



OCTOBER 13, 2026
The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

"Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."

1 Samuel 8:7

Samuel was a good judge for Israel: he helped them find justice in sticky situations between one another. He was a faithful prophet: he could hear the voice of the Lord and share with them what they needed to hear. He was even entrusted with the duties of a priest: he offered faithful sacrifices on behalf of the people.

What he was not very good at was making a succession plan. Samuel had gotten old. Although being judged was never intended to be passed down from one generation to the next, he appointed his sons to be judges. However, the sons weren't interested in justice; they were interested in using their power to get wealthy.

So Israel rejected them as judges. They wanted a new system: they preferred a king.

The irony is rich: their solution to the problem of bad sons (Eli had the same problem as Samuel) was to establish a leadership structure that would be passed down from fathers to sons. Their desire for a king wasn't rational. They wanted a king because it would make them "like other nations." This desire was in direct opposition to God's intentions for Israel. He had made them "distinct [...] from every people on the face of the earth. (Ex. 33:16)" He had chosen them "out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. (Deut. 7:6)" They were willing to forfeit that for a king who would lead them to victory in battle. They were willing to close their ears to God's warnings; they wanted what they wanted no matter the cost. They had forgotten that "thus far the Lord has helped us. (1 Sam 7:12)"

And the cost would be significant – dead sons in battle; daughters compelled to work to provide for the military; taxes on everything. This story didn't just reveal that we won't be saved by the right leaders in the right places. We can't escape God's call to be a distinct people, but it's fascinating how he uses our waywardness to bring about his purposes.

Over the rest of 1-2 Samuel, God answered Israel's prayer. Saul became king. He looked like a king, tall and strong, but, as predicted, things still went poorly. Surprisingly, however, God did not abandon the monarchy, which was a rejection of him. He gave Israel another king, David, and he promised David that his monarchy would exist forever. (Spoiler: the fulfillment of that promise is Jesus)

God transformed his people's rebellion into salvation. Wanting a human king was a rejection of God's status as their king. So God became our human King. Our acceptance of this King is an acceptance of God himself! God takes his people's disordered desires and turns them on their head for our salvation. That's the kind of God we serve.

Trusting God who became King,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

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

Oct. 20 – Nov. 2 - Dee Echols and Donna Cook

No Newsletter Next Week - There will be **NO** newsletter during the week of October 19th. Gail will be on vacation.

All Saints' Day - All Saints' Day will be Sunday, November 1. Please join us for this special service as we celebrate and remember those members of our congregation who have moved into the Church Triumphant during the past year.

Veterans Day - November 11th is Veterans Day, and we will recognize all of our veterans on Sunday November 8th.

Thanksgiving Meal - Our annual church-wide Thanksgiving meal will be held Sunday, Nov. 15th following the church service.

CHURCH MEETINGS

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

October 29 @ 10:00 a.m. - Congregational Care



Chili Cook-off

Bring us your best recipes!

Join us for a fun and flavorful event

Please have your crockpot of chili in the Fellowship Hall by 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 4
FELLOWSHIP HALL 5:15 P.M.

SIGN UP TO ENTER ON THE SHEET LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY



Fall Picnic

It was a beautiful day to worship outside and enjoy a picnic at Waverly Waters Sunday. Thanks to the Harrell Family for the use of the pavilion and many thanks as well as to all the volunteers who brought food and helped with set-up and clean-up. We enjoyed some delicious food, but most of all, we enjoyed being together and worshipping as a church family.



Christ at Home

Our Christ at Home meal for October was pork tenderloin, baked beans, potato salad, rolls and dessert. We want to thank Amy Buckley, JerriLynn Patriquin, Dee Berry and Stacy Hays for preparing the meal. We also appreciate our deliverers: Gary Echols, Jim Helveston, Phil McClellan, Jason McKellar, Charlotte and Bill Messier, Bob Seitz, Greg Sugg, Jimmy Tedford and Rachel Wood. Our volunteers are essential to the success of this program.



38th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi United Women in Faith

The Mississippi Central District of United Women in Faith hosted the 38th Annual Meeting of the state UWF last weekend which was held at West Point FUMC. Elizabeth Bailey is the president and Holly Hitt is the treasurer of the Central District. Over one hundred women attended the two-day conference where they were able to attend various meetings, workshops and worship services. Several meals were also provided. Many of our church members contributed to the success of this conference. Attendees mentioned how welcome they felt, and how kind our church members were. We want to thank Elizabeth Bailey, Chad Bowen, Barbara Bryan, Bob Buckley, Gloria Burnell, Jane Caston, Donna Cook, Ron Crawford, Gary and Dee Echols, Bob and Mary Carr Ecklund, Gail Foote, Joey and Stacy Hays, Ladonna Helveston, Wilma Hinshaw, Holly Hitt, Barbara Iles, Vic Johnson, Becky Landin, Ken Pickens and family, Bob Seitz, Art and Becky Shirley, Gracy Taylor, Jennie Taylor, Jimmy and JoAn Tedford, Galen Walter and Tammy Walters. Without your help this conference would not have been a success.



Caston Continues to Shine

Meridian Community College swimming program participated in the Millsaps Invitational. Freshman Caston McKellar highlighted the day for the MCC men with three record-setting performances. McKellar established new Meridian team records in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:04.95), 100-yard freestyle (51.43) and 200-yard individual medley (2:10.50). All three performances earned McKellar national qualifying times which means that Caston can now compete at the national level. Their next competition will be on October 23 at the William Carey Invitational.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

October 4 - Linda Drake
and Shannon Wallace

October 11 - No Sunday School

October 18 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart
and George and Luann Purnell

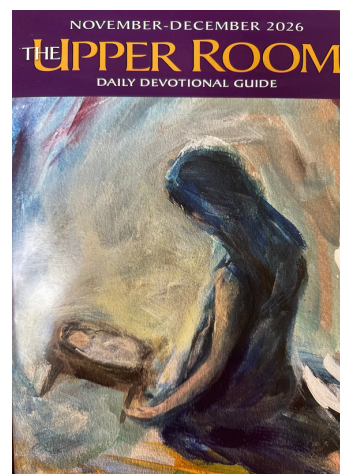
Wednesday Night Hosts

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



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.



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 11, 2026

Sunday School.....0

Worship Service.....52

Virtual 11:00 AM Service.....0

Total Worship 52

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)

Rusty Iles

Evan Johnson (Vic Johnson's brother)

Brad Judson

Bruce King

David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)

Chuck Lavender (Gracy Taylor's brother)

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

11:00 AM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 10:7-24

SERMON

"Samuel: Long Live the King"

ANTHEM

"Still" - arr. Clydesdale

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell

LAY READER: Suzanne 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.

The Family of Perry Green

The Bluitt Family

The Family of Caroline Frasca

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

Jim & Debbie Williams (Jason Williams' parents)

Sheila Wood