



The Monthly Pointer

A Monthly Newsletter of



From the Pastor...

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2023 has arrived. But with it comes new opportunities and new ways for us to serve the Kingdom of God. How will you serve?

Romans 12:4-5, 8 says: *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other...If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

Paul reminds us that leadership is a gift. Leaders clarify the vision, learn when to say yes or when to say no, challenge the status quo, know when to take responsibility and when to ask for forgiveness as well as offer it, don't seek to make everyone happy, and equip and encourage others. Of course, this list goes on and on.

Leadership in the life of the church matters and I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to serve alongside the wonderful leadership of West Point First. On Sunday, January 8th, we will do two special things in both morning worship services. First, we will remember our baptism and be thankful. Secondly, we will ask God's special blessings on our 2023 church leadership, because let's face it, leadership is not always easy, but it is vital to call of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we are called to faithfully serve God and the church. On page 4 of this edition of the *Monthly Pointer*, you will find a list of our church leaders and their roles. I ask that you cover them in prayer as they begin this new year. Be present for them on January 8th, to offer your love and support. I know that our best days are ahead of us and I am excited to see what God has waiting for us as we enter 2023.

So come either online or in person, and support these leaders, remember your baptism, and be thankful.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Grace and Peace,



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Ways to Invite, Grow, & Serve this Month...

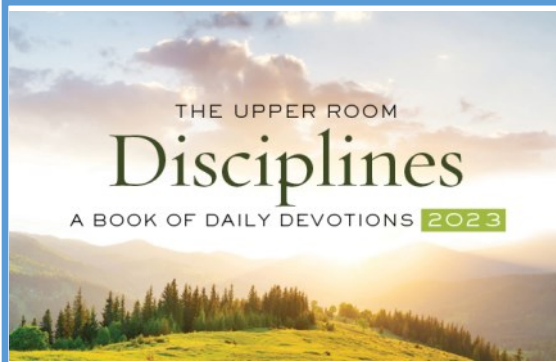


**Sunday, January 1
10 AM in the Chapel**

Safe Sanctuaries



Everyone working with the children's ministries of our church in any capacity is required to take the Safe Sanctuaries training every year. In order to make this easier, we are scheduling two training sessions—**January 15 and 29**—in the Zachry Center immediately following the 11 am Worship Service. The sessions will last 30-45 minutes. Please plan to attend **ONE** of these sessions if you work with our children!



NEW BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a new Bible study on Mondays at 5:30 pm beginning January 2. This study will be based on The Disciplines Daily Devotions, so order your copy now if you would like to participate! See Michael Andrews (706-773-2177) or Luann Jones (706-773-2424) if you have any questions.

[Order The Disciplines here!](#)



Leadership Sunday: January 8th

During both morning worship services we will ask God's blessing upon our 2023 church leadership.

Leadership Board 2023 Orientation Meeting


Sunday, January 8th: 12:30 – 3pm.

WHAT IS GRIEF SHARE?

Griefshare is an international network of grief support groups meeting all over the world. If you've experienced the death of a family member or of any important person in your life, please consider joining a 13 week group here at WPFUMC. We will be meeting on Wednesdays at 4:15 beginning **January 25**. There is no cost to join. For more details, call Patty Partain 706-350-8702 or reach out to the church office.



Ways to Invite, Grow, & Serve this Month...



JOIN US
for
LUNCH

Tuesday, January 10, at 12 noon

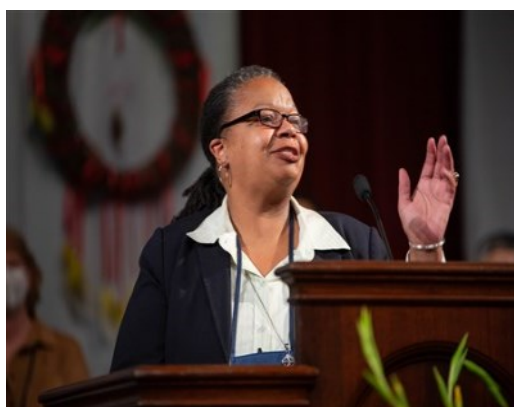
Banquet Room

Join us for good food, lots of laughter, and fellowship with friends around the tables!

Menu

Stuffed Peppers, Zipper Peas, Carrots, Pear Salad, Rolls, and Lemon Lasagna

Cost- \$5 Call the church office to RSVP.



Bishop Robin Dease to be Installed as North Georgia UMC Bishop, Sunday, January 8th

We extend a West Point welcome to our new bishop! Bishops Dease will be installed at Oak Grove UMC on January 8th. To learn more about Bishop Dease and her installation please [click here](#) or scan the QR Code. Please be in prayer for Bishop Dease and the conference as she begins her time of service in North Georgia.



To learn more about the future of The United Methodist Church, we invite you to visit these links provided by the North Georgia Conference:

www.ngumc.org/beumc

or

www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information

Update: December 28: North Georgia Dissafliation Process Paused.
For more information please see the conference website, or you may click here: NGUMC

THE UPPER ROOM

The January-February Upper Room Devotional Guides are available in the elevator lobby. \$1 each - large or regular print.



Wednesday Night Activities, including Kingdom Kids at 5:15pm and Supper at 6pm start back up on January 4th!

2023 Leadership Board

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:8 NLT

Executive Team

Ann Thomas: Leadership Chair
Coleman Reeves: Lay Leader
Eddie Lanier: Lay Delegate

Ex-officio Members

Rev. Erik Mays: Pastor
Sherry Pinckard: Recording Secretary
Helen Zachry: Music and Adult Ministries
Gail Douglas: Pianist/Organist
Michael Andrews: Financial Admin.
Teresa Futral: Family & Outreach Ministries

People Team (SPRC and Lay Leadership)

Ann Thomas—Chair (2023)
Patty Partain (2023)
Rob Ewing (2024)
Sandra Glover (2024)
Bill Slade—(2025)

Property Team (Trustees)

Marshall Sapp—Chair (2023)
Dale Mabrey (2024)
Luann Jones (2025)

Money Team (Finance and Endowment)

Bill Gladden—Chair (2023)
Terry Fagan (2023)
Tiffany Reeves (2024)
Laura Smith (2024)

Team Chairs

Invite Team (Hospitality, Evangelism):
Wiky Gladden, Chair
Grow Team (Christian Education, Spiritual Growth): Lindsey Mays, Chair
Serve Team (Missions, Outreach):
Jan Hollis, Chair

At-Large Members

Teresa Doughtie
Bill Pittman
Heath Knowles
Usher Rep: Jim Duttera
Altar Guild Rep: Luann Jones

Coming Up Next Month...



All couples who have been married for 50 or more years are cordially invited to a 50+ Anniversary Luncheon to be held in your honor Sunday, February 12, 12:00 noon in the Banquet Room. More details to come!



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22

MORE INFORMATION TO COME...



soul care

Lenten Renewal for the Soul

Lenten Sermon Series starting
Sunday, February 26



By Our Prayers...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

Prayer Concerns:

Hamp Ferguson, Chuck Spivey,
The Family of Nancy Reynolds,
Graham Finlay, Mary Louise Smith, Reynolds
Smith, Al and Jackie Hammer, Sharon
Cowart, Martha Elder, Larry Prestridge, Linda James,
Lisa Ann Soehnel, Gerry Lanier, Alice Ward, Bentley
Bryant, Sarah Auler, Margaret Bartlett, Cody
Martin, Lakin Rayfield, Jacob Grubbs, Bishop Dease

New Prayer Concern:

Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern or praise you would like added to the list or if you would like one removed. Thank you!



- January 2: **Alaine Wright**
- January 4: **Heath Knowles**
- January 5: **Coleman Reeves**
- January 6: **James Hurst**
- January 6: **Penny Weston**
- January 7: **Carole Wood**
- January 9: **Judy Wilkinson**
- January 10: **JahWill Fannings**
- January 11: **Mike Hixon**
- January 13: **Paige Fuller**
- January 18: **Billy Lane**
- January 19: **Samuel Jenkins**
- January 23: **Bud Doughtie**
- January 24: **Shelia Matthews**
- January 25: **Johnny Matthews**
- January 27: **Joel Finlay**
- January 29: **Jim Frank**
- January 31: **Jerrie Lindsey**

By Our Gifts

| | |
|---|----------|
| Needed Monthly Budget..... | \$46,988 |
| Received <i>December</i> Budget | \$34,648 |
| Expense <i>December</i> Budget | \$59,173 |
| <i>December</i> Designated Received | \$10,724 |
| <i>December</i> Designated Expenses..... | \$4,089 |
| Christmas Eve Love Offering | \$1,365 |

Year to Date

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Received Budget | \$471,142 |
| Expense Budget | \$553,261 |
| Designated Received | \$103,412 |
| Designated Expenses..... | \$94,786 |

For questions about giving, how to give online, or how to set up ACH bank draft, contact Michael Markle Andrews: michael@westpointfume.org

Thank for your Stewardship!

2023 Stewardship Update

Households: 97
Cards Received: 54
Increased Giving: 23
New Pledges: 6
Total Pledges Thus Far: \$367,800

By Our Presence

December

Weekly Average Worship Attendance

9am Patchwork Average: **22**

11am Worship Average: **117**

11am Online Average: **18**

Total Weekly Average: 157

Numbers of Weekly Small Groups: **14**

Average *December* Small Group Attendance: **66**

Total *December* Persons Served: **550**

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - 12 noon

The office is closed from 12 - 1 for lunch.

The office will be closed on January 2.

January Calendar of Activities

Sunday, January 1
10:00 am: Morning Worship

Monday, January 2
Church office closed

Tuesday, January 3
1:00 pm: Food Closet
6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, January 4
5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids
6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 5
12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, January 6
6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 8
9:00 am: Patchwork Worship
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: Morning Worship
12:00 pm: Leadership Board

Monday, January 9
10:00 am: Staff Meeting
12:45 pm: Handbells
5:30 pm: Bible Study

Tuesday, January 10
12:00 pm: Lunch-In
1:00 pm: Food Closet
6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, January 11
4:15 pm: Griefshare
5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids
6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 12
12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, January 13
6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 15
9:00 am: Patchwork Worship
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: Morning Worship
12:00 pm: Safe Sanctuaries Training
1:30 pm: Handbells

Monday, January 16
Church office closed

Tuesday, January 17
1:00 pm: Food Closet
6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, January 18
4:15 pm: Griefshare
5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids
6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 19
12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, January 20
6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 21
9:00 am: Patchwork Worship
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: Morning Worship
1:30 pm: Handbells

Monday, January 22
10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 23
1:00 pm: Food Closet
6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, January 24
4:15 pm: Griefshare
5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids
6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 25
12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, January 26
6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 29
9:00 am: Patchwork Worship
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: Morning Worship
1:30 pm: Handbells

Monday, January 30
10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 31
1:00 pm: Food Closet
6:00 pm: AA

West Point First United Methodist Church
306 East 7th Street, West Point, Ga 31833
Phone: 706-645-1379 | e-mail: sherry@westpointfumc.org
website: www.westpointfumc.org
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8am—5pm, Friday: 8am - Noon
Closed for lunch from Noon - 1pm

Church Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers..... | The Congregation |
| Financial Administrator..... | Michael Markle Andrews <i>michael@westpointfumc.org</i> |
| Church Hostess..... | Terri Culpepper |
| Pianist/Organist..... | Gail Douglas <i>gail@westpointfumc.org</i> |
| Director of Family & Outreach..... | Teresa Futral <i>teresa@westpointfumc.org</i> |
| Pastor..... | Rev. Erik A. Mays <i>erik@westpointfumc.org</i> |
| Office Administrator..... | Sherry Pinckard <i>sherry@westpointfumc.org</i> |
| Custodian..... | Ollie Todd |
| Nursery Worker..... | Jordan Weston |
| Nursery Worker..... | Penny Weston |
| Director of Music & Adult Education & Visitation..... | Helen Zachry <i>belen@westpointfumc.org</i> |



First United Methodist Church
306 E 7th Street
West Point, GA 31833



Scan the heart with your smart phone and follow us on social media!