

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



April 12, 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

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

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

Tuesday, April 14 – Service for Carol Mills at Forest Grove UMC – 10am Visitation, 11am Funeral Service with Interment at FGUMC Cemetery followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 19th - 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

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.

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.

Reflections for Earth Day 2026 Board of Church and Society

Virginia Board of Church and Society Clergy Co-Chair Rev. Ellen Comstock reflects on work of climate and racial justice in the Virginia Conference and what's next. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – April 7, 2026

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

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

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

Walking Toward Peace: The Long Walk Inward Philippians 4: 4–9

This Sunday we begin a three-week journey called **Walking Toward Peace**. Together, we'll explore what it means to be shaped as people of peace — within ourselves, in our relationships, and in the world around us.

This first week is about **the long walk inward**. Peace begins within.

Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman who died in Auschwitz in 1943, once wrote, "Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it toward others."

Reclaim. Not create. Not achieve. But reclaim.

Perhaps God has already planted within you a deeper peace than you know. Perhaps God, in

wisdom and grace, has already given you what you need for this journey.

Paul writes in Philippians that the peace of God "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This peace is not the result of perfect circumstances. It is God's gift, given even in the midst of anxious and uncertain times.

This week's invitation is simple: take a silent walk. Twenty minutes if you can. Ten if you need to. Five is enough to begin. And if walking is difficult, sit quietly outside or by a window.

Notice your breath. Notice the world around you. Notice the presence of God.

And carry this simple prayer with you: Be still, and know that I am God. — Psalm 46:10

You cannot give what you do not have. Peace within is the foundation for everything else.

I'd love for you to join us at Forest Grove this Sunday, April 12, at 11:00 a.m. as we begin this journey together.

With joy!

Florence

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

Special prayers:

4/5/26

Dalton Fleshood and Eden Wilson are engaged! (Paul and Pixies' grandson)

John Huffman - Fall

Jerry Bailey - lost his mother and stepmother (Carolyn B.'s nephew)

Carol Heiks - surgery on Thursday (Sandra S.'s sister)

Roland Mills and family - Carol's passing

Rachel - lumpectomy and biopsy (Marilyn S.'s sister)

Winnie - newborn hospitalized for jaundice (Ava's baby)

Gayle P. - celebrating the loan of an ac unit

Stacey - remembering her on what would have been her birthday (Vanessa's mom)

Danielle - Roommate situation improving

Jesus - and the resurrection!

Violet - hospitalized after seizure, surgery expected to follow (Vanessa's sister)

Garth Embrose - valve replacement (Kathy's husband/Carolyn's niece's husband)

3/29/26

Amy Goodman Pippen - 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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun April 12	11:00am	Worship – Walking Toward Peace series
Sun April 12	After worship	Choir rehearsal
Tues April 14	10:00am 11:00am	Service for Carol Mills: Visitation Funeral Service followed by reception
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
Sun May 3	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 10	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 17	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 24	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 31	11:00am	Worship