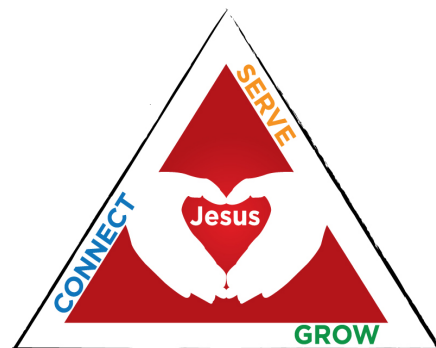




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
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Corner of Memorial and Oakridge Blvd.
Website: www.forthillumc.com

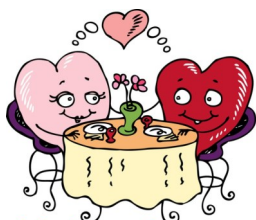


Volume 61, No.2

February, 2026

Come Share the Love

The JOY Team is planning a COME SHARE THE LOVE Valentine luncheon event on Sunday, February 15, immediately after the worship service that morning. Everyone is invited to come and bring your valentine! If your valentine has passed, please bring a picture of them for our Valentine Remembrance Table display. Be sure to put the name on the back of the picture.



**Valentines
Lunch**

The menu for this event will be fried chicken and an invitation for everyone, who is able, to bring a vegetable, salad, dessert or bread to share. Beverages will be provided.

Entertainment for this event will be the High Cotton barbershop quartet, a part of the Harmonizers Barbershop organization. Hope everyone can come! Watch for a **reservation form** in upcoming church bulletins.

Fort Hill's Generosity Helps Others!

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, Fort Hill UMC has always received special offerings. The Finance Committee designates how these special offerings will be used. In past years, we have used them to finish paying the church's obligations for the year or for capital improvements. But this year, the Committee decided to divide the Thanksgiving offering between Park View's Food for Thought and Food for Families programs. The Christmas offering was designated for the Salvation Army to help with the many requests they receive for assistance during the holiday season.



We are proud to report that \$1,542.00 has been sent to Park View and \$3,426.00 has been sent to the Salvation Army. Thank you for your generous support of these two agencies. Your gifts will make a big difference in the lives of many people.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday



On February 18, we are invited to join Christians around the world in a special time of spiritual preparation before the celebration of Easter. The season includes the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays, and ends with the observance of Holy Saturday. We will begin the Lenten season as a congregation with the following Ash Wednesday observances:

"Ashes on the Go: Imposition of Ashes and Prayer for the Church and Community" ~ 12 noon -1:00 p.m. We will try something new this year by making this traditional Lenten observance more accessible and visible to our community. The Worship Team will provide the imposition of ashes and a prayer in the church parking lot. In case of inclement weather, we will move to the porch/Narthex area in front of the church.

Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary including Scripture readings, hymns, a meditation and the imposition of ashes.

All are welcome to participate in these special opportunities.

A Lenten Book Study will begin in March

The Bible Study and Prayer Group welcomes others to join us for a special Lenten Study using the book: "Listen: Praying in a Noisy World" by Rueben P. Job. The book is available from Amazon for \$8.50. If you need a book to be ordered for you, please contact Pastor Nancy no later than February 18. Study sessions will meet on **Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. beginning on March 3**. All are welcome!

"...But the Greatest of These is Love." ~ I Corinthians 13:13



During the month of February every year, I try to spend some time reading and meditating on I Corinthians 13, known to many as the "love chapter" in the Bible. The Apostle Paul's words in this passage have always been significant for me.

I remember as an 8-year old kid in Vacation Bible School one summer, being challenged to memorize and recite these verses for the closing program. With great fear and trembling, I stood in church before family and friends on a hot Friday evening in August and recited the verses of "the love chapter." Many years later, on another hot Friday evening in August, I stood once again in a church before family and friends and recited portions of I Corinthians 13 as part of our wedding vows, when Bruce and I pledged our lives to one another. No matter how often I read these verses, I am always challenged by them. I would like to say that my familiarity with this passage has enabled me to be faithful to it at all times. In honesty, I more often than not find myself asking God's forgiveness for the times I fail to live out this love that Paul describes.

I once printed I Corinthians 13 as a bulletin insert and challenged my congregation (and myself) to put it on the refrigerator at home and commit to reading it every day during the month of February. Doing so can change us, by God's grace, and help us to interact more lovingly with others. I am particularly challenged by verses 4-8. Eugene Peterson in *The Message* translates those words like this:

*Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut.
Doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others.
Isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle.
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel.
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything,
Trusts God always, always looks for the best,
Never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies.*

When I have the opportunity to converse with St. Paul one day, I look forward to personally thanking him for this love letter, this "Valentine" that he wrote to the early church and to us, straight from the heart of God. These words speak of a love that goes way beyond flowers, chocolates and sentimental poetry, a love that we can experience only by the self-giving and self-sacrificing love and grace of God in Christ Jesus.

May God help us all to write these words on our hearts and reflect them in our lives as we live and love as Christ's disciples.
-Love in Christ, 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:

Runk & Pratt (Gristmill)

Sylvia Morgan

Heritage Green

Jimmy Thompson

Others who need our prayers:

Betty Burford

Bryan & Lisa Garra

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

Phyllis Williams

NOTICE: If you know of a member, or a friend of the church, who is hospitalized, please let the church office know. The hospitals DO NOT call the church. Thank you!

Wonderful Wednesdays will not be meeting during the month of February.
Watch for more details about Spring Relaunch of this program!

Bits and Pieces

2026 Flower Chart Available



Altar Flowers

If you are looking for a way to honor or remember someone, you might want to consider placing flowers on the altar some Sunday. To do so, you can check the new Flower Chart in the office hallway, beside the water fountain. You

have two options to choose from:

1. The two brass urn arrangements for \$110 total
OR
2. An arrangement for the altar table for \$63.00

Just sign your name beside the date that you want, and put a "T" or an "U" beside your name to indicate which size arrangement you want. Place your check for \$110 or \$63 in one of the special envelopes provided at the chart, along with the wording that you wish to be in the bulletin, and put the envelope in the collection plate or bring to the church office.

If you wish a certain color or particular type of flower, just let the church office know, and it will be taken care of.

Sign up early to get the date(s) you want as the chart usually fills up quickly.

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - February 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall.

Martha Circle - February 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

If you are not a member of the UMW, you are invited to visit one of the circles at any time.

Outreach Team Has A Request

The Outreach team so very much appreciates all your support this past year. You have been very generous in contributing to all our projects. As we approach the new year, we are planning to continue providing food for the community with the Blessing Box.

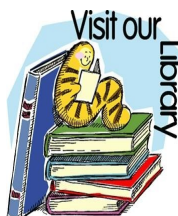
As we have been replenishing our pantries at home, we ask you to consider the BOGO items the grocery stores are promoting. **If you need one of those, we suggest you take advantage of the free one and donating it to the Blessing Box Pantry.** Many thanks!

-Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Outreach Chair

From Our Librarian

Where Do We Go From Here: How Tomorrow's Prophecies Foreshadow Today's Problems –
Dr. David Jeremiah – W. Publishing Group – 2011

When we look around in this world, we can see how much the current events affect the way we look at the world. In his book, Dr. Jeremiah explores how these events align with biblical prophecies. "Our world is changing and not for the better. People are becoming more callous, selfish, violent and angry. Attitudes and behaviors deemed unthinkable a decade ago are considered acceptable." How does this attitude fit with biblical prophecy? The apostle Paul offers a description of these persons in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Remember that we are people of righteousness and faithful to God. "Walking in the light also makes us people of truth." In the discussion of this situation and other problems facing the world, Dr. Jeremiah gives a scriptural foundation for the way to deal with each problem and move beyond it. Where do we go from here? The answer lies in the truth of God as Creator and Sustainer, and a God of love and caring. We are not alone in our problems; God is there with us in the midst of any situation.



A Word From Amos . . .

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again. I don't have much to report on this month, but I do want to tell you that in the years I have been hanging around here, I have seen so much love shown and expressed among this congregation. It just warms my heart to witness this love among you. I think you are practicing what Jesus taught us to do . . . love one another.



So, until next month, keep that love flowing!
-Amos

We Have A New Custodian!

Virginia Maintenance Corporation, the company our Board of Trustees engages for cleaning our church building, assigned us a new custodian, Amy Tyree just before Christmas. If you happen to be in the building when Amy is here, please introduce yourself and extend a warm Fort Hill UMC welcome to her!



2/1 Kenny Tolley	2/7 Tommy Carter	2/14 Turner Lee	2/25 Megan Schrade
2/2 Adam Daugherty	2/9 James Rogers	2/15 Ron Litten	2/25 Angie Kiger
2/3 Greg Marsh	2/9 Sherri Tolley	2/17 Cindy Englund	2/26 Judy Hall
2/3 Dan Watson	2/9 Patrick Sullivan	2/17 Lisa Robertson	2/27 Marc Beverly
2/3 Brittany Roark	2/10 Cassie Muratore	2/20 Jimmy Mays	2/28 Phyllis Williams
2/3 Ryan Marsh	2/10 Leigh Ruhland	2/20 Kim Saville	2/28 Kelli Tatum
2/5 Patricia Young	2/12 Carolyn Maness	2/22 Ann Stinson	2/28 Cole Werner
2/6 Emily Peters	2/12 Christy Bussert	2/22 Emily Ruhland	2/28 Abby Englund
2/7 Mary Michaelson			

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.

February Wedding Anniversaries

2/15 Jane & Shan Peters 41 years 2/16 Ronnie & Jeanette Seale 46 years



We extend our sympathy to Tim Beuerle, Catherine Martin, and T. J. Beuerle and their families upon the death of his mother/their grandmother, Brenda Beuerle, on January 16.

A huge "thank you" for all you did for Seven Hills Health and Rehab during Christmas time. We greatly appreciate all the donations that were gifted to our residents from the church and Fort Hill community. May God bless each and everyone of you in 2026!

Pastor Parish Relations Committee and SAS Training Event

Saturday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All new and returning SPRC chairs, or members of a Leadership Team structure that acts as SPRC for their church, should attend this online training with DS Sarah Calvert on how the United Methodist system of review, appointment and supervision works. See Pastor Nancy about registration for this training.

Children and Youth Sunday School meets from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. each Sunday on the third floor. If you would like to volunteer to teach, or assist, in either the Children's (through Grade 5) or Youth (grades 6 and up) classes, please contact Pastor Nancy (434-401-57 ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com).

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 2025 - 104

Average worship attendance as of January 25, 2026 - 98

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2026

"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 2026 as approved by the Church Council is: \$404,827

We need an average of \$7,785.14 per week to meet this budget.

As of 4 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$11,783.09

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

Can You Help?

The church office is in need of a volunteer on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Main duties are answering phone calls and directing them to the proper person, opening the door for those who ring to come inside and occasionally helping with other tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanette or Pastor Nancy.

February, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 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>				1	2	3
1 Holy Communion	2	3 7:00 Genesis Circle	4 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	5 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	6	7 10:00 SPRC Training Event
8	9 11:00 Finance Committee	10 11:00 UWF Mission Team	11 7:00 Celebration Ringers	12 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	13	14  Happy Valentine's Day!
15  Valentines Lunch	16	17	18  12-1 "Ashes To Go" 6:00 Ash Wed. service 7:00 Celebration Ringers	19 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	20	21
22	23	24	25 7:00 Celebration Ringers	26 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	27	28



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested

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www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Nancy C. Johnson
Pastor

Worship Time:
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary
& online via YouTube

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

Fort Hill to Participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring

The Outreach team is again sponsoring a SOUPER BOWL OF CARING on February 8. The team is requesting specific items this year for the Blessings Box. Requested are **canned soups, canned meat, peanut butter, plastic containers of jelly, and shelf stable milk (can be found in the dollar stores)**. Money to purchase food, when our supplies are low, is always greatly appreciated. Join us for the celebration!



February Communion Offering to Benefit Interfaith Outreach Association

At the December Finance Committee meeting, it was decided that Fort Hill UMC would support six local agencies during 2026. For two consecutive months, one-half of the communion offering will be given to one of these six agencies, with the other half going into our own Local Relief Fund to help those who come to our doors seeking assistance. For the month of January and February, we will support Interfaith Outreach Association to whom we refer many people each week for assistance. Your gift to the monthly communion offering is greatly appreciated and will help others in our community with rent, food, utilities, etc.