



First United
METHODIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER
AUGUST NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 8: 2025

Message from Pastor Sean

Well church family,

I've now been here for a month. Somehow, it feels like **both forever and no time at all**—but in the best way.

Over these weeks, I've made it my mission to be present and listen. I've:

- Met with many of you personally
- Spent time with staff and lay leaders
- Experienced the joy of **VBS**
- Settled into the rhythm of **weekly worship**
- Engaged in meaningful dialogue through **Donuts and Discussion**

I also participated in a special **onboarding process** where a professionally trained coach facilitated conversations with both our staff and a group of laity representatives. It was an incredibly helpful way to hear stories, clarify expectations, and discern priorities.

Reflections on What I've Learned

Here are some truths I've come to see about **who we are as a church**:

✅ **Radically Welcoming:** Hospitality flows from both those who serve formally and those who just love people well.

♥ **Heart for the Next Generation:** VBS, youth, and children's ministries show that we are committed to raising up the next generation in faith.

🎨 **Creativity Abounds:** It shows up everywhere—from worship to problem-solving.

👏 **Quiet Servants Everywhere:** So much gets done behind the scenes.

🩹 **Still Healing:** We've walked through a lot, and that still needs space and grace.

🤝 **Longing for Unity:** The desire to come together is strong and real.

🌍 **Passionate for Kingdom Impact:** We want to make a difference far beyond our walls.

Looking Ahead with Hope

These conversations gave me a deep sense of **encouragement and excitement**. I truly believe the best is yet to come.

God has placed **incredible gifts and passion** in this church. But here's the truth:

The only way God's vision will become reality is if we move forward together.

No matter our background, our gifts, our age or stage, or our preferred worship service: we must become **united in Christ**, working together creatively and courageously.

🔥 Let's Catch the Fire

If we embrace this purpose and hold onto our enthusiasm, it will be **contagious**:

- Contagious to our **church family**
-
- Attractive to our **community**
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- Reflective of the **grace and love of Christ**, which changes everything

So let's keep leaning in, dreaming big, and following Jesus—**together**.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Sean



Staff praying for Pastor Sean after our onboarding process



Made to Worship

August

Daily Reading Plan

- Day 1: Psalm 96:1-2
- Day 2: 1 Chronicles 16:23-31
- Day 3: Deuteronomy 8
- Day 4: Deuteronomy 10:21
- Day 5: Jeremiah 20:13
- Day 6: Psalm 75:1
- Day 7: Psalm 71:8
- Day 8: Psalm 99:1-9
- Day 9: Deuteronomy 29:18
- Day 10: 1 Samuel 15: 22
- Day 11: Isaiah 29:13
- Day 12: Psalm 29:1-11
- Day 13: Nehemiah 9:5-6
- Day 14: Psalm 86:9-10
- Day 15: 2 Kings 17:38-39
- Day 16: Psalm 100:1-5
- Day 17: Daniel 3:8-18
- Day 18: Psalm 66:4
- Day 19: Psalm 96:9
- Day 20: Isaiah 12:5
- Day 21: Psalm 71:8
- Day 22: Daniel 2:20
- Day 23: Psalm 150:6
- Day 24: Matthew 6:24
- Day 25: John 4:21-24
- Day 26: Romans 12:1-2
- Day 27: Hebrews 12:28-29
- Day 28: Revelation 14:7
- Day 29: Colossians 3:16-17
- Day 30: Hebrews 13:15
- Day 31: Revelation 4:8-11

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*

Psalm 29:2

Dear Families,

I would like to introduce myself to the families of Friendship Circle Ministries. My name is Crystal Houston. I am the new Children's Ministry Director at First United Methodist Church West Plains. My husband and I have recently moved to West Plains from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. We have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren. I have served my local church in many areas such as Sunday School, AWANA, and VBS. One of my greatest blessing has been international missions. My husband and I served as missionaries in Pattaya, Thailand for 5 years. I have many year in Early Childhood Education and love being around babies and preschoolers. I look forward to serving your family through Friendship Circle Ministries.



Children's Ministry

Thank you FUMC family for all your love and support these last several months as I served as your "interim" Children's Ministry director. It has truly been a joy sharing Jesus with our Kids Church program, our Kingdom Kids afterschool program, assisting with Friendship Circle ministry and our Vacation Bible School .

Over 70 amazing volunteers helped make our morning and evening True North Vacation Bible School a reality. Thank you!

There were 74 children (prek-6th grade) attending the elementary vbs represented 51 families from our community. Of these children, 31 of them did not claim a home church or completed that information on the registration form.

Our evening special adult VBS served 23 of our adult friends. Eleven adults claimed FUMC as their church home while 6 adults did not indicate a church home.

(Thank you Terri Tompson for your excellent data.)

Because of your generosity, we were able to provide VBS supplies , snacks for each session, and a family backpack with a Bible, VBS music CD or download, and a crew picture. Plus with your kindness, each child and adult received a True North tshirt!! THANK YOU!

As we begin an exciting new chapter at FUMC, may you continue to be a blessing and support Pastor Sean and Crystal Houston, Children's/Friendship Circle Ministry Director.

Blessings, Beckie Legler





Greetings Church Family,

This last month our church was host to over 100 children and special needs adults participating in our True North VBS. Many thanks to all the people who helped organize, decorate, and lead this great event. Terri Thompson has done a great job at keeping track of our VBS statistics over the years and shared one particular statistic that stood out to me. In 2018 there were 25% of the children attending VBS that reported they had no home church. This year 41% of the children reported they had no home church. This drop in church affiliation is consistent with National statistics. There could be several reasons for this, but what this points out to me is that, even here in West Plains, there are several unchurched people where we can spread the Good News of Jesus.

Your Church Council will be holding a planning retreat the first week of September. During this retreat we will hope to develop a vision for the future of our church. If you see a need in our community that our church could fill, perhaps it is the Holy Spirit nudging you to bring it to light. If so, I would encourage you to contact Pastor Sean or any member of your Council listed below and express your ideas/vision for the future of our church.

Summer is winding down and many families will soon be getting back into a standard routine that will involve school, fall sports and many other activities. Let's make sure to keep your church one of those important activities. If you have an unchurched neighbor or friend, invite them to join you in worship.

The extreme heat we have experienced this summer has taken a real toll on our church building. We have lost three air conditioning units, and we will need to replace a furnace before cold weather sets in. I would like to thank all who have given above and beyond your tithes and offerings to keep our cash flow going even in the slow time of summer and with these additional expenses.

As you may recall, the Missouri State Highway Patrol conducted a review of our church last year and made recommendations on how we could improve the safety in and around our church building. The three major emphasis points of this review were improved security for our children, improved lighting around the exterior of our church and improved doors, locks and cameras within our church. We applied for, and received, grant funds to address these three areas of concern.

Donna Taylor and Melody Martin have been spearheading this effort. With Donna's move to FL, Melody could use some help as we enter the implementation phase of this project. If you have any experience in this area (or desire to learn) I know Melody, and our church, would appreciate any help you could provide.

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

Finance Team: Melody Martin, Nick Schultz

Trustees Team: Greg Weeks, Scott Womack, Amanda Rutledge

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

Youth Representatives: Paige Skeeters

United Methodist Women



Everyone is welcome!

Tuesday Aug 12, 2025

9:00a.m. Fellowship Hall

Thank You

for your kindness.



Friends in Christ:

Thank you so much for the generous gift of a guided fishing trip, and for the many cards and kind message. I am deeply touched and appreciative.

It was a joy and a blessing to serve in the interim pastor role. Thank you so much for the opportunity. It was all made easy and energizing by the commitment, sacrifice, service, and fervor of so many in this great congregation.

The best is yet to come in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

In CHRIST,
Geoff Foregate

July 6

Attendance: 168

Gifts: \$6,768.00

July 20

Attendance: 165

Gifts: \$1,868.00

July 13

Attendance: 159

Gifts: \$11,533.00

July 27

Attendance: 165

Gifts: \$4,367.15

Gifts & Numbers

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

Important dates for your calendar

Every Sunday:

8:30 am Contemporary
Service

Christian Life Center

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Service
Sanctuary - 2nd floor

Every Monday:

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

August 5th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

August 8th

Bridges Work Day - 1pm HS Weight Room

August 11th

Church Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm

August 12th

UMW Meeting - Fellowship Hall, 9am

August 13th

FCP Orientation - CLC, 6pm

August 19th

In Stitches - Parlor, 10am

FUMC West Plains High School Youth Ministry

It has come to my attention that some people associated with FUMC-West Plains are unaware of how active our High School Ministry has been. Due to the Youth Pastor vacancy for almost 3 years, several dedicated volunteers have invested in our future leaders of God's Church! High School Youth is held every Sunday night throughout the school year. Average attendance has been 12-15, increasing monthly because youth are inviting friends, not only for games and food but helping spread God's word through Bible lessons and their testimonies.

This Ministry is not only active in our church but also in our community. In the past school year, Youth have assisted in food donations and helping serve a meal each month at Samaritan Outreach under the direction of Ellen Bivens. Youth have served as representatives of Church Council for the past few years, providing excellent insight. Youth from our church have been in leadership positions with FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Youth have participated in FUMC events like Vacation Bible School and Family Fest. Youth participated in a global conference (Passion 2025) in Atlanta this past January. Youth assisted in tornado damage cleanup and aid to victims in our community. The community celebrated graduating High School Seniors in May with a Baccalaureate service at Genesis Church.

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

Summer Activities Include:

June 27-28th – Overnight Lake Trip to Cherokee Village, AR

July 1st – Work at local food bank

July 25-26th – Overnight River Trip to North Fork River

August 5th – Work at local food bank and a pool party

August 10th – Back to School Event at FUMC



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

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Aug 3, 2025

ADDITIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ♦ Kinsey Mincey - pregnancy/cancer
- ♦ The family of Annette Johnson
- ♦ Chyler Frazier
- ♦ Mark Watson
- ♦ Jim Peterson
- ♦ Jim Peterson
- ♦ Tom Pospisil
- ♦ Desirea Baker
- ♦ Mya McClung- unspoken
- ♦ Dee Rothenmich - health issues
- ♦ Shirley Hinkle - family member
- ♦ Arielle - unspoken
- ♦ Braelyn - unspoken
- ♦ Izzy - surgery
- ♦ Katie - unspoken
- ♦ John Hinklin - Heart blockage
- ♦ Amanda Aughenbaugh - blood clot
- ♦ Shannon Briscoe - unspoken
- ♦ Billy Wade

Alice Reagle fell and broke her hip. She will be going to rehab. Prayers for healing.

Stanly Taylor recently had hip replacement surgery. He is home recovering: 3079 Siloam Springs Road, WP

Ted Bunch is having some additional health issues and could use some extra prayer. He is having heart issues as well as the cancer.. Ted & Barbara Bunch: 4616 Marianna Dr., WP

Bud & Marie Nale are both having some health issues. They both could use some extra prayers. (address is below)

Becca Barnes- prayers for her children to be guided to God. They are going through some personal struggles. Becca is still waiting for her surgery to be approved by insurance: 625 Walker St., 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

- Misty Hower
- Ivan Kochubey - lymphoma
- Rita Lucky - pancreatic & other cancers (friend of Teresa Burch)
- Sheri Hedrick - cervical cancer
- Ralph Mattison - cancer (friend of Gary & Marybeth Davis)
- Veda May - breast cancer (Barry Fielder's aunt)
- Pam Goodwin - stage 4 cancer
- Steve Tumer
- 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

Deana Gleghorn-Brookhaven, room 407

Neen Dorris-Whispering Pines: 2313 Bradford Circle,

Helen Birdsong: 213 Davis Dr., Apt. 403

Connie Long: 408A, Brookhaven

Wanda Janzen- Room 46, Cedar Hurst

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
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**
Bob Legler
 - **Columbarium Committee**
Janice Bowden

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

Contact Information

417-256-6167 www.fumcwestplains.com
503 West Main • West Plains, Mo 65775