



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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November 2023

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



FROM THE PASTOR

Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you know I spent four days (Oct. 21-24) in the hospital. I am much better now. I ended up leaving with a new medicine, and it is helping. As I reflect on my venture into health care, I give thanks to all those who work in the field. Whether one is keeping the place clean and hygienic, caring for patients, preparing food, analyzing tests, prescribing medicine, conducting surgery, or offering encouragement and support, I am grateful. I am also thankful that medicine no longer uses leaches. It is amazing to see how far we have come in our medical diagnosis and treatment. I am thankful for all the prayers and cards we received from people at Forrest Burdette. I am grateful for Ellis Conley who stepped in and preached for two weeks and the staff who had to handle the tasks that are usually mine. I am glad that I am a part of this generous and thoughtful church family. November reminds me to say **thank you** for all of God's blessings even when I am facing challenges.

What and who are you thankful for? What has been happening in your life that causes you to pause and give God thanks and praise? I encourage you to be intentional about cultivating a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness. One way is to adopt the following weekly schedule for your prayers of Thanksgiving throughout the month:

Monday – Thank God for God's grace, love, and mercy;

Tuesday – Thank God for your family (including extended family) and friends;

Wednesday – Thank God for Jesus Christ and his life, death, and resurrection;

Thursday – Thank God for Forrest Burdette and its ministries;

Friday – Thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit which offers comfort and guidance;

Saturday – Thank God for our community, state, and nation;

Sunday – Thank God for the chance to join others in worshiping at church.

I believe that if each of us prays this cycle of giving thanks throughout the remainder of November it will change our perception of life and we will notice God's presence in all parts of our lives. As you go through this cycle of praying thanks for one aspect of your life after another, consider sharing your thanks with the people who pop up in your prayers by sending them a note or text.

I am thankful for you, the people at Forrest Burdette who love God, love their neighbor, and love each other.

With joy and thanksgiving!

Joe

Annual Church Conference

Forrest Burdette's rescheduled Annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, following morning worship. Purpose: elect officers, set the pastor's salary, receive apportionments, with Conference Superintendent Joe Hill. All church members are invited to attend.

David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Uth News/Updates:

Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 P.M.

- 11/1, 11/8, 11/15
- NO UTH 11/22
- 11/29

Sunday School from 9:15-10:15 A.M.

- 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

**Congratulations to
David Westfall
for earning a Certificate
in Youth & Practical
Theology from Princeton
Theological Seminary!**

Tutoring on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:45-6:00 P.M.

- 11/7, 11/8, 11/14, 11/15, 11/28, 11/29

FALL WORKSHOP, from Nov 10-12

The Uth are heading to Jackson's Mill from Friday, Nov. 10 through Sunday, Nov. 12. More information on available workshops and registration can be found here:

<https://www.wvumc.org/2023-fall-workshop/>

If you register, pay \$25. DO NOT pay the full \$125, as the remainder will be covered by the church. Let David know once you register. It will be a fun weekend!

Jayné Kirk Minister of Children & Families



I know a lot of people often take time in November to practice some mindful Thankfulness, and I would like to thank all the people who serve in the Children and Family Ministries.

We have Sunday School teachers who serve year-round to bring a deeper connection of faith to our youngest students. We have a large team of servants who teach Children's Church on a regular basis. On Sunday mornings we strive to create a space where children can learn about God and learn to love God and each other. We have a great team who lovingly serves in the nursery and cares for our babies and toddlers.

I am also so grateful for all the extra serving hands who pitch in around the year with events like VBS, Community Cookout, and Flick or Treat. Together we create a church community that nurtures children and families as they grow through the seasons of life.

Thank you all for your commitment to God by serving at Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC.

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



This is my favorite time of year. Seeing all the colors of the trees is a daily reminder of the beauty God has created for us and all around us. With the days and months passing by so quickly, with all the "things" we need to get done, it can be hard to slow down and notice all of God's wonders around us. The children have had a couple of months to become accustomed to their new rooms; they are doing things they haven't done before and experiencing many new adventures, and they are busy growing and learning. This time of year draws our attention to it, almost demanding our attention, with the sight of the brilliant colors, the sound of the

leaves crunching under our feet, the laughter of children as they run and jump in the leaves and puddles, the quiet closeness of friends and family, and the introspection of self as we sit around a cozy fire. All very simple things that we take for granted so often. I like to think that this is the time of year to purposely slow down, reading a favorite book to the children for the 4th time today because it's too cold or wet to go outside, to enjoy the simple things that God has provided for us. How could all the beauty around us exist if not for him? How in the world can ALL the colors around us be from just plants and trees? God—that's how, and it is that wonder and joy that I hope we can instill in the children we are charged with caring for each day. To not only show them the love of God, to love like Jesus would, but to also stop to take in all the wondrous creations he has made for us. We can see the moon in the morning at drop off, we can feel the cool air as we run and play and not get so hot when we are outside, and we can learn about the passing of time with the changing of the seasons, all because of what God created.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support so that we are able to instill the love and wonder of God in the children we are able to serve, because of you.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥



Thanksgiving Day Dinner: Nov. 23

We will be having the Thanksgiving Day Dinner again this year! Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and rolls will be provided. If possible, bring a covered dish of your specialty to share. We will gather and eat at 2:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you sign up at the Connection Center or call the church to give us an estimated number to prepare for. —Jill Gilbert

PipeSounds PipeSounds Presents...



...Rodney L. Barbour, returning for a **free** holiday organ concert, "CHRISTmas PRESENCE!" **Sunday, November 26, 3:00 p.m.** Join us as we celebrate the season on the Harrah Symphonic Organ with our favorite returning artist. A reception will follow the concert.



Welcome Bishop Mande Muyombo to Worship on November 19th

Bishop Mande will be our preacher on November 19, at our 10:30 worship celebration. Bishop Mande speaks several languages and is excellent in English. He is the bishop of North Katanga Area, which includes North Katanga, Tanganyika, and Tanzania conferences in the Congo Central Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is the youngest UM Bishop and a fruitful and dynamic leader on the continent of Africa. In addition, he is the President of the Connectional Table for the UM Church. The Connectional table is the "Church Council" for the worldwide denomination. He works closely with Forrest Burdette's own Judi Kenaston. We have a special worship celebration planned that day. Please be present and reach out and invite family and friends.

Hanging of the Greens



We will be decorating the church and sanctuary immediately following the Sunday morning worship service on **November 19**. We need as many helpers as possible to get the church ready for Advent and Christmas. **Note** that a light lunch will be provided for the decorating elves. We need people to carry boxes, assemble trees, string lights, trim the trees, climb ladders, and decorate the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and church. *Come and "hang the greens!"*

Grief Support Group

If you are grieving a loss, please join us for comfort, rest, and prayer as we learn about grief and how we can better cope with it. **Next meeting date: November 11th at the church in Room 111, from 1:00-3:00 pm.** Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659.

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Cynthia Ann (Pauley) High, who passed away on September 2, 2023.

On October 8, Rylee Scott Ramey, daughter of Scott & Jan Ramey, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. On October 22, Parker Scott and Madelyn Sue Bowyer, children of Scott & Kristy Bowyer, and Kailyn Charon and Clark Michael Collins, children of Jared & Melissa Collins, also received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Harriet Eunice (Maxey) Deel (wife of former FBMUMC pastor Bill Deel) who passed away on October 24, 2023; and to Tom Hankins and family upon the death of his wife Linda Lively Maier Hankins on November 2, 2023.

We are invited to participate in a **★Card Shower★** for Mary Fugate who turns **★95★** on November 17! Please send Mary your birthday greetings: 341 Harbour Lane, Hurricane WV 25526.



Looking Ahead to Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 3: Advent begins

Sunday, December 10: Church Family Christmas Dinner, 5:00 p.m. (must purchase tickets in advance; contact the office), with a visit from Santa and entertainment for all ages!

Sunday, December 17: The Forrest Burdette Choir presents their Cantata "Love!" during morning worship; Nativity Showcase to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Brunch during the Sunday School hour; morning worship to follow at 10:30; Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day Dinner at 2:00 p.m.



Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will be in the narthex starting Sunday, November 12, along with instructions. If you are unable to pick out an Angel in person, contact Karen at the church office (304-562-5903) to request one to be mailed to you. Or, if you prefer not to shop for an Angel, the Angel Tree Coordinators would be happy to shop for you! Remember to mark your giving to the "Angel Tree". **All gifts (unwrapped) are due back at the church by noon on December 10.** If you have any questions, call or text either JoAnn Kennedy (304-561-7100) or Lisa Fawcett (304-539-2860). The Mission Outreach Team thanks you for your continued support!

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for September & October:

September Contributions Received	\$54,815
October Contributions Received	\$64,844
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$67,538

Undie Sunday Donations..... 289 items for Heart + Hand

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for generously giving to Operation Christmas Child. The toys, clothes, all the contents, personalizing with notes and decorating boxes, shipping costs, and for sending The Greatest Journey — all of it brings joy and allows a platform to hear God's Word. I spoke to Etienne, an evangelist in Burundi, in a video call. In 2021 he helped distribute our shoeboxes. The growth in children and parents attending the local village churches has more than doubled, and a new church is being built. He wants to thank you! We also received emails from two recipients in the Dominican (most of our shoeboxes from '22 were distributed there). They want to thank the church and are overwhelmed with your gifts.

Express your thanks to local businesses for collecting toys for shoeboxes: Hurricane Animal Hospital (Jennifer & Shawn Sette), Quilts by Phyllis, Goin' Postal (Caleb Turner), and Dollar General in Teays Valley.

Was there something about shoeboxes that sparked an interest for you to work alongside us next year? Talk to Jackie or Beth. 488 shoeboxes packed, shipping collected, and 488 children will take The Greatest Journey 12-lesson discipleship program in 2024. And there are more boxes coming from families. These may be returned anytime through Nov. 12.

November Birthdays:

- 1 Matt Anderson, Sarah Clegg, Vicki Jarvis
- 2 Jane Barney, Melissa Oxley, Charlie Veit, Brooke Wilson
- 3 Mike Jarvis, Shirley McKown, Beth Turley
- 4 Joe Gilmore, Ruth Anna Johnson, Scott Proffitt
- 5 Shawn Daly, Evelyn Martin, Mary Ann McClure
- 6 Beverly Jarrett, Megan Johnson
- 7 Chloe Anderson
- 8 Ted Clark, Diane Dorsey, Jackson Lilly, Ava Slappe, Debbie Tincher
- 9 Traci Brown, Matthew Cox, Deloris Rooper, Luke Sergent
- 10 Martha Carlstrom, Jeanie Jarvis, Maggie O'Dell, Brian Slappe
- 11 Zachary Daniels, Maria Folio, Sharon Smith
- 12 Jenna Johnson, Lois Kinneer, Joe Miller, Tristen Nesmith, Ashley Stalnaker, Sarah Stark
- 13 Ginger Dunlap, Sandra Johnson, Kierstin Marsh
- 14 Jennifer Bonham, Lorn Limanen, Kris Pyles
- 15 *No birthdays on record today*
- 16 Libby Bird, Michael Brown, Sharon Jones, Debbie Milton, Patsy Neumeyer, Gary Robson
- 17 Mary Fugate, Vic Mays
- 18 Penny Bailey, Dave Blevins, Cody Dunlap, Mary Marcum
- 19 Sarah Cartwright
- 20 *No birthdays on record today*
- 21 L.D. Foster, Cassie Holdren, Terri Stanley, Natalie Sweeney

- 22 Joseph Cunningham, Jeremy Kauffman, Martin Valent, Jude Virag
- 23 Meghan Oxley
- 24 Bill Allen, Tammy Baker, Ruth Blankenship, Kailyn Collins, John Patterson
- 25 Albert Anderson
- 26 Mike Brown, Doris Donovan, Kathie Faulkner, Addison Phillips
- 27 Kim Davis, Jacob Lilly, Angie Nesmith, Tracey Patterson, Benjamin Russell
- 28 *No birthdays on record today*
- 29 Andy Bennett, Timmy Burlingame, Danielle Ray
- 30 Jamie Levy



November Anniversaries:

1 Bob & Ruth Blankenship	18 Shannon & Sara Dean
1 Scotty & Kristy Bowyer	21 Joseph & Kirstyn Erwin
3 Larry & Beth Embrey	21 Jon & Claire McCoy
3 Butch & Debbie McCoy	22 Dan & JoAnn Kennedy
5 Bobby & Meredith Greene	23 Clarence & Cindy Woodworth
6 Jim & Linda Vealey	25 Tim & Joy Mitchell
9 Nathan & Sadie Daly	26 Ron & Karen Delph
12 Jeff & Rita Given	26 Jonathan & Bailey Hill
13 Dustin & Megan Fisher	26 Norman & Mary Ann McClure
16 Keith & Pamela Smith	

** 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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The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

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

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Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 11/9/2023



In 2021 & 2022, some of our OCC shoeboxes were received in Burundi (E. Africa) and the Dominican.