



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church

October 2025



I don't know about yours, but my kids are crazy about costumes, especially when October rolls around: Princesses or sports players, ghouls or gumball machines, Frankenstein or French fries, we've fiddled with every idea. Heck, Brody has entertained being an Avenger this year. It doesn't get old.

Truth be told, this very pull persists throughout our lifespan from age 8 to 80. Of course, there comes a time when all kids

grow out of their costumes, but here's the thing:

Our masks mature with us.

I'm not talking about masks of Maybelline or latex, but rather the sophisticated facades we fabricate that hide who we really are. The motives behind our masks are many and some of us have worn them so well (and for so long) that we've not only duped others, we don't even know who we are anymore.

It's not a new phenomenon. The scriptures are replete with instances that reinforce the reality that masks are often what we *go to*, but they're never what we're *meant for*.

In a month that sees many put them on, perhaps October is a perfect time to take yours off.

Besides, the One we follow is greater than the fronts we hide behind.

It's my prayer that you'll not only tune in, but that you'll take part in worship through the coming month and allow the transformative power of Christ to help you forego—or better yet—to forget the façade.

Who knows? For the first time, you and those around you just may see the real you and love the new look!

IN THIS SERIES WE'LL CONFRONT THE FACE OF:

SHAME
(MARK 5: 25-34)
DOUBT
(JOHN 3: 1-16)
FEAR
(GEN. 3: 7-10)
BUSYNESS
(LUKE 10: 38-42)

See You Sunday,
Pastor Jake

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

The Youth have been super busy throughout September, and they won't be slowing down anytime soon! With fall sports in full swing, I've had the joy of attending many volleyball games, and there are still more to come. If you get a chance, come out and support our youth. It really means a lot to them!

We had an awesome Youth Kickoff at Pastor Jake's house on Sept. 7th, and it was a big success! Tons of laughs, great fellowship, and unforgettable moments, like when I took on the Ice Bath Challenge (and yes, I screamed the whole way in). The pictures don't do it justice, but trust me, it was a blast. Thanks so much to the Steele Family for having us over!

Sunday night Youth Group is back (6:00-7:30), and we've already had some wacky games that I've somehow managed to tie into Bible stories. Fun, right?

September was packed with fun, but here's what's coming up in October:

- ➔ **Youth Halloween Costume Party** – October 26, happening during our regular youth time, 6-7:30 p.m. Everyone is expected to come in costume—I've got a surprise costume planned that I guarantee will be the best. You'll have to wait and see!
- ➔ **Mini Mission Trip** – October (Date TBD). We're planning a small mission trip to the Parish House in Buckhannon. I'm still ironing out the details but wanted to give you a heads-up.
- ➔ Keep an eye on the bulletin—I'm always adding new youth activities. Thank you, Church Family, for your support! I truly love what I do and am so grateful to be part of Forrest Burdette.



Youth in Action

Photos courtesy of Emily Steele

Families: Join us for

FLICK-OR-TREAT

Sunday, October 19th @ 5:00 p.m.

Meet us in the gym for dinner, treats, and a
"Toy Story" Halloween movie!

Kids, wear your costumes and bring your candy buckets.
Families, bring some comfy seats for the movie.

Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church
2848 Putnam Avenue, Hurricane 304-562-5903

Host a Halloween Table!

Volunteers Needed to Decorate & Staff Tables at Flick-or-Treat

Similar to decorating the trunk of a vehicle for a Trunk-or-Treat event, we will once again have decorated tables in the gym at our Flick-or-Treat event on October 19th! Would you like to decorate one of our tables with a special theme, bring treats, and then pass them out to the children that evening, at 5:00? If so, please sign up at the Connection Center. The more, the merrier!

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

If your elementary-aged child would like to participate in this year's **Children's Christmas Program**, please contact Director Julie Harris (call or text 304-989-8012). Practices will begin on Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m. The program will be presented on the evening of December 7.

Here's a look at what we're covering in Children's Church this month, so you can continue growing at home during the week.



Road Trip: A series on the Ten Commandments

- 10/5:** We obey God by putting God first. Exodus 20:1-6, Psalm 19:7-10, *The 1st and 2nd commandments.*
- 10/12:** We obey God by worshipping God. Exodus 20:7-11, 32:1-14, *The 3rd and 4th commandments.*
- 10/19:** We obey God by loving our families. Exodus 20:12-14, Matthew 5:21-24, *The 5th, 6th, and 7th commandments.*
- 10/26:** We obey God by loving everyone. Exodus 20:15-17, Romans 13:8-10, *The 8th, 9th, and 10th commandments.*

Annual Church Conference



Forrest Burdette's Annual Church Conference will be held on **Sunday, November 9, 2025**, at 4:00 p.m. Purpose: elect officers, set the pastor's salary, and receive apportionments, with District Superintendent Lauren Godwin. All church members are encouraged to attend.

Read the Bible Together this Year

We are reading through the Bible with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. *The Grand Sweep*, developed by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, is guiding us from Genesis to Revelation.

10/1/25	Matt. 26-28, Ps. 129	10/17/25	John 1-3, Psalm 139
10/2/25	Mark 1-3	10/18/25	John 4-5, Psalm 140
10/3/25	Mark 4-6	10/19/25	John 6-7, Psalm 141
10/4/25	Mark 7-9	10/20/25	John 8-9, Psalm 142
10/5/25	Mark 10-12	10/21/25	John 10-11, Psalm 143
10/6/25	Mark 13-14, Ps. 130-1	10/22/25	John 12-13, Psalm 144
10/7/25	Mark 15-16, Ps. 132-3	10/23/25	John 14-17
10/8/25	Luke 1-3	10/24/25	John 18-19, Ps. 145-6
10/9/25	Luke 4-6	10/25/25	John 20-21, Psalm 147
10/10/25	Luke 7-8, Ps. 134-135	10/26/25	Acts 1-3
10/11/25	Luke 9-11	10/27/25	Acts 4-5, Psalm 148
10/12/25	Luke 12-14	10/28/25	Acts 6-7, Psalm 149
10/13/25	Luke 15-16, Ps. 136	10/29/25	Acts 8-10
10/14/25	Luke 17-19, Ps. 137	10/30/25	Acts 11-12, Psalm 150
10/15/25	Luke 20-21, Ps. 138	10/31/25	Acts 13-15, Proverbs 1
10/16/25	Luke 22-24		

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for August 2025:

August 2025 Contributions Received\$48,765
Monthly Receipts Needed\$64,023

Mortgage Balance:

August 2025 Payments on Mortgage*\$13,338
(including designated Principal Only contributions)
Funds Received, August 2025.....\$10,455

School Supply Drive..... *many, many generous supplies!*

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



Minister of Youth Luke and Pastor Jake pose behind all the school supplies donated in August! Lakeside & Conner Street Elementaries and Hurricane Middle School were pleased to receive your gifts.

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We will honor our pastor and our staff during service on Sunday, October 19, with a reception to follow. Those who would like to give cards to our pastor or staff may do so by placing them in a basket in the Narthex anytime between October 5 and October 19.

Our staff includes Rev. Jake Steele, Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley, Mike Barnhouse, Ellen Bowie, Cathy Daley (COM), Zach Edgell, Jenni Reib (COM), David Shanklin, Katie Spencer, Luke Spurgeon, and Karen White.

Forrest Burdette United Methodist Church



**Sunday, October 12, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

Please join us for an annual Grant tradition. . .

Pumpkin Carving & Hot Dog Roast

Gather at 2:00 p.m. to carve pumpkins.
If needing a ride, meet at church at 1:00; the van will leave at 1:15!
Eat around 3:00 p.m.
Followed by a hayride and plenty of time to socialize. S'mores before leaving!

Please bring:

- Lawn chairs
- A pumpkin to carve
- Your favorite pumpkin carving tools
- Please see sign up sheet in the Connection Center at church for food/drinks



Directions to the farm:

From Teays Valley, go to Route 35 North and get off at the Buffalo/Eleanor exit. Follow the old Route 35 (now 817) toward Point Pleasant about 9 miles. You will see Harmony Baptist Church on the left (large tan church). Turn right onto Southside Lane right before you get to the church and follow the lane toward the river. Take the second left to the white house. We gather at the barn behind the house.

Address is 2104 Southside Lane, Southside, WV (for GPS).

Look forward to seeing you!
Ed, Brenda, Jeremy, Danielle, Ella, and Bryson



UMW Fall Festival

Plan now to attend the United Methodist Women's Fall Festival with arts, crafts, vendors, hot dogs, barbeques, and lots of goodies as well as country store items, **Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to assist in the kitchen on Saturday. Baked goods are needed for the Festival as well. Please bring them by Friday, October 31, marked clearly for the Fall Festival.



Interested vendors and crafters may contact the church office for an application (office@forrestburdette.com, 304-562-5903), or find a copy at the Connection Center desk.

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

Greetings from COM! We are moving right along with a great school year. I think this has been the easiest transition of rooms we have had.

We are still looking for a couple of lead teachers and after-school workers, but we have a few interviews coming up, so we are hopeful. We know that God has a plan, and we will find the right people. It's just hard to wait for his timing sometimes.

Our next big project is starting, and that is to revamp the basement into an inviting and fun space for our after-school and summer kiddos! We are sprucing up with some paint, adding some décor, and reworking some interest areas.

If you are cleaning out and would like to **donate any small appliances (they don't need to work), or things like pots and pans, unbreakable dishes, cups/glasses, kitchen linens, silverware, mixing bowls, etc.,** we are looking to outfit a kitchen/restaurant with a dramatic play area.

We are also looking for some comfortable seating to go with the 2 awesome chairs that have been donated. **A couple love seats or small couches** (they need to be able to get into the basement without too much trouble) would be very useful, as would a **ping pong table, and/or air hockey or foosball table.**

The kids use this space a lot in the winter, and we want them to have a space they can be proud of that is set up for their interests.

For our upstairs classes, if your child has outgrown their **wooden train set and train table**, we will gladly take it off your hands.

As always, we are grateful and thankful for all that you do to support us. Please keep our program, our families, our staff, and mostly the children we serve in your prayers, prayers that we are able to provide emotionally, educationally, and spiritually what the children and families we encounter each day need to become the best they can be.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥



Undie Sunday: October 19

We now are collecting socks and undies for all ages to support families in need, through October 19th. All sizes of new boxers, briefs, underwear, t-shirts, thermal underwear, socks, and training pants will be collected for mission projects within the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Bring your donations to the bin in the Connection Center.

Ongoing Cupboard Donations

Forrest Burdette, along with all the churches affiliated with the Christian Community Cupboard, is assigned a short, unique list of items to donate throughout the year. Our specific list is **canned peas, canned carrots, pancake mix, and syrup.** Other items are welcome as well. There is shopping cart at the Connection Center for your donations.



The Branch
at Forrest Burdette
Branch out. Dig deep. Grow Together

You are encouraged to be a part of The Branch in a Wednesday class. Morning Bible study begins at 10:45 a.m., in room 213, where Pastor Jake facilitates a study on the Gospel of Mark. At 6:30 p.m., we have J.D. Philyaw leading a study of the book of Daniel (Rm. 111), while Debby Cunningham (Rm. 213) and Pastor Jake (Rm. 225B) lead studies of the books *Wrestling with Doubt* and *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*.

Good News! We have resumed the 5:30 p.m. **Wednesday fellowship dinners**, catered by Shonet's Country Café of Milton. You do not need to be in a Wednesday evening class to join us for dinner. Free will donations are accepted. Please sign up at the Connection Center, or call/email the church office by Tuesday morning so that we may prepare accordingly.

There is also a sign up sheet at the Connection Center for **weekly helpers** to prepare the dining space, cut pies, and clean up before class. We appreciate all the help we can find!



Official Church Membership Exploration Group

Sundays, November 2nd, 9th, and 16th
6:00—7:45 p.m.

If you are interested in exploring membership at Forrest Burdette, please sign up at the Connection Center desk to attend an exploration class with Pastor Jake in November.

Cookies for Kairos

A Kairos Prison Ministry weekend will be held October 10-12, and we welcome your donations of homemade cookies for the weekend. Tubs for your donations are available outside the Sanctuary now through **October 8th.**

There are specific guidelines for cookies. Types of acceptable cookies: oatmeal, peanut butter, molasses, chocolate chip, ginger, and sugar. Cookies should be between 2 to 2.5" in diameter and not more than 1/2" thick. Do not use: icing, sugar, or any other coating on the outside of the cookies. Do not add any kind of fruit or nuts to the cookies.



The key ingredient is prayer, over the ingredients and as you bake the cookies. Ask God to use your cookies as a source of his love to shine on the prisoners and staff on the Kairos weekend. Pray that each cookie brings the inmate, officer, or warden who eats it closer to God.

Bag thoroughly cooled cookies in a quart sized Ziplock bag, a dozen cookies to a bag. Label each bag with the cookie type inside. Questions? Please see Tim Landin (304-541-0173). Thank you for your cookie ministry!



Upcoming Painting Class

Here's a great gift idea! Ruel Elliot has kindly cut out and sanded 20 wooden signs that say "God Bless This Home". We'll meet **Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall to get crafty and decorate the wood. The paint and brushes will be provided. All ages are welcome, but younger children should have a parent nearby to help. Cost: \$20, with all monies benefitting the Building Fund. Call or text Julie Conley to sign up — 304-614-3980.

Many Thanks

Thanks to everyone that made my much needed knee replacement possible. Special thanks to our wonderful church family, friends, and family who cared not only for me but Norman as well. It takes a village and we had the BEST VILLAGE EVER!
—Mary Ann McClure

A Sweeping Result!

Hey Church Family, I want to extend **a big thank you** to everyone who came out for the church workday on September 6th! We got an incredible amount of work done, and your effort and enthusiasm were truly encouraging. It gave me hope and some great ideas for future workdays. Keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming opportunities to serve together again.

Blessings, Luke Spurgeon

JOY Fellowship (60+)



JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship will hold our monthly covered dish luncheon on **Thursday, October 16, at 12 noon**, in Fellowship Hall. If you are 60 or older, come and hang out with us! Our guest speaker will be Donna Landin, who will fill us in on the Math & Reading Buddies Program she coordinates with COM. Bring or buy your favorite dish to share, and bring a friend too. (We know some jokes about old people, but we mostly can't remember them.)

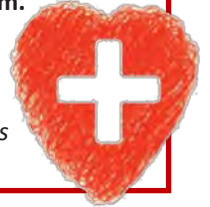
American Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, October 24, 2025 • 12:00—5:00 p.m.

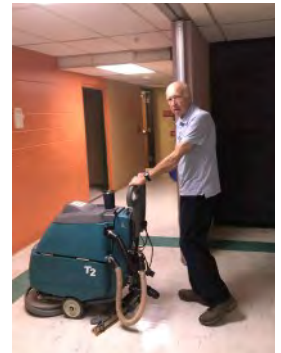
Forrest Burdette Fellowship Hall

Register at: [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter HURRICANECOM.

Contact Coordinator Jo Bess with questions or to volunteer (304-545-0096).



Work Day photos courtesy of Sam Robson



Have you remembered the church in your will?

October Birthdays:

- 1 Jill Newman
- 2 Evelyn Gregory, Stephen Jones, Kevin Marra, Harold Quigley
- 3 Amy Golden, Nick Oxley, Casen Proffitt, Nate Vance
- 4 Jill Coulter, Meredith Thompson, Heather Wyatt
- 5 *No birthdays on record today*
- 6 Julie Harris
- 7 Harper Hutchison, Ian Ogle, Sherry Smith, Jerry Wolfe
- 8 Tyler Halstead, Kim Neville
- 9 Mark Davis, Ruel Elliott, Claudia Fizer, Katelyn Sette
- 10 Benjamin Oxley
- 11 Campbell Bartkowski, Tori Nesmith
- 12 Brian Faulkner, Melinda Wooddell
- 13 Matthew Brown, Garrett Dilley
- 14 Richard Lane, J.D. Philyaw, Aaron Vickers
- 15 Andrew Dean, Kathy James, Alyssa Marinacci
- 16 Meredith Greene, Jane Collins, Olivia Keen, Debbie Romine
- 17 Meg Barker, Ginny Cunningham, Jack Sturgeon
- 18 JoAnn Kennedy, Joe McMillion, Cheryl Riedel, Amber Vickers, Courtney Young
- 19 *No birthdays on record today*
- 20 Sidney Peal, Billie Jo Rowsey

- 21 Geary Burns, Julie Conley, Joy Mitchell
- 22 Crista Hall
- 23 Carley Bryan, Davey Freeman, Jamie Herman, Tori James, Sandy Vargo
- 24 Bruce Colella, Jeff Haynes
- 25 Sheri Anderson, Maria Surface
- 26 Cathy Ellison, Rylee Harrison
- 27 Roy Warren
- 28 Brad Fittro
- 29 *No birthdays on record today*
- 30 Lisa Fawcett
- 31 Abigail Howat, Jennifer Johnson



October Anniversaries:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Mark & Charlotte Barney | 21 Brad & Ginger Sergent |
| 5 Aaron & Shannon Gooden | 22 Jeff & Billie Jo Rowsey |
| 11 Jim & Debbie Kahre | 23 John & Evelyn Martin |
| 14 Matt & Jeanie Jarvis | 29 Terry & Sandy Hanning |
| 15 Brian & Heather Cortellesi | 29 John & Shannon Lawman |

** 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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