

April 2026



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.

"Do This Fast"

(by Rev. Jake Steele)

Empty phrases, mechanical praises,
Polished Sunday shoes.

Painless abstaining, busy maintaining...
Is this the fast I choose?

Starved of the word, absent in the world,
But present in the pews.

Witness refraining, masquerading...
Is this the fast I choose?

Housing the homeless, reaching the hopeless,
Breaking all bonds loose;

Clothing the naked, guarding the sacred,
Is this not the fast I choose?

May the master of all be the servant of all;
Let the first become the last.

This fast is an action, we cannot be passive,
This *do*, do this fast.

Don't just hear the words,
Receive the words,

Take the words and *do* them.
It's not liberal or conservative,
It's not political, just *human*.

Not someday one day, later or maybe
Tomorrow's too late, stop hesitating!

Church, move now!

Too much time has passed.

Do this, this fast do...

And do it (you guessed it) *fast*.

*"Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help and he will say, Here I am."
(Isa. 58: 6-9).*

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Hey Church Family,

Our youth have had a wonderful time gathering together and preparing for Easter this March. Many of us chose to give something up for Lent, and we enjoyed celebrating with a fun ice cream outing as a group. We were also blessed to hear from two of our youth, Reese and Rylee, who shared about the incredible opportunity they have to travel to Dublin, Ireland this summer. I have also been working with our conference youth leaders as we plan and look ahead to our summer programming.

Our college students will be receiving a box of goodies at the end of March to help prepare them for finals. Please join us in praying for their continued success and for their safe return home after finals.

As we look ahead to April, we're excited for warmer weather and the opportunity to incorporate more outdoor activities into our youth programming. There are many ideas in the works, and we're looking forward to another great month together! Please keep an eye on the bulletin or E-Connection for more information about April youth activities.

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

The Bunny Breakfast on March 21st was a great success! With 70-80 people in attendance, we had 30 children who enjoyed the egg hunt *and* petting the bunnies brought in by the Rameys! Thank you to ALL the volunteers & donors who made the morning possible.

Save the date for the next **Children's Ministry Team meeting: April 14 at 6:30 p.m.**, in Room 213 All those who want to help plan our Vacation Bible School are encouraged to attend this meeting. **2026 Vacation Bible School will be held the evenings of June 21-25** (and June 22-26 for those serving with the morning VBS for COM).

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!*

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

Hi! It's finally spring, and we have lots to do around COM to get ready for summer. We are in the process of completing rosters for the summer session, as well as the coming fall. It seems so odd to be planning the 2026-27 school year already.

The good news is that we are finally going to be able to call some of the families on our wait list as children move up and proceed on to school. It honestly seems like so long that we have had to keep saying, "Sorry, but all of our classrooms are full." Soon we will be saying that again, but it's still fun to be able to call and tell people they have gotten in. Some have waited 2 years or more. Then we get to add new faces and friends to the center. It's an exciting time!

As always we are grateful for your continued support and prayers for our families and staff, that we provide for the needs of each child we encounter in COM. Thank you.

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



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?*



April Shoebox Reminder!

In April we pack with hearts so tall,
But remember, friends — the toys are SMALL!
Not big, not bulky, not giant at all,
Just tiny treasures that fit in the box wall-to-wall.
Little cars, small dolls, balls that bounce,
Stickers and puzzles in small little amounts!
Small gifts can bring BIG joy, you see —
To children across the land and sea!

Scan this QR code to see some of these ideas on our Amazon wishlist. You may purchase items from the wishlist and have them sent right to the church, or bring your donations to the box in the Connection Center.



**FB KIDS
KNOW YOUR BIBLE**

STARTING APRIL 26 DURING
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

UPSTAIRS IN ROOM 308
WITH MISS JAYNÉ

Students will dig into the Bible to learn:

- What is the Bible & where did it come from?
- What is in the Bible?
- What is the Bible about?
- How do I read my Bible?



Palm Sunday Celebration @ 10:30 am
Featuring FBMUMC Orchestra



Maundy Thursday Worship
The Trough, the Table, the Tomb & what they Tell Us
7:00 pm



Good Friday
A Monologue featuring the 1st Thief
7:00 pm



Easter Sunrise **Apr. 5**
7am
Valley Park; Large Shelter Near the Pond; Teays Valley Ministerial Alliance



Easter Worship Celebration
10:30 am



This service will conclude our 6-week 'Strangers Things' Sermon Series. Here, we'll encounter the colt's tether and therein discover the rich lesson of simple obedience.

On this 'mandatum' or 'maundy' Thursday, we'll take a closer look at the clothing of Christ and connect it with the new command he gives us.

On the day our Lord was crucified, a prison door broke and a life was liberated. In this theatrically driven message, you'll hear from the first thief.

Join us along with a host of other area churches as we celebrate our risen Lord at Valley Park in the lower shelter nearest the pond. Organized by the Teays Valley Ministerial Alliance, this ecumenically based service will feature hymn singing, a special musical selection from Pastor Jake and preaching by Matt Davis, lead pastor at Bridge Church.

As we celebrate a vacant cross, an empty tomb and a risen Savior, you'll receive powerful preaching and take part in passionate worship that will inspire transformed living and faithful service in the name of Jesus.

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 (elevator available), Monday through Friday (3/30-4/3), 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Suggestions for how to use your prayer time will be available at the Labyrinth.



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 a beautiful flowering cross!

JOY Fellowship (55+)



The speaker for the next JOY Fellowship will be Luke Spurgeon, to fill us in on all the youth activities and how we can help and encourage them. We meet at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall on the **third Thursday, April 16**. Bring or buy some food to share and come on out for a good lunch and some fine conversation. Ruel Elliott makes the best sweet potato casserole ever! We'll save some for you. Bring a friend! ("JOY" stands for "Just Older Youth"!)

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to Susan McCracken upon the death of her husband John Bayliss Jr., 3/11/26, and to Judy Armstrong upon the death of her husband Barry Armstrong, 3/26/26.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for February 2026:

February 2026 Contributions Received\$62,542
Monthly Receipts Needed\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

February 2026 Payments on Mortgage*\$12,138
Funds Received, February 2026.....\$11,747

Soup & Chili Fundraiser for Youth, 2/15\$1,148

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

THANK YOU to all the generous servants who worked the Egg Factory and /or the Spring Fling in March!

Beginners Pickleball Continues

Our beginners pickleball group is open to all. Come learn the rules and techniques of the game. The group plays from 4pm to 6pm in the church gym each Sunday. *Note that we will not meet on April 5th, Easter Sunday.*

Rev. Charles S. & Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship



Forrest Burdette high school seniors: it's time to apply for the Rev. Charles S. & Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is for post-secondary education. Please contact the church office to receive an application form. **The deadline is May 3**, so do not delay.



May is Forrest Burdette's Month to Serve at the Cupboard

The sign-up board to volunteer at the Christian Community Cupboard in May will be posted in the narthex during April. 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 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Please consider being a part of this ministry to our community. See Marvin Thompson (681-292-2739) or Tim Stanley (304-552-4763) with questions.

Mother's Day Dinner



The Annual UMW Mother's Day Dinner will be held at the church on **Tuesday, May 5**, and will be catered by Shonet's Country Café, with a choice of baked steak or chicken & dumplings. And we can't forget about their pie! This event is for all women: mothers, daughters, sisters, friends. Tickets will be on sale starting soon 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.

PipeSounds Presents...



Please join us for the final concert in our 2025-2026 PipeSounds Series:
"Hymns Through the Ages"
with Dave Wickerham
including a closing hymn sing
Sunday, April 19, 2026
3:00 p.m.

The UM Foundation Job Opening

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia is currently accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. This is a part time position of 24 hours per week. The Administrative Assistant provides vital support to the staff of The Foundation by assisting with donor communications and managing records and data. The successful candidate will be an organized, service-minded individual who works collaboratively and upholds The Foundation's values in all interactions. Resumes should be emailed to The Foundation's CFO, Susannah Carpenter at scarpenter@umfwv.org.

April Birthdays:

- 1 Kristen Corley, Brooklyn McCoy
- 2 Judy Cleveland, Alex Dean, Paul Landin, Michael Myers, Tom Turner
- 3 Ryan Anders, Clay Jackson, Jacqui Meeks, Doug Pitzer, Allison Weiss
- 4 Aaron Gooden, Charlie Johnson
- 5 Amy Crook, Ella Grant, Cooper Holland
- 6 Mark Ayers, Michael Fruth, Carl Proffitt
- 7 Mckenzie Myers, David Shanklin
- 8 Jennifer Blower, Kristy Bowyer, Chris Brown, Morgan Brown, Karen Campbell, Sally Page, Kristin Smith, Clarence Woodworth
- 9 Alen Clegg, Ryan Clegg, Rusty Ellis, Ainsley Hollaway, Austin Miller, Nathan Wendel
- 10 Donna Landin, Harold Walker
- 11 Brad Hall, Aidan Martinez, Barbara Wyatt
- 12 Joe Ann Gyke, Bailey Hill, Joseph Rogowski
- 13 Andy Burns
- 14 *No birthdays on record today*
- 15 Reid Painter, Jeremy Rogers
- 16 Leigh Anne Cutlip, Mia Ferguson, Lauren Freeman
- 17 Sarah Krukowski, Jane Sentelle
- 18 Bill Holloway, Danielle Johnson, Karen Ray
- 19 Abby Baker, Debby Cunningham



- 20 Cole Newman
- 21 Bob Blankenship, Jada Good, Andrew Hankins, Todd Lilly, Will Painter, Andrew Vassar
- 22 Bruce Hunt, Mary Lane, T.J. McFadden
- 23 Lee Simmons
- 24 Trey Smith
- 25 Judith L. Smith
- 26 Sherman Burlingame, Melissa Catlin, Clark Collins, Spencer Davis, Steve Neumeyer, Bree Ogle, Jennifer Stover
- 27 Blake Brown, Chad Johnson
- 28 Deloris Arthur, Jonathan Edwards
- 29 Jeannie Adams, Priscilla Deskins, Emma Ferguson, Taylor Hazelett, Brian McCann, Sam Robson, Linda Swan
- 30 Kaylan Johnson, Tammy Nelson



April Anniversaries:

- 9 Jr. & Vicki Barnhouse
- 9 Ben & Kara Hughes
- 10 Ed & Betsy Byus
- 12 Bob & Pat Litton
- 21 Steve & Kathy Wandling
- 27 Michael & Morgan Sword
- 28 Jeff & Natalie Elkins

** 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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Hurricane, WV 25526

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Hosanna!
BLESSED
is the one
who comes in the
in the NAME
of the
Lord!

Mark 11:9

 United Methodists. United Methodists. United Methodists.
The people of The United Methodist Church