



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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March 2024

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



FROM THE PASTOR

Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we move through the season of Lent we are listening to the Final Words of Christ from the Cross. Over the last three Sundays we have heard Jesus offer these words of hope: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," "Today you will be with me in Paradise," and "Woman, behold your son" quickly followed with "behold your mother." This Sunday, we will hear Jesus' painful cry, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me." The remaining words for the following Sundays and Good Friday are "I thirst," "It is finished," and "into thy hands, I commend my Spirit."

These words are profound, challenging, comforting, and moving. They shape us and our faith. As I prayerfully prepare and share in Sunday School and worship, I am deeply molded by Jesus' last words from the Cross. They bring me into a place of reflection and growth. If you have not participated in our first three worship services this Lent, please make it a priority in the remainder of Lent. Also remember that if you can't be present in the sanctuary, you can watch our worship through Facebook and YouTube. In addition, you can go back and watch the first three weeks online.

On Easter, we will hear the words from the empty tomb, "He has been raised; he is not here" (Mark 16:6). These are the first words of life. Christ has been raised! The tomb is empty! The shadows of death have been cast aside by the light of eternity. Easter is the glorious celebration of life affirming words of hope and resurrection.

This newsletter is filled with opportunities to experience the reality of the "Word made flesh" (John 1:14) and the life giving words that change our faith, our lives, and our world. I encourage you to take advantage of the experiences at Forrest Burdette through Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. I invite you to open your hearts to the voice of God and experience new life in Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Joe

It's not too late to join Pastor Joe's short-term Sunday School class during Lent on Adam Hamilton's book, *Final Words*, 9:15 a.m., Room 206



Opportunity for Giving During Lent

On November 19, 2023, we welcomed Bishop Mande Muyombo from the North Katanga Area (south/central Africa) as our guest preacher. During Bishop Mande's sermon, he told us about an initiative in the annual conferences he serves, called "A Bike for Every Pastor and a Motorcycle for Every Superintendent."

"A bicycle makes a difference. When you give a bicycle and a Bible to a clergy, he or she is encouraged to go around and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. He or she is encouraged to go and share the news of the light to the world," Bishop Mande said.

In lieu of purchasing lilies, which aren't available from our supplier again this year, please make a special Lenten donation toward the "A Bike for Every Pastor" initiative in North Katanga, in honor/memory of a loved one. Please designate your special offering with names included (check made out to Forrest Burdette) by March 27. The names of donors will be listed in the Easter bulletin with your designated honorarium/memorial.



"Bring a Friend Sunday," March 17



Guests are always welcome at Forrest Burdette, but every once in awhile we pick a Sunday to encourage you to invite someone to come to church with you. Bring a friend on **Sunday, March 17!** People know that Easter is coming and may be 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.

Youth & Young Adults



Uth Sunday School:

We have Sunday School from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the café. There is coffee/tea/hot chocolate/cereal for all!

- 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24
- *No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, 3/31—Brunch instead!*

Student Outreach Night (S.O.N., Wednesday Night Uth):

On Wednesday nights we meet in the gym at 6:30 p.m. for games, and then we go upstairs to the Uth room for snacks and bible study. Bring friends, and join us!

- 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, but not 3/27 due to Holy Week

Jayne Kirk Minister of Children & Families



SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS: Sunday, June 16 is our start date for Vacation Bible School! More info and sign-ups are coming soon! Camp Firelight VBS is based on Psalm 56:3:

"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."

This verse reminds us that we can trust God no matter what challenges we face in life. Camp Firelight invites us to put our trust in God in every situation, including during times when we might be afraid.



March Children's Church!

WEEK 1: This week, kids see Jesus shine when he clears the temple courts. BIG IDEA: We can shine God's light. BIBLE: John 2:13-22

WEEK 2: This week, kids see God's light through the story of the last supper. BIG IDEA: Jesus is the light in the darkness. BIBLE: Mark 14:12-26

WEEK 3: This week, kids see what happened when Jesus was brought before the Roman Governor, Pilate. BIG IDEA: We can choose Jesus. BIBLE: Mark 15:1-15



WEEK 4: This week, kids see how Jesus treated two criminals with love even as he died on the cross. BIG IDEA: God hears our cries. BIBLE: Luke 23:32-49

WEEK 5: This week, kids see how God's light overcame the darkness because Jesus is alive! BIG IDEA: Jesus died and rose again! BIBLE: John 20:1-18

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



Happy Spring! Welcoming the children in the mornings allows us to watch the brilliance of the sky, see the new robins and bunnies, and watch the grass get greener each day it seems. The beauty that we are surrounded with is amazing.

We have already started enrolling for our summer program and hope to open up a few spots for the children on the waiting list soon. We are once again planning a fun filled summer so that the children don't feel like they are going to "school" year round, and we will sneak some fun learning in as well.

Please keep the families we serve, the staff we employ, and the program in which we all learn everyday in your prayers, that we may be an example of God's love on a daily basis

♥ **Have fun, and make a difference.** ♥

What a Year for OCC in 2023!

11.3 million children were reached with a shoebox gift! Our Area Team (Putnam, Cabell, Mason, Jackson, Roane) sent 18,183 of those boxes! Forrest Burdette UMC sent 552!

Did you know? Through a shoebox, every 60 seconds 20 hear the Gospel, 10 enroll in The Greatest Journey, 7 graduate, and 6 children ask Christ to be their Savior. What an impact! What a privilege to be part of the evangelism that comes by sending a shoebox. Boxes from our Area Team were sent to Madagascar, Peru, Ecuador, Mali, Uruguay, Haiti, Panama, Honduras, and hard-to-reach areas. Pray for our shoebox babies!



FBUMC is kicking off OCC 2024 with a goal of sending a huggable in each of our shoeboxes. Thank you for your February donations of \$800 and 209 huggies toward the Packing Party goal of 500.

JOY Fellowship (55+)

JOY Fellowship **will not meet** in March, due to a schedule conflict with the Egg Factory. Please mark your calendars for our next covered dish lunch on Thursday, April 18, at noon.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for January 2024:

January Contributions Received.....	\$56,333
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$69,895
Deficit	\$13,562
SOUper Bowl Sunday Canned Soup ... SF: 96 cans, KC: 236 cans	

Mortgage Balance:

January 2024 Payments on Mortgage.....	\$12,137.65
Funds Received, January 2024	\$8,173.62
Deficit	\$3,964.03

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

COM-After School Care Reading and Math Buddies

Would you like to learn more about becoming a reading or math buddy for a child attending our COM after-school care program? An informational meeting will be held on **March 17, 2024**, after the morning worship service. A light lunch will be provided. Please contact Donna Landin (304-437-3546) for information.



Worship Services During Lent



Our Lenten sermon series is entitled, "Final Words from the Cross." Allow Jesus' words to help you keep a Holy Lent. Read the scripture to prepare for worship, and invite someone to join you as we continue to walk with Christ.

3/3/24	John 19:25-27	Final Words from the Cross: Relationship
3/10/24	Matthew 27:45-47	Final Words from the Cross: Abandonment
3/17/24	John 19:28-29	Final Words from the Cross: Thirsty
3/24/24	John 19:30	Final Words from the Cross: Finished
3/28/24	Maundy Thursday	A Meal in the Upper Room
3/29/24 Good Friday	Luke 23:44-46	Final Words from the Cross: Commitment
3/31/24 Easter	Mark 16:1-8	Words of Life: He Is Risen, He Is Not Here

Walk the Prayer Labyrinth During Holy Week



We will once again put out our labyrinth for folks to walk during Holy Week. Christians have walked a prayer path experience for centuries. It is a tried and true spiritual exercise. The labyrinth will be available upstairs in room 211, Monday through Friday (3/25-29), 9:00 a.m.—6:30 p.m. Suggestions for how to use your prayer time will be available at the Labyrinth.

Maundy Thursday: Meal in the Upper Room



March 28, 6:30 p.m.: On Maundy Thursday, we, like the original disciples, will experience the Meal in the Upper Room. We will begin in the sanctuary and then move into the Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal like the one Jesus shared with the 12. Around tables we will eat similar foods to a 1st century Passover. We will also listen to the words of Jesus from the Gospel, sing, and pray. As Jesus invites us to break bread, we will share communion at our tables. Don't miss this profoundly moving experience. Scan the QR code to sign up! ↑

Holy Week Schedule



Passion/Palm Sunday – March 24

All week, Holy Week – March 25-29 – Labyrinth available upstairs in room 211 for self-directed prayer walk

Wednesday – March 27 – No fellowship dinner or classes

Maundy Thursday – March 28, 6:30 p.m. – A Meal in the Upper Room (*please RSVP by 3/25*)

Good Friday – March 29, Sanctuary open all day for prayer with prayer guide available

7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Worship Service

Easter Sunday – March 31

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Large Picnic Shelter in Valley Park, by the Teays Valley Ministerial Association

9:15 a.m. – Easter Covered-dish Brunch, Fellowship Hall Food & fellowship, but *no Sunday School classes*

10:30 a.m. – Easter Day Worship Celebration



Easter Flowering Cross – Please bring flowers or cut flowers to church with you on Easter Sunday, and place them on the chicken wire covered cross that will be outside near the bell tower. Together, we will create something beautiful!

Spring Fling, March 23

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring the Spring Crafts & Easter Eggs Festival on **Saturday, March 23, 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. Volunteers and donations of baked goods are welcome! Please bring baked goods on Friday, March 22.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to sell items at our annual Spring Fling, you may find printed copies of the registration form at the Connection Center desk, or contact the church office to have a copy sent to you.

Order Your 2024 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, March 23, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

To place an order, call the church, 304-562-5903, or email your order to office@forrestburdette.com with the subject Easter Eggs, **by March 13**. Individual order forms and order forms for a larger group are available at the Connection Center and in Sunday bulletins.



Plan to have Easter Brunch with your Church Family!

Sunday, March 31 @ 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Covered Dish—Bring your favorite breakfast item to share! (*Sunday School classes will not meet*)

March Birthdays:

- 1 Jeff Fenerty, Dory Philyaw
- 2 Pam Matson
- 3 Addley Marinacci, Leah Veit
- 4 Jimmy Cunningham
- 5 Jennifer Billups, John Clark, Darren Fearing, Terry Hanning, Alicia Hinshaw McWatters, Ally Hinshaw Holmes, Braylan Hutchison, Bob Roberts, Greenlee Williams
- 6 Tene Barcroft, Nancy Colella, 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
- 14 Sierra Fisher, 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, 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 Nelon
- 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 Elizabeth Baublitz, Bob Brinkman, Jessica Jarvis
- 31 Landon Hollaway



March Anniversaries:

2 Sherman & Pat Burlingame	17 Shawn & Jennifer Sette
13 Mike & Donna Barnhouse	31 Randy & Sandra Mayhew
16 Jared & Missy Collins	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 School: 9:15 a.m.

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SPRING FORWARD
SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

MARCH
10