



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Church Staff:

Rev. Jake Steele, Senior Pastor
jacobsteele714@gmail.com
(304) 972-2258

Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley,
Pastor Emeritus

Luke Spurgeon, Minister of
Youth & Young Adults
youth@forrestburdette.com

Mike Barnhouse,
Director of Music
mike@marshallbarnhouse.com

David Shanklin,
Assistant Director of Music
dshanklin@gmail.com

Zach Edgell,
Media Tech Coordinator
media@forrestburdette.com

Karen White, Admin. Assistant
office@forrestburdette.com

Ellen Bowie,
Business Manager/ Treasurer
finances@forrestburdette.com

Katie Spencer, Custodian

Children's Outreach Ministries (COM) Child Care:

Cathy Daley, Director
cathy@forrestburdette.com

Jenni Reib, Business Manager
jenni@forrestburdette.com
(304) 562-9170—office



2848 Putnam Avenue
Hurricane WV 25526
(304) 562-5903

(304) 562-6654—fax
office@forrestburdette.com
www.forrestburdette.com

VISIONS

The newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church



•The Day Our Movers Arrived•

Emily and I walked through the front door of the parsonage on a sweltering hot Tuesday morning—this following the Monday where one could fry an egg on the sidewalk (We didn't. Our eggs were packed, though I was tempted to try). As the truck carrying the weight of our possessions cautiously backed its way into the driveway of 110 Mulberry, we too crept our way down I-77 into the Kanawha Valley bearing a heavy load; yet it wasn't the weight of the cardboard moving boxes or furniture that was burdensome. Rather, it was the utter weight of unfamiliarity, emotional fatigue and anxiousness that proved to be so heavy.

You know, it's no surprise that most moving companies estimate the cost of one's move by the weight of their collective items. This metric is a reliable way of determining how hard the movers will have to work in order to effectively do the job. However, as previously mentioned, there is another unseen weight that makes a move, change or life transition costly. The weight to which I am referring is never factored into a moving contract. The movers don't tag it as an item and add it to your inventory. No one promises professional help in removing it. When one's physical belongings are unloaded and opened these parcels can remain unattended, sealed up and heavy as ever. Do you know what I'm talking about? It's the weight that comes with being *unpacked* but *unsure*; *moved in* to an area, yet feeling *left out*; feeling like an alien, but never leaving the country. Oh, the heaviness that is felt coming into a *house* that isn't *home* and being greeted only by your echo that bounces off the walls of empty rooms. People caught in the tension of transition can emotionally and spiritually buckle under that weight—unless of course you see and hear what we experienced moving in:

"Hi there! Welcome to Hurricane! We're so glad to have you here"... were the words that reverberated repeatedly through the empty rooms of the parsonage the moment Emily and I stepped foot in the door and it wasn't our own echoes! Instead, they were warm, visible reminders of God's steadfastness and grace that is present long before we arrived—God's way of reiterating, *"I'm here. I've always been here. I'll never leave you or forsake you* (Heb. 13:5)." Time and time again in the days that followed, our starving souls were fed with heaping helpings of heaven's hospitality: gracious greetings, vibrant visitors, home cooked meals, hands holding paint brushes, a refrigerator pre-stocked with food, abundant gifts of time, energy and resources. With each act of selflessness, weight began to lift. Anxiety annihilated, discomfort unpacked and discarded, thoughts unscrambled and organized. Burdens unloaded—box by box, bit by bit. Movers like that don't normally arrive before the tenants do! Indeed, the movers moved boxes and bikes, but the church moved mountains. While the movers were paid, we're eternally indebted to our "Forrest Family" for removing a weight that couldn't have been lifted on our own.

Has FBMUMC ever considered itself to be a body invested in the work of helping others move in? Many weary travelers visiting the town of transition may not be in the process of changing locales, but life is in upheaval nonetheless. We're familiar with those who are moving into difficult phases: divorce, financial hardship, flooding, hail damage repair, job loss or simply experiencing the turbulence of being a teenager. Some have lived here in Hurricane their entire lives, but still feel like outsiders—strangers in a new area of life desperately seeking someone to welcome them home. As ones who are weak and heavy laden, all of us are offered rest (Matt. 11:28) through the cross of Christ. As fellow travelers, a united body of Christ, may we ceaselessly seek to be channels of heaven's hospitality, proclaiming to those who walk through our church doors, *"Welcome home! We're so glad you're here."* Do you know the power inherent in those words? Me, Emily and the kids do. But don't wait for the doors to be opened! Extend the invitation to someone! Just watch: weight will be lifted and burdens unloaded. Box by box, bit by bit.

-Pastor Jake

Luke Spurgeon Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Hey Church Family,

I'm so excited about how involved our church has been this summer! June was an incredible month for our youth—we celebrated graduations and had a blast on our rollercoaster trip to Carowinds.

I also had the opportunity to attend annual conference and connect with youth from other churches in our district. It was inspiring to see how God is moving across our conference. I'm happy to share that the **Fall Workshop** for the WV Youth Conference will be held November 14–16 at Camp Cowen. **Youth parents, please mark your calendars!** I would love all our youth to attend. On top of that, I've gathered information about a major overseas youth trip that might possibly happen next summer. I can't share all the details just yet, but stay tuned—it's going to be big!

A **huge thank you** to all the adults who joined us on the rollercoaster trip. We truly couldn't have done it without you. We stayed at Harrison Church in North Carolina, who welcomed us so warmly. They provided cots for us to sleep on and shared their sanctuary for worship and games—it was a real blessing. The next morning, we made our way to the park, stopping for breakfast and arriving just as it opened. It turned out to be the perfect day—there were hardly any lines, so we rode everything we wanted! By 6 PM, everyone was exhausted, and even though we headed home early, we didn't get back until 1 AM. Special thanks to the youth and adults from UMT in Beckley (my father's church) for joining us, and to our own church family for supporting us through fundraising and praying. We couldn't have done it without your love and generosity.

Looking ahead, July is a busy month! We're welcoming our new pastor, Jake, and gearing up for Vacation Bible School starting July 13th. I'm so excited to see how our youth will help Pastor Jake and his family feel right at home. I'll be on vacation with my dad from July 23rd through 28th, and I promise to share lots of pictures on Facebook from our trip.

As we head into August, I'm filled with anticipation for what this new school year will bring. I encourage our older adults to be praying over our students as they begin their academic journey. We'll also be holding some youth planning meetings and hosting a Back-to-School Party, so keep an eye on the E-Connection and church bulletin for updates.

Thanks again for all your love, support, and prayers. This church family is truly something special.

With love and excitement, Luke



Children & Family Ministries Spreading the Good News!

Families! Here's a look at what we're covering in Children's Church this month, so you can continue growing at home during the week.



Unusual: A Series on David

7/6: God uses unlikely people. 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 5:1-5. *David becomes King.*

7/13: God gives unexplainable joy. 2 Samuel 6:1-5. *David dances before the ark.*

7/20: God does unexpected things. 2 Samuel 7:1-14a. *God's promise to David.*

7/27: God's love is unchangeable. 2 Samuel 11:1-15. *David and Bathsheba.*

↓ Scan this code or call the church office to register for VBS!



"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

**Vacation
Bible School**
July 13-17, 2025

5:30 p.m. Family Dinner; 6:00-8:00 p.m. Program

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

Hello all! Wow—it has been a super busy summer already! Lots of field trips, lots of water play, lots of heat, and lots of fun. We are looking forward to Bible School week coming up. The children always enjoy it!

We are still looking for workers, especially those who want to work into the fall. Please have anyone you can think of, with early childhood education experience or who is willing to attend classes on the subject, get in touch with us. The field needs people badly; there is such a need for quality programming, and we strive to be a leader in the quality care community.

Continue to pray for our program and for the right people to be led to us, for our children, their families, and our staff.

We truly appreciate all the support you offer and could not do what we do without it.

♥ Have fun, and make a difference. ♥



Congratulations to KrisAnna Parsons who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Marshall University. KrisAnna will begin study for her Master's degree in Structural Aeronautics Engineering at the University of California San Diego this fall. Her parents are Robbie & Carrie Parsons.

Congratulations to Reid Painter who received his "white coat" at a ceremony on June 20, for the Physician Assistant program at Marshall University. Reid is the son of Bill & Kristina Painter.

July Worship

We gather for worship Sunday mornings at 10:30, with Sunday School at 9:15. Pastor Jake Steele begins leading our worship services on July 6. Come to welcome him and his family, and invite someone to join you as we continue to walk with Christ into a new chapter in the life of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC.

Date	Sermon Title	Scripture
July 6	"Lord, I'm Looking!"	Mark 6:30-44
July 13	"The Lord of the Limp"	Genesis 32:22-31
July 20	"Fight Like Family"	Mark 6:1-13
July 27	To be determined as summer plans are finalized	

Read the Bible Together this Year

We are reading through the Bible with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. *The Grand Sweep*, developed by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, is guiding us from Genesis to Revelation.

7/1/25	Isaiah 4-6, Psalm 104	7/17/25	Isaiah 52-54
7/2/25	Isaiah 7-9	7/18/25	Isaiah 55-57, Psalm 109
7/3/25	Isaiah 10-12	7/19/25	Isaiah 58-60
7/4/25	Isaiah 13-16	7/20/25	Isaiah 61-63
7/5/25	Isaiah 17-19	7/21/25	Isaiah 64-66
7/6/25	Isaiah 20-23	7/22/25	Jeremiah 1-3, Psalm 110
7/7/25	Isaiah 24-26	7/23/25	Jeremiah 4-6
7/8/25	Isaiah 27-29	7/24/25	Jeremiah 7-9
7/9/25	Isaiah 30-32	7/25/25	Jeremiah 10-12, Ps. 111
7/10/25	Isaiah 33-35	7/26/25	Jeremiah 13-15
7/11/25	Is. 36-37, Psalms 105-106	7/27/25	Jeremiah 16-18
7/12/25	Isaiah 38-39, Psalm 107	7/28/25	Jeremiah 19-21
7/13/25	Isaiah 40-42	7/29/25	Jer. 22-24, Psalm 112
7/14/25	Isaiah 43-45	7/30/25	Jeremiah 25-27
7/15/25	Isaiah 46-49	7/31/25	Jeremiah 29-30
7/16/25	Isaiah 50-51, Psalm 108		

Generosity for Ministry

Following is financial information for May 2025:

May 2025 Contributions Received.....\$49,610
Monthly Receipts Needed\$64,023

Mortgage Balance:

May 2025 Payments on Mortgage*\$12,638
Funds Received, May 2025\$10,465

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

Have you remembered the church in your will?

From the Church Record

Christian sympathy is extended to the Marinacci and Estep families upon the death of "Pap" Rick Estep on June 19, 2025. A service for Rick will be held on July 1, 2:00 p.m., at Chapman's Mortuary in Huntington, WV. Visitation begins at 12:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Lindsay Jones and Christian Casingal who were united in Christian marriage on June 21, 2025. Lindsay is the daughter of Jim & Lisa Fawcett.

MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The 2025 season is flying by!

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

July 8, 6:00 p.m. July 21, 8:00 p.m.

July 14, 8:00 p.m. July 28, 8:00 p.m.

Tournament play is TBD in August!

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



Thank You for Your Servant Hearts!

Many people worked hard to get the parsonage ready for the Steele family. A huge **THANK YOU** to all who were involved with the planning, supervising, painting, landscaping, cleaning, and all other duties: Justin & Leah Altizer, Ellis & Julie Conley, Matt Cox, Debby Cunningham, Debbie Duespohl, Lisa Fawcett, Jason Haught, Donna Landin, Tim Landin, J.B. Marinacci, Hilda Mynes, Kristina Painter, Jeanie Ramsey, Gary & Sam Robson, Ezra Scott, Luke Spurgeon, and Matt, Isaac, Colby, & Lucy Williamson. We appreciate your time and hard work in preparing the parsonage for its new family.



July Birthdays:

- 1 Jo Chapple, Kay Chapman Davidson
- 2 Radley Edwards, Laken Faulknier, Allyson Lawhon
- 3 Rachel Baker, Susan Dean, Sarah Moore
- 4 Linda Harshbarger
- 5 Lillian George
- 6 David Baker, Doris Roberts
- 7 Judy Armstrong, Carolyn Cremeans
- 8 Tim Stinespring
- 9 Brad Cochran, Matthew Sette, Nancy Smith
- 10 Emily Hanning, Katina Haight, John Martin, Hermitt Stover
- 11 Quinn Hazelett, Zack Spurlock, Sarah Warner
- 12 Austin Davis
- 13 Tyler Akers, Josh Dunlap, Drew McClanahan
- 14 Steve Cook
- 15 Lynn Clay, Kevin Crouse, Sara Dean, Jane Gillispie
- 16 John Bayliss Jr., Lauren Turley, Terry Turley
- 17 Sierra Fisher, Karen Marsh, Katie Spencer, Daniel Vance
- 18 Beth Anderson, Marsha Jones
- 19 *No birthdays on record today*
- 20 Dax Blower, Allison Brown, Lily Bryan, Mike Cartwright, Mike Mellace, Eli Valent, Zach West
- 21 Beth Pitzer
- 22 Gary Edgell, Bailey Philyaw, Kent Schamp, Mark Wooddell
- 23 Mike Baker, Kirstyn Erwin, Michelle Jackson, Sadi Phillips,



- Caleb Vassar, Andrew West
- 24 Scott Bowyer, Kendra Schamp, Cierra Stevens
 - 25 Jeff Elkins, Darya Ferguson, Josephine Marsh, Cheri Rollyson
 - 26 Pat Faulknier, Brittany Johnson, Zoey Williams
 - 27 Josh Anderson, Rob Marsh
 - 28 Pat Holland, Blake Kennedy, Jennifer Kimble, Margie Veit, Monty Vickers
 - 29 *No birthdays on record today*
 - 30 Rachel Blankenship, Robby Blankenship, Morgan Kimble, Nathan Neville
 - 31 Brett Faulknier, Scott Fizer, Maycle Mason

July Anniversaries:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 Warren & Pat Faulknier | 18 Eddie & Cathy Ellison |
| 5 Scott & Claudia Fizer | 19 Gary & Sandy Vargo |
| 6 Matt & Lauren Cox | 23 Mark & Kim Dunlap |
| 6 Brad & Crista Hall | 23 Gary & Jill Newman |
| 6 Robbie & Carrie Parsons | 24 Brandon & Shelley Porter |
| 7 John & Kim Neville | 25 Jimmy & Candi Conaway |
| 9 Bob & Jackie Alexander | 25 Jeff & Debbie Haynes |
| 14 Jake & Emily Steele | 27 Todd & Becky Lilly |
| 15 Tim & Terri Stanley | 30 Brian & Jen Lauck |
| 17 Bob & Susan Petryszak | 30 Jody & Bree Ogle |
| 18 Harold & Sue Bennett | |

** 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.

VISIONS

The Newsletter of
Forrest Burdette Memorial
United Methodist Church

2848 Putnam Avenue
Hurricane, WV 25526
304-562-5903
office@forrestburdette.com
www.forrestburdette.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hurricane, WV
Permit No. 3

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Address Service Requested

Date mailed: 6/26/2025

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, July 18, 2025 • 12:00—5:00 p.m.

Forrest Burdette Fellowship Hall

Register at: RedCrossBlood.org and enter
HURRICANECOM.

Contact Coordinator Jo Bess with questions
or to volunteer (304-545-0096).

