

August 2024



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

Dear Friends,

Change never stops. Everything is constantly evolving. Change is a part of life. (I am sure that I could come up with a lot more pithy and obvious statements, but you caught the idea after the first sentence.) Last week Judi and I experienced the bookends of life. We went to see Connor and Maria and our one-month-old granddaughter, Phyllis. When we saw her soon after her birth, she slept a lot and nursed and cried. Now that she is a month old, she still slept a lot and nursed and cried. But she was bigger, had a little bit of neck control, had longer wakeful periods. She also started to smile at her grandparents (we believe the smile was not caused by random gas bubbles!). Phyllis is changing, and when we see her in September, she will have changed more.

This past week we also experienced a change that was hard. One of our best friends for the last twenty-four years, David Cramer, died of a heart attack at the age of 63. We went to his visitation on Friday, and I preached at his funeral on Saturday. Even though we celebrated his life, faith, and gift of eternal life, this was not a change we wanted at this time. The timing of David's death was sudden and shocking, but like all who mourn, we feel the comfort and peace of God.

Change, hope, and grief are not limited to the beginning and end of life. Change happens when a friend moves, or we find a new job or adjust to a health challenge. We experience challenges when an adult child moves back home or a younger child struggles in school. Some changes we embrace with enthusiasm and others we accept with a heavy heart.

At Forrest Burdette, we are in a season of change, and it feels like a mixture of grief and hope. Jayné Kirk recently announced her "retirement" after twelve years of ministry, and we celebrated her ministry two Sundays ago. Since General Conference, we have had a number of people leave Forrest Burdette because of the removal of the prohibitions against LGBTQ people having pastoral leadership in the church or churches hosting same sex weddings. Even though our church has not changed its position, some of our members felt they could not remain a part of the church. I have had several conversations with people as they left, and most of them talked about how much they loved Forrest Burdette and will miss it. I know that most of our church chose to stay at Forrest Burdette, but we too feel the loss and grief of having our friends, our siblings in the faith, go somewhere else. This is a change that carries with it sorrow and grief for those who have left and those who have stayed.

I invite you to pray for those who have left and those of us who have remained at Forrest Burdette. If you have a chance, I encourage you to offer a word of support and love to former members and those who continue to be active at Forrest Burdette. We are all a part of God's family, and we grieve together. We may not worship together anymore, but we still love God and our neighbors and are all committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Change in our congregation has happened. Some folks, whom we have loved, have chosen to go elsewhere, but many Sundays God is also sending us new people. We have welcomed new members into the membership and family of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC. Change never stops, but neither does the work of God.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Joe*



Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Hello, Church! The youth recently enjoyed an exciting roller-coaster-a-thon trip, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of Forrest Burdette for your unwavering support of our youth ministries. Near the end of August, the students will be going back to school. This means regular weekly youth group will start back at the end of the month, on August 28th at 6:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a bag of your favorite candy that evening.

Here's a look at what's happening with the youth this month:

- ➔ Late Night at the Church: August 16th, 6PM – 11PM
- ➔ First Day of School, Putnam County: August 22nd – *Good luck to all our students!*
- ➔ Regular Youth Group Meeting: August 28th, 6PM – 7:30PM
- ➔ Hurricane High School's First Home Football Game: August 30th – *Join Luke Spurgeon to support and hang out at the game.*

These are our scheduled events, but stay tuned as more activities may be added throughout the month. Thank you for your continued support!

Jayné Kirk Minister of Children & Families



Here's what we're doing in August for Children's Church.

WEEK 1 This week, kids see how **God called Moses** to lead and rescue the Israelites. **BIG IDEA:** God teaches us how to lead. **BIBLE:** Exodus 2–3:15

WEEK 2 This week, kids see how God protected the Israelites during the ten plagues and the Passover. **BIG IDEA:** We follow God's lead. **BIBLE:** Exodus 7:14–10:29, 12:1–14



WEEK 3 This week, kids see how God helped Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. **BIG IDEA:** God leads us to safety. **BIBLE:** Exodus 13:17–15:21

WEEK 4 This week, kids see how God provided food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness. **BIG IDEA:** God will lead us to what we need. **BIBLE:** Exodus 15:22–25, 16:1–16

 *Have you remembered the church in your will?*

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

Hello, everyone. "WOW!" is about all I can say right now. It is a crazy, busy time for us here at COM, with the Summer session winding down, and Fall picking up with back to school in a couple weeks. Students getting excited and nervous to go back to school. Staff getting ready to change up rooms, classes, and routines. Administration trying to get all paperwork in order, new staff hired, and staff returning to college lined out. Don't be surprised to see some chickens without heads around the church the next few weeks!



We are always excited to begin a new school year, to meet the new children and families we will be getting, and being able to be a place where they can not only grow and learn academically and socially, but to help the children grow in a relationship with Jesus as well. It is truly a blessing to listen to the children pray and talk about the things they know about the Bible and God.

As always, we are thankful for the opportunity we have to be a part of all aspects of their growth. We could not do what we do without the support of the church. Please continue to pray for the program, the staff, and the children and families that we serve.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

School Supply Drive!

It's back to school which means our local students and teachers need our support. Look for a donation box in the Connection Center. We want to collect general supplies such as:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Pencils | • Markers – 10 count |
| • Pencil top erasers | • Colored pencils – 12 count |
| • Pencil box or pouch | • Dry erase markers – black |
| • Wide-ruled paper or 1 subject notebook | • Highlighters |
| • Wide-ruled composition notebook | • Black pens |
| • Pocket Folders | • Red pens |
| • Glue sticks | • Ear buds |
| • Scissors | • Wipes |
| • Crayons – 24 count max | • Tissues |
| | • Hand sanitizer |
| | • Ziploc Bags |



Once school starts these supplies will be delivered to our local schools. Please bring supplies **by August 25th**.

August Worship

On August 18, students are encouraged to bring their school backpacks for the **Blessing of the Backpacks**, and all **school personnel** will be recognized as well. Wear your school apparel! We will have a variety of guest preachers through the month. Please read the scripture to prepare for worship, and invite someone to join you as we continue to walk with Christ.

Sunday Worship in August		
8/4/24	Galatians 5:22-23 Daniel 6:1-10	A Fruitful Life: Self-Control
8/11/24	Matthew 7:24-28 Matthew 9:16-17	When Disciples Get It Wrong (Ellis Conley)
8/18/24	Matthew 5:14-16	On Fire for Christ (Luke Spurgeon)
8/25/24	Ephesians 6:10-20	Standing with God (District Superintendent Joe Hill)

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for June 2024:

May Contributions Received.....	\$47,006
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$69,895
Deficit.....	\$22,455

Mortgage Balance:

June 2024 Payments on Mortgage*	\$12,787.65
Funds Received, May 2024	\$15,396.66
Over Budget.....	\$2,609.01

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

The last two months of contributions to the church have been significantly reduced due to people leaving the church after General Conference. Consequently, we have been working hard to lower expenses. One example is with Jayné Kirk's decision to retire. She will not be replaced on the staff. We have been unable to pay our apportionment to the Conference, which helps our mission agencies, campus ministries, camping, and health care and pension for our clergy. Please understand there are some expenses that cannot be cut - utilities, insurance, and equipment maintenance (elevator, computer system, kitchen facilities, etc.). This is a large building. The electric expense is highest during the summer months and can be as much as \$6,000 just for the church building itself. There are also outside lights, the scout building, garage, and parsonage expenses. We need your support in order to maintain current expenses. Please consider increasing your giving so that we may continue offering ministries for our children, youth, and adults. While you pray for the church, also pray for the Finance Committee and Church Council as we try and determine what our budget needs to be for 2025. May God's will be done both now and in the future in order to assist the growth of Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church. I love my church family, and I know we can get through this.

Faith and Love, *Ellen Bowie, FBUMMC Treasurer*



Citywide Yard Sale—August 10th

The Hurricane Citywide Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, August 10**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in reserving parking spaces at Forrest Burdette to hold a sale, contact the church office. Spaces are \$10 each, payable on the 10th. This event is a fund raiser for our United Methodist Women, who will also sponsor a hot dog and bake sale that day. **Volunteers are needed to assist, and donations of baked goods are always welcome** (bring donations Friday!).

Operation Christmas Child Yard Sale

Clean out your unwanted items from home! All money collected will be donated to this year's OCC shoebox gift ministry. Accepting everything but clothing. Drop off in the fellowship hall. Workers are needed. Call Ellen Bowie (304-543-4105) to help. Make sure to come and shop!

Back to School = BackPack Buddies!

BackPack Buddies, a feeding ministry through which Forrest Burdette provides weekend food for over 100 local school children during the school year, is resuming this month. See the sign up sheet at the Connection Center if you are willing to take a turn packing bags. Training is provided. Food and monetary donations are also welcome.

"Living Like a King" Study on David

Our Wednesday night study groups, one led by Pastor Joe and the other by Debby Cunningham, will both look at a study Pastor Joe is writing on the life of David. The Wednesday morning Bible study will take a break from Matthew to look at this same study. Sign ups will be available later in the month. If you would like to offer/teach a Wednesday evening adult class, please speak with Pastor Joe, or contact the office.

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Doris Sampson upon her death (7/11/24) and to Doris Roberts and family upon the death of husband Bob Roberts (7/24/24).

Congratulations to Wes & Lindsey Vassar and big brother Andrew upon the birth of Caleb Ryan (7/23/24; 8 lbs., 7 oz., 21").



Operation Christmas Child Presents: Playground Kickoff! In August we need soccer balls, soccer ball pumps, playground balls, and boys' t-shirts sizes 4, 8, & 14. Please leave donations at the Connection Center. Cash donations for soccer balls and pumps are accepted.

August Birthdays:

- 1 Shannon Fearing, Kim Virag, Jenny Wilson, Camie Zappitelli, Sofie Zappitelli
- 2 Beth Embrey, Lisa Kidd
- 3 Marilyn Kegley
- 4 John Cunningham, Mark Landin, Sarah Lipinski, Brad Moore, Andrea Rogowski, Makenzie Vance
- 5 Mike Barnhouse, Brody Franklin, Evan McMillion, Billy Smith, Karen Turner
- 6 Jimmy Conaway, Ali Fenerty, Dan Kennedy, Kinley Ogle
- 7 Steve Blower, Andrew Johnson, J.B. Marinacci, Meagen Young
- 8 Robbie Armstrong, Ed Grant, Don Smith
- 9 *No birthdays on record today*
- 10 Katie Jo Andrews, Christian Barnhouse, Steven Mills, Frank Mynes, Andrew Pannell, Randall Tidd
- 11 Chantil Foster, Taylor Rogers
- 12 Bill Romine, Cindy Stickler
- 13 Missy Collins
- 14 Lori Bailey, Kylie Billups, Audrey Hall, Christopher Hall, Debbie Haynes, Mary Casey O'Dell
- 15 Sylvie Bartkowski, Ellen Shoub, John Jay Walker, Jim Zappitelli
- 16 Leah Altizer, Hayley Lawman, Reese Ramey, Rylee Ramey
- 17 Woody McFadden
- 18 Emily Anders, Bob Ayers, Ed Byus, Jack Coulter, Sarah Court, Mary Catherine Harris, Ella Peterson, Tish Wallace, Kathy Wandling
- 19 James Herman, Dave Tinch
- 20 Zach Coleman

- 21 Jack Coleman, Linda Gibson, Brady Lawman
- 22 Debbie Gibson
- 23 Luke Browne, John Vance, Dwight Williams
- 24 Kaid Baker, Khloe Estep, Brenda Grant, Adam Holley, Diane Howell
- 25 Vicki Barnhouse, Larry Billups, Chris Booker, Ben Hughes
- 26 Mary Jo Harris, Brenda McBrayer, Larry Wagner
- 27 John Simmons, Jamie Smith
- 28 Tammy Brown, Amy Howat, Elaine Lee, David Meeks, Shelley Porter, Jill Turner, Diane Wolfe
- 29 Donna Barnhouse, Shanley Crouse, Gail Edwards, Lillian Grose, Jayné Kirk, Rex Menear
- 30 David Atkins, Eli Cummings, Matthew Duespohl, Randy Kirk, Emily Stinespring, Tyler Thompson
- 31 Christian Stark

August Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Mike & Vicki Jarvis | 19 Brian & Sephra Faulkner |
| 3 Rodney & Jennifer Kimble | 19 Jerry & Karen Lilly |
| 5 Steve & Rosemary Cook | 20 Michael & Michele Myers |
| 6 Harold & Joann Walker | 21 Brett & Kathie Falkner |
| 8 Rick & Tish Wallace | 21 John & Priscilla Simmons |
| 9 Stephen & Marsha Jones | 22 Jason & Katina Haight |
| 9 Coy & Joan Mullins | 23 Joe & Judi Kenaston |
| 11 Marvin & Gale Thompson | 24 Jeff & Vickie Harbour |
| 12 Kevin & Tammy Lawhon | 25 Larry & Judy Clendenin |
| 14 Bob & Debbie Ayers | 26 Ted & Audella Clark |
| 15 Steve & Greta Huggins | 30 Brad & Brittany Cochran |

** 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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(office@forrestburdette.com
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STAY CONNECTED

