



# VISIONS

The newsletter of  
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE  
WITH  
OUR COMMUNITY

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Worship Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

## When You Arrive

Last week we celebrated Bethany's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. It's kind of surreal to think about and it's certainly weird to stroke these keys and punch in an "8." Where have the previous seven years gone? It seems like yesterday that we were bringing her home from the hospital, harnessed tightly in the car seat, all bundled up in a onesie with a fluffy May toboggan on her head. And now look: hair straighteners, braids, acrylic nails, denim jackets and more earrings than there are ears in the world. I should've bought stock in Claire's.

As high school commencement ceremonies loom and corresponding graduation parties are on the calendar, I know these exact thoughts occupy the collective hearts and minds of many moms and dads this time of year.

In my address to the soon-to-be grads who were present at this year's baccalaureate service, I referenced a poet who recalls being challenged with a question that later inspired her to write. In the wake of my little girl's birthday, I included the poet's question below:

*"What would you say to your unborn baby as they prepared for birth? How would you describe the world they're about to enter and what would you want them to know when they arrived?"*

Shortly before Bethany was born, I remember being mentally arrested by that question. If time was short and words were few, what *would* I say to my child as she prepared to pass from the womb to the world? Just before labor began, what's the one thing I'd want her to know? Perhaps it would be prudent to preempt her arrival with a litany of potential problems: *Pain, disappointment, confusion, derision, division; corruption, eruptions, abductions and the like.*

It's tragic but true. Prudent, yes, but it certainly doesn't provide anything promising for a little one's arrival. I'd want to inspire rather than intimidate. Wouldn't you? Nothing confines one to a world of warm complacency more than fear.

And so, to prompt my child's arrival, I'd attempt to paint a mental image that is a bit more picturesque: *The bright burst of yellow that comes with a sunrise or the vibrant orange and pink of a sunset. What about the vastness of the canyons or the depth of the oceans? How about the chatter of a mountain brook or the morning song of a robin?*

If the moment was fleeting before your young one's arrival, what glimpse of natural goodness would you want them to mentally behold to embolden them for delivery? There's no dearth of beauty to describe, but for one who's never left the womb, what earthly majesty can an infant really comprehend? Anything we'd choose to describe would be hopelessly romantic and yet not very relatable. What's gained in prettiness inevitably lacks in practicality. So what would it be? The question begs: *What's the one thing you'd want your unborn baby to know once they arrived?* I've since adopted what the author iterated and it's this:

*Child, as you pass from this world to the next, of all you could see or experience, there is nothing more meaningful, practical, beautiful or powerful than knowing that when you arrive...*

*...I'll be here and you'll be with me. Until then, I'll be here waiting for you.*

Among a world as burdened as it is beautiful, indeed it's enough to know that *whoever we are* and *whatever we experience*, One who is supremely stronger, wiser, grace-filled and good is not only with us through the labor, but can be seen in a new and clearer way once the pushing and straining ceases. From one age to another; from one stage to the other; from one move or transition to another; from one loss or one life to another; from one challenge or change to the other, isn't that what God wants us as children to know? Given all we could see, do or experience, there's nothing more practical, powerful or beautiful than that.

So go ahead: press on with confidence knowing that God is with you through the struggle and waits to greet you once you get there.

—Pastor Jake

## Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Hey Church Family!

Wow, it's already summer! I am so excited about June because we have a busy month with our church youth group. But first, here are a few honorable mentions from May.

We celebrated Graduation Sunday and recognized five graduating seniors, with three receiving the Rev. Charles and Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship. These seniors were also honored during Hurricane High School's awards ceremony. Please continue praying for their futures as they begin the next chapter, whether that's college, trade school, or entering the workforce.

We also had an amazing time at Sky Zone! More than 20 youth and adults joined us for a fun-filled evening of jumping and fellowship.

Youth Group will be taking a summer break after May 31st. That will be our last Sunday youth meeting until August. Please continue to watch the bulletin for all summer youth updates and information.

June is packed with exciting opportunities for FB Youth! Beginning June 15th, our youth group will head out on a weeklong mission trip. There are still spots available, so if you would like to join us for this incredible experience, please contact Luke Spurgeon.

The youth will also be helping with Vacation Bible School beginning June 21st and throughout the week as we minister to children in our community.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our youth ministry. We are excited to see what God has in store this summer!



May 8, 2026



Luke Spurgeon with high school graduates Ezra, Lydia, Bailey, and Ashton on 5/10



## Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!



Now that June is here, it's almost time for Vacation Bible School at Forrest Burdette! **VBS will be held the evenings of June 21-25** (and June 22-26 for those serving with the morning VBS for COM).

Vacation Bible School  
Child and Volunteer  
Registration  
**IS OPEN!**

June 21-25, 2026  
6-8 p.m.; 5:30 Dinner  
Check it out—scan  
this code!



Invite the children and families you know! Every summer, we are blessed with adults and teenagers who have servant hearts for the children who attend our Vacation Bible School. **Please consider your role in our evening and/or morning sessions—there's always a place for you!**

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!*

## Cathy Daley, Director Children's Outreach Ministries (COM)



Hi Everyone,

It's been super busy at COM this last month with lots of new and exciting faces on our staff. We are getting ready for summer programming and scheduling lots of fun, and we have quite a few new kiddos for the summer and continuing into the fall programs.

Tonight (May 26) we have PreK graduation with some really excited children! It will be a fun time for all involved I am sure.

We are eagerly anticipating our VBS week. We have children that ask every year when it is going to be, and they enjoy it so much! We are incredibly thankful for the church for leading VBS for us during the time the children are here. You will also see some of them return for the evening session. They really do love it!

**If any of you have any crafts or talents that you would like to share with the children this summer, we would love to have you.** Just stop by the office or email me at [cathy@forrestburdette.com](mailto:cathy@forrestburdette.com) and we will find a time for you to come, teach, enjoy, and learn from some pretty amazing young people.

Once again, thanks for all the support and prayers you provide. We can use and appreciate each of them.

♥ **Have fun, and make a difference.** ♥



## From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to Todd Lilly and family upon the death of his wife Becky Lilly on May 2, 2026.

Congratulations to Chantil Foster & Stephen Cadwell who were united in Christian marriage May 15, 2026. Chantil is the daughter of L.D. & Cheryl Foster and the granddaughter of Virginia Dunlap.



## Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for April 2026:

April 2026 Contributions Received .....\$48,104  
 Monthly Receipts Needed .....\$65,323

Mortgage Balance:

April 2026 Payments on Mortgage\* .....\$12,638  
 Funds Received, April 2026 .....\$11,593

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

## T-shirt Sale Continues until 6/7



...June 7th, that is! Our church-wide T-shirts are on sale now through June 7th. Order forms are available in Sunday bulletins or by contacting the church office (304-562-5903, office@forrestburdette.com). Shirts are \$12 each; some proceeds will benefit our youth ministry.

## Notes for Our Older Folks

- Our senior exercise group has resumed, M-W-F, 9:30 a.m., in Byrd Hall. Join us for light exercise and fellowship!
- JOY Fellowship (55+) will not meet in June, July & August and will resume monthly meetings in September.



## 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?*

In June we pack in a cozy way,  
 With comfy things for night and day!  
 Soft little socks to warm their toes,  
 Snug PJs for sweet dreams as they doze.  
 And don't forget undies — "underoos" too,  
 Clean, comfy, and just the right size will do!  
 These simple gifts bring smiles anew,  
 A hug in a box, both fresh and true,  
 To children across the land and sea!



Scan this QR code to see ideas on our Amazon wishlist. Send items to the church or bring your donations to the box in the Connection Center. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has sent or brought donations over the past few months. Your generosity toward OCC is appreciated!

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED  
 THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?**

## Congratulations!

The following students are our 2026 high school graduates, all from Hurricane High School:

Lydia Peterson, daughter of Mark & Megan Peterson, plans to attend West Virginia University and study Exercise Physiology.

Bailey Philyaw, daughter of JD & Dory Philyaw, plans to attend Ohio University and study Biological Sciences.

Ezra Scott, son of Tammy Nelson and grandson of Hilda Mynes, plans to attend Mountwest Community & Technical College.

Christian Stark, son of Sarah Stark and Justin Stark, plans to attend West Virginia University.

Ashton Warner, daughter of Scott & Sarah Warner, plans to attend Marshall University and study Biochemistry.

The following students are our 2026 graduates of higher education:

Katy Marie Limanen graduated from Marshall University in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and minors in Biology, Chemistry, and Marketing. Katy will be continuing her education in the medical field.

Allison E. Weiss received her Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner degree with Honors from the University of Charleston (WV), May 2026. Allison has already passed her FNP Certifying Board exam as well!



The 2026 Rev. Charles & Alma Thompson Memorial Scholarship recipients are (as pictured, L to R) Ashton Warner, Lydia Peterson, and Bailey Philyaw. Luke Spurgeon and

Pastor Jake Steele awarded these students with their scholarship checks on May 10th and presented their award certificates at Hurricane High School on May 19th. Congratulations to these scholars!

## MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The 2026 season is in full swing!

Join the team, or catch a game at Valley Park!



June 2, 8:00 p.m.      June 22, 8:00 p.m.  
 June 9, 6:00 p.m.      June 30, 6:00 p.m.  
 June 15, 6:00 p.m.



Contact: Coach J.B. Marinacci, 304-767-1172

## June Birthdays:

- 1 No birthdays on record today
- 2 Brie Crouse, Kiersten Ellis-Marino, Nancy Hardin, Adam Martin
- 3 Barbi Davis
- 4 Jeremy Grant, Iris Kirk
- 5 Tony Anders, Mike Brown, Riley Daugherty
- 6 Katie Cutlip, Kelly Gibson, Mark James, Liz Quigley, Jamie Wendel
- 7 Krista Antis, Lainey Faulkner, Ty Foster, Scott Lilly
- 8 Ryan Fisher, Shane Johnson, Alexis Ward
- 9 Aspen Hobbs, Chuck McCane, Jane Saunders, Keith Sayre
- 10 Lynne Fruth
- 11 Aimee Carr, Greta Huggins
- 12 Debbie Ayers, Jr. Barnhouse, Bailey Fearing
- 13 No birthdays on record today
- 14 Norman McClure, George Smith
- 15 Morgan Anderson, Karen Atkins, John Call, Marvin Thompson
- 16 Allison Herman, Robbie Hill
- 17 Cheryl Foster, John McBrayer, Joan Mullins, Mikayla Myers, Donna Varian
- 18 Brian Gibson, Nathan West
- 19 Richie Armstrong, Jim Fawcett, Debbie Kahre, Michael Kidd, Jeanne Sweeney, Linda Vealey, Isaac Wendel
- 20 Bryson Grant, Bob Litton
- 21 Becky Cunningham, Ann Gilmore
- 22 Logan Cutlip, Tim Mitchell, Maryann Nichols



- 23 Brian Andrews, Courtney Cremeans, Reed Houston, Carly Miller Huff, Claire Miller Kuhl, Ginger Sergent
- 24 Bill Cutlip, Alyssa Hazler, KrisAnna Parsons
- 25 No birthdays on record today
- 26 Justin Altizer, George Beckett, Greg Cleveland, Ed Davis, Emily Steele, Adelina Stewart
- 27 Shay Ellis, Rodney Kimble, Joey Nelon, Bill Warden
- 28 Brian Cortellesi, Lilly Faulkner, John Mason, Sarah McCallister, Paul McClanahan, Billy Smith
- 29 No birthdays on record today
- 30 Beth Court, Steven Dorsey, Zach Edgell, Renee Vickers



## June Anniversaries:

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Scott & Cheryl Riedel     | 21 Christian & Lindsay Casingal |
| 2 Michael & Lisa Kidd       | 21 Ed & Brenda Grant            |
| 7 Mike & Annette Cartwright | 23 Jim & Lorrie Zappitelli      |
| 10 Bill & Leigh Anne Cutlip | 24 Justin & Whitney Williams    |
| 11 Bill & Somer Hollaway    | 25 Joe & Valerie McMillion      |
| 11 Mark & Donna Landin      | 26 Pat & Heather Holland        |
| 15 Jerry & Diane Wolfe      | 26 Thomas & Andrea Rogowski     |
| 16 Brian & Kimberly Slappe  | 27 Davey & Lauren Freeman       |
| 17 Olin & Katie Spencer     | 27 Dave & Debbie Tincher        |
| 18 John & Meredith Vance    | 29 Larry & Linda Clark          |
| 19 Steve & Diane Dorsey     | 29 Jackson & Chelsey Lilly      |
| 19 Jim & Lisa Fawcett       | 30 Alan & Karen Cummings        |
| 20 John & Debby Cunningham  | 30 Craig & Andrea Houston       |

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



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

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## SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**Address Service Requested**

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**40 Day Dash**

Set your eyes.  
Go...Ready.

Our 40-Day Dash teaching series continues into June. Join us as we learn more about the Kingdom of God, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.