

NOVEMBER 17, 2026

The Newsletter of First UMC
West Point, Mississippi

The Window

A Note from the Preacher

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us;
and now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks.

~ Henry Smith

The first time I sang this hymn, I appreciated its simplicity.

While it mean seem strange to be grateful for a hymn about gratitude, I think it's the nature of gratitude (and entitlement, for that matter) to compound. The hymn recognizes this fact, too: ***give thanks*** with a ***grateful heart***. That's not redundant; it's compounding. Having gratitude in your heart will drive you to the action of giving thanks. And you can only truly give thanks if it comes from your heart.

Maybe this hymn only pretends to be simple.

It keeps going, teaching us that the source of all our gratitude starts with the presence, power, and love of Jesus Christ.

And it continues in Christian hope. The second stanza is perhaps richer than the first. It doesn't say, "Let the formerly weak say 'I am strong,'" or "let the previously poor say 'I am rich.'" It says that those currently in these states can claim something different for themselves in the Gospel.

If your Thanksgiving this year isn't hindered a little bit by the brokenness around you, you shouldn't need to be told to give thanks. But if things are harder than you imagined that they could be, there is still reason to give thanks now because of what God has done, is doing, and will do for us.

In 1 Samuel, Hannah's spirit turned positive when she knew that God had heard her prayer, even before she became pregnant. That's the beautiful faith where faith and gratitude meet, and it's possible because we know the mighty God we serve.

In gratitude for Christ and his Church,
Br. Chad

Angels in Aprons

Nov. 17 - Nov. 30 - Beth Raines and Susan Johnson
Dec. 1 - Dec. 14 - Shannon and Lannie Wallace

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.

Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays – The church office will be closed to the public November 23 – 27. Staff members may be reached on their cell phones. There will be no newsletter on Tuesday, November 24th. All Wednesday activities are cancelled.



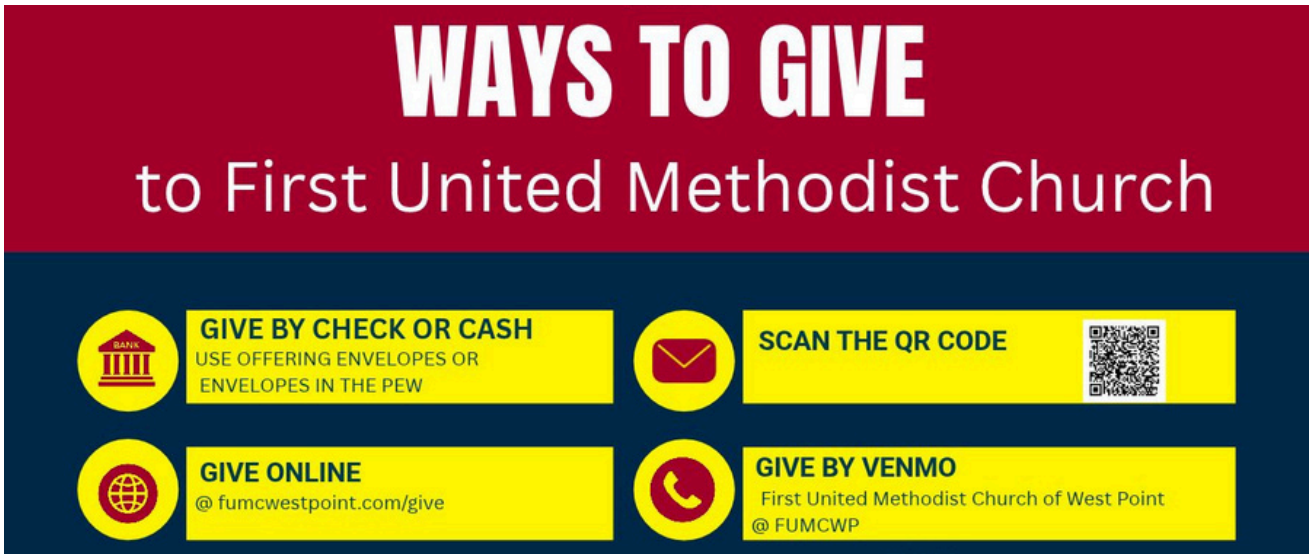


Our Wonderful Thanksgiving Feast

What a wonderful Thanksgiving feast we had! Everyone has said that the food was the best ever. We want to thank Stacy Hays for organizing this meal and Julie Gray for decorating the Fellowship Hall. We also want to thank everyone who brought all the delicious food and Dee Berry for supplying the hams. Finally, thanks to all the people who set up and cleaned up: Dee Echols, Dee Berry, Tammy Walters, Becky Landin, Amy Buckley, Mary Helon Hays, the Wallace family and the McKellar family. It takes a village to make this event a success.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOSTS

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





Learning about Joseph

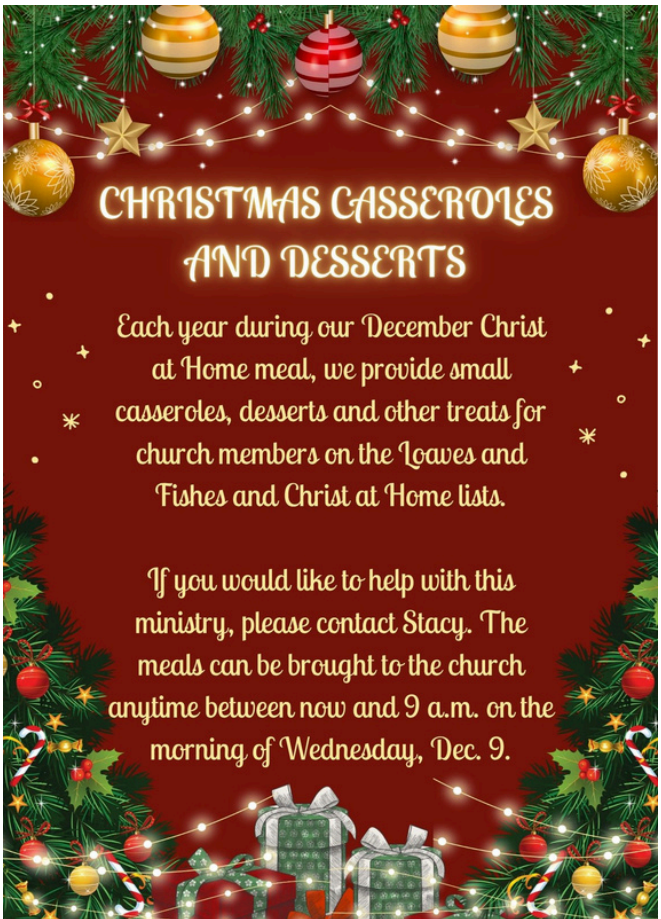
The children have been studying Joseph. In the first lesson they learned about his coat of many colors and his brothers' reactions to his being the favored son. In the second lesson, they discovered that Joseph ended up in the Egypt Pharaoh's prison. Even in this terrible situation, God was with Joseph, providing him the dream interpretations of the Pharaoh's baker's and cup bearer's dreams. The children made layered illustrations of the scripture lesson to help them remember how God is with us no matter how dire our circumstances.



Backpack Snacks

The December backpack snacks have been packed and taken to Church Hill and South Side Elementary schools. Thank you to everyone who helped: Lisa Gammill, Susan Johnson, Caroline Atkins, Stacy Hays, Cinzia, Duncan, Julie Gray, Gloria Bunnell, Jane Caston, Lona Rosetti, Dee Berry and Ron Crawford. The following letters illustrates the importance of this ministry.

Dear Church Members:
Thank you all so much for this wonderful and much-needed mission. I wish you could see the smiles and appreciation each week as we pass out these bags to our students. I know it takes an incredible amount of time, effort, and love to make this happen. Please know that it does not go unnoticed. Because of you, children have food to eat over the weekends. It warms my heart each week to know that my church is loving on and taking care of my students and our community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!
Lucy McKellar
Principal of South Side Elementary



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

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- sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2026
11:00 AM
SCRIPTURE LESSON
Psalm 126
SERMON
"Be Thankful"
Rev. Giles Lindley, guest pastor

ANTHEM
"Ride On, King Jesus" - Kern

SOUND TECH: Mike Gammill
LAY READER: Jay Wood
STREAM TEAM: Jason McKellar

FINANCIAL INFORMATION as of 10/31/2026

Total revenue received in Oct.	$28,358.91
Total expenses in Oct.	($36,927.14)
Year to date revenue	$335,027.79
Year to date expenses	($422,194.70)

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

ATTENDANCE November 15, 2026

Sunday School	41
Worship Service	87
Virtual 11:00 AM Service	19
Total Worship	106

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

In the Hospital
Jerry Mize - Baptist

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
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)
Margaret Johnson (Vic Johnson's sister)
Brad Judson
David Landin (Becky Landin's brother)
Carol Lummus (employee at Jubilations)
Lynda Mize

Traceway
Evelyn O'Hara Wallace

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

