - Susan Johnson, Jean Dill and Wilma Hinshaw

October 21 - Art and Becky Shirley

October 28 - Barbara Iles and Becky Landin



Karthryn Williams Makes a Difference in Oxford

Kathryn Williams, a member of the Ole Miss Phi Beta Phi Sorority, is very involved in the sorority's philanthropic initiative Read, Lead, Achieve. The sorority involves the Oxford community in various fundraising and literacy events to support this cause. One of their events is CAR, Champions Are Readers, in which kids from Lafayette County and Oxford schools come to the sorority house, and the members read to them and involve them in daily activities. Most of their funding goes to Leapfrog Tutoring in Oxford where underprivileged children from Lafayette County and Oxford can receive free reading tutoring. Kathryn said that one of the best aspects of the reading initiative is the ability to see the results of their philanthropy. We are so proud of you, Kathryn, and thank you for continuing to make a difference.



Loaves and Fishes

One of the miracles that Jesus performed was feeding the 5000, or the loaves and fishes story. In Sunday school last week, the children read the story of the little boy who gave his lunch of two fishes and five loaves of bread to Jesus to feed the 5000 who had come to hear Jesus preach. They made a basket in which to put the leftover loaves and fishes and loaded it with goldfish and pretzels. The children also received a "loaves and fishes" board game. Thank you, Linda Drake and Shannon Wallace for teaching our children. We appreciate Gracy Taylor's effort to create meaningful activities for our children.



Congratulations, Wallace Boys!

Hayden won second place in the Boys' 100 Yard Fly and fourth place in the Boys' 100 Yard Backstroke at the MAIS State Swimming Meet. Logan also participated in the meet for the first time. We are so proud of both of you.



Congratulations, Caston!

Caston McKellar participated in the Magnolia Invitational at Delta State on September 25th. He came in 5th in the 50 yd free style. We are proud of you, Caston.



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 9/30/2026

Total revenue received in Sept.	\$27,971.20
Total expenses in Sept.	(\$57,932.06)
Year to date revenue	\$306,668.88
Year to date expenses	(\$379,961.32)

More detailed financial information is available here:

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

ATTENDANCE October 4, 2026

Sunday School.....	50
Worship Service.....	72
Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....	12
Total Worship	84

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
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
Bruce King
David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
Chuck Lavender (Gracy Taylor's brother)

Lynda Mize
Carole Higgins Morton
Oak Hill Faculty, Staff and Students
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

The Family of Perry Green
The Bluitt Family
The Family of Caroline Frasca

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

11:00 AM at Waverly Waters

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 8:1-10

SERMON

"Samuel: Listen to Their Voice"

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill

LAY READER: Mark Bean

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.