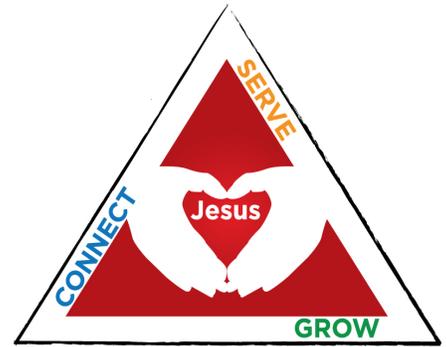




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
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Corner of Memorial and Oakridge Blvd.
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Volume 61, No.4

April, 2026

Special Opportunities for Holy Week and Easter 2026

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502



Thursday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. ~ From Gethsemane to Golgotha: A Service of Worship for Maundy Thursday ~ Join us for a traditional Holy Thursday service featuring prayer, Scripture readings, Lenten hymns, special music and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Friday, April 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m.: A Self-Guided Prayer Journey for Good Friday
Join others in small groups for this special opportunity to enrich your Holy Week observance. Begin at the front of the church and visit prayer stations set up throughout the building. Groups will begin every 15 minutes continually throughout the time. The amount of time needed to complete the walk depends on how long you choose to spend at each station. Come and go as you are able.



Easter Sunday, April 5, 7:00 a.m. Community Sunrise Service at Fort Hill Memorial Park (5196 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg). We will gather at the cross in the Garden of Crucifixion for the first service of Easter. If it rains, we will use the mausoleum beside the Garden. Please bring your own portable chair. Jointly sponsored by Lynchburg Area United Methodist Churches. **8:30 a.m.** Join us for our **Annual Easter Breakfast** in the church Fellowship Hall. Please come and bring friends and family with you! Our church family is encouraged to sign up to bring breakfast foods (breakfast casseroles, pastries, etc.) by calling the church office or using the posted

sign-up sheets. **10:30 a.m. Resurrection Celebration in Worship** Let us rejoice! Christ is risen! Alleluia! The congregation may bring fresh flowers to decorate the Living Cross.

An Easter Tradition Continues at Fort Hill

For many years, Fort Hill has had the tradition of "decorating" a cross on Easter Sunday morning with freshly cut flowers from members' gardens, or purchased flowers. We want to continue this tradition again this year.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a wire-covered cross on the patio in front of the church. If raining, it will be on the porch. You are invited to bring as many flowers as you desire from your garden to place on the cross. If you don't have any flowers to bring, artificial flowers are okay; plus we will have some fresh flowers on hand so you will be able to help decorate the cross.



About Our Easter Special Offering!

The Finance Committee has decided to send this special offering to the Free Clinic of Central Virginia this year.

The Free Clinic offers medical services to those who lose their health insurance coverage or to those who cannot afford insurance. After sustaining a major fire in 2024, the clinic is rebuilding. However, their insurance will not cover the full loss. A gift of any amount will make a real difference. Did you know that \$1,003 will fund one patient's healthcare for a year?



Fort Hill has always been a leader in outreach to our community. The Finance Committee hopes you will want to help continue that leadership by giving to this special Easter Offering.

I often find it so curious this time of year to observe the secular “Easter-hype” advertised all around us that has no connection whatsoever to the real meaning of the celebration. Not unlike the Christmas season, the sacred reason we rejoice in the first place is too often absent. As “Easter people,” it is up to us to share the true Good News of God in Christ, who was once and for all victorious over sin and death, for all people and for all time.



Pastor's
EASTER MESSAGE

Years ago, I came across this quaint and simple poem that echoes this same truth. May God remind us of the true message of Easter, and our responsibility to share it with others!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nancy

The Miracle of Easter, A Poem
By Andrew Daughters

When I was young, they told me that around this time of year,
Some rabbits lay bright-colored eggs, a strange myth we hold dear;
At other times they never even lay an egg that's white,
So it must be a miracle that moves them overnight!

And, yet, it seems that miracles are special acts of God.
And using them on trivia like that seems rather odd.
For surely God has more important things to fill His busy days.
And making hares lay colored eggs is quite unlike His ways.

There is an Easter miracle that really takes your breath.
And unlike colored bunny eggs, it deals with life and death.
It has to do with Jesus, who is God's eternal Son,
Who lived and taught and died upon a cross for everyone.

This Jesus then, from out the tomb, the third day rose again
To meet with all his followers who were very startled then.
So if you want a miracle that's worth God's time to give,
Be sure to tell your children. It could change the way they live.

A God who takes the very worst that human hate displays,
And turns it to a gift of love,
That God is worth our praise!

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:

Joyce Baker

Betty Burford

Bryan & Lisa Garra

Jimmy & JoAnn Mays

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

April Communion Offering to Benefit Miriam's House

For the months of March and April, our communion offering will be divided between Miriam's House and our own Local Relief Fund.

Miriam's House just reopened after some renovations, and now offers temporary housing to families who, for various reasons, find themselves without a home. Miriam's House works with these families to find affordable housing while keeping the family together during difficult times.



Our Local Relief Fund helps those who come to our doors seeking various assistance. Any gift that you might give on a communion Sunday goes to help those less fortunate.

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 (434-401-5776; ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com). We appreciate all those who have volunteered to serve in this important ministry.

From Our Librarian

Revitalize Your Spiritual Life: A Woman's Guide to Vibrant Christian Living

Angela Thomas – Thomas Nelson Publishers – 2010

Presented as a “guide to help women” move past emotional and mental barriers, there is advice in the book for men, too. Do both women and men have guilt or secret pains? “Is there no hope for me?”



Sometimes men may feel unworthy or that “If I had more, I would be happier.” The book is fundamentally a message of hope for both women and men, who feel “shackled to a wall of guilt” or stuck in spiritual stagnation. While written as a “woman’s guide,” the core themes—

overcoming shame, the power of honesty, and shifting from performance to grace—address universal human struggles that are deeply relevant to men. What keeps you stuck? The author examines “faulty thinking,” fear, insecurities, guilt and the quest for perfection. There is hope available! The book also focuses on recovering a sense of God’s presence through prayer, Bible study, and the experience of grace in your personal life.

Lunch Out Anyone?

The next meeting of Lunch Out will be on Sunday, April 12,, immediately after the worship service, at Asian Fusion, 2822 Link-horne Drive. You do not need to make a reservation - just come and enjoy the fellowship! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.



A Word From Amos . . .

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse, reporting in again. I’m so happy that warmer weather is beginning.

My “report” didn’t get included in last month’s newsletter, and I’m sorry that you didn’t get my report, but I was told that there just wasn’t enough room. I’ve also been told that this newsletter for April will be out right before Easter Sunday, so I can’t comment much on the Easter service, but I can comment on the Palm Sunday service. If you were not here for that service, I hope you could watch and listen to it online.



The musicwhat can I say but that it was so moving, tender and compassionate. I get “mouse bumps” just thinking about what I heard. Thank you Sanctuary Choir and all the musicians involved for such an inspiring and touching service.

Oh, and I almost forgot to tell you about the potluck lunch and Easter Egg Hunt that Fort Hill had for the children, as well as the neighborhood children, that Sunday. What a fun-filled day that was! The food was delicious (so I heard - I did manage to find a few morsels on the floor), and I enjoyed watching the children scream with delight whenever they found an egg. I think even the adults enjoyed the day watching the children have so much fun with the hunt.

So, as we move into the spring and summer months, and start focusing more on vacations and fun times with our families, let’s not forget what Jesus has done for us.

Well, this is my report for this month! I’ll be watching for things to report on in the May newsletter. Enjoy spring and the warmer days!

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

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

Martha Circle - April 8 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.

Happy Birthday to

On March 24, members of the United Women of Faith Genesis Circle traveled to Henry Fork Service Center to deliver their second batch of “Birthday in a Box” kits for the children who are served by the center. The UWF became aware of this need through the Executive Director, Jessica Hunt, who shared with the group that many of the children will not have a birthday cake on their birthday due to difficult work schedules or lack of family financial resources.



The “Birthday in a Box” kits contain everything the family needs to easily make a cake and have a celebration for the child. Everyone, especially children, deserves to be remembered on their birthday! Many thanks to our UMF ladies for being sensitive to this need and doing what they can to make the children of Henry Fork Service Center feel special on their special day!

-Amos



4/1 Isabella Zelaya	4/10 Ryan Sullivan	4/18 Becky Spangler	4/28 David Billingsley
4/4 Sam Green	4/11 Greg Blanks	4/18 Nancy Johnson	4/28 Tracy Daniels
4/5 Frank Billingsley	4/11 Crystal Womack	4/18 Edwin Glass	4/28 Landen Wheelous
4/5 Philip Roark	4/12 Sarah Huffer	4/20 Robin Salyer	4/29 Martha L. Blanks
4/8 Mary Wootton	4/12 Charlie Marsh	4/23 Benjamin Blanks	4/29 Carolyn Almond
4/8 Kassidy Bell	4/13 Stacey McBride	4/24 John M. Hamilton	4/29 Bill Moseley
4/10 Shelby Phipps	4/13 Cameron Byrd	4/25 John Siegle	4/30 Marie Johnson
4/10 Bev Conner	4/14 Samuel Saville	4/26 Don Knott	4/30 Wendy Meese
4/10 Brandon Conner	4/17 Meredith Daugherty	4/26 Grant Seale	4/30 Isabella Wheelous

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.

April Wedding Anniversaries

4/9 Bunny & Jackie Marks	21 years	4/10 Les & Patty Marsh	50 years
4/14 Jack & Cassie Muratore	14 years	4/16 Mike & Brittany Mistretta	15 years

Dear Fort Hill Family, Thank you so much for your generous gift and lovely reception in my honor. A portion of your gift has been spent on uniforms for my students, and some was used to provide the casket spray for my mother. The lovely roses from the reception were also used to brighten Mama's room in her last days. Her favorite roses were yellow and red. As a child, I would pick one of the first blooms for her rose bushes to give her, much to her loving exasperation. Thank you for helping me give her flowers one last time. I am so deeply grateful for all the cards, emails, text, and well wishes. It means so much, and it was such a blessing to see so many loving faces at Mama's funeral.

I am so fortunate to now you all! I miss you, and pray God's hand covers your always!

-Love, Heather

We extend our sympathy to John Hamilton and family upon the death of his nephew, Steven James Perry, of Durham, NC, on March 6.



Thank you to Carolyn Almond for the gift of two beautiful framed pictures in memory of her parents, Earl and Jeanette Almond. You may see these pictures hanging in office hallway along our art walls. One picture is based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 Be sure to "stroll" down the hallway and admire all the beautiful pictures on display.

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 March 22, 2026 -

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 12 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$

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

Wednesday, April 22 is Administrative Professional's Day so let's take this opportunity

to show our appreciation to Jeanette Seale who faithfully serves us as FHUMC's Administrative Assistant! Jeanette works tirelessly and wears many hats to keep things running smoothly, and we all appreciate her faithfulness!



-Pastor Nancy

April 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p align="center">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.</p>			1	2	3	4
			2:30 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:00 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	Good Friday 5-7 Prayer Journey	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday 8:30 Easter Breakfast	Church Office Closed	7:00 Genesis Circle	2:00 Martha Circle 3:15 Endowment Committee 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
26	27	28	29	30		
			Prepare meal for Park View 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		



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Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251

www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Nancy C. Johnson
Pastor
ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com

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

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



Mountain View District One in Mission Together Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event Saturday, April 11, 2026, 9:30 a.m. - Noon

We are uniting the 72 churches of our District in a shared day of mission. On Saturday, April 11 (9:30 a.m.–Noon), volunteers will gather at three regional sites to pack 30,000 meals for global hunger relief through Rise Against Hunger. The site for our Peaks View Region of the District is Heritage UMC (582 Leesville Road, Lynchburg, VA 23502). All ages are welcome! RSVPs requested but not required: <https://mountainviewdistrict.org/events/one-in-mission>

Please contact Pastor Nancy if you have questions or need more information.

It's Our Turn Again!

April has five Wednesdays, which means it is Fort Hill's turn to prepare a meal for Park View Community Mission. Help is needed in dividing the meal into to-go boxes and delivering the boxes to Park View. If you can help, please arrive around 2:30 p.m. on April 29 to help with this process. If you can help deliver the meals, please arrive around 4:00 p.m.