

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



March 8, 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 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 would like to join us.)

Sunday, March 22nd – Easter Egg Hunt following Sunday worship. See details below.

Sunday, April 5 – 6:30am - Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast

Forest Grove Easter Egg Hunt

March 22nd 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.

Coffee time is BACK!

Before and after worship, stop by the Fellowship Hall for a morning cup of coffee and a pastry.

Music For Worship Conversation

Do you have thoughts about music for worship? I would love to hear them! Following worship on March 15, I'll be hosting a brief conversation (about 30 minutes) open to anyone who would like to share their experience, offer ideas, and help shape what is both meaningful and sustainable for our congregation. All are welcome! Join me at noon on March 15.

With joy! Florence

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, Pasta sauce, Peanut butter, Jelly

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!

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

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.

Bishops call for prayer and peace amid new war

Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone has called for prayer amid ongoing military strikes by the U.S., Israel and Iran. "As followers of Christ, let us be steadfast in prayer for those whose lives were taken that they may rest in God's eternal peace," she wrote on behalf of the bishops. "Let us pray for the wounded that healing and comfort may surround them. Let us pray for families and communities in mourning that they may find strength for the days ahead."

[Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 3, 2026

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

When I'm Haunted by My Past

John 4:5-42

Twelve noon is a strange time to draw water from a well. Ordinarily, women came in the morning or evening when it was cool, gathering with friends to catch up on news.

But this Samaritan woman came alone in the heat of the day. No women in sight. No children running around. No one lingering to share a story.

We don't know exactly why. But the scripture offers a few clues: Five husbands. A current relationship everyone whispered about. She'd become "that woman."

So she came at noon. Anything to avoid the crowd. Simply going through the motions. Expecting nothing. Just getting through another day.

Brother David Steindl-Rast writes: "Humdrum equals deadness; surprise equals life."

I think that's where she was - in the humdrum of life. The deadness. Just surviving. Just getting by.

But someone was already there. Someone had arrived at the well that morning before her and was waiting. Jesus. Even more unsettling, he spoke to her and asked her for water.

This was not customary. Jews didn't speak to Samaritans. Moreover, Jewish men didn't speak to Samaritan women alone. This broke every rule. At least all the rules that she knew.

They talked, mostly about water. Then Jesus asked about her husband. And she told him she didn't have one.

But Jesus knew. He knew every detail - the five husbands, the current relationship. He knew her whole story, and he didn't cast aspersions on her. Instead, he offered her living water.

Maybe you know what it's like to be haunted by your past. To have a story everyone knows - or thinks they know. To come at "noon" because it

just feels the safest. Maybe it's something that happened to you. Maybe it's a choice you wish you could undo. Maybe, just maybe, it's something that no one but you has ever known.

Whatever makes you go through the motions instead of fully living - Jesus already knows.

And he's not waiting to condemn you. He's offering living water.

Join us this Sunday at Forest Grove at 11 a.m., where we'll explore, "When I'm Haunted by My Past."

I hope to see you. Until then...

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:

3/1/26

The residents of AlphaHouse - (Gay C.)

Sage's arm is healing (Sage)

Gayle P.'s move and healing from her fall (Gayle P.)

Carolyn Bailey - continued prayer (Alice G.)

Prayers of comfort for Gail Lane's former pastor and his family following his death (Floyd L.)

People with ALS and MS (Danielle)

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 Burchette 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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
Sun April 5		Easter Sunday
Sun April 5	6:30am	Easter Sunrise Service followed by breakfast
Sun April 5	11:00am	Worship
Sun April 12	11:00am	Worship
Sun April 19	11:00am	Worship
Sun April 26	11:00am	Worship