

April 2024



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

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VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My heart is overflowing with joy and gratitude for what God is doing in and through Forrest Burdette. The season of Lent and Holy Week were amazing experiences. We raised a lot of “extra mile giving” to buy bicycles for pastors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Trustees put new metal roofs on the church’s garage and the scout building. The Easter Egg factory was a deliciously organized enterprise, producing 2,500 wonderful chocolate covered eggs! The Spring Fling was a tremendous success. We hired a new minister of youth and young adults, Luke Spurgeon, who will begin in mid-May. We continued to encourage people to grow in their understanding of the Bible and how to apply it into their lives through Sunday School (including a new adult class that I am offering), Wednesday night dinners, and classes for all ages.

In addition, our worship emphasis on the “Final Words from the Cross” beginning on Ash Wednesday throughout the season of Lent was inspiring. The music, prayers, scriptures, and worship were deeply moving. God has blessed us who are committed to God and dedicated to offer their gifts and service in the church. Holy Week was amazing. Palm Sunday started with the joyful music of “All Glory, Laud, and Honor,” and ended on Easter with our singing, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.” In between, many people walked the Prayer Labyrinth, experienced the Meal in the Upper Room, and went to the Cross on Good Friday. The entire season and Holy Week were spiritually charged experiences.

Now we transition from the “Final Words from the Cross” to the “Words of Life.” On Easter we heard and celebrated the words from the angel at the empty tomb, “He is not here; his is risen.” We will continue to hear the words of life as we move through April and into May. I encourage you to receive the blessing of the words of life by being present in worship, study, and service.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Joe

From the Conference Lay Leader:



Instead of a Lenten Devotional written by the laity of the West Virginia Conference, we have prepared for you a devotional series beginning on Easter and concluding with Pentecost. What comes after Easter, one might ask? Of course the answer is: **Possibilities Ahead!** Throughout this Easter season, I pray you will discover many possibilities that lie ahead. And I hope this devotional helps guide your personal discipleship journey with scripture, meditation, and prayer. I am grateful to be spending this season with you, as we consider the **Possibilities Ahead** for mission and ministry! Explore with us the hope that Easter and possibilities can bring. *Kristi Wilkerson, Conference Lay Leader*



To view the daily devotionals on the Conference website, go to wvumc.org or scan <<< this QR code (left). To subscribe to have the devotionals sent to you via email, scan this code (right) >>>.



Jayné Kirk Minister of Children & Families



VBS is coming! June 16-21 is Camp Firelight.

Vacation Bible School is our largest family outreach program of the year! We have 10 sessions over 6 days and 2 program times! From Sunday, June 16th to Thursday, June 20th we have our evening program that is open to the community. And from Monday, June 17th to Friday June 21st we have our morning program for the students enrolled in COM programs.



For both programs, we need station leaders to run the activities that the children will do each day: music, stories, crafts, games, snack, and science. For the evening program we also need crew leaders to guide the age-graded groups around the stations. Our snack crew does double duty and also prepares a family style dinner each evening.

But if you can't be at VBS that week or maybe don't feel like kids' ministry is your calling, we also need help prepping activities, decorations, and more! And we also need a big crew of helping hands to transform the church into a cozy campground. Registration, photographers, media, sound, and more! There's a way for everyone to connect with VBS and help make this outreach ministry a successful event. Our theme for this year is **trust**, and it might be time to take that step of faith and find your place at VBS.

April Children's Church: GROW AT HOME THIS MONTH

WEEK 1: This week, kids hear Jesus teach about the speck and the plank. **BIG IDEA:** It's always good to be humble.

BIBLE: Matthew 7:1-5

WEEK 2: This week, kids hear Jesus share a parable about the unforgiving servant.

BIG IDEA: We can always forgive.

BIBLE: Matthew 18:23-35

WEEK 3: This week, kids hear Jesus tell a story about the workers in the vineyard. **BIG IDEA:** Jesus is always fair.

BIBLE: Matthew 20:1-16

WEEK 4: This week, kids hear Jesus share a story about a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. **BIG IDEA:** Love always needs action. **BIBLE:** Luke 16:19-31



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



Greetings from COM! Beginning with thankfulness, we need to thank the trustees for working in the garage to give us dedicated space for outdoor toys. This will help so much! We are so looking forward to spring and summer and being able to be outside more and more!

Lately, we are finishing up filling up the summer spots and are beginning to fill up for fall. We will be opening any spaces we may have up to the public in just a couple of weeks, so if you know anyone wanting to be placed on our waitlist, have them give us a call (304-562-9170).

Thanks for all you do to support our mission to provide the best care we possibly can for the children and families we

serve. Until next time, please keep each of our staff in your prayers, that the children and families we encounter daily may see God through us.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

Westfall Reception

As a congregation, we want to show our love and appreciation for David Westfall's ministry with the youth and young adults of Forrest Burdette from late June 2022 through December 2023. **Following worship on April 14**, we will hold a reception in David's honor and pray blessings upon him as he continues to teach and work on his PhD in Education through WVU. Please bring cards for David to the reception (or to a box at the church that will be available prior to the reception) and if you're able either include a love offering with your card or place a check to Forrest Burdette with the memo "love offering" in the offering plate. Thank you!



New Youth News

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to announce Luke Spurgeon as our new Minister of Youth & Young Adults. Luke is currently an active member of United Methodist Temple, Beckley but has family roots in Hurricane. We will learn more about Luke when he arrives in mid-May.

2024 Summer UMC Camps

Forrest Burdette will pay 1/2 of camp fees.

Asbury Woods, Salt Rock, WV: *where the stars shine brighter, laughs are lighter, and love runs deeper.* More information can be found on their Facebook page. Search "AsburyWoodsWV" or see the contact by each camp.

Nine Rivers District-Wide Picnic (all ages), June 15, 8 a.m.—4 p.m., breakfast and lunch provided!

Middle/High School Camp, June 30 (3 p.m.)—July 4 (noon)

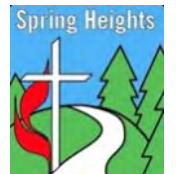
Schauna Chambers, 304-634-9684

Older Elementary Camp (3rd-5th grades), July 14-19

Alexa Hensley, thensley0424@yahoo.com

Day Camp (K-2nd grade), July 15-19, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. (Friday Family Dinner at 5 p.m.); Schauna Chambers, 304-634-9684

Spring Heights, just north of Spencer, WV: *at Spring Heights people of all ages discover Christ.* More information regarding pricing and registration can be found on their website (springheights.org).



Beginners Camp (ages 5-8), June 16-18

Spirit of Camp (ages 13-18), Service oriented, June 17-21 (NEW!)

Mini Classic Camp (ages 8-12), June 19-21

Classic Camp (ages 8-18), June 23-28, July 7-12, and July 14-19

Day Camp (ages 8-18), 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., June 23-28, July 7-12, and July 14-19

Hold Your Horses (ages 9-12), Horse care/riding, June 23-28

Wranglers (ages 13-18), Horse care/advanced riding, July 14-19

Camp Outrageous (ages 8-18), Fun, shenanigans, and surprises! July 21-26

April Worship Services

Our sermons series during the Easter season revolves around “Words of Life” from the book of 1 John. Read the scripture to prepare for worship, and invite someone to join you as we continue to walk with Christ on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--|
| 4/7/24 | 1 John 1:1—2:2 (Jayné Kirk) | Words of Life: Community Management |
| 4/14/24 | 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48 | Words of Life: We Will Be Like Him |
| 4/21/24 | 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18 | Words of Life: In Speech and Action |
| 4/28/24 | 1 John 4:7-21 (Ellis Conley) | Words of Life |

JOY Fellowship (55+)

JOY Fellowship will hold our monthly covered dish lunch on **Thursday, April 18**, at 12:00 p.m. Bring a friend and your favorite dish to share. Our special guests will be our own Jill Gilbert and John Marra, owners of J & J Bee Farm. They will talk about the importance of bees, the bees’ jobs within the hive, the hive itself, and how we can help the bees. Join us!



Mother’s Day Dinner

The Annual UMW Mother’s Day Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, May 7**, and will be catered by Shonet's, with a choice of baked steak or chicken & dumplings. Tickets will be on sale starting mid-April on Sundays at the Connection Center and in the church office during the week. Adults \$12; children ages 6-12 \$5; and those ages 5 & under are free.

May is Forrest Burdette’s Month at the Cupboard

The sign-up board to volunteer at the Christian Community Cupboard in May is up and ready in the narthex! Forrest Burdette is responsible for staffing the Cupboard **every Tuesday and Friday in May**. This adds up to 9 days, so many hands are needed. Service time is apx. 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Please consider being a part of this ministry to our community. See Marvin Thompson (681-292-2739) or Steve Cook (304-521-3371) with questions.



From the Church Record

Congratulations to Joseph & Kirstyn Erwin on the March 29, 2024, birth of Brooks Weeden Erwin (7 lbs., 14 oz., 21”) and to proud grandmother Jo Bess. Christian sympathy is extended to Clarence Woodworth, Myra Hobbs, Leah Altizer, and their family upon the death of wife and mother Cindy Woodworth on March 29, 2024.

Former member Todd Masman passed away on August 9, 2023, and the family has asked us to announce that his memorial service will be April 13, 2024 in Buckhannon, WV at his alma mater WV Wesleyan College. Those who would like to attend may visit the family’s memorial page on Facebook, called “In Memory of T. Todd Masman,” for information on the service and the livestream link.

Celebration of Mission Event (C.O.M.E.)

2024 is the 27th year of Celebration of Mission Event gatherings to support our Conference Mission Ministries. Our district supports Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, The House of the Carpenter, and Volunteers in Mission. Tangible needs are:

Ebenezer (ECOC): Playdough, children’s toothbrushes & toothpaste, toilet paper
House of the Carpenter: shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, dish soap

Please bring your donations to the Connection Center by the morning of April 21.

April Showers Bring...



This month we are collecting HYGIENE ITEMS for our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes.

- Soap (in original packaging)
- Washcloths
- Combs (sturdy ones)
- Nail Clippers/Manicure Sets

You can drop your items off in the OCC collection box at the Connection Center throughout the month.

Cash donations are also welcome – we can use the funds to purchase these items in bulk at great prices!

For more info., contact Beth Sauvageot (304-542-0601) or Jackie Adkins (304-552-8796).

PipeSounds Presents...

Dave Wickerham

Returning by Popular Request
 on the
 Harrah Symphonic Organ
 presenting

“Music from the Million Dollar Movies!”

**Sunday, April 21, 2024
 3:00 p.m.**

ADMISSION: \$15; Students: Free

Forrest Burdette Memorial
 United Methodist Church



Special Report:

General Conference 2020 in 2024

862 Delegates from across the world will gather in Charlotte, NC, from April 23-May 3. This General Conference was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, and it was delayed due to the worldwide pandemic. General Conference is where The United Methodist Church's legislative work takes place. General Conference has four written languages and simultaneous interpretation into 9 spoken languages as well as American Sign language.

(Picture includes the six voting delegates, 3 clergy and 3 laity, from WV to General Conference. In addition, there are six reserves, 3 clergy and 3 laity, who will be present and can fill in if one of the delegates is not able to attend all the sessions. The six voting delegates are Rev. Amy Shanholtzer, Judi Kenaston (from Forrest Burdette), Rev. Jeff Taylor, Rich Shaffer, Rev. Lauren Godwin, and Rachel Fulton. Rev. Joe Kenaston is one of the reserves.)



General Conference is marked by prayer, worship, and conversation. The first week is spent primarily in legislative committees, and the second week is in a plenary session (all delegates together). The legislative committees include Church and Society, Conferences, Discipleship, Faith and Order, Financial Administration, General Administration, Global Ministries, Higher Education & Superintendency, Independent Commissions, Judicial Administration, Local Church, and Ordained Ministries. Among other tasks, the General Conference will set the budget for the worldwide church for the next four years, discuss regionalization, review the Social Principles, and consider making changes to the United Methodist constitution and the Book of Discipline. General Conference will also be asked to approve the official study of the mission of the church.

Our Prayer for General Conference:

Almighty and gracious God, we, the people of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, ask that you have mercy on your church. Once again, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us; renew and restore your church until we are made new. Instill within these delegates humble hearts and discerning minds that hunger and thirst for your righteousness and your vision for our future. Through the decisions of General Conference, return to this church a passionate longing for the coming of your kingdom, and unite us in one mission: to reach and make new disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Amen.

Forrest Burdette will have updates available through www.wvumc.org and www.umc.org. In addition, Joe and Judi Kenaston will also send several updates during the General Conference.

Rev. Charles S. and Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship

Calling all High School seniors (and their families). It is time to apply for the Rev. Charles and Alma Thompson Scholarship. The scholarship is for post-secondary education. Please contact the church office to receive an application form. The deadline is May 12, so do not delay.

Laity Educational Event

Nine Rivers Laity Educational Event, formerly known as Lay Academy, is set for May 3-4, 2024, at Forrest Burdette UMC. This is a 2-day (Friday evening—Saturday all day), in-person event. Please pick up a brochure behind the Connection Center desk for more information, or scan this code. >>>



Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for February 2024:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| February Contributions Received | \$52,846 |
| Monthly Receipts Needed | \$69,895 |
| Deficit | \$17,049 |

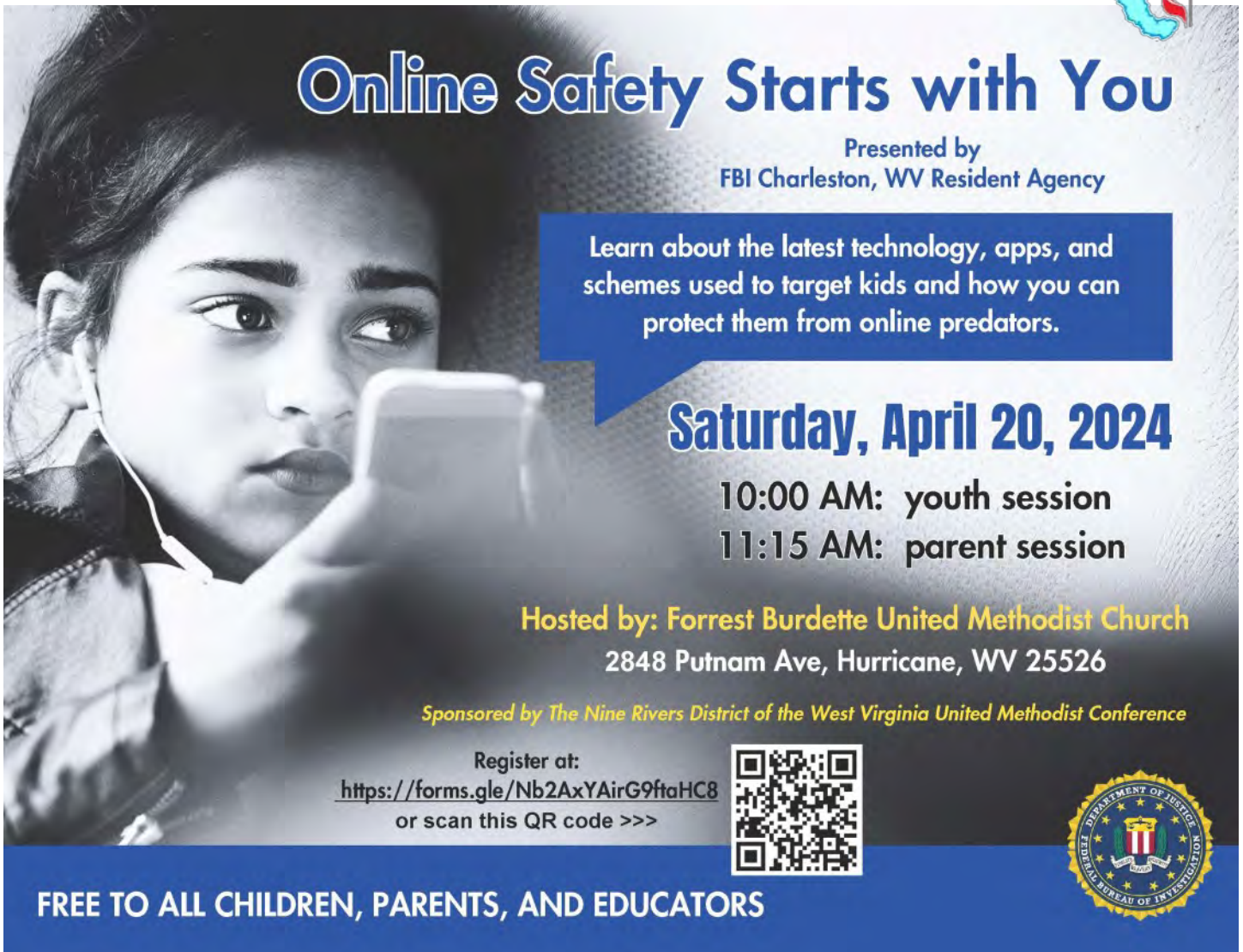
Mortgage Balance:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| February 2024 Payments on Mortgage | \$12,137.65 |
| Funds Received, February 2024 | \$14,568.60 |
| Over Budget | \$2,430.95 |

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.

"A Bike for Every Pastor" Donations..... \$4,500
Thank you so much for your generous support for this program. Thirty bicycles will be able to be purchased in North Katanga due to your generosity during Lent.

Forrest Burdette to Host Important Program by the FBI, through the Nine Rivers District:



Online Safety Starts with You

Presented by
FBI Charleston, WV Resident Agency

Learn about the latest technology, apps, and schemes used to target kids and how you can protect them from online predators.



Saturday, April 20, 2024

10:00 AM: youth session
11:15 AM: parent session

Hosted by: **Forrest Burdette United Methodist Church**
2848 Putnam Ave, Hurricane, WV 25526

Sponsored by *The Nine Rivers District of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference*

Register at:
<https://forms.gle/Nb2AxYAirG9ftaHC8>
or scan this QR code >>>



FREE TO ALL CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND EDUCATORS

April Birthdays:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Kristen Corley, Brooklyn McCoy | 21 Bob Blankenship, Jada Good, Andrew Hankins, Todd Lilly, Will Painter |
| 2 Judy Cleveland, Alex Dean, Paul Landin, Michael Myers, Tom Turner | 22 Sarah Clark, Bruce Hunt, Mary Lane, T.J. McFadden |
| 3 Ryan Anders, Virginia Clark, Missi Fisher, Clay Jackson, Jacqui Meeks, Doug Pitzer, Allison Weiss | 23 Lee Simmons |
| 4 Charlie Johnson | 24 Trey Smith |
| 5 Amy Crook, Ella Grant, Cooper Holland | 25 Judith L. Smith |
| 6 Mark Akers, Michael Fruth, Carl Proffitt | 26 Sherman Burlingame, Melissa Catlin, Clark Collins, Spencer Davis, Oliver Johnson, Steve Neumeyer, Bree Ogle, Jennifer Stover |
| 7 McKenzie Myers, Amy Nitzel, David Shanklin | 27 Barry Armstrong, Blake Brown, Chad Johnson, Jon McCoy |
| 8 Jennifer Weiss Blower, Kristy Bowyer, Chris Brown, Morgan Brown, Karen Campbell, Karlee Edwards, Gail Samson, Kristin Smith, Clarence Woodworth | 28 Deloris Arthur, Jonathan Edwards |
| 9 Alan Clegg, Ryan Clegg, Rusty Ellis, Ainsley Hollaway, Austin Miller, Nathan Wendel | 29 Jeannie Adams, Priscilla Deskins, Emma Ferguson, Taylor Hazelett, Emma Holley, Grace Holley, Brian McCann, Sam Robson, Linda Swan |
| 10 Donna Landin, Harold Walker | 30 Kaylan Johnson, Tammy Nelson |
| 11 Brad Hall, Aidan Martinez, Priscilla Simmons, Barbara Wyatt | |
| 12 Joe Ann Gyke, Bailey Hill, Joseph Rogowski | |
| 13 Andy Burns | |
| 14 Carol Rowsey | |
| 15 Reid Painter, Jeremy Rogers, Joanne Sovine | |
| 16 Debbie Bias, Leigh Anne Cutlip, Mia Ferguson, Lauren Freeman | |
| 17 Jane Sentelle, Sarah Westfall | |
| 18 Bill Hollaway, Danielle Johnson, Karen Ray | |
| 19 Abby Baker, Debby Cunningham, Chad Halstead | |
| 20 J.T. Holdren, Cole Newman | |

April Anniversaries:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 Bill & Diana Allen | 21 Steve & Kathy Wandling |
| 9 Jr. & Vickie Barnhouse | 22 Dale & Debbie Duespohl |
| 9 Ben & Kara Hughes | 27 Michael & Morgan Sword |
| 10 Ed & Betsy Byus | 28 Jeff & Natalie Elkins |
| 12 Bob & Pat Litton | |

** 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?



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

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Words of Life

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life...

4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John 1:1, 4

