

## 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 29, 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

**Today, 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.

**Today, 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 19<sup>th</sup>** - Administrative Council Meeting, immediately following Worship

#### 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, Pork & beans, Canned fruit, 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).

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### 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.

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### Documentary explores Chicago United Methodist congregations amid increased activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--This 12-minute documentary in both English and Spanish captures the lived reality of United Methodist congregations in Chicago navigating fear, loss and uncertainty amid increased activity by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. [Watch video...](#)

Advocate – March 24, 2026

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### Across US, churches plan Palm Sunday protests

UNITED METHODIST NEWS- United Methodists are among the Christians helping to organize

rallies and processions in at least 16 states on March 29, this year's observance of Palm Sunday. The demonstrations are intended to counter rising authoritarianism and greed with Jesus' call to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger. Organizers also note that protest was part of the original Palm Sunday, which saw Jesus humbly entering Jerusalem on a donkey in opposition to the pomp, greed and oppression of the Roman Empire. [Learn more...](#)

Advocate – March 24, 2026

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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.

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### Weekly Devotional

#### Preparing for Palm and Passion Sunday

This Sunday at Forest Grove our worship will begin with the hosannas and hallelujahs of Jesus' journey into Jerusalem, then turn to the heartbreak of Holy Week. It's a lot to comprehend. As we prepare for this journey through scripture and song, I invite you to read Mary Oliver's poem, "The Poet Thinks About the Donkey," for a time of reflection. This tender image of the donkey prepares us well to move forward.

**"The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"**  
*by Mary Oliver*

On the outskirts of Jerusalem  
the donkey waited.  
Not especially brave, or filled with  
understanding,  
he stood and waited.  
How horses, turned out into the meadows,  
leap with delight!  
How doves, released from their cages,  
clatter away, splashed with sunlight!  
But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.  
Then he let himself be led away.  
Then he let the stranger mount.  
Never had he seen such crowds!  
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to  
happen.  
Still, he was what he had always been:  
small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.  
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so  
lightly upon him,  
as he lifted one dusty hoof  
and stepped, as he had to, forward.

*© 2006 by Mary Oliver, published by Beacon  
Press in Thirst, p. 44*

**I hope you will join us for worship this  
Sunday, March 29, at 11:00 a.m.**

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of  
the Lord.*

With joy!  
Florence

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### 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

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**Special prayers:**

**3/22/26**

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

The Geter family

Norman - not feeling well

Bicycle safety (Joseph)

Danielle - successful surgery, prayers for a new roommate relationship

Beautiful Weather (Carolyn B)

Gas prices

Grammy’s lungs (10 mo. old)/ (Carolyn B.)

Lori - eye pain

David Mayhew’s brother Danny’s passing (David is Carolyn B.’s son-in-law)

For the War to stop

For people with Dementia

Patsy Mayhew - stomach concerns (Carolyn B.’s daughter)

**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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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