



## SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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# VISIONS

The newsletter of  
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



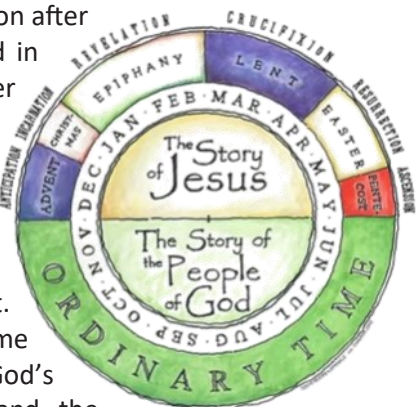
**Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor**



Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

I am amazed that we are in Advent and the count down for Christmas has begun. I love the season and started decorating the house the week of Thanksgiving. I don't think of it as a chore because I believe that I am one of Santa's elves!

Advent is the beginning of the church year. We have the four Sundays of Advent to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas – the birth of Christ in human flesh. Following Christmas, we have the season after Epiphany where we see the light and glory of God in Jesus Christ. Our calendar rotates to Lent, another season of preparation. This time we are anticipating Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Jesus' trial and crucifixion, and then Easter and the glory of the resurrection. The Easter season is marked by experiencing new life and concludes with the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost. After Pentecost, we move through Ordinary Time where we explore the connection between God's actions, the significance of the life of Christ, and the application of faith into our life. When we are aware of the sweep of the Christian year, we can understand how broad and deep God's covenant of love is and how we are a part of it.

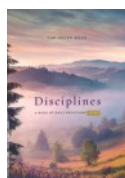


As we start Advent and experience it as a season preparing us for Christmas, we see how the dinners, cantata, concerts, sharing our nativity sets with each other, lighting of advent candles, parties, gifts for the children on the Angel tree, worship services, and Christmas Eve celebrations help us to experience God's love.

This year we are celebrating the theme of "Love Came Down at Christmas." This is the title of a Christmas hymn by Christina Rossetti. Brenda McBrayer will be portraying the poet on Sunday, December 3rd. I believe the experience of love is missing in a lot of people's lives. Advent and Christmas don't discount the reality of the challenges some people face, but they do offer the blessing of God's love.

In the rush of December, it is important that we take the opportunity to remember that Jesus is the gift of love for us. At Forrest Burdette, we have many offerings that offer love and joy for not only the holidays, but for all of life. I encourage you to carefully read the newsletter and prioritize worship, giving to the church and others, and fellowship to enhance your holiday season. May this December truly be a season of love for you.

Love and joy!  
Joe



### 2024 Upper Room Disciplines

Copies of The Upper Room 2024 "Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions" are available at the Connection Center desk at the discounted price of \$5 each (originally \$13.99). These books make great gifts!

## David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults



### Wednesday Night Bible Study:

12/6 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM → We will continue in our study of the book of John. Meet in the gym for games followed by snacks and a bible study upstairs in the Uth room. This will be our last regular Wednesday night study of the year.

### Sunday School:

- 12/3 from 9:15 - 10:15 AM → Meet in the FB Launch Café. We will be starting a Sunday School Series on the History of Christmas. Free coffee, tea, cereal, and bagels. We will also be putting together Christmas Baskets for residents of a senior living facility.
- 12/10 from 9:15 - 10:15 AM → Meet in the FB Launch Café. We will be continuing our series on the History of Christmas. Free coffee, tea, cereal, and bagels.
- 12/17 from 9:15 - 10:15 AM → Meet in the FB Launch Café. We will be continuing our series on the History of Christmas. Free coffee, tea, cereal, and bagels.
- 12/24 - NO Sunday School. Join the congregation in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas [Eve] Brunch instead!

### Uth Christmas Party: Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM!

Our annual Uth Christmas Party is back! Come dressed in a Christmas Sweater (the uglier, the better!), and bring a Gift Exchange present (cap of \$20). We will have food, play Christmas themed games, listen to Christmas music, and more! Bring a friend, and come wrap up 2024 with us in the Upstairs Uth Room.



### FBLaunch Tutoring Services:

- 12/5 Math ACT from 4:30 - 5:30 PM in the FBLaunch Café— Reach out to David by texting 304-541-3913 if you wish to schedule a tutoring appointment.

## Cathy Daley, Director Children's Outreach Ministries (COM)



Hello! Fall came fast and may have left us just as quickly because, wow! Is it cold today!

As our classrooms move from Thanksgiving to Christmas mode, our teachers are working hard to incorporate the fun and magic of the season, with the true meaning of the most special day. **If you have any social activities or traditions you enjoy, please reach out and share them with us.** It will add more "tools" to our "tool boxes," and the children love to do new things.

As always we are thankful for the prayers and support you offer to our center, allowing us to provide a quality, Christian environment for the families we serve. We could not do the work we do without your generosity.

Have a wonderful, joy filled Christmas season.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

## Jayné Kirk Minister of Children & Families



### Children's Church Christmas 2023

Hey, families! We know that Christmas is a super busy time of year! But it's also a great time to learn more about Jesus and God's love for all of us. Here's a look at what we're covering with your children this month so you can help them continue growing at home during the week.

Memory Verse: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people." Luke 2:10 (NIV)

**Week 1:** This week, kids hear about how an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him he would have a son.

BIG IDEA: Jesus is God's plan.

BIBLE: Luke 1:5-25



**Week 2:** This week, kids hear about how an angel appeared to Mary and gave her wonderful and impossible news.

BIG IDEA: Jesus calms our fears.

BIBLE: Luke 1:26-38

**Week 3:** This week, kids hear about how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him about who Mary's baby was.

BIG IDEA: Jesus makes everything new.

BIBLE: Matthew 1:18-25

**Week 4:** This week, kids hear about how angels appeared to the shepherds and told them the good news about Jesus' birth!

BIG IDEA: Jesus is God's love for everyone.

BIBLE: Luke 2:1-20

## Angel Tree Reminder!



Sixty-five local children will receive gifts through our Angel Tree this year. Thank you for your donations! **All gifts (unwrapped) are due back at the church by noon on December 10.** If you have any questions, call or text either JoAnn Kennedy (304-561-7100) or Lisa Fawcett (304-539-2860). Now we're decorating the tree with new hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens to be given to people in need — *join in!*

**JOY Fellowship (55+)** will hold its monthly covered dish lunch on Thursday, December 21, at 12:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share, and enjoy singing some carols with Beth Sauvageot playing the piano for us!



## Annual Church Conference

Forrest Burdette's rescheduled Annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, following morning worship. Purpose: elect officers, set the pastor's salary, receive apportionments, with Conference Superintendent Joe Hill. All church members are invited to attend.

## Grief Support Group

The FB Grief Support group will meet for a Christmas Brunch at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 2nd at the Bridge Cafe in Hurricane. Join us! Bring a \$5-\$10 gift for the white elephant gift exchange, if you'd like to participate (not required). After that, we will have a regular meeting on Saturday, December 30th at 1:00 at the church, Room 111. Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659.

## From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to Deloris Rooper and family upon the death of husband Wayne Rooper on November 17, 2023.

## Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for November (as of 11/28/2023):

November Contributions Received.....	\$55,815
Monthly Receipts Needed .....	\$67,538

## Poinsettia Orders



Poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones will be placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias may be picked up after Christmas Eve worship, December 24. Please fill out a poinsettia order form (found in a Sunday bulletin, E-Connection, or requested from the church office) along with your cash or check, and return to the Church Office **no later than December 17**. Make your check payable to Forrest Burdette UMC. Poinsettias are \$10 each (6" container, 1 plant, 4-6 blooms, red with pot cover & bow) and purchased through Gritt's Midway Greenhouse.

## Christmas Day Dinner: December 25

Preparations are being made to provide another Christmas Day Dinner at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Menu consists of baked steak and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, hot rolls, and side dishes of your specialty. Please sign up at the Connection Center or call the church office to give us an idea of attendance. —Jill Gilbert

## Hurricane Civic Chorus Concert



The Hurricane Civic Chorus presents "I Heard the Bells," **Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.**, at Forrest Burdette. This Christmas concert is free. Donations will be accepted.

## The Praying Christ

Robbie Parsons has published a new book, titled *The Praying Christ*. He left a sample of the book at the Connection Center, along with an order sheet for those who would like to have their own copy. Please sign up! Robbie would appreciate payment in advance. \$10 per copy. An envelope is provided.

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*



### Sunday, December 3, 2023

The First Sunday of Advent, 10:30 a.m. Worship — *"Love Is Our Token," Luke 1:6-25*  
Annual Church Conference to follow the service

### Sunday, December 10, 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent, 10:30 a.m. Worship — *"Love Incarnate & Divine," Luke 1:26-38*  
5:00-6:00 p.m. Church Family Christmas Dinner  
(purchase tickets in advance at the church)  
We'll enjoy Christmas caroling and a visit from Santa!

### Sunday, December 17, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent, 10:30 a.m. Worship, with the Forrest Burdette Choir and Orchestra presenting the cantata "Love!"  
11:30 a.m., following worship, we will share our Nativities with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, at the "Nativity Showcase"

### Sunday, December 24, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (no Sunday School classes)  
9:15 a.m. Christmas Covered Dish Brunch & Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Worship — We begin our Christmas celebration with morning worship, where Pastor Joe will tell the story of *The Littlest Angel* in place of a sermon, and there will be fun special music!

Our evening services will differ from each other:

- Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Candlelight Service, with music by the choir & orchestra. Pastor Joe's sermon: "Love Was Born at Christmas," Is. 9:2-7, Luke 2
- Christmas Eve, 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service, with handbells, special music, and communion. Pastor Joe's sermon: "Love Was Born at Christmas," Is. 9:2-7, Luke 2

### Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day — 2:00 p.m. Christmas Dinner at the church

### Sunday, December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas (New Year's Eve!), 10:30 a.m.  
Worship — *"Gift & Sign," Luke 2:22-40*

## Nativity Showcase!



Join us for this second annual holiday fellowship event on **Sunday, December 17**, following our morning worship service. Bring your Nativity set(s) to the church the week before the showcase; we will store them safely in the Parlor. Or bring them during the **set up time Saturday, Dec. 16, 1-3 p.m.** You may bring as many as you would like to showcase. Please bring an index card with your name and a description of your set with you. On Sunday, we will enjoy the display of our various and unique Nativities in the Fellowship Hall, with refreshments.



## December Birthdays:

- 1 Kambrie Canterbury, Lucy Huggins, Sandy Nesmith, Meredith Vance
- 2 Karen Hyre, Gary Newman, Becky Williams
- 3 Jane Bogan, Todd Landin
- 4 Keith Bowie, Scott Ransom
- 5 Meghan Fawcett, Geneva McGinnis, JR Newman, Michael Sword
- 6 Parker Bowyer, David Russell
- 7 Ellen Bowie, Michele Myers, Steve Powers, Kaven Ransom
- 8 Scott Edwards, Bradley Johnson, Dylan Kimble, Pat Litton, Casey Templeton, Matthew Tidd
- 9 Katie Anderson, Roland Fisher, Pam Stinespring, Tara Valent
- 10 Caitlin Campbell, Isaac Gibson
- 11 Nita DeBord, Karen Martinez, Cheryl Stutler, Lorrie Zappitelli
- 12 Alan Cummings, Samantha Hill, Karen Lilly, Bill Painter
- 13 No birthdays on record today
- 14 Joseph Erwin, Nick Kegley, Andy Peal
- 15 Stephanie Dorsey, Matthew Jarvis, Linda Plumley, Rob Proffitt, Steve Ramey, Pamela Smith, Debbie Young
- 16 Emerson Gibson, Cole Jackson, Dan Johnson, Ryan Riedel, Dan Salamie
- 17 Ethan Copeland, Linnet McCann, Justin Williams
- 18 Lori Halstead

- 19 Angie Rynyon
- 20 Jackson Bucher, Rubie Kauffman, Kristin Lilly, Ashton Warner
- 21 Tess Baker, Gene Brown
- 22 Samuel Burch, Denise Clegg
- 23 Hunter Jackson, Robin Yearout
- 24 Stacey Holley, Brandon Porter
- 25 Jared Collins, Kim Herman, Maxine Kessler
- 26 Mike Treadway
- 27 Erica Booker, Charlene Carter, Ethan Johnson, Amy Thomas
- 28 Rosemary Cook, Debbie Pauley
- 29 Becky Brogan, Mary Beth Stewart
- 30 Morgan Cox, Eddie Ellison, Ashley Laton, Keith Smith
- 31 Annette Cartwright, Ali Davidson, Rita Given, Andrea Houston, Becky Lilly



## December Anniversaries:

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 Ed & Becky Brogan      | 24 John Bayliss & Susan McCracken |
| 5 Rob & Carol Proffitt   | 24 Tom & Linda Plumley            |
| 7 Gene & Traci Brown     | 27 Larry & Margie Billups         |
| 14 Marvin & Alpha Lively | 28 Bruce & Nancy Colella          |
| 21 Frank & Hilda Mynes   | 29 Rick & Jill Turner             |
| 23 Curtis & Mia Ferguson | 31 Scott & Jan Ramey              |

\*\* Birthdays and anniversaries are generated from our church database. Please call the office if you are not listed (304-562-5903).



Sunday Morning Worship:  
10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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## Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 12/1/2023



You may enjoy  
daily devotions  
through the  
seasons of Advent  
and Christmas on  
the Conference  
website:  
[wvumc.org](http://wvumc.org)

(Our own Julie  
Conley and David  
Westfall each wrote  
a devotion!)