

## Latest Events @ Forest Grove UMC

Forest Grove United Methodist Church will be a loving Christian community using our spiritual gifts to welcome all God's people as we worship and serve God in the world.

**Forest Grove United Methodist Church**  
**13384 Ashland Road, Ashland, VA 23005**  
**Facebook: [Forest Grove United Methodist Church](#)**  
**Website: [www.forestgrovera.org](http://www.forestgrovera.org)**



## January 18, 2026

### WELCOME!

It is a joy to have you with us for this time of worship. We pray that this time will be inspirational for all and hope you will come and worship with us as often as possible.

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### New Mailing Address!

The church has a Post Office box! Please direct any tithes and mail to this address:

Forest Grove UMC  
Post Office Box 157  
Ashland, VA 23005

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### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am – Nurture Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – after worship –  
Welcome Luncheon for Pastor Florence

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm – Ash  
Wednesday Service, Forest Grove Sanctuary

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### Facebook Update

We have a new Facebook page! Please join us there and follow the page for updates and event information.

**[Forest Grove United Methodist Church](#)**

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### Volunteers Needed!

Please prayerfully consider helping with the following: Preparing and helping serve Communion, Scripture reading, and Front desk

Greeters. Let Pat Weinstein or Florence know if you have any questions and would like to help with any of these and you will be added to the list. Thank you.

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### Welcome Luncheon

We will have a Welcome Lunch for Florence and her family after church service on January 25. Menu includes fried chicken, mac and cheese, snaps and potatoes, corn pudding, pea salad, rolls, brownies and cookies. For those who wish to bring additional sides they are always appreciated. Please plan to stay after church service for food and fellowship.

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### Message from Drew

Aloha to all,  
My mother finally has a date for her funeral. It is at Arlington National Cemetery, April 10, 2026 at 1PM. Any who wish to attend are asked to be at the cemetery at 12:15 for the procession. Thank you and Mahalo.  
Aloha, Drew

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### Stewardship Message

We give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. Tithing is a spiritual discipline that helps us align our hearts with God's generosity. Whether you give 10%, 2%, or simply what you can — let it be a prayerful act of worship. Ways to give:

- Drop an offering in the offering plate at the back of the Sanctuary.

- Mail an offering to the **New** Post Office Box: Forest Grove UMC, PO Box 157, Ashland, VA 23005
- Online to “Forest Grove Ashland” at Tithely: [https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give)

Your tithes at work: Through your faithful giving, our church supports not only our local church but a portion also goes to the Virginia Conference to fund clergy education, disaster relief, new church development, and global missions. Together, we’re part of something bigger — sharing Christ’s love across our community and the world. Thank you for giving generously and prayerfully.

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### Hanover Cluster Partnering

Forest Grove is looking at creative ways to partner with fellow UMC churches in our Hanover Cluster in worship, education, and service. For service and outreach, Forest Grove will focus our collections.

Roland Mills will lead the ministry to ensure deliveries are made to support Kenwood UMC’s **Elmont Community Food Pantry**, in partnership with First Baptist Church of Elmont. Please consider donations as you are able. A basket is set in the Narthex.

Immediate Needs:  
Bagged rice, Canned corn

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### MLK Jr. Day of Prayer and Prophetic Witness

Date: Tuesday, January 20

Time: 12:00pm

Location: United Methodist Building Simpson Memorial Chapel

In the face of deadly, militaristic actions that oppress, divide and conquer homeland cities and sovereign countries, we call on people of faith to remember, reflect, and recharge through the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Racism, economic exploitation,

and militarism, the “three-prong sickness,” is raging through our world with unprecedented speed and ferocity. Come lift your voice and urge our leaders to resist the evils of oppression and seek action in the name of neighborly love. [Learn more...](#)

Advocate – January 13, 2026

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### Countering federal violence with neighborly love

MINNEAPOLIS (UM News) — United Methodists across the U.S. led prayer vigils and protested in solidarity with their neighbors after a week that saw federal immigration enforcement agents kill Renee Good and shoot two people in Portland, Oregon. Pastors also used their sermons to comfort the grieving and offer guidance for how to respond to a government that seems increasingly hostile to large parts of the U.S. population. The message across the denomination is clear: Christ calls disciples to reject violence, welcome the immigrant and work toward a just and loving world. Heather Hahn reports. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – January 13, 2026

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### Upcoming event focuses on racial injustice

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, the Racial Justice Network (RJN) is hosting the Resisting Racial Injustice in the Way of Jesus Conference at Belmont UMC in Richmond. The RJN is an informal group of persons from different churches and backgrounds building strong cross-racial relationships and working together to learn about and address racial justice issues. The keynote speaker for the conference is Rev. Ben Campbell, Episcopal priest, civil rights activist, founder of Richmond Hill, and author of “Richmond’s Unhealed History”. In addition, three workshops will be offered: Conversations as Resistance with Rev. Lan Wilson, VAUMC Director of Belonging and Advocacy; Non-violent Direct Action as Resistance with Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, Executive Director of Cornelius

Corps; and Spiritual Formation as Resistance with Rev. Tom Baynham, Richmond Hill Director of Outreach and Spiritual Formation. Make plans today to join us on February 28. Registration will be available soon. For questions, email [racialjnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:racialjnetwork@gmail.com).

Advocate – January 6, 2026

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### **Registration open for Lay Servant Academy courses**

Join in February for Training Weekend featuring the Basic Course, Class Leaders, Leading Worship, and more. PLUS! Lent offers a deeper journey through Soul Reset, Daily Disciplines, and the Talking Bible. Laity and clergy are invited to sign up for courses. [Click here to see all the courses and to register...](#) Please direct questions to [Tianna Durbin](#) and [Richard Speirs](#).

Advocate – January 6, 2026

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### **Forest Grove Memorial Garden**

We now have cremation plots available in Forest Grove's cemetery. These are specially designed spaces in our cemetery where you can place the ashes of your loved ones. They offer a permanent and dignified memorial. If you have any questions or would like more information, please see Richard Mills or Carl Stanley.

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### **Weekly Devotional Scripture Focus:**

*"Jesus said to them, 'Come and see.'" —*  
John 1:39

This Sunday we'll hear the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. When they ask, "Where are you staying?" Jesus gives them the simplest invitation: "Come and see."

Not "Let me go over all the details with you, first." Not "Here's what I'm hoping will happen." Just "Come and see."

It's not unusual for us to want to wait for the whole plan to be clear before taking the first step. We want to see where God is leading before we say yes. But that's not how discipleship works. That's not how faith works.

God invites us to say yes to what's right in front of us today. One small yes. One act of kindness. One prayer. One moment of showing up. One conversation. One gesture of grace.

Andrew said yes to spending the day with Jesus. Then he went and found his brother, Simon, and told him about their time with Jesus. That's all. One yes led to another yes, and the world was never the same. Maybe following Jesus isn't as complicated as we might think?

What is God inviting you to say yes to this week? Even the smallest yes matters to God.

I'll see you on Sunday.

With joy!  
Florence

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### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

**January Celebrations:** Many blessings to these beloved members of our church family

#### **Birthdays:**

Joanne Patterson, Jeremy Woodson, Russell Williams, Matthew Thomas, Christian Bott, Joyce Swann, Andrew Bott, Mary Cannada, Wayne Hall, Paul Fleshood, Megan Thomas, Erin Morrison, Dustin Harford

#### **Anniversaries:**

Ken and Linda Crabbs

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#### **Special prayers:**

**1/18/26**

Concerns:

Carol Mills is in the hospital. Prayers for her, Roland and her medical team.

Gayle Parker is in the hospital again. Prayers for her medical team and recovery.

**1/11/26**

Joys:

Dustin - birthday this month

Andrew - getting better - prayers for continued healing

Mitch and Richard - addressing property needs

Ava and Joseph - baby shower

Concerns:

Gayle Parker - prayers for healing and for family members with flu

Donna Glasco – hospitalized with double pneumonia – by Ivy Erlich

**1/4/26**

Russell Mills – hospital - home now

Andrew Stanley – health issues over Christmas

Beverly Batchellor – recovery from a stroke on 12/19

Spencer – stroke recovery

Baby Graham – respiratory concerns

Gayle Parker – hospital – home now

Vanessa and Dustin – prayers for healing

Joseph – prayers for healing

Gail Lane – continued prayers for healing for broken wrist

Sage – feeling better

Norman – prayers for healing

**12/28/25**

Joy: Dee Uttrich thoroughly enjoyed her visit from the Christmas carolers!

Family and Friends of Pattie Crane Betz (Pixie Fleshood’s aunt), who passed away on December 17.

David Fleshood’s (Paul Fleshood’s brother) continuing health struggles.

Gail Lane successful wrist surgery, prayers for continued healing.

Gayle Parker prayers for health and well-being.

Gratitude for Diane Ware for providing Sunday music for Forest Grove.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun Jan 18	11:00am	Worship
Sun Jan 25	11:00am	Worship
Sun Jan 25	After worship	Welcome Luncheon for Pastor Florence
Fri Jan 30	9:00am – 12:00pm	Centenary Lunch Preparation
Sun Feb 1	11:00am	Worship
Sun Feb 8	11:00am	Worship
Sun Feb 15	11:00am	Worship
Wed Feb 18	5:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun Feb 22	11:00am	Worship