

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2019

2019 budget \$ 608,019.68
Received Dec. 15, 2019 Budget 10,285.00
Received to date, Budget 526,802.92
Received Dec. 15, 2019 Bldg. 525.00
Received to date, Bldg. Fund 56,376.55

ATTENDANCE, DEC, 15, 2019

Sunday School.....134
Early Service.....NA
11:00 AM Service.....233
Total Worship.....233



THE WINDOW

o f
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

West Point, Mississippi

December 17, 2019

USHERS: Bryan Harrell Cohen Trolio Kip Alpe Ben Harrell Wells Williams
Rider Clemons Henry Harrell Luke DeSantis Collins Trolio Seth Cunningham

SOUND TECH: Ray Purnell **LAY READER:** 11:00 AM George Purnell

WORSHIP COMMITTEE FOR DEC: Allison Trolio & Debbie Bond

GREETERS FOR 12/22 Ralph Weems, Sherrill Weems, Jimmy Wood, Elizabeth Bailey

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Colby & Allison Brister (12/22)
No Children's Church (12/29)

PRAYER CHAIN: Norma Atkins

Remember in Prayer

In the Hospital

Martha Bivens Liz Cook Boyce McNeece - Fulton
Sue Rushing Foster Kennedy Shirley Rosenkrans

At Home

**4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 22, 2019
8:45 & 11:00 AM
Matthew 1:18-25
"Clothed in Readiness"
ANTHEM
"Away in a Manger"**

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE

Dugan WP Living Center Trinity Place Vineyard Courts
Martha Priest Tommy Miller Marguerite Breland Donnie Hammack
Bitsy Weaver
Jennie Cantrell
Geonette Pendley
Margaret Jolly



11:00 AM worship Service is broadcast on WKBB 100.9 FM.

First United Methodist Church Dated Material
P. O. Box 293 December 17, 2019
West Point, MS 39773 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**U.S. POSTAGE
NON-PROFIT
WEST POINT, MS
PERMIT NO. 7**

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Darian Duckworth, 494-5133
Rachel Wood, Music Ministries, 494-2198
Gail Foote, Family Ministries, 494-2198
Kyle Chickvara, Youth & Children's Ministries, 494-2198
Julie Gray, Office Manager, 494-1658
Polly Grimes, Organist, 494-2198
Jace Ferraez, Pianist, 494-2198
Ron Crawford, Custodian
Hubert Caston, Building Superintendent
Georgia Graham, CDC Director, 494-6811

Visions & Re-Visions

Years ago at an art festival in southern Louisiana, I came upon a unique advent wreath. Made not from greenery but from clay, the "wreath" was a large, circular plate with four small, raised circles to cup the candles. Around the candles the potter had written in cursive four names: Messiah. Lord. Christ. Jesus. It was perfect! I had to have it.

Unfortunately, when I later tried to place candles in the indentions, none of them would stay upright. I measured the spaces, bought candles of various diameters, trying to find a set that would fit. Frustrated, I eventually resorted to using tea lights. Though the wreath didn't look the way I'd originally envisioned it with three tall purple and one pink candles, I've come to love the revised version. After all, light is still light no matter the candle's size.

This is our last newsletter of 2019, which has me thinking a lot about a new year, not only because of the Advent season but also as January 2020 nears. One year ago, what did you envision for yourself in 2019? Did you have goals as specific as three purple and one pink candle? Most likely, we've all had to revise and improvise our goals and plans at some point. The end results looking differently than what we expected does not make them any less beautiful.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas remind us of a great yet simple responsibility as followers of the Christ child: we are called to shine the light. Like the Advent wreath, sometimes we have to experiment with different ways to shine that light, but the heat and power of the flame does not belong to us. The holy Light does not adjust to our liking. Instead, we must make adjustments in our lives as the Light transforms us. Yes, we set goals and visions for ourselves as well as our church, but we must remain open to how the Spirit tweaks those plans for His glory.

I look forward to the visions and re-visions that God has in store for us in the new year. Know how grateful I am for each of you. It is an honor to serve as you pastor.

all good things to each of you,
Pastor (Dr.) Darian

We will not have a newsletter the weeks of December 23 or December 30. Merry Christmas from your FUMC Staff.