

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 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

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, March 22nd - Chocolate Easter Egg orders Due - Wanda Thibault is taking orders for ½ pound Easter Eggs. Eggs are \$5 each and are available in assorted fillings: Peanut Butter, Fudge, Buttercream, and Coconut. All funds raised go to the ministry of Forest Grove UMC. Eggs will be available for pick-up at church on Sunday, March 29. If you would like to order an egg, email Wanda at thibaultwe@live.com or sign up on the “order” pad at church.

Sunday, April 5 – 6:30am - Sunrise Service followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Sundays, April 12, 19 & 26 - Walking Toward Peace series in worship

Sunday, April 19th - Administrative Council Meeting, immediately following Worship

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.

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, Peanut butter, Jelly

Rise Against Hunger – Meal Packing Event – April 11, 2026

The Mission Committee of Duncan Memorial UMC has partnered with Rise Against Hunger to schedule a meal packing event for April 11, 2026 at Duncan Memorial in the fellowship hall.

The event will go from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Setup is from 12 noon to 1:30pm and clean up from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. This is a very large event and will require a lot of volunteers. Forest Grove has been invited to assist.

You can register online for any of the time slots at the following event page –

Event Page: Registration Waiver Link: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/DuncanMemorial2026>

If you have any questions about this opportunity – please contact Dave Goodwin at Duncan Memorial (804-380-4198).

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/#/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.

Fresh Expressions movement gains momentum

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--United Methodist ministries set in tattoo parlors, yoga studios and restaurants are reaching people outside the sanctuary. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 10, 2026

Central African United Methodists celebrate 33 new pastors

Bishop Antoine Kalema Tambwe ordained 33 new pastors last year, bringing the total number of United Methodist ministers in the country to 35. The ordinations ended years of constraints related to the lack of clergy, now allowing for the regular administration of the sacraments. Beyond the ceremony, the bishop emphasized the discipline and mission that await the new ministers. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 10, 2026

Church trains young people to promote peace

More than 30 youth leaders in Uvira have been trained to combat juvenile delinquency. The program, supported by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, aims to transform young people in eastern Congo into agents of peace in a region destabilized by war. Bishop Antoine Kalema Tambwe calls on the Congolese government and church partners to restore lasting peace and access to education, while strengthening psychosocial support for vulnerable families. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 10, 2026

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

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

"I was blind, but now I see" (John 9:25)

Six simple words, one sentence, and an entire life's story. This week, we meet in John's gospel a man who was born blind. "Why?" People asked. "What did he do? What did his parents do? Why?" The questions come easily. Can someone, anyone, explain the unexplainable?

My maternal grandmother went blind as an adult from corneal dystrophy. We would often give her fragrant soaps, lotions, and powders as gifts. Things she could enjoy without having to "see." As a child, I learned to describe what I was wearing in detail as she ran her gentle fingers along the fabric. We would go out for drives and narrate the flowers in bloom, the houses being painted, the yards being mowed. Oh, how she longed to see!

"Why?"

There is much in life that we yearn to understand more deeply, but the answers elude us. Perhaps, the better question is "How?" How

can I go on? How can I find the strength and clarity for today? How can I pull myself out of bed and navigate a new day's challenges? "How" doesn't give us all the answers, but it moves us forward. "Why" is a bottomless pit.

There is wisdom in the blind man's simple response that might be easily missed. He speaks of the past ("I was blind") while recognizing that something marvelous has taken place in the present ("now I see"). It's not simply a physical reality he speaks of but a spiritual one. He has been changed for good. No longer lost in the whirl of whys, he is certain that he is not the man he once was. Changed. Changed for good.

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see."

I hope you'll join me in worship at Forest Grove this Sunday, March 15, at 11, where we'll take a deeper look at the man born blind's story. 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:

3/8/26

Wyatt Strong - 4-year-old, fell while playing and suffered multiple fractures in his arm. (grandnephew of Nancy Mallory)

Steve Newman- prayers for peace and comfort as he has entered hospice and is nearing the end of life (stepbrother of Paul Fleshood)

Joseph Bailey - 8th Birthday (March 8)
 Micah Ware - broken arm (grandson of Carl and Sandra Stanley)
 Emery Morrison - 13th birthday (March 12)
 Rachel Fornel - finished first round of treatment for cancer (Marilyn Stanley's sister)

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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		Palm Sunday
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 – Walking Toward Peace series
Sun April 19	11:00am	Worship - Walking Toward Peace series
Sun April 26	11:00am	Worship - Walking Toward Peace series