



Our Mission:

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

God, grant us the wisdom to know your plan for us and the strength to carry it out. Amen.

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March 2023



VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the prophet Isaiah we find God offering these words to the Israelites and us: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?” (Is. 43:19). The context of this statement and question is the Israelites are in exile, and Cyrus of Persia has just conquered the Babylonian Empire. This geopolitical event has triggered the possibility of the refugees, including the Israelites, to return to their homelands. Those in the former northern kingdom of Israel have been in exile for almost 200 years, and those in the former southern kingdom of Judah have been gone for over a generation. The dream of going home is a remote and unlikely possibility. It would be easy to become complacent and give up on anything changing. Now God is saying, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?”

At Forrest Burdette we have seen our church, and many others, adversely impacted by COVID, the change in attitudes about church involvement, and the decisions individuals and families make about how they spend their time. I invite you to look at what God is doing at Forrest Burdette. On the 19th of February, we received 13 new members. Our attendance has jumped up from the fall. During our conversation and prayers around stewardship, giving has increased. We have restarted Joy Fellowship. Our grief ministry is strong. We are increasing the use of our gym. The ministries with children and youth continue to be creative and fresh. We have restarted the acolyte ministry. We are doing a new pictorial directory. I believe God’s new thing is springing forth in many ways at Forrest Burdette.

Our Vision Team has been meeting since March of 2021. We have read a lot of resources (print and online), prayed, surveyed the church, asked the community what they knew about Forrest Burdette, prayed, and discussed some more, offered the Breakthrough Prayer as the prayer for our church asking God to guide us (“God, grant us the wisdom to know your plan for us and the strength to carry it out”). Our Vision Team’s theme verse is the Isaiah 43:19 quote used at the beginning of this letter.

The Vision Team needs your active participation over the next month. We will be launching simultaneously four Vision conversations on Sunday, March 19th, immediately after church:

- establishing new connections in the community (outreach)
- generating connections within the church (internal development)
- deepening individual connections with Christ (personal development)
- connecting faith to everyday life (application of faith).

It is anticipated that the 19th is the beginning of a conversation that will continue through April. We need your voice and input to help our church perceive what God is doing with us and where God is leading us in the years ahead. (There is an article in this newsletter that describes the event in a little more detail).

I look forward to participating with you in these vital conversations that will help all of us discern the new things of God that are springing forth.

Grace and peace, Joe



David Westfall

Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Uth:

Sunday School - Every Sunday (3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26) from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. We will continue our journey through John Eldredge's Epic. The cereal/coffee/hot chocolate bar will also be opening on 3/12. Meet in the uth room.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - Every Wednesday (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29) from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We will continue our Chuck Knows Church: The Committee series where we are discussing topics like: What is the church? What is our role? How can we be strong community members? How can we serve the Kingdom? Meet in the gym.

God's GIFTS - Youth Drama, Music, and the Arts Team - Sunday 3/12 & Sunday 3/26 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Students will use their God-given talents to give back to the church

 through entertainment and fun! We will learn skits to perform at Sunday Morning Worship, Church Plays/Productions, and we even hope to put together a Student Choir/Praise Team. If you are in the fifth grade and above, you are welcome to join! Meet in the Sanctuary.

YA:

Young Adult Small Group - We are still looking to begin a young adult small group. If you are passionate about leading a young adult bible study or small group, please reach out to David by phone or email. If you are a young adult and would be interested in joining a small group, please reach out to David. Together, we can make it happen!

Reboot:

Reboot Meeting - Wednesday, March 1st from 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. and Wednesday, March 22nd from 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. All who are passionate about student discipleship and growth in this church are encouraged to join. We meet in the uth room following Wednesday Night classes. Our discussions have been going well, and I am eager to share updated news with the group.



Open Gym:

Forrest Burdette March Madness - Sundays (3/12, 3/19, & 3/26) from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. We will meet in the gym to shoot hoops—open to all ages! If we get enough people to participate, we can make a March Madness style tournament with 3-v-3 teams. Invite your neighbors and friends to come join us in the gym! We open the open gym time with a group prayer, and then we spend the rest of the time in fellowship. Again, all ages are welcome!



Jayne Kirk

Minister of Children & Families



Our Family Movie Night will be March 26 at 5:00 p.m. We will be watching *The Chronicles of Narnia*. As always, everyone is welcome for a time of fun and fellowship. We will have dinner and snacks. Bring a comfy seat, and invite some friends.

SAVE THE DATE for VBS: June 25-30.

As always, we will need your help with stations, crews, and more! Keep an eye out for sign ups and more information. This year's theme focuses on how we can work together to Serve God and help others.



MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

WEEK 1: This week, kids hear about the **transfiguration of Jesus** and what the disciples learned from this.

BIG IDEA: We change when we know who God is.

BIBLE: Matthew 17:1-9

WEEK 2: This week, kids hear about the conversation between **Jesus and the Samaritan woman**.

BIG IDEA: Our past doesn't change God's love for us.

BIBLE: John 4:5-42

WEEK 3: This week, kids hear about how **Jesus healed a blind man**.

BIG IDEA: Jesus changes how we see things.

BIBLE: John 9

WEEK 4: This week, kids hear about the time **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**.

BIG IDEA: Jesus can change anything.

BIBLE: John 11:1-45

Cathy Daley, Director

Children's Outreach Ministries



Wow! I can't believe it's time to gear up for summer!

Playground mulch has been ordered. This should be taken as one of the first signs of spring. The Early Ed. playground is in the hands of designers so that we can make some decisions as to what that will look like.

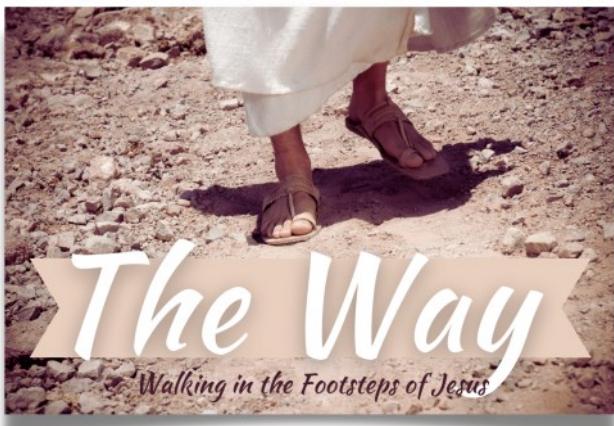
Summer Enrollment opened to existing families this week, and we will begin calling people on the waitlist next week if we have any available spaces.

The year just keeps going faster and faster.

Thanks for all that you do, to enable us to do what we do. Keep the prayers coming for each of our families and our staff, as well as our program.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥





Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus during Lent at Forrest Burdette

Worship Series

Participate in worship each Sunday during Lent, at 10:30 a.m. in person or online, as we follow the footsteps of Jesus under the theme "The Way." Below you will find each week's scripture passages, which you may choose to read in advance to prepare your heart for worship.

3/5	Mark 1:21-28 Mt. 4:12-17	The Way: Jesus, M.D.
3/12	Mark 1:14-15 Luke 17:21	The Way: Kingdom Life
3/19	Mark 4:35-41	The Way: Calming Our Stormy Soul
3/26	Luke 7:36-50	The Way: Known By the Company You Keep
4/2	Mt. 21:1-11	Palm Sunday; Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball joins us as guest preacher

Short-term Sunday School Class

Pastor Joe is currently offering a short-term Sunday School class using Adam Hamilton's study, "The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus." The class meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m., and watches a DVD segment each week, followed by discussion. All ages above high school are welcome.

Daily Devotions for Lent

To access a daily Lenten devotion written by United Methodists from West Virginia (*including Stacey Holley and Robbie Parsons!*), you may either read directly on the Conference website at: <https://www.wvumc.org/2023-lenten-devotions/> or subscribe to have devotions emailed to you daily at: <https://www.wvumc.org/conference-email-subscription/> A few paper copies of these devotions are available at the Connection Center.

Did you pick up your purple bow?

Households are encouraged to display purple bows on their outside doors, lights, or mailboxes during Lent, serving as a conversation starter and witness. Pick up your bow at the church. Bring one to a friend or neighbor as well!

Conversations on the Future!

March 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Immediately after church

The Vision Team invites the entire congregation to participate in conversations about the future of Forrest Burdette. Everyone is asked to stay after church on March 19. Operation Christmas Child will have subs for sale after worship. You are encouraged to buy a sub and then go to the discussion of your choice. There will be four conversations going on at once: establishing new connections in the community, generating connections within the church, deepening individual connections with Christ, and connecting faith to everyday life. *We need your voice and input to make our church a reflection of God's yearning for us.* Mark March 19th on the calendar – you will have lunch and a vital conversation for the future of the church, all by 1 p.m.

BAG LUNCH SALE

Sunday, March 19

Following the morning worship service

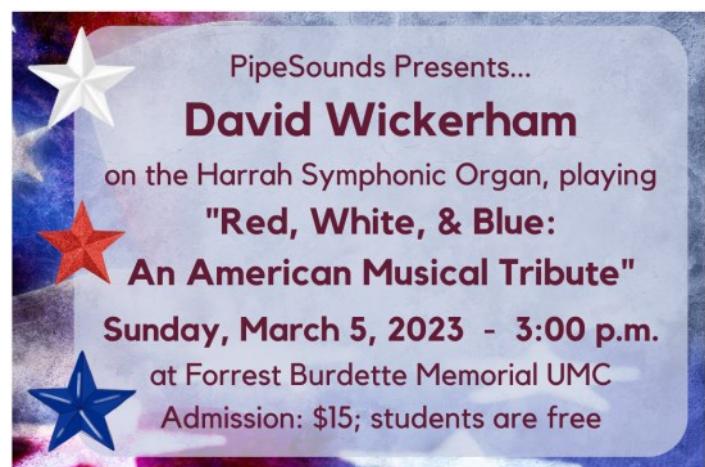
\$5

(to purchase toys for OCC shoeboxes)



"Bring a Friend Sunday" is March 26th

Everyone is encouraged to invite someone to church with them on Sunday, March 26th. People know that Easter is coming, and many are wondering what it's all about or whether something is missing from their lives. Please start making a list of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and classmates who don't go to church. Start praying for them, and begin looking for opportunities to invite them to join you in coming to church.



Grief Support Group



If you are grieving a loss, please join us for comfort, rest, and prayer as we learn about the grief process and how we can better cope with it. **Next meeting dates: March 11th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Area 34**— Join us for Drip Coffee and fellowship in the lounge (Area 34 is off WV-34 in Teays Valley, right next to the Holiday Inn Express). On **March 25th, we will meet at the church in Room 111 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659 or Robbie Parsons at (304) 542-0981.

An Evening of Song: March 14



Join the Hurricane Civic Chorus and the Hurricane Community Band as each performs a variety of Broadway and traditional pieces, on **Tuesday, March 14**, 7:00 p.m., at Forrest Burdette. Special solo and group performances will be featured at this free event, open to the community.

JOY Fellowship (55+)

JOY Fellowship will hold its monthly covered dish lunch on **Thursday, March 16**, at 12:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. The guest presenter will be our own John Marra. John plans to give us spring lawn and garden tips and also hopes to answer your questions. Join us!

Instant Church Directory - Picture Time!

Now that everyone has completed the directory update forms, it's time to move on to updating our photos! Starting on March 5th, pictures will be taken on Sundays after the worship service. **Pictures will be taken by appointment only, in alphabetical order by the family last name.** If you requested to have your family's photo taken for the new church directory, an appointment will be made for you, and you will be notified by email, text, and/or phone call of the date and time. If you have any questions, call, text, or email Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659 or staceyholley4@hotmail.com.

Order Your 2023 Easter Eggs

The Forrest Burdette United Methodist Women are taking orders for decorated Easter eggs, available in cherry nut, coconut, maple nut, vanilla, and the most favorite of all, peanut butter, dipped in either milk chocolate or dark chocolate (please specify). Each egg is hand decorated. Cost: \$5.00 each. The eggs will be available for pick-up on **Saturday, April 1st**, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Forrest Burdette. To place an egg order, call the church, 304-562-5903, or email your order to office@forrestburdette.com with the subject Easter Eggs, by March 24th. (Individual order forms and order forms for a larger group, as well as applications to be a vendor at the Spring Festival, are available through the church office.)



Annual Easter Egg Factory, 2023

The congregation of Forrest Burdette is invited to join in the fellowship of Easter egg construction. **Beginning Monday, March 27, and running through Thursday, March 30**, volunteers will work with our United Methodist Women in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Training will be provided for workers. *We need YOU as you are available!* Workers may bring a dish to share for the noon and/or evening meals, Monday through Wednesday. Volunteers are also needed for clean up each evening at 6:00. Please pray for the volunteers and the mission outreach of this project. For more information, call Karen Lilly, 304-562-9241.



Spring Fling, April 1

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring the Spring Crafts & Easter Eggs Festival on **Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.** Crafters and vendors will be in attendance with a wide variety of merchandise on sale. Handmade chocolate-dipped Easter eggs have been constructed by two generations of ladies of Forrest Burdette, beginning in 1969, and will be available, along with baked goods and candies, hot dogs, barbeques, and drinks for sale. ***If you would like to donate baked goods for the Country Store, please bring them to the church on Friday, March 31. Donations are always appreciated.***

Opportunity for Giving During Lent

Easter Lilies are not available for large quantity purchase from our local supplier again this year. As a result, we are not able to offer lilies for sale. If you would like to make a special Lenten donation in honor/memory of a loved one, we ask that you designate your special offering toward the ministry of the church with names included. The names of the contributors will be listed in the Easter bulletin with your designated honorarium/memory. Please make your donations **by Sunday, April 2**.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday – April 2 – Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball preaching

All week, Holy Week – April 2-8 – Labyrinth available in the Fellowship Hall for self-directed prayer walk

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 7:00 p.m. – Worship and Holy Communion

Good Friday – April 7, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. – Journey to the Cross – An interactive experience that you walk through in small groups

Easter Sunday – April 9:

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Picnic Shelter in Valley Park
9:30 a.m. – Easter Covered-dish Brunch in Fellowship Hall –

Food & fellowship, but no Sunday School classes

10:30 a.m. – Easter Worship

All morning – Easter Flowering Cross – bring flowers to put on the cross

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family Carole Sull who passed away on February 8, 2023, and to the family of Martha Brumfield who passed away on February 12, 2023.

The following people were received into membership at Forrest Burdette on February 19, 2023: Scott & Kristy Bowyer, Heather Cortellesi, Ruth Curry, Terry & Sandy Hanning, Ben & Kara Hughes, Barbara Karastury, Mike & Stephanie Mellace, and Rick & Tish Wallace. We welcome you in Christian love.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for February 2023:

February Contributions Received	\$66,956
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$67,540

Help Wanted!

You don't need to know how to sew to join the Young At Heart Quilters on **Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:30**. We are in need of people to help tack our quilts, which only requires you to hold a needle and thread! Anyone who wants to fellowship while helping to prepare quilts, please join us. Our quilts are given to Christmas families and to others in need locally.

Travel to Italy with EO and the Conleys

Ellis & Julie Conley are hosting an Educational Opportunities Tour to Italy, November 1-10, 2023. Come and explore with us as we tour Venice, Pisa, Florence, San Gimignano, Siena, Assisi, Rome, and more! Cost: \$4,296 from Charleston. Interested? Send your email, and we'll send a digital brochure. We plan to have a meeting of interested folks in March. We would love to travel with you! conleyellis@aol.com



200 Millionth Shoebox Delivered

For the first time in many years, Ukrainian Elizabeth Groff returned to her home country, joining Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham on Jan. 25 to celebrate and deliver the 200 millionth Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift to the war-torn country.

The milestone event, marking 30 years since the Samaritan's Purse project started in 1993, also marks nearly one year since the invasion of Ukraine last winter. And it's been nearly a year since Samaritan's Purse responded with relief, sending more than 40 DC-8 airlifts to provide the devastated country with emergency food, medical care, and relief supplies. Last week's DC-8 airlift carried more supplies and personnel to assist in our continued work in the country. And, in addition, the flight also carried dozens prayerfully-packed shoebox gifts, including the 200 millionth, which Groff was excited to deliver, herself, to a young girl in need.

She remembers receiving her own shoebox gift as a child during a time she described as "rock bottom."

"I was alone. I felt lost. That is where Jesus met me. He didn't leave me there," she said. "He showed me that He loved

and cared for me through a simple gift—through a shoebox. These children are receiving the news of the Greatest Gift of All, the eternal love and hope of Jesus. I think about when I received my box and how it changed my life. That's my prayer for these children. I want them to know Jesus and remember this special day for the rest of their lives." Graham and Groff, joined by news anchor Greta Van Susteren, greeted the 75 children gathered in one of our many Ukrainian partner churches. Franklin was able to remind the children of God's love for them.

"Did you know that the Bible tells us that God loves us, and that everyone is special to Him?" Graham told the children. "God knows your name. He knows how many hairs that you have on your head. He knows everything about your life—and He loves you! And the Bible tells us that God loves us so much that He sent His Son from Heaven to this earth to save us."

Local teachers and pastors also walked the children through the Gospel using The Greatest Gift booklet, introducing them to Jesus Christ. Then Van Susteren counted down—in Ukrainian. Odyn! Dva! Try! (One! Two! Three!)

As the children began opening their boxes, Groff walked the milestone 200 millionth shoebox to an 8-year-old girl named Natalya, an orphan. That same shoebox had traveled across the United States with Groff who made stops at our ministry centers and at local churches to place specially selected items inside.

"This gift is for you from God," Groff told the little girl, whose eyes brightened with surprise at the special attention. She immediately zeroed in on the bright-yellow wind-up flashlight included among the items.

Samaritan's Purse will distribute more than 400,000 more Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts throughout Ukraine this year. This year also, at least 120,000 Ukrainian children will participate in The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson discipleship program for shoebox recipients.

Graham said that the ongoing relief efforts of Samaritan's Purse in the war-torn nation and our vibrant ministry through Operation Christmas Child are a testament to God's power at work through many faithful churches in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

"The need here is incredible. We're here to deliver these shoeboxes but also to meet with our church partners," Graham said. "The war has destroyed so much of this country, but the churches see this as an opportunity to reach out and to help their neighbors and do it in Jesus' Name. We have several thousand churches in Ukraine that we've been working with for 30 years. I can't control the politics, but I can control who I help, and we help whoever God puts in front of us. The only hope for this world is Jesus Christ."



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME INFO
SPRING FORWARD
 March 12, 2023
 at 2:00 am
Clock moves an hour ahead

March Birthdays:

- 1 Dory Philyaw, Jeff Fenerty
- 2 Pam Matson
- 3 Addley Marinacci, Leah Veit
- 4 Jim Cunningham
- 5 Jennifer Billups, John Clark, Darren Fearing, Terry Hanning, Braylan Hutchison, Bob Roberts, Greenlee Williams
- 6 Tene Barcroft, Josh Imhoff, Tim Landin, Glo McCane, Toni Soto
- 7 Candy Call, Jeff Harbour, Jennifer Marinacci
- 8 Joe Bailey, Carrie Parsons, Mark Peterson, Jan Ramey, Sheila Treadway
- 9 Faye Brinkman, Alan Carlstrom, Jill Gilbert, Sam Holdren, Cameron Kimble, Cathy McClanahan
- 10 Terry Floyd, Jim Kahre, Scott Ramey, Tim Stanley
- 11 Brittany Cochran, Shannon Dean, Bryan Larch
- 12 Linda Anders, Lisa Vance, Doug Ward
- 13 Marvin Lively, Cody Rice
- 14 Sierra Fisher, Tristan Rice, Sandee Simms, Lori Sublett
- 15 Lily Haught, Olivia Haught, Reece James
- 16 Caleb Bowers, Jason Haught, Lindsay Jones
- 17 Emily Hall, Sandra Turley
- 18 Christopher Clark, Caroline Harris, Ezra Scott
- 19 *No birthdays on record today*
- 20 Warren Faulkner, Brad Patterson
- 21 Sue Bennett, Dustin Fisher, Skip Nitardy, Justin Williams

- 22 Liam Anderson, Kimberly Slappe, Morgan Sword
- 23 Karla Atkins, Judy Clendenin, Alex Cremeans, Terri Stull
- 24 Jan Browne, Miranda Kimble, Susan McCracken, Penny Nelson
- 25 Trevor Cunningham, Willa Elkins, Jeff Given, John Marra, Cathy Ray, Shannon Warden
- 26 Chris Howat
- 27 Emily Cartwright, Shawn Sette
- 28 Natalie Elkins, Dean Huffman, Ed Smith
- 29 Ellis Conley, Sam Sentelle
- 30 Bob Brinkman, Jessica Jarvis, Elizabeth Lawhon
- 31 Landon Hollaway



March Anniversaries:

- 2 Sherman & Pat Burlingame
- 13 Mike & Donna Barnhouse
- 17 Shawn & Jennifer Sette
- 27 Tom & Linda Hankins
- 31 Randy & Sandra Mayhew
- 31 Scott & Sarah Warner

** 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 Chapel Worship:
6:00 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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Date mailed: 3/2/2023



*"Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven
has come near."*

Matthew 4:17