



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
MARCH NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 03: 2026

♥ Matters of the Heart

I've thought more about my physical health this past year than in the previous 31 combined. Why? Because after thirty, you realize your body doesn't run on autopilot anymore. And most of it comes back to the heart. A healthy heart shapes a healthy body.

The same is true spiritually.

What we do flows from the heart. Yet we often examine our actions more than our motives — not just what we did, but why we did it.

Jesus didn't come merely to change behavior, but to transform hearts. That's what the season of Lent is about. We repent not out of shame, but because of the hope we have in Christ. As our hearts are renewed, the celebration of the resurrection becomes all the more glorious.

✝ Join Us for Holy Week

- **Palm Sunday — March 29 | 8:30 & 11 AM**

Community brunch during the Sunday School hour — bring a dish and come hungry for food and fellowship.

- **Good Friday — April 3 | 6 PM**

Worship in the sanctuary.

- **Easter Sunday — April 5 | 8:30 & 11 AM**

Celebration worship, with a kids' party between services.

🌿 Lent Class

Wednesdays at 6 PM in the chapel (3rd floor), led by Pastor Geoff Posegate, with a couple of sessions from me. Together we'll explore biblical justice, humility, and mercy in divided times.

🙌 Serve Day — April 26

We'll live out resurrection hope together. One combined worship service at 10 AM, followed by service projects for all ages and abilities. More details to come — but mark your calendar now.

And that's not all there is to celebrate. Multiple Jamaica mission trips you will hear more about and even more Kingdom impact happening because of you.

I'm grateful to be part of it with you.

In Him,
Pastor Sean



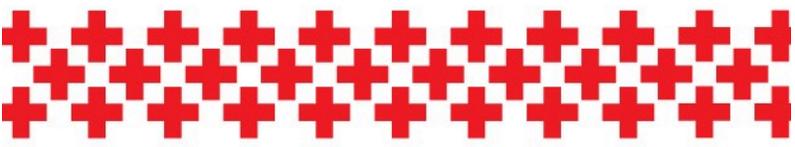
Don't forget
to
Spring
Forward



03.08.26

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
First United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall
503 West Main Street
West Plains, MO 65775

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Join Us For
Good Friday
Service

APRIL 3, 2026
6:00PM
SANCTUARY

Easter Sunday

04 **05** **26**
Month Day Year

Contemporary Service
8:30
Traditional Service
11:00



Justice, Mercy and Humility

in divided times

A group study based on Micah 6:8
Kids class available for PreK - 5th graders

Led by Pastors Geoff Posegate and Sean McIntyre
Wednesdays 2/25-4/1 @ 6 PM



Heartland Ecumenical Camino

For Christians to strengthen their faith and live
it out at home

Men's: March 12-15

Women's: March 19-22



Strengthen
Faith



Continuing
Community



Serve the
Church

For more information:

<https://www.heartlandecumenicalcamino.com>

or contact: Bob & Beckie Legler 417-293-7704

Wanda Byrd 417-274-0241

February 1st

Attendance: 121

Gifts: \$7,101.35

Gifts & Numbers

February 8th

Attendance: 188

Gifts: \$33,338.23

February 15th

Attendance: 129

Gifts: \$2,845.00

February 22nd

Attendance: 164

Gifts: \$9,946.00

****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



March 3rd

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

March 4th

UMW - Meet at church, 9am

March 8th

Daylight Saving Time Begins (Spring forward)

March 9th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

March 17th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

March 24th

Red Cross Blood Drive- Fellowship Hall, 11-3

March 29th

Palm Sunday - Brunch during the Sunday School hour
in the CLC. Bring a dish and enjoy food and fellowship

Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Child Care children will have these themes for March: Health/Safety, Spring, St. Patrick's Day, Weather, and Easter. We will continue daily lessons in alphabet, color, shapes, and number recognition. The children will be learning bible stories about Jesus' Ministry and the Easter Story. We will have a Bike Day on March 5th. On April 2nd, we will have a Family Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt.

Our Preschool Children will be learning about Community Helpers, Transportation, and Easter. Preschoolers will visit Community Helpers this month. They will go to the Fire Department, Police Department, the Veterinarian, the Hospital, the Recycling Center, the Sell Barn, Mr. Dent, the Ambulance, Air Vac, and Pizza Inn. A construction company and Howell Oregon will also visit us here at Preschool.

Children's Ministry

We will begin using a new children's Curriculum for Children's Church. The Curriculum is called Big Faith and is available through Cokesbury. During March, our Children will Soar and learn how to trust Jesus. Our stories will be Jesus in the Desert, Jarius trust Jesus, The Lord's Prayer, and Jesus enters Jerusalem.

During Sunday School, we will be learning How to be Fishers of Men. Our lessons will include a Movie, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Science, and Games.

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt and Party for all children during our Sunday School Hour. If you would like to donate filled plastic Easter Eggs or a treat for our party, please bring to the church office for Crystal.

VBS is fast approaching!! Our VBS this year is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. In March, Crystal will be attending a workshop about all things VBS. 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



Palm Sunday Brunch

March 29th, 9:40-10:45

Following the Early Service

Join us in the Christian Life Center!
Please bring your favorite Brunch foods!



SERVE DAY

April 26

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

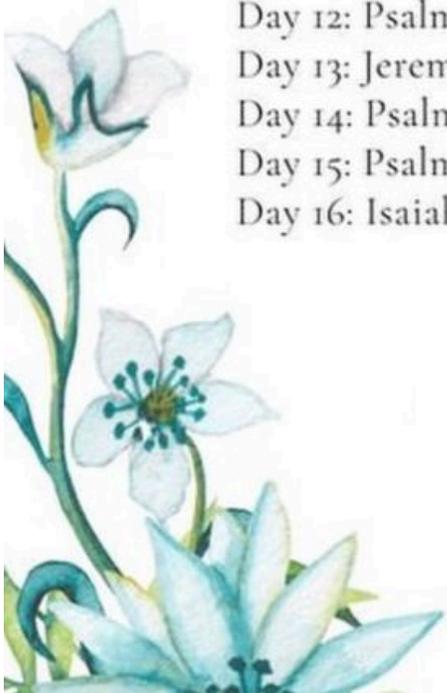
March



Rest in the Lord

Day 1: Psalm 34:1
Day 2: Psalm 34:4
Day 3: Psalm 34:6-7
Day 4: Nehemiah 9:5-6
Day 5: Psalm 9:9-10
Day 6: Psalm 13:5-6
Day 7: 1 Chronicles 16:23-24
Day 8: 1 Chronicles 16:25-26
Day 9: 1 Chronicles 16:27-29
Day 10: Psalm 16:1
Day 11: Psalm 27:1
Day 12: Psalm 28:7
Day 13: Jeremiah 20:13
Day 14: Psalm 32:7
Day 15: Psalm 40:1
Day 16: Isaiah 25:1

Day 17: Psalm 42:5
Day 18: Psalm 42:11
Day 19: Habakkuk 3:17-18
Day 20: Jeremiah 29:11-13
Day 21: Psalm 46:1-2
Day 22: Psalm 55:16
Day 23: Acts 16:25-26
Day 24: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
Day 25: Ephesians 3:16-17
Day 26: Ephesians 3:18-19
Day 27: Ephesians 3:20-21
Day 28: Psalm 62:1-2
Day 29: Psalm 75:1
Day 30: Colossians 3:15-16
Day 31: 1 Thess 5:16-18



Jamaica Mission Trip Report

February 9–17, 2026

To all who have supported our mission work in Jamaica—through your financial gifts, your prayers, and your encouragement—thank you. Your generosity continues to make a profound difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Rebuilding After Hurricane Melissa

As many of you know, our Christmas Eve offering was dedicated to helping rebuild the areas of Trelawny Parish that were devastated when Hurricane Melissa passed directly over the region. In January, Chris Patillo and Jeff Johnson traveled on behalf of our church, joining missionaries from across the country to prepare the clinic and dormitory for our February trip. They also assisted with repairs in other damaged areas, including the Girls' Home.

The funds you provided were used during that January trip and again during our February mission, alongside resources from our general Jamaica Mission Fund, to support ongoing reconstruction efforts.

February Mission Team

Our February team included 25 volunteers—members of our church, individuals from the surrounding area, and partners from the Springfield region. We were also blessed to have 8 nursing students and 2 nursing instructors from Missouri State University–West Plains join our medical team.

Medical Outreach

During the trip, our team cared for at least 576 patients across multiple communities, including:

- The clinic in Falmouth
- Bounty Hall
- Sherwood
- Stewart Town
- The All-Age School (125 children and adults)
- Homebound patients
- Residents of the Girls' Home
- Patients in the local nursing home

These visits provided essential medical care and medications that many in the region would otherwise be unable to afford.

Construction and Community Support

Our construction team was led by Scott Schneider and Chad Sullivan, a pastor and firefighter from the Springfield area. They worked alongside several local Jamaican workers to complete repairs and improvements made necessary by the hurricane.

In addition to construction materials, we were able to assist with funeral expenses for the mother of one of our long-time homebound patients—a former Jamaican police officer who became paraplegic after an on-duty accident. This support meant a great deal to him and his family.

Worship and Community Life

The church we typically attend in Duanvale was destroyed by the storm, but the community gathered for worship in the nearby community building—constructed in recent years by local residents and missionaries. Worshiping together in that space was a powerful reminder of resilience, faith, and the strength of community.

Looking Ahead

The people of Trelawny Parish and the surrounding areas continue to rely on mission teams like ours for accessible medical care and support. Your prayers and financial contributions make this work possible, and we are deeply grateful.

Our next mission trip to Jamaica is scheduled for **February 8–16, 2027**. We ask that you continue to keep this ministry in your prayers as we prepare once again to serve the wonderful people of Jamaica.

Thank you,

Rob Martin MD



2026 Jamaica Mission Teams



Thank you!

United Methodist Women

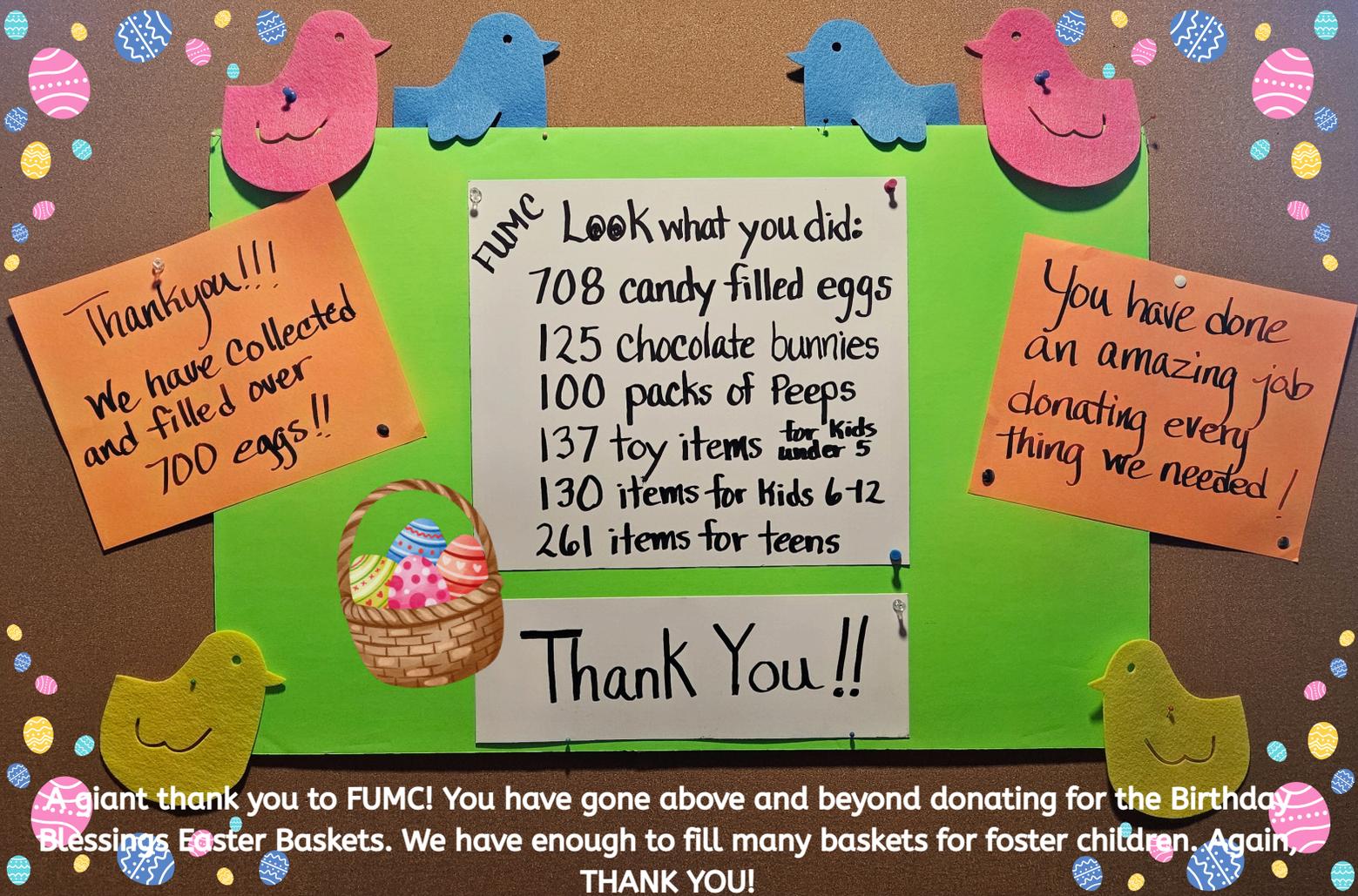


We will be going to Birthday Blessings to help with Easter Baskets on Wednesday March 4 at 9am. Meet at the church to ride in the van. Bring lunch money and we will go out to eat afterwards. Hope you are able to join us!

Wednesday March 4, 2026

9:00a.m. FUMC

Everyone is welcome!

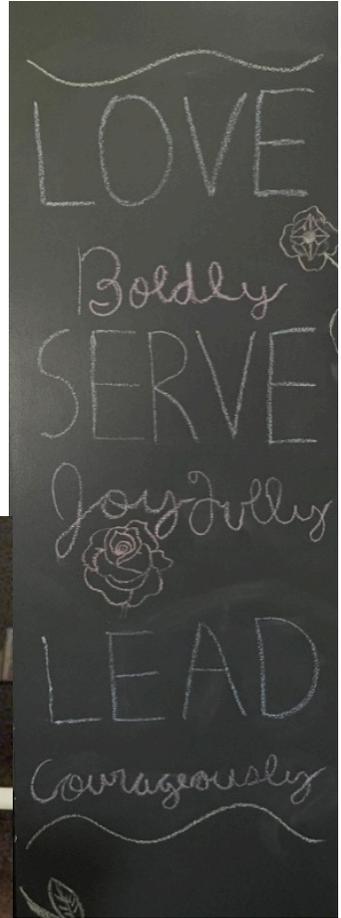


FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

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.

LOVE Boldly, SERVE Joyfully and LEAD Courageously!

We had a great February! Our Youth Super Bowl party was a big hit and thank you to all the volunteers that made amazing food to share! Our church financially and spiritually sponsored 8 Youth and 2 adults to attend the PASSION event in January. I was so proud of our Youth who shared their experiences at PASSION and how their Youth group fosters friendships through faith at both services on February 8th.



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

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

**God Bless,
John Ackerson - "Interim" Youth Director**

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

March 8, 2026

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ Billy Wade - health
- ◆ Charlene Case - health
- ◆ Brad Burdon (Sue Risner's nephew) - grief
- ◆ Alicia Goodfellow - health
- ◆ Jessica Pospisil - health/ depression/grief
- ◆ Bruce Owens - health
- ◆ Deborah Whittington - health
- ◆ Jim Peterson - health
- ◆ Joy Melton - health
- ◆ Amy Smith - health issues
- ◆ Lee Ann Warren
- ◆ Desirea Baker - health/ depression/grief
- ◆ Shirley Hinkle's daughter
- ◆ Greg - unspoken
- ◆ Jeff - health
- ◆ Shirley - health
- ◆ Patty Pospisil - health/grief
- ◆ Ernie Vaughn - health

Janice Johnson had knee replacement. She is home recuperating. 4153 County Road 4220, WP

Faye Denton is gradually improving from her recent procedure for her neck. Prayers that this gives her relief of her pain. 4197 St Rt 14, WP

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

McKamie Langston (Janice Bowden's son) passed away on February 28. Services will be held on March 6, at 2pm in the Langston Street Chapel: Ida Kay - 1402 Chateau Dr., WP
Janice Bowden - 2828 Laurie Dr., WP

Long time member, Joanne Lowe passed away on 2/19. Prayers for her family. Bonita Lowe - 2250 Roberta Dr, WP. Greg Lowe - 454 Hargrove Vly, Dora, MO 65637

Miriam Ward has completed her rehab and is home. Prayers for her continued recovery. PO Box 803, WP

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

Tim and Tracy Waggoner of Waggoner Floral are both going through some health issues. Prayers for both of them. 606 W. 1st Street, WP

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

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

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTIVE 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.

Brookhaven: 1410 Kentucky Ave.

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

STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
Lead Pastor
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Falana Boze
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Crystal Houston
Director of Friendship
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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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