

## 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 24, 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.

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#### 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

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#### Coffee time is BACK!

Before and after worship, stop by the Fellowship Hall for a morning cup of coffee and a pastry.

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#### 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 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 recognition 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

**Sunday, July 5** - Communion Sunday

**Sunday, July 12** - Special music provided by guest, Glenn Birch

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

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#### Photos of Your Veteran(s)

We encourage you to bring a photo of your veteran(s) to share with the congregation on Sunday as part of Memorial Day.

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### **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:

Canned fruit, Canned mixed vegetables, Canned chicken

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### **Faith and Nature Walks**

Beginning Sunday, May 24 and continuing monthly (June 28, July 26, August 23) through August, Pastor Florence will lead a series of Faith and Nature walks for children and their families. Immediately following worship, these 20-minute explorations are a wonderful time to reflect on what God reveals to us through nature. We'll gather at noon in the sanctuary.

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### **Volunteers for Reading Scripture, Preparing Communion, and working the Welcome Desk**

In just a few weeks Pastor Florence will be pulling together the volunteer schedule for July through December. If you are not currently in the rotation and would like to be added, let Florence know.

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### **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.

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### **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

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### **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

May 24, 1738 - Maybe it's not a day you have on your calendar, but it's a day worth noting. It was on this day at a gathering on Aldersgate Street in London that John Wesley, the preacher at the heart of the Methodist movement, felt his heart strangely warmed. For John, it was a turning point. The confirmation that he had witnessed in others and longed for in his own life was suddenly very real. He, too, not only knew about Christ's presence, but he experienced it. Reflecting on this moment of conversion, John penned these words in his journal, "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation..." I wonder if there's a time in your life when your faith moved from something you knew about to something you knew?

This Sunday, I'll be sharing more with you about Wesley's experience and bits of his faith journey that preceded it. I hope you'll join me as we observe Aldersgate Sunday and Pentecost, remember our veterans, honor our loved ones, and have our very first Faith and Nature Walk for children and their families. It's a full day. I'll see you at 11.

With joy!

Florence

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## 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

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**Special prayers:****5/17/26**

David Fleshood - now in Palliative Care  
 Al Merolla - hospitalized with multiple concerns  
 Aunt Delaney and Grady's Wedding (Vanessa)

**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

| CALENDAR OF EVENTS |         |  |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| Sundays            | 11:00am | Worship  |
| 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  |
| Sun July 5         | 11:00am | Worship - Communion Sunday                             |
| Sun July 12        | 11:00am | Worship - Special music provided by guest, Glenn Birch |