

## 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 15, 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

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

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – 1:00pm** - Memorial service for Marian Bomberger at Kenwood United Methodist Church, 11208 Elmont Road, Ashland

~**NEW DATE**~ **Sunday, February 22<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.

**Tuesdays, February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:30am** – Lenten Bible Study – “Because of This, I Rejoice.” Study books are \$9. – Forest Grove Fellowship Hall (Please let Florence know if you plan to attend.)

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday worship. More details to come.

### 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.

### Elmont Community Food Pantry

Kenwood UMC, in partnership with First Baptist Church of Elmont, runs the Elmont Community Food Pantry. We would like to help support their effort and encourage everyone (as you are able) to try to bring a can or non-perishable item each week. There is a basket in the narthex to collect donations. Deliveries are made each week to Kenwood UMC. All items are welcome and we will update weekly with most needed items. Thank you for your support!

Immediate Needs:

Chunky soup, Instant mashed potatoes, Spaghetti sauce

---

## 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

---

## 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)

---

## 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.

---

## 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

---

### 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.

---

### US pastors stand against federal crackdown

*UNITED METHODIST NEWS*--United Methodist clergy from across the U.S. joined in a Minnesota interfaith protest Jan. 23 against federal violence. Now with federal agents responsible for another person's death, pressure for accountability and truth-telling is mounting. United Methodist clergy from outside the state say that what they learned in Minnesota they plan to apply in their own communities. [Learn more...](#)

Advocate – February 3, 2026

---

### 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 connective 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

---

### 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.

---

### Weekly Devotional

It was a turbulent time in Memphis in 1968. Dilapidated trucks, low wages, and long hours without overtime pay were mere symptoms of a deeply distorted system. Feelings of anger, distrust, and disgust rose to an all-time high when two of the workers, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were crushed to death when a garbage truck malfunctioned. It was into this sea of discord that local clergy invited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to offer his support for their campaign of non-violence. And he came. Dr. King believed that economic security was the next step toward justice for poor adults and children of any race. But it was chaos. Peaceful marches erupted into violence, snowstorms created disarray, and the National Guard's arrival heightened the fear.

Dr. King made three trips to Memphis during this time period. The third and final trip was on April 3, when he delivered his historic "Mountaintop" speech. Exhausted and struggling with a sore throat and fever, Dr. King initially stayed behind to rest, but after much persuasion from his friend and colleague Ralph Abernathy, he arrived at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple late to find a dedicated and overflowing crowd eager to hear his words.

His speech was written on his heart as he extemporaneously shared with the crowd about the critical need for economic justice for all, the civil rights movement, and the need for unity. He spoke of being happy to live in such a messed-up time because it is "only when it is dark that you can see the stars." He spoke of the work of God in the masses of people who longed for freedom and were pursuing that freedom, and he spoke of himself, of his own struggles, of poignant encounters, and of his calling.

With passionate fervor, Dr. King proclaimed, "Well, I don't know what will happen now.

We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

It seemed as if Dr. King knew at a cellular level that his earthly journey was nearing completion. Less than 24 hours after speaking about the mountaintop, on April 4 at 6:01 p.m., his life came to an untimely end when he was fatally shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. He was 39 years old. But the poignancy of his words still lingers, because he had encountered God. He had heard God's voice. He had been transformed by that listening. And that transformation gave him the courage to keep going, even when he knew death might be near.

This Sunday, our liturgical cycle of readings turns to Transfiguration Sunday, the final day of Epiphany, as we prepare to enter Lent.

On this day, we remember when Jesus took three disciples up a mountain. It was on this mountaintop that Jesus was transfigured—his face shining like the sun, his clothes dazzling white. It was on this mountaintop that Moses and Elijah appeared beside him, talking with Jesus. It was on this mountaintop that a bright cloud overshadowed them all, and a voice proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

The disciples saw glory. But more than that, they heard a voice. And in that listening, they were transformed.

Mountaintop moments don't keep us from the valley. Dr. King made that clear. He went from the mountaintop straight into Memphis, straight into danger, straight to his death. But the

mountaintop gave him what he needed — a vision of the promised land, a certainty that God was with him, and courage to face whatever came.

That's what I believe happens when we open our hearts and minds to the ways of God. We are transformed. We see differently. We live differently. We find courage for the journey of life. Whatever mountaintop you need to climb, whatever valley you're walking through, God meets us there.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday, at Forest Grove as we explore what it means to have been to the mountaintop.

With joy!

Florence



**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, Marilyn Stanley, Laney Stanley



**Special prayers:**

**2/15/26**

Gay Cauthorn had a fall – by Pat Weinstein  
Sage had a fall & broke her arm – by Gayle Parker

Pam and Larry Sinsabaugh both having medical issues – by Pat Weinstein

**2/8/26**

Family & friends of Marian Bomberger  
Family & friends of James Burchet Dye – by Danielle Fenske

**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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun Feb 15	11:00am	Worship
Wed Feb 18	5:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service followed by pancake supper
Sun Feb 22	9:30am	Valentine Sunday School Event
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
Sun Mar 22	After worship	Easter Egg Hunt
Tue Mar 24	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study
Sun Mar 29	11:00am	Worship
Tue Mar 31	10:30am	Lenten Bible Study