



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston,
Senior Pastor
pastorjoe@forrestburdette.com
(304) 661-5010

Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley,
Pastor Emeritus

Jayne Kirk, Minister of
Children & Families
jayne@forrestburdette.com

Luke Spurgeon, Minister of
Youth & Young Adults
youth@forrestburdette.com

Mike Barnhouse,
Director of Music
mike@marshallbarnhouse.com

David Shanklin,
Assistant Director of Music
dshanklin@gmail.com

Zach Edgell,
Media Tech Coordinator
media@forrestburdette.com

Karen White, Admin. Assistant
office@forrestburdette.com

Ellen Bowie,
Business Manager/ Treasurer
finances@forrestburdette.com

Katie Spencer, Custodian

Children's Outreach Ministries (COM) Child Care:

Cathy Daley, Director
cathy@forrestburdette.com
(304) 562-9170—office

2848 Putnam Avenue
Hurricane WV 25526
(304) 562-5903
(304) 562-6654—fax
office@forrestburdette.com
www.forrestburdette.com

May 2024

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



FROM THE PASTOR

Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I know that there has been a lot of news coverage and hallway discussions at church about a few of the decisions that were made at General Conference. I want to reassure Forrest Burdette that the removal of the prohibitions regarding “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” (2016 Book of Discipline language) does not change our ministry at Forrest Burdette. The removal of the prohibitions puts the larger church in the position we were in pre-1972.

In terms of weddings, nothing will change at Forrest Burdette. The Book of Discipline gives the pastors the power to decide who they will marry. My practice has always been to counsel couples before agreeing to do a wedding. I have not performed a wedding for a homosexual couple, and I will not do so. Secondly, the Trustees have the power, again according to the Book of Discipline, to determine how the church is used. This authority includes determining what weddings may be held in the church.

General Conference covered lots of topics and made decisions that affect a variety of ministries and missions. Consequently, I will be holding six conversations at Forrest Burdette to answer your questions, whether they deal with homosexuality or other topics. We will be meeting in Room 213.

The dates and times are:

Sunday, May 12th	6:00 p.m.
Monday, May 13th	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14th	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15th	1:00 p.m.

My preference is that we have no more than 20 people at each session so we can have good discussions. **Please email or call the church to let us know which session you want to attend.** You are welcome to come whether you have a question or an opinion you want to express or want to learn.

In addition, I am willing to talk with individuals and with informal groups at a time that is mutually convenient. I invite you to be in prayer for these discussions and for the vibrant ministry of Forrest Burdette.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joe



Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Hi! My name is Luke Spurgeon. I have accepted the position of Minister of Youth and Young Adults at Forrest Burdette. I am excited to start working with the youth and young adults at the church. I grew up in Beckley, was raised in a Christian home, attended United Methodist Temple, and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. I have always felt a calling to work in some form of church ministry with a special interest in youth ministry. Some of my fondest church memories are the times I spent with youth programming and youth trips. I worked at Spring Heights Camp this past summer, which further fed my desire for youth work. I am committed to developing engaging programs, fostering meaningful relationships, and empowering young individuals to grow in their faith. With the Grace of God and the members of Forrest Burdette, we can support the next generation in their walk with Christ. See you soon!



Youth & Parents: Let's Meet Over Ice Cream!



All youth (6th-12th grade) and their families are invited to join our new Minister of Youth & Young Adults Luke Spurgeon for an ice cream get together on **Wednesday, May 15, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** (we might go later if needed!). Meet Luke in the Fellowship Hall, and give him the opportunity to meet and talk with you!

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

To begin this month, I need to thank everyone for your support during COM Sunday. It was very nice, and we appreciate the acknowledgement. We were very happy to have some of our staff attend and finished up the afternoon with an appreciation/awards luncheon for the staff and their families at Fat Patty's. The ladies and gentlemen who work in childcare are a much under appreciated group, and it was very thoughtful to have something that acknowledged them and their hard work with the children.

Thanks to a Trustee, we now have caps on the playground fence. The caps give the fence a much more finished look, along with offering protection from the weather. Many thanks!

We are rapidly finishing up the year and gearing up for summer. We are looking at full programs once again as we move forward through the summer and fall and are getting calls for the 2025-2026 school year already.

As always we thank you for all your support and ask for your prayers for everyone involved with our ministry.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

In the month of May, Forrest Burdette UMC is honored to host several community events: the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Braden Burnside (5/11), Hurricane High School Baccalaureate (5/16), a Red Cross Blood Drive (5/17), Mike Barnhouse's Piano Student Recital (5/17), the Hurricane Civic Chorus Spring Concert (5/21), our own COM Pre-K Graduation (5/28), and the Conner Street Elementary 5th Grade Graduation (5/30). Thank you to all who are helping us open our doors for these events!

Jayne Kirk Minister of Children & Families



Vacation Bible School will be here next month! We need your help to shine our light at **Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God!**

This VBS program will teach us about people in the Bible who experienced the gift of a trusting relationship with God. In addition, it will teach us to trust that God will go with us, lead the way, share wisdom, give us peace, and spark joy as we celebrate the good news of Jesus in our own lives and in the lives of others. We will also learn ways we can connect with and



put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.

You can sign up to volunteer or pre-register your participant (up to age 11) with the website or QR code: <https://vbspro.events/p/fbvbs24>



Children's Church this month:

WEEK 1: This week, kids will read how the disciples were with Jesus when he went up to Heaven after the resurrection. BIG IDEA: Take the first step — believe in Jesus. BIBLE: Acts 1:1-11



WEEK 2: This week, kids will read how Peter and John were healing and teaching people at the Beautiful Gate. BIG IDEA: Take another step — pray for others. BIBLE: Acts 3

WEEK 3: This week, kids will read how Stephen boldly shared a message before the Sanhedrin. BIG IDEA: Take a big step — the Holy Spirit makes us brave. BIBLE: Acts 6, 7:54-59

WEEK 4: This week, kids will read how Philip shared the good news of Jesus in Ethiopia. BIG IDEA: Don't skip this step — tell others about Jesus. BIBLE: Acts 8:26-40



Graduate Information Needed

We would like to recognize our congregation's graduates in June. If someone in your family is graduating from any level of education or they graduated in December and wasn't recognized, please call or email the church office with their information (304-562-5903 or office@forrestburdette.com).

Rev. Charles S. and Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship

High School seniors: Apply for the Rev. Charles and Alma Thompson Scholarship by May 12. The scholarship is for post-secondary education. Please contact the church office to receive an application form.

May Worship Services

During worship in May, we will wrap up the season of Easter, celebrate the Ascension and Pentecost, and begin a new sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit. You may read the scripture to prepare for worship, and invite someone to join you as we continue to walk with Christ on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

5/5/24	1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Words of Life: Conquering the World
5/12/24	Acts 1:1-11	Looking Up
5/19/24	Acts 2, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27	A Mighty Wind (Pentecost—Wear Red!)
5/26/24	Galatians 5:22-23	A Fruitful Life: Love



JOY Fellowship Field Trip

On **Thursday, May 16**, JOY Fellowship (55+) will go to Blenko Glass to watch glass-blowing and then have lunch together in Milton, at either a BBQ restaurant or Shonet's. The group will gather at the church at 10 a.m. and leave at 10:30. Please sign up on the clipboard at the Connection Center, where you may vote for which restaurant you prefer and indicate if you want to ride in the church van. Questions? Contact Mike & Suzy Richardson.

Forrest Burdette at the Cupboard

It's our tradition to highlight the needs of the Christian Community Cupboard and encourage specific donations during May, Forrest Burdette's month to serve at the Cupboard. In May, please bring donations of:

- Pancake mix
- Syrup (plastic bottles only)
- Canned peas
- Canned carrots



Any other non-perishable items are welcome as well. Or, scan this QR code to view the Cupboard's Amazon Wishlist. If you order from Amazon, your items will be shipped directly to the Cupboard's operations manager, or simply review the list for more ideas of what's needed. The cart for donations is at the Connection Center. Thanks!

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for March 2024:

March Contributions Received	\$72,877
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$69,895
Over Budget	\$2,982

Mortgage Balance:

March 2024 Payments on Mortgage	\$12,212.65
Funds Received, March 2024	\$15,678.31
Over Budget	\$3,465.66

The mortgage payments are not part of the Operating Budget. Contributions to the Building Fund pay the mortgage each month.

Thank you for your donations of household supplies and toiletries for our District Celebration of Mission Event (COME)!

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Phyllis Arlene Pullen who passed away on April 21, 2024.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, May 17, 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. @ FBMUMC



Call 1-800-733-2767, or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "hurricane.com" to schedule an appointment. The need for donations is great. Would you like to volunteer at this event, or do you have questions? Contact Jo Bess (304-545-0096).



Furniture Ministry Needs Urgent Help!

Sam Robson, Forrest Burdette's liaison with Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries, has scheduled us to help move furniture on **June 8**. Here are the details:

- Driver will operate the box truck (no special license required)
- Pick up furniture for needy families
- Deliver furniture to needy families
- Everything will be provided; just bring your furniture carrying arms!
- 212 D Street, South Charleston, WV



Interested and able servants, please call or text Sam directly at 304-550-5053 to sign up.



Musical May

This month, we are collecting **shoebox-size musical instruments** for Operation Christmas Child!

- Recorders
- Harmonicas
- Jingle Bells
- Maracas
- Tambourines
- Castanets

Cash donations will be used to purchase instruments in bulk at great prices! Prefer to choose your own instruments? Check your local stores or purchase instruments online and drop them off at the Connection Center. Contact Beth Sauvageot or Jackie Adkins for more information!



Hurricane Civic Chorus Spring Concert

"Springtime Melodies" - Join the Hurricane Civic Chorus as they celebrate the joy of Spring through song! Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. (open @ 6:35), at Forrest Burdette. Donations accepted.

May Birthdays:

- 1 Ashley Clark, Granvel Dilley, Emily Vargo
- 2 Jason Billups, David Haney, Matthew Harshbarger, Rick Turner
- 3 *No birthdays on record today*
- 4 Madelyn Bowyer, Karen Cummings, Linda Cunningham, Carissa Lawhon, Jennifer Rogers
- 5 Brent Andrews, Martha Bennett, Samuel Booker, Marty Martinez, Caleb Totten
- 6 Linda Clark, Allen Kirk
- 7 Kara Rose, Whitney Williams
- 8 Brittney Arthur, Erica Pomeroy, Scott Warner
- 9 Lauren McCoy, Vicki Stover
- 10 Marilyn Phillips, Dolores Price
- 11 Dawn Barcroft, Lauren Lipinski, Tyler Ray
- 12 Kennedi Brainard, Callie McClanahan, Sabrina Ray, Beverly Turner
- 13 Marc Fizer, Casey Levy
- 14 Becky Landin
- 15 Chris McCoy
- 16 Steve Golden
- 17 Don Collins, Keyria Franklin, Skip Johnson, Caleb Turner
- 18 Jesse Golden, Kristina Painter
- 19 Randy Mayhew, Joyce Sayre
- 20 Joshua Harshbarger
- 21 John Bennett, Jackson Harris, Philip Lane, Connor McClanahan, Hayden Riesen

- 22 Rocco Hughes
- 23 Nancy Austin, Katherine Childers, Kevin Phillips, Ben Veit
- 24 Leila Holland, Craig Houston, Katie Keen, Jerry Lilly, Nick Schamp
- 25 Megan Peterson
- 26 Zane Franklin, Terri Haney, Bryson Haught
- 27 Patricia Enochs
- 28 Riley Elkins
- 29 Louis Blair, Jonah Fenerty, Noah Fenerty, Bob Gibson, Barbara Karastury, Marsha Kauffman, Danny Simms, Olin Spencer
- 30 Mark Dunlap, Angie Nitardy
- 31 Larry Clendenin



May Anniversaries:

7 Mark & Megan Peterson	16 Mike & Stephanie Mellace
12 Jeremy & Danielle Grant	21 Chris & Jane Bogan
16 Mark & Carla Akers	28 Ellis & Julie Conley
16 Chris & Ashley Clark	30 Steve Blower & Jennifer Weiss Blower

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



Have you remembered the church in your will?



VISIONS

The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

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

2848 Putnam Avenue
Hurricane, WV 25526
304-562-5903
office@forrestburdette.com
www.forrestburdette.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hurricane, WV
Permit No. 3

Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 5/9/2024



He ascended into heaven

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty