

**Our Mission:**

Sharing Christ's Love  
with Our Community

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

**Church Staff:**

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**Ellis Conley**, Pastor Emeritus

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# VISIONS

The newsletter of  
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



**Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Community – what does that mean to you?

Our new mission statement is “Sharing Christ’s Love with Our Community.” Does community mean your street? Your neighborhood? Hurricane? Culloden? Milton? Scott Depot? Winfield? Or further? The answer is yes. Our community is not limited to the 25526-zip code. Our community stretches from Huntington to Charleston and from the Jackson County line to northern Lincoln County.

In the old days, your church was within walking distance or a horse ride away. Now with roads, highways, and social media, our community has expanded greatly. Have you noticed that our Sunday morning attendance is up considerably from when we first started coming out of COVID, but our online worship still averages more than in person?

Consequently, community means more than just a geographical designation. Community is about relationships, a sense of belonging, a connection that may have a traditional “neighborhood” feel to it. Part of being a Christian is being a participant in a church community. Part of being a church is being in a larger community. Part of being in a community is being connected with each other.

Our church has several community events coming up soon. It is a chance for us to connect with each other and connect with our larger community. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> we are having a Splash Bash! at the Hurricane City Park from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Then on August 12 our church is a participant in the City Wide Yard Sale and UMW hot dog sale. Finally, on August 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. we are hosting our Second Annual Community Cookout in our parking lot, green space, and church building. These are three significant events where we are a part of our surrounding community. We are hosting these three great events. We are asked to invite people from our neighborhoods and our friends, we are asked to be hosts and make everyone feel welcome, and we are asked to be servants and help!

Don’t take August off from living out our mission statement – “Sharing Christ’s Love with Our Community.”

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Joe

OCC is accepting  
yard sale donations.  
See page 3!

## Citywide Yard Sale

The Hurricane Citywide Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, August 12**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in reserving a parking space or two at Forrest Burdette to hold your own sale, contact the church office at 304-562-5903, or sign up at the Connection Center. Spaces are \$10 each, payable on the 12th.

The United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a **hot dog sale** during the sale, while supplies last! We need volunteers for the kitchen and Country Store and donations of baked goods and candy to be sold for dessert. Your donation of homemade baked goods are welcome. Please bring them to the church on Friday, Aug. 11. If you are interested in assisting with this project please call Ruth Blankenship, 304-542-8281 or Karen Lilly, 304-562-9241.

## David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults



### FBUTH Student/Parent Survey

Copy and paste the following link into your browser. This survey will give David and the student ministry team a better idea of the needs of our group. Do we need to change or adjust our weekly programming? Do we need to add/stop certain activities? We want to know the scheduling needs and interests of our students (and their families!) so we can do ministry together more effectively. Send this survey to anyone who may be interested in participating in FBUTH activities – whether they go to Forrest Burdette regularly or not! <https://forms.gle/oGvBzBg5xepUK11d9>

### FBLaunch Tutoring Center/Coffee Shop:

Forrest Burdette Uth is starting a tutoring/college planning program here at the church. David received a grant of \$9,000 to start a tutoring center where students from the community can get homework help, ACT tutoring, specific subject tutoring, group tutoring, etc. David will also lead college preparation workshops for students gearing up to apply to college like financial aid/FAFSA workshops, scholarship application workshops, general application workshops, and major/career exploration workshops. We will also be hosting College Road Trips to give students the opportunity to travel to WV and local colleges to visit. All these resources will be free, but we will have donation jars for any who wish to donate to the services provided. To make the space inviting, the Uth decided to make this tutoring center into a coffee shop theme. We will be wrapping up the finishing touches on the space throughout August, and we hope to do a hard launch at the end of the month or in early September.



### Sunday School

8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 from 9:15 - 10:15 AM

We will be meeting in the FBLaunch Tutoring Center/Coffee Shop located at the back of the hallway in the main lobby/Narthex. We will continue and finish out our summer series on the Book of Acts: Learning to be a Disciple.

### Movie Nights

Every Tuesday night in August we will do a movie night. We will decide each week during Sunday School whether we want to see a movie in theaters at Teays Valley Cinemas or whether we want to watch a movie at the church that week. The times vary each week, but we typically go in the late afternoon/evening. Rides are available; just contact David. If we go to the TVCinemas, Tuesday ticket prices are about \$5 for Tightwad Tuesday. To stay up to date on these movie trips, join our REMIND101 text group by texting "@fbmuth" to the number "81010" or email David at [youth@forrestburdette.com](mailto:youth@forrestburdette.com).

### Random Summer Fun

Throughout August, David will plan random weekly activities. To stay up to date on these, join our REMIND101 text group by texting "@fbmuth" to the number "81010" or email David at [youth@forrestburdette.com](mailto:youth@forrestburdette.com). Last summer, some of these activities were: bowling, disc golf, game nights, etc.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday, August 30 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

As we receive more feedback from students and families, our Wednesday Night Bible Study may change accordingly; however, we will go ahead and kick off the year with a Wednesday Night Uth Bible Study on Wed., August 30th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. We will have food, games, and a bible lesson.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 27 during the 10:30 AM Worship Service

**School Faculty, Administrators, Personnel, and Students**

Rev. Ellis Conley will be preaching this day, and he will lead a blessing of the backpacks for the school year. We are excited to pray for blessings over the 2023-2024 school year! Bring your backpacks/planners to service, and we will bless them.



### Community Cookout: Back to School Celebration!

Sunday, August 27, 5-7 PM

To end summer and celebrate the new school year, we are hosting our annual community cookout. There will be food, games, activities throughout the church and parking lot! Invite all your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Youth will be helping to lead an activity, so come help out (community service will be given to those who assist with our activity).



## Jayné Kirk Minister of Children & Families



Summer Break is coming to an end, and school is right around the corner! Here are some upcoming events:  
**Aug 1-27—School Supply Collection:** We're getting the basics for our students! Check the list in the Connection Center  
**Aug. 2 @ 6pm—Splash Bash** at City Park Sprayground/Red Barn for all ages! Water fun and a great evening for all!  
**Aug. 24—Back to School** for Putnam County Students  
**Aug. 27, 5-7pm—Community Cookout!** A great engagement opportunity to invite neighbors and friends and make connections in our community.

We are also planning for the fall classes, and I have a request! I made a **Parent Survey** that will hopefully help me plan events and classes that will best serve our families. There are no right/wrong answers! We are working toward making sure our church provides that opportunities for children and parents to connect with each other as we grow in Christ. Scan the QR code to take the FB Kids Parent Survey.



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

Hello, everyone! COM is rolling right along. It's hard to believe that we're wrapping up the summer already.

Some updates for the program: Our early ed classrooms are very full for the upcoming school year; we only have a couple open spots in one classroom and have a very long waiting list to begin calling from to fill those. Please keep the families and children needing care in your prayers because there is just not enough childcare available for everyone who needs it.



Now that we have had the new playground installed and being utilized by the children and community, we just need to have the fence and mulch barrier back in place. Those will both be done by the time you are reading this article. We're ordering some additional mulch to make sure the early ed equipment has the necessary depth since it was disrupted with the new installation, and that will put us at 99 % complete!

The shade canopy, however, is another point altogether. There is an issue with one of the uprights, and the installers were unable to stretch the canopy enough to make it work. Having that issue resolved and installing the canopy are still ongoing projects.

As I said before, there are not enough childcare centers available to serve all the children and families that need them. We consider it a privilege to offer a quality program that has such a long waiting list. We could not provide the service we do for the families in our communities if not for the generosity of the church supplying us with the space, the upkeep of the building, and maybe most importantly, the general prayers and support. We are truly grateful and thankful to be able to do what we do, because of you. Please continue to keep our staff, our center, and our children and families, both new and established, in your prayers as we transition into the fall session. Thanks again for your support.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

## 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: August 5 and 19 at the church in Room 111 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley (304) 532-8659 or Robbie Parsons (304) 542-0981.

## From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of long-time member Laura Jo Smith, who died on July 16, 2023. On June 25, we welcomed into membership Bruce & Nancy Colella, Jared & Melissa Collins, Linda Cunningham, and Steve & Kathy Wandling.

## Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for July (as of July 25, 2023), with another week remaining:

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| July Contributions Received ..... | \$57,102 |
| Monthly Receipts Needed .....     | \$67,538 |

## Worship for August

August is "Old Home" month at Forrest Burdette, and we're excited to welcome back three of our former pastors. Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

|                  |                                |                                       |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>August 6</b>  | Isaiah 43:18-21                | Vision: New Life for Forrest Burdette |
| <b>August 13</b> | Guest Preacher: Randy Flanagan |                                       |
| <b>August 20</b> | Guest Preacher: Ed Grant       |                                       |
| <b>August 27</b> | Guest Preacher: Ellis Conley   |                                       |

## "From Below" - An Immersive Coalfield Experience

A team from the WVUMC will be hosting a coalfields immersion experience on Friday, October 20 - Saturday, October 21. David Westfall is part of the planning team and is excited to invite the FB congregation to join! The immersion is totally covered by our UMFVW grant (meals, lodging, t-shirt, and tickets). We're aiming to get everyone registered and ready to go by Sept. 15. The event will run Fri., Oct. 20 at 9:30 a.m. at St Marks to Sat., Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. on Miracle Mtn. If anyone needs lodging for Saturday night (and is not heading home after we meet on the mountain) we can do that.



Registration  
Link:



Facebook  
Page:



Agenda:



OCC is participating in the Citywide Yard Sale and asks for your donations (collecting everything but clothing)

**YARD SALE**  
AUGUST 12th

Bring items to Forrest Burdette the week of Aug. 7  
**Drop Off Times:**  
M, W, F 9-11 a.m.  
T, Th 2-4 p.m.

All proceeds will go toward the shoebox ministry.  
Priority given toward shipping donation and The Greatest Journey.

### Top Needs for OCC Shoeboxes in August:

Wash cloths (0/400); Crank style or solar flashlights (12/300); Underwear for B2-4 (25/100), G2-4 (12/100), G10-14 (60/100), B10-14 (0/100); Backpacks (218/400); Pencil erasers (155/1125); Ballpoint pens (150/1200); Pencils (527/2000); Chalk large sticks (160/1200); Balls of any kind; Coloring books (48/200); Shirts for boys all ages; Flip flops for all ages; Dance wands (14/150); Jump ropes (66/300); Lace up cards (27/100)

School and summer prices are at their lowest now. Call Jackie for shoebox questions: 304-552-8796.

**Remember our Amazon wish list! Scan this code >**



## August Birthdays:

- 1 Shanon Fearing, Kim Virag, Jenny Wilson, Camie Zappitelli, Sofie Zappitelli
- 2 Beth Embrey
- 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 Andrew Johnson, J.B. Marinacci, Meagen Young
- 8 Robbie Armstrong, Ed Grant, Beth Sauvageot, 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, David Brumfield, Ellen Shoub, John Jay Walker, Jim Zappitelli
- 16 Hayley Lawman, Reese Ramey, Rylee Ramey, Leah Woodworth
- 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 Tincer
- 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, Deb Blair, Chris Booker, Ben Hughes
- 26 Mary Jo Harris, Brenda McBayer, Darleen Miller, 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 Jerry & Karen Lilly      |
| 3 Rodney & Jennifer Kimble  | 20 Michael & Michele Myers  |
| 5 Steve & Rosemary Cook     | 21 Brett & Kathie Faulknier |
| 6 Michael & Patricia Enochs | 21 John & Priscilla Simmons |
| 6 Harold & Joann Walker     | 21 Dick & Becky Swisher     |
| 8 Rick & Tish Wallace       | 22 Jason & Katina Haught    |
| 9 Stephen & Marsha Jones    | 23 Joe & Judi Kenaston      |
| 9 Coy & Joan Mullins        | 24 Jeff & Vickie Harbour    |
| 11 Marvin & Gale Thompson   | 25 Larry & Judy Clendenin   |
| 12 Kevin & Tammy Lawhon     | 26 Ted & Audella Clark      |
| 14 Bob & Debbie Ayers       | 26 Jeremy & Heidi Rice      |
| 15 Steve & Greta Huggins    | 30 Brad & Brittany Cochran  |
| 19 Brian & Sephra Faulknier | 30 Wayne & Deloris Rooper   |

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



## VISIONS

The Newsletter of  
Forrest Burdette Memorial  
United Methodist Church

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

2848 Putnam Avenue  
Hurricane, WV 25526

304-562-5903  
office@forrestburdette.com  
www.forrestburdette.com

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## Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 7/28/2023



## Vision Process from February 2022 to July 2023

### Purpose

God is calling us to seek God's direction for Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church in the 2020's and 2030's. COVID and cultural changes have challenged the way we experience life, and they have altered the church's traditional patterns of life. Our challenge is to determine God's plan for our future. The Vision Team and congregation will seek to capture what God is envisioning for us as a church and develop a vision, a strategic plan, and a series of measurable objectives to monitor our progress. Through time, the vision will need to continually be examined, adjusted, and implemented within the church's ongoing ministry.

### Beginnings

At Church Council in February of 2022, the creation of the Vision Team and the process that would be used was approved. The first meeting of the Vision Team was March 31<sup>st</sup>. When the team gathered, we spent time building relationships with each other, studying Scripture, sharing prayer time, and forming prayer partners.

One of the early tasks was creating a covenant to govern the team's life. The covenant for the Vision team is as follows:

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* (Isaiah 43:19)

We **Covenant** to keep faith with God, our walk with Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

We **Covenant** to be engaged in prayer: each other, Vision Team, Forrest Burdette.

We **Covenant** to be present and when it is impossible to attend to notify the chair or pastor.

We **Covenant** to come prepared for our meetings.

We **Covenant** to be engaged in discussion and not to dominate or be passive.

We **Covenant** to be honest, vulnerable, and respectful in our speech and participation.

We **Covenant** to use Group Me on a weekly basis to stay connected with each other.

We **Covenant** to relate to our accountability partners and share ideas, updates, and daily prayers.

We **Covenant** to keep confidentiality about personal information and opinions.

We **Covenant** to share with the church in an appropriate and timely manner the progress of the Vision Team.

### Prayer Emphasis

As you can see, prayer was a vital part of the team's work. The team prayed in the meetings and at home. The team members also took prayer walks around the church, around the neighborhoods, and around the community. In addition, we read **The Open Road** by Sue Nilson Kibbey and created the Breakthrough Prayer for our church: ***God, grant us the wisdom to know your plan for us and the strength to carry it out. Amen.*** This prayer has been distributed in pocket quilts, used in worship, small groups, and classes since the summer of 2022. The team believes that God has been revealing the plan for us.

### Research and Study

The team read, watched, and listened to a variety of resources including excerpts from **Canoeing the Mountains** by Tod Bolsinger, **How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going** by Susan Beaumont, and **Strategy Matters** by Kay Kotan and Ken Willard. The Team also examined the United Methodist data concerning Forrest Burdette's statistics going back several decades. Mission Insite provided a detailed demographic study for our region (Barboursville to St. Albans) that highlighted population, educational, economic, cultural, and religious characteristics.

The team also took an informal survey of people in our community who were not a part of the church about their impressions of Forrest Burdette. It gave the team some interesting observations. We also had a survey with the congregation. The survey was available online, in bulletins, and in the newsletter. The questions were focused on connection to the church and hopes for the future. The team spent a lot of time reviewing the surveys and finding common themes among the answers.

(over)

## Creation of the Mission Statement

The team spent a significant amount of time brainstorming and discussing a possible mission statement. It needed to be the church's mission which would generate, direct, and empower our ministry and activities throughout the 2020's and into the 2030's. After spending time on the areas of focus it was time to form a mission statement. Pastor Joe believed God was leading us to the statement, "Sharing Christ's Love with the Valley." The team talked about it, prayed about it, and came back to the next meeting to see if there was consensus. The team felt led by God to accept the mission statement with an important adaption. Forrest Burdette's mission statement became "***Sharing Christ's Love with Our Community.***" The team recognized that our community is bigger than the valley, and all need to experience Christ's love. This is not a new mission for the church, but it is a God-given, intentional focus as we move forward. "***Sharing Christ's Love with Our Community***" becomes our purpose for ministry.

## Church Conversations

Through much prayer, conversation, and work, the Vision Team narrowed our areas of focus for the new vision into four distinct but related emphases. On March 19, 2023 the congregation was invited to stay after church and join a conversation around the four areas of focus: Establishing New Connections in the Community, Generating Connections Within the Church, Deepening Individual Connections with Christ, and Connecting Faith to Everyday Life. The church responded with lots of participation, and each conversation group met two or three times. The church's input was taken back to the Vision Team for discussion, prioritization, and the development of possible action items.

## 2023 Summer Worship

Beginning on June 25<sup>th</sup> and continuing through August 6<sup>th</sup> the church has developed worship experiences, explanatory summaries, and after-worship conversations that revolve around the new mission statement, the four areas of focus, and the call for new life for Forrest Burdette.

## Moving Forward

At the end of August, the church members will receive the completed Vision document. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the church will be asked to affirm the plans that God has given the congregation and then commit to have the strength to carry them out.

## Vision Team

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Annette Cartwright, chairperson | Brad Fittro    |
| Joe Kenaston, pastor            | Jason Haught   |
| Steve Cook                      | J.D. Philyaw   |
| Debbie Duespohl                 | Brandon Porter |
| Kirstyn Bess Erwin              | Jan Ramey      |