

**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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January 2023

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

The following was submitted as Pastor Joe's Charge Conference Report, November 10, 2022

Will we ever get back to the way it was? ... No.

Will we ever get back to normal? ... No.

Will we ever get back to the future? ... No, that is a movie from 1985 (although a good one!)

I think we're best to focus on the first two questions for now! We yearn, I yearn for life as it was pre-pandemic, in the 90s when we were the fastest growing UM church in WV, or the 60s and 70s when I was growing up.

On my birthday, I received a card that was all the facts, experiences, and fads of 1977 which is when I graduated from Huntington High School. Judi and I loved reading and laughing at the tidbits and pictures. However, even if I wanted to go back, and I don't, I couldn't. We can't go back to the way it was. Even Nicodemus understood that he couldn't go back into his mother's womb to be born again (John 3). What he didn't understand is the new birth and new life that Jesus was talking about. For us as a church, we can't go back to the way it was, but we can experience new birth and new life for the way God is calling us in the 2020s.

The second question stimulates a follow up question, what is normal? We have different definitions and descriptions of normal. In my lifetime segregation and denying black people the right to vote was normal. In my grandmother's life, denying women the right to vote was normal. Although segregation has formally ended and the right to vote is extended to many people previously denied, there are still challenges to make our society and culture open and just. Not too long ago, it also used to be "normal" to assume everyone was in church on Sunday. But we know that has shifted. If we consider the pandemic, I believe it accelerated how our reality is changing. And maybe this becomes the "new" normal. As a society, we are more reticent to join institutions like church, commit our time to something beyond work, family, and leisure pursuits, and we seek to make decisions on how we are affected personally. The advantages and challenges of technology have changed the norm of communication, information gathering, building relationships, and have raised celebrating life events on social media as well as given more opportunities for bullying and spreading lies and threats.

It is in the present reality of life and the new normal that Forrest Burdette finds itself engaged in faithful ministry and opportunities for fruitful outcomes for enrichment and mission. It is a joy to celebrate the multi-faceted ministries of the church.

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. The Vision Team is contemplating the future of worship including our Sunday morning schedule. 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. This summer we did a worship series on

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Moses and in the fall we dug into the Beatitudes. We are now preparing to start "A Season of Hope" 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, spring and Christmas musicals, and regular gatherings for all ages in our family ministries. Jayné and her crew are active in finding ways to help mold our children in the life and teachings of Christ.

Our youth ministry has remained strong. This summer we had a transition from Jeremy Daniels to David Westfall. The "passing of the mantle" took place on our mission trip to Tennessee. The youth are gathering on Wednesdays and Sundays in addition to numerous opportunities to connect with other youth and our community.

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 John. Our Wednesday evenings have a fellowship meal catered by a local restaurant and followed by children's and youth ministry experiences and six classes for adults.

There were two picnics this fall. The first was the cookout and activities for the entire community. We advertised through all the elementary schools in 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.

This fall, we were able to complete a multi-year effort to replace our sound and broadcast system. We raised over \$72,000 for a complete replacement with most of the money coming this summer and fall. We hope the system will be in place by the end of the year.

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. Since last charge conference we have had several staff changes: we said thank you and celebrated the ministries of Stephanie Mills, Rev. Jeremy Daniels, and John Martin; in addition, we welcomed Ellen Bowie as our new treasurer/business manager, David Westfall as our new Minister of Youth and Young Adults, and Zach Edgell as our new Media Tech Coordinator. In addition, Jayné's title changed to reflect that our focus is about ministry; consequently, her title is Minister of Children and Family Ministries. 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 and Robbie Parsons provides space for people to share their experiences of pain and grief. In addition, they have had a luncheon with a speaker, and contact is made with all people in the church who have had a family member die. The We Care Team of lay visitors seeks to visit our homebound and folks going through challenges at least every six weeks. If you would like to be a part of this critical ministry, we can always use more visitors.

Pastoral care is a larger concern now that our Associate Pastor has left. 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 getting ready to put up our angel tree which means a lot of children will receive toys and clothes this Christmas. Our Backpack Buddies ministry with three local schools provides food for nearly 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 will dedicate over 400 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday the 13th. 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.

There are four significant challenges in front of us:

- need to grow our attendance and participation in all areas of church life,
- encourage and inspire generous giving to the ongoing ministry of the church,
- develop deep relationships with each other, and
- reach out in building relationships with our community and neighbors in ways that lead us to be invitational to church and the faith.

The Vision Team has been working since March and will help develop a vision/mission statement and a strategic plan that will chart our course into the 2030s. The church has been praying our breakthrough prayer since this summer: "**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 and open to wherever God leads us. I am excited about the work of the Vision Team and its progress in discerning where God is leading us.

I know that this report is long, but our ministry is far more expansive than what can be covered in this report. I encourage you to prayerfully use this report as a call to the new normal 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 Christmas and into the New Year.

Jenni Reib, Business Manager Children's Outreach Ministries

We are excited to start out a new year with so much to be thankful for.

We are thankful for the children in our center. They are full of smiles, laughter, and hugs! Each child is a gift from God, and we are truly blessed to be entrusted with their little hearts.

We are thankful for our wonderful, caring staff. They are so creative and have so much fun while teaching and loving on the kids.

As always, we thank you for your support. We could not teach our little ones about God's unconditional love without you!



David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults

1/8 - Sunday, January 8th @ 1:00 PM - Our Hurricane High School Show Choir friends will be hosting the annual Dinner Theater and performing their Spring Show. Join David in supporting our youth! Reserve your ticket by texting/calling 304.982.1406. Tickets are \$22 through reservation and \$25 at the door.

1/18 - Wednesday Night Bible Study will start back up on Wednesday, January 18th! 6:30 - 7:30 PM, meet in the gym (*note that we start one week later than the other classes*). Immediately following WNBS, the Reboot Team will meet to discuss the year's Reboot project! All are welcome and encouraged to attend the discussion. Text David if attending.

1/25 - Wednesday Night Bible Study from 6:30 - 7:30 PM, meet in the gym!

2/1 - Wednesday Night Bible Study from 6:30 - 7:30 PM, meet in the gym!

 **HELP NEEDED!** We need several more adults to volunteer to assist with various youth programming. We are in need of Wednesday Night Bible Study volunteers, Sunday School teachers, Sunday Night Live volunteers, and more. If you feel led to help the Youth in any way or at any capacity, please get in touch with David ASAP. Can I help if I'm only available the first Wednesday of every month? YES! Can I help if I can only commit to assisting in February? YES! Can I help if I only have time to say "hi" to 3 students each Sunday? YES! We are absolutely flexible, but we need further assistance in order to continue offering Youth Programming at its fullest potential.

Reboot Team: We will have our January Reboot Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th from 7:30 - 8:00 PM immediately following Wednesday Night classes. We will meet in the

 upstairs youth room. All are welcome to attend. Contact David if you plan to attend (youth@forrestburdette.com).



Jayne Kirk Minister of Children & Families



I hope everyone is having a good new year and that the holidays were kind to everyone.

We will see you on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 as we begin our midweek classes for the new year.

Here are some upcoming all-ages family events:

Sunday, January 15 @ 3:00—

Welcome Sign. Families who made Welcome signs this fall are welcome to finish your interchangeable, seasonal ornaments. We made the fall and winter ornaments, and now it's time for the spring and summer set (heart, flower, etc.). There will be a select number of boards for people who did not get to make the welcome signs this fall. Contact Jayné to sign up for this event.



Sunday, January 29 @ 5:00—Family Movie Night. All are welcome as the church family gets together to fellowship and watch a movie in the gym. We will be watching *Inside Out*. Come for dinner and a movie with your Forrest Burdette friends.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars for the week of June 25. Please pray for this ministry, and contact Jayné if you want to help (jayne@forrestburdette.com)!

Would you be willing to fill out a very brief survey? The Reboot Youth Ministry team is gathering data about our church's current youth ministry program. **Please, take 5 minutes to fill out this survey.** It is anonymous and does not require you to sign in to fill it out. This would be a huge help to David and team! All ages are encouraged to take the survey online at <https://forms.gle/HzpqTu9kNyq5Cj1d8>.

Wednesday Classes & Dinners Resume January 11 *(Youth to resume one week later)*



Sign up sheets and more information will be available at the Connection Center and in Sunday bulletins.

Midweek Daytime Bible Study with Pastor Joe: Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m. - a continuation of the Gospel of John, diving deep to see the image of Christ and the meaning of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Evening Classes, 6:30 p.m., each Wednesday:

Chris Clark: a continuation of the Book of Revelation, starting with the second coming of Christ in Revelation 19, exploring different views held by Christians and proceeding to the new heaven and the new earth.

Debby Cunningham: a study of Adam Hamilton's book *John: the Gospel of Light & Life*. "Experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of John." (books are \$13)

Ron Delph: Study TBA

Pastor Joe Kenaston: a study using the guide book "Companions in Christ: A Small Group Experience in Spiritual Formation." This is a powerful experience of a variety of spiritual formation practices and disciplines, and although the study is a continuation from last semester, new participants are welcome. (books are \$11 for new members)

Children: FBKids JAM (Jesus And Me) is a time for kids to get together and learn God's word and the importance of prayer. Kids age 4 and up will learn, sing, and play together as we explore the Bible. Please join us for the fun as we share the Good News. Find us Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., meeting in Byrd Hall.

Youth: Fun, fellowship, snacks, and Jesus! Join FBUTH for Wednesday Night Bible Study each week, starting 1/18, in the gym!

Dinner: The sign up sheet for each Wednesday's **fellowship dinner** can be found at the Connection Center, or call the church office by Tuesday morning to RSVP. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and is catered by Shonet's. Donations are accepted if you are able and would like to give. Currently the meals are running \$12 per person. *Please RSVP so that we order enough food!*

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the families and loved ones of Tom Hill (d. 12/1/22), Jack Wilson (d. 12/3/22), and Bob Samson (d. 12/28/22).

Congratulations is extended to Joseph and Kirstyn (Bess) Erwin on their marriage in Colorado (Nov. 21) and the blessing of their marriage at Forrest Burdette (Dec. 9).

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. Registration is not required; simply come to the meeting. We meet on Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Next meeting dates: January 14th and 28th in Room 111.** Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659 or Robbie Parsons at (304) 542-0981.

JOY Fellowship (55+) will hold its monthly covered dish lunch on Thursday, January 19, at 12:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share with your church family. We will enjoy a presentation by Ellis & Julie Conley on their early-November trip to Turkey and Greece.

Fitness in the New Year

Consider a New Year's resolution to help yourself for a better 2023. Give our group an opportunity to help you feel better. We meet in Byrd Hall at 10:00 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for fellowship, laughter, and exercise for joints. No special clothing is required. Most exercises are done while seated. Cost is \$1.00 per month. ALL ages are welcome! Current members are in their low 70's to low 90's. For more information, call Nancy Austin, 304-757-8374.

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for November and December 2022:

November Contributions Received	\$46,864
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$67,000
December Contributions Received	\$55,988
Monthly Receipts Needed	\$67,000

The Upper Room "Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions"

Copies of the 2023 Upper Room Disciplines are available at the Connection Center desk at the discounted price of \$5 each (originally \$12.49). We would love for these books to go to a good home! Start the year on a positive note.

American Red Cross Blood Drive • Friday, January 13, 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 Lisa Fawcett (304-539-2860).

Worship Celebrations



We have had joy-filled, uplifting worship celebrations in Advent and Christmas. The music, the decorations, the Biblical stories, and opportunities to experience hope during the season have been inspiring. As we move further into the winter, it is our expectation that the worship experiences will continue to bring meaning and encouragement in our faith and lives. In January and February, we will explore Jesus' life and ministry. On January 15th, we are blessed to have Rev. Deb Coble, Director of Communications for the WV Annual Conference, bring the sermon. She is an outstanding preacher. Pastor Joe and Rev. Deb will lead us in renewing our baptism. Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, marks the beginning of Lent. In Lent we will have a worship series entitled "The Way." Pastor Joe will offer a short-term Sunday School class using Adam Hamilton's study, "The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus." Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball will be preaching on Palm Sunday. The next newsletter will have lots more details about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

1/8/23	Isaiah 60:1-6 Mt. 2:1-12	A Season of Hope: Epiphany
1/15	Mt. 3:1-17	Going Down to the River
1/22	John 1:29-42	Behold the Lamb of God
1/29	Mt. 4:12-23	Jesus Calls and Immediately ...
2/5	Mt. 5:13-20	Salt Life
2/12	Mt. 5:21-37	You Have Heard It Said, But I Say ...
2/19	Mt. 17:1-9	The Glory Revealed

Daniels Memorial Service

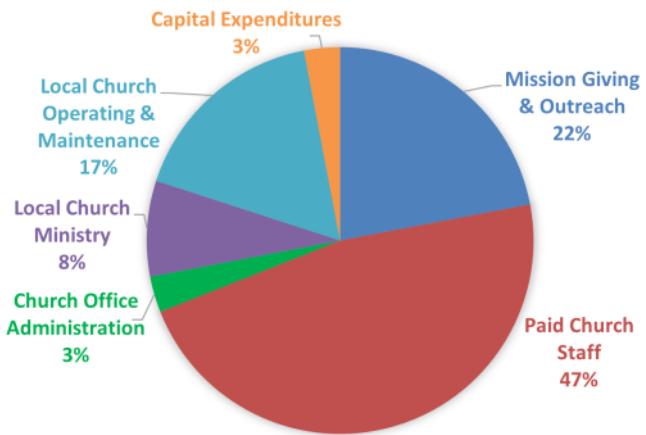
A memorial service for Clifford "Ray" Daniels, father of Pastor Jeremy Daniels, will be held at Forrest Burdette on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ray passed away on December 2, 2022, following a short illness. Your support for the family is welcome.

Angel Tree Report

The Mission Team thanks everyone who adopted an Angel or made a monetary donation, which helped fulfill the wishes and needs of 40 families, including 74 children, who reside in Putnam Co. and are struggling financially. Sunday School Classes provided 8 of those families with Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets, clothing, and toys. A special thank you also goes to the United Methodist Women who provided Bibles to the basket children and to the Young at Heart Quilters who provided handmade quilts to 26 children. Local needy children will appreciate all the warm hats, gloves, & scarves that were placed on the Angel Tree. Your support of this mission is greatly appreciated.



FORREST BURDETTE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2023 BUDGET SUMMARY • \$810,452



Mission Giving and Outreach

\$178,374 22%

Connectional giving is giving to the West Virginia Annual Conference to support United Methodist Ministries on a Worldwide basis, including the Midland South District, Heart & Hand, WV Conference, Ministerial Educations Fund, Africa University, and the Black College Fund, conference mission projects, campus pastors, West Virginia Wesleyan, and local ministries such as the Community Cupboard. (This figure does not include any of the general giving that our congregation makes through special offerings and designated gifts throughout the year.)

Paid Church Staff

\$383,116 47%

Salaries for the Senior Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Minister of Youth & Young Adults, Minister of Children & Families, Treasurer/Business Manager, Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Custodian, Media Tech Coordinator, and Nursery Workers.

Church Office Administration

\$27,100 3%

Church office expenses include office equipment maintenance, office supplies, postage for the monthly newsletter and other mailings, offering envelopes, Vanco fees (fees for on-line donations), and all the incidentals included in running an efficient church office.

Local Church Ministry

\$61,200 8%

Local Church Ministries include evangelism, membership care, Wednesday dinners, adult ministries, Sunday School curriculum, youth ministries, college and career ministries, children's ministries, music ministries, worship, marketing, special events, delegates to Annual conference, and Website design/IT support.

Local Church Operating & Maintenance

\$136,662 17%

This section of the budget covers church and parsonage utilities, general maintenance for the church and parsonage, insurance, city fire fees as well as maintenance for the piano, fire alarm, heating/air conditioning maintenance, snow removal, and van replacement.

Capital Expenditures

\$24,000 3%

Church and parsonage capital expenditures beyond normal general maintenance.

Operation Christmas Child

Our shoeboxes were processed in Charlotte on Nov. 26. They are on their way to three different areas: Burundi, Madagascar, and Dominican Republic. The following are former stories from these countries. Please remember to pray for the safe journey of the box into the hands of a child and for a child's life to be impacted for Christ.



Efforts to purchase items at clearance prices for shoeboxes have already begun. Would you like to shop for shoebox items, make crafts, or sew? We'd love to have you experience the transforming joy year-round! Questions or comments, email occ@forrestburdette.com.

Burundi: Father's Life Changed—My name is Nahimana Albert. Together with my wife Mpawenimana Pia and our children we thank God for OCC because we are now all Christians in our family. Before my son Kanti David, 9 years old, got a gift in THE NARROW DOOR church, I wasn't a good father. In fact I didn't deserve to be called a father because I was frequently drunk. My wife and my children slept hungry many times. They had no clothes, until one day my son was given a gift and a small booklet called The Greatest Gift. I started reading it secretly. I wondered what was all about this Greatest Gift. My son started The Greatest Journey and kept on telling us what they were being thought. He graduated and was given a Bible. I started reading it and decided to go and ask the pastor to help me to receive Christ in my heart. When my wife saw it, she joined me and repented. Today, we are Christians in our family, and we fellowship in THE NARROW DOOR Church. God bless OCC as you transform people's life.

Madagascar: Sharing Jesus Boldly—A shoebox recipient said, "I come from an extremely needy family. My father works in the mine and he is rarely home with us. We stay along with our foster mother and had never heard about Jesus. One lady in our neighborhood invited me to an OCC event where I received a gift box. As I went to the The Greatest Journey (TGJ) classes, my life was upside down. I am now full of joy. I became a new creature because I received a new life in Jesus. I preached Jesus to my siblings, who became Christians as well. All of us are now sharing Jesus boldly in our community. Praise the Lord and thanks to OCC."

Dominican Republic: Important to God—"One of my friends came to the farm where I was helping my uncle and invited me to go to church where they were teaching the Explorers lessons. He also said there they give us fruit juice and candies. I went with him immediately and started studying those Bible lessons. After two weeks of attending the Bible club our class teacher said to me 'because you are one of my best students now you are going to be one of my helpers.' That made me weep because at home they all used to tell me that I was good for nothing, but I understood that God made me someone important as I studied these Bible lessons." Juan Carlos Perez, 13 years old

Have you remembered the church in your will?

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 Megan Fisher, Cindy Hinshaw, Logan Jackson, Jennifer Romeo
- 13 Joshua Campbell, Julie Cremeans, Drew Johnson, Josh Shaffer
- 14 Tiffany Bryan, Frances Meredith
- 15 Hannah Courtney, Jozee Johnson, Brad Sergent, Alisa Spiker
- 16 Mikki Larch
- 17 Angie Hill, Katelyn Huggins, Jim Sovine, Brenda Warner
- 18 Adam Harshbarger, Chelsey Lilly
- 19 Madison Bucher, Harris Coulter, Coy Mullins
- 20 Madeline Brumfield, Idale Buskirk, Riley Coulter, Taylor Haney, Wayne Rooper
- 21 Tammy Lawhon, Margaret Logan

- 22 Katy Limanen
- 23 Laura Harrison, Heather Holland, Joann Walker
- 24 Kevin Mullins, Olivia Newhouse, Gerry Simmons
- 25 Lola Vance
- 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, Katlin Swisher

**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).

Thank You!

To all our many volunteers at Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC, who spent countless hours in service to our church and to the Lord in 2022, thank you! Your work is a matter of the heart and a matter of faith, but please know that it doesn't go unnoticed. You are a blessing!



VISIONS
The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship:
10:30 a.m.
Sunday Chapel Worship:
6:00 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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For as the rain and the snow come down
from heaven and do not return there
until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to
the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from
my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

