

## 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)



## March 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

**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 would like to join us.)

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday worship. See details below.

### Forest Grove Easter Egg Hunt

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon, following worship**

All are invited - young and old and in between - for a hot dog lunch with coleslaw and chips followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 22. We will gather after worship in the Fellowship Hall and while we are enjoying good food and conversation, the eggs will be hidden for the children to find. Please feel free to bring side dishes for our hot dog feast. For more information, contact Pixie Fleshood or Sheila Bailey.

### Reminder

Daylight saving time begins next Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

### 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:

Instant mashed potatoes, Pasta sauce, Jelly

### 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

---

### **A Few Things to Celebrate**

Even with all of the snow and ice, February was a robust month for Forest Grove. Here's a glimpse at what has taken place:

- Richard, Carl and Mitch kept an eye on the property during the snow and ice and provided hands-on work to make it accessible for us.
- On our first Sunday back, with snow and ice still covering the lot, we had 20 in attendance.
- Cathy H. provided a steady flow of information with Leaf creation and distribution while we were closed due to weather.
- Our Ash Wednesday service and pancake supper had a wonderful crowd of 30ish.

Many thanks to Pixie, Wanda, Russell, Gail S., Carl, and Alice C. for the wonderful meal.

- Our Lenten Bible Study began on February 25 with 10 in attendance.
- A volunteer rotation schedule for worship went out with volunteers designated to serve communion, read scripture, and greet through the end of June. If you need a copy, email/ask Florence
- Carl Stanley has been designated as our lay delegate for the Annual Conference in June.
- A mystery person restored order to the AV room. Thank you!
- Forest Grove was well represented at the service for Marion Bomberger. Flowers were sent from Forest Grove to Grant, who lives at the Hermitage.
- Sheila Bailey, with the assistance of Pixie and Alice, planned a wonderful intergenerational Bible Study event with 14 in attendance.
- The playground fencing, which was damaged earlier in the year, has been repaired and looks lovely.
- Alice G. provided training to Anita and Ivy, who will be serving as Communion Stewards in March.
- Contributions for the food pantry at Kenwood have been robust. We're keeping Roland, who makes the deliveries, busy!
- Pixie coordinated children's time leaders through the end of April. If you are interested in being included as a leader in the next rotation, reach out to Pixie.

There's so much at Forest Grove to celebrate and be grateful for. How blessed we are. Thank you all!

## 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.

## Making regionalization a reality for the church

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--United Methodist leaders from around the globe are engaged in a significant reimagining of the Book of Discipline. They are seeking to specify what provisions apply denomination-wide and what can be adapted by the newly created regional conferences. They also heard an update on the

formation of the new U.S. regional conference.  
[Read more...](#)

Advocate – February 24, 2026

## Commitment to serve joyfully defines church

United Methodist leaders joined to explore how Wesleyan theology shapes the denomination's approach to mission around the globe. They were participants in a webinar that focused on the United Methodist vision statement's call to "serve joyfully." That commitment has roots not only in Scripture but also in the history of the Wesleyan movement. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – February 24, 2026

## 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

---

### 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

***"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.'" - John 3:1-2***

I was sixteen when I walked down the stadium steps at a county-wide crusade and re-dedicated my life to Jesus. I thought that might be enough. Faith would finally make sense.

That night, they assigned me a counselor named Sherry, the wife of a local youth pastor, to meet with. She had really long hair, a gentle disposition, and knew scripture inside and out. We'd meet weekly at the church. I'd ask questions, she'd guide me to Bible passages for answers.

But the more questions I asked, the more unclear I became.

I thought walking down those steps would give me all the answers. I thought meeting with Sherry would "fix" me, and everything would make sense. Instead, the more I learned, the more questions I had.

With time, God helped me realize I was not alone in my confusion. That uncertainty is a vibrant part of the fabric of faith.

Nicodemus knew this feeling. He was a Pharisee, a teacher, someone who'd devoted his entire life to understanding God. He had all the credentials, all the knowledge, all the respect.

And then he met Jesus.

Nothing fit anymore. Everything he'd built his life on suddenly felt... insufficient.

So he came to Jesus at night, carrying his questions. And Jesus told him something that must have been both terrifying and freeing: "You must be born from above."

What an odd response, or so it seemed.

Maybe you're there right now. You've been doing all the right things, but something still feels off. Or you're watching someone you love walk away from faith and wondering if maybe you're the one who got it all wrong.

Here's what Nicodemus teaches us: The questions don't mean you're failing. They might mean God is doing something new.

This Sunday, we continue our Lenten series "Questions in the Wilderness" with Nicodemus's night visit: When everything I believed isn't enough, what next?

With joy!

Florence

---

### JOYS & CONCERNS

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

**Birthdays:**

Mark Mills, Joseph Bailey, Emery Morrison, Amorey Plant, John Bailey, Jason Callahan, Pam Garnett, Susan Harbin, Drew Roderick, Cathy Hamilton

**Anniversaries:**

Carl and Sandra Stanley

---

**Special prayers:**

**2/22/26**

Prayers for Lyn Roderick (Drew)

Prayers for Carolyn Bailey

Prayers for David Mayhew (Carolyn Bailey’s son-in-law)

Prayer for the Guthrie family - Nancy Guthrie’s disappearance

Prayers for Brenda Hudson’s family as they grieve her loss of life

Prayers of Joy for Tiffany's positive outcome from her surgery and test results (Daughter-in-law of the Goodmans)

Praise for the USA Men’s Hockey Team Olympic victory

**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 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