

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



February 22, 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

Today, Sunday, February 22nd – 9:30am – Fellowship Hall – Intergenerational Valentine Event and Bible Study. Join us as we learn about God's love, make care packages, and enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

Tuesdays, February 24th – March 31st – 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 22nd – 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:

Pork and beans, 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

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/#/tithe/ly/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.



United Methodist school brings Olympic glory

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--Alaska Pacific University, a small college with strong United Methodist ties, is sending nine cross-country skiers to the 2026 Winter Games. Eight of the university's athletes are part of Team USA, and another is representing Slovakia. The university also has a strong commitment to raising up Alaska Native leaders. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – February 17, 2026



Sager Brown Depot to close as UMCOR shifts relief kit work

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--The United Methodist Committee on Relief said the changes will reduce costs while strengthening its disaster response ministry. Millions of relief supply kits have been assembled at Sager Brown and shipped to communities facing crisis across the United States and around the world. Throughout 2026, UMCOR will continue its work at the Sager Brown campus and host all scheduled mission experiences. UMCOR's announcement said the relief agency looks forward to conversations about possible engagement with the local community. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – February 17, 2026



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 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

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

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." (Matthew 4:1)

Have you ever felt lost—not exactly sure where you are or even where you are headed?

This Sunday, we observe the first Sunday of Lent by following Jesus into the wilderness. Matthew tells us the Spirit deliberately led him there. This wasn't a wrong turn. It was the path.

Forty days in the desert. Hungry. Alone. And then the tempter shows up asking the same question three different ways: "If you are the Son of God..."

The devil isn't questioning Jesus's power. He's questioning his identity. Are you really who you think you are? Are you really THE son of God?

We hear those same whispers that cause us to question. When illness changes what we can do. When grief reshapes who we thought we were. When the future looks nothing like we planned. The voice comes: Are you really enough?

Jesus had to answer his questions in the wilderness. And we do too.

But wilderness in Scripture isn't just where we get lost — it's where we get found. Moses encountered God at Sinai. Elijah heard the still, small voice. Even the Israelites — wandering for forty years — became God's people in the wilderness

Maybe you're in your own wilderness right now. A diagnosis. A loss. A question with no answer. A relationship that's become unraveled. A life that's been turned upside down. A daily dose of disappointment.

And you're not alone.

This Lent we're spending time with some of the hard questions — the ones we're not always comfortable asking. Each week, we'll spend time with someone who brought their questions to Jesus. Not one of them got easy answers. But all of them encountered a God who wasn't afraid of their wrestling.

Over the next five Sundays leading up to Palm Sunday, we're exploring "Questions in the Wilderness." This Sunday, February 22, we start with the question that begins our journey: What do we do when God feels distant?

I hope you will join us on Sunday at 11. I would love to see you there. There's always room for you at Forest Grove.

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 (Pam is Patricia and Mitch’s cousin) - both having medical issues & both undergoing medical procedures – by Pat Weinstein

Aiden, Eric and Colleen Fleshood as they begin a new medical journey for the improvement of Aiden’s health

Tiffany (daughter-in-law of Mitch and Alice) surgery on Tuesday, 2/17

Gayle Parker - biopsy outcome was negative
Danielle Fenske- loss of friend and mentor from the Cornerstone community, James Burchette, Jr.

Marian Bomberger - family as they grieve the loss of her life and make plans for her service on 2/21 at 1 at Kenwood

2/8/26

Family & friends of Marian Bomberger
Family & friends of James Burchet Dye – by Danielle Fenske
Amy Goodman Pippin - A stable CT scan and MRI

Goodman and Wells Family - Prayers for the loss of Trudy Goodman’s brother, Randy Wells.

Family of Glenn Holder - In the passing of their husband and father (Alice and Mitch’s friends)

Mary Sue Swann - Retired clergy. Recovering from fall on ice, broken leg in two places.

Pixie’s Family - Aunt Mattie Lewis passed on Friday.

Gayle Parker - has a new apartment and will move the end of February.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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