

**Our Mission:**

- Minister to people where they are;
- Equip disciples on the journey;
- Glorify God in all things

God, grant us the wisdom to know your plan for us and the strength to carry it out. Amen.

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May 2023

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Judi and I were in Pittsburgh at our god-son's wedding on Saturday. It was a joyous occasion. We have been good friends with his parents since well before he was born. One person who was at our table was a high school English teacher. She has twelfth graders this year. I asked her how the year had been going and she said, "great until Tuesday of this week." Being curious, I asked her what had happened on Tuesday. Thinking they may have completed their AP work, she surprised me by saying, "senioritis happened."

The students had had a great year up until Tuesday. They were attentive in class, well behaved, did their homework, and seemed to care about school and learning. I guess the fresh breeze of spring had blown through the classroom, and students decided to float along the air currents of "take it easy, we're almost done, and what does it matter" for the remainder of the school year. It has been many years since I was a high school senior or a college or grad school senior, but I remember when my internal countdown started. Prom, invitations to graduation, acceptance into college and four years later into seminary. It is easy to start thinking you have made it to "easy street."

This transition to senioritis is not unique to students. It can happen to all of us. I have friends who have retired, and sometime the year before they start an app on their phone that tells them months, weeks, days, and hours till they retire. That is senioritis! When you are transitioning to a new job, a new home, or a new community, senioritis can set in long before you move into whatever is next.

In the church, I believe that senioritis can set in after Easter or when summer starts. Through the years, I have seen it in church participation, attendance, giving, and activities. I know that the days grow longer and warmer, and we start doing activities outside and maybe travel a little more. After the winter cold (which was mild this year) and the spring rains, we are ready for May flowers and summer. Yet, we continue to need to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in faith, deepen in our spiritual life, worship God, serve God, share Christ's love, and excel in ministry. I encourage you to celebrate the changing seasons, the beginning of May, and the coming of summer, but also not to neglect prayer, worship, growing, and serving. Our faith will be strengthened by avoiding senioritis and continuing to grow.

Grace and peace,
Joe

JOY Fellowship (55+)

The last JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship meeting of the year will be Thursday, May 18, and we're taking a road trip! We'll meet at the church at 10 a.m. and travel together to J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works in Malden, WV (about a thirty minute drive). We'll tour the Salt Works and then go to the South Charleston Cracker Barrel for lunch. Ride in the van, or drive with a friend; we'd love to have you join us. JOY Fellowship will return in the fall for potluck lunches on the third Thursday of each month. Thanks to Suzy and Mike Richardson for heading up the fun.





PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF

Ellis and Julia Conley

MAY 27, 2023

2:00-4:00 P.M.

FORREST BURDETTE MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Please RSVP by May 13
to Hannah at 304.807.7499 or hannahconley526@gmail.com*

David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Sunday School

5/7 from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the upstairs Uth room
5/14 from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the upstairs Uth room
5/21 from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the upstairs Uth room
5/28 from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the upstairs Uth room

Wednesday Night Bible Study

5/3 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meet in the gym, followed by the upstairs Uth room

Last WNBS for the school year! We will continue to do programming throughout the summer, but this will close out our WNBS until Fall. There will be pizza and cupcakes to celebrate the end of the year. **5th graders** who will be 6th graders in the fall are welcome to attend!

Graduate Recognition Sunday

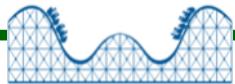
High school graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 14th (which is also Mother's Day). Make sure to contact David ASAP, so he has all high school graduate information, including: name, school graduating from, post-secondary plans (college, career, etc.), important extracurriculars the student was involved in throughout high school. Please contact David ASAP to let him know if your student will be in attendance. Email: youth@forrestburdette.com

**College graduates will be recognized later this summer, so if you have a college student who is graduating, please feel free to send David the above info as well.

YOUTH SUNDAY - May 21st - Confirmation Sunday

The 10:30 a.m. worship service will be led by the youth on Sunday, May 21st. They will be involved in the planning of the entire service, and David will give the message. Come out to support the youth as they design and lead this service!

Also, this is the Sunday that the youth participating in Confirmation 2023 will be confirmed into the church.



RCAT 2023 Registration Deadline

The deadline to register for Roller-Coaster-A-Thon 2023 is Sunday, May 14th. We will be traveling to Cedar Point on Saturday, June 2, we will stay overnight in a United Methodist Church, and then we will travel to King's Island on Sunday, June 3. We will return by 11:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 3. All travel, lodging, drinks, and meals are covered in the registration fee for the entire weekend. Participants will also receive a t-shirt for the weekend. Cost to register is \$175 with scholarships available by contacting David at youth@forrestburdette.com.

Mission Trip 2023

This summer, we will travel to McDowell County, WV to serve from Friday, June 16 - Sunday, June 18. We will be immersed in the Appalachian culture of southern WV and learn about how faith has played an important role in Appalachian heritage. While doing so, we will also be providing clean up services to a historic miner monument, and we will host a community food event following worship services on Sunday. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about how mission work is needed everywhere, not just in other countries/states. Even right here in WV, we have plenty of opportunities to serve our neighbors. If you are interested in finding out more about this event, please contact David. Any student 5th grade and up is welcome to attend. We will also need a couple chaperones, so if you are interested in committing a weekend to service in southern WV, reach out to David at youth@forrestburdette.com.



Jayne Kirk Minister of Children & Families



May 3rd marks the end of our Wednesday evening programming, which also means that VBS season is beginning. Pray for our VBS that we can work together and connect in our community with families by providing a fun week of faith, fun, and learning. Keep our theme verse in your heart as we get ready to present Hero Hotline: Called together to serve God!

"So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Romans 14:19

You can sign up to help by filling out a purple form at the Connection Center or talking to me. This year we want to do a science station. If you are interested in doing kid friendly experiments and connecting them to God's wonder – this would be a perfect way for you to get involved.

 VBS is the Children's Ministries largest event of the year, and it is a mission of connection with our local families. You can also help by spreading the word and inviting friends and neighbors to join us June 25-29 for a family dinner and lots of fun.

Rev. Charles S. and Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship



High School seniors, it's time to apply for the Rev. Charles and Alma Thompson Scholarship. The scholarship is for post-secondary education. Contact the church office to receive an application form. The deadline is May 14.

Worship for May

On April 30, we start a three-part sermon series based on tithing, God's generosity, and the joy of giving. As we reflect on our lives, we grow in our faith when we prioritize our time, resources, and commitments around God's will. The worship experiences will be marked by joyous music, moving prayers, challenging scriptures, and sermons that cause us to rethink and, perhaps, change the way we live. In addition, we will celebrate Confirmations with six of our youth and share in the joy of Pentecost.

April 30	Malachi 3:8-14 1 Corinthians 15:50 – 16:4	The Day Jesse James Came to Church
May 7	1 Kings 17:8-16	The Bottom of the Jar
May 14	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	The Privilege of Sharing
May 21	Scripture to be picked by the youth	Confirmation Sunday
May 28	Acts 2:1-21 Gen. 11:1-9	Pentecost: God Speaks to All

Grief Support Group

If you are grieving a loss, please join us for comfort, rest, and prayer as we learn about the grief process and how we can better cope with it. **Next meeting dates: May 6th and 27th, at the church in Room 111, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659 or Robbie Parsons at (304) 542-0981.

May is Forrest Burdette's Month at the Cupboard

Look for the sign up board at the Connection Center to volunteer at the Christian Community Cupboard this month. 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! *There are still openings for you!* Service time is apx. 8:30 a.m.—12:00 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 Alyssa Marinacci and Landon Hutchison on the birth of daughter Brynleigh Jo on March 31 (7 lbs., 1 oz., 20")! New grandparents are J.B. & Jennifer Marinacci.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for April 2023:

April Contributions Received as of 4/25/23\$55,393
Monthly Receipts Needed\$67,538

*** Please remember to bring in your donations for the Celebration of Mission Event (C.O.M.E.) by the morning of May 7th! The list of needs is in the Sunday bulletin and weekly E-Connection. ***

Mother's Day Dinner

The Annual UMW Mother's Day Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, May 2**, catered by Shonet's, with a choice of baked steak or chicken & dumplings. Tickets are on sale Sundays at the Connection Center and in the church office during the week. Adults \$12, children ages 6-12 \$5, those 5 & under are free.



Churchwide Clean-up & Fix-up Day

Everyone is asked to come out to the church on **Saturday, May 13**, starting at 9:00 a.m., for a churchwide clean-up and fix-up day, led by our Trustees. We will take on both interior and exterior jobs. Wear your work clothes! Contact a Trustee for more information.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, May 19, 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. @ FBMUMC

Call 1-800-733-2767, or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "hurricane.com" to schedule an appointment. The need for donations is great. Would you like to volunteer at this drive, or do you have questions? Contact Jo Bess (304-545-0096).

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

What a beautiful Spring we are having. I love hearing the birds first thing in the morning, seeing all of the green return to the trees, almost overnight, and getting to watch more and more bright flowers pop up. It's a beautiful time of year!

I'm also glad to see the big pile of engineered wood fiber playground mulch in the parking lot. It being there means we are one step closer to having our playground not only look better, but also be a safer space for all the children, both ours and the community using it. From what we have been told, the mulch should be installed by next week! Yay!

We have put in an order for new equipment on the Early Ed playground, and the Infants and Toddlers are LOVING having their own new playground!



We have been busy getting ready for summer, enrolling a few new students, as we were blessed to only have about 5 open spots available for the summer session and less than a dozen spots in the fall. This is definitely a blessing and a good problem to have, but there are so many people in need of quality care for their children. Please keep them in your prayers as they navigate a path to find what is best for their families.

As always, we are thankful for you, the church, for the space, support, and prayers you provide for us. We could not serve the families and children of the area without it. Thank you.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥

MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The 2023 season is in full swing!

Catch a game at Valley Park, or join the team.



May 2, 6:00 p.m. May 23, 8:00 p.m.

May 8, 8:00 p.m. June 1, 6:00 p.m.

May 16, 6:00 p.m. June & July dates to follow

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

May Birthdays:

- 1 Ashley Clark, Granvel Dilley, Emily Vargo
- 2 Jason Billups, David Haney, Matthew Harshbarger, Rick Turner
- 3 No birthdays on record today
- 4 Madelyn Bowyer, Karen Cummings, Charlotte Daniels, Carissa Lawhon, Jennifer Rogers, Vanisea Winfree
- 5 Brent Andrews, Martha Bennett, Samuel Booker, Marty Martinez, Caleb Totten
- 6 Linda Clark, Allen Kirk
- 7 Kara Rose, Whitney Williams
- 8 Brittney Arthur, Erica Pomeroy, Scott Warner
- 9 Lauren McCoy, Vicki Stover, Paige Winfree
- 10 Marilyn Phillips, Dolores Price
- 11 Dawn Barcroft, Lauren Lipinski, Tyler Ray
- 12 Kennedi Brainard, Callie McClanahan, Sabrina Ray, Beverly Turner
- 13 Marc Fizer, Casey Levy
- 14 Becky Landin
- 15 Chris McCoy
- 16 Steve Golden
- 17 Don Collins, Keyria Franklin, Skip Johnson, Caleb Turner
- 18 Jesse Golden, Kristina Painter
- 19 Randy Mayhew, Joyce Sayre
- 20 Joshua Harshbarger
- 21 John Bennett, Jackson Harris, Hayden Jones, Philip Lane, Connor McClanahan, Linda Wagner
- 22 Rocco Hughes

- 23 Nancy Austin, Katherine Held, Kevin Phillips, Ben Veit
- 24 Leila Holland, Craig Houston, Katie Keen, Jerry Lilly, Nick Schamp
- 25 Megan Peterson
- 26 Zane Franklin, Terri Haney, Bryson Haught, Dick Swisher
- 27 Patricia Enochs
- 28 Riley Elkins
- 29 Louis Blair, Jonah Fenerty, Noah Fenerty, Bob Gibson, Barbara Karastury, Marsha Kauffman, Danny Simms, Olin Spencer
- 30 Mark Dunlap, Angie Nitardy
- 31 Larry Clendenin



May Anniversaries:

7	Mark & Megan Peterson	19	Toby & Alisa Spiker
12	Jeremy & Danielle Grant	20	Larry & Linda Wagner
12	Chad & Lori Halstead	21	Chris & Jane Bogan
16	Mark & Carla Akers	28	Ellis & Julie Conley
16	Chris & Ashley Clark	30	Steve Blower & Jennifer Weiss Blower
16	Mike & Stephanie Mellace		

** 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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TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
7:00 PM
FORREST BURDETTE UMC
JOIN THE HURRICANE CIVIC CHORUS AS THEY CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY. THE CONCERT IS FREE (DONATIONS ACCEPTED).