



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 10: 2025



From Pastor Sean

As I write this, my family and I have officially been living in **West Plains for 3 months**. After a couple of Zizzer games and some homecoming festivities, we feel like true West Plainians (is that a thing?).

It honestly feels like we've been here **much longer**—and that's a good thing. It means we feel at home!

We are not only enjoying West Plains, but also feel **blessed by and proud of our First United Methodist Church community**. Each Sunday in worship is inspiring, and the commitment to making First UMC a **force of impact in the community** is remarkable.



Church Leadership Retreat

At the beginning of September, our **Leadership Board** gathered for a weekend retreat to ask: **"Where is God calling our church into the future?"**

We:

- Reflected on all that our church has faced recently (5 pastors in 7 years, a global pandemic, denominational changes).
- Reviewed feedback from the [onboarding process and Donuts & Discussion](#).
- Gained clarity, hope, and excitement for the **Kingdom work ahead**.



I invite you to talk with a board member about their experience—it was powerful.



Our Shared Mission

Leadership believes that First UMC will move forward with hope by focusing on our mission:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In the immediate future, we'll live into that mission by focusing on **3 Discipleship Initiatives**:

1. **Serving Side by Side**
2. **Fostering Friendship**
3. **Sharing Our Story**

These will come alive through our four pillars of discipleship:

Worship • Learning • Serving • Friendship

As our leaders plan and budget, you'll hear more details soon.



Looking Ahead

I believe with all my heart that, because of the grace of Jesus, **the best is yet to come.**
I can't wait to be part of it—and I hope you'll be along for the ride!

In His name and for His sake,

Pastor Sean



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

PRAISE AND **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

SUNDAYS

7:00 AM PRACTICE

Wanted

CONTACT PASTOR SEAN

IF INTERESTED

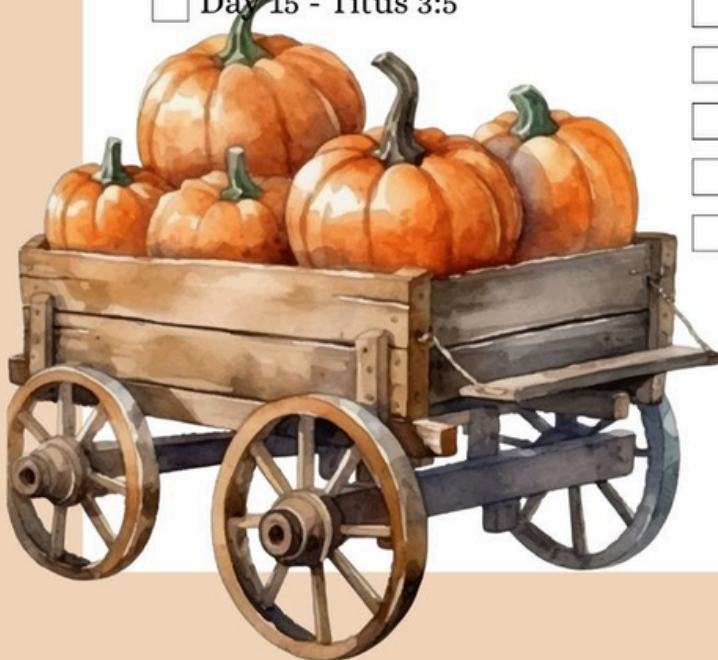
Sean@fumcwestplains.com

Living Gratitude

October Bible Reading Plan



- ☐ Day 1 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- ☐ Day 2 - Philippians 4:6
- ☐ Day 3 - Colossians 3:15
- ☐ Day 4 - Psalm 100:4
- ☐ Day 5 - Ephesians 5:20
- ☐ Day 6 - James 1:17
- ☐ Day 7 - Psalm 107:8-9
- ☐ Day 8 - Matthew 6:31-33
- ☐ Day 9 - Deuteronomy 8:10
- ☐ Day 10 - Psalm 23:1
- ☐ Day 11 - Ephesians 2:8-9
- ☐ Day 12 - 2 Corinthians 9:15
- ☐ Day 13 - Romans 6:23
- ☐ Day 14 - John 3:16
- ☐ Day 15 - Titus 3:5
- ☐ Day 16 - 1 Corinthians 1:4
- ☐ Day 17 - Philemon 1:4
- ☐ Day 18 - Colossians 1:3
- ☐ Day 19 - Philippians 1:3
- ☐ Day 20 - Romans 1:8
- ☐ Day 21 - Colossians 3:17
- ☐ Day 22 - Hebrews 12:28
- ☐ Day 23 - 1 Chronicles 16:34
- ☐ Day 24 - Psalm 118:1
- ☐ Day 25 - 2 Corinthians 4:15
- ☐ Day 26 - Psalm 95:2
- ☐ Day 27 - Psalm 69:30
- ☐ Day 28 - Psalm 147:7
- ☐ Day 29 - Psalm 28:7
- ☐ Day 30 - Hebrews 13:15
- ☐ Day 31 - 1 Peter 2:9



Friendship Circle Child Care and Preschool

Our Child Care children will have these themes for October: Fall, Farm Animals, Five Senses, Pumpkins, and Harvest Time. We will continue daily lessons in alphabet, color, shapes, and number recognition. The children will be learning bible stories about Joseph, Moses, Samson, Ruth, David, and Daniel.

Our Preschool Children will be learning about Fire Safety and Fall. They will be taking field trips to the Fire Department and the Pumpkin Patch.

There are a few large purchase items (soft play equipment for our baby room, screening for our new fencing) we would like to purchase for the Daycare/Preschool. If you are interested in donating to help purchase these items, please contact Crystal in the church office.

Children's Ministry

During October, our nursery and preschool children, we will be learning stories of Esther, David, Gideon, and Abigail. Our theme is Super Kids: God can help us to be brave.

Our elementary children will take a trip to Wisdomland and learn that God can help us to make wise choices. Our stories will teach us about David, Solomon, and the King's of 1 & 2 Kings. During our Sunday School, we will be learning the Fruit of the Spirit.

Our Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 26th from 4-6. There will be games and food as well as lots of fun for children of all ages. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Children from our child care, preschool, church, and the community will be invited to this outreach activity.

Crystal Houston

Director of Children Ministries /
Friendship Circle Ministries

FALL FESTIVAL

GAMES. FOOD. CANDY.

YOU CAN HELP!

- DONATE CANDY
- PASS OUT CANDY AT A BOOTH
- RUN A GAME STATION
- HOSPITALITY AND MORE!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 - 4PM TO 6PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

503 W MAIN ST. WEST PLAINS, MO





Greetings Church Family,

Over the last two years, our local church has experienced turmoil. In addition to the strife of the denomination, we have had significant leadership changes as well. During this time, we have had four different pastors assigned to our church along with several staff changes. With all that has been going on, it's great to see so many of our members who have stepped up to serve and give of themselves to help our church fulfill the mission of creating disciples of Jesus Christ. In an effort to become more effective at fulfilling our mission, your Church Council held a planning retreat this past month. You can learn more of that from Pastor Sean's note in this newsletter. The best is yet to come.

After a brutally hot and dry end of summer, fall is finally here with a little rain and cooler temperatures. As was mentioned last month, we had two air conditioners and a heating/cooling register that needed replacing. That work has been completed. This unplanned expense was a shock to our budget, however, thanks to those of you who gave above and beyond your tithe, we were able to meet this expense.

Mark your calendars to attend the annual Charge Conference on November 9 at 3:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. This is the annual business meeting for the local churches. Come and join us as our District Superintendent, Jon Thompson, will moderate this time together.

As always, your Church Council meetings are open to all who are interested. If you have an item you would like the Council to discuss, please notify the church office at least one week before our meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting, please join us on the second Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. We remain a church family whose desire is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Blessings, Bob Legler – Church Council Chair

Wanda Byrd – Secretary – UMW Representative

Lay Leader –

Finance Team: Melody Martin, Nick Schultz

Trustees Team: Greg Weeks, Scott Womack, Amanda Rutledge

Staff Parrish: Shaun Duggins (Vice Chair), John Ackerson, Mallory Snodgras, Carol Powell

Youth Representatives: Drew Bauer, Ella Orr



United Methodist Women (UMW) Bakeless Bake Sale

- Donations for the UMW will be accepted now through October 31st.
 - Please designate your donation for UMW.
 - Donations go to support local missions.
 - For more information, please contact Falana in the office.
- Thank You!

United Methodist Women



We will meet at 9:00 to go for a drive to see the fall leaves and eat at Rockbridge before returning home. Please RSVP to the church office, so we can make a reservation and have transportation available.

We hope you plan to join us!

Everyone is welcome!

**Tuesday October 14, 2025
9:00a.m. Fellowship Hall**

FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry is back to our school year schedule; Sunday nights from 5:30-7:30. Each night includes supper, games and a lesson. I reached out to Methodist Women and youth parents who have volunteered to provide supper (See Wanda Byrd or myself if you are interested in signing up). This allows them to interact with our amazing Youth group! We have kicked off our year with a lesson series from Ecclesiastes! Attendance is increasing because youth are inviting friends, creating disciples and helping spread God's word through their testimonies.

The local Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) hosted a special day with "Pray at the Pole" on September 24th. Thirteen area schools and MSU-WP participated and over 1,000 students gathered around flags poles prior to the school day to hear testimony and pray for their peers, administration, staff and teachers. Our very own Ella Orr gave an amazing testimony to over 150 students at West Plain High School and Lucy Hafer closed in prayer!



See You At The Pole
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

COME JOIN US IN PRAYER THIS WEDNESDAY. FIND YOUR SCHOOL BELOW TO FIND OUT WHAT TIME YOUR SCHOOL WILL MEET.

WEST PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL -	7:45	7:35	- FAIRVIEW
WEST PLAINS MIDDLE SCHOOL -	7:45	7:40	- HOWELL VALLEY
WEST PLAINS ELEMENTARY -	7:10	7:45	- RICHARDS
SOUTH FORK ELEMENTARY -	7:40	7:15	- GLENWOOD
HIS PLACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY -	8:00	7:25	- JUNCTION HILL
		7:00	- THAYER
		7:40	- WILLOW SPRINGS

Special Upcoming Events:

October 19th – Pumpkin Carving Contest
October 26th – Youth assisting with Fall Festival

Special thanks to Joy Ross, Joanna Patillo, Bryan Moore and Ellen Bivens for supporting this Youth Ministry!

God Bless,

John Ackerson - "Interim" Youth Director



September 7th

Attendance: 122

Gifts: \$8,707.14

September 21st

Attendance: 152

Gifts: \$29,937.15

Building fund: \$5000.00

September 14th

Attendance: 156

Gifts: \$6243.00

September 28th

Attendance: 167

Gifts: \$9,229.93

Building fund: \$13,749.31

Gifts & Numbers

****Currently we need \$8,308.00 per week to meet our 2025 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 Monday:

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

October 7th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

October 13th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

October 14th

UMW Meeting - Meet at the church at 9am. Will be traveling to Rockbridge for lunch and to take in the fall colors. Please RSVP to church office.

October 21st

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

October 26th

Fall Festival - FUMC, 4pm - 6pm



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Practices every Wednesday
from 7-8PM
Sanctuary

CANTATA SERVICE
12/07/25 ● 10:00am
Sanctuary

In Loving Memory

Deana Gleghorn

David & Sandy Evans
Barry & Marjorie Slayton
Geoff & Elaine Posegate



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

October 5, 2025

PRAYER CONCERNS:

☐ Becca Barnes - health	Jessica Pospisil's father, Tom recently passed away. Prayers for their family.
☐ Deborah Whittington - health	
☐ Jim Peterson - health	Ted Bunch has continuing health issues as well as the cancer and could use some extra prayer. Ted & Barbara Bunch: 4616 Marianna Dr., WP
☐ Joy Melton - health	
☐ Brittany Watson - health	
☐ Jeff Kuebler	
☐ Amy Smith - having test for health issues	Bud & Marie Nale are both have ongoing health issues. They both could use some extra prayers. (address is below)
☐ Charlene Case - health	
☐ Mya McClung- unspoken	
☐ Dee Rothermich - health issues	
☐ Arielle - unspoken	
☐ Braelyn - unspoken	
☐ Billy Wade - health	
☐ Brad Hallworth	
☐ Lee Ann Warren	
☐ Erika - sister recently passed away	
☐ Desirea Baker- health	

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 Kochube y - lymphoma
- Sheri Hedrick - cervical cancer
- Ralph Mattison - cancer (friend of Gary & Marybeth Davis)
- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Turner
- Trina Johnson

NURSING HOMES & ASSITIVE LIVING

Larry Pope-Rm 7B, NHC

Barbara Gingles-Whispering Pines, 2313 Bradford Circle

Joanne Lowe-Sleepy Oak Place, 2313 Bradford Circle

Neen 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

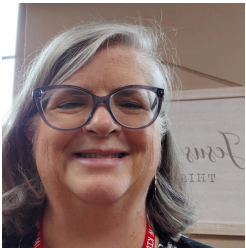
STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
Lead Pastor
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Falana Boze
Office Manager
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Crystal Houston
Director of Friendship
Circle Ministries / Children's
Ministries
crystal@fumcwestplains.com

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- **Administrative Council Chair**
Bob Legler
 - **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden

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

Contact Information

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