

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 26, 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

Sundays, April 26 - Walking Toward Peace series in worship - final week

Sunday, April 26 - Choir to sing in worship

Sunday, May 3 - Communion Sunday

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

Sunday, May 31 - Tim Gerde to preach

Save the Date – Homecoming at Forest Grove UMC – October 11, 2026
More details to come!

A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to all the people who offered time, thought, and energy to prepare the church for Carol Mill's service. From straightening pews and preparing food, to emptying trash and placing cones for parking, your gifts of service and love were very much appreciated. Thanks to each of you for making Forest Grove the very special community it is.

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, 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.

News Update

Dear Forest Grove,
I keep a running list on my Google Keep app of all the signs of life at Forest Grove. Here's the list for March. You may have an item or two of your own to add:

- € Carl created a Cemetery flyer to provide information on the history and upkeep of the Church cemetery. What a nice document! Thank you, Carl.
- € A Hot dog lunch and egg hunt were held after church one Sunday, with 45 joining us for lunch and 12 children hunting Eggs. Amazing! Thank you, Pixie and Sheila, for getting the ball rolling on this!
- € A Weekly mailing to shut-ins with a bulletin and a copy of The Leaf began.
- € Wanda offered her fabulous Chocolate Eggs with assorted fillings for sale, and the proceeds benefited Forest Grove.
- € Our Lenten Bible Study continued with participation ranging from 5 to 11 participants weekly.
- € A new volunteer roster was distributed with assignments through the end of June, and several new names joined the rotation. Thank you to all!
- € The Choir has an organizational meeting with 9 in attendance.
- € Sheila and Joseph planned and led an Intergenerational Bible Study with a Love theme with 14 in attendance. This event was postponed from February due to snow and ice.
- € Coffee hour resumed before and after worship. Many thanks to Sharon O's gift of hospitality on this.

- € A love gift for the Jeter family was collected with contributions from individuals and the Feed the Body fund. The total amount collected was \$790.
- € Carlton renewed our Post Office box for six more months!
- € Easter cards and greetings were prepared for shut-ins.
- € We enjoyed welcoming some new visitors to worship.
- € And best of all, daffodils began to bloom on the church grounds.

There's much to celebrate at Forest Grove!
With joy!
Florence

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.

Church leaders chart new future for bishops

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--United Methodist financial and ministry leaders are working together to strengthen the sustainability of the episcopacy. The new level of cooperation comes as the leaders wait for a ruling from The United Methodist Church's top court that could affect their work. The denomination's finance agency has asked the Judicial Council how to interpret changes made by the 2024 General Conference to the allotment of U.S. bishops. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – April 21, 2026

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: Walking in the World

Micah 6:8

This week is our final message in our **Walking Toward Peace** series.

Three Sundays ago we began with exploring peace within. Then, the following week we reflected on peace in our relationships. Now, in our third and final week we are pondering what it means to walk in the world as people shaped by God's peace.

The prophet, Micah, gives us a clear and beautiful answer:

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" — Micah 6:8

Walking in the world begins with paying attention. It means noticing beauty and need. It means seeing the goodness around us, but also the places where people are struggling, overlooked, or left behind. It means asking not only, "What is here?" but also, "What is God asking of me here?"

The good news is that this kind of faithfulness does not need to be big to make an impact. It begins with what we already have — our presence, our compassion, our willingness to notice, and most importantly our willingness to show up.

This week's invitation is simple: walk your neighborhood or take a drive.

Notice beauty. Notice need. Notice who is there.
And who is silently struggling.

Pray for your community.

And ponder this: What is God inviting me to notice. And what is God asking of me? Both are questions worth asking.

I hope to see you this Sunday, April 26, at 11:00 a.m. at Forest Grove as we complete this journey together. Thank you for walking with me.

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:

4/19/26

Jacob M. - health (Carolyn's Grandson)

Patsy M. - joy for her safety (Carolyn's daughter)

Men and women overseas, protecting our freedom, away from their families (Drew)

Christian's 16th birthday (Dustin's brother)

Lisa - prayers for support (Dustin's mother)

Carl L. - Birthday next Saturday (Floyd's brother)

Lindsey - lost her life in a vehicle accident (Danielle)

Carolyn's roses are blooming

Rachel - more tests ahead, but declared cancer-free (Marilyn's sister)

Sage's finger is better

Thank you to the congregation for food, prayers, and visits. (Roland)

Gratitude to be able to attend Carol's service (Drew)

Prayers for the military, for their families, and for our government (Belinda)

Special election (Danielle)

Heat issues in the apartment building where Gayle lives are affecting the well-being of tenants (Gayle P.)

Gay Cauthorne - healing of wrist and strength

4/12/26

Joseph B. - lost his tooth (ask him for the adventurous details!)

Gayle C. - Fell and broke her wrist

Carol - successful surgery (Sandra S.'s sister)

Rachel - biopsy clean of lymph nodes, procedure went well (Marilyn S.'s sister)

Violet's surgery went well, has contracted a virus (Vanessa P.'s sister)

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 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.)

Sundays	11:00am	Worship
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