

## 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)



## February 1, 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.

### 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

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am** – Fellowship Hall – Valentine Event - Please join us for a special multigenerational Sunday School lesson and outreach activity on Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 9:30 AM. We will be led in a Valentine's related Bible study followed by making gift bags for a neighbor or shut in. There will also be some yummy treats to share with one another before joining together for worship at 11:00 in the sanctuary. All are welcome! If you have questions or need more information, please reach out to Sheila Bailey.

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm** – Ash Wednesday Service, Forest Grove Sanctuary – followed by a pancake supper

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am** – Lenten Bible Study begins – "Because of This, I Rejoice" – Forest Grove Fellowship Hall – Contact Florence for more information.

### Centenary Update

Seven from our Forest Grove community traveled to Centenary on Friday to prepare and serve guests at Centenary Downtown. Over 70 guests were served a delicious hot meal on a cold day. What a wonderful opportunity to be part of this ministry. Our next scheduled trip to Centenary is in May. Please reach out to Pat Weinstein, if you are interested in participating.

### 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](#)

### Opportunities to Serve

Teams of two to prepare communion for First Sundays. Please reach out to Florence, if you are interested.

### Lenten Bible Study

It's not too early to make plans to join Forest Grove UMC for a Lenten Study. Read the details and save the dates and time on your calendar.

"Because of This I Rejoice"

What if Lent wasn't about giving things up, but about drawing closer to God?

Starting Tuesday, February 24, through Tuesday, March 31, we'll gather for a 6-week study of Paul's letter to the Philippians facilitated by Rev. Florence Brooks. Even while imprisoned,

Paul discovered spiritual practices that kept him connected to God's power and presence - and filled him with joy. Practices that can still make a difference for us today in the midst of life's many challenges.

"Because of This I Rejoice" invites us to move beyond spiritual chores and New Year's resolution-style promises. In our time together each week, we'll explore practices that help us focus more on God, allowing joy to flow through our lives no matter what we're facing.

This isn't about achieving. It's about drawing near to the One who longs to draw near to us.

Study begins: Tuesday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Forest Grove UMC Fellowship Hall

Cost: Suggested contribution of \$9 per book

Books will be available for participants.

All are welcome from the Forest Grove community and beyond. This is a great opportunity to enjoy time with others in fellowship and study.

Questions? Reach out to Florence.

I hope you'll be able to make time to join us on Tuesdays.

With joy! Florence

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### Website Update

Out of a desire to encourage local churches to create an online presence, the Three Notch'd District received a grant to provide Forest Grove and other small churches with the resources for a website. Visit Forest Grove's website at: [ForestGroveRVA.org](http://ForestGroveRVA.org)

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### A Few Things to Celebrate

\*FGUMC submitted its annual report to the Conference, which summarizes membership, finances, and property. Many thanks to each of those who contributed data for the report.

\*Sheila Bailey recently created a new Facebook page for FGUMC. Be sure to find us and follow us!

\*Our electronic sign has been refreshed with new slides and current information. Thank you to Melinda Mills for her work on this.

\*The church's phone is now working and the voicemail is back online.

\*The Nurture Committee met recently to review and update our homebound list and is actively reaching out to homebound members.

\*The Administrative Council also met recently to review the work of the church and discuss areas of need. The next meeting is set for a Sunday in April.

\*Forest Grove was one of 534 churches in the Virginia Conference that paid 100% of their apportionments for 2025. Apportionments make possible the shared work of the Church — developing leaders, supporting congregational vitality, extending compassion and justice, and sustaining our connection. Every contribution, regardless of amount, plays a meaningful role in this mission.

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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 UMC, Ashland" at Tithe.ly:  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give](https://tithe.ly/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.

### 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, Instant potatoes, Pasta sauce

### United Methodist Church Bishops condemn violence in Minnesota

January 26, 2026--The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church released a statement on the violence ongoing in Minnesota. The letter said in part, "The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and

embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities." [Read more...](#)

Advocate – January 27, 2026

### New District Superintendents announced

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson is pleased to announce the appointment of two new District Superintendents to serve the Virginia Annual Conference beginning July 1, 2026: Rev. Grace Han will serve the Three Notch'd District and Rev. Alan Combs will serve the Valley Ridge District.

"I am delighted to welcome Rev. Han and Rev. Combs to my Cabinet," Bishop Sue said. "Both bring with them the immense trust of the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference from their years of effective ministry in the local church. They are both well-versed in the connectional nature of United Methodism. I am so grateful for all they will bring to their respective districts as well as to the work of the Cabinet as a whole." [Read more...](#)

Advocate – January 20, 2026

### 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

## 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:

Dear Forest Grove community and friends,  
Many across the Southeast and beyond are captivated by a group of about 20 venerable monks who are walking for peace. They embarked in late October in Fort Worth, Texas, on a 120-day, 2,300-mile journey to Washington, D.C. Their mission: to raise awareness of peace, loving kindness, and compassion across America and the world.

And it hasn't been easy. Early on, one of the monks was hit by a car. He was hospitalized for a month in Texas, where his lower left leg was amputated. Snow, sleet, and freezing rain have been their companions for the last six days or so, and yet still they walk. Arctic-like temperatures, most unusual for this region, have been consistent, and yet still they walk.

Their faithful companion, a small dog named Aloka (meaning "light"), has accompanied them either on foot or in an RV, as he has also endured some health challenges. And yet still they walk. Clad in layers of robes of orange, brown, and rust, with knit caps, scarves, boots, and satchels, they walk. Their eyes and hearts are focused on something larger than themselves, yet very much rooted in the pursuit of peace within.

In a post titled "Why we walk," the monks shared: "Our walking itself cannot create peace. But when someone encounters us — whether by the roadside, online or through a friend — when our message touches something deep within them, when it awakens the peace that has

always lived quietly in their own heart — something sacred begins to unfold."

The beauty and power of their message is found in the monks themselves - they embody the peace they long to share.

This week, the cycle of readings followed by many mainline churches includes this text from Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

We, too, as Christians, are called to walk. In our homes, our neighborhoods, our places of work, our communities, and beyond. To convey a message of kindness, justice, and humility that ripples beyond our knowing.

My husband, Burt, often says that if the world is going to change, it's got to be from the bottom up. The movement of transformation is not a downward motion from some place of power, but an upward motion from people like you and me. And that movement is rooted in our awareness of the transformative goodness of the God who made us. God is with us. Each one of us.

As you walk through this day, whether it be a virtual classroom, a boardroom, a shelter, or simply the kitchen table, may you do justice, love kindness, and remember our loving and good God walks with you every step of the way. May God bless you, transform you, and lead you.

With joy and gratitude for each of you,  
Florence

CONSIDER THIS: The monks walk despite injury, harsh weather, and difficulty. What challenge in your own life is calling you to keep walking faithfully?

P.S. The venerable monks are expected in Ashland on Monday, February 2nd. Follow Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church's Facebook page for any updates.

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## JOYS & CONCERNS

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

### Birthdays:

Shirley Callahan, Carl Stanley, Allen Saunders, Vanessa Parker, Trey Morrison, Christopher Harbin, David Gatton, Gabby Meyer-Gatton, Daryl Gatton, Marian Bomberger, Marilyn Stanley, Laney Stanley



### Special prayers:

#### 1/25/26

Norman Bobbitt – heart surgery & complications – by Pat & Carlton Weinstein

Dona Glasco is out of the hospital and appreciative of everyone's prayers

Gayle Parker - continued prayers

Roland and Carol - continued prayers

Ava - prayers for her and her baby's well-being

Jackson- ongoing health concerns and surgery (Carolyn's nephew)

Tyreek's friend who has cancer (Danielle)

Continued gratitude for the legacy of Floyd Lane, Sr.

Drew as he makes preparations for his mother's burial at Arlington

#### 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun Feb 8	9:30am	Valentine Sunday School Event
Sun Feb 8	11:00am	Worship
Sun Feb 15	11:00am	Worship
Wed Feb 18	5:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service followed by pancake supper
Sun Feb 22	11:00am	Worship
Tue Feb 24	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 1	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 3	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 8	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 10	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 15	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 17	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 22	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 24	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 29	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 31	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study