



First United
METHODIST CHURCH



THE MESSENGER
APRIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 04: 2026

After Easter... Now What?

Every year after Easter, there's a quiet question that lingers:

"Okay... now what?"

The decorations come down.

The crowds settle.

After weeks of build-up and the most powerful celebration of the year... life seems to return to normal.

But Easter wasn't meant to end.

Resurrection Is a Way of Life

The resurrection isn't just about life after death—
it's about **new life right now.**

It means bringing:

life where there is death

light where there is darkness

hope where there is despair

Jesus isn't just someone we believe in.

He's someone we believe—and follow.

So we respond.

A Church That Responds

We live this out in many ways:

- Disaster relief
- Discipling the next generation
- Medical mission
- Special needs ministry
- Learning, giving, worshipping
- **Fostering friendships**

But this year, there's one response I especially want you to be part of...

Serve Day — April 26

I can't wait to **love God and love West Plains with you.**

What to Expect:

- **One combined worship service at 10 AM**
(Christian Life Center – blending modern & traditional worship)
- Followed by hands-on service projects across the community

Serving Opportunities Include:

- Partnering with Habitat for Humanity
 - Supporting UMCOR (disaster relief)
 - Community clean-up projects
 - Celebrating with residents in assisted living facilities
- There is a place for **everyone**—ages 2 to 102.

Join Us

Sign up at church or through the church office anytime leading up to Serve Day.

And here's the best part:

Everyone is welcome.

Whether you worship with us regularly or not—come serve.

Easter doesn't end.

We carry it forward—together.

— Pastor Sean



Join Us For
Good Friday
Service

APRIL 3, 2026
6:00PM
SANCTUARY



April

Resurrection Hope

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: John 11:25-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16: 1 Peter 3:21-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: 1 Cor 15:20-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17: Colossians 3:1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Romans 6:4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18: John 20:8-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: John 5:24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19: Acts 24:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: 1 Peter 1:3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20: 2 Timothy 2:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: 1 Thess 4:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21: Romans 4:24-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7: Romans 8:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22: 1 Cor 15:54-57 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8: Luke 24:5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23: Philippians 3:20-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9: Acts 2:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24: John 6:40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10: 1 Cor 6:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25: Luke 24:46-48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11: Philippians 3:10-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26: Acts 26:22-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12: Acts 4:33 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27: 1 Cor 15:12-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13: 1 Cor 15:42-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28: Romans 6:8-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14: Romans 8:34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29: 1 Thess 4:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15: Acts 17:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30: Revelation 1:17-18 |



Scholarship Opportunities



Scholarship applications for FUMC high school seniors
& first time college students (under age 21)
are now available in church office for 2026-27

Completed applications along with official transcripts are
due by April 24th to the church office

Senior Recognition Sunday - May 3rd

We will recognize our seniors at the 8:30 & 11:00 services


In Loving Memory

Joann Lowe

Richard & Helen Atkinson
Larry & Shirley Butler
Scott & Edith Oneal
Frances Wahlquist
Letty Parrott

Kamie Langston

Janice & Stanley Taylor
Barbara Alsup
Sue Risner



Gifts & Numbers

March 1st

Attendance: 147

Gifts: \$7,543.94

March 8th

Attendance: 129

Gifts: \$6,449.76

March 15th

Attendance: 134

Gifts: \$5,057.63

March 22nd

Attendance: 147

Gifts: \$4,516.38

March 29th

Attendance: 168

Gifts: \$13,364.15

****Currently we need \$8,689.00 per week to meet our 2026 budget****

Important dates for your calendar

Every Sunday:

8:30am Contemporary Service
Christian Life Center

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Service
Sanctuary - 2nd floor

5:30-7:30pm Youth Group
Christian Life Center

Every Wednesday:

5:30-6:30pm God's Crew

6-7pm Handbell Practice

7-8pm Choir Practice

Every Monday:

6:30 am Men's Group - Fellowship Hall
2nd Monday of the month, will meet at
Ozark Cafe for breakfast

• **April 3rd**

• Good Friday Service - Sanctuary, 6pm

• **April 3rd - 6th**

• Easter Break - Church Office Closed

• **April 5th**

• Easter Sunday - Services at 8:30 & 11:00

• **April 7th**

• In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

• **April 13th**

• Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

• **April 14th**

• UMW - Rockbridge for lunch, meet at FUMC at 10am

• RSVP by April 10 to the church office

• **April 21st**

• In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

• **April 24th**

• Senior Scholarship applications are due. Please turn into the church office.

• **April 26th**

• Serve Day - One worship service @ 10am followed by service projects for all to participate in.

• **May 3rd**

• Senior Sunday - We will recognize our High School Seniors at the 8:30 & 11:00 services

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Child Care children will have these themes for April: Easter, Gardening, Zoo Animals, Earth Day, and Ocean Animals. We will continue daily lessons in alphabet, color, shapes, and number recognition. The children will be learning bible stories about The Early Church.

Our Preschool Children will be learning about Easter, Gardening, Frogs, and Butterflies this month. All three year old Preschoolers will visit a farm this month and all four year old Preschoolers will visit the Fish Hatchery.

Children's Ministry

During April, our Children will Soar and learn how Jesus gives us new Life. Our stories will be the Resurrection and The Great Commission.

During Sunday School, we will be learning about Peter's Denial of Jesus. Our lessons will include a Movie, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Science, and Games.

VBS is fast approaching!! Our VBS this year is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. This year VBS will be July 13th-16th. God's Crew VBS will be July 12th and 15th, and July 19th and 22nd. If you are interested in working or helping in VBS, please let the office know. We will need music leaders, crew leaders, station leaders, game leaders, kitchen helpers, and many youth helpers. Can't wait to share God with our community of children here in West Plains.

Crystal Houston

Director of Friendship Circle Ministries/

Director of Children's Ministries

SAVE THE DATE

An adventure you'll fall for!



New friends 🌿 **Surprising adventures** 🌿 **Creative games**
Super-fun snacks 🌿 **Amazing experiments** 🌿 **Incredible music**



Our Mission

Make New Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

2026 Goal

Fostering friendships by sharing our story and serving side by side

Key Updates

Church Life

- Monthly attendance tracking will begin to help us better understand and grow participation
 - Continued focus on building meaningful connections and relationships
-

Security & Facilities

- New security materials installed (West side); more on the way
 - Recent improvements include:
 - Lighting updates
 - Elevator phone upgrade
 - Plumbing and HVAC repairs
 - Ongoing needs:
 - Storage room door replacement
 - Addressing birds/squirrels entering the building
-

Financial Snapshot

- Giving: 23.4% of annual budget
- Year progress: 17.5% complete
- Expenses remain within healthy limits

Action Taken:

- Simplified to one checking account
- Approved investing reserve funds

→ Expected return: ~\$9,000/year

Pastoral Update

- Pastor Sean completed a national clergy development gathering
 - Will be preaching weekly through June
 - Ongoing mentorship with other United Methodist leaders
-

Living Our Goal

Focus Areas

- Sharing testimonies in worship
 - Serving together as a church
-

How We Measure Impact

- Participation and involvement
- People reached
- Feedback and life change

Upcoming Event

Serve Day – April 26

A church-wide opportunity to serve and build friendships

Looking Ahead

We are focusing on where these intersect:

- **Passions**
- **Gifts**
- **Community Needs**

This is where God is leading us next.

Thank You

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at First UMC West Plains!

Shaun Duggins- Church Council Chair 2026

Wanda Byrd – Secretary - UMW Representative

Lay Leader-

Finance Team: Melody Martin, Nancy Davidson

Trustees Team: Greg Weeks, Scott Womack, Amanda Rutledge

Staff Parrish: John Ackerson, Mallory Snodgras, Carol Powell

Youth Representatives: Drew Bauer, Ella Orr

United Methodist Women



“What a wondrous time is Spring,
When all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing,
The flowers start their blooming,”

Come with Methodist Women for
a “Spring Fling!” Any ladies can
come!



We will meet Tuesday, April 14, at
10AM and travel to Rockbridge
Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch
to experience some beautiful
spring visions. We will have
lunch and return by 2pm. Please
RSVP to the Church office at 417-
256-6167 by April 10 so we can
make lunch arrangements.

EASTER SUNDAY

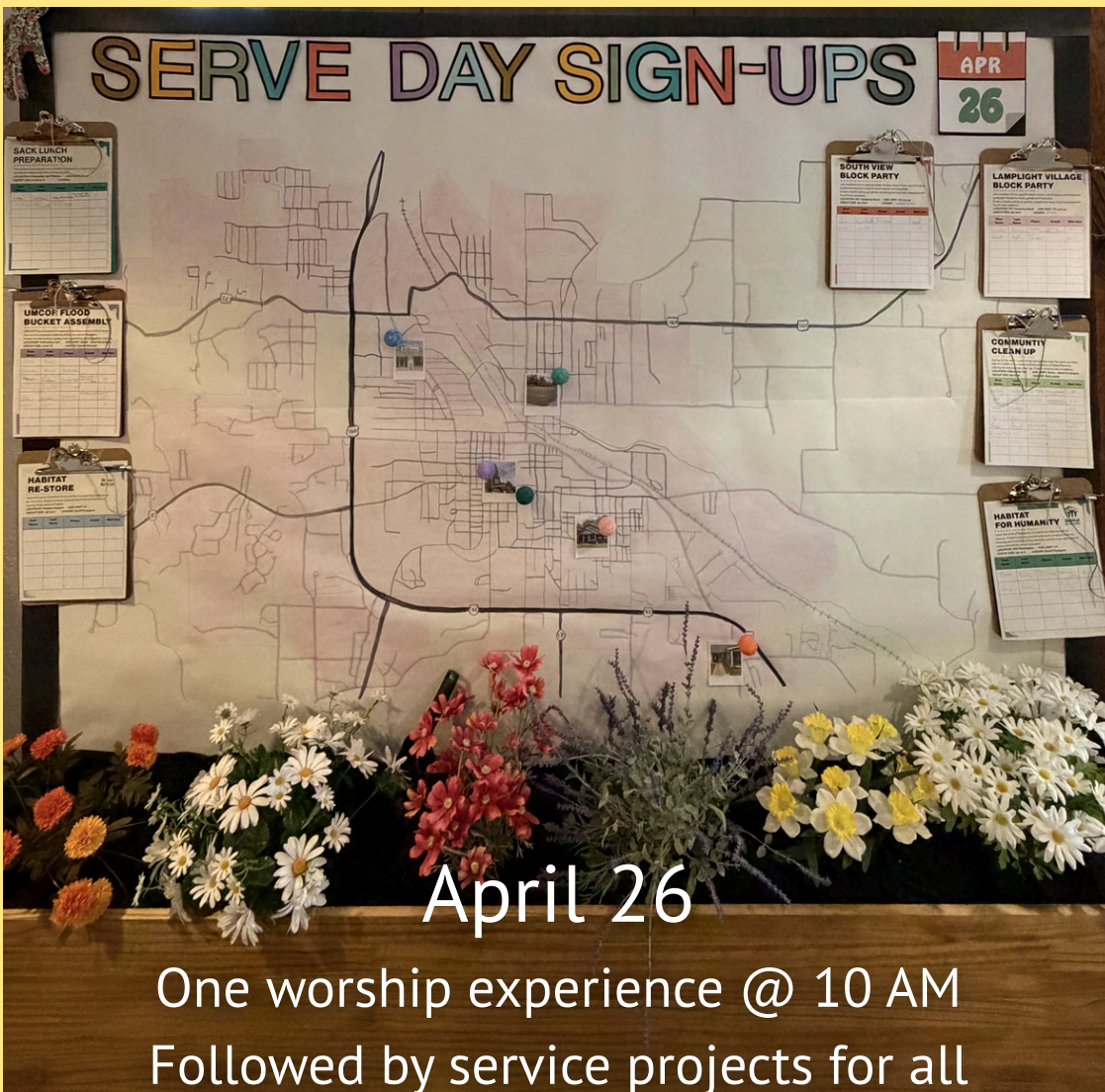
HE IS RISEN

HE IS RISEN

LOOK AGAIN

EASTER WORSHIP

April 5 - 8:30 Modern - 11:00 AM Traditional



April 26

One worship experience @ 10 AM
Followed by service projects for all

Sign up board is available in the CLC Lobby

FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry meets on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:30PM. Each night includes supper, games and a lesson. We thank those who have been gracious enough to serve a meal for our Youth group! Attendance has been great because youth are inviting friends, creating disciples and helping spread God's word through their testimonies.

Thank you SO much to the volunteers who have graciously provided Supper for our Youth this year! It is a chance to interact with this great group, always looking for more volunteers!

LOVE Boldly, SERVE Joyfully and LEAD Courageously!

March has been a transition month with crazy changing weather and Spring Break schedules, but Youth group keeps gaining momentum. It may go unnoticed, but our Youth are serving side by side in many aspects of our church. Rhys, IC, Molly, Madi, Jack, Audrey and Hattie have been on the worship and tech teams. Drew and Ella currently serve as Youth representatives on Church Council (Paige, Jack, Hattie and Anna have in the past). Just about everyone has worked VBS, Family Fest, or Jamaica, and lead Sunday lessons. They pick up all chairs weekly after the 8:30AM service, just another way to serve others!

Youth are excited to work on Serve Day on April 26th alongside



Upcoming Events:

March 29th – Game Night

April 26th – Serve Day

May 3rd – Senior Recognition Sunday

May 6th – Wednesday evening Baccalaureate Service

Special thanks to our core group of adult volunteers that make this ministry possible!

Joy Ross, Joanna Patillo, Bryan Moore, Ellen Bivens and John Ames are a HUGE blessing!

God Bless,

John Ackerson - "Interim" Youth Director

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

April 5, 2026

PRAYER CON- CERNS:

- ◆ Faye Denton - health issues
- ◆ Billy Wade - health
- ◆ Charlene Case - health
- ◆ Brad Burdon (Sue Risner's nephew) - grief
- ◆ Deborah Whittington - health
- ◆ Amy Smith - health issues
- ◆ Jessica Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ◆ Desirea Baker - health/ depression/grief
- ◆ Patty Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ◆ Ernie Vaughn - health
- ◆ Becca Barnes - health
- ◆ Darren Nicely family - Unspoken
- ◆ Shirley Hinkle's daughter

Primo Montesi and Carol Powell continue to suffer from repeated illness. They could both use prayers of encouragement and healing. 1355 H.C.R. 7550 Pottersville, Mo 65790

Charlotte (Charley) Woodworth has recently been diagnosed with childhood vision loss that is causing her to lose her central vision. Prayers for her and her family as they navigate this condition. They are friends of the Schultz.

Jim Weathers is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia. He has a long road ahead, and will be starting a new chemo pill. P.O. Box 694 Salem, AR 72576

Katie Barreda's brother, Kelbin Hardin passed away on 3/29. Arrangements are pending. Prayers for Kelbin's wife Elaine, Katie and the rest of the family; Katie Barreda 1011 Sassafras St., Willow Springs, MO 65793

Carol Morgan recently had a stroke, but is doing well. She is currently at Mercy Rehab Hospital. She would love to hear from old friends; 5904 S. Southwood Rd., Springfield, MO 65804

Marjorie Farmer's son, Maj. Alexander Farmer is in the process of being deployed. Prayers for him and all of our service men and women.

John & Elizabeth Koch are both having health issues. Prayers for healing - 5659 CR 2910, WP

Merle Williams wife Clara recently passed away. Prayer for their family.

Miriam Ward is home recovering. She has suffered some setbacks in her recovery but is progressing. She would enjoy receiving cards. Prayers for her continued recovery. PO Box 803, WP

Continued prayers for Bud & Marie Nale. They each continue having ongoing medical issues: 1619 Evergreen, WP

Donna Cook's nephew, Mark Cook has been diagnosed with melanoma. He and his wife Kelly are asking for prayers for guidance on how to proceed. He has an upcoming appt. at Barnes to be evaluated. His mom, Sue Cook has recently been placed on Hospice Care.

CANCER

- Kinsey Mincey
- Ivan Kochubey - lymphoma
- Sheri Hedrick - cervical cancer
- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Tumer
- Trina Johnson
- Gary Foster - Leukemia

Home

Matt & Regina Janocko: P.O. Box 385, WP

Daryl Leonard-2325 St. Rt. 14, WP

Bud & Marie Nale: 1619 Evergreen, WP

Charles & Carole Cooper: 2694 S. St. Rt. 17, Mt. View, MO 65548

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTIVE LIVING

Larry Pope-Rm 7B, NHC

Barbara Gingles-Whispering Pines, 2313 Bradford Circle

Neane Dorris-Whispering Pines: 2313 Bradford Circle,

Helen Birdsong: 213 Davis Dr., Apt. 403

Connie Long: 408A, Brookhaven

Billy Wade - Room 15, Cedar Hurst

Dee McCormack - Room 503, Pleasant Valley

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Addresses:

West Vue-210 Davis Dr.

Pleasant Valley Manor: 213 Davis Dr.

NHC- 211 Davis Dr.

Brookhaven: 1410 Kentucky Ave.

Greenhouses: 2313 Bradford Circle (Oak, Pine Place, Dogwood
Cedarhurst-1521 US Hwy 63

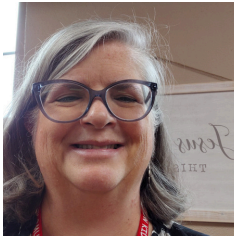
STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
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Falana Boze
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Crystal Houston
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- **Administrative Council Chair**
Shaun Duggins
- **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden

- **Librarian**
Donna Cook
- **Methodist Women**
Wanda Byrd
- **Treasurer**
Amy Murphy

Contact Information

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