



## 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**

### Pastor's Church Conference Report ♦ December 3, 2023

Forrest Burdette has a long and proud history in Hurricane, Teays Valley, and the larger community. This Fall we agreed to a new mission statement, "**Sharing Christ's Love with Our Community.**" We believe that we are called to share God's love that we have experienced through Jesus Christ. We are also committed to be bearers of that love to our local communities and the larger community of our state, nation, and the world. We are convinced that God's love can transform lives and societies to resemble God's reign of mercy, forgiveness, compassion, salvation, and justice.

The Vision Team has been working since March of 2022 and developed the mission statement, cast a vision for the church moving forward, and has taken responsibility to seeing the vision implemented. The full report was shared with the congregation through a series of worship services, talk back sessions, and printed and electronic material. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 98% of the worshiping community discerned that the vision and mission was the God-given direction for our church. The vision that God has granted us will guide our ministry through the 2020s and into the next decade. It is a plan that provides values and direction while allowing for flexibility and adaptation in the years ahead. The church continues praying our breakthrough prayer: "**God, grant us the wisdom to know your plan for us and the strength to carry it out. Amen.**" Annette Cartwright is an excellent leader of the team, and the members are committed to Christ and the future. A full report of the Vision Team and our direction is included in the Church Conference booklet.

Worship is the center of our life. We have a beautiful and inspiring setting and gifted people, who are a part of the worship experience. Our current morning worship schedule is one service at 10:30. Our goal is to provide a worship celebration that blends traditional, informal, liturgical, and contemporary. Each worship service does not contain all those elements, but over a month the worshiper can experience the full range of our expression. Our music ministry is one of the hallmarks of our worship. We have a variety of quality musical expressions that move us to praise God including the choir, handbells, Praise Team, orchestra, small ensembles, and soloists. Most of the people are behind the scenes, but they are the ones who help make an inspiring worship celebration. Mike Barnhouse and David Shanklin make our worship sing (and ring)! We are blessed to have them leading our worship. This year we were blessed to have Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball preach on Palm Sunday and Bishop Mande Muyombo preach on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We are now preparing to start "Love Came Down" for Advent and Christmas.

Our children's ministry has continued to offer the love of Christ to our children on Wednesday evenings and on Sundays. In addition, we have had a few intentional outreach events: Vacation Bible School and regular gatherings for all ages in our family ministries. Jayné Kirk and her crew are active in finding ways to help mold our children in the life and teachings of Christ.

Our youth ministry is a strength of our church. The youth gather on Wednesdays and Sundays as well as numerous other opportunities to connect with other students and our community. David Westfall applied for a grant from the United Methodist Foundation to start FB Launch. We received \$9,000 from the Foundation and have renovated the little narthex into FB Launch's tutoring center, youth space, and coffee bar.

FBMUMC has had and continues to have a strong emphasis on study. Our normal includes Sunday School, Wednesday morning, and Wednesday night classes. We have Sunday School for all ages. On Wednesday morning I am teaching the Gospel of Matthew. Our Wednesday evenings have a fellowship meal catered by our COM kitchen staff and followed by children's and youth ministry experiences and five classes for adults. There were two picnics this fall. The

*(continued on page 2)*



(continued from page 1) first was the cookout and activities for the entire community. We advertised through the valley and had a great response. The second was our picnic at Ed and Brenda Grant's farm. It was a lovely day, and they are gracious hosts. Our church needs to continue to find ways to engage in the community and have fellowship with each other.

I am excited to be working alongside a dedicated and gifted staff. Everyone is enthusiastic about Christ and the ministry that we do as a community of faith. Karen White is a gift who keeps us coordinated and moving forward; Ellen Bowie is our treasurer/business manager and spends countless hours keeping us fiscally sound; David Westfall is excellent as our Minister of Youth and Young Adults; Jayné Kirk continues to empower the ministry with children and families while leading our Praise Team; Katie Spencer has a huge facility to care for; and Zach Edgell serves as our Media and Tech Coordinator. In addition, the staff meets weekly and always studies scripture and prays, as well as plans the activities for the week, month, and seasonal emphases. In addition, we laugh and enjoy being together.

Pastoral care is an important part of our ministry and area of concern. The grief ministry led by Stacey Holley provides space for people to share their experiences of pain and grief. Stacey contacts all people in the church who have had a family member die. In the new year, we need to reinvigorate the We Care Team with more laity who are called to visit our homebound and folks going through challenges at least every six weeks. If you feel God tugging at your heart to help in the caring ministry of the church, please let me know.

Forrest Burdette is a very generous and engaged church in missions. We are using our angel tree, which means a lot of children will receive toys and clothes this Christmas. Our BackPack Buddies program with three local schools provides food for over 100 students every weekend. We are sponsoring Thanksgiving dinner for several local families. We are major supporters of our Community Cupboard. We support Heart and Hand with contributions of time and financial resources. In addition, we dedicated over 522 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We also support our United Methodist Church and the district, conference, and global ministries through our District Promotional Fund and our Fair Share of the Conference Apportionment. This allows ministry to take place throughout WV and supports mission and ministry across the world.

Our Finance and Stewardship team has grappled with the financial challenges in the life of the church. There are several factors that influenced our finances: Covid and its changes to our culture has reduced worship participation below the pre-Covid attendance pattern; some people were diverting their giving to special efforts; and the impact of inflation. The church has communicated the needs of the church, shared weekly and monthly giving, held a worship series on the theme of stewardship, and produced monthly stewardship videos to be shared in worship. We are in a better position now than at this time last year; however, tithing, stewardship, and finances will be a continuing focus.

There are several significant challenges in front of us:

- implement the vision,
- encourage and inspire generous giving to the ongoing ministry of the church,
- continue to grow in our worship attendance and increase participation in all areas of church life,
- continue to develop a sense of community within all

who are a part of the church, and

- reach out in building relationships with our community and neighbors in ways that lead us to be invitational to church and the faith.

I know that this report is long, but our ministry has far more breadth than what can be covered in this report. I encourage you to prayerfully use this report as a call to faith and be engaged in ministry. Judi and I are excited to be a part of this dynamic community of faith and look forward to sharing the love and care of God with you as we move through Advent and Christmas and into the New Year. ✝

## David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults



### Uth Sunday School:

We will have Sunday School every Sunday from 9:15 - 10:15 AM. This month, we will continue studying and discussing "Jesus is the Word of God" from the book of John. There is coffee/tea/hot chocolate/cereal for all to enjoy.

- 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28

### Student Outreach Night (Wednesday Night Uth):

Our Wednesday Night Programming will begin back up on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. We meet in the gym for games, and then we go upstairs to the uth room for snacks and bible study. Bring friends, and join us!

- 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31

### WinterJam 2024:

Friday, January 26 we will take the church van to the Charleston Civic Center to participate in this year's WinterJam! Cost is \$15. You can find more information about WinterJam at the following website: <https://jamtour.com/> The whole church is invited! Email [youth@forrestburdette.com](mailto:youth@forrestburdette.com) or text David to RSVP for a spot in the church van. If you are a parent and willing or wanting to drive separately, then text David so we can come up with a carpool plan.



### FB Launch Tutoring:

If you or someone you know is looking for tutoring in any subject, let them know we are available. If you need math tutoring, ACT prep, or help with college planning, email [youth@forrestburdette.com](mailto:youth@forrestburdette.com) and we will help you get scheduled with a free tutor/college planner.

## PipeSounds Presents...



...A Night at the Silent Movies with guest artist Peter Krasinski on the Harrah Symphonic Organ. **Friday, February 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**, Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC. Krasinski will accompany two films: the short film *The Red Balloon* and the comedy *The Cameraman* (starring Buster Keaton). Admission is \$15 at the door; students are free.

## Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for November 2023:

November Contributions Received .....	\$56,581
Monthly Receipts Needed.....	\$67,538

## Jayne Kirk Minister of Children & Families



**Children's Church in January:** Hey families! Here's a look at what we're covering with your kids this month so you can continue growing at home during the week.

### GROW AT HOME THIS MONTH: "What Can I Do?"

**WEEK 1:** This week, kids see how Jesus and John the Baptist heard God's voice.

- BIG IDEA: I can listen to God's voice. • BIBLE: Mark 1:4-11

**WEEK 2:** This week, kids see how Jesus called Phillip and Nathanael to follow him.

- BIG IDEA: I can trust Jesus knows me. • BIBLE: John 1:43-51

**WEEK 3:** This week, kids see how Jesus called Andrew, Peter, James, and John to become his disciples.

- BIG IDEA: I can trust God's plans for me.
- BIBLE: Mark 1:14-20

**WEEK 4:** This week, kids see how Jesus called someone unexpected like Matthew to follow him.

- BIG IDEA: I can include people who aren't like me.
- BIBLE: Matthew 9:9-13

## Christmas Thank You from Pastor Joe and Judi



Thank you for your love, support, and prayers as you have sustained us through transition and health challenges in 2023 with Judi's new job as the Chief Connectional Ministry Officer for the Connectional Table and the UMC, my heart catheterization, and Rachel's surgery. I also want to thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts, and prayers. I am excited to share that at the end of June in 2024 Connor and Maria are expecting their first child. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community of faith and love.

## Young At Heart Quilters

You are invited to help our quilters sew and tack quilts, every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., in Byrd Hall. Come to enjoy the fellowship! Questions? Contact Karen Lilly (304-562-9241).

## Wednesday Classes & Dinners

Our Wednesday programming resumes on January 10. Look for more information on the classes being offered in Sunday bulletins and the weekly E-Connection.

## Grief Support Group

For comfort, rest, and prayer along with learning about grief and how we can better cope with it, join us at our upcoming meetings: **January 13th** and **January 27th** at the church in Room 111 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Questions? Call/text Stacey.(304-532-8659).

**JOY Fellowship (55+)** will hold its monthly covered dish lunch on **Thursday, January 18**, at 12:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share and a friend. Our special guest will be Ed Grant who will talk with us about some of the interesting artifacts he has uncovered and collected. Join us!

## From the Church Record

Congratulations to Paul & Elizabeth (Lawhon) Baublitz upon the birth of daughter Julia Elizabeth on November 9. Proud grandparents are Kevin & Tammy Lawhon.

## A Note from Our Youth Minister

My Forrest Burdette Family,

As many of you may know, over the past three years, I've been pursuing my Ph.D. as part of my professional goals of being a professor. My plan has always been to be doing ministry while also pursuing my goals of being a college professor. Recently, I discovered that in order to finish my doctoral program and be eligible for faculty positions in the future, I must have 5 years of direct classroom experience in K-12 schools. Currently, I only have 2.5 years of experience. This means that I need to complete 2.5 more years of teaching in the K-12 schools in order to finish my Ph.D. with eligibility to apply to college professorships.

With that said, I regret to inform you that I will be stepping down from my position as Minister of Youth and Young Adults at Forrest Burdette effective immediately. I have accepted a teaching position to finish out the 2023-2024 school year, which I will begin January 2, 2024. My heart and calling is still ministry, so I will maintain an active presence in WVUMC youth ministries by maintaining my spot on the Spring Heights Camping Ministries Team and on the Council for Youth Ministries. I will also be actively engaged in college ministry efforts across the state. During the next few years, I will complete my requirements for my Ph.D. and faculty eligibility while maintaining these student ministry efforts.

I have loved and will forever cherish my home in this Forrest Burdette congregation, and I will maintain an active membership within the church. Never hesitate to reach out to me because I love all of you, and I am here for all of you. Let me know if you ever need anything. I will greatly appreciate your prayers and support as I transition from this dream job back into my role as a school teacher.

*Peace and blessings, David Westfall*

## Staff Parish Relations Committee — Youth and Young Adults

It is with appreciation and gratitude that we thank David Westfall for his ministry with the youth, young adults, and general ministry at Forrest Burdette. He has been a blessing to our youth and all of us at the church. It was his vision to establish FB Launch to help the youth of our community with tutoring and finding directions for post-high school. His presence, positive and encouraging outlook, and enthusiasm will be missed. We will have a celebration of his ministry in January.

Looking ahead: Pastor Joe and members of the SPRC would like to meet with all the youth and their parents on **January 10th at 7:30 p.m.** in the youth room to begin looking ahead. Please be present and participate in the discussion about our youth ministry. David has offered to help on Sundays in January, and Traci Brown has volunteered to organize the Wednesday youth activities in January.

## January Birthdays:

- 1 Natalie Neville
- 2 Chris Clark, Kathryn Courtright, Michael Kinneer, Butch McCoy, Mark Stutler
- 3 Beth Krall, Ashley McCann, Isaac Vance
- 4 Lydia Peterson
- 5 Jackie Alexander, Billie DeLung
- 6 Keith Midkiff
- 7 Seth Bowers, Brittany Bowie, Danielle Grant, Gene Lewis, Tom Plumley
- 8 Curtis Ferguson
- 9 Leigh Anna Bennett, Shannon Lawman, Hilda Mynes
- 10 Lois Brewer, Lori Folio, Bob Sauvageot
- 11 Joshua Johnson, Brent Nelson, Jennifer York
- 12 Heather Cortellesi, Megan Fisher, Cindy Hinshaw, Logan Jackson, Jennifer Romeo
- 13 Joshua Campbell, Julie Cremeans
- 14 Tiffany Bryan, Frances Meredith
- 15 Hannah Courtney, Jozee Johnson, Brad Sergent, Alisa Spiker
- 16 Mikki Larch
- 17 Angie Hill, Katelyn Huggins, Stephanie Mellace, Jim Sovine, Brenda Warner
- 18 Adam Harshbarger, Chelsey Lilly
- 19 Madison Bucher, Georgia Conaway, Harris Coulter, Coy Mullins

- 20 Madeline Brumfield, Idale Buskirk, Riley Coulter, Taylor Haney
- 21 Tammy Lawhon, Margaret Logan
- 22 Katy Limanen
- 23 Laura Harrison, Heather Holland, Joann Walker
- 24 Kevin Mullins, Gerry Simmons
- 25 Lola Vance, Rick Wallace
- 26 John Bowie, Don Jacobs, Scott Riedel, Dan Russell, Andy Wendel
- 27 David McBrayer, John Neville, Laura Stewart, Hunter Vance
- 28 Casey Smith
- 29 Jim Vealey
- 30 Lauren Cox
- 31 Maxine Birt



## January Anniversaries:

18 Mike & Suzy Richardson	27 Tim & Becky Landin
23 Larry & Kathryn Courtright	29 Bill & Kristina Painter

\*\* 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.

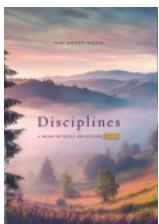
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## Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 1/2/2024



### 2024 Upper Room Disciplines

We still have copies of The Upper Room 2024 "Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions" available at the Connection Center desk at the discounted price of \$5 each (originally \$13.99). Start the new year with an inspiring daily reading!