
First United
METHODIST CHURCH
THE MESSENGER
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 10: 2026

You Have a Part to Play

Your Part Matters

One of the things I love about First United Methodist Church is the incredible variety of people God has brought together in this place.

We each bring different gifts, passions, skills, experiences, and stories. Some are obvious. Others are things we may not even think of as gifts. But **God has placed something in every one of us that can be used to bless others.**

God Sees Something in You

Throughout Scripture, we see Jesus noticing things in people that others overlooked. He saw possibility where others saw problems. He saw purpose where others saw ordinary people.

I believe God sees something in you, too.

Maybe you have a gift for teaching. Maybe you're good at organizing, creating, leading, welcoming, encouraging, fixing, cooking, listening, or caring for people. Maybe you've gained wisdom through experiences that could help someone walking through something similar.

Your part matters.

Discover. Develop. Share.

That's what our **"Your Part Matters"** series is helping us explore this month.

We're asking some simple questions:

PASSION: What do you enjoy?
SKILL: What can you do?
EXPERIENCE: What have you done?

Our personal gifts assessment is one way we're beginning to discover what God has already placed among us. Not so we can simply fill ministry positions or find more things for people to do, but so we can better understand the people and gifts God has already gathered in this church.

Because I don't want FUMC to be a church where a handful of people do everything.

I want us to be a church where everyone knows they have a part to play.
And when each of us discovers, develops, and shares what God has given us, we don't just become more active.

We become more fully the church God is calling us to be.

Your part isn't ultimately about what you can do for the church.

It's about what God can do through you.

We have been focusing on the "Personal Gifts Survey" in worship over the past few weeks. You can find a survey at the church building.

Soon you can also find it available on our website as well.

— Pastor Sean

United Methodist Men's Group

7:30am | 10/40 Coffee Shop on the Square

Every Monday



FIRST UMC
CHANCEL CHOIR

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 13, 2026
Sanctuary (2nd Floor)

Practice Wednesdays

7:00 - 7:45 PM

Sanctuary (2nd Floor)

All are welcome!



HARVEST OF HOPE

- [ ] Day 1: Genesis 8:22
- [ ] Day 2: Leviticus 26:4
- [ ] Day 3: Deuteronomy 28:12
- [ ] Day 4: Deuteronomy 30:9
- [ ] Day 5: Ruth 2:12
- [ ] Day 6: 2 Samuel 23:4
- [ ] Day 7: Psalm 1:3
- [ ] Day 8: Psalm 4:7
- [ ] Day 9: Psalm 65:9–11
- [ ] Day 10: Psalm 67:6
- [ ] Day 11: Psalm 85:12
- [ ] Day 12: Psalm 126:5–6
- [ ] Day 13: Proverbs 3:9–10
- [ ] Day 14: Proverbs 10:5
- [ ] Day 15: Proverbs 11:18
- [ ] Day 16: Proverbs 11:25
- [ ] Day 17: Proverbs 20:4
- [ ] Day 18: Isaiah 9:3
- [ ] Day 19: Isaiah 55:10–11
- [ ] Day 20: Jeremiah 17:7–8
- [ ] Day 21: Hosea 10:12
- [ ] Day 22: Joel 2:23–24
- [ ] Day 23: Amos 9:13
- [ ] Day 24: Matthew 9:37–38
- [ ] Day 25: Matthew 13:23
- [ ] Day 26: Mark 4:26–29
- [ ] Day 27: Luke 6:38
- [ ] Day 28: John 4:35–36
- [ ] Day 29: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8
- [ ] Day 30: Galatians 6:9
- [ ] Day 31: James 3:18



COUNCIL'S CORNER

⛪ **First UMC WP Community Update From the Church Board Meeting | September 14, 2026**

🌟 Focusing on Our Mission

"Make New Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

This month, our board spent time reflecting on how God is working through our congregation. We are celebrating our 2026 goal to **foster friendships through sharing our story and serving side by side.** From new faces in our pews to deep-rooted community outreach, we see our mission coming to life every day through your faithfulness and hands-on service.

🚀 Key Updates & Celebrations

- **Generous Community Blessing:** Thanks to the **Ellis/Arnold Fund,** we delivered approximately **$35,000 in checks to seven local schools** to support students and educators in our community.
- **Youth & Young Adult Growth:** We are thrilled to welcome a new **Young Adult Sunday School Class (ages 18-27)**, which has launched with 7–8 regular attendees! Additionally, we officially welcome **Tanner Land and Rhys Kerley** as our new student representatives on the board.
- **Expanding Youth Ministry Support:** To continue building a strong, unified youth program, a proposal was presented to hire Hattie Patillo to assist John Ackerson with vital youth ministry logistics, including volunteer schedules, communication, and event planning.
- **Pastoral Support & Financial Stewardship:** The board approved the standard yearly Pastoral Support Form for 2027 to set Pastor Sean's conference salary and benefits. On the property front, our fire sprinkler system passed its annual inspection, and we are forming a task force to explore an upcoming National Solar & Battery Grant due this November.

📅 Mark Your Calendars

Please save the date for this vital upcoming church leadership event:

- **Annual Charge Conference**
  When & Where: Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 PM in the FUMC CLC.
- **Welcoming New Leadership:** Keep an eye out for **Mary Beth Davis, Scott Bowden, and John Ames,** who have been nominated and invited to attend our October, November, and December Ad Council meetings.

🤝 Visioning Our Future Together

During a vision-casting session, the board celebrated ministries that are thriving—including **God's Crew, the Care Team, Youth, Worship, and Missions.**

As we look forward, we want to intentionally create more spaces for **Women's Bible Studies, discipleship programming, and congregational social activities.** To do this, we need to solve the common hurdles of busy schedules and limited volunteers. We want to be fully ready to welcome and integrate the new families God sends our way!

🙏 Keeping Together in Prayer

Please join the board in prayer this month for:

- The continued growth and community of our new Young Adult class and youth ministry.
- Our local schools, teachers, and students benefiting from the Ellis/Arnold funds.

Blessings,

The First UMC WP Board

United Methodist Women

UMW will meet

October 13 at 9:30am at FUMC.



We will be going to the Pumpkin Patch and eating lunch at Brick & Barrel.



Please RSVP to the church office by October 12 so we can reserve a spot for you.

Bakeless Bake Sale

with the Women of FUMC



We will be accepting donations through

October 31st.

Thank you for helping us support ministries in our community!

Gifts & Numbers

September 6th
Attendance: 151
Gifts: $8,485.85

September 13th
Attendance: 161
Gifts: $4,411.00

September 20th
Attendance: 171
Gifts: $4,099.31

September 27th
Attendance: 174
Gifts: $7,363.17

Currently we need $8,689.00 per week to meet our 2026 budget

Important dates for your calendar

Every Sunday:
9:30am Contemporary Service
Christian Life Center

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:
7:30 am Methodist Men - 10/40 Coffee on the Square

October 6th
In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

October 12th
Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

October 13th
UMW Meeting - Meet at FUMC at 9:30am

October 20th
In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

October 24th
Friendship Circle Daycare Fundraiser - Indoor yardsale in the CLC, 7am

October 25th
Charge Conference - FUMC, 3-5pm

October 31st /November 1st
Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks back 1 hour

Friendship Circle Preschool

During October the Preschool we will have the following Themes: Fall, Farm Animals, 5 Senses, Pumpkins, and Harvest. The children will be learning bible stories about the Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. Prekindergarten will be learning Letters Ff, Pp, and Bb. Number 5-8. Shape Circle. The Colors Brown and Orange. Our special event this month will be Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch on October 21st, Trick or Treating on the Square and Class Harvest Parties on Oct. 30th. The Preschool Parent's Advisory Council will have a fundraising, Inside Garage Sale in the CLC on October 24th from 7am-5pm. All proceeds go to the Preschool. See the flyer in the newsletter. Donations can be brought to the church office. No adult clothing, thank you.

Children's Ministry

During October, our Nursery/ Preschoolers will be learning about Baby Moses. Our Elementary Children will be learning about Abraham, Sarah, Lot, and Isaac during Children's Church. During Sunday School, we will continue learning about Noah's Ark and the Good Samaritan. Our lessons will include a Movie, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Science, and Games.

Upcoming Events

The Children's Ministry and Friendship Circle Preschool will both have a booth at the Scare on the Square on October 31st from 5:30- 7:30 pm. There are lots of ways you can help. We need 10 to 20 bags of corn, haybales, lots, and lots of wrapped candy (Please no peanut butter), and many volunteers. If you are interested, please call and speak to Crystal in the Church Office.

This year instead of a Fall Festival we will have a Winter Festival. Our Winter Festival will include games, treats, crafts, Photo ops, and a chance to hear the Christmas Story. The Winter Festival will be Saturday, December 12th. We will have a planning meeting Monday, November 2nd at 6pm if you are interested in helping with the Festival.

Crystal Houston
Director of Friendship Circle Ministries/
Director of Children's Ministries

Saturday, October 24th!

7:00 AM

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

DAYCARE FUNDRAISER

Indoor Yardsale at First United Methodist Church

Donate gently used household items, décor, small furniture & baby/kids items!





Our Fundraising Needs:

- 6 new comfy rocking chairs for our classrooms
- New toys for our toddler and preschool rooms
- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- New classroom rugs
- A new holding cabinet for diapers and wipes in our toddler room

Please drop off donations (items, checks, or cash) at the FUMC front office!

Thank you so much for helping our kids!

First United Methodist Church ♥ 417-256-6167 ♥ 503 W Main St, West Plains, MO

DOWNTOWN WEST PLAINS

SCARE ON THE SQUARE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 5:30–7:30 PM

Dress up, walk around downtown, collect candy, play games, and enjoy a fun night for the whole family!

HELP SET UP
BEFORE THE EVENT

RUN GAMES
DURING THE EVENT

HAND OUT CANDY
AT OUR BOOTH

DONATE CANDY
FOR OUR CHURCH TO GIVE AWAY



September has been a great month for our youth! We've been spending our Sunday evenings learning about God's design for friendship and what it looks like to build healthy, Christ-centered friendships with the variety of people around us. We love seeing our growing group of students connect and have fun together each week.



Do you think you've got what it takes to beat the Youth Leaders at their own games? Come put it to the test with a little friendly competition. We always love seeing new faces! If you know a student in 6th–12th grade who would enjoy being part of our youth group, we'd love for you to invite them to join us. Each Sunday evening, we gather for dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by games, fellowship, and a lesson. Keep an eye out for more information on our annual pumpkin carving contest coming up in October!

As always, a special thank you to all of our wonderful meal volunteers who have provided delicious dinners each week, our activity volunteers who help make our evenings fun, and our generous congregation for continuing to support our youth ministry. We truly appreciate all that you do!

We're always looking for additional volunteers to help with meals, activities, and other youth events. If you're interested in getting involved or would like more information, please contact the church office. We'd love to have you be part of what's happening with FUMC Youth!



God Bless,
John Ackerson- "Interm" Youth Director
Hattie Patillo- Assistant Youth Director

Ellis-Arnold fund

A few years ago, Freda Ellis and Hellen Arnold from our community, left a sizable donation to our church with the desire that we would use those funds to help area children with clothing items. The Ellis-Arnold Memorial Fund was created and exists through our church to share God's love by providing dignity and hope to children in need through the gift of clothing.

Our goal is to partner with local schools so that when a student needs basic clothing essentials, help is available quickly and discreetly. This effort to distribute memorial funds was piloted at the West Plains Elementary school last year and proved to be successful at identifying children in need.

This school year the Ellis-Arnold Memorial fund has been expanded and dedicated $35,000 to West Plains Elementary and surrounding rural schools to help fill the clothing needs of children who do not have appropriate clothing for schools. Half of these funds were distributed the first semester and the second half will be distributed to each school at the beginning of the spring semester. We use the earnings from the original donation to keep this program going and pray that children in our area will be blessed for years to come through this generous donation.

If you see a specific need in our community, and have the ability to begin a memorial fund, or add to an existing memorial fund, please contact Pastor Sean McIntyre or the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. Your gift will be a blessing to many.

Matthew 25:40



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

October 4, 2026

- Billy Wade - health
- Charlene Case - health
- Deborah Whittington - health
- Amy Smith - health
- Jim Peterson - health
- Bruce Owens - health
- Alecia Goodfellow - health
- Kate & Harper - unspoken
- Charley Woodworth - vision loss
- Ernie Vaughn - health progressing
- Jennifer Shriver - health/ recent surgery
- David White - health

Joe Prewett (Mallory Snodgrass's dad) recently had a procedure to hopefully alleviate numbness in arms and legs due to spinal compression. Prayers for him and the family as he recovers from the procedure. Joe & Stacy Prewett - 1603 W Broadway, WP

Joel Kerschen (Geoff Posegates brother-in-law; his sister's husband) has recently been diagnosed with leukemia. Prayers for him and his family as they face this diagnoses.

Katie Barreda's daughter, Holly had gallbladder surgery at Cape Girardeau on 10/1. Prayers for healing and recovery.

Bud Nale is currently at West Vue, Room 209. He is hoping to be home very soon. Prayers for continued recovery. 1619 Evergreen, WP

Paula England (Ruthi Holmes sister) recently lost her husband Gregg, suddenly. Prayers for Paula, their son Lucas and all the family during this difficult time. 137 Co Rd 379, Koshkonong, MO 65692

Continued prayers for Pat Holmes and his family as they navigate his health issues; 5400 US Hwy 160, Koshkonong, Mo 65692

Donna Cook's nephew, Mark Cook has responded well to treatment for melanoma. 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, but he is slowly improving.

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

Let's "Shower" Pat & Ruthi Holmes with cards and notes of encouragement as they navigate through health challenges. 5400 US Hwy 160, Koshkonong, MO 65692

CANCER

- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Steve Turner
- 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

Bill Shaw: 872 CR 424 Birch Tree, MO 65438

Steve Evans: 7324 St. Rt. BB, WP

NURSING HOMES & ASSITIVE LIVING

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

Marvin Collins - Room 210, Brookhaven

Christy H. - Brookhaven

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

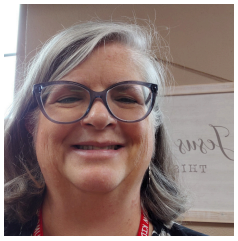
STAFF & LEADERS



Sean McIntyre
Lead Pastor
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Falana Boze
Office Manager
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Crystal Houston
Director of Friendship Circle Ministries / Children's Ministries
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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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