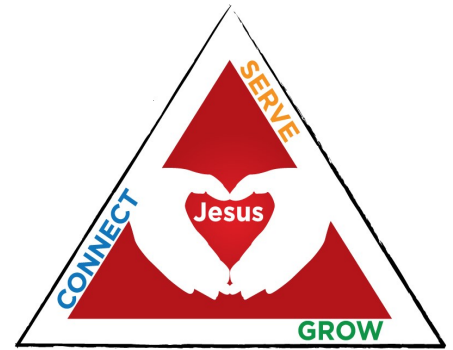




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251
Corner of Memorial and Oakridge Blvd.
Website: www.forthillumc.com



Volume 60, No.9

September, 2025

"Let's Go to Church" Sunday September 28, 2025

By the last Sunday of September, summer is officially over, so it's time to get back to church! Our **10:30 a.m. Worship Service** will feature an "end-of-summer" hymn sing with lots of music and an opportunity to sing some of your favorite hymns.

At 3:00 p.m. we welcome The Brennan-Greenawalt Duo in Concert in our Sanctuary featuring musical works for voice and guitar by Dowland, Handel, Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms. The concert is free and open to the public. Afterward, join us in the Social Hall for an ice cream social sponsored by the Sanctuary Choir. Sign-up sheet to help with refreshments are located in Oxford Hall, the Narthex or you may contact Jeanette in the church office (434-847-1251; secretary@forthillumc.org).



It's Meet & Greet Time!

The JOY Team is hosting a "Meet & Greet" luncheon after the worship service on September 14. (No Lunch Out this month) We will enjoy a spaghetti, salad, bread and beverage lunch along with desserts provided by church members. There will be an opportunity for you to make your reservation, or to sign up to bring a dessert, on Sunday, August 31 and Sunday, September 7.

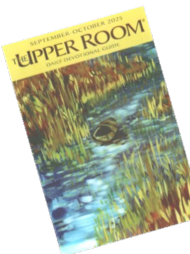
After the lunch, there will be a question and answer time with Pastor Nancy and Heather Perryman, our Director of Music. So, mark your calendar to attend this fun event!

2026 Proposed Operating Budget Figures Due Soon

All work areas and departments should start planning their proposed budget for 2026. Your requested budget figures should be **submitted to the Finance Committee no later than September 3**. If you need an updated expense report for your work area or department, please contact the Financial Secretary, Jeanette Seale, at 847-1251, Ext 201 or email her at secretary@forthillumc.com.

September/October Upper Rooms Available

Copies of the September/October *Upper Room*, are now available in the Narthex and office hallway. Be sure to pick up your copy soon!





"Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

September is National Hunger Action Month and the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) invites us to join them and other congregations nationwide, in a month-long journey of reflection, action and generosity. Over 47 million people in the United States are currently hungry or food insecure. Yet this year alone, we will waste more than 40% of the food we grow—food that could feed our neighbors.

SoSA provides a Hunger Action Month Calendar and coin boxes to help us increase our hunger awareness and take simple actions to combat hunger. The calendar includes Scriptures, activities and prayer prompts for each day of September. A copy of the calendar is included with this month's newsletter, and extra copies are available in the Narthex.

Use a SoSA coin box to collect your spare change. Through SoSA's gleaning network, our coins can turn unharvested crops that would otherwise go to waste into nutritious food to feed hungry families. Last year, more than 20,000 SoSA volunteers picked, dug, and gathered fruits and vegetables from fields and orchards to share 88 million servings of food to with those in need. Collect your change throughout the month of September and return your box on World Communion Sunday, October 5. Hunger Action Month offerings will be blessed during worship on that Sunday. Coin boxes are available in the Narthex.

If you are interested in gleaning opportunities, please visit SoSA's website at www.endhunger.org for more information. Let's give thanks for the many opportunities God gives us to show the love of Christ to the underserved all around us.

-Grace and Peace, Nancy

September Communion Offering to Benefit Society of St. Andrew

One half of the September Communion offering will go to Society of St. Andrew. The other half will go to Interfaith Outreach Association to assist those who need help with rent, utilities, food, etc. There's never been a more crucial time to focus on the needs of your hungry neighbors and continue to do more. Food pantries are still reporting drastically increased needs for food and more farmers are opening their fields for gleaning. Your gift will go a long way in helping to feed the hungry in our community.



Ongoing Prayer Concerns

We are now listing our ongoing prayer concerns for those who are in nursing or rehab facilities or recovering at home. Only immediate prayer concerns will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Our current prayer concerns are as follows:

Heritage Green

Jimmy Thompson

Others who need our prayers:

Betty Burford Kendra Toney
Brian & Lisa Garra Phyllis Williams
Becky Spangler

Volunteer Help Needed

We appreciate the faithful work of Michael Hester who manages our sound and technology needs during our Sunday worship services each week. Michael needs another person to help him on Sundays, and others to serve as his back up when he cannot be present for worship. If you feel led to serve in this important ministry, Michael would like to train you in the very near future! Please contact Michael (Michael@forthillumc.com; 336-978-3983).



Children and Youth Ministry Meeting, Sunday, September 7, 11:45 after Worship, Oxford Hall

Thanks to everyone who has indicated an interest in being part of the conversation about our next steps in ministry with Children and Youth. Anyone who wishes to come to the meeting is welcome to attend. If you have questions, please contact Nancy (434-401-5776; ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com).

Bits & Pieces

Cost of Altar Flowers Rising

The provider of our weekly altar flowers, Bloom by Doyle's, has informed the church that they will have to increase the cost of the flowers that they provide us each Sunday.



The new prices are as follows:

Table arrangement	\$63.00
2 urn arrangements	\$113.00

If you have already prepaid for altar flowers, the florist will honor the amount you paid. Thank you for your understanding of this price increase.

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - September 2, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

Martha Circle - September 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room (ladies, please bring one or two items for the Blessing Box)

All ladies of the church are invited to attend one of these circles to find out what United Women in Faith is all about or join one. You will be warmly welcomed!

From Our Librarian

Confessions of a Converted Infidel – John Bayley – Forgotten Books, 2018 (originally published 1856)

John Bayley (1814-1880) was a member of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church in the nineteenth century. This book is an examination of Bayley's life and his conversion experience. It also includes his views on the ministry to reach people. As some of you may know, Rev. Bayley ministered to a "community in Madison Heights, known as 'Burnt Woods' where it had been reported that 'wickedness was connected to this locality.' Rev. John Bayley was the first pastor and preached under a brush arbor where revivals were held during the years of 1876-1879." . He served the church until his death on February 25, 1880. The church established at that location in 1879 was named Bayley's Chapel in his memory. In 1995, Bayley's Chapel and Madison Heights UMC merged to become Amelon United Methodist Church. [Amherst County Heritage, p. 46]



Committee Chairs/Team Leaders: Your faithful leadership is most appreciated! Please help us keep our church calendar coordinated by calling Jeanette in the church office **before** scheduling your meetings to avoid conflicts. Thanks for your help!



UMW Candle Burning Service Will Be Held in October

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one at our October 19 worship service, consider a gift to UMW missions through our **candle burning** tradition. A gift of any amount can be given, and the honorees will be listed in a bulletin insert. The candle is burned at the rate of 60 cents per second to represent UMW mission work around the world on behalf of women, children, and youth. If you would like to honor or remember someone this way, please turn in your donation by October 5, along with the completed form below. Checks should be made out to **Fort Hill United Methodist Women**. Gifts can be turned in to the church office or in the collection plate, in an envelope **clearly labeled for UMW**. Thank you!

UMW Candle Burning Service on October 19

Your name _____

My gift is in **honor** of _____

My gift is in **memory** of _____



9/1 Marsha Glass	9/8 Ella Quarles	9/15 Jon Roark	9/22 Travis Simmons
9/2 Terry Minnick	9/8 Benjamin Zelaya	9/15 Rhonda Ford	9/24 Nancy Ware
9/2 Whitney Robertson	9/9 Earl Adams	9/16 Linda Drinkard	9/24 John Thornhill
9/3 Maggie Scott Lee	9/10 Carol Hall	9/18 Joe Thornhill	9/28 Wayne Rhodes
9/3 Brooke Kendrick	9/11 Havion Ferguson	9/18 Barry Bell	9/29 Mike Allen
9/3 Joseph Daugherty	9/12 Parker Staton	9/18 Jonathan Napier	9/29 Deborah Gibson
9/4 Mark Howard	9/13 Marilyn Chilton	9/19 Ryan Schmidt	9/30 Sara Foutz
9/4 Sarah Saville	9/13 Jackie Gay-Milliken	9/20 Dalton Huskin	9/30 Bryan Garra
9/6 William Saville, Jr.	9/13 Joseph Toddammmon	9/21 Lexey Bourguignon	9/30 Michael Manning
9/8 Jennifer Marsh	9/14 Carolyn Coleman	9/21 Jesse Hamilton	9/30 Brent Mays
9/8 Carrie McCane	9/14 Vickie Ferguson	9/22 Mike Mistretta	
9/8 Brooklyn Staton			

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it may be because we do not have the date in our database. Please call the church office at 847-1251 with your information.

September Wedding Anniversaries

9/1 Cameron & Cameron Byrd	7 years	9/16 Jimmy & JoAnn Mays	64 years
9/8 Bryan & Lisa Garra	35 years	9/19 Mark & Amanda Anthony	16 years
9/29 Bryan Fielding & Kelsey Laubach	6 years		



Miscellaneous



Dear Fort Hill Family, Thank you for the McPherson scholarship award. Receiving this scholarship is an honor, and I am grateful for your support. *-Andrew Marsh*

Fort Hill UMC Family, Thank you so much for supporting me during my time at Virginia Tech with the McPherson Scholarship award. I truly appreciate your love and support. *-Thanks, Ryan Marsh*

Thank you so much for hosting such a beautiful New Beginnings celebration for Madelyn in July. I feel incredibly blessed to have grown up in such a loving church family—and now, it brings me so much joy to share that same sense of faith and community with my own children. We are deeply grateful for all the prayers, kind words, thoughtful cards, and generous gifts shared with both Maddie and her proud big brother, Cameron. Your love and support are so much appreciated by our family. *-Catherine, Willie, Cameron & Maddie*

My dear church family and friends, I really miss you all. Thank you for the many wonderfully spectacular parties, cards, gifts, well wishes, and so many prayers. I will carry your love and hugs with me forever. *-Love and prayers, Sue Wright.*

Thank you so much for your book donations. It goes so beyond just simply donating those books. Thank you for the years and time you donated to gathering those amazing books. Thank you for the impact those books will have on people's lives. Thank you for your heart to serve the Lord and in doing so serving your community!

-Many thanks from Mission Thrift
(Note: Our Librarian, Wayne Rhodes, has diligently reviewed all the books in our Library and removed those that were inappropriate for a church library, or were outdated, and offered them for free to church members. Those books that were not taken was donated to Mission Thrift. Thank you, Wayne, for your dedication to keeping our Library up-to-date.)




We extend our sympathy to the family of Joan Campbell Roberts upon her death on May 6; and to the family of Frances White, upon her death on July 22.

Have You Seen It?

Have you seen the beautiful picture in the office hallway depicting the story of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz? This painting was done by Sue Wright's grandmother, Elizabeth Saunders, in 1933. Sue has gifted this painting to Fort Hill UMC upon her move to Wisconsin. Thank you, Sue, for this precious gift!

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office closed for Labor Day	2 7:00 Genesis Circle	3 2026 Budget requests due 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	4 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8 11:00 Finance Committee	9	10 7:00 Celebration Ringers	11 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	12	13
14 11:45 Meet & Greet new Pastor & Music Director	15 3:00 Outreach Team	16	17 5:00 Wonderful Wednesdays 7:00 Celebration Ringers	18 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	19	20
21	22 First day of Fall 	23	24 5:00 Wonderful Wednesdays 7:00 Celebration Ringers	25 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	26	27
28 Back to Church Sun- day 3:00 Guitar Concert & Ice Cream Social	29 2:30 Church Council	30		<div> In-Person Worship Each Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Java Stop 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Staffed Nursery Available 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. </div>		

Puzzle Page

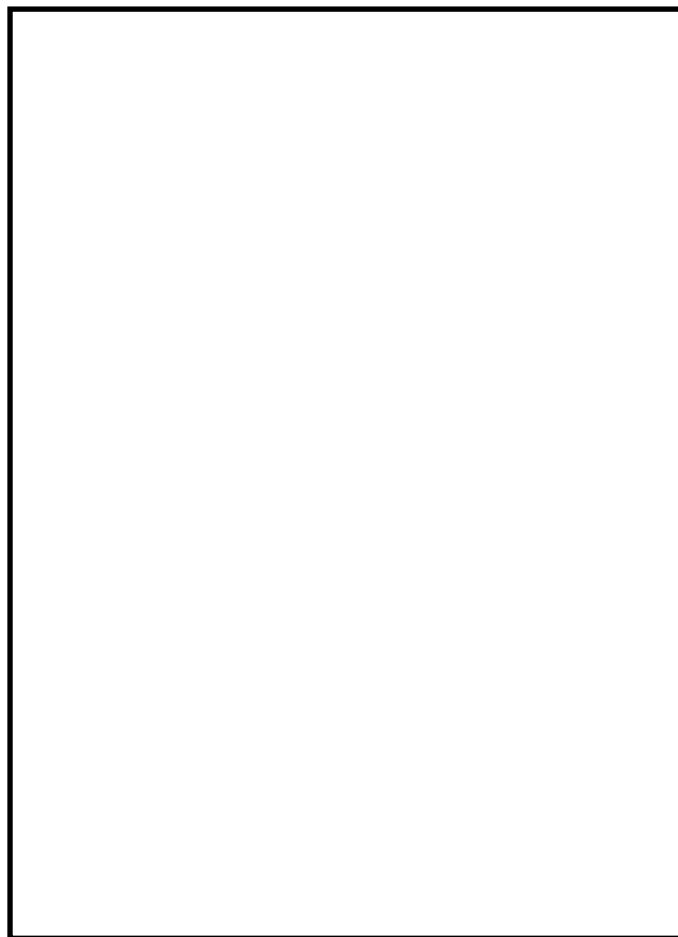
Books of the Bible Puzzle

Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank. Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page. You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God. We've done the first one for you as an example.

1. UTRH _____ (3)
2. TWAMHET _____ (5)
3. BOPERRSV _____ (5)
4. SUBNEMR _____ (7)
5. WRESHBE _____ (6)
6. USAJHO _____ (2)
7. MORASN _____ (1)
8. GEJDSU _____ (3)
9. STREEH _____ (3)
10. HMOLIPEN _____ (2)
11. LINEDA _____ (5)
12. SEESING _____ (5)
13. SHEEPISAN _____ (2)
14. CLAIMHA _____ (7)
15. HARMEEJI _____ (3)
16. AGHAIG _____ (6)
17. SNAGILATA _____ (5)

The Bible is also known as

I _____ of _____
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



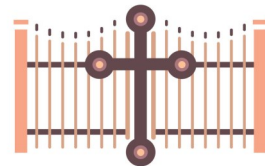
Books of the Bible Puzzle Answers:

- Answer: The Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Ruth | 15. Jeremiah |
| 2. Matthew | 16. Haggai |
| 3. Proverbs | 17. Galatians |
| 4. Numbers | 11. Daniel |
| 5. Hebrews | 12. Genesis |
| 6. Joshua | 13. Ephesians |
| 7. Romans | 14. Malachi |

Bible Quiz

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.



Answer: D (See Revelation 21:21, 25.)

THE BOX SCORE

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

Average worship attendance in 2024 - 106

Average worship attendance as of August 24, 2025— 105

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2025

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . And put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10

BRIEF OPERATING FUND REPORT

Your first line of giving — mission and ministry!

Budget for 2025 as approved by the Church Council is: \$409,255

We need an average of \$7,870.29 per week to meet this budget.

As of 34 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$5,610.36

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of your church!

From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church,
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308
Phone: 434-847-1251 Fax: 434-847-2536

Times of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 9:15 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

Rev. Nancy C. Johnson, Pastor

nancyjohnson@vaumc.org

mcolemanjohnson@gmail.com

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins, Minister of Visitation

tuned2joy02@gmail.com

Dr. Heather Anderson Perryman, Director of Music

micaha77@gmail.com

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant

secretary@forthillumc.com

Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert, District Superintendent

Phone: 434-832-0401

The Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop, Richmond, VA

Phone: 1-800-768-6040

"Fort Hill United Methodist Church seeks to nurture

God's people so they can

CONNECT, GROW and SERVE."

-Fort Hill UMC Vision Statement



Volunteers Are Needed!

Many events, services and even our church administration could not take place without volunteers! Our volunteers are vital to all areas of the Fort Hill church community.

If you are looking for a way to be more connected to the life of Fort Hill UMC, you might want to try volunteering in any of the following areas:

- >Provide the Children's Message on a Sunday morning
- >Help with a children's Sunday School class
- >Be an usher on a Sunday morning
- >Help in the Nursery on a Sunday morning
- >Be a liturgist on a Sunday (reading scripture)
- >Join the choir!
- >Help prepare for Communion
- >Help serve Communion
- >Provide Java Stop one Sunday morning
- >Help fill the Blessing Box one week
- >Be a lead counter of the offering one Sunday a month



Please call the church office at 434-847-1251 if you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities to serve.



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251

www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Nancy C. Johnson
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

Dr. Heather A. Perryman
Director of Music

Worship Time:

9:00 a.m. Online Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary

**Next newsletter deadline is
SEPTEMBER 15. Please
submit SHORT articles by
this date.
Thank you!**



Announcing Wonderful Wednesdays for Children and Youth!

Calling all kids and youth, Kindergarten and up! Join us for food, fun
and faith-building activities

beginning **Wednesday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m.**

Here's the plan:

- 5:00 -5:30 p.m. "Snack Supper" and registration in Oxford Hall.
A light, kid-friendly meal will be served.
A parent must be present to register child(ren) or youth for the program.
- 5:35-6:05 p.m. Music for the younger group;
Fun Bible games & age-appropriate activities for the older group.
- 6:10-6:40 p.m. Music for the older group;
Fun Bible games & age-appropriate activities for the younger group

Come and Bring a Friend with You!

Please contact Pastor Nancy or Heather with questions.



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

September 2025 Hunger Action Month Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 On this Labor Day, pray for those who seek employment; those who yearn for meaningful work, and those who yearn for a living wage. – 1 Corinthians 10:31	2 Donate the cost of one meal out to support SoSA's gleaning network. – Proverbs 19:17	3 Pray for those who will go to bed hungry tonight in your city. – Matthew 6:11	4 Reflect on where your food comes from and who has access to fresh food in your community. – Psalm 145:15	5 Some people may not have the ability to cook at home. Give 5¢ to SoSA for each cooking utensil (spatula, spoons, etc.) in your kitchen. – 1 John 3:17	6 Take a walk through your neighborhood, and remember how we are all called to love and serve our neighbors. – Deuteronomy 15:11
7 Sign up to glean with SoSA and invite your church to join you. – 1 John 3:18 EndHunger.org/volunteer	8 Reflect on how Jesus fed crowds with what little was offered. What "loaves and fish" can you share? – John 6:9	9 If your health allows, consider skipping one meal today. Spend that time in prayer for people around the globe who are hungry today. – Matthew 4:4	10 Post on social media about Hunger Action Month and tag Society of St. Andrew. – Psalm 96:3	11 Call your local elected official and ask how they are addressing hunger in your community. – Proverbs 31:8	12 Reflect on a time when you shared a meal with a loved one. Give thanks. – Psalm 34:8	13 Take time to savor your next meal. Reflect on how many hands made it possible. – John 4:37-38
14 "Adopt a Bushel" with your congregation and benefit SoSA's hunger relief work. – 2 Corinthians 9:7 EndHunger.org/abfn	15 Read a news article about hunger in the United States and share it with a friend. – Hosea 4:6	16 Ask your church to include hunger in the prayers this Sunday. – 1 John 3:17	17 Offer a prayer of thanks before your meal today, and pray for your neighbors in need. – Deuteronomy 8:3	18 Find a new recipe for preparing a fresh vegetable, and use it today! – Psalm 34:8	19 Reflect on the abundance in your life. What might you be holding too tightly? – Matthew 10:8	20 Buy extra produce at your local farmers' market and donate it to a food pantry. – Proverbs 3:9
21 Host a Simple Supper and give the savings to SoSA. – Proverbs 15:16 EndHunger.org/simple-supper	22 Pray for children experiencing food insecurity and their caregivers. – Psalm 146:7	23 Reflect on the miracle of shared food: how little becomes enough. – Acts 2:46	24 Learn about food deserts in your town and consider how your community could help fill the gap. – Proverbs 29:7	25 Pray for those making decisions about food systems and hunger policy. – 1 Timothy 2:1-2	26 Reflect on the spiritual hunger in your life. What would nourish your soul? – Matthew 5:6	27 SoSA can provide a serving of nourishing food for 5¢. Give 5¢ to SoSA for each piece of produce in your kitchen. – Hebrews 13:16
28 Thank God for the harvest and those who work the land. – Psalm 67:6	29 Sponsor a SoSA gleaning event or ask your church to host a crop drop. – 1 Peter 4:10	30 Reflect on how this month has changed your view of hunger and community and share. – Matthew 25:40	<div>Use this calendar to guide your family, friends, or group in a focused scripture reading and meaningful activity each day. Your donations and actions share healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need throughout the United States.</div> <div>Thank you!</div>			