



September 2026

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE
WITH
OUR COMMUNITY

Church Staff:

Rev. Jake Steele, Senior Pastor
jacobsteele714@gmail.com
(304) 972-2258

Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley,
Pastor Emeritus

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

Jenni Reib, Business Manager
jenni@forrestburdette.com
(304) 562-9170—COM Office



2848 Putnam Avenue
Hurricane WV 25526
(304) 562-5903
(304) 562-6654—fax

office@forrestburdette.com
www.forrestburdette.com

Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.



New frames. Different specs...

They're often the result of the dreaded eye exam. *Ugh* (Do they still do that awful puff test?). Sometimes we don't know how bad our sight has become until we take the time to look through a lens that corrects what we were sure we saw sharply.

What's true of the frames through which we see is also true of the faith on which we stand.

We may be slow to concede it, but many of us stumble on our spiritual walk and sometimes even forfeit our faith altogether because the images we adopted, adapted or generated about Jesus just weren't...genuine.

I don't know about you, but I'd hate bearing the regret of living long lengths of time before realizing:

Maybe it wasn't the *Lord* who let us down, but rather the *lenses* we were looking through.

It might be time to take a second look. Through the month of September, the eye chart that is the Gospel will challenge us to review, refocus or reframe the concepts we've attached to Christ. It just might shock you to say,

"He's not what I thought."

S E R I E S S C H E D U L E

Sept. 6th:	"Country Club Christ"	Mark 2: 13-17
Sept. 13th:	"Our Lord, the Lifeguard"	John 8: 2-11
Sept. 20th:	"Jesus, the Genie"	Matthew 11: 1-6

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Hey Church Family,

August has been full of first weeks of school and lots of sporting events for our youth. We have also started our weekly youth group meetings and had a very successful Youth Lock-In.

We have several accomplishments to celebrate! **Brody Steele won his first cross-country meet**, and **Aubree Welch**, who plays on the HHS girls' soccer team, has won her first two games and scored in her first high school game. If you see Brody or Aubree, be sure to congratulate them.

I also want to thank everyone who donated items to the Youth Yard Sale. We raised **over \$1,000** for our Youth General Fund! This will help cover many of the activities we have planned for the youth throughout the fall. We truly appreciate everyone who contributed and helped make the sale a success.

As we look toward September, our youth will be busy with their own sporting events, which means I will also be busy attending games and events in the evenings. I encourage you to get out and support some of our students whenever you can. I have also been informed that the city has a program that allows those **65 and older to attend games for free**, so please check into that opportunity. We have students participating at **HMS, HHS, Winfield High School, and Winfield Middle School**, so there are plenty of opportunities to get out and cheer them on!

I am also planning some kind of fun evening for the youth in September, so keep an eye on the E-Connection and church bulletin for details.

Thank you, as always, to our church family for all the love, encouragement, and support you give to our youth!



Games at the Youth Lock-in, 8/29



Care Package Items for Soldiers

Chaplain Chip Bennett has requested donations of **something salty** (crackers, individual bags of chips/pretzels, beef jerky, peanuts, mixed nuts, trail mix), **something sweet** (M&M's, Tootsie Pops, gummy candy, hard candy), or **something caffeinated** (ground or whole bean coffee, coffee pods, instant coffee, tea, powdered energy drink mixes, electrolyte drink packets) to boost the morale of the soldiers. Emily Steele has offered to collect your items for shipping. Monetary donations are welcome if you aren't able to shop. Many thanks!

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

Sunday School for kindergarten through 5th grade children is held weekly at 9:15 a.m., in room 308. Children's Church, held during a portion of our Sunday morning worship service, follows Pastor Jake's weekly sermons and the scriptures he has selected for each sermon, in Byrd Hall. *Join us!*

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

Hi, everyone! Back to school is a very busy time for us at COM, enrolling new students, moving students to new rooms, adding new teachers to our staff, teachers taking on new positions, rearranging rooms, and making messes. Now that our pre-K class is back in session this week, we are getting into new routines and reorganizing.

It looks like we may have room to add a couple of children that turned 1 prior to July 1st, if you know of anyone needing care.

We are excited for the coming school year, for the church volunteers that work with our school agers, for some new ideas we are working on implementing, and to continue to be a place where parents can feel confident in leaving their children. You are a big part of that too. We could not do what we do without your continued support and prayers, and we thank you.

♥ Have fun and make a difference. ♥

JOY Fellowship (55+) Resumes Sept. 17

Join us on Thursday, September 17, at noon in the fellowship hall for our monthly covered dish luncheon! Prepare or buy some food to share, and come out for a good lunch and fine conversation. Bring a friend!

Donations for the Run Club

The Committed Run Club is an ecumenical effort in the valley to create recreational community, and Forrest Burdette is hosting on September 5, at 8:30 a.m. We could use donations of granola bars, fruit, and sports drinks. Please bring your donations to the Connection Center before 9/5, marked "Run Club".

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for July 2026:

July 2026 Contributions Received.....	\$44,563
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

July 2026 Payments on Mortgage*.....	\$12,138
Funds Received, July 2026	\$11,618

*The mortgage payments are not part of the Operating Budget. Contributions to the building fund pay the mortgage each month.

← **Please keep in mind:** commercially packaged, unopened items only; avoid items that melt easily; please do not send glass containers, aerosols, homemade food, or perishable items. Notes, cards, children's drawings, prayers, and other messages of encouragement are greatly appreciated.



Beginning September 16, 2026!
Wednesday Evening Classes, 6:30 p.m.:

Julie Conley — Bible Art Journaling (Bring your own blank 5x7 sketchbook, or Julie will have small sketchbooks for sale during class) This class will meet in Byrd Hall.

Would you like to find ways to help you remember scripture and visually express your faith in God's Word? Julie Conley will lead a class in Bible Art Journaling, entailing a devotional on a Bible passage, an introduction to a different art material each week, and a time of prayer and reflection. **No artistic skills needed.** Materials will be provided, but you may also bring your own favorite art media.

Debby Cunningham — The Holy Spirit: God's Presence and Power at Work in Us by Adam Hamilton (\$16 study book; please talk to Debby or the church office if cost is prohibitive) This class will meet in Room 111, on the main level.

The Holy Spirit is God's active presence and power at work in the world and in our lives. Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit would come alongside them as comforter and counselor, empowering them to transform the world. In The Holy Spirit, Adam Hamilton explores what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.

Pastor Jake Steele — Love Goes First: Reaching Others in an Age of Anxiety and Division by Andrew Forrest (\$9 study book; please talk to Pastor Jake or the church office if cost is prohibitive) Meet in Room 225B, upstairs.

Today, the cultural climate in the West is characterized by increasing amounts of mistrust and even hatred for others. We are fearful of other people, particularly those whose views and votes don't correspond with our own. This won't change any time soon, and the divides won't be bridged easily, but loving our neighbors isn't an option for the Church—it's a command of Jesus. So how do we do this in our chilly spiritual climate? How should the American church move forward from a weakening cultural position?

Rev. Andrew Forrest unfolds a simple framework that applies to every single relationship in our lives. Readers will be inspired and prepared to risk and reach out to others, even or especially when they are afraid of those who are different or when they risk being misunderstood. They will learn how—if they choose—to transform those relationships into friendships of mutual respect. More than that, Love Goes First provides profound insights into the love of God, and readers will have a new awe and appreciation for the steps God is taking to redeem the world he has made.

(continued)

Midweek Daytime Class:

Pastor Jake Steele — The Gospel of Mark

(Room 213, upstairs) Wednesdays, 10:45 a.m. to noon (*No study book to purchase; please bring your Bible*)

A bible study that continues to canvas the Gospel of Mark — verse by verse, passage by passage. We are halfway through Mark, but new members will be able to jump right in! This class is ongoing and doesn't always follow the Wednesday evening schedule.

Additional Information:

Dates and Time: The midweek daytime study will resume on September 16, at 10:45 a.m. Both evening classes will begin at 6:30 p.m., on September 16, and will conclude near the end of November/beginning of December. Classes will not meet on November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving.

Registration: Register for classes at the Connection Center, through the church office, or just show up! Study books will be available at the Connection Center. You may pay for your book in the church office or with your teacher. If payment for a class book is a problem, please speak with your teacher or the church office.

Dinner: Fellowship dinners are catered by Shonet's Country Café of Milton and begin at 5:30 p.m. The cost of each dinner is \$14. We ask that you sign up at the Connection Center or call the church office by Tuesday morning to RSVP. You do not have to attend a class to join us for dinner! Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up each Wednesday. There will not be a fellowship meal on November 25th.



GIFT OF THE MONTH

Preparing for shoeboxes throughout the year

*I have a big box, and I'm thinking—
 oh my! What could we put in it?
 Let's give it a try!
 Could it be love? YES!
 Could it be care? YES!
 Could it be gifts because we LOVE to share?*

♪ Shake, Rattle, Ring and Sing! ♪

We'll wiggle, giggle, chime, and play;
 Then pack up joy and send it away!
 Jingle-Jangle! Ding-a-Ding!
 Listen to the joy they bring!
 A kazoo, bells, or shaker, too,
 A whistle, flute, or tambourine—woo-hoo!
 A harmonica hums, wind chimes sing,
 Every little gift is a joyful thing!
 Donate one with love—don't delay.
 Share Jesus' joy for a shoebox today!

Scan this QR code to see ideas on our Amazon wishlist. Send items to the church or bring your donations to the box in the Connection Center.



Save the Dates!

Annual Pumpkin Carving & Hot Dog Roast

at Ed & Brenda Grant's Farm
 Sunday, October 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Annual UMW Fall Festival

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 Vendor & crafter applications are now available!



September Birthdays:

- 1 Sheri Brown, Reese Kauffman
- 2 April Crouse, Ruth Curry, Judy Grass, Valerie McMillion, Ed Mullins, Thomas Rogowski
- 3 Jo Bess, Larry Clegg
- 4 Debbie Duespohl, Bobby Greene, Harold Stewart
- 5 Jennifer Hart, Steve Huggins, Jessica Ray, Jeremy Simms
- 6 Wes Hager, Victoria Marsh, Darlene Smith
- 7 David McCane, Bailey Young
- 8 Susan Duryea, Styles Slappe
- 9 Mason Spurlock
- 10 Karen Delph, Scott Moore, Sara Thomas, Maggie Tincher, Sam Warner, Kate Weiss
- 11 Ed Brogan, Drew Harless
- 12 Jimmy Kessler, Barbara Martin
- 13 John Browne, Betsy Byus, Faye Meeks, Joe Wyatt
- 14 Jax Anderson
- 15 Christopher Lipinski, Aaron Persinger, Betty Wilson
- 16 Betty Bailey, Kara Hughes, Carol Proffitt
- 17 Kevin Lawhon
- 18 Sheila Andrews, Gary Beckett, Sarah Logan
- 19 *No birthdays on record today*
- 20 Harold Bennett, Jeff Rowsey, Mary Russell
- 21 Tom Cleveland, Teresa Johnson
- 22 Lauren Duespohl, Danny Harshbarger

- 23 Carter Cox, Ryder Harrison, Myra Woodworth Hobbs, Jon Russell
- 24 Isaac Herndon, Joe Kenaston
- 25 Tammy Fenerty, Amy Garinger, Brenda Hanson, Michael Hinshaw, Trevor Johnson, Robert O'Dell
- 26 Sephra Faulknier, Aly Fearing, Debbie McCoy
- 27 Andy Johnson, Angela Lipinski
- 28 Sandy Hanning, Mandy Spurlock
- 29 Bob Alexander, Holley Johnson
- 30 Tim Bowie, Evan Davis, Larry Embrey, William Held, Sheri Johnson, Paula Limanen, Sandra Mayhew, Bob Petryszak, Devin Schamp

September Anniversaries:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Lori Bailey | 14 David & Malinda Shanklin |
| 7 Keith & Ellen Bowie | 20 Chris & Amy Howat |
| 14 Don & Jane Collins | 27 Jake & Sarah Krukowski |

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

From the Church Record: We have a new mailing address for Nita DeBord. You may reach out to her at 115 Spencer St NW, Depauw, IN 47115.

 **HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?**



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

VISIONS

The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

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

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 09/01/2026

Lift your voice in song! The Forrest Burdette Choir will resume regular weekly rehearsals on Thursday, September 3, starting at 7:00 p.m. We would be pleased to have you come and enjoy preparing quality musical selections to be presented in worship. Join us as we express our love to the Creator through the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs!