



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
AUGUST NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 08: 2026

Found Family

There are some things you don't realize you're looking for until you find them.

For some people, it's a favorite restaurant.

For others, it's a hometown.

For me, one of those things has always been a group of people where you don't have to pretend.

People who know your story.

People who celebrate your victories.

People who notice when you're missing.

People who help carry your burdens before you even ask.

In other words...

A family.

More Than a Place to Attend

One of my favorite descriptions of the early church is that they didn't simply gather together.

They **belonged** to one another.

They prayed together.

They shared meals together.

They celebrated together.

They grieved together.

Their unity wasn't built on having the same background, the same opinions, or even the same personalities.

It was built on Jesus.

Becoming a Found Family

Over the past several months, we've talked a great deal about **fostering friendship, serving side by side,** and **sharing our stories.**

Those aren't separate initiatives.

They're the way a church becomes a family.

Friendship turns strangers into neighbors.

Serving turns neighbors into teammates.

Sharing our stories reminds us that the same faithful God is writing every one of our lives—even if each story looks different.

Little by little, God weaves us together into something we could never become on our own.

👉 There's Always Room at the Table

Families grow.

They welcome new people.

They make room.

They celebrate when someone new finds their place.

That's my prayer for First United Methodist Church.

Not simply that we would become a church people enjoy attending.

But that we would become a family people are grateful to belong to.

A place where lifelong members and first-time guests discover they are brothers and sisters because of the grace of Jesus Christ.

📖 Join Us This Month

This August we'll begin a new worship series called **Found Family** as we explore what Scripture teaches about belonging, encouragement, and living as the family of God.

Whether you've been here for decades or you're still wondering if this church could ever feel like home, I hope you'll join us.

Because I believe God is still building His family.

And I have a feeling He's not finished adding seats around the table.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sean

In Loving Memory

Miriam Ward

Geoff & Elaine Posegate
Richard & Helen Atkinson

Annie Noblin

Richard & Helen Atkinson



Day 1: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Day 2: 1 Peter 3:17-18

Day 3: Philippians 1:29,
2 Timothy 3:12

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Day 5: 1 Peter 4:13-16

Day 6: James 1:2-4, James 1:12

Day 7: Romans 5:1-5

Day 8: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Day 9: 1 Peter 4:19

Day 10: 1 Peter 1:6-9

Day 11: 1 Peter 5:8-11

Day 12: Philippians 3:12-14

Day 13: Hebrews 12:1-3

Day 14: Hebrews 4:15-16

Day 15: 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Day 16: Hebrews 12:4-7,
Hebrews 12:11-12

Day 17: Proverbs 3:11-12

Day 18: Romans 8:33-39

Day 19: 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

Day 20: 2 Timothy 1:7-8,
2 Timothy 1:11-12

Day 21: Philippians 4:6-7

Day 22: Galatians 6:17

Day 23: Philippians 1:21, Psalm 73:26

Day 24: Psalm 68:19, Psalm 46:1,
Philippians 4:13

Day 25: Psalm 62:5-8, Psalm 34:4,
Psalm 34:17

Day 26: Psalm 18:1-2

Day 27: Psalm 20:7-8

Day 28: 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Exodus
14:14, Romans 8:31

Day 29: Deuteronomy 31:8

Day 30: John 16:33

Day 31: Ephesians 1:17-21





United Methodist Women



**Tuesday August 11, 2026
9:00a.m. FUMC**

**Donna Cook will present information on
resources that are available in our library**

Everyone Is Welcome!

July 5th

Attendance: 114

Gifts: \$6,113.00

July 19th

Attendance: 131

Gifts: \$5,293.80

Gifts & Numbers

July 12th

Attendance: 150

Gifts: \$6,754.41

July 26th

Attendance: 145

Gifts: \$3,650.00

****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

August 4th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

August 10th

Church Council - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

August 11th

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am

August 14th

Volunteers needed to help with shampoo collected for
Bridges - FUMC, 9am

Volunteers needed to help fill backpacks - WPHS, 1pm

August 15th

Volunteers needed to help hand out backpacks -
WPHS parking lot, 9-11am

August 18th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

August 24th

First day of school for West Plains and most
surrounding schools

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Summer Camp children will have the following themes for August: Water Week and Western Week. These two weeks will finish up our Summer Camp Program. On August 17th, we will begin our School Year. Our first two weeks of Preschool we will have the Themes: Back to School and All about ME. The children will be learning bible stories about the Lost Sheep, God takes care of Me, and Creation. Our special event this month will be a Water Day, a Hoe Down to end our Summer Camp, and the 1st Day of Preschool August 17th. We will also have Parent's Orientation on August 13th at 6pm. We still have a few spots open so if you have a little one, please call today about availability.

Children's Ministry

During August, our Nursery/ Preschoolers will be learning about The Forgiving Father. Our Elementary Children will be learning about The Fruit of the Spirit during Children's Church. During Sunday School, we will continue learning about Abraham and Sarah. Our lessons will include a Movie, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Science, and Games.

Vacation Bible School 2026

Our VBS this year was wonderful. We were all blessed by the Adventurous Bible Stories, New Friends, Fun Games, Yummy Snacks, and Great Volunteers who decorated, taught, prepared, and create an environment where children could learn the Character of God. VBS this year served 62 children and 21 special needs adults over a two-week period. We were blessed by our many volunteers and are so very thankful for each person that served this year. Our VBS Mission this year was Alive Center. Alive Center is a ministry in Pattaya, Thailand. The ministry provided Christian education, meals, Soccer, and food packages for some of the poorest children living in the slums of Pattaya. This year we were able to raise \$435. The money will provide 50 families with a monthly food package. Thank you to all who donated.

Crystal Houston

Director of Friendship Circle Ministries/

Director of Children's Ministries



Mission Moment

New Ramp for post hip surgery patient



12th Annual Bridges Back-to-School Event

FUMC has been asked to help collect **SHAMPOO**. Please bring shampoo donations to the church by August 12th. Our goal is to collect 500 bottles.



Distribution will be August 15th
at the WP high school Parking Lot,
9am to 11am

Thank you 
for helping students start
the school year off
on a positive note.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS



On August 14
we will deliver shampoo
to the WPHS at **9am**.



Volunteers will be
needed at **1pm**
to fill the backpacks.



Volunteers needed
to help distribute the
bags on the 15th.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

August 9, 2026

- ♦ Billy Wade - health
- ♦ Charlene Case - health
- ♦ Deborah Whittington - health
- ♦ Amy Smith - health issues
- ♦ Jessica Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Desirea Baker - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Patty Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ♦ Shirley Hinkle - health
- ♦ Jim Peterson - health
- ♦ Bruce Owens - health
- ♦ Alecia Goodfellow - health
- ♦ Becca Barnes - health issues
- ♦ Charley Woodworth - vision loss
- ♦ Nancy Shelton - surgery
- ♦ Marvin - health

Jennifer Shriver had surgery on 7/23 at Mercy. She has been moved to a rehab facility in Ozark for a few weeks. When she returns home she will need a small counter top microwave and a lift chair to help accommodate her condition. Prayers for healing. Please let the church office know if you can help with this need.

Dorothy Wilson (Southview) - She is doing much better and has moved back to Southview .

Valerie Tafoya (friend of Julie Templeton) recently and unexpectedly, lost her husband Paul. He was only 32 yrs old. Prayers for her and the family.

Cindy Weeks had surgery on 7/31 to place a stint. Prayers for her as she heals and recovers. 10848 CR 8530 , WP

Margot Doohan had hip replacement on 7/15. She has completed her rehab and has returned home. She is appreciative of all the prayers and messages she has received. Prayers for continued healing. 8089 CR 5150, Dora 65637

Sue Risner recently had knee replacement surgery. Continued prayers for healing. 5868 C.R. 1580, WP

Donna Cook's nephew, Mark Cook has been receiving treatment for melanoma. The treatment is receding the cancer. Prayers for continued healing.

Continued prayers for Wanda Byrd's brother, Mike. He recently had a bone marrow transplant and is doing well. However his immunity is very low.

Jim Weathers is currently undergoing treatment for leukemia. He has a long road ahead. Prayers for comfort and recovery. P.O. Box 694 Salem, AR 72576

Marie Higley is recovering from pacemaker implantation on 7/20. 10883 Co Rd 6850, WP

Diana Groe has a follow-up appointment at Mayo Clinic in September. Continued prayers are appreciated. 1913 Meadowbrook Dr., WP

Amy Ross, recent surgery to transplant bone from her hip to her foot. She will be non-weight bearing on the foot for four months. Prayers for healing.

CANCER

- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Tumer
- Trina Johnson
- Don Schlag - prostate cancer (Sue Risner's nephew)

Home

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 & ASSITIVE 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

Evelyn Tapscott is currently staying with her daughter Jennifer in Nebraska. Lets send her cards and letters letting her know how much we miss her. 2702 W. 14th St. North Platte, NE 69101

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
Lead Pastor
sean@fumcwestplains.com



Falana Boze
Office Manager
falana@fumcwestplains.com



Crystal Houston
**Director of Friendship
Circle Ministries / Children's
Ministries**
crystal@fumcwestplains.com

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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

**417-256-6167 www.fumcwestplains.com
503 West Main • West Plains, Mo 65775**