

## 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)



### April 5, 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

#### Sanctuary Flowers

The lilies in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of our parents, Nannie and Boyd Goodman and Grace and Carlton Weinstein Sr., by Pat and Carlton.

#### Coffee time is BACK!

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

#### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, April 11 – 12:00-12:30pm** - Forest Grove Singers rehearse after worship

**Sunday, April 11 - 1:30 to 3:30pm** - Rise Against Hunger at Duncan Memorial

**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, Instant potatoes

#### 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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## WALKING TOWARD PEACE

### *A Three-Week Series • April 12, 19, 26*

What does it mean to be shaped as people of peace? This spring, we'll explore Christian character formation through practice—first inwardly, then in our relationships, then in the world around us. Each week includes an invitation to walk, daily prayer guides, and time to reflect and grow. Everyone is welcome to join us on the journey.

#### **Week 1 (April 12): The Long Walk Inward**

– Peace begins within

#### **Week 2 (April 19): Walking Together**

– Peace in relationship

#### **Week 3 (April 26): Walking in the World**

– Peace in our neighborhood and beyond

*Weekly prayer cards with daily reflections will be available each Sunday based on the ensuing week's theme.*

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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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## Prayers for Peace in the Middle East

In a statement from General Secretary Roland Fernandes, Global Ministries calls for peace amid escalating violence in the Middle East and commits to supporting regional partners providing humanitarian aid, trauma care, and human rights advocacy. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – March 31, 2026

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## How does the church lead courageously?

United Methodist leaders explored how the church can create space for churchgoers to bravely go wherever the Holy Spirit leads. They were participants in a webinar that focused on the United Methodist vision statement's call to "lead courageously." Panelists discussed how the denomination's distinctive connection can help foster leadership. At the same time, they said, church leaders must sometimes go beyond institutional norms to answer the Spirit's call. [Learn more...](#)

Advocate – March 31, 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

### **While it Was Still Dark (John 20:1-18)**

This morning, early, I looked outside. It was almost light, but not quite. Still too dark to hear the birdsong that fills the woods around my home. Still too dark to see the fullness of the

day unfolding. Perhaps that is where some of you are now.

Waiting in the darkness, unsure if the light will come.

This Lenten season, we have explored a host of questions in the wilderness together. We have wondered what to do when God feels distant, when our faith isn't enough, when the past won't let us go, when we have no answers, and finally, when it simply feels too late. Holy Week doesn't offer us an answer to any of these questions. It just walks straight into them.

But I'm quite certain that somewhere in the world right now, it is already Easter morning. The sun has already risen. The tomb is already empty. Mary has already heard her name spoken in a garden. The light has broken through the darkness. The birds are already singing. A new day has come.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. (John 20:1) Mary went in the dark, carrying many questions. And everything changed.

May you find the courage to move forward in the dark this Easter in the midst of whatever questions you are carrying. The dawn is closer than you think.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

We'll gather this Sunday at 6:30 a.m. for a Sunrise Service followed by breakfast, and at 11 a.m. for worship with Holy Communion. Join us for either time or both. And if you've never been before, you can be sure there's always a place for you at Forest Grove.

Until then...With joy!

Florence

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### JOYS & CONCERNS

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

**Birthdays:**

Chris Hicks, Donald Morrison, Wes Schwartz, Pixie Fleshood, Faye Woodson, Carlton Weinstein, Robbie Schwartz, Jim Bott, Gail

Stanley, Aubrey Kahler, Karl Lane, Pam Griffin, Lee France

**Anniversaries:**

Jim and Heather Bott

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**Special prayers:**

**3/29/26**

Amy Goodman Phippen - hospitalized this past weekend (Alice and Mitch G.'s daughter)

Larry Sinsabaugh - successful surgery and home recovering

Hank Pleasants and family in the passing of Hank's wife Cindy (Carlton W.'s cousin)

Donnie's wife with health concerns (Sharon O's maintenance man)

Rose (Carolyn B's neighbor with Covid) and Grammy (Rose's grandson with Covid in ICU)

Sheila Bailey - Flu B

JJ and Ava's baby - prayers for good health for all (born 3/28 at 3 p.m.)

Couple who had an accident on Route 1 (Danielle)

Norman John and Sage - ear infections

Fire in Madison Heights - prayers for the life lost and the injuries sustained by the survivor (Joseph B.)

**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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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