

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.forestgroverva.org



May 10, 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.

Stewardship Message



Easy ways to support the ministry of Forest Grove. Donate online at tithe.ly Forest Grove UMC, Ashland, Virginia, or scan this QR code. You may also mail a donation to the PO box listed above. Your financial gifts are very much

needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day

Saturday, May 23 - Remembering our Veterans, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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, Pork & beans, Instant potatoes

Adult Bible Study to begin June 7

Lay Leader, Gayle Parker will begin offering a class during the Sunday School hour at 10 a.m using the Adult Bible Study materials from Cokesbury. The summer series will be exploring

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

Nursery Volunteers Sought

We're hoping to offer weekly nursery care for children birth through age 3 — and we need your help to make it happen! We're looking (ideally) for **8 or more volunteers** who would each serve **once a month**, always in pairs. The more people who volunteer, the lighter the load for everyone — and no one person or pair will be carrying this alone.

Each volunteer will need to complete a few one-time steps required by our Conference's Safe Sanctuary guidelines:

- Fill out a screening form
- Pass a background check
- Complete Safe Sanctuary training
- Sign an agreement to follow Safe Sanctuary policies

Ideally, Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Your willingness to serve is what makes this possible. If you're interested, please let **Florence** know. Once we've identified volunteers, we'll walk through the next steps together to create a workable solution for everyone and get the nursery ready to go.

Questions? Talk to Florence by email at florencebrooks@vaumc.org or by phone or text at 804-912-4332. Please respond by May 24th.

A Morning to Remember Our Veterans

📍 Forest Grove Cemetery 🕒 10:00 a.m. |
Saturday, May 23rd | Rain or Shine!

Join us on **Saturday, May 23rd at 10 a.m.** at **Forest Grove Cemetery** for a meaningful time of remembrance.

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a short program of remembrance and recognition, followed by the placement of flags at the resting place of each veteran buried there.

All are welcome. Come and help us say *thank you* to those who served.

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 here 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.cognitofrms.com/VAUMC/TND HonoringDrLee](http://www.cognitofrms.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

Why the 1956 women-clergy vote matters

UNITED METHODIST NEWS--Delegates for the Methodist Church's 1956 General Conference voted to make women eligible for full clergy rights. "Now it is up to us to prove in clear and deep witness to the whole church our consecration and our loyal devotion to the work of the Kingdom of God," said Margaret Henrichsen, a General Conference visitor, after the vote. In 1967, she became the first U.S. woman appointed district superintendent. [Read more...](#)

Advocate – May 5, 2026

Agencies denounce 'weakening of Voting Rights Act'

WASHINGTON — An April 29 decision by the Supreme Court rolls back "generations of progress by civil rights leaders and heroes ... who worked diligently for decades to establish one of the most important protections against racial discrimination in voting," say two United Methodist agencies in a joint statement. The court's 6-3 ruling "sends an alarming and dangerous message," reads the statement from the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race. "In practice, it means millions of Black, Brown and Indigenous people will have less of a political voice and representation." The statement calls on United Methodists to stand in solidarity with those most affected by the weakening of the Voting Rights Act. [Read statement](#)

Advocate – May 5, 2026

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

Weekly Devotion

Tender Love and Care I Thessalonians 10:1-8

In the children's classic "The Velveteen Rabbit," a stuffed rabbit asks the wise old Skin Horse what it means to be Real. The Skin Horse answers with great care. Real, he says, is not how you are made. It happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time — not just to play with, but really loves you — then you become Real.

It hurts sometimes, the Skin Horse admits. And it takes a long while. But once you are Real, you cannot become unreal again.

Paul knew that kind of love. He tells the Thessalonians that he and his companions were gentle among them like a nursing mother with her children — ready to share not only the gospel but their very selves, because the people were dear to them.

This is exactly the love God has for us, and the love we are called to give one another. Staying close. Treating each other as precious. Day after day. For a long, long time.

This Sunday, we will explore what it means to be made Real with tender love and care, and what it looks like when we embody it.

I hope you will join us.

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, Dawm Martin



Special prayers:

5/3/26

Cat Fenske's Aunt Monica in hospice

Roommate challenges (Danielle)

First homerun (Joseph)

Avery Fleshood - Graduating tops in her nursing class and going to work in Roanoke.

Gratitude for Wanda T for the flowers at the church side door and all she does to bless us.

Birth of Henry, weighing 9 pounds and 11 ounces (Alice and Mitch's Great Grandson)

Joanne M. is moving to a nursing home/Prayers for Mills family (Joseph's Great Aunt)

Sharing of beautiful flowers in worship (Thank you to Carl)

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!)

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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 10	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 17	11:00am	Worship
Sat May 23	10:00am	Remembering Veterans
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