



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church

November 2025



Rev. Jake Steele
Senior Pastor

What **G**ot Inside? gratitude?

I'm not sure if you've noticed, but gratitude has become a slippery thing to grasp these days. Indeed, gratitude is so simple to *learn about*, and yet it's so challenging to *lean into*—especially in a land of plenty!

Of all the groups that should be proficient in the grammar of gratitude, it'd be the people of God, right? After all, we're ones who claim Christ along with a clean slate, a transformed heart and an eternal hope...but heck, it can be argued that there's a gratitude crisis among Christians as well! Why does gratitude feel so fleeting? There is an ocean's worth of explanations, but could it be there are some things that literally get inside of gratitude that makes the experience so enigmatic?

Look at the word, "gratitude."

Do you see? There are spots within the spelling that are nastier than they appear:
"Gr-at-it-ude"

Two or three little letters can be very high hurdles to overcome. Who would've thought that the letters within gratitude would carry so much weight? If you want to know why and how, then join us through the month of November for this upcoming teaching series. There are some things that get inside of gratitude and either we do something with them or they'll do something to us.

Series Schedule:

November 2nd, Week 1: **Luke 15: 25-32**

(When we can't get past...)

"Gr"

November 9th, Week 2: **Luke 17: 11-19**

(Why it's hard to be grateful for where you're...)

"at"

November 16th, Week 3: **1 Kings 17: 8-16**
(When we wring our hands worrying about...)

"it"

November 23rd, Week 4: **2 Kings 4: 8-17**
(What happens when...)

"ude" (u do extra)

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

We've had a wonderful start to our fall season with all our October youth activities! Our confirmation class is in full swing. Over the past four weeks, we've been learning about God's love for us and what it means to be Christians. A huge thank you to all our volunteer mentors for their time, flexibility, and dedication. Your willingness to walk alongside our youth even with busy schedules is such a blessing.

Our youth have also been busy having fun and serving the community! We enjoyed a great Halloween party and had a fantastic turnout at our "Flick or Treat" table. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success.

Looking ahead, November will be just as exciting. The Youth Fall Workshop is coming up, and there's still time to register! If any youth haven't yet talked to me about what the workshop is or how to sign up, please reach out as soon as possible. We'll also have a **Youth Parent Meeting on November 9th after church** to discuss plans for our upcoming Youth Christmas Party.

Thank you, church family, for your continued support of our youth in all their activities and sports. I'm already planning lots of great things for this spring and summer, so keep an eye on the bulletin and eConnection for updates!

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

Thank you to everyone who decorated a table for last month's Flick-or-Treat. Our Forrest Burdette family is very creative! Also, thank you to those who helped set up, order and serve dinner, and clean up. Last but NOT least, thank you to those who brought their families to this event. The costumes were amazing, and the children had so much fun!

Our next big thing: The Children's Christmas Program! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m.**, to enjoy the production, "No Time for Christmas!"

Here's a look at what we're covering in Children's Church this month, so you can continue growing at home during the week. 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.

11/2—Luke 15:25-32 **11/23**—2 Kings 4:8-17

11/9—Luke 17:11-19 **11/30**—The 1st Sunday of Advent!

11/16—1 Kings 17:8-16

Christmas Quilt Silent Auction

Make sure to stop by the quilt display in the Connection Center and make your bid, now through Sunday, Nov. 2. The holiday quilt up for auction was made by our Young At Heart quilters. Proceeds will benefit their quilting ministry.

Annual Church Conference



Forrest Burdette's Annual Church Conference will be held on **Sunday, November 9, 2025**, at 4:00 p.m. Purpose: elect officers, set the pastor's salary, and receive apportionments, with District Superintendent Lauren Godwin. All church members are encouraged to attend.

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

Hello! There's not a lot to say this month except that we keep rolling along here at COM.

We are very thankful that the basement is just about finished, and we will be able to get the school agers into a nicely revamped space, this week!

We are thankful for the Math & Reading Buddies Program that the church has continued this year for the school agers. The children love the program and look forward to it throughout the week.

We are thankful for the use of the church and the support and encouragement that the church offers us and the children.

I think all of this is a good place to start as we enter into this season of Thanksgiving.

Please continue to keep our program, our children, their families, as well as our staff and their families in your prayers, specifically that we can assist and guide the children, as they navigate an ever changing world, into becoming confident, productive, kind, and God-loving members of our community and our world. May we be able to provide emotionally, educationally, and spiritually what the children and families we encounter each day need to become the best they can be.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥



From the Church Record

Congratulations to Sarah (Westfall) & Jake Krukowski who were married on September 27, 2025, and to Keyria (Franklin) & Eric Mercer who were married on October 4, 2025. *Bless them, that their love for each other may reflect the love of Christ for us and grow from strength to strength as they faithfully serve you in the world. Amen.*



Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will be in the narthex starting Sunday, November 16, 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 7.** Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

Poinsettia Orders: Poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones will be placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias may be picked up after Christmas Eve worship. Please fill out a poinsettia order form (found soon in a Sunday bulletin, E-Connection, or requested from the church office) along with your cash or check, and return to the Church Office **no later than December 7**. Poinsettias are \$10 each (6" container, 1 plant, 4-6 blooms, red with pot cover & bow) and purchased through Gritt's Midway Greenhouse.



UMW Fall Festival

Plan now to attend the United Methodist Women's Fall Festival with arts, crafts, vendors, hot dogs, barbeques, and lots of goodies as well as country store items, **Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to assist in the kitchen on Saturday. Donations of baked goods are needed for the Festival as well.

Read the Bible Together this Year

We are reading through the Bible with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. *The Grand Sweep*, developed by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, is guiding us from Genesis to Revelation.

11/1/25	Acts 16-18	11/16/25	1 Cor. 15-16, Prov. 6
11/2/25	Acts 19-21	11/17/25	2 Corinthians 1-3
11/3/25	Acts 22-24	11/18/25	2 Cor. 4-6, Proverbs 7
11/4/25	Acts 25-26, Proverbs 2	11/19/25	2 Corinthians 7-9
11/5/25	Acts 27-28, Proverbs 3	11/20/25	2 Cor. 10-11, Proverbs 8
11/6/25	Romans 1-3	11/21/25	2 Cor. 12-13, Proverbs 9
11/7/25	Romans 4-6	11/22/25	Galatians 1-2, Prov. 10
11/8/25	Romans 7-8, Prov. 4	11/23/25	Galatians 3-6
11/9/25	Romans 9-11	11/24/25	Ephesians 1-3
11/10/25	Romans 12-14	11/25/25	Ephesians 4-6
11/11/25	Romans 15-16, Prov. 5	11/26/25	Philippians 1-2, Prov. 11
11/12/25	1 Corinthians 1-3	11/27/25	Philippians 3-4, Prov. 12
11/13/25	1 Corinthians 4-7	11/28/25	Colossians 1-2, Prov. 13
11/14/25	1 Corinthians 8-10	11/29/25	Colossians 3-4, Prov. 14
11/15/25	1 Corinthians 11-14	11/30/25	1 Thessalonians 1-5

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for September 2025:

September 2025 Contributions Received.....\$50,911
Monthly Receipts Needed\$64,023

Mortgage Balance:

September 2025 Payments on Mortgage*.....\$12,838
Funds Received, September 2025\$13,953

**Undie Sunday..... 600 pairs of socks, underwear, & tee's,
plus 4 packs of diapers/Pull-ups donated by you!**

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

Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Church



Spend the holiday with friends, **November 27, 2:00 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and rolls will be provided. Bring a covered dish of your specialty to share. Sign up at the Connection Center or call the church to give us an estimated number to prepare for.
—Jill Gilbert

A Note of Thanks

FBMUMC Family,

As we eye a month that teaches us to assume a rhythmic posture of gratitude, the Steele Family extends our deepest thanks for all of your warm notes of appreciation and the extravagant gestures of generosity that accompanied them. It is our deep joy to sojourn with you as ambassadors of Jesus and we're proud to be a part of this wonderful faith family. We look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us as we ready our hearts and hands for ministry in the days ahead.

In Christ, *Pastor Jake, Emily, Brody and Bethany*

JOY Fellowship (60+)



JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship will hold our monthly covered dish luncheon on **Thursday, November 20, at 12 noon**, in Fellowship Hall. If you are 60 or older, come and hang out with us! Our guest speakers will be Tim Landin and Ellis Conley, who will inform us about Kairos Prison Ministry. Bring or buy your favorite dish to share, and bring a friend too. By the way, if you notice we smile a lot at JOY Fellowship, it's because most of us can't hear a word you're saying.



Hanging of the Greens



We will decorate the church and sanctuary immediately following our Sunday service on **November 23**. In order to get the church ready for Advent and Christmas, we need people to carry boxes, assemble trees, string lights, trim the trees, climb ladders, and decorate the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and church. *Join us!*

PipeSounds Presents...

RODNEY BARBOUR



**on the Harrah Symphonic Organ for his
Annual Christmas Concert**

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

—FREE Admission—

Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church

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 Chris Casazza, Evelyn Martin, Mary Ann McClure
- 6 Beverly Jarrett, Megan Johnson
- 7 Chloe Anderson
- 8 Ted Clark, Diane Dorsey, Jackson Lilly, Ava Slappe, Debbie Tincer
- 9 Traci Brown, Matthew Cox, Deloris Rooper, Luke Sergeant
- 10 Martha Carlstrom, Jeanie Jarvis, Maggie O'Dell, Brian Slappe
- 11 Sharon Smith
- 12 Jenna Johnson, Lois Kinneer, 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, Cody Dunlap, Mary Marcum
- 19 Sarah Cartwright

- 20 *No birthdays on record today*
- 21 L.D. Foster, Terri Stanley, Natalie Sweeney
- 22 Jeremy Kauffman, Martin Valent, Jude Virag
- 23 Mark Barney, Meghan Oxley
- 24 Bill Allen, Tammy Baker, Ruth Blankenship, Kailyn Collins
- 25 Albert Anderson
- 26 Mike Brown, Doris Donovan, Kathie Faulkner, Addison Phillips
- 27 Kim Davis, Jacob Lilly, Angie Nesmith, Benjamin Russell
- 28 *No birthdays on record today*
- 29 Andy Bennett, Timmy Burlingame, Danielle Ray
- 30 Jamie Levy



November Anniversaries:

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

** 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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The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

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Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 10/30/2025



Be a part of The Branch in a Wednesday adult class:
Morning Bible Study @ 10:45 a.m.
Evening Small Group Studies @ 6:30 p.m.