



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
JULY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 07: 2026

Pull Up Another Chair

Have you ever noticed what happens when someone unexpected shows up for dinner?

Someone disappears into another room to find a folding chair.

Kids scoot a little closer together.

Someone volunteers to sit at the corner on the stool that is too tall for the table.

Without anyone saying it out loud, the whole family makes room.

I've never heard anyone complain,

"But that's **my** chair." (Although not impossible to comprehend...)

Because everyone understands something around the dinner table that we sometimes forget everywhere else:

The table isn't about the chairs. It's about the people.

Jesus Was Always Making Room

When I read the Gospels, I can't help but notice that Jesus was constantly making room for one more person.

One more fisherman.

One more tax collector.

One more child.

One more sinner.

One more person everyone else had overlooked.

Again and again, Jesus interrupted routines, stretched expectations, and even inconvenienced His closest followers so that someone else could experience the love of God.

The Kingdom has always been about making room.

That's the Church I Hope We Become

As I think about First United Methodist Church, I find myself praying the same prayer.

I hope we become the kind of church where friendship isn't just something we enjoy—it becomes something we intentionally create.

A church that asks: "**Who isn't here yet?**"

just as often as we ask: "**How are the people who are here doing?**"

A church that treasures its past...while always preparing for the people God is bringing next.

Making Room

This year we've talked a great deal about **fostering friendship, serving side by side, and sharing our stories.**

Those aren't just ministry initiatives.

They're ways of making room.

Making room for new friendships.

Making room for new stories.

Making room for someone who is looking for hope.

Making room for someone who doesn't yet know they belong.

A Simple Prayer

I hope we're always the kind of church that's willing to scoot our chairs over.

Not because we love change. But because we love people.

Because every place we make for another person reminds us of the place Jesus first made for us.

And who knows?

Maybe somewhere in West Plains today...God is preparing someone to pull up a chair.

I hope when they arrive, they'll discover a church that has already been making room.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sean



July

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

With Liberty and Justice For All

Day 1: Isaiah 61:1

Day 2: James 1:25

Day 3: James 2:11-13

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 3:17

Day 5: Galatians 2:4-5

Day 6: Galatians 5:1

Day 7: Galatians 5:13

Day 8: 1 Peter 2:16

Day 9: Proverbs 21:15

Day 10: Deut. 10:17-18

Day 11: Deut. 16:19-20

Day 12: Deut. 32:4

Day 13: 2 Samuel 8:15

Day 14: 1 Kings 10:9

Day 15: Psalm 37:27-28

Day 16: Psalm 37:29-31

Day 17: Psalm 97:2

Day 18: Psalm 106:3

Day 19: Proverbs 2:7-9

Day 20: Proverbs 21:3

Day 21: Proverbs 29:26

Day 22: Eccles. 5:8

Day 23: Isaiah 5:16

Day 24: Jeremiah 5:27-29

Day 25: Jeremiah 23:5

Day 26: Amos 5:15

Day 27: Matthew 23:23

Day 28: Luke 18:1-8

Day 29: Hebrews 11:32-34

Day 30: Isaiah 45:22-24

Day 31: Philippians 3:19-21

≡ JULY ≡
13-16



RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring The Nature of God



🕒 8:30 AM - 12 PM

📍 AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOR AGES 4 YEARS OLD THROUGH 5TH GRADE



SIGN UP TODAY!

fumcwestplains.com/vbs-registration



United Methodist Women



Tuesday July 7, 2026
9:00a.m. FUMC

Please come join us to help set up for VBS.
There is a job for everyone!

Everyone Is Welcome!

June 7th

Attendance: 131
Gifts: \$5,296.11

June 21st

Attendance: 126
Gifts: \$2,827.00

Gifts & Numbers

June 14th

Attendance: 144
Gifts: \$5,463.00

June 28th

Attendance: 155
Gifts: \$4,155.80

****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

July 2nd & 3rd

Church Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday

July 4th

Independence Day - 250 Years

July 6th - 9th

VBS set up - 9am til Noon, all are welcome to help

July 7th

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am
In Stitches - Parlor, 1pm

July 9th

All VBS Helpers meeting - CLC, 6pm
Youth Safe Gatherings - CLC, 7pm

July 13th - 16th

RAIN FOREST FALLS VBS, 8:30-12pm

July 17th

Church Office Closed

July 20th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

July 21st

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

July 21st

Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall, 11-3

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Summer Camp children will have the following themes for July: Patriotism, Legos, Art, and Music and Movement. The children will be learning bible stories about the Disciples, Peter, Paul, and The Church. Our special event this month will be Independence Day Bike Parade at 10am Wednesday July 1st, a Water Day, and a Dance Party during Music Week. There will be no Preschool/Day Care during VBS week July 13th-17th.

Children's Ministry

During July, our Nursery/ Preschoolers will be learning The Lord's Prayer. 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.

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 with VBS, please fill out a form located in the church lobby and place in the basket provided or call the church office. We will still need these positions filled: music leaders for both morning and evening, Preschool game leader, Preschool Sticky Scripture Leader, Imagination Station Helper, and many more youth helpers. Can't wait to share God with our community of children here in West Plains.

If you would like to donate food items, craft items, gift cards, or a financial donation for VBS, please sign up in the lobby or drop your donation in the church office.

Thank you to everyone who has donated already. Each child and special needs adult attending VBS will receive a T-shirt thanks to your generous donation.

VBS is for all children 4 years old through 6th grade. You may register your child by filling out a form and placing it in the box in the lobby or you can fill out a form online at the church website. Come to Rain Forest Falls and explore the Character of God!!

Crystal Houston

Director of Friendship Circle Ministries/

Director of Children's Ministries





Our Mission: *To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*
Our 2026 Goal: *Foster friendships through sharing our story and serving side by side.*

☀️ **Ministry Celebrations & Praises**

God is moving in wonderful ways through our church family! Here are a few exciting updates from our ministries:

- **Growing Sunday School:** The Koinonia class is thrilled to welcome several new members, bringing their total attendance to 30!
 - **Worship Refresh:** We have updated our order of worship and added a handy QR code to the bulletin for easier connection and giving.
 - **Baptism Blessings:** Three of our 18-year-old youth have stepped forward requesting to be baptized. Please keep them in your prayers during this special milestone.
 - **Young Adult Ministry:** There is growing interest in starting a new ministry focused on our young adults.
 - **Pastoral Update:** We are officially blessed to have Pastor Sean McIntyre staying with us for another year!
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🏛️ **Board Room Briefs**

Your Church Board met on Monday, June 15, to handle the business of the church. Here is a summary of the key actions taken:

- **Financial Policy:** The Stewardship Team finalized a new Financial Policy. The board discussed amendments to ensure strong accountability, specifically ensuring the Treasurer is not a check signer. A final email vote will take place soon.
 - **Trustees Update:** The Fellowship Hall stove temperature is being evaluated, and local professionals are being contacted for a quick service check.
 - **Looking Ahead:** Mark your calendars for the first Sunday in January 2026, when we will host a special commissioning service for our incoming board members.
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📅 **Save the Date**

Next Board Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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

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.



Blood Drive

**First United Methodist
Church**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

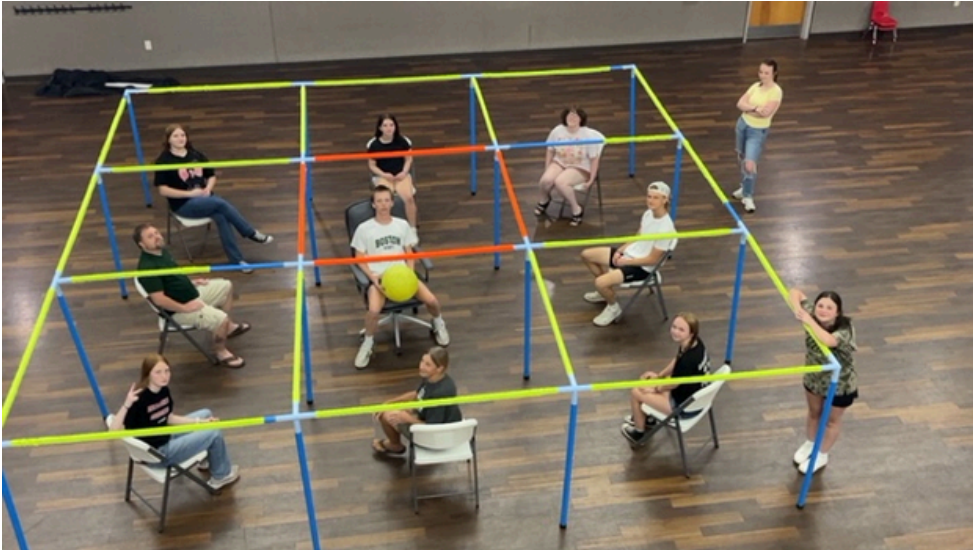
Fellowship Hall
503 West Main Street
West Plains, MO 65775

FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry concluded our school year on May 10th. Our last couple of weeks were spent reflecting in the prayer garden and a scavenger hunt. Thanks to all that were willing to serve supper!

LOVE Boldly, SERVE Joyfully and LEAD Courageously!

We have some BIG Summer plans, but a few are TBD. We started with church Lock-In on June 19th from 6PM to 1AM and played about every game we could come up with and consumed plenty of caffeine!



Upcoming Summer Events:

June 28th – Game Night

July 10th-11th – Possible Concert

July 19th-20th - River Float Trip

Special thanks to Joy Ross, Joanna Patillo, Bryan Moore, and John Ames for leading this group!

God Bless,
John Ackerson - "Interim" Youth Director

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

July 5, 2026

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Shirley Hinkle's family & room mates
- ◆ Jim Peterson - health
- ◆ Rhonda - health
- ◆ Bruce Owens - health
- ◆ Deanna Garrett - Unspoken
- ◆ Tawn Matheny - health
- ◆ Becca Barnes - Strength/ grief
- ◆ Dorothy Wilson - ICU

Sue Risner recently had knee replacement surgery. She will be rehabbing at NHC but is currently back at OZH due to complications.

Diana Groe was recently at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN having tests run to continue addressing her pulmonary difficulties. Prayers for her and the doctors to find a plan forward for her. 1913 Meadowbrook Dr., WP

Donna Cook's nephew, Mark Cook has been diagnosed with melanoma. He is receiving treatment at Barnes in St. Louis. Prayers for healing.

Continued prayers for Wanda Byrd's brother, Mike. He had a bone marrow transplant and will be confined to home for 3 months.

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

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.

Collin Finley (Crystal Houston's nephew) recently had a stroke. He is now home and is still recovering. Continued Prayers

The family of James Branum (Barry Fielders cousin). He recently passed away.

John and Elizabeth Koch - due to health issues, John is looking for an new job. And the recent loss of Elizabeth's uncle. Prayers for their family.

Bud & Marie Nale each continue to have ongoing medical issues: 1619 Evergreen, WP

Prayers for our upcoming Rain Forest Falls VBS.

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Addresses:
West Vue-210 Davis Dr.
Pleasant Valley Manor: 213 Davis Dr.
NHC- 211 Davis Dr.

CANCER

- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Tumer
- Trina Johnson
- Ernie Vaughn
- Don Schlag - prostate cancer, will be having surgery on July 8 (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

Nean 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

Brookhaven: 1410 Kentucky Ave.

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



In Loving Memory

Miriam Ward

Larry & Shirley Butler
 Barbara Alsup

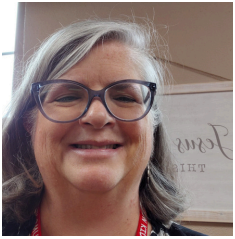
STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
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Crystal Houston
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- **Administrative Council Chair**
Shaun Duggins
 - **Librarian**
Donna Cook
 - **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden
 - **Methodist Women**
Wanda Byrd
 - **Treasurer**
Amy Murphy

Contact Information

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