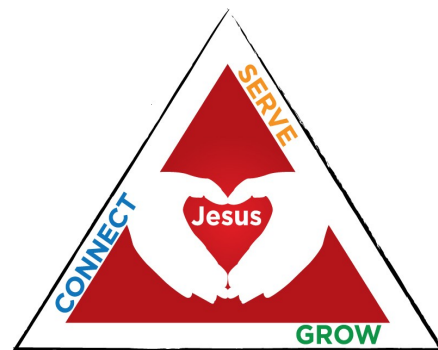




From the Hill

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



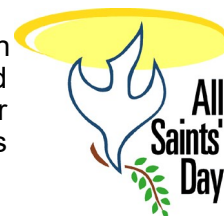
Volume 60, No.11

November, 2025

All Saints Day to be Observed On Sunday, November 2

On Sunday, November 2, we will take time in the worship service to remember those of our fellowship who have died since last year at this time.

All Saints Day commemorates all Christian people, of every time and place, and has been celebrated, in Christian churches, for many years. It is one way of honoring the gifts and graces of faithful Christians, and to celebrate the power of God to raise up new saints in our midst. We will give thanks for those loved ones and for all the saints who have preceded us in death. A candle will be lit and a bell tolled as each name is called.



Come join the congregation in remembering those of our membership who are no longer among us. Family members, or anyone who has lost a loved one in recent years, are invited to a luncheon in Oxford Hall, following the service, to share memories of their loved one. If you would like to attend, please call the church office.

Please note: Due to the All Saints Luncheon in Oxford Hall immediately after the worship service, a reduced version of **Java Stop** will be relocated to the **Welcome Center for November 2**. Coffee and juice will be provided.

Genesis Circle Planning Lunch After Church Annual Fundraiser for Hygiene Kits

Again this year, the Genesis Circle is planning a baked potato and salad lunch after the worship service on Sunday, November 9, in the Fellowship Hall. The Martha Circle will be providing some great deserts! Come join in the fellowship and a delicious lunch. There is no set price for the meal. They will be accepting donations, which will be used to purchase items for hygiene kits that are taken to the Annual Conference each year. Last year, 200 kits were

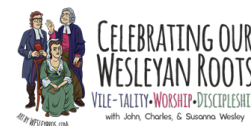


assembled, thanks to your generous support of this project.

So, be sure to make your reservation to participate in this fun and worthwhile event. You may call the church office (434-847-1251) no later than noon on Thursday, November 6, to make a reservation OR you can use the bulletin insert. **There will not be a Lunch Out in November.**

Charge Conference Date Set

Charge Conference for Fort Hill UMC is Saturday, November 1, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Amelon UMC, 220 Amelon Expressway, Madison Heights, VA 24572. We will join with other churches from the Peaks View Region of our District for Charge Conference. This year, our District is embracing the theme of "Celebrating Our Wesleyan Roots" to make us more aware of the rich heritage we share as United Methodists. Everyone is welcome to attend Charge Conference, and Church Council members, Committee Chairs and Ministry Team leaders are expected to come. Please contact Pastor Nancy if you have questions.



Legacy Giving Presentation, Thursday, November 6, 2:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

As we enter a season of Christian Stewardship in the month of November, the Endowment Committee welcomes the congregation to join us for this special presentation. Our guest presenter will be Bruce Light of Wells Fargo. Come and learn how your resources can continue to be used for God's glory even after your earthly life comes to an end. This is an informational meeting, with no expected obligation, and all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.



A Season of Stewardship...A Time of "Thanks-Living."

During the fall of each year, many churches engage in financial campaigns and stewardship programs in an effort to fund the church's budgetary needs for the coming year. Church members brace themselves for the annual plea for funds, as pastors and leaders stand before their people and "beg for money." Varying means and methods are used, and many of them operate on a "fundraising model" rather than a true Christian stewardship model. There is a difference.

According to Herb Miller, author of the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program*, "the goal of secular fundraising is dollars for a worthy cause. The goal of Christian stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives so that God can use our gifts to transform us spiritually and to extend Christ's transforming love to others." (*New Consecration Sunday*, p. 7). Christian stewardship invites us to pray and seek God's guidance for what God would have us do financially and spiritually in the coming year. Christian stewardship invites us to step out in faith and trust God to provide.

During the month of November, we will explore Scripture together in worship that will help us take a deeper look into what God says about money. We will prayerfully consider giving as a spiritual discipline and open ourselves to God's leading in our own lives and in our life together as a body of believers. We will talk about the stewardship of our time, talents, gifts, service and witness in the context of Christian discipleship. We will pray that God will enable us to respond faithfully to that which we are called to do by giving and living our thanks.

In early November, the congregation will receive stewardship information with an invitation to complete a Faith Promise Card for 2026. November 23 is Commitment Sunday, when we will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider our commitments and return our cards, through the offering, during worship. It is my prayer that all of us will use this season of stewardship and thanksgiving to grow in greater faithfulness. May our gracious and generous Lord bless us as we prayerfully seek and discern God's will for ourselves and for our church in the coming year.

-Grace and Peace, *Pastor Nancy*

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

Becky Spangler

Brian & Lisa Garra

Kendra Toney

Mike Martin

Phyllis Williams

Runk & Pratt

(Gristmill)

Sylvia Morgan

Have you ever

had the desire to read the Bible from cover to cover? Maybe you started and then something got in your way? We are trying to determine if there is an interest in reading the Bible through chronologically. *The Bible Recap* is a wonderful resource with many tools to help keep us focused. For now, all we need is to see if there is an interest. Ultimately, the plan is to have accountability partners to discuss readings two or more times a week and meet once a month to share insights and concerns. If you are interested, please contact Roberta Litten at 434-941-4192.



★ **Veterans Day:** ★
Thank You for Your Service!

In honor of Veteran's Day

the Worship Team looks forward to recognizing all veterans who are present in morning worship on Sunday, November 9. We give thanks for all of our military personnel who have served our country so faithfully.

November Communion Offering to Benefit Interfaith Outreach

Each month, half of our communion offering helps us reach out to the needy in our community. This month, our offering will be given to Interfaith Outreach Association, as we join a coalition of over 50 area congregations. We have banded



together to participate in God's mission, through an interfaith effort, to help improve the quality of life for our neighbors, through education, guidance and support. The goal of IOA is to provide a helping hand to individuals and families, who are in a crisis situation.

The other half of the communion offering will go into our Local Relief Fund. Thank you for your generous gifts on Communion Sunday.

Bits and Pieces



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - Wednesday, November 5, 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room (remember to bring food for the Blessing Box & your Thanks Banks)

Genesis Circle - Saturday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall (remember to bring your Thanks Banks)

All ladies of the church are invited to attend one of these circle meetings. You will be warmly welcomed!

Outreach Team Is Busy!

The Outreach Team continues to fill the Blessing Box regularly, and it is fully utilized. We appreciate any donations.

As winter approaches, we will need gloves, socks, and stocking hats, along with food. Tooth brushes and tooth paste would also be beneficial.

The Carroll Palmer Estate Grant has been completed, and we will hear if we receive the grant again this year, after the committee meeting on the November 18th. If we are approved, we will be dividing the grant between Perrymont Elementary School and Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount.

We continue to provide a monthly treat to the staff at Perrymont with words of encouragement. We will begin the work of sorting and organizing the Care Closet and having appropriate clothes, in case of accidents. We recently participated in the PTO fundraiser by members of the team purchasing frozen cookie dough.

We will not be providing meals for Park View for the time being.

The next meeting of the Outreach Team will be on November 17th at 3 pm. Please come join us!

-Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Chairman

Save the Date!

On Sunday, December 7, the JOY Team will be having the Joyful Churchwide Christmas Luncheon after the morning service. This is our annual crockpot soup luncheon. Watch for more details coming soon!

A Word From Amos . . .

Hi, my Fort Hill family! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again!

This is the season where we begin to think about things we are thankful for. What are some of the things you are thankful for?



I am thankful for a few more warm days this month and have been enjoying being outside scampering around. I'm also very thankful that you allow me to have a habitat inside your beautiful buildings as it allows me to report to you things that you would not normally see on a Sunday morning, like the Trunk or Treat event. It was a great afternoon of fun, and there were so many children and parents here enjoying all the activities. It was fun watching the children playing, screaming, and going from car trunk to car trunk in their costumes for treats.

And the Wonderful Wednesday program is going well too. I love hearing the children sing songs and laugh as they eat their snack supper and have an activity. If you know of any children who would like to be a part of this fun time, please bring them! The more, the merrier as the saying goes! Oh, and did you see the little puppet show they did one Sunday morning for the children's time? How fun and enjoyable that was!

Well, I think I have reported all the important stuff to you, but I will be snooping around to find something to report to you next month. Until then, stay safe, be happy, and I hope to see you in church each Sunday in November! Oh, and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

-Amos



Calling All Christmas Elves!

Help us decorate the church for the Advent Season!

We will be meeting on November 30, in the Welcome Center after the church service, to decorate.

Bits and Pieces

From Our Librarian

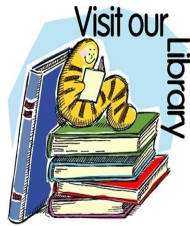
Three Simple Rules and Three Simple Questions
Rueben P. Job Abingdon Press, 2007, 2011

I am sure you have heard the old saying that "things come in threes," or "bad things come in threes." In the church, we have the Holy Trinity. For some reason, the number three is significant in many cultures and religions. In these two little books, Bishop Job deals with two sets of important "threes." The first, the three rules of living by John Wesley: Do no harm; Do good; and, Stay in love with God. "To love God with my whole being and to love my neighbor as much as I love myself was ... declared to be essential to our spiritual life, our life of faith, and our life with God." The second book also deals with the questions of our relationship with God: Who is God?; Who am I?; and, Who are we together? "Our identity is found and formed by the God we worship and serve. Our life together as Christians is discovered, held together, and lived out based on our understanding of the God we have come to know and seek to follow." Remember that you are God's beloved child, just like every other person, and, together, we make up God's family. Don't forget: "God is greater than anything we can comprehend or imagine." Get to know God through realizing that we all are his children. Knowing this helps us to see others as they are with the capacity to live as God's children. Stay in love with God and really live!

[Rueben Phillip Job (1928-2015) was a Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Iowa and also the World Editor of *The Upper Room*.]

A note from our librarian: *When checking out a book from the church library, be sure to sign your name on a white slip of paper that is on the library desk. Also write the name of the book you are checking out, along with its number, which is found inside the front cover. When returning a book to the library, please leave the book on the desk. I will take care of putting it back on the proper shelf. Thank you for your cooperation, and I hope you are enjoying your library.*

-Wayne Rhodes, Librarian



From the Hill

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

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

ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com

nancyjohnson@vaumc.org

Dr. Heather A. Perryman, Director of Music

micaha77@gmail.com

Jeanette J. 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

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 - 122

Average worship attendance as of October 26, 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 43 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$6,040.22

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

"Sacred Silence" Prayer and Bible Study Group Changes Meeting Day & Time

Beginning in November, the Monday prayer group will begin meeting on **Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center**. We are continuing to explore and experience different ways of praying through discussion and practice, ending with a time of silent, contemplative prayer. All are welcome. Please use the front Sanctuary entrance. Please contact Pastor Nancy if you have questions (434-401-5776; ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com).

More Bits and Pieces

Page 5

Wonderful Wednesday Has A Mission Project for November

To complement this year's Thanksgiving offering, our Wonderful Wednesday kids will participate in Park View Community Mission's **Teal Bag Initiative** that supports the "Food for Thought" program (see back page for information on this program). The Teal Bag Initiative is used to create weekend food bags that contain kid-friendly, nutritious, non-perishable, easy-to-open, and easy-to-prepare meals and snacks for the students. Volunteers pack the bags and then deliver them on Fridays to over 35 locations, to provide weekend and holiday food for over 1,000 elementary-aged students. At the middle school and high school level, Park View stocks pantries in the schools where students can select the items they need. We give thanks for the opportunity to encourage our youngest disciples to serve others in the name of Christ.

Can You Help?

We appreciate all the help and support the congregation has offered for our relaunch of Wonderful Wednesdays each week from 5:15-6:45. If you are able to provide a snack supper for Wonderful Wednesdays (approximately 15-20 children and adults), please sign up on the schedule located in Oxford Hall. The supper is served at 5:15 each week. Thanks for your help.

Wesleyan Ways: Exploring Our Methodist Roots

This fall, the Virginia Annual Conference is debuting a new series, **Wesleyan Ways: Exploring Our Methodist Roots**. Guided by Rev. Dr. Jim Harnish's book *The Journey to the Center of Faith*, the series will take us on a deeper exploration of what it means to live and grow as United Methodists. Go to the Conference website at www.vaumc.org to watch the episodes, view curriculum, or for more information.

New Upper Rooms Are Now Available

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

Mountain View District Conference Saturday, November 15 10 a.m. via Zoom

Anyone is welcome to attend the "District Conference." Participants must register to receive the Zoom link. To register for the District Conference taking place on November 15th at 10 am on Zoom, please use this address: https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/OrelHah1Rqy_0KoodfXEAA#/registration to enter your information. The Zoom link will be emailed to you once you have submitted your form.

You will receive an email link to connect to the Conference so that you can attend on your own from your connected device. Pastor Nancy will also set up the meeting at church for those who prefer to gather and attend as a group. The following may vote at District Conference:

All ordained and commissioned clergy, licensed local pastors, lay supply pastors, certified lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses and home missionaries related to that district; a church lay leader, chairperson of the church council (or its equivalent body), church school superintendent, president of the United Women in Faith, and president of the chartered United Methodist Men from each local church in the district; the district steward from each charge; the lay member of the annual conference from each charge; and three members at-large, one of whom should be a youth, elected by each charge conference.

As part of our District Conference, we will elect 26 at-large lay members (plus alternates) to represent the Mountain View District at the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference, June 17-20, 2026 in Harrisonburg VA. If you are interested in serving, please let Pastor Nancy know. She can submit your name to the District, or you may self-nominate by completing the nomination form by November 9, 2025. Use this link <https://www.cognitofrms.com/VAUMC/MVDLaityAtLargeMemberNomination> for the Nomination Form. MVD At-Large Lay Members reflect the diversity, spirit, and dedication of our local churches. Will you prayerfully consider serving? Please contact Pastor Nancy if you have questions.





11/1 Virginia Watson	11/6 Judith Merryman	11/13 Amanda Wood	11/23 Kathryn Davis
11/1 Gabriel Zelaya	11/6 Nick Fisher	11/14 Norma Smith	11/24 Marye Almond
11/2 Bryan Fielding	11/7 Mark Lowe	11/15 Kendra Toney	11/24 Faye Meek
11/3 David Robertson	11/7 Mike Ledin	11/15 Allyson Miller	11/26 Matthew Lee
11/4 Erik Drinkard	11/8 Greg Meese	11/16 Mindy Zelaya	11/26 Dana Bosiger
11/5 Jennifer Jenks	11/12 Deborah White	11/16 Christian Zelaya	11/28 Derrick Duncan
11/6 Esther Markert	11/13 Grace Thompson	11/17 Betty Burford	11/28 Kenny Tolley
	11/15 Suzanne Evans	11/23 Cara Hannell	

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

November Wedding Anniversaries

11/5 Mike & Lydia Ledin	37 years	11/25 Tracy & Tammy Roark	36 years
11/22 Kevin & Crystal Wheelous	21 years	11/29 John & Mary Siegle	57 years



We extend our sympathy to the family of Robert Closs, who died on October 11; and to the family of sue Anne Brown, who died on October 12.

Poinsettia Orders Now Being Accepted

Once again, we are accepting orders for poinsettias for the Advent/Christmas season. **If you give a plant, please plan for it to remain in place through Christmas Eve. We will not be delivering leftover plants to shut-ins, as we do not have the personnel to do this,** so please make arrangements to have your poinsettia(s) picked up after the Christmas Eve Service. Deadline for ordering is December 1st! The cost is \$18 each and payable at the time of your order.



“Sharing our Sorrows: A Support Group for Those Experiencing Grief and Loss”:

As the body of Christ, Scripture reminds us to “bear one another’s burdens” and to “watch over one another in love.” (Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:10). **Beginning Sunday, November 9 through December 21 at 3:00 p.m. in our Welcome Center** we will offer an informal opportunity to gather with our friends in faith for prayer, sharing and mutual support. Grief and loss take many forms, including the loss of a loved one, a change in family circumstances, the loss of a relationship or job, or the loss of health for yourself or a loved one. Any of these events can bring heartache and leave an empty space in our lives. The grieving process is unique and different for every individual. Whether your loss is more recent, or in year’s past, you are welcome to join us as we support one another in love. Please contact Pastor Nancy if you have questions. (434-401-5776 or ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com.

Poinsettia Order

**\$18 each - Make check payable to Fort Hill UMC and enclose with order
Order deadline is December 1, 2025**

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

☐ I would rather give a gift for the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$ _____

☐ **I will pick up after services**

November 2025

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

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.						1 2:30 - 4:00 FH Charge Conference at Amelon UMC
2 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 	5 2:00 Martha Circle 5:15 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6 2:00 Legacy Presentation 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	7	8
9 11:45 Baked potato, salad lunch 3:00 Grief Support Group	10 2:00 Church Council	11	12 5:15 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 Celebration Ringers	13 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	14	15
16 3:00 Grief Support Group	17 3:00 Outreach Team	18	19 5:15 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 Celebration Ringers	20 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	21	22
23  3:00 Grief Support Group Commitment Sunday	24	25	26	27  Church Office closed	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent Decorate for Advent 3:00 Grief Support Group						



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

Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251
Fax: 434-847-2536

www.forthillumc.com

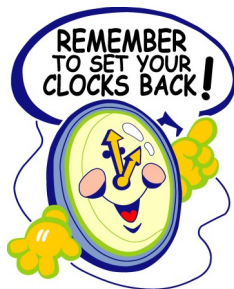


Rev. Nancy C. Johnson
Pastor

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 DECEMBER 15. Please
submit SHORT articles by
this date.
Thank you!**



**Daylight Saving
Time Ends
At 2:00 a.m. on
Sunday,
November 2
FALL BACK!**

**DON'T BE EARLY
FOR CHURCH!**

**SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...**

Special Thanksgiving Offering to be Received

Each year, the church receives a special Thanksgiving offering, which, in years past, has been used to help in any area where there is a shortfall of cash flow, and last year was designated to be given to Lynchburg Daily Bread.

This year, the Finance Committee has decided that this special offering will be divided between Park View **Food for Thought** and **Food for Families**. The Food for Thought program provides food to "food-insecure" students, identified by teachers and/or counselors, for them to have while at home during week-ends. The Food for Families program allows neighbors to visit the pantry a maximum of two times per month, with no more than one visit per week, allowing them to take an active part in the shopping experience by choosing from the products Park View provides. These include fresh produce, frozen meats, baked goods, and dairy items in addition to non-perishable groceries. The Committee feels that meals and food are very important items in our community, and that this would be one way of helping individuals and families receive nutritious food for the holidays. It is hoped that you will want to be a part of this ministry by contributing to our special Thanksgiving offering.

As always, your gifts are very much appreciated!

-Finance Committee