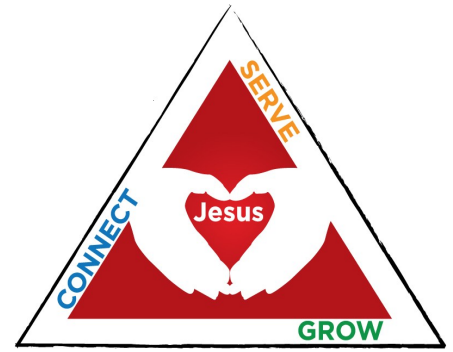




From the Hill

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 61, No.5

May, 2026

Graduate Sunday Coming!

We are planning our annual Graduate Recognition Sunday Celebration on May 17. If you know of any individuals, who are graduating from High School, College or Graduate School Programs, that are members of Fort Hill United Methodist Church, please contact us with their information, i.e. school they will be graduating from, plans after graduation and, if they are a college graduate, the degree they will be receiving. Please call the church office (847-1251) with your information by May 10 or email to secretary@forthillumc.com. Thank you for your assistance with this worthy task and celebration.



McPherson Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

It is a great privilege to offer scholarships from the McPherson Scholarship Endowment each year. All first year college students (2026 high school graduates), who are members of Fort Hill UMC, are encouraged to apply. Second thru fourth year students may apply also. Applications can be picked up in the church office, starting May 1, and must be returned no later than June 15. Scholarship awards will be made in July.



Bells of the Blue Ridge presents. . . . *Let Freedom Ring...& Ring....& Ring!*

Tuesday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. at Heritage UMC (582 Leesville Road, Lynchburg) AND Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at Fort Hill UMC. Let's celebrate the freedom and the pride of our nation with classic American music for America's 250th Anniversary! The concert is free and open to the public.

Fort Hill Has A New Director of Music

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) of Fort Hill UMC is overjoyed to announce the hiring of Diego Davila as the new Director of Music Ministries for our church. Diego has been serving as our interim accompanist since mid-February. Originally from Peru, Diego is a young pianist who has performed for multiple masterclasses and recitals in the USA, Peru and Hungary as a Soloist and as a Piano Accompanist. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from The Bower School of Music & The Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University under the instruction of the Head of Piano Studies, Dr. Michael Baron. He is currently working on his Master's Degree in Music & Worship in Conducting at Liberty University. Diego has gained experience in the past years as Director of Music Ministries at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Fort Meyers, FL, Piano Instructor at the First Academy of Music, Choir Director at Siena Lake Choir, and former Teaching Artist of United Arts Council of Collier County. Diego often performs as a Piano Accompanist for recitals, competitions and ensembles, and in church music. As part of his scholarship at LU, he serves as a graduate assistant teaching group piano lessons to undergraduate students.



Diego has been hired part-time for 15 hours per week. He will serve as accompanist for Sunday worship, director and accompanist for the Sanctuary Choir, director of the Celebration Ringers, and coordinator of the Brass Ensemble. He also looks forward to coordinating music with our children and youth, as well as using music as a means of outreach for our church. We will officially welcome Diego at our next 5th Sunday Potluck after worship on May 31. We hope that many in the congregation will join us for this special celebration as we welcome Diego to our Fort Hill UMC family!

Mountain View District One in Mission Together Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event, Saturday, April 11

Fort Hill was well-represented at our District Mission Event on Saturday, April 11, at Heritage UMC. Eight of us joined with 84 others from 12 churches in our Peaks View Region of the District to pack 10,000 meals for global hunger relief. Two additional sites in the Ridge View and River View regions of the District each packed 10,000 meals per site. Together, approximately 240 persons, both young and old, from across the Mountain View District, from 35 of our local churches, completed the packing of 30,000 meals! It was a great day of working together in a spirit of Christian love and cooperation with other United Methodists to serve those in need. Our District made this event possible for us and covered all the costs for this packing event. Due to the financial commitment to sponsor a Rise Against Hunger event, many of our smaller and mid-sized churches do not have the resources to host such a project. Our district gave all of our churches, from the smallest to the largest, the opportunity to work together and accomplish great good for Christ's sake. Thanks to all that were able to participate, and we look forward to the next opportunity!



-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:

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

Observing a National Day of Prayer on May 7

Held on the first Thursday of May each year, the National Day of Prayer is an annual observance inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. This observance was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Each year, our president issues a proclamation designating this day as a time in which the people of the United States come together to offer prayers and times of meditation for our nation in churches, public spaces, small groups or as individuals. Over 40,000 prayer gatherings of all kinds are held each year on National Day of Prayer. In observance of this day, Fort Hill will offer the following opportunities:



12 noon- 1 p.m.: Join with other churches and individuals in our area at Monument Terrace for a time of community prayer. If you would like to attend and need to carpool, please call the church office by Tuesday, May 5 at noon and we can arrange transportation.

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: **Stop and Pray** - Our church Sanctuary will be open for a time of ongoing prayer. Come and go as you are able. Prayer resources will be provided for individual prayer time.

6:00-6:30 p.m. National Day of Prayer Observance in our Sanctuary:

Join with others as we lift our prayers together for our country.

Lunch Out Anyone?

The next meeting of Lunch Out will be on Sunday, May 10, immediately after the worship service, at Red Lobster at River Ridge Mall. You do not need to make a reservation - just come and enjoy the fellowship! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - May 4, at 12:00 Noon at the home of Ann Vincent, 158 Salisbury Circle

Martha Circle - May 6 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.

From Our Librarian

Good Boundaries and Goodbyes - Lysa Terkeurst –
Thomas Nelson Publishers - 2022

All through our lives, we are constantly bombarded with negative thoughts and ideas. These thoughts and ideas may become so ingrained in our minds that it is almost like having a recording playing all the time – “I’m so disappointed in you.” You misspell a word in a contest and your parent tells you that you will never be a good speller – disappointment. In your life you may have job after job and are never happy in any job at all because years ago, someone said, “You’ll never amount to anything in this life” – disappointment again! There is a tendency to play these “tapes” over and over in your minds. In actuality, someone else is setting boundaries for you. But you can change. In this book, Terkeurst encourages us to set our own boundaries. “Someone else being disappointed doesn’t make us a disappointment.” She provides scripture verses to back up the fact that we can still be a Christian, and have boundaries in place. The perfect example of boundaries is found in Jeremiah 5:22. The sea represents chaos, and the shore line represents boundaries. Where there is an abundance of chaos in a relationship, there is a corresponding lack of boundaries. As the author states, “Boundaries aren’t just a good idea, they’re a God idea.”



A Word From Amos . . .

Hello my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse, reporting in again.



Now that the Lenten season has passed, I thought things would be a little quieter around the church buildings. But I am so wrong! I’ve been hearing all kinds of talk about the things being planned for the month of May, and (whew!), it’s A LOT!!!! Not only will there be Mother’s Day to celebrate, but also Pentecost (birthday of the church), and then Ascension Sunday with a lunch planned after church and the welcoming of your new Director of Music, as well as Memorial Day, Bells of the Blue Ridge concert, and the list goes on and on. It makes me so happy to see Fort Hill thriving and being a huge part of the community. I hope you will enjoy all these activities, and I will be watching for you.

Well, folks, with the warmer weather approaching, I think it is time for me to go visit some of my family for the summer, so I will not report in again until the fall. I hope you will have a wonderful summer with your family and friends too.
-Amos

May Communion Offering Designated for Meals on Wheels

For the months of May and June, our communion offering will be divided between Meals on Wheels and our own Local Relief Fund.

Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg is designed to assist the homebound community by providing a balanced, nutritious, hot lunch five days each week. Last year, almost 650 volunteers delivered more than 201,000 hot meals to the homebound. That’s over 16,000 meals each month. Because they do not receive any state or federal funding, MOW depends heavily on donations. In addition, the Meals on Wheels delivery also provides a reassuring “check-in” to those who live alone.



The other half of the communion offering will go to our own Local Relief Fund to assist those who come to our doors seeking assistance with utility, rent, etc. Thank you for caring and sharing!

In Concert . . .



On Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 3:00 PM, Noemi Szigeti Lee will perform a piano recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1002 Floyd Street, Lynchburg, VA for the dedication of the church's new Steinway M piano. The A. James D. and Eleanor J. Taylor concert is free and open to the public, and will feature works by Beethoven, Liszt and Franck. A reception follows the concert.

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal Planned

Make plans to attend our next 5th Sunday Potluck on May 31 when we will welcome our new Director of Music Ministries, Diego Davila. The church will provide the chicken and beverages. The congregation is invited to provide side dishes, salads, casseroles and desserts. To help us prepare, please **make a reservation** through the church office (phone: 434-847-1251 or email: secretary@forthillumc.com) by **Wednesday, May 27**, and indicate what you plan to bring for the potluck and how many will be in your party. All are welcome! Jointly sponsored by the Children/Youth Ministries Team and SPPRC.



Bits and Pieces

Ladies Spring Luncheon, Saturday, May 16 at 12 noon. The Fort Hill United Women of Faith are inviting the women from our neighboring UM churches (Chestnut Hill, South View and Jackson Street) to join us for a Ladies Spring Luncheon to enjoy a time of food and fellowship together. Women, young ladies and girls of all ages are welcome. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for reservation details.



During the month of May, the Outreach Team will be collecting snacks for the Perrymont students to enjoy during the upcoming weeks of academic testing. Snack-size, individual packets of goldfish, snack crackers, nabs, cheez-its, etc. would be most appreciated. Please leave your donations in the Narthex wagon marked for "Perrymont." Your generosity is most appreciated.

Honor Your Mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10: All women are encouraged to wear their favorite hat to worship in honor of Mother's Day!

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 April 26, 2026 - 97

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 17 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$8,269.45

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

Times of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 10:15 a.m.- 11.45 a.m.

Rev. Nancy C. Johnson
ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com

Diego A. Divila, Director of Music
diegodavila.pianist@gmail.com

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant
secretary@forthillumc.com

Rev. 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



- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5/1 Bonnie Tate | 5/10 John Saville | 5/15 George Erbacher | 5/27 Stacey Lowe |
| 5/1 Evan Meese | 5/11 Jane Peters | 5/15 Tyler Perrow | 5/27 Ramona Davis |
| 5/2 Ciara Tolley | 5/11 Sophie Minnick | 5/16 Janet Murphy | 5/27 Lynn Gittelman |
| 5/3 Ashley Nickell | 5/12 Cindy Castaldo | 5/17 Jeff Gay | 5/28 Richard Hawkins |
| 5/4 Golda Winnagle | 5/12 Christy Miller | 5/18 Yvonne Tackett | 5/28 Sallie Johnson |
| 5/5 Lauren Lee | 5/12 Olivia Beverly | 5/19 Michele Chamot | 5/28 Jennifer Neighbors |
| 5/6 Ricky Sutor | 5/13 Bubba Humphries | 5/20 Kerry Wilkinson | 5/29 Nancy Zehmer |
| 5/6 Nikki Burrington | 5/13 Shelia Drinkard | 5/23 Carolyn Green | 5/29 Madeline Willis |
| 5/7 Brenda Glass | 5/13 David Reid | 5/24 Daryl Knott | 5/29 Shelia Bourguignon |
| 5/8 Gladys Sale | 5/13 Hazel Grace Mistretta | 5/24 Justus Hamilton | 5/29 Karl Lowe |
| 5/9 Thomas Robertson | 5/15 Dorothy Hagen | 5/27 Carol Dee Robertson | 5/30 Kevin Wheelous |
| 5/10 Holden Beuerle | | | 5/30 Duncan Daugherty |

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.

May Wedding Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| 5/2 Ricky & Robin Poindexter | 45 years | 5/23 Mike & Alisha Decker | 34 years |
| 5/17 Scott & Dana Bosiger | 13 years | 5/26 Jeremy & Amanda Wood | 8 years |



Miscellaneous

A NOTE OF



To all my Fort Hill friends:

Thank you so much for all your visits, phone calls, cards, flowers and gifts. I had quite a fall, but am doing well. I miss church and all of you, and hope to be back soon. Blessings to all of you. He is risen!

-Joyce Baker

Things to Note

Pentecost Sunday, May 24: On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church! Everyone is encouraged to wear red in worship, the signature color of Pentecost.

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

Thank you for your contribution to help God's work at the Henry Fork Service Center. Your loving generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for the birthday kits and paper supplies. We appreciate all you do! May you be blessed by God's love!
-Jessica Hunt, Executive Director

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Services and events so special. Many thanks to Danna Whorton and the Worship Team, Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Ringers, Brass Ensemble, Diego Davila and Angela Heer, Madison Wiley and the Children and Youth Ministry Team, Mary Siegle and her hospitality helpers, Wiley Green and Tillie Hunter, and Jeanette Seale. Your faithful service is most appreciated.

Thanks to everyone for the many lovely cards and "Happy Birthday" wishes you showered upon me for my birthday. I appreciated each and every expression of kindness. Thank you so much!

-Pastor Nancy



May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p style="text-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 Holy Communion	4	5 12:00 Genesis Circle	6 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	7 National Day of Prayer 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	8	9
10 Mother's Day 12:00 Lunch Out at Red Lobster	11 2:00 Council & Finance Joint meeting	12	13 7:00 Celebration Ringers	14 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	15	16 12:00 UWF joint luncheon
17 Graduate Sunday	18 2:00 Outreach Team meeting	19	20 7:00 Celebration Ringers	21 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday	25 Memorial Day Church Office closed	26	27 7:00 Celebration Ringers	28 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	29	30 4:00 Bells of the Blue Ridge in concert
31 11:45 Potluck Lunch & Reception for Diego						

Puzzle Page

Bible Word Search

Books of the Old Testament

R	H	A	G	G	A	I	G	J	O	N	A	H	E	I	S	A	I	A	H
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	E	S	A	U	H	S	O	J	F	H
S	E	G	D	U	J	E	W	E	S	T	H	E	R	S	G	N	I	K	O
T	B	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	F	O	G	N	O	S	M	B	Y	C	S
A	M	O	S	L	O	Z	Y	M	O	N	O	R	E	T	U	E	D	O	E
W	K	K	K	E	K	R	V	O	Y	H	T	U	R	H	A	Q	B	R	A
K	U	B	Y	U	P	F	K	I	B	L	Q	V	D	A	N	I	E	L	A
L	K	O	C	M	S	S	K	H	I	A	E	V	E	W	I	F	O	M	Z
A	K	J	L	A	E	A	H	J	K	K	D	V	P	X	W	I	K	Y	N
M	A	K	S	S	L	M	A	P	U	C	D	I	I	F	O	C	I	M	Q
E	B	I	B	C	C	U	I	P	D	H	V	L	A	T	Z	D	F	C	S
N	A	N	R	J	I	E	R	H	H	G	A	O	U	H	I	C	U	I	Z
T	H	J	E	E	N	L	A	A	A	J	X	M	N	F	H	C	S	S	N
A	M	S	V	R	O	I	H	I	C	O	K	N	A	T	V	E	U	K	A
T	L	M	O	E	R	S	C	M	I	E	A	U	T	L	N	C	C	S	H
I	T	L	R	M	H	W	E	E	M	L	R	M	Q	E	A	J	M	C	U
O	K	A	P	I	C	E	Z	H	I	X	Z	B	G	F	I	C	E	I	M
N	E	S	H	A	F	E	I	E	B	N	E	E	Z	V	L	X	H	E	M
S	M	P	S	H	G	Y	H	N	H	V	V	R	Q	U	A	G	H	I	Y
W	N	H	A	I	N	A	H	P	E	Z	S	S	E	Z	E	K	I	E	L

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6			3	
4			8		3		1	
7				2			6	
	6					2	8	
				4	1	9		5
				8			7	9

- AMOS
- CHRONICLES
- DANIEL
- DEUTERONOMY
- ECCLESIASTES
- ESTHER
- EXODUS
- EZEKIEL
- EZRA
- GENESIS
- HABAKKUK
- HAGGAI
- HOSEA

- ISAIAH
- JEREMIAH
- JOB
- JOEL
- JONAH
- JOSHUA
- JUDGES
- KINGS
- LAMENTATIONS
- LEVITICUS
- MALACHI
- MICAH
- NAHUM

- NEHEMIAH
- NUMBERS
- OBADIAH
- PROVERBS
- PSALMS
- RUTH
- SAMUEL
- SAMUEL
- SONG OF SOLOM
- ZECHARIAH
- ZEPHANIAH

Books of the Bible Word Scramble

- 1. NJOH _____
- 2. NAORSM _____
- 3. ITMYOH _____
- 4. LMIENOPH _____
- 5. ARLOEEIVNT _____
- 6. NLASCOSIOS _____
- 7. NLIASHNEATSO _____
- 8. ASEJM _____
- 9. TPEER _____
- 10. HERSWBE _____
- 11. EPESHSAIN _____
- 12. AITNSNROCIH _____
- 13. PPLINIPSIHA _____
- 14. TISTU _____
- 15. LANAAGTSI _____
- 16. RPETE _____
- 17. TWMHTEA _____
- 18. DJUE _____
- 19. NHJO _____
- 20. MAJSE _____

Word Bank

- CORINTHIANS
- GALATIANS
- PETER
- JOHN
- JUDE
- COLOSSIANS
- THESSALONIANS
- MATTHEW
- TIMOTHY
- JAMES
- PHILEMON
- TITUS
- EPHESIANS
- PHILIPPIANS
- REVELATION
- JAMES
- ROMANS
- PETER
- JOHN
- HEBREWS

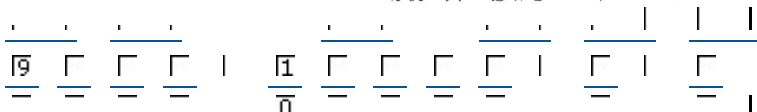
Bible Quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshiping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?



- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)





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
ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com

Diego A. Divila
Director of Music

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

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



We Thank You for Your Service!



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

To those from Fort Hill UMC who have served in our armed forces, and those who are currently serving, we thank you for your service!