



VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE
WITH
OUR COMMUNITY

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Senior Pastor



Holy Week

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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

At the time your eyes scan this page, Holy Week will be on the horizon.

Holy Week.

It's the week prior to Easter—a week that begins with a procession of palms as Jesus weaves his way through Jerusalem atop a donkey among a cacophony of shouts:

"Hosanna! Hosanna!" Save us.

Plenty of us are prone to fast-forward from one Sunday to the other, almost like we do with the commercials littered throughout the program we've recorded on the DVR. Get to the good stuff and forget the peripheral, right? Wave the palms and shout, "Hosannas" one Sunday and then save your breath for the "Hallelujahs" on Easter.

*"Hosanna! Save us!
Hallelujah! He is risen!"*

Throw the Palm Sunday confetti and then eat the chocolate egg seven days later for Easter.

Pass go, collect and carry on with the game.

But it's not called *Holy-Hop*. It's *Holy Week* for a reason. Stuff happens between Sundays, you know. *A lot. Triumph, tragedy, tears, a trial, betrayal, blood, abandonment, isolation, disappointment, death, doubt...sheer madness one moment and deafening silence the next.*

A lifetime of experience is smashed into a span of seven days. And try as we may to keep Jesus tidily tucked into Sundays, our Lord is *in it all...and thank God he is*. The week is *hellish*, but it's *holy* for no other reason than our Lord is in it—every bit of it.

We prefer to go from glory to glory...

...but we do so to our detriment because that's not a representative depiction of life and it's certainly not accurate of the Gospel.

Do yourself and your family a favor: refrain from fast-forwarding. I dare you: keep watching, keep walking, *stay tuned*. Move from Sunday into Monday and Monday into Tuesday; Tuesday into Wednesday and Wednesday into Thursday and Thursday into... *well, you get it*. There are three crosses on Friday. While we certainly acknowledge the outer two, our focus is fixed on what God is doing *in-between*.

Walk with Jesus and see that the whole week is holy because—in ways we can't possibly comprehend—He's in it somehow. If it's true of *that week*, it's true of *your week as well*.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Jake

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Hey Church Family,

Our youth have been very involved in school and sports this past month, with many of their winter seasons wrapping up. I want to say a special thank you to our church members who were able to attend games and cheer them on. Your support truly means a lot to our students and encourages them more than you know. With the snow beginning to melt, I'm sure there will be many more sporting events ahead, and more opportunities to show up and support them!

Just a reminder that **Youth Group meets every Sunday evening from 6:00–7:30 PM.** We have a great time together with games, fellowship, and meaningful Bible study. We are always excited to welcome new faces, so invite a friend and come join us!

Summer will be here before we know it, so please mark your calendars and plan for these upcoming activities:

Summer Trip Schedule:

Youth Mission Trip - June 15th–19th

Rollercoaster Trip - August 1st

If you are interested in attending either of these trips or would like more information, please contact Luke.

We also have a fun month planned, including a special event toward the end of the month that is already in the works. I'm excited to see how our youth continue to grow in their faith and friendships as we head toward Easter. Thank you for continuing to support and pray for our youth!

Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!



BUNNY BREAKFAST AT FORREST BURDETTE

Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.

Pancake breakfast, bunnies to pet, and an egg hunt!

The Children's Ministry Team is asking for **donations of candy, chocolate, and/or small toys and trinkets** to place in eggs (we have plenty of plastic eggs and do not need more!). There is a box at the Connection Center for donations. Thank you!

Mark your calendars for our **2026 Vacation Bible School: June 21-25** (and June 22-26 for those serving with the COM morning VBS). If you could **save your BIG cardboard boxes** for Julie Conley to use for VBS, please do so!

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!*



Little Free Library

You may have noticed that our Little Free Library isn't in place right now. The library took a tumble one day this winter when our lot was being plowed. Our Trustees are waiting for warmer, drier weather to set a new pole for the library so it can once again be available to the community.

PipeSounds Presents... Silent Movie Night!



Join us **Friday, March 6, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m., for a presentation of the 1927 supreme dramatic spectacle **"The King of Kings"** accompanied by **Peter Krasinski** on the Harrah Symphonic Organ. Based on the Passion of Christ, there are close parallels between Jeanie MacPherson's story as directed by Cecil B. DeMille and presentations of the Passion throughout history. Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC. Admission \$15; students are free. Tickets will be available at the door.

GYPC2026: July 7-11



We have the incredible opportunity to travel to Ireland for the Global Young People's Convocation – a gathering focused on faith, leadership, service and connection with other young people from around the world. We are excited to grow spiritually, learn global perspectives on the United Methodist Church, and bring back new ideas and inspiration to share with our church family.

By committing to sponsor our trip, you would not only be helping to cover travel and event costs, but you would be investing in the development of young leaders excited to grow in faith and represent Forrest Burdette United Methodist Church. Any donation, big or small, makes a difference and is truly appreciated.

We also would like to ask for your prayers, encouragement, and support as we prepare for this meaningful opportunity.

~Yours in Christ, Rylee & Reese Ramey

(Financial gifts can be put into the offering or sent to the church. Please mark them for Youth GYPC conference.)



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?*

*Brush it up high! Brush it down low!
Combs help our hair look tidy, you know!
Snip snap, zip zap—drop them right in,
A brush or a comb can bring a big grin!
For girls and for boys in places far away,
We share God's love in this helpful way!*



In March, we are collecting hair brushes and combs for Operation Christmas Child. Please bring your donations to the box at the Connection Center.



Beginners Pickleball

On Sunday, March 8th, we will be starting back up a beginners pickleball group that is open to all. Come learn the rules and techniques of the game. The group will be playing from 4pm to 6pm in the church Gym each Sunday.

JOY Fellowship (55+)



Did you ever get scammed by a sneaky internet cheat? It can be very dangerous. Come out to Joy Fellowship on **Thursday, March 19**, and learn how to guard against such tricks. Our speaker will be Susan Azevedo, Regional Representative from the WV Office of the Attorney General. Bring or buy some food to share and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 12 noon. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Annual Easter Egg Sale

Our United Methodist Women are now taking orders for decorated Easter eggs, available in cherry nut, coconut, maple nut, vanilla, and the most favorite of all, peanut butter, dipped in either milk chocolate or dark chocolate (please specify). Each egg is hand decorated. To place an order, stop by the church or call the office, 304-562-5903. You may email your order to office@forrestburdette.com with the subject Easter Eggs, by March 23. Individual order forms and order forms for a larger group are available at the church. Eggs may be picked up on March 28, during our Spring Fling, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Annual Easter Egg Project 2026

You are invited to join in the fellowship of Easter Egg construction at the Annual Egg Factory. **Beginning Monday, March 23, and running through Thursday, March 26**, volunteers will work with our United Methodist Women in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closing time may vary). Training will be provided for new workers. Workers may bring a dish to share for the noon and/or evening meals, Monday through Wednesday. Volunteers are also needed for clean up each evening at 6:00 (closing time may vary).

Please pray for the volunteers and the mission outreach of this project. Questions? Call Ruth Blankenship, 304-542-8281.

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to John Simmons upon the death of his wife Priscilla Simmons, 1/31/26; to the family of Deloris Rooper who passed away on 2/4/26; and to Steve Cook upon the death of his wife Rosemary Cook, 2/20/26.

A Note of Thanks: Susan Duryea would like to thank everyone who supported her at the time of her brother Jay Walker's passing. Your care was much appreciated.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for January 2026:

January 2026 Contributions Received	\$35,693
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

January 2026 Payments on Mortgage*	\$12,138
Funds Received, January 2026.....	\$3,775

"Souper" Bowl Canned Goods Collection.....197 cans of soup
Seattle Seahawks: 111 vs. New England Patriots: 86

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



Sundays in Lent: Strangers' Things

During Lent, we're following Jesus through the Gospel of Luke as he sets his face to Jerusalem. One by one, piece by piece, object by object, we're gathering up some things that were left, forgotten, or forfeited to follow Jesus - these strangers' things that will lead to even stranger things for us: renewed hearts, opened hands, and invigorated disciples of Jesus who dare to live in ways that feel upside down.

Week 2: March 1st Luke 9: 51-56 (No Vacancy Sign)

Week 3: March 8th Luke 14: 12-24
 (Unopened Invitation)

Week 4: March 15th Luke 18: 35-43
 (Bartimaeus's Cloak/Coins)

Week 5: March 22nd Luke 19: 1-10
 (Zacchaeus' Sandals)

Week 6: March 29th Palm Sunday Luke 19: 28-40
 (Donkey's Tether)

Opportunity to Make a Lenten Offering

In place of the purchase of Easter lilies, we are given an opportunity to make a special Lenten donation in honor/memory of a loved one. Please mark your gift "Lenten Offering" with names included. The names of all contributors will be listed in the Easter bulletin with your designated honorarium/memorial. Please make your donations **by Sunday, March 29**.

This year's Lenten Offering is designated to **Kairos Prison Ministry**, which would like to thank members of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC for their support for more than twenty years. Kairos' mission at Mount Olive Correctional Center has seen men accept Jesus Christ for the first time and others re-dedicate their lives to Him. Kairos' financial needs are twofold. One is the cost for the April 16-19 weekend at Mount Olive. Each volunteer is asked to raise \$250. There will be three volunteers from Forrest Burdette: Tim, Bruce, and Jason. Beyond this, Kairos' financial needs include support for its leadership training, other events at Mount Olive, monthly reunions, supplies, and help with the state Kairos expenses. Thank you for helping Kairos Prison Ministry. —*Tim Landin*



Spring Fling, March 28

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring the Spring Crafts & Easter Eggs Festival on **Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.** Crafters and vendors will be in attendance with a wide variety of merchandise for sale. Interested vendors should contact the church office. Handmade chocolate-dipped Easter eggs have been constructed by Forrest Burdette members since 1969 and will be available, along with baked goods and candies, hot dogs, barbeques, and drinks for sale. **Volunteers and donations of baked goods are welcome!** Please bring baked goods on Friday, March 27.



March Birthdays:

- 1 Jeff Fenerty, Dory Philyaw
- 2 Pam Matson
- 3 Addley Marinacci, Leah Veit
- 4 Jim Cunningham
- 5 Jennifer Billups, John Clark, Darren Fearing, Terry Hanning, Braylan Hutchison, Greenlee Williams
- 6 Tene Barcroft, Nancy Colella, Josh Imhoff, Tim Landin, Glo McCane
- 7 Candy Call, Jennifer Marinacci
- 8 Joe Bailey, Carrie Parsons, Mark Peterson, Jan Ramey, Pastor Jake Steele, Sheila Treadway
- 9 Faye Brinkman, Alan Carlstrom, Jill Gilbert, Cameron Kimble, Cathy McClanahan
- 10 Terry Floyd, Jim Kahre, Scott Ramey, Tim Stanley
- 11 Brittany Cochran, Shannon Dean, Bryan Larch
- 12 Linda Anders, Paul Page, Lisa Vance, Doug Ward
- 13 Marvin Lively
- 14 Sierra Fisher, Lori Sublett
- 15 Lily Haught, Olivia Haught, Reece James
- 16 Caleb Bowers, Lindsay Casingal, Jason Haught
- 17 Emily Hall, Sandra Turley
- 18 Caroline Harris, Ezra Scott
- 19 Brody Steele



- 20 Warren Faulknier
- 21 Sue Bennett, Dustin Fisher, Justin Williams
- 22 Liam Anderson, Kimberly Slappe, Morgan Sword, Gage Webb
- 23 Karla Atkins, Judy Clendenin, Alex Cremeans, Terri Stull
- 24 Jan Browne, Miranda Kimble, Susan McCracken, Penny Nelon
- 25 Willa Elkins, Jeff Given, John Marra, Cathy Ray, Shannon Warden
- 26 Chris Howat
- 27 Emily Cartwright, Shawn Sette
- 28 Natalie Elkins, Ed Smith
- 29 Ellis Conley, Sam Sentelle
- 30 Elizabeth Baublitz, Bob Brinkman, Jessica Jarvis
- 31 Landon Hollaway



March Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Sherman & Pat Burlingame | 17 Shawn & Jennifer Sette |
| 13 Mike & Donna Barnhouse | 31 Randy & Sandra Mayhew |
| 16 Jared & Missy Collins | 31 Scott & Sarah Warner |

** 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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**DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
SUNDAY,
MARCH 8, 2026**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

EASTER EGGS ORDER

The UMW are ready to receive Easter Egg orders! These decorated eggs cost \$5.00 each. Please fill out the form below, and return it to the church office by Monday, March 23, 2026. Eggs may be picked up at the Spring Festival on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Make checks payable to: United Methodist Women.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

A. MILK CHOCOLATE					
Filling Type:	Cherry Nut	Coconut	Maple Nut	Peanut Butter	Vanilla
# of Eggs:					

B. DARK CHOCOLATE					
Filling Type:	Cherry Nut	Coconut	Maple Nut	Peanut Butter	Vanilla
# of Eggs:					

Total # of eggs _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____ due



THANK YOU!

