

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
(Physical) 13384 Ashland Rd, Ashland, VA 23005
(Mail) PO Box 157, Ashland, VA 23005
Facebook: [Forest Grove United Methodist Church](#)
Website: www.forestgrovera.org



May 3, 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, May 3 - Communion Sunday

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

Sunday, May 24 - Aldersgate Sunday/Pentecost/Flower Dedication

Sunday, May 31 - Tim Gerde to preach

Sunday, June 7 - Communion Sunday

Sunday, June 14 - National Children's Day

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

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, Peanut butter, Cereal

Adult Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Forest Grove Lay Leader, Gayle Parker, leads a weekly Sunday morning lesson using the Adult Bible Study series. All she needs is attendees!

Topics for May include:

May 3 - Connecting Justice and Peace (Psalm 85:1-13)

May 10- Letting God be God (Psalm 89:1-4, 15-28, 38-41, 49)

May 17 - How do You receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:1-11)

May 24 - An Unexpected Invitation (Acts 2:1-13)

May 31 - Repentance: A Lifelong Discipline (Acts 2:29-41)

Please reach out to Gayle CGParker61@gmail.com for more information on this weekly study.

April Sightings

- A wonderful Easter celebration with Sunrise(40 in attendance), Breakfast and Holy Communion (44 in attendance). It was particularly wonderful to have so many family members with us. Thank you all for inviting and bringing your families!
- Mowing has begun, and the grounds are looking lovely.
- The cemetery headstones have been cleaned. (Thank you, Floyd!)
- A very meaningful gathering for Carol Mills' service, with approximately 86 in attendance, most of whom joined us for lunch. It was a good day for the Forest Grove Community to express their love for Carol and Roland through gifts of food, preparing the sanctuary and grounds, and being present. The congregation of Forest Grove also provided an arrangement for the service, which was carried to the graveside. Thank you, everyone!
- Additional Bibles, hymnals, and copies of The Faith We Sing were purchased and placed in the Sanctuary to ensure that there are enough copies in good condition for everyone.
- The Administrative Council met to review business, including updated records with contacts for our Cemetery, Building, and General Fund. It was also reported that we were able to meet all our financial obligations for the first quarter. (Thank you, Carlton! And thank you to all those who support the church financially. You are making a difference.)
- A date was set to celebrate Homecoming on October 11, 2026.
- Plans were made for a Children's Sunday with a lunch to follow in June, a Flower Dedication for Memorial Day Weekend to remember all our loved ones (Military and non-military), and to request financial contributions to prepare Kits for Conference.
- A QR Code (Quick Response Code) was created as an additional way for individuals to make financial contributions to Forest Grove.
- A new Acolyte has been making appearances in worship. (Thank you, Joseph!)
- The newly reformed Forest Grove Singers provided special music two times in April.

- Geraniums were ordered through United Methodist Urban Ministries Richmond Auxiliary to benefit Shalom Farms.
- The flower bed at the side entrance is showing signs of new life. (Thank you, Wanda!)
- We completed a 3-week series in Worship on Walking Toward Peace. Videos of the weekly messages are available on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/FGUMC-sermons>
- A new schedule for Children's time covering the months of May and June was created. Thank you to all who volunteered.
- A new Office 365 license was purchased to continue to provide bulletins and weekly newsletters. (Thank you, Cathy!)
- A small group met to provide a performance review for the District for Pastor Florence, our interim pastor.



Kits for Conference

Each year, United Methodists gathering for Annual Conference bring more than their presence — they bring tangible expressions of care for a hurting world.

This June, as our delegation travels to Harrisonburg for the Annual Conference of Virginia United Methodists, Forest Grove will be among the congregations arriving with hands full.

We are preparing 20 general hygiene kits and 20 feminine hygiene kits to contribute to this shared mission. These kits, once delivered to the Conference, will make their way to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana — a hub operated by the United Methodist Committee on Relief that stockpiles and ships supplies to communities in the aftermath of hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other disasters. What we assemble in our Fellowship Hall eventually finds its way into the hands of someone whose home, and whose sense of dignity, has been upended by forces beyond their control.

The estimated cost for all 40 kits is \$540. We are asking those who feel led to support this effort to make a monetary donation, which will

be used to purchase the needed supplies. Once everything is gathered, we will invite the whole congregation to a kit assembly party — a chance to put our hands to work together. Date to be announced.

To give, you may place cash or a check (with Hygiene kits in the memo line) in the offering plate, mail a check to Forest Grove at PO Box 157, Ashland, VA, or scan the QR code below to give online. For more information on this project, please contact Pixie Fleshood at PixPaul@myyahoo.com.

Thank you in advance for your support of this mission.



May 24th - Flower Dedication

On Sunday, May 24th (Memorial Day Weekend), a generous gift from a member of our congregation will provide flowers for all who wish to honor or remember a loved one both military and non-military. If you would like a dedication card placed on a flower, please submit the name or names of those you wish to honor or remember by Sunday, May 17th.

You may submit names in one of two ways:

- Complete the short online form here: <https://bit.ly/flower-dedication-may24>
- Or contact Pixie directly at PixPaul@myyahoo.com

Flowers with dedication cards may be taken home following the service. Any flowers not claimed will be removed from the sanctuary after the service.

We look forward to holding these beloved names as a congregation.

June 14 - Celebrating Our Children with Lunch to follow

National Children's Day began in 1857 when a pastor in Massachusetts set aside a Sunday to honor children and called the congregation to renew their commitment to the care and nurture of their youngest members. In that same spirit, on June 14, at Forest Grove, we will join in the celebration and present each child in our congregation with a Certificate of Importance — a simple, tangible reminder that they are seen, known by name, and deeply valued. This observance also calls us, as a community of faith, to recommit to the children in our midst and in our wider community: to protect them, invest in them, and ensure they know they belong.

A hot dog lunch will follow the 11 o'clock service with all the fixin's. Plan to join us and bring your children and grandchildren!

"Let the little children come to me." — Matthew 19:14

District Special Request Honoring Dr. Lee

As you know, Dr. Hyo Lee's tenure as our District Superintendent will conclude on June 30, 2026, and Rev. Grace Han has been appointed as our new District Superintendent effective July 1, 2026.

We are offering two ways for you and your congregation/organization (if applicable) to express your appreciation for Dr. Lee's ministry and service. **Feel free to share this with your church/organization as you see fit.**

- Cards or notes with written personal words of appreciation to Dr. Lee, expressing your gratitude for his ministry as you have experienced it. **Please mail your card for Dr. Lee by Monday, June 1** to the *Three Notch'd District, Attn: MaryKaye Cochran, 10330 Staples Mill Rd, Suite 250, Glen Allen, VA, 23060*. On your envelope, please note "Celebration" so that MaryKaye will know to collect these for presentation to Dr.

Lee. You may also **email your note by Monday, June 1** to MaryKaye at threenotchddistrict@vaumc.org .

- Donation – Dr. Lee has requested that people consider making a donation in lieu of gifts. The donations will benefit two organizations: Belmont Community Resource Services (BCRS) at Belmont UMC (Richmond), serving an average of 750 families each week at their food pantry, and Central Virginia Mission Hub at Culpeper UMC, which packs and distributes hundreds of hygiene and cleaning kits annually. **If you would like to donate in Dr. Lee’s honor, you may do so online at www.cognitofirms.com/VAUMC/TND/HonoringDrLee** or writing a check payable to Three Notch’d District and mail to VAUMC, Attn: TND Treasurer, 10330 Staples Mill Rd, Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060 and write “In honor of Dr. Lee” in the memo line.

At the same time you are writing the note for Dr. Lee, we invite you to write a separate note of welcome to Rev. Grace Han, our incoming DS. In this note, please share something with Rev. Han that you would like her to know about you, your church or organization, as she arrives to serve as our District Superintendent. These notes will be shared with Rev. Han after she arrives. Again, please use the same mailing address above for Dr. Lee’s cards and, for these notes, write “Welcome” on the envelope.

Thank you for taking the time to express your gratitude to Dr. Lee and his wife Kay and to wish them the very best!

Blessings,

MaryKaye Cochran
District Executive Administrator

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.

Mission Moment

Support Partnerships of Hope (POH)

Partnerships of Hope (POH) is how Virginia United Methodists covenant with other conferences globally. Beginning as a grassroots movement in the '90's as Initiatives of Hope, this mission has enabled local churches partner for Christ across the globe, make disciples and work together to respond to identified needs.

From our first partnership with Mozambique to a new partnership opportunity in Vietnam, we all can be involved! Over the years, a school and a skills center have been built, supplies and training have flowed, and the sick, widowed and unhoused have been tended.

[Support POH](#)

Advocate – April 29, 2026

Bishops urged to stop looking backward

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--In a time of great instability and injustice, United Methodist Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone encouraged fellow church leaders to move beyond institutional anxieties and be formed anew as witnesses for Christ. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – April 29, 2026

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

Weekly Devotion

On the Way - John 14:1-14

Formation takes time. A lifetime, in fact. Even those who closely followed Jesus were still being shaped by his teachings, his example, when he told them he would be leaving them. They were distressed. Why? Where are you going? Will we know the way without you?

Jesus said, "I am the way." I am with you, and I will be with you. You are not alone." But I'm

not sure his followers found as much comfort in that as he hoped to offer. They simply knew they wanted more time with Jesus. And that's what formation is about — spending time with Jesus, so that over time we can become more like him. He is the way. The way we grow in our love, our understanding, and our living.

As Frederick Buechner mused, "A Christian is one who is on the way, though not necessarily very far along it, and who has at least some dim and half-baked idea of whom to thank." No matter where you are in the journey, there's always more to discover.

On the way. We'll be thinking a bit more about this on Sunday, May 3, when we'll also celebrate Holy Communion. Won't you join me? Our service is at 11. I hope to see you then.

With joy!

Florence

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

Birthdays:

Logan Garnett, Dakota Gatton, Dennis Harbin, Brandie Waters, Eric Fleshood, Robert Ehrlich, Sarah Ware, Wanda Thibault, Jason Garnett, Dawn Martin

Special prayers:

4/26/26

Joy to be here! (Gayle P.)

Privilege of seeing sister, Cathleen (Carolyn)

Baby Akira of the Jeter family arrived

Beautiful spring and pollen will end soon

Gratitude for the preacher who prayed with her (Carolyn)

Sheila B. and Carl S. to feel better

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!)
 Gaye 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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 3	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 10	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 17	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 24	11:00am	Worship - Aldersgate/Pentecost/Flower Dedication
Sun May 31	11:00am	Worship (Rev. Tim Gerde to preach)
Sun June 7	11:00am	Worship - Communion Sunday
Sun June 14	11:00am	Worship - National Children's Day
Sun June 21	11:00am	Worship
Sun June 28	11:00am	Worship