

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.forestgroverva.org



March 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

Coffee time is BACK!

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

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.)

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

Today, 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, March 29 - Passion/ Palm Sunday - Join us for worship as we bless the palms and then reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross as Holy Week begins.

Sunday, March 29 - 12 noon - The Forest Grove Choir will rehearse a song for Easter in the sanctuary immediately following worship. All who are interested in singing for the Easter service at 11 are welcome to join in.

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.

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:

Jelly, Instant potatoes, Pasta sauce

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).

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.

COB names Interim Committee on Organization for the New U.S. Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS--The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has named a 25-member Interim Committee on Organization to guide the establishment and initial functioning of the new United States Regional Conference, which will encompass the five U.S. jurisdictions. This action follows the ratification of the Regionalization Amendment to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, as contained in the Book of Discipline. Committee membership was determined using proportionate representation from the five U.S. jurisdictions, with a minimum of three members from each. In addition, three members from regional conferences in the Philippines, Africa, and Europe —selected by their respective regional bodies—will serve as advisors and consultants to the Interim Committee on Organization, ensuring global perspective and collaboration. [Learn more...](#)

Advocate – March 17, 2026

Church leaders explore future of jurisdictions

UNITED METHODIST NEWS- United Methodist leaders are considering a proposal to leave the existence of jurisdictions up to each of the newly

created regional conferences, including the U.S. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 17, 2026

Growing ministry on Eastern Shore featured in news

SHORE DAILY NEWS--- "In the heart of Melfa, a new ministry is rising from a simple yet sacred foundation: the shared table. Gathering together to eat is far more than a physical necessity; it is a powerful act of fellowship that bridges gaps and builds a true sense of belonging. When we sit down together, we do more than just satisfy hunger, we feed the soul through laughter, shared stories and the warmth of human connection. This ministry believes that the table is where strangers become neighbors and neighbors become family. In a time where life can make us feel rushed and disconnected, these moments of intentional socialization allow us to slow down and truly see one another. By nourishing the body with a meal and the spirit with community, The Table creates a sanctuary of grace. This week, Kelley visited with Rev. Victor Drummond III and Samantha Ridley as they shared the vision of the growing ministry of The Table, where there's a seat for every story." [Watch video...](#)

Advocate – March 17, 2026

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

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

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 It Feels Too Late **John 11:1-45**

"Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)

Imprisoned at the age of 44, Nelson Mandela spent 18 years on Robben Island breaking rocks in a limestone quarry, sleeping on a thin sisal mat in a tiny cell with a bucket for a toilet. Then he was transferred to Pollsmoor Prison for nine more years of incarceration. Altogether, he was locked up for a total of 27 years.

He missed his children growing up. He lost the joy of being a free young man living his best life. He missed time with family and friends and those special milestones that mean so much: birthdays, holiday celebrations, and graduations.

When he was finally released, he was 71. Most people who lose 27 years to prison come out broken, bitter, and demoralized.

But Mandela emerged with a vision of reconciliation. He became president at 75 and led South Africa through a transformation built

on forgiveness. The lost years couldn't destroy him. Hope, purpose, the capacity to forgive (things that could have become irretrievable) were still alive in him.

When Mandela left prison, what no one fully knew was that in many ways, he was just beginning.

In John's gospel, chapter 11, Mary and Martha send word to Jesus: "Lord, he whom you love is ill." It is an urgent message sent in desperation.

But Jesus, who is in Jerusalem with his disciples, waits two days to visit the sisters, and by the time he arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four long days.

First Martha, then Mary, bereft and in despair, say the same thing: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Maybe you know that feeling.

The relationship ended. The opportunity passed. The door closed. The letter came.

And all hope was gone.

But Jesus stands at the tomb of Lazarus and says: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" He commands that the stone be rolled away and that Lazarus come out of that place of death.

And he does. "The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face" (John 11:44).

Bishop Steven Charleston writes: "Hope is not a wish but a vision."

Mary and Martha can't see beyond the tomb where their brother lies. Mandela has lost 27 years that can never be recovered.

But God, who sees beyond our knowing, who specializes in "too late," knows that what feels finished to us may just be the beginning.

I hope you'll join me at Forest Grove this Sunday, March 22, at 11, for *When it Feels too Late, can God still Act?* Following worship, we will have lunch and an Easter Egg Hunt. What a wonderful day it will be! 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:

3/22/26

Larry Sinsabaugh is having major surgery on Monday – Pat and Carlton's cousin

3/15/26

Donald Crane - kidney function decline (Pixie's brother)

Men and women in service at this time

Wyatt Strong - doing well after fall and broken arm (Nancy Mallory's grand-nephew)

Hartman and Parker families with Covid

Gayle Parker - hospital with pneumonia

Steve Newman - passing on 3/16/26 (Paul Fleshood's step-brother)

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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
Sun Mar 29	After worship	Choir rehearsal
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 19	After worship	Administrative Council Meeting
Sun April 26	11:00am	Worship - Walking Toward Peace series