



# VISIONS

The newsletter of  
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE  
WITH  
OUR COMMUNITY

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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

## Fireworks

In a few days, we'll commemorate 250 years as a country. I greet it with a great sense of humility, pride and healthy respect for the freedoms our forebears fought to preserve. Fourth of July celebrations come with many customs and fireworks are a favorite. Soon, night will serve as the backdrop to pyrotechnic pageantry. I've always liked the fact that fireworks fix our collective faces to the skies. In the fullness of all the freedoms we enjoy, to peel our eyes upward is an appropriate posture to assume; it ensures we keep a proper perspective.

In Acts 1, the disciples were doing the same, fixed on another spectacle: Jesus. His ascension precipitated the formation of a fog heavier than firework smoke. Did you see it? It was a fog that settled squarely on the disciples' faces. They were flummoxed: "Whh...whh...well...wait a second, Lord. We thought this would be the time you'd take the lead. We assumed you've returned to roll up your sleeves and start renovating. Uh, in case you didn't realize, Rome still rules and a kingdom still needs constructing. Is now the time? And if it is, how can you perform a new work in the world if you're presumably leaving it?"

But before we bang the gavel in judgement of their shortsightedness, it behooves us to look in the mirror. Aren't we guilty of the same? Turn the pages of the recent or distant past and recount the times you stared aimlessly into the skies, hedging your hopes that your current circumstances would change because of God somehow sweeping in and changing your situation---almost like one of those surprise renovation shows on HGTV.

While it's certainly not beyond God's capacity to change circumstances and therefore change us, I'm just saying it's much less popular to pray that God change us and therefore transform our circumstances.

**But here's the thing: When *everything else* matters, *nothing else* changes.**

At one point in time for the disciples, *everything else* mattered: The threat of Rome and its politics, concern over what others might say or do; The fear of persecution and its pain, confusion of purpose and feelings of inadequacy... ...And then there was that dreaded fear of death.

If the above represented *everything else*, then everything else mattered. We have a lot of "everything else's" as well. I won't list them here, but nothing else changes when everything else matters. We don't change and rarely does the world around us change, at least not for the better. However, with the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost there was a major shift in the lives of what now is "the church." It was a shift as unassuming as a change in words, but it was as significant as a change of heart:

**When *nothing else* matters but God, *everything else* changes.**

Rome still ruled. There was still dissension to deal with, believe it or not. Persecution and pain came repeatedly. The disciples were still ordinary... and death was always knocking at the door. But everything changed for those early Christ followers because nothing else mattered but God. Wherever you are, whichever way you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>, know this: **His fire works**. It still does.

*-Pastor Jake*

## Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

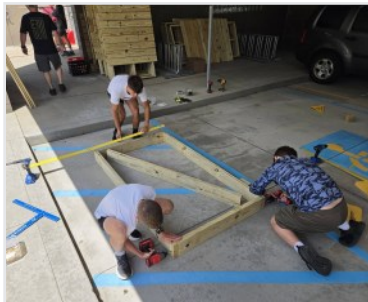
We had a great week at Hero Central Vacation Bible School! Whether you are part of a family who brought your child to VBS, a Sunday school class who prepared dinner, a station leader, Captain Flame, or anyone else who helped with VBS at all: **THANK YOU!**



[There have been two special crews of servants taking down the Hero Central decorations as this newsletter is being finished. Your ministry has not been missed!]

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!*

## Youth Mission Memories WV Mission Trip, June 15-19, 2026



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



Hi Everyone!

**WOW:** we're coming off a fun week of Vacation Bible School, and it was great! The children loved Flame, the story time was amazing, the songs were learnable and the staff got the children engaged with them, the crafts were perfect, and they kids had fun playing in the gym during game time.

All in all, a great week.

I hope we can carry the songs and lessons learned throughout the week of VBS with us this summer, as we strive to bring the children a program filled with God's love.

A huge thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who worked the program especially for our students — we truly appreciate each of you.

As always, we thank the church for your prayers and support of COM. We could not serve the families and children we do, without you. Please continue to keep our children, their families, as well as our staff in your prayers, that we can have a positive, lasting impact on their lives.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥



"With God at our center and parents as our partners, we will nurture the total child emotionally, physically and spiritually."

Children's Outreach Ministries has put together the following summer wish list. If you would like to contribute any of the following items, please contact the COM office at 304-562-9170. Many thanks!

- Ladder ball set
- Badminton rackets & birdies
- Bubble solution w/ no spill bubble containers
- Basketball goal for parking lot
- Refillable water balloons
- Toddler playhouse for playground
- Basketball net
- A few each of: Basketballs, Soccer balls, Tennis balls, Kick balls, Volleyballs, Whiffle balls
- Horse shoe sets
- Portable corn hole set
- T-ball set
- Dry erase markers
- Frisbees
- Sidewalk chalk



## A Note from the Cupboard

CONGRATULATIONS for providing such great volunteer coverage for the Cupboard during May 2026. As I mentioned, covering the entire month is a huge task and Forrest Burdette certainly stepped up nicely.

For the month the Cupboard served 257 families (largest month so far this year) comprised of 160 seniors, 194 children and 411 adults for a total household count of 765 (also a high for the month). And, my personal favorite, we served 17 NEW families this month.

Thanks again for your service in so many different ways!

—John Ballengee, Operations Manager

## Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for May 2026:

May 2026 Contributions Received.....\$59,646  
 Monthly Receipts Needed .....\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

May 2026 Payments on Mortgage\* .....\$12,138  
 Funds Received, May 2026 .....\$13,190

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

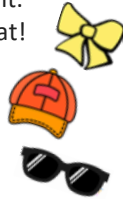


### GIFT OF THE MONTH

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?*

**JULY**—For girls, let's add **bows** with colors so bright, And **hair clips** and **accessories** that bring pure delight. For boys, a **cap** or **hat** is a gift that will surely be great! And for everyone, here's a wonderful choice—**Sunglasses** to share and make hearts rejoice! So, gather your goodies and give with a smile, Your shoebox may travel many, many a mile. A small gift of love can brighten a day, And show God's great love in a very special way



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.



### MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The 2026 season is in full swing!

Join the team, or catch a game at Valley Park!

	July 7, 6:00 p.m.	July 20, 8:00 p.m.	
	July 13, 8:00 p.m.	July 28—tournament	

Contact: Coach J.B. Marinacci, 304-767-1172

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED  
 THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?**



There's **one** thing we all want...  
 There's **one** thing we all have...  
 And if there's **one** God we all serve,  
 There's **one** thing we've got to do.

### Matthew 25: 14-30

**A two-part sermon on tapping talent and taking chances.**

Week 1: (Jul. 5th) "The One with the One"  
 Week 2: (Jul. 12th) "The Ones to the One"



## BLOOD DRIVE: July 17, 12-5:00PM

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter HURRICANECOM to schedule an appointment. The drive will be held in the Forrest Burdette Fellowship Hall. *Donating blood only takes about an hour. Can you spare one?*

## Citywide Yard Sale—August 8, 2026

The United Methodist Women are once again offering \$10 parking spots for the annual Citywide Yard Sale on **Saturday, August 8**. 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 UMW. Volunteers are welcome in the kitchen; contact Ruth Blankenship (304-542-8281).

**IF THERE IS A GROUP WITHIN THE CHURCH** that would like to organize a churchwide yard sale on August 8th, you would benefit from many donations and all the profit! In recent years, a sale has been organized by groups such as Operation Christmas Child and our youth. We ask that you don't sell food, since the UMW will be selling food that day. Please contact the church office if your group is interested ([office@forrestburdette.com](mailto:office@forrestburdette.com) or 304-562-5903).



## July Birthdays:

- 1 Jo Chapple, Kay Davidson
- 2 Radley Edwards, Laken Faulknier, Allyson Lawhon
- 3 Rachel Baker, Susan Dean, Sarah Moore
- 4 Linda Harshbarger, Mark Webb
- 5 Lillian George
- 6 David Baker
- 7 Judy Armstrong, Carolyn Cremeans
- 8 Tim Stinespring
- 9 Brad Cochran, Matthew Sette, Nancy Smith
- 10 Emily Hanning, Katina Haight, John Martin, Hermit Stover
- 11 Quinn Hazelett, Zack Spurlock, Sarah Warner
- 12 Austin Davis
- 13 Tyler Akers, Josh Dunlap, Drew McClanahan
- 14 Steve Cook
- 15 Lynn Clay, Kevin Crouse, Sara Dean, Jane Gillispie
- 16 Lauren Turley, Terry Turley
- 17 Sierra Fisher, Karen Marsh, Katie Spencer, Daniel Vance
- 18 Beth Anderson, Marsha Jones
- 19 *No birthdays on record today*
- 20 Dax Blower, Allison Brown, Lily Bryan, Mike Cartwright, Mike Mellace, Eli Valent, Zach West
- 21 Beth Pitzer
- 22 Gary Edgell, Bailey Philyaw, Kent Schamp, Mark Wooddell
- 23 Mike Baker, Kirstyn Erwin, Michelle Jackson, Sadi Phillips,



- Caleb Vassar, Andrew West
- 24 Scott Bowyer, Kendra Schamp, Cierra Stevens
- 25 Jeff Elkins, Darya Ferguson, Josephine Marsh, Cheri Rollyson
- 26 Pat Faulknier, Brittany Johnson, Zoey Williams
- 27 Josh Anderson, Rob Marsh
- 28 Pat Holland, Blake Kennedy, Jennifer Kimble, Margie Veit, Monty Vickers
- 29 *No birthdays on record today*
- 30 Rachel Blankenship, Robby Blankenship, Morgan Kimble, Nathan Neville
- 31 Brett Faulknier, Scott Fizer, Maycle Mason



## July Anniversaries:

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 Warren & Pat Faulknier | 18 Randy & Jayné Kirk       |
| 5 Scott & Claudia Fizer  | 19 Gary & Sandy Vargo       |
| 6 Matt & Lauren Cox      | 21 Paul & Sally Page        |
| 6 Brad & Crista Hall     | 23 Mark & Kim Dunlap        |
| 7 John & Kim Neville     | 23 Gary & Jill Newman       |
| 9 Bob & Jackie Alexander | 24 Brandon & Shelley Porter |
| 14 Jake & Emily Steele   | 25 Jimmy & Candi Conaway    |
| 15 Tim & Terri Stanley   | 25 Jeff & Debbie Haynes     |
| 17 Bob & Susan Petryszak | 30 Brian & Jen Lauck        |
| 18 Harold & Sue Bennett  | 30 Jody & Bree Ogle         |
| 18 Eddie & Cathy Ellison |                             |

\*\* 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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## SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

### Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 06/30/2026



Pictured is our VBS banner! Julie Conley at Craft Headquarters sectioned off the design so the children worked on one part at a time. Every child in the morning and evening sessions had a turn to create the color combinations for each part of the banner. The verse was our theme for VBS this year. Everyone did a great job!