



First United

METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
JUNE NEWSLETTER
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Growing Together on Purpose

One of the things I love most about spring is that this time of year reminds us that healthy things grow intentionally.

Gardens don't grow accidentally. Teams don't grow accidentally. Churches don't either.

Over the last year, our leadership has spent significant time praying, listening, organizing, and dreaming about how we can best position First United Methodist Church to faithfully pursue our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That work led to the organizational structure our Leadership Board recently adopted.

At its core, this structure is designed around a simple idea:

Ministry works best when we work together.

Rather than functioning as isolated ministries doing separate things, we want every part of church life moving in the same direction—fostering friendship, serving side by side, and sharing our stories as one church family.

A Shared Vision Requires Shared Leadership

As part of this structure, several key ministry leadership areas help align and shepherd the work of the church:

- Worship
- Learn
- Serve
- Friendship
- Stewardship
- Building & Maintenance
-

One of the most important pieces of this vision is the role of Ministry Leader for Learn, which helps coordinate and connect our age-level ministries—including kids, youth, adults, and God's Crew.

This role is not about “running every ministry.” It is about helping leaders work together toward the greater mission and objectives of the church as a whole. It creates alignment, communication, encouragement, and shared discipleship across generations.

God Provides

I'm excited to share that **Rev. Geoff Posegate** has agreed to serve in this role as our **Age Level Ministry Coordinator / Ministry Leader for Learn**.

Even more meaningful—this is a **volunteer role**.

Geoff brings wisdom, pastoral experience, deep care for people, and a passion for discipleship that will help strengthen and connect ministries across every stage of life. His leadership will help ensure that our children, youth, adults, and special needs ministries are not simply existing alongside one another—but growing together intentionally.

I'm deeply grateful for Geoff's willingness to serve in this way.

Our board and nominations team are committed to inviting, equipping and deploying more servants of God to lead in this way as well as others in our church family to support these ministries in a variety of ways.

Becoming the Church God Is Calling Us to Be

As we continue building toward the future God has for FUMC, this structure is not about adding bureaucracy or complexity.

It's about creating clarity.

It's about equipping leaders.

It's about helping relationships flourish.

And ultimately, it's about helping us become a healthier, more unified church.

Because healthy things grow best when they are connected.

And I truly believe God is growing something beautiful among us.

If you would like to learn more about this effort, never hesitate to contact me or our board chair, Shaun Duggins.

— **Pastor Sean**



LASTING LEGACY

A FATHER'S DAY MESSAGE

FATHER'S DAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY
JUNE 21

SERVICE TIMES
8:30 & 11 AM

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR
THE LEGACY OF FAITHFUL FATHERS.



God is with Us

June

- Day 1: Matthew 1:23
- Day 2: John 14:16-17
- Day 3: Jeremiah 31
- Day 4: Matthew 28:20
- Day 5: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Day 6: Psalm 139:7
- Day 7: Ephesians 2:18
- Day 8: Ephesians 3:11-12
- Day 9: Psalm 145:18
- Day 10: Hebrews 13:5
- Day 11: Revelation 3:20
- Day 12: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 13: Zephaniah 3:17
- Day 14: Job 23:10
- Day 15: Joshua 1:9
- Day 16: Psalm 23:4
- Day 17: Isaiah 41:10
- Day 18: Genesis 39:21
- Day 19: Psalm 118:6
- Day 20: Jeremiah 29:11
- Day 21: Deuteronomy 31:6
- Day 22: Isaiah 43:1-3
- Day 23: Romans 8:38-39
- Day 24: John 1:14
- Day 25: Judges 6:12
- Day 26: Isaiah 46:4
- Day 27: Psalm 91:1-2
- Day 28: John 14:16-17
- Day 29: Matthew 18:20
- Day 30: Romans 8:31
- Day 31: 1 Kings 8:57

An adventure you'll fall for!



I hope to spot you here!



SAVE THE DATE

July 13th - 16th

New friends 🌿 **Surprising adventures** 🌿 **Creative games**
Super-fun snacks 🌿 **Amazing experiments** 🌿 **Incredible music**
Registration forms are available in the lobby
or sign up on our website at: www.fumcwestplains.com

United Methodist Women



Tuesday June 9, 2026
9:00a.m. FUMC

We will be helping with VBS preparations. Please plan to join us!

Everyone Is Welcome!

Gifts & Numbers

May 3rd

Attendance: 143
Gifts: \$5,763.00

May 10th

Attendance: 163
Gifts: \$5,681.21

May 17th

Attendance: 128
Gifts: \$2,629.10

May 24th

Attendance: 140
Gifts: \$4,686.80

May 31st

Attendance: 142
Gifts: \$15,773.00

****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

June 2nd

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

June 5th - 7th

Missouri Annual Conference
Pastor Barry Fielder will be preaching on June 7th

June 9th

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am

June 11th

VBS Volunteer Meeting - CLC, 6pm

June 15th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

June 16th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

June 20th

Miriam Ward's Memorial Service - Sanctuary, 11am

June 21st

Fathers Day / First Day of Summer

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Summer Camp children will have the following themes for June: Ice Cream, Summer Nights, Bees & Bugs, and Pirates. The children will be learning bible stories about Moses, Jonah, Daniel, and Zechariah & Elizabeth. Our special event this month will be Ice Cream Party, Several Water Days, and Donuts with Dad for our Father's Day Event.

Thank you to the Methodist Women for purchasing a new changing table for our new classroom.

Children's Ministry

During June, our Nursery will be learning to be a "Community of Believers" with lessons about the Early Church. Our Elementary Children will be learning about Noah and the Ark during Children's Church. During Sunday School, we will be 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 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.

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





Board Updates: Faith, Fellowship, and Growth at First UMC WP

Dear Church Family,

Our Church Board met on May 11, 2026, to review how God is moving in our congregation and to plan for the future. Every decision we make is guided by our mission: **To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** This year, we are specifically focusing on fostering friendships through sharing our story and serving side by side.

Here are the key celebrations, financial updates, and strategic plans from our latest meeting.

Ministry Celebrations

God is doing incredible work through our ministries! Here is what we are celebrating this month:

- **Serve Day Success:** Around 100 volunteers showed up to serve our community. A highlight was our youth group bringing church directly to Erica Humphreys at her home since she has been unable to attend in person.
- **God's Crew:** This group is thriving, averaging 20 to 25 attendees for crafts and games.
- **Youth Ministry:** The youth group had 20 students attend last week, including 3 brand-new faces!
- **Card Ministry:** Donna Cook has been blessing many with her beautiful, handmade decorative cards. Visitors Kevin and Jim Weathers shared how much these cards and phone calls mean to them.
- **Pastor Appreciation:** Pastor Sean and his family have already enjoyed three fun trips to Silver Dollar City using the season passes the congregation gifted them!

Financial Blessing

We are incredibly grateful for your continued generosity. Our tithes and offerings show a beautiful picture of growth and stewardship:

- **2025 (Jan 1 – Apr 30):** \$133,461
- **2026 (Jan 1 – Apr 30):** \$181,670

Campus & Security Improvements

Thanks to ongoing grant projects, we are making great progress on upgrading our facilities:

- **Lighting:** The new exterior lighting is complete! Drive by at night to see the bright difference.
- **Security Doors:** Installation on the second floor (to the right of the elevator) will be finished in about three weeks. This will greatly enhance security for our daycare.
- **Security Cameras:** We are currently securing three bids to get a new camera system underway.
- **Facilities Care:** The board is looking into renting a floor scrubber quarterly for the Christian Life Center (CLC) floors and will have the foyer rugs professionally cleaned.

Vision & Leadership Shifts

As we look ahead, we are streamlining our leadership structure to ensure our ministries remain mission-driven:

- **New Coordinator:** Geoff Posegate has stepped into the role of Age Level Ministry Coordinator. He will oversee the new "Age Level Ministries Team" comprised of leaders from Friendship Circle, Kids ministry, youth ministry, adult learning ministry and God's Crew. This team will work together to align the objectives of their teams to march together in the same direction as the larger church vision.
- **Community Outreach:** To better understand our neighbors, leadership will conduct five interviews with community leaders and unchurched individuals by July.

Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your financial support as we serve side by side!

In Christ,

The First UMC WP Board

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

Scholarship Opportunities

FUMC WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship is open to women over age 21 who are returning to college after an absence
- Applicants must carry 12 hours per semester & show financial need

RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Must be previous FUMC Scholarship Winner
- Completed 12 credit hours per semester the previous year
- Maintained a 2.5 GPA or above at accredited college or university

Applications & transcripts are due in church office July 1st

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 were SO honored to recognize, congratulate and pray over our 7 graduating High School seniors at our May 3rd services! We wish Caleb, Eleanor, Drew, Vessi, Ella, Lucy and Kirsten the best and look forward to seeing their future impacts! Ella was an inspirational speaker at the Community Baccalaureate Service held on May 6th! Vessi Mortensen completed a beautiful mural in our Youth room that you should go see!



Upcoming Summer Events:

River Float Trip, Lake Trip, Lock-In and Concert

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



June 1, 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 daughter
- ◆ Jim Peterson - health
- ◆ Rhonda - health
- ◆ Bruce Owens - health
- ◆ Joy Melton - health
- ◆ Deanna Garrett - Unspoken
- ◆ Tawn Matheny - health
- ◆ Becca Barnes - health/ upcoming surgery

Miriam Ward passed away on May 8th. There will be a service for her on June 20 at FUMC. Visitation will be at 10 and the service will follow at 11. Continued prayers for her family. PO Box 803, WP

Annie Noblin passed away on 5/9 from the injuries she received in a car accident she was involved in on 4/20. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, June 12, 2026, from 6:00-8:00p.m. at the Historic Post Office. Please continue to keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Paula & Gregg England - 137 County Rd. 379 Koshkonong, MO 65692

Bud & Marie Nale each continue having ongoing medical issues: 1619 Evergreen, 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 and is hospitalized at Vanderbilt Hospital in Tennessee. They hope to move him to a rehab center soon. Prayers for his recovery.

CANCER

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

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 & 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

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
 - **Librarian**
Donna Cook
 - **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden
 - **Methodist Women**
Wanda Byrd
 - **Treasurer**
Amy Murphy

Contact Information

417-256-6167 www.fumcwestplains.com

503 West Main • West Plains, Mo 65775