



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE
WITH
OUR COMMUNITY

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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church

February 2026



Ash Wednesday:
February 18th

Rev. Jake Steele
Senior Pastor



STRANGER'S-THINGS-

The timing doesn't seem quite right since the pace has been somewhat breathless. It feels like yesterday that we left a Bethlehem stall in celebration of our Savior's birth. Lent shouldn't be lumped into our collective vocabulary at this point, should it? But alas, here we are. This biblical road we're on will soon wind down a Jerusalem street. From this vantage, you'll have to grab your binoculars to behold it.

When the view comes into focus, you'll see a path laden with palms. That route gave way to a week we call 'holy.' Yet, if you look closely enough, you'll notice the dusty path isn't just littered with leafy branches. There are other objects strewn along the roadside. They're almost like breadcrumbs to a 'Hansel-and-Gretel-fairy-tale-story' but far more significant and exceedingly relevant to our walk as disciples of Jesus.

If we assumed an investigatory posture, post-Palm Sunday, we could look down the path and pick up some things that were left, forgotten or forfeited to follow Jesus. They're residual clues connecting us to encounters with this Christ and His Kingdom economy that turned the world upside down—for good, forever. These strangers' things tell of stranger things: remarkable stories of transformation, clean slates, changed minds, risk-taking mission and an audacious lens through which to live life.

Starting with Ash Wednesday on the 18th, we'll traverse the path and follow Jesus through the Gospel of Luke as he sets his face to Jerusalem. With every step, we'll find that this road becomes increasingly more difficult to remain on—not because the terrain gets tougher, but rather the risks of discipleship get higher. One by one, piece by piece, object by object, we'll gather up these strangers' things that I pray 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.

-Pastor Jake

Luke Spurgeon

Minister of Youth & Young Adults

We will be having a **Youth Parent Meeting** after church on **Sunday, February 1st**, in room 111. Parents, please remember to bring your **summer calendars** so we can plan ahead together.

I'm also really excited for **youth group on February 1st!** We'll be having our **Youth Night Out** that we had to postpone from January 25th. Meet at the church at 6:00 PM. I can't wait to see everyone there!

Super Bowl Sunday is coming! February 8th at 6:00 PM

We'll be hosting a **Super Bowl Party**, starting at **6:00 PM**, with the game kicking off at **6:30 PM**. There will be plenty of fun activities to enjoy **even if you're not into football**, so everyone is welcome. Parents are welcome too!



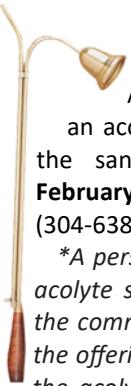
Children & Family Ministries

Spreading the Good News!

As you're planning for the warmer days ahead, make sure to 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 start doing 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!*



Acolyte Training

A training for those who are interested in serving as an acolyte*, starting in 3rd grade and up, will be held in the sanctuary immediately after worship on **Sunday, February 8th**. Contact Mary Beth Stewart with any questions (304-638-1163).

*A person who assists in the worship service. Normally the acolyte serves by lighting and extinguishing the candles on the communion or altar table and distributing and collecting the offering plates. It is the custom in most local churches for the acolytes to be young persons, giving them an early opportunity to be participants in the service (umc.org).



GIFT OF THE MONTH

Preparing for shoeboxes throughout the year

February: crayons, pencils, colored pencils, small notebooks, & small coloring books



Grab some crayons—red, yellow, and blue,

Pencils and colors will do nicely too!

Add a small notebook or book made to color,

Each little gift spreads love far and wide!

Give with a heart that's happy and true,

Through Samaritan's Purse, love travels from you!



Children's Outreach Ministries (COM)

Our children have been creating wintery artwork on these blustery days!



Attention: Knitters & Crocheters



We would like to know if there is interest in re-starting our "Hooks & Needles" program, which used to meet regularly to stitch prayer shawls among other things. The group changed over recent years as some of the faithful participants were no longer able to stitch or have passed away. If you would like to be part of getting this ministry up and running again, please call or text Sue Bennett at 304-932-3087.



with a Presentation of the 1927 Supreme Dramatic Spectacle

"THE KING OF KINGS"

accompanied by

PETER KRASINSKI

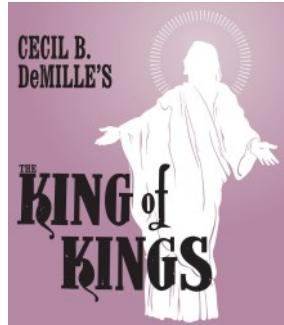
returning to

the Harrah Symphonic Organ

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC
Admission: \$15.00, Students: Free.





Tell us who you're rooting for in SUPER BOWL LX

by bringing in cans of soup for the Christian Community Cupboard and our BackPack Buddies ministry **between Sunday, February 1st and Sunday, February 8th**. Each can is one vote for the team whose sign you select at the front of the Sanctuary, either the Seattle Seahawks or the New England Patriots. Let's go for the goal of supporting our community through our SOUPer Bowl!

Annual Bow-Making

 Help make bows for Lent following our worship service **Sunday, February 8**, in the Fellowship Hall. Forrest Burdette households are encouraged to display these purple bows on outside doors, lights, or mailboxes during Lent, serving as a conversation starter and witness.

JOY Fellowship (60+)

 JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship will hold our monthly covered dish luncheon on **Thursday, February 19, at 12 noon**, in Fellowship Hall. If you are 60 or older, we would love to have you. Bring or buy your favorite dish to share; offer a ride to a friend too!

From the Church Record

On January 15, 2026, Erika Alford was welcomed as a new member of Forrest Burdette.

Christian sympathy is extended to Susan Duryea upon the death of her brother and Forrest Burdette member John "Jay" Walker, January 28, 2026.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for December 2025:

December 2025 Contributions Received	\$73,681
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$64,023

Mortgage Balance:

December 2025 Payments on Mortgage*	\$12,963
Funds Received, December 2025	\$17,667

Christmas Eve Offering for Good Samaritan Fund

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

2025 Giving Statements are available through the church office.

The United Methodist Women would like you to
Save these Dates!

March 23-26: Annual Egg Factory
to construct chocolate Easter eggs

March 28: Spring Fling!
Festival of Crafts & Easter Eggs
Vendor applications will be available soon.



Ash Wednesday

The leaves from Palm Sunday are burned and the ashes of life broken down are signs that signal a 40 day period whereby God restores, reconciles and redeems. Mark your calendars for a special Ash Wednesday Service on Feb 18th at 7pm. Never observed Ash Wednesday before? Unsure as to what the season of Lent is? The coming weeks, especially this service, will be something for you! Save the date!

Sundays in Lent: Strangers' Things

Week 1: Feb. 22nd Luke 4: 1-12 (The Quill)

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

Week 3: Mar. 8th Luke 14: 12-24

(Unopened Invitation)

Week 4: Mar. 15th Luke 18: 35-43

(Bartimaeus's Cloak/Coins)

Week 5: Mar. 22nd Luke 19: 1-10

(Zacchaeus' Sandals)

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



Be a part of The Branch in a Wednesday adult class:
Evening Small Group Studies @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Fellowship Dinners

Join us for dinner each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., catered by Shonet's Country Café. You do not need to be in a Wednesday evening class to join us for fellowship and dinner. Free will donations are accepted. Please sign up at the Connection Center, or call/email the church office by Tuesday morning so that we may prepare accordingly. Neither dinner nor evening classes will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.

Brunch for District Men

All men from all Nine Rivers District United Methodist churches, which includes Forrest Burdette, are invited and welcomed to a Special Breakfast Brunch at Christ United Methodist Church (1221 Quarrier St, Charleston, WV) on **Saturday, February 7th, 11:00 am**.

We will have a special guest, UMM Conference President Wayne Custer.

There is no cost, but a goodwill offering will be taken to help with the cost of the meal. Christ Church United Methodist Men will be our host for this event. Although there is no cost, reservations are requested to ensure the proper amount of food is prepared. You can call or text your reservation to Jeffrey Purdy at 304-590-0382, or email: scoutpurdy@suddenlink.net.

Come and fellowship with other Methodist Men from across the district and learn what exciting things are happening.

February Birthdays:

1 Alex Dorsey, Tom Hankins, John Lawman, Melissa Schamp
 2 Jackson Clark, Ron Delph, Ella Good, Jaden Stark, Timothy Stewart
 3 Steve Garnett, James Larch, Steve Wandling
 4 *No birthdays on record today*
 5 Colin Copeland, John Stewart
 6 Kim Dunlap, Kristi Easter, Shawn Lawman, David Westfall
 7 Audella Clark, Asher Larch
 8 Beth Floyd-Lefler, Nicholas Ransom
 9 Shannon Gooden
 10 Janet Fisher
 11 Andrew Marinacci, Gary Vargo
 12 Mea Billups, A.J. Wendel
 13 Ruth Alford, Kelly McFadden, Rhonda O'Dell
 14 Pat Burlingame, Matt Jarvis
 15 Jonathan Hill, Jennifer Sette, Megan Tidd
 16 *No birthdays on record today*
 17 Nathan Daly, Ben Pannell
 18 Carla Akers, Jen Lauck, Malinda Shanklin
 19 Tracy Garrett, Debby Pannell, Hunt Tidd
 20 Diana Stone
 21 Mike Rollyson
 22 Jody Ogle, Mark Stewart



February Anniversaries:

13 Albert & Sheri Anderson 17 Chuck & Glo McCane
 14 Bob & Faye Brinkman 26 Lorn & Paula Limanen
 17 Rick & Beth Keen 27 Dwight & Becky Williams

** Birthdays and anniversaries are generated from our church database. Please call the office if you are not listed (304-562-5903).



“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.” —John Wesley



Sunday Morning
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

VISIONS
The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
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Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 01/29/2026

Create in me
a pure heart, O God,
and renew a
steadfast
spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10

