



VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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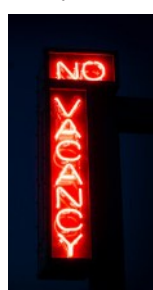
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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

"Got Any Room?"

I'm writing this on Monday, the day after returning from a week-long vacation at Myrtle on Sunday, so the story is fresh. Emily, the kids and I left Hurricane on Friday evening and traveled to Wytheville, where we joined other members of the extended family. Before we arrived, Emily answered a call from her very frazzled mom who was phoning from the hotel with news that the front desk had messed up our evening accommodation.

Long story short was that our rooms were mistakenly booked for the previous evening (despite the email confirmation that indicated otherwise) and for a moment, we weren't



sure we'd have a place to stay, seeing that the hotels in the surrounding area didn't have vacancy. But all was well when they located three rooms for the three of our families who were traveling together and with some roll-away beds, extra sheets and reconfigured furniture, we made it work.

Have you ever been weary on the road, running low on energy and running out of options? It's one of those situations where *you* either find a place to crash or *your car* will. If that's ever described your specific scene, there's no viler a villain than the "No Vacancy" signs that litter the roadways and torment your heavy eyes.

Funny, isn't it, how states of fatigue find ways of shrinking your search criteria? Suddenly, certain must-have accommodations don't matter anymore: You don't mind if there's no microwave or mini-fridge; you don't care if the bed size is a king or a queen and you can certainly do without the "deluxe view" of the garden pond and gazebo. All you require is the *next available room*.

We'll tell any hotel host with available space, "You give me the room and I'll do the rest...literally." Bottom line: When the rubber meets the road, all you need is room to work with. It's often the case with us...and it's always the case with God.

I note all of that to leave you with this: In ways great or small, God is moving in our midst and the extent to which we mind that movement is really up to us. At this moment, I'm sitting at my desk staring at a miniature replica of the Ark of the Covenant. It was a gift given to me from Gary Robson upon my return from the beach. In the Bible, the Ark is repeatedly referenced as the vessel that reminded a traveling people of the power of a traveling God whose presence is ever abiding in all places, always. Believe it or not, that same God seeks to tabernacle with us today...and if your heart is to serve as housing for the holy, there's one thing that God requires:

Room. The next available one. That's it. The condition is of no concern, the Lord will work with it.

As we begin a brand-new month with brand-new opportunities to bear witness to the brand-new mercies of God, I invite you to pray this prayer with me daily: *Lord, I never want to be known as one with no room for your redemptive work. Today, put me wherever You will with whomever You will doing whatever You will. In this day, I desire to give You vacancy so that someone else might claim victory in You. May it be so! Amen.*

If you prayed that prayer in honesty, just watch and see what God does with the room you just gave Him!

See You Sunday,
Pastor Jake

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

What an incredible summer it has been! As I reflect on the past few months, I am filled with gratitude for all that God has done through our youth ministry and for the faithful support of our church family. This summer has been packed with opportunities to serve, worship, and grow together. Our students had an amazing [week-long mission trip](#) where they not only served others but also deepened their own faith and relationships with Christ. We also experienced a wonderful week of [Vacation Bible School](#), and it truly was an "all hands-on deck" effort. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated supplies, prepared meals, prayed, or encouraged our workers and students. Your willingness to serve made a lasting impact on the lives of so many children. We were also blessed to have members of our church travel to Ireland for ten days to participate in the [GYPC](#), representing our congregation and experiencing God's work beyond our own community. Every event this summer has been a reminder that ministry is a team effort, and we are so thankful for your prayers, generosity, and continued investment in the next generation.

As we turn the page to August and prepare for the start of a new school year, our schedule isn't slowing down! We have several exciting events planned, and we hope our students will join us as we kick off another year of growing together in Christ.

On August 1st, our youth will head to **Kings Island** for a day filled with fun and fellowship before school begins. During the **City-Wide Yard Sale** on August 8th, the youth will have a fundraising space here at the church. We invite you to stop by, browse what we have available, and help support our youth ministry as we raise funds for the coming year. Every purchase helps make future trips, camps, and ministry opportunities possible. Then, on August 14th, we'll be hosting a **Youth Lock-In**, something many of our students have been requesting for quite some time! This event will serve as our **Fall Youth Kickoff** and will be packed with games, great food, fellowship, and plenty of fun as we welcome students into a new ministry year. Finally, on August 23rd, we'll gather for our **first Sunday Night Youth meeting** of the school year. We are excited to reconnect after the summer, welcome new students, and begin another season of studying God's Word and growing together in faith.

I am incredibly excited about what God has in store for our youth ministry this school year. We are looking forward to new opportunities to serve our community, strengthen our faith, and build lasting friendships. We also hope to provide new ways for our church family to partner with us through prayer, volunteering, and supporting our ministry throughout the year.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Bring your backpacks to church on **August 23rd** to receive a blessing for the new school year! All students and school personnel are encouraged to participate on the 23rd. Please hold in prayer the first days of school for our local counties:

Cabell County: August 12

Kanawha County: August 19

Lincoln County: August 17

Mason County: August 24

Putnam County: August 24

Wayne County: August 13



MAY ALL OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL
BE COVERED IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!



Sunday School for kindergarten through 5th grade children is held weekly at 9:15 a.m., in room 308. Children's Church, held during a portion of our Sunday morning worship service, follows Pastor Jake's weekly sermons and the scriptures he has selected for each sermon, in Byrd Hall. *Join us!*

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

Hi, again. I cannot believe summer is winding down. We have less than a month before the start of the new school year. That is just crazy!

We are looking at a full house for our Early Ed classrooms for the fall, and we will have a few spots available in the afterschool program. If you know anyone needing care after school and/or on Putnam County school holidays, send them our way!

The children and staff have had a fun summer. They have been really busy and have had lots of fun experiences.

We will, sadly, be losing some of our summer staff as they return to or start their college careers and return to or begin their teaching journeys, but we have found what we feel will be excellent staff coming on board in the next couple of weeks to fill those spots.

It seems that each new season brings changes, and that brings excitement for new things to come.

Please keep our families, our children, and our staff in your prayers as we enter yet another school year, that we may provide quality care and education to the children we are charged with, that we offer them a safe space where they learn that they are capable, important, and useful, created by God to serve him throughout their lives.

As always, thank you for all that you do for us. We couldn't do it without your support.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

 HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Citywide Yard Sale—August 8th

The United Methodist Women are once again offering \$10 parking spots for the annual Citywide Yard Sale on **Saturday, August 8th**. Sign up at the Connection Center or contact the church office to reserve the number of spots you might need. Remember: which spot(s) you end up with depends on who comes to set up first. The sale officially runs from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Fees will be collected the morning of the sale. Sellers are responsible for tables, chairs, and canopies.

Food and drink will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall by the United Methodist Women. Volunteers are welcome in the kitchen; contact Ruth Blankenship (304-542-8281).

BackPack Buddies Ministry



With the school year beginning this month, our Backpack Buddies ministry is ready to start packing weekend meals and snacks for 100+ local school children. Bags are packed weekly. If you are interested in packing bags, please see the sign up sheet at the Connection Center desk. Training will be provided! We welcome food and monetary donations. A cart for food donations is located at the Connection Center. A few ideas for individual sized donations are: oatmeal, Nutri-Grain bars, Pop Tarts, ramen noodles, Beanitos Weenees, cans of chicken noodle or tomato soup, mac & cheese pouches, snack sized mandarin oranges or peaches, fruit snacks, and Rice Krispie treats.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for June 2026:

June 2026 Contributions Received	\$42,565
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

June 2026 Payments on Mortgage*	\$12,138
Funds Received, June 2026.....	\$6,380

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

August Sermon Series



Goliath lives. If you haven't noticed, there are giants in your jurisdiction. They're not scaling buildings in a single bound; they're not swatting choppers or smashing tanks, but they're stealing peace and crushing spirits one after the other. Some are convinced these killers are too big to conquer. Many attempt to square off by themselves and others are too fatigued before finding out that these foes aren't necessarily flesh and bone, even though their effects are very much felt in the physical.

Behold a battlefield in Bethlehem and set your eyes on a short, shifty shepherd named David. He's in a fight... and it isn't the one you're thinking about. No, long before (and after) David went against Goliath, he was in an all-out brawl involving enemies that were equally as fierce... and all too familiar to us.

Stop fighting alone. Step onto the scriptural training ground and take some strategies straight out of the shepherd's book to be emboldened for the next battle. The God who sustained David can strengthen you as well.

Killer giants do exist, yes... But giantkillers do too.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Week 1... Aug. 2nd: "The Giant of Drama"	1 Sam. 17:24-27
Week 2... Aug. 9th: "The Giant of Just'A"	1 Sam. 17:31-40
Week 3... Aug. 16th: "The Giant of Jitters"	1 Sam. 21:1-9
Week 4... Aug. 23rd: "The Giant of Injustice"	1 Sam. 24:1-15

Memories from the Global Young People's Convocation, Dublin: July '26



Participants from the Northeastern Jurisdiction, UMC



WV Conference Participants



The Ramey Family



GIFT OF THE MONTH

Preparing for shoeboxes throughout the year

*I have a big box, and I'm thinking—
oh my! What could we put in it?
Let's give it a try!
Could it be love? YES!
Could it be care? YES!
Could it be gifts because we LOVE to share?*

Tee-rific August!

A shirt with stripes, • A shirt with dots,
A shirt with colors — Bright and lots!

A red one, blue one, • Yellow or green,
The happiest shirt • You've ever seen!

For girls and boys, • Ages three through eight,
A brand-new T-shirt • Would really be great!

Fold it with love, • Say a little prayer,
God's big love • Is tucked in there.

So bring a T-shirt, • Big or small—
Together we'll fill • Shoeboxes for all!



Scan this QR code to see ideas on our Amazon wishlist. Send items to the church or bring your donations to the box in the Connection Center.

August Birthdays:

- 1 Shanon Fearing, Kim Virag, Jenny Wilson
- 2 Beth Embrey, Lisa Kidd
- 3 Marilyn Kegley
- 4 John Cunningham, Mark Landin, Brad Moore, Andrea Rogowski, Makenzie Vance
- 5 Mike Barnhouse, Brody Franklin, Evan McMillion, Karen Turner
- 6 Jimmy Conaway, Ali Fenerty, Dan Kennedy, Kinley Ogle
- 7 Steve Blower, J.B. Marinacci, Meagen Young
- 8 Ed Grant, Don Smith
- 9 *No birthdays on record today*
- 10 Katie Jo Andrews, Christian Barnhouse, Andrew Pannell, Randall Tidd
- 11 Chantil Foster, Tayor Rogers
- 12 Julie Bryant, Bill Romine, Cindy Stickler
- 13 Missy Collins
- 14 Lori Bailey, Audrey Hall, Christopher Hall, Debbie Haynes, Mary O'Dell
- 15 Sylvie Bartkowski, Jim Zappitelli
- 16 Leah Altizer, Hayley Lawman, Reese Ramey, Rylee Ramey
- 17 Woody McFadden
- 18 Emily Anders, Bob Ayers, Ed Byus, Jack Coulter, Sarah Court, Ella Peterson, Tish Wallace, Kathy Wandling
- 19 James Herman, Dave Tinch
- 20 *No birthdays on record today*



- 21 Linda Gibson, Brady Lawman
- 22 Linda Cargill, Debbie Gibson
- 23 Luke Browne, John Vance, Dwight Williams
- 24 Brenda Grant, Diane Howell
- 25 Chris Booker, Ben Hughes
- 26 Brenda McBayer, 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, 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 | 14 Bob & Debbie Ayers |
| 3 Rodney & Jennifer Kimble | 15 Steve & Greta Huggins |
| 6 Harold & Joann Walker | 19 Brian & Sephra Faulknier |
| 8 Rick & Tish Wallace | 20 Michael & Michele Myers |
| 9 Stephen & Marsha Jones | 21 Brett & Kathie Faulknier |
| 9 Coy & Joan Mullins | 22 Jason & Katina Haught |
| 11 Marvin & Gale Thompson | 26 Ted & Audella Clark |
| 12 Kevin & Tammy Lawhon | 30 Brad & Brittany Cochran |

** 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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Forrest Burdette Memorial
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SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Address Service Requested

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The whole earth is filled with
Awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns,
where evening fades,
you call forth

Songs of joy.

PSALM 65:8

The Cliffs of Moher, Ireland, photographed by Luke Spurgeon