

**Our Mission:**

- Minister to people where they are;
- Equip disciples on the journey;
- Glorify God in all things

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VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

The following was submitted as Pastor Joe's Charge Conference Report, 12/5/21

It has been an amazing five months since I started at Forrest Burdette. I have found a warm and friendly congregation that has been welcoming, encouraging, and caring. We have been faithful and forward-looking as we transitioned into fall. We have had Sunday School and worship every week. People have joined us in person and online for worship. The onboarding experience with the staff and lay leadership led by Rene Wilt was quite helpful. I have found that the meetings with the Church Council, SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Mission team, UMW, Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, and COM Board to be marked by prayer and a desire to empower the church to do the work of Christ. Judi and I have hosted two fun events at the parsonage: the college students and then the youth. I have been able to attend a Boy Scouts Court of Honor and meet with their leadership as well as a flag retirement ceremony with the Cub Scouts. I was also blessed to meet with the leaders and two scouts from our Girl Scout Troop. The Neighborhood Gatherings have been a wonderful opportunity to meet people and share our mutual excitement about Forrest Burdette. We hosted the Hurricane High football team for dinner. We also resumed our Wednesday dinner and Bible study. We had a delightful church picnic at the Grants' farm! If you are still reading this report, then you recognize how busy we have been even with COVID challenging us.

Worship has been a joy for us. We love the setting, the people, and gifted people who are a part of the worship experience. Most of the people are behind the scenes, but they are the ones who help make an inspiring worship celebration. Over the past few weeks, we have started our Coming Home series with All Saints, a visit from Bishop Asbury, and a Thanksgiving celebration. On the 21st we had a lot of people stay after church and help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

Our children's ministry has continued to offer the love of Christ to our children on Wednesday evening and on Sundays. In addition, we have had a few intentional outreach events: Vacation Bible School, a back-to-school event for the families from Conner St. Elementary, and Trunk or Treat. Jayne' and her crew are active in finding ways to help mold our children in the life and teachings of Christ.

Our youth ministry has remained strong despite the challenges of COVID and remote learning during the past school year. Jeremy and the youth leadership have risen to the challenge and are making plans for Resurrection in the New Year as well as a roller coaster marathon and a mission trip in June.

Forrest Burdette is a very generous and engaged church in missions. In one week, we have emptied the angel tree which means 60 children will receive toys and clothes this Christmas. We have restarted our Backpack Buddies with three local schools. We sponsored Thanksgiving dinner for several local families. We are major supporters of our Community Cupboard. We support Heart and Hand with contributions of time and financial resources. In addition, we dedicated over 300 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We also support our United Methodist Church and the district, conference, and global ministries through our District Promotional fund and our Fair Share of the Conference Apportionment. This allows ministry to take place throughout WV and supports mission and ministry across the world.

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Earlier in the Fall I was able to sit down and talk with the Hurricane Mayor, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, the Police Chief and Assistant Chief. I value the strong connection that FBMUMC has with the community! At the city-wide yard sale, we served several hundred hot dogs and met the community in our parking lot. The United Methodist Women recently completed our Fall Festival with hundreds of people from the community participating.

When I arrived, I was impressed with the dedication and giftedness of the staff. Everyone is enthusiastic about Christ and ministry that we do as a community of faith. We meet weekly for staff and are going through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). We also spend time in prayer as well as plan the activities for the week, month, and seasonal emphases. In addition, we laugh and enjoy being together.

Since March of 2020 we have dealt with the changing landscape caused by COVID. We have added an online broadcast to our worship option. We have gone from online only to a hybrid of in person and online. Many of our ministry teams have relaunched this fall. We wear masks, and the choir and bells have begun to practice again. The practice of financial generosity has been evident throughout this difficult time. We have stayed current on the apportionment and keeping pace with the mortgage. We could not have accomplished the financial goals without the tithes and offerings of the people of FBMUMC. The pandemic has changed the way we live and has altered church life. We have adapted and will seek to continue to be faithful and fruitful in our ministry in Teays Valley.

One of the things I have admired about FBMUMC is our can-do spirit. I have been impressed by the dedication and time so many people spend in keeping our facility in good repair and our ministries fruitful. This does not happen without engagement from many of our congregation and leaders.

As I look ahead to 2022, I see a need to start a Vision Team that will help develop a strategic plan that will chart our course into the 2030s. We also need to build on the strengths of our children's and youth ministries to reach younger people and their families. It is important that we increase our engagement in the community in ways that develop relationships with our neighbors. As disciples of Christ, we need to find opportunities to invite our friends, family members, co-workers, classmates, and neighbors to church. Another discussion that we need to have in 2022 is developing a path of discipleship that leads people to experience the life-changing grace of God, grow as a disciple, and become a disciple that invites others to join the discipleship journey.

I know that this report is long, but it still only provides one small picture of the breadth and depth of the ministry of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC. I encourage you to prayerfully use this report as a call to be engaged in ministry. Judi and I are excited to be a part of this dynamic community of faith and look forward to sharing the love and care of God with you as we move through Christmas and into the New Year.

Grace and peace,
Joe Kenaston



Jeremy Daniels, Associate Pastor Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

As January roles around, we are gearing up for our annual Uth and Young Adult Winter Retreat. Once again we will be heading down south to Pigeon Forge, TN to join the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church for their annual Resurrection Youth Conference. We appreciate your prayers as we travel to TN on January 21st through 23rd. Limited spots available. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e4ca9ae22a1f49-resurrection>)

Sign ups for our annual mission trip are also active online. Instead of returning to Virginia Beach with Team Effort Mission Trips, we'll be heading to the same area as our Winter Retreat! That's right, Gatlinburg, TN will be our host city with Team Effort Mission Trips, and registrations are still open until January 31st. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA9AE22A1F49-2022>)

Jayné Kirk, Director Children & Family Ministries

In the New Year we're trying something new.

We've missed having our Christmas Musical the last two years, so we are planning on a Spring Musical. I'm spreading the word to the Hurricane elementary schools, and you can too. This season were going to be telling the story of the Good Samaritan but with a twist. Someone helped an injured man and left him at an inn... but whodunnit?! We'll find out in "A Not So Terrible Parable", where kids will have fun solving a mystery but find bigger answers than they expect. Kids from Kindergarten to 5th grade are welcome to participate, with speaking roles going to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We'll need help with costumes, sets, and media as well as some weekly helping hands as we get back in musical action.

Looking ahead: Mark your calendars for the week of June 26... *Vacation Bible School is coming!* We'll begin our VBS preparations soon, and your involvement makes all the difference. If you want to be a part of the planning team or want to lead a station let me know.

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

Thanks to the church, we are blessed to have the building, kitchen, gym, and playground to utilize as we need. Speaking of playgrounds....we have been told that our new climbing structure and fixtures should begin to be installed at the end of January! The children are very excited, and we are thankful to be able to provide a needed replacement for the climber that has served many children not only from the COM program but children and families of the community as well. We are still searching for qualified employees and are beginning to look for summer staff too. Please continue to send those people you know who have a heart for serving children and their families our way. We ask that you continue to pray for the children, staff, and families of our program. Most of our students are too young to receive vaccines, and while we try to make sure they are comfortable in the church, learning not only academically but spiritually as well, we want to keep them healthy too.



Ongoing Worship Series:

Coming Home for Christmas continues into January

Please join us for worship and invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or classmate to Come Home, too!

| Date | Scripture | Title |
|------|----------------|---|
| 1/2 | Luke 2:22-38 | <i>Coming Home for Christmas: Going to Church</i> |
| 1/9 | Matthew 2:1-12 | <i>Coming Home for Christmas: Bringing Gifts</i> |

Wednesday Night Live Resumes

The Wednesday programming at Forrest Burdette resumes on January 12, 2022, with Pastor Joe's 10:45 a.m. Bible study, our 5:30 p.m. fellowship dinner (catered by Shonet's), and 6:30 p.m. classes for children, youth, and adults. Look for more information and sign up sheets at the Connection Center, and plan to be a part of Wednesdays at the church.

Angel Tree Report

The Mission Team thanks everyone who adopted an Angel or made a monetary donation, which helped fulfill the wishes and needs of 26 families, including 60 children, who reside in Putnam Co. and are struggling financially. The ages of the children were 2 mos. to 17 years. Sunday School Classes provided 6 of those families with Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets, along with clothing & toys, which were very much appreciated. A special thank you also goes to the United Methodist Women who provided Bibles to the basket children and to the Young at Heart Quilters who provided handmade quilts to 39 children. Local needy children will appreciate all the warm hats, gloves, & scarves that were placed on the Angel Tree. Your generosity never ceases to amaze those who organize the program and those who receive your blessings.

A Note of Thanks

Clarence and Cindy Woodworth and family wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our church family for the many well wishes we received as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. But even more, we are grateful for your prayers and expressions of caring which have carried us through the past two challenging years. You have helped us know that God truly is with us. Thank you!

A Note of Celebration

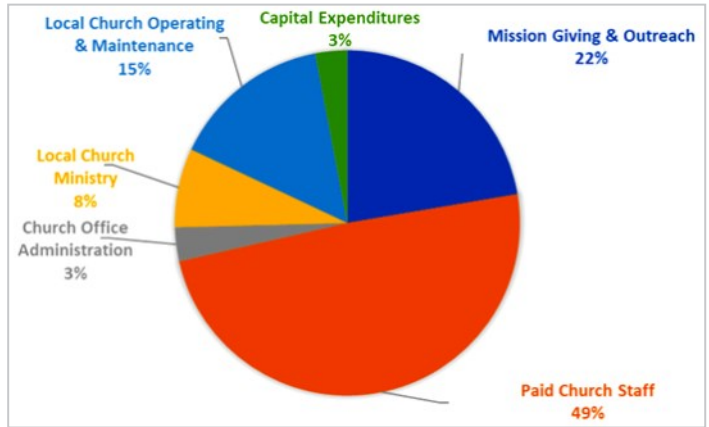
The Trustees, on behalf of the church, recently negotiated with Putnam County Bank President John Wilson a significant reduction in the interest owed on our building loan. With this change, our monthly payment drops from \$12,147.65 to \$9,144.97. It is the goal of the Finance Committee to continue making the higher monthly payment in order to more quickly reduce our principal balance.

American Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, January 14, 2022 — 2:00-7:00 p.m.



Call 1-800-733-2767, or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "hurricanecom" to schedule an appointment. The need for blood donations is great. **If you are able to volunteer to work a shift**, please call our coordinator Lisa Fawcett (304-539-2860), and she will plug you in.

FORREST BURDETTE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2022 BUDGET SUMMARY \$803,981



Mission Giving and Outreach **\$179,468 22%**

Connectional giving is giving to the West Virginia Annual Conference to support United Methodist Ministries on a Worldwide basis, including the Midland South District, Heart & Hand, WV Conference, Ministerial Educations Fund, Africa University, and the Black College Fund, conference mission projects, campus pastors, West Virginia Wesleyan, and local ministries such as the Community Cupboard. (This figure does not include any of the general giving that our congregation makes through special offerings and designated gifts throughout the year).

Paid Church Staff **\$394,863 49%**

Salaries for the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Director of Children & Family Ministries, Treasurer/Business Manager, Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Custodians, Media Technician, and Nursery Workers.

Church Office Administration **\$25,400 3%**

Church office expenses include office equipment maintenance, office supplies, postage for the monthly newsletter and other mailings, offering envelopes, Vanco fees (fees for on-line donations), and all the incidentals included in running an efficient church office.

Local Church Ministry **\$59,500 7%**

Local Church Ministries include evangelism, membership care, Wednesday dinners, adult ministries, Sunday School curriculum, youth ministries, college and career ministries, children's ministries, music ministries, worship, marketing, special events, delegates to Annual conference, and Website design/IT support.

Local Church Operating & Maintenance **\$120,750 15%**

This section of the budget covers church and parsonage utilities, general maintenance for the church and parsonage, insurance, city fire fees as well as maintenance for the piano, fire alarm, heating/air conditioning maintenance, snow removal, and van replacement.

Capital Expenditures **\$24,000 3%**

Church and parsonage capital expenditures beyond normal general maintenance.



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

January Birthdays:

- 1 Natalie Neville
- 2 Chris Clark, Kathryn Courtright, Michael Kinneer, Butch McCoy, Mark Stutler
- 3 Beth Krall, Ashley McCann
- 4 Lydia Peterson
- 5 Jackie Alexander, Billie DeLung, Cathy Keeler
- 6 Keith Midkiff
- 7 Seth Bowers, Brittany Bowie, Danielle Grant, Gene Lewis, Tom Plumley
- 8 Curtis Ferguson
- 9 Leigh Anna Bennett, Shannon Lawman, Hilda Mynes
- 10 Lois Brewer, Lori Folio, Bob Sauvageot
- 11 Sara Davis, Joshua Johnson, Brent Nelson, Jennifer York
- 12 Megan Fisher, Cindy Hinshaw, Logan Jackson, Jennifer Romeo
- 13 Joshua Campbell, Julie Cremeans, Drew Johnson, Josh Shaffer
- 14 Tiffany Bryan, Frances Meredith
- 15 Hannah Courtney, Jozee Johnson, Brad Sergeant, Alisa Spiker
- 16 Mikki Larch
- 17 Angie Hill, Katelyn Huggins, Jim Sovine, Brenda Warner
- 18 Adam Harshbarger, Chelsey Lilly

- 19 Madison Bucher, Harris Coulter, Coy Mullins
- 20 Madeline Brumfield, Idale Buskirk, Riley Coulter, Taylor Haney, Wayne Rooper
- 21 Tammy Lawhon, Margaret Logan
- 22 Katy Limanen
- 23 Laura Harrison, Heather Holland, Joann Walker
- 24 Kevin Mullins, Olivia Newhouse, Gerry Simmons
- 25 Lola Vance
- 26 John Bowie, Don Jacobs, Scott Riedel, Dan Russell, Andy Wendel
- 27 Laura Fitzgerald, David McBrayer, John Neville, Hunter Vance
- 28 Casey Smith
- 29 Jim Vealey
- 30 *No birthdays on record for today*
- 31 Maxine Birt, Katlin Swisher

January Anniversaries:

- 18 Mike & Suzy Richardson
- 23 Larry & Kathryn Courtright
- 27 Tim & Becky Landin
- 29 Bill & Kristina Painter



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



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