

**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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April 2023

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



Joe Kenaston, Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Everybody loves a parade!” I don’t know from where the quote originated, and even googling it didn’t help. However, I do know that I love a parade. I remember going to parades when I was a child. When I was a tuba player at Huntington High School I marched in many parades throughout the Tri-state, WV, Florida (including Disney), and at the Indy 500. Some of my best memories were being a part of band. As an adult, I still love going to parades. Many of you know that on Thanksgiving 2021, Judi and I went to the Macy’s Parade. My bucket list still has the Rose Parade on it.

This Sunday we will join a parade. It will be marked by processing around the sanctuary, waving palms, singing while the organ and orchestra play, and punctuated by shouts of Hosanna! Our celebration will help us experience the spirit of the original Palm Sunday when Jesus rode triumphantly and humbly into Jerusalem. The crowds waved palm branches, spread their coats on the road, and shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Mt. 21:9). The bishop of the WV United Methodist Church, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, will be our preacher. Her message is entitled, “Hosanna!” We will also share in Holy Communion on Palm Sunday and a reception after worship.

Although the melodies, harmonies, and shouts may change, the parade continues throughout the week. The Prayer Labyrinth is available daily to help us prayerfully walk with Jesus. Maundy Thursday we walk with Jesus to the Upper Room and experience his Last Supper. I will be preaching, and we will break bread together. We will strip the altar and move towards Gethsemane. On Good Friday we will go on a Journey to the Cross. It will be a participatory, interactive experience as we move in small groups throughout the stations of the cross.

On Easter the shouts of “Alleluia” and “Christ is Risen” will echo around the church as will the uplifting music of orchestra, organ, and voices. In addition, our Easter celebration will include a flowering cross, Easter breakfast, displays from the Sunday School classes, and the joy of fellowshipping together.

This newsletter is filled with the details of the Holy Week experience. Don’t miss the parade. Join Christ and your brothers and sisters as we move through this exciting, heart touching, and exhilarating week.

Love and joy,
Joe

*Plan to have
Easter Breakfast
with your
Church Family!*

**Sunday, April 9 @ 9:15
in the Fellowship Hall
Covered Dish—Bring
your favorite
breakfast item
to share!**



David Westfall Minister of Youth & Young Adults

God's G.I.F.T.S.

- Sunday, April 16: 1:00 - 3:30 PM @ Upstairs Uth Room
- Sunday, April 23: 1:00 - 3:30 PM @ Upstairs Uth Room
- Sunday, April 30: 1:00 - 3:30 PM @ Upstairs Uth Room

Open Gym

- Sunday, April 16: 3:30 - 4:30 PM @ Gym (Basketball)
- Sunday, April 23: 3:30 - 4:30 PM @ Gym (Beachball Volleyball for ALL AGES 11+)
- Sunday, April 30: 3:30 - 4:30 PM @ Gym (Basketball)

Kickball with St. John's UMC

There is a new Minister of Youth at St. John United Methodist Church in Teays Valley. We will join up with Jonathan Boggess and the students at St. John UMC for a kickball game soon. Time is still TBA, so keep up to date with David, and once it is announced, add it to your calendar!

Community Service Opportunity - Heart + Hand

Saturday, April 29th: 12:00 - 4:00 PM

We will be heading to South Charleston to work with the Heart + Hand Thrift Shop. We will plan to meet at the church at 12:00 noon. Then, we will hop in the church van and go to lunch (bring lunch \$ for somewhere quick in Teays Valley - I'm thinking Five Guys or Panera). We will plan to be in Charleston by 1:15 PM to meet Jenny, the volunteer coordinator, who will put us to work. We will return to the church by 4:00 PM. Let David know if you plan to attend.

Confirmation

- Sunday, April 16: 12:00 - 1:00 PM @ Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 23: 12:00 - 1:00 PM @ Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, April 29: 12:00 - 4:00 PM - Community Service Project (see above for more details)

Roller-Coaster-A-Thon 2023

We are planning a Rollercoaster Trip to take place in the first week of June to celebrate the end of the school year. It is still being planned, but keep this on your radar, and we will be updating you as more information is available.

Summer Uth Programming

The last official Wednesday Night Bible Study of this semester will be Wednesday, May 3. After that, we will transition into our Summer Uth Programming which will not meet every Wednesday night. As mentioned above, there will be a Rollercoaster Trip in early June, in mid-June there will be a weekend immersion/mission opportunity to McDowell County in southern West Virginia (more info coming soon), and in late July some of us will head to Daytona Beach for the YOUTH2023 conference. If you have any ideas or suggestions for summer events, let David know and we will work on adding them to our calendars. We can't believe the summer season is almost upon us!

Jayn  Kirk Minister of Children & Families



Holy Week begins with April, and there are so many opportunities for your family to engage in worship. Check out the list of worship events in this newsletter, and see which ones your family can attend.

I would encourage everyone to try and make it to the hands on "Journey to the Cross" experience on Good Friday, where you will walk through stations in the church with others and get to feel a little of what the people walking with Jesus might have felt.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School BEGINS Sunday, June 25.

We will be visiting the colorful caves home to the Hotline Heroes who are always ready to answer the call for help. Everyone has gifts and talents to work for the good of others, and these heroes find a place and a way for everyone to get involved. With Bible stories from the Old and New Testament kids will learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace!



We hope you will also join us to share your gifts and talents as we prepare for the Children and Family Ministries' biggest outreach of the year.

Rev. Charles S. and Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship



Calling all High School seniors (and their families). It is time to apply for the Rev. Charles and Alma Thompson Scholarship. The scholarship is for post-secondary education. Please contact the church office ASAP to receive an application form. The deadline is May 14, so do not delay.

Church Directory Deadline!

Have you had your picture taken at the church (the final scheduled Sunday is April 2nd)? If not, have you submitted your own photo to staceyholley4@hotmail.com? Have you updated your information on a yellow "Directory Information" form? Please take care of these things **by April 10th** so we can move forward on the new directory. Call Stacey Holley with questions (304-532-8659), or stop by the church office.

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. BillyReed Wickline (d. 3/21/23), a retired United Methodist pastor who had been part of our community since 2015.

Men's Church League Softball



It's almost time for Men's Church League Softball! Anyone 16 and older, interested in playing on Forrest Burdette's team, please contact Coach J.B. Marinacci at 304-767-1172. The season begins the week after Easter. Games are played at Valley Park.



Spring Fling, April 1

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring the Spring Crafts & Easter Eggs Festival on **Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.** Crafters and vendors will be in attendance with a wide variety of merchandise on sale. Handmade chocolate-dipped Easter eggs have been constructed by two generations of ladies of Forrest Burdette, beginning in 1969, and will be available, along with baked goods and candies, hot dogs, barbeques, and drinks for sale.



Opportunity for Giving During Lent

Easter Lilies are not available for large quantity purchase from our local supplier again this year. As a result, we are not able to offer lilies for sale. If you would like to make a special Lenten donation in honor/memory of a loved one, we ask that you designate your special offering toward the ministry of the church with names included. The names of the contributors will be listed in the Easter bulletin with your designated honorarium/memory. Deadline: **Sunday, April 2.**

Grief Support Group

If you are grieving a loss, join us for fellowship and prayer as we learn about the grief process and how we can better cope with it. Due to the Easter holiday, we will meet only once this month. We will meet for **lunch on April 15th** at 12:30, at Mediterranean Breeze restaurant, located at 2678 Winfield Road, St. Albans. Lunch is self pay. Questions? Call/text Stacey Holley at (304) 532-8659 or Robbie Parsons at (304) 542-0981.

★ JOY Fellowship (55+) & The Mayor ★

JOY Fellowship will hold its monthly covered dish lunch on **Thursday, April 20**, at 12:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. Our special guests will be Mayor Scott Edwards and Assistant City Manager Amanda Ramey. They will update us on the latest developments in Hurricane and answer questions. Join us!



Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for March 2023:

| | |
|--|----------|
| March Contributions Received as of 3/28/23 | \$72,510 |
| Monthly Receipts Needed | \$67,540 |

May is Forrest Burdette's Month at the Cupboard



Look for the sign up board at the Connection Center in mid-April to volunteer at the Christian Community Cupboard in May. 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 apx. 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Please consider being a part of this ministry to our community. See Marvin Thompson (681-292-2739) or Steve Cook (304-521-3371) with questions.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday – April 2 – Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball preaching

All week, Holy Week – April 2-7 – Labyrinth available in the Fellowship Hall for self-directed prayer walk

Wednesday – April 5 – No fellowship dinner or classes

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 7:00 p.m. – Worship and Holy Communion

Good Friday – April 7, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. – Journey to the Cross – An interactive experience that you walk through in small groups

Easter Sunday – April 9:

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Large Picnic Shelter in Valley Park, by the Teays Valley Ministerial Association

9:15 a.m. – Easter Covered-dish Breakfast, Fellowship Hall Food & fellowship, but *no Sunday School classes*

10:30 a.m. – Easter Worship

All morning: 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 something beautiful!



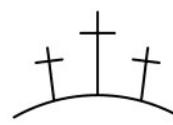
Walk the Prayer Labyrinth During Holy Week



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 in the Fellowship Hall Monday and Tuesday (4/3-4), 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m., and Wednesday-Thursday-Friday (4/5-7), 8:30 a.m.—8:00 p.m. Suggestions for how to use your prayer time will be available at the Labyrinth.

Good Friday Walkthrough Experience: Journey to the Cross @ 6:30 p.m.

This Good Friday (April 7), we invite you, your family, and your neighbors to glimpse the journey Jesus took to the cross. We will be hosting a walkthrough experience that will take



Good Friday

participants through ten stations that depict parts of Jesus' journey to the cross. Beginning with the verdict condemning Jesus to death and ending with taking Jesus' body to the tomb, we will enter a somber experience reflecting on the moments leading to Christ's sacrifice. A guide will lead groups through the journey, and each station will have a leader who guides your group through a reflective devotional along the way. At the end of the walkthrough, you will quietly exit the building and return to your vehicles. This is a unique opportunity to engage with the scriptures in an experiential way, and we hope to see each of you there with your family, friends, and neighbors (starting at 6:30 p.m., ending at 8:00 p.m.). You won't want to miss it!

Have you remembered the church in your will?

April Birthdays:

- 1 Kristen Corley, Brooklyn McCoy
- 2 Judy Cleveland, Alex Dean, Paul Landin, Michael Myers, Jay Proud, Tom Turner
- 3 Ryan Anders, Virginia Clark, Missi Fisher, Clay Jackson, Jacqui Meeks, Doug Pitzer, Allison Weiss
- 4 Charlie Johnson
- 5 Amy Crook, Ella Grant, Cooper Holland
- 6 Mark Akers, Michael Fruth, Carl Proffitt
- 7 McKenzie Myers, Amy Nitzel, David Shanklin
- 8 Jennifer Weiss Blower, Kristy Bowyer, Chris Brown, Morgan Brown, Karen Campbell, Karlee Edwards, Gail Samson, Kristin Smith, Trent Surface, Clarence Woodworth
- 9 Alan Clegg, Ryan Clegg, Rusty Ellis, Ainsley Hollaway, Austin Miller, Shelby Nitardy, Nathan Wendel
- 10 Donna Landin, Harold Walker
- 11 Brad Hall, Aidan Martinez, Priscilla Simmons, Barbara Wyatt
- 12 Joe Ann Gyke, Bailey Hill, Joseph Rogowski
- 13 Andy Burns, Alisha Dierdorff
- 14 Carol Rowsey
- 15 Reid Painter, Jeremy Rogers, Joanne Sovine
- 16 Debbie Bias, Leigh Anne Cutlip, Mia Ferguson, Lauren Freeman
- 17 Jane Sentelle, Sarah Westfall
- 18 Bill Hollaway, Danielle Johnson, Karen Ray
- 19 Abby Baker, Debby Cunningham, Chad Halstead

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



April Anniversaries:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Roland & Missi Fisher | 12 Bob & Pat Litton |
| 6 Bill & Diana Allen | 22 Dale & Debbie Duespohl |
| 9 Jr. & Vicki Barnhouse | 27 Michael & Morgan Sword |
| 9 Ben & Kara Hughes | 28 Jeff & Natalie Elkins |
| 10 Ed & Betsy Byus | |

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



VISIONS
The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

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

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