



The Monthly Pointer



A Monthly Newsletter of



First United Methodist Church
West Point, Georgia

From the Pastor



On Sunday, December 3, we welcome the season of Advent. The season of Advent is a season of preparation and eager expectation as we await the birth of the Christ child. I hope you'll make Sunday morning worship a priority, and through it your heart will be full of hope, peace, joy, and the love of our amazing God.

In worship starting December 3, we'll begin a new sermon series called "**Where We Belong**." Not everyone has the same definition of "home" and of the places we belong. Some may say it is found in a physical space, and others in a community of acceptance. Advent and Christmas are in many ways a "homecoming." God found a new home among us in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. God will find this home again in the second advent when Christ will return. In all the dwelling places where we find ourselves today, especially during this season, may Christ find a place to dwell amongst us and in us so that we can experience the comfort and joy given to the world.

Sunday, December 3

Sermon: *The End*
Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 10

Sermon: *Wild Things*
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17

Christmas Cantata
One Service Only: 11am



Blessings,

Spik

Sunday, December 24

Sermon (9am and 11am):
Building the Tent
Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve, December 24

Sermon (Candlelight):
Home in the World
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 31

Sermon: *Reign It In*
Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
One Service Only: 11am

Highlights

	Page
Toy Drive.....	2
Advent Devotional Books	2
Lunch-In	2
Breakfast with Santa	2
Game Night.....	2
Meals on Wheels.....	2
Open House	3
Christmas Eve Worship.....	3
Christmas Cantata	3
Staff Christmas Bonus.....	3
Advent/Christmas Yard Signs.....	3
Christmas Float	4
Men's Prayer Breakfast	4
Sunday School.....	4
Thrive Pledges.....	4
Note from Financial Secretary.....	4
Handbell Choir	4
Leadership Sunday	4
Prayer Concerns	5
December/January Birthdays.....	5
Attendance and Finances.....	5
December Calendar	6
Staff	6



West Point First United Methodist Church
306 East 7th Street
West Point, Ga 3133
706-645-1379 | westpointfumc.org

Ways to Invite, Grow, and Serve



TOY DRIVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER
3RD & 10TH
FOR THE CHRISTIAN
SERVICE CENTER

Bring an unwrapped gift for a child of any age on Sunday, December 3rd OR 10th. Toys will be collected in the elevator lobby and delivered to the Christian Service Center in time for Christmas.



YOU'RE INVITED
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Enjoy the Breakfast with Santa and other fun activities!

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2ND
9:00AM - 11:00AM

Admission: \$5 donation to support



Photos with Santa: \$2 each

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WESTPOINTFUMC.ORG
OR CALL 706-645-1379

WEST POINT FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH,
ZACHRY CENTER



Advent Devotional Books

Daily Advent devotionals are available. We encourage you to pick one or two up for yourself or a friend and allow the daily devotions to enrich your Advent and Christmas season. Devotionals are available through the church building and in the sanctuary vestibule.

Available Devotionals:

Journey to Joy: An Advent Devotional for Families
My Journey to Jesus!

The Light of Grace: Welcoming God's Amazing Gift of Christ
A Little Child Shall Lead Them: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen
A Season of Peace: Advent Devotions for Seniors

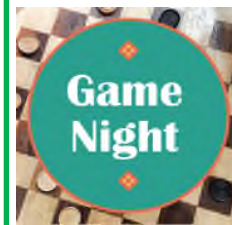


Lunch-In
Tuesday, December 12
12:00 pm
Banquet Room

Menu:

Pork Tenderloin with cranberry/orange sauce,
Baked Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli with cheese sauce,
Rolls, Brownies with Vanilla/Peppermint Ice Cream

Everyone is invited!
Call the church office to save your seat!



December 14,
January 11 and 25
6-8 pm

You are invited to come play cards and games with friends. Bring your favorite game(s), a snack to share, and your favorite non-alcoholic drink. Meet at the Zachry Center door, and be prepared to have a fun evening with friends!

Any Questions?
Call Paul Brown, 404.804.4710



Please consider sharing part of your Christmas meal with one or more of our Meals on Wheels recipients. The church will provide Styrofoam boxes and directions. Call the church office to sign up!

Meals on Wheels

Ways to Invite, Grow, and Serve



The Mays family invites you to a parsonage Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 17. Feel free to drop by anytime between 4pm to 6pm. No gifts please!



Join us for the beautiful sounds of the season brought to us by the Chancel Choir. No Patchwork on December 17

A Note from Our Staff Parish Relations Chair



Our church has a long-standing tradition of sharing our love and appreciation for our wonderful pastor and amazing staff in the form of a monetary gift during the Christmas season. I invite you to contribute to this tradition as you feel led by sending a gift by check made payable to West Point First United Methodist Church. Please write "Staff Christmas" in the memo section of your check. Or, if you prefer, you can securely [give online by clicking here](#) and selecting "Staff Christmas" in the dropdown menu.

Gifts may be distributed among the staff or, at your direction, be wholly indicated for any person you feel is particularly deserving. You may place your check in Sunday morning's offering plate, drop it off at the church office, give it to me personally, or mail your contribution to the church office. **Please submit your gift no later than Wednesday, December 17.** This will allow us to present the love offering to the staff members in time for Christmas.

I look forward to seeing each of you in worship!

Sincerely,
Ann Thomas
WPFUMC Leadership Board and Staff Parish Relations Chairperson



Advent and Christmas Yard Signs!

Help spread the joy of the season by letting others know about how they can experience Christ through West Point First. We have a limited number of

yard signs and stakes are available. If you already have one we encourage you to place one in your yard this Advent and Christmas season!

Ways to Invite, Grow, and Serve...

Christmas Float

We are planning to enter a float in the Christmas parade on Thursday, December 7.

YOUR help is needed!

Carla Burgoyne is looking for volunteers, so let her know if you can help in any way.

706-412-1315



All men are invited for a time of prayer, scripture reading, and breakfast. If you have never been before, come join us in the Banquet Room as we grow together.



There's a place for you in

Sunday School!

Sundays at 10 am



Wednesdays at 5:15



We are grateful for our congregation's faithful response to our 2024 *Thrive* stewardship campaign. We are still collecting *Thrive* cards! If you would like to submit yours you can place it in the offering plate one Sunday morning, mail to the church, or drop it off during office hours.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

A gentle reminder - As you enjoy the joy, hustle, and bustle of the Christmas season and upcoming New Year, your checks to the church must be dated by December 31 to be included in the 2023 calendar year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Michael Andrews



Handbell Choir is open to anyone in our church or in our community. No previous ringing experience required. If you are interested and want to come try it out, let Gail Douglas know.

gailjdouglas@gmail.com 205-317-5776

Don't forget—Young students that are 5th grade or older are invited to be a part of the Handbell Choir, too. We have two practice times each week to choose from:

Sundays 12:30-1:30 or Mondays 12:45-1:45.



Leadership Sunday: January 21st

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

Leadership Board 2023 Orientation Meeting

Sunday, January 21st, immediately following the 11 am Worship Service

Lunch will be provided.



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, Ellen Sapp, Jan Hollis, Donna Keith,
Darren Kelley, Amy Whitlock Burton, Jim Frank,
Barbara Ruddick, Steven and Alaine Wright,
Sharon Cowart, Gerry Lanier,
Jackie and Al Hammer, Charles (Steve) Phillips,
Lisa Ann Soehnel, Alice Ward, Bentley Bryant, Sarah Auler,
Margaret Bartlett, Lakin Rayfield, Jacob Grubbs
Communities impacted by storms, fires, and earthquakes,
Communities and families impacted by violence,
The war in Israel

New Prayer Concern:

Dylan Reeves

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to ...

Bill Scott on the loss of his sister, Mary Amelia (Nena) Scott Price, who passed away on November 12.

Paul Brown on the loss of his sister, Nancy Brown McCasland, who passed away on November 15.

Joanne Mabrey on the loss of her mother, Linda James, who passed away on November 26 in Farmington, Missouri.

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!

By Our Gifts

Needed Budget Year to Date..... \$592,934
Received Budget Year to Date..... \$490,888
Expenses Year to Date..... \$495,237

Stewardship Update

We have received pledge cards from 54 households for a total of \$366,800, which is 57% of the proposed 2024 budget.

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!



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 2: Liz Edmondson | 10: Terri Slade |
| 5: George Avary | 12: Joe Hill |
| 7: Susan Edwards | 12: Lindsey Mays |
| 9: Ollie Todd | 13: Helen Zachry |
| 10: David Fagan | 16: Riley Hurst |



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2: Alaine Wright | 11: Mike Hixon |
| 4: Heath Knowles | 13: Paige Fuller |
| 5: Coleman Reeves | 18: Billy Lane |
| 6: James Hurst | 23: Bud Doughtie |
| 6: Penny Weston | 24: Shelia Matthews |
| 7: Carole Wood | 25: Johnny Matthews |
| 9: Judy Wilkinson | 29: Jim Frank |
| 10: JahWill Fannings | |

By Our Presence

Average November Worship Attendance

9 am Patchwork Average: 19
11 am Average: 91
Online Average: 37
Total Average: 147

Numbers of Weekly Small Groups: 15
Average November Small Group Attendance: 48

November Persons Served: 435

December Calendar of Activities

Friday, December 1

6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am: Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am: Patchwork

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Morning Worship

12:30 pm: Handbells

Monday, December 4

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

12:45 pm: Handbells

4:00 pm: Bible Study

Tuesday, December 5

1:00 pm: Food Closet

6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, December 6

5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids

6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper

7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 7

12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

6:00 pm: Christmas Parade

Friday, December 8

6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am: Patchwork

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Morning Worship

12:30 pm: Handbells

Monday, December 11

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

4:00 pm: Bible Study

Tuesday, December 12

12:00 pm: Lunch-In

1:00 pm: Food Closet

6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, December 13

5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids

6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper

7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 14

12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

6:00 pm: Game Night

Friday, December 15

6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

No Patchwork

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Christmas Cantata

4:00 pm: Parsonage Open House

Monday, December 18

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 19

1:00 pm: Food Closet

6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, December 20

5:15 pm: Kingdom Kids

6:00 pm: Wednesday Night Supper

7:00 pm: Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21

12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, December 22

6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

9:00 am: Patchwork

10:00 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Morning Worship

12:45 pm: Handbells

4:45 pm: Carols

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25

Church office closed.

Tuesday, December 26

1:00 pm: Food Closet

6:00 pm: AA

Wednesday, December 27

No Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday, December 28

12:00 pm: Soup Kitchen

Friday, December 29

6:45 am: Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am: Patchwork

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Morning Worship

Please note January dates in the weekly Pointer.

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 - Friday, 9 am—5 pm,

Closed from Noon - 1 pm

Church Staff

Ministers	The Congregation
Financial Administrator	Michael Markle Andrews <i>michael@westpointfumc.org</i>
Church Hostess	Terri Culpepper
Pianist/Organist/Handbell Director	Gail Douglas <i>gail@westpointfumc.org</i>
Director of Family Ministries	
Pastor	Rev. Erik A. Mays <i>erik@westpointfumc.org</i>
Office Administrator	Sherry Pinckard <i>sherry@westpointfumc.org</i>
North Georgia Disaster Case Manager	Jessika Reid <i>jreid@ngumc.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!