

NOVEMBER 10, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

~ Thomas Merton in *Thoughts in Solitude*

Thomas Merton was a Catholic monk who lived most of his life at the Abbey of Gethsamani in the hills of Kentucky, but his most famous prayer captures something central to Methodist theology.

Some say that Methodists believe that we can be perfect. And it's partly true, but the emphasis is on the partly. Every Methodist preacher has to answer "With God's help, I do" to the question, "Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?"

We believe that, by God's grace, we can be made perfect in love in this life. But that's not the whole story. There are ways that we won't be perfect in this life. We won't always understand things rightly. And we won't always know the right thing to do. Even if we are driven by the perfect love of God and neighbor, we're going to make mistakes.

We are contingent creatures living in a contingent world. We don't know the way. We don't know the destination. Trying to do God's will is no guarantee that we will always get it right. But we press on anyway, trusting God's grace to cover our shortcomings. And God is with us.

I hope you'll keep this prayer in mind when you come to situations that feel impossibly hard, even as you are driven by love of God to please God.

Trusting in the one who will never leave us to our perils alone,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Nov. 3 - Nov. 16 - Stacy Hays and Kiley McNamee
Nov. 17 - Nov. 30 - Beth Raines and Susan Johnson

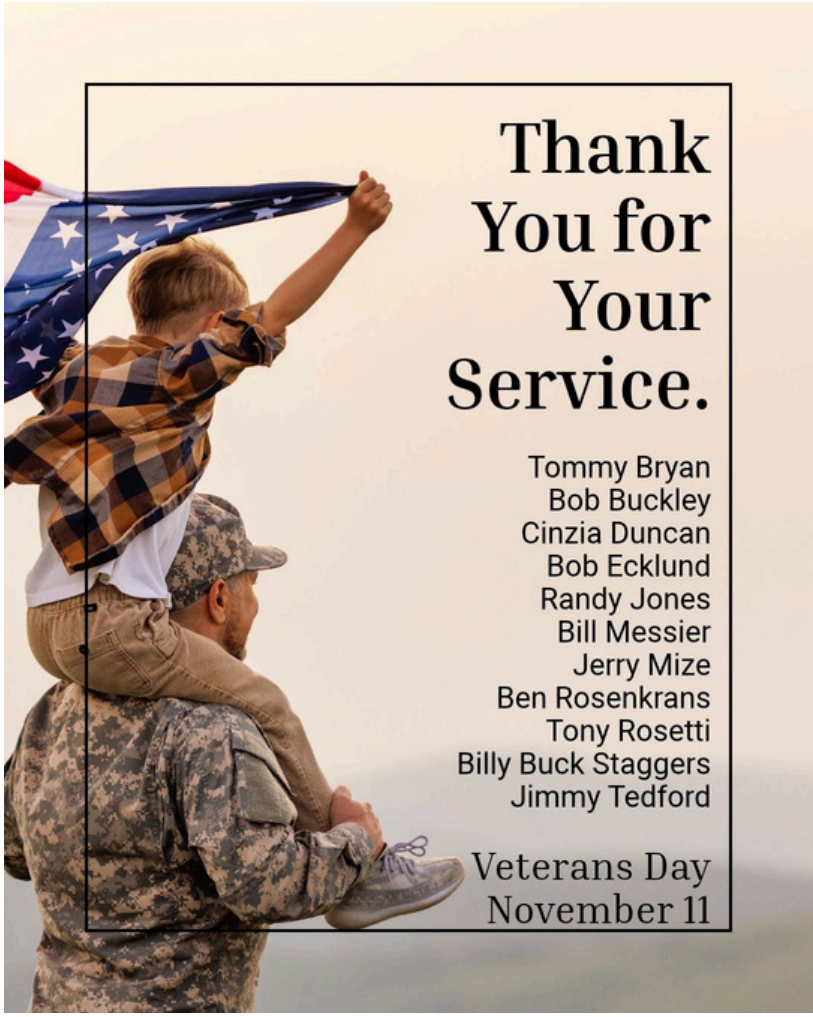
Judy Shirley Circle – The Judy Shirley Circle will meet on Monday, November 16, in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be Gail Foote, Donna Cook and Anna Dill. Gracy Taylor will lead the lesson.

Poinsettia Orders – The Judy Shirley Circle will be selling poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary during the Christmas season. The cost is $20.00. Orders must be placed by December 1st. Contact Gail Foote to order. Proceeds will go to support the Judy Shirley Circle's mission projects.

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

Hanging of the Greens – We will begin Advent on November 29th with a service that helps us remember the important symbols in our seasonal decorations.



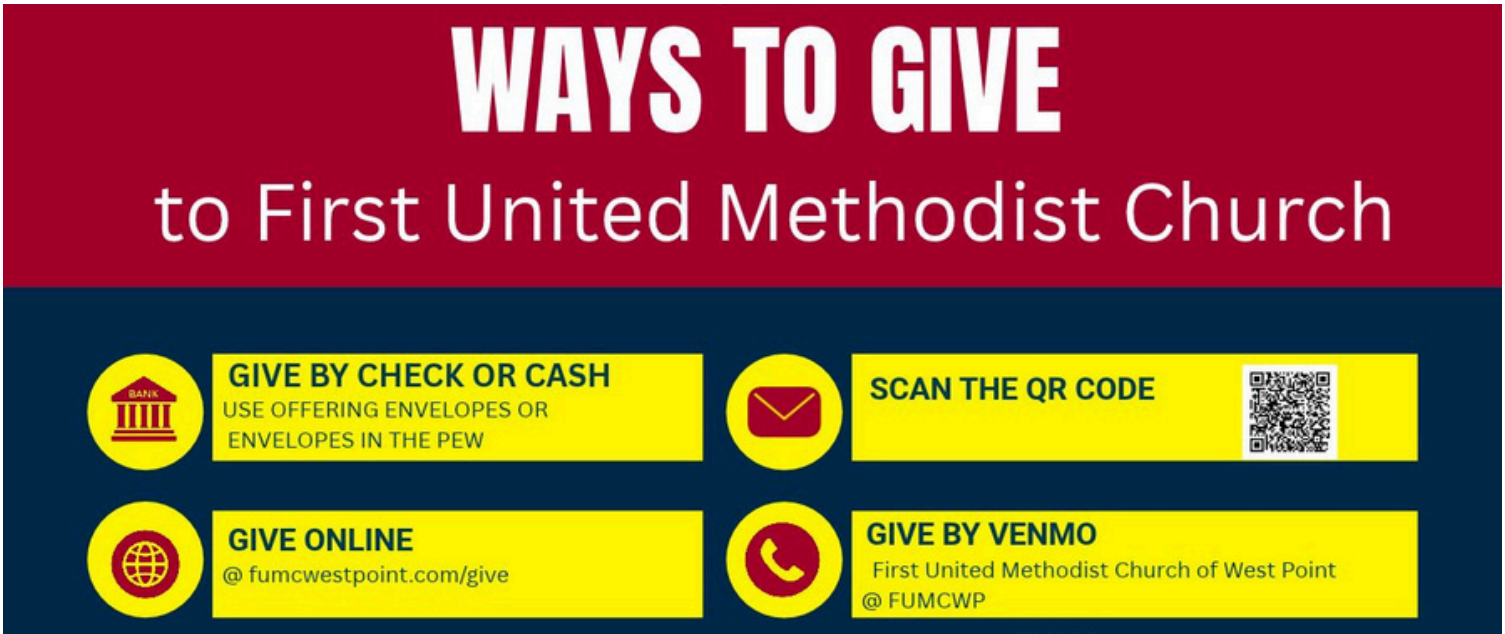


CHURCH MEETINGS

November 12 @ 5:30 p.m. - Personnel & Nominations
November 16 @ 4:30 p.m. - CDC Board Meeting
November 17 @ 6:00 p.m. - Leadership Council

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOSTS

November 4 - Gloria Bunnell, Becky Shirley and Jane Caston
November 11 - Barbara Iles, Becky Landin and Jennie Taylor
November 18 - Becky Landin and Jennie Taylor





Chili Cook-off

The chili cook-off was a tremendous success, and we want to thank everyone who was involved. Jane Caston, Gloria Bunnell, Becky Shirley, Tammy Walters, Becky Landin, Jennie Taylor and Stacy Hays helped with the set up, serving and clean up. Our wonderful cooks were Rachel Wood, Becky Shirley, Ladonna Helveston, Katie Bowen, Stacy Hays, Ken Pickens, Vic Johnson, Bob Wyman, Charlotte Messier, Anna Dill, Jane Caston and Jason McKellar. Lisa Klutts, Rod Bobo and Jacob Gentry were the guest judges. Jubilations furnished the cornbread and gift cards for the judges.

Jason McKellar won the Youth's Choice Award, and Ken Pickens won the Kids' Choice and Judges' Choice Awards.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

November 1 - George and Luann Purnell and Shannon Wallace

November 8 - George Purnell and Jessi Sugg

November 15 - Kristen and Kathryn Williams and Helen Facella

November 22 - Laura and Elizabeth Stewart and Mark and Suzanne Bean

November 29 - Bill and Caroline Atkins and Art and Becky Shirley



Great Job, William!

We are so blessed with our wonderful children. William Sugg read the scripture on Sunday, and he did an outstanding job! The words and the length of the scripture made it a difficult task for anyone, but William met the challenge with no problem. Thank you, William, for your willingness to be a servant in our church.



Bright Horizons Luncheon

Stacy Hays attended the Bright Horizons Appreciation Luncheon at West Clay Elementary last week. West Clay, along with Church Hill Elementary and South Side Elementary, are our Bright Horizons partners through the West Point Consolidated School District. Attendants heard how participation in Bright Horizons benefits the students of West Clay and also learned of the needs of the school for the upcoming holidays. West Clay does a turkey trot each year the Friday before Thanksgiving and they are asking for turkey breasts or turkey, along with fruit that can be used in fruit baskets. They are in need 12 turkeys and enough fruit for 12 fruit baskets. If you would like to help by donating a turkey or a bag of fruit, please let Stacy know. Rev. Dr. Ken Pickens, our youth minister, was also in attendance at the luncheon.

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

Twenty- fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
11:00 AM
SCRIPTURE LESSON
1 Samuel 14:1-15
SERMON
"Samuel: The Victory of a Discerning Warrior"
ANTHEM
"Majesty" - arr, Schrader

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill
LAY READER: Julie Gray
STREAM TEAM: Jason McKellar

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 November 8, 2026

Sunday School	41
Worship Service	63
Virtual 11:00 AM Service	21
Total Worship	84

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital

Our Members
Elizabeth Bailey
Liv Brand
Tommy Bryan
Helen Childress
Kenny Dill
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

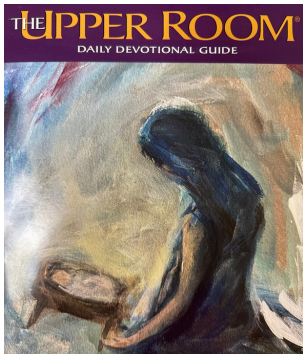
Dugan
Deb McGaughey

Our Family and Friends:
Sara Kate Algood (Donna Cook's daughter)
Susan Benson
Ted Berry
Cheryl Bowen
Gene Bramlett
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)

Traceway
Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

Carol Lummus (employee at Jubilations)
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

Family of Mary Anne Weems



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.