

## 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](http://www.forestgrovera.org)



## May 17, 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](http://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 17** - 12 noon- assemble hygiene Kits in the Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, May 23** - Remembering our Veterans, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall (Bring photos of your veteran(s)).

**Sunday, May 24** - Aldersgate Sunday/Pentecost/Flower Dedication (Bring photos of your veteran(s).; 12 noon - Faith and Nature Walk for Children and their Families

**Friday, May 29** - Centenary Feeding Program (see Pat W. to Volunteer)

**Sunday, May 31** - Tim Gerde to preach

**Sunday, June 7** - 10 a.m. - Adult Sunday School with Gayle Parker; Communion Sunday

**Sunday, June 14** - 10 a.m. - Adult Sunday School with Gayle Parker; Children's Sunday in worship with Hot Dog Lunch to follow

**Sunday, June 21** - Rev. Tim Gerde to preach

**Sunday, June 28** - 10 a.m. - Adult Sunday School with Gayle Parker; 12 noon - Faith and Nature Walk for Children and their Families

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

---

### Photos of Your Veteran(s)

We encourage you to bring a photo of your veteran(s) to share with the congregation when we gather on Saturday to Remember our Veterans and on Sunday as part of Memorial Day.

---

### 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, Dry pasta, Canned fruit, Canned mixed vegetables

---

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

---

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

---

## Weekly Devotion

### Waiting for the Bloom

#### Acts 1:1-14

Holy waiting. I have a young magnolia tree that two of my sons gave me for Christmas, full of buds that have not yet opened. And each week, while I wait and watch for the first bloom to unfold, I carry two buckets of water down the hill to pour on the roots. I trust that with time and care, those buds will open.

This young tree has filled my thoughts as I've considered how the disciples waited when Jesus ascended into heaven. He told them before he left that they should go back to Jerusalem, stay together, and wait for what was to come. And they did. They went back as he instructed until the Spirit came at Pentecost. Perhaps, being together helped them wait faithfully. Perhaps the companionship of one another assured them that this was a sacred time.

Waiting is not easy, but that doesn't mean that it's wasted time. God does far more than we will ever know in the in-between times. And the truth is, most of life is lived in the in-between times. It can be hard to be steadfast in our faith and be assured that we've not been forgotten. The dailiness of life is part of God's calling even when it doesn't feel like it. This is the invitation with the ascension to trust that God is preparing us for what is to come and that it will be revealed in God's time. So, whatever you are waiting for, be assured you are not forgotten. You are very much on God's mind, and the power God promises will come. Just as he said. We'll talk more about the Ascension this Sunday, I hope you'll 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, Dawn Martin

### Special prayers:

#### 5/10/26

Clean Bill of health, all blood clots dissolved, released by Doctor (Richard M.)

Supplies for Hygiene kits have arrived. We'll assemble on May 17 after worship (Pixie F)

Vanessa P. - not feeling well

Sharon - Travelling to New York for grandson's graduation, also celebrating nephew's graduation and niece's army commissioning

Julia - aneurysm (Sharon O.'s neighbor)

Gratitude for all the folks in worship (Joseph)

Prayers for all the moms (Vanessa P.)

Visit to her grandmother's grave (Danielle)

#### 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sundays	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 17	11:00am	Worship
Sun May 17	12:00pm	Assemble Hygiene Kits
Sat May 23	10:00am	Remembering Veterans
Sun May 24	11:00am	Worship - Aldersgate/Pentecost/Flower Dedication
Sun May 24	12:00pm	Faith and Nature Walk for Children and their Families
Fri May 29		Centenary Feeding Program
Sun May 31	11:00am	Worship (Rev. Tim Gerde to preach)
Sun June 7	10:00am	Adult Sunday School
Sun June 7	11:00am	Worship - Communion Sunday
Sun June 14	10:00am	Adult Sunday School
Sun June 14	11:00am	Worship - National Children's Day
Sun June 21	10:00am	Adult Sunday School
Sun June 21	11:00am	Worship (Rev. Tim Gerde to preach)
Sun June 28	10:00am	Adult Sunday School
Sun June 28	11:00am	Worship
Sun June 28	12:00pm	Faith and Nature Walk for Children and their Families