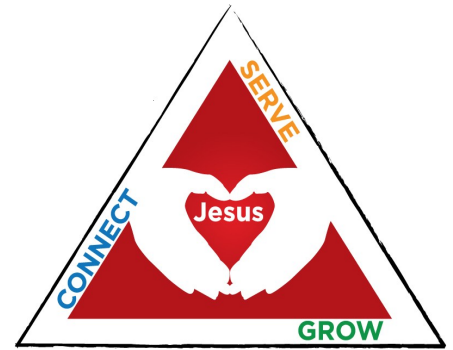




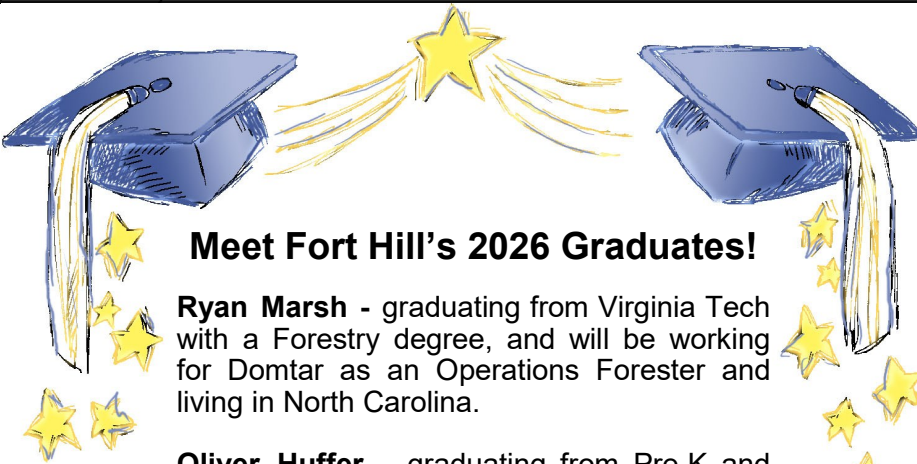
# From the Hill

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



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June, 2026



## Meet Fort Hill's 2026 Graduates!

**Ryan Marsh** - graduating from Virginia Tech with a Forestry degree, and will be working for Domtar as an Operations Forester and living in North Carolina.

**Oliver Huffer** - graduating from Pre-K and will attend Liberty Christian Academy in the fall.

### Graduates with a Fort Hill connection:

**Elizabeth Ann Rhodes** - granddaughter of Wayne Rhodes,, graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg with a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science.

**Nathan Kiger** - grandson of Sandi Kiger, graduating from North Carolina State University, School of Agricultural and Engineering with a Bachelor of Science degree and will be working with an agriculture firm in North Carolina.

**Kimberly Hall** - daughter of Danna Whorton, received her PhD in Education from Regent University.

**Chris Wiley** - grandson of Meriel Wiley, graduated from University of Lynchburg with a degree in Business Administration

**Charlie Armes** - son of George & Cathy Armes, graduating from the Naval Academy.

## 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 and must be returned no later than June 15. Scholarship awards will be made in July.

## Virginia Annual Conference to Meet in June

The Virginia Annual Conference will be meeting June 17-20 in Harrisonburg. The theme of the 244<sup>th</sup> session of the Virginia Annual Conference is **A Conference in Three Movements**. This theme emerges from the belief that there are three principal movements of the Holy Spirit taking place in the present era of the church: Our pastor, Rev. Nancy Johnson, will be attending along with Bonnie Kiger-Doney, who will be Fort Hill's Lay Delegate. Three additional Fort Hill members will attend Annual Conference as at-large district members for the Mountain View district: Bob Doney, Ann Vincent and Danna Whorton. Please keep these attendees and the Conference in your prayers during this time. Look for a report on the Conference in the July newsletter and during worship on Sunday, June 28.



Health kits will be received during the Conference, and the Genesis Circle has contributed 300 kits on behalf of Fort Hill UMC! Thank you for your support of this ministry.

### What's Inside

<i>Pastor's Page</i> .....	pg. 2
<i>Bits &amp; Pieces</i> .....	pg. 3-5
<i>Father's Day Puzzle</i> .....	pg. 4
<i>Birthdays</i> .....	pg. 6
<i>Thank you notes</i> .....	pg. 6
<i>Calendar</i> .....	pg. 7
<i>Spotlight</i> .....	pg. 8



Photo credit: <https://subsplash.com/peaceshelby/media/mi/+jjw82pd>

This week, I thought back to a news report that I heard a little over a year ago about a bipartisan initiative that was being launched by the National Governor's Association of the United States entitled "Disagree Better." This campaign was initiated in response to the results of several recent surveys among American voters that characterize our political climate as more divisive and polarized than ever before. Those spearheading this initiative hope that it will encourage both our leaders and our citizens to engage in healthy discord and learn how to manage conflict and disagreement without tearing each other apart.

We really don't need survey results to convince us of the political polarization in our country, do we? We are surrounded by it every day in the media, in conversations with our own neighbors and family members, and within our churches. Division and conflict...labeling and assuming...heated and unhelpful conversations around topics about which people are passionate...and on it goes. We understand that the church is certainly not immune to conflicts and disagreements of all kinds, but we also know that God in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, calls us and enables us to "disagree better."

In his letter to the Roman church, a church comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers, the Apostle Paul addresses the conflict and division that existed within the body of Christ and encourages them to model sacrificial love toward one another. Paul admonishes them not to think of themselves more highly than they ought (Rom. 12:3), to love genuinely, with mutual affection, outdoing each other in showing honor (12: 9-10), to live in harmony with one another (12:16), and so far as it depends on them, to strive to live in peace with all people (12:18).

Sounds wonderful...and impossible...all at the same time! We all know what a tall order this is, both personally and collectively. We also know that without the work of the Holy Spirit of God within us, around us and through us, such holy peace cannot be achieved.

I don't know if the members of the National Governor's Association are fans of the Apostle Paul or not, but some of the strategies they recommend for "disagreeing better" echo Paul's words:

\*Don't be afraid to be curious. Genuinely listen to those who disagree with you in order to understand their perspective. In so doing, we demonstrate honor and respect for one another.

\*Let go of the need to control the conversation and focus more on connecting with one another.

\*Avoid "labeling" and "pigeon-holing" those who hold views that differ from your own.

Our unity in Christ does not mean uniformity of opinion in all things, but it does mean that Christ calls us to honor and respect each other and to abide in the peace of the Holy Spirit, even when (and maybe especially when!) we disagree. It is my prayer that, by God's grace, we might be examples of peacemaking and healthier conflict in our interactions with those who may think differently than we do, as we seek to follow Jesus, our Prince of Peace  
*-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 Garra  
Carolyn Maness  
Jimmy & JoAnn Mays  
Becky Spangler  
Kendra Toney

# Bits and Pieces

The United Women of Faith and the Outreach Team have been busy during the month of May with various activities. Below are some photos of their activities:



The Genesis Circle met at the home of Ann Vincent on May 4 to assemble and pack 300 hygiene kits to be taken to the Virginia Annual Conference in June. All of this was made possible by your support of their annual baked potato and salad luncheon last fall.



The Outreach Team prepared a meal for 120 Park View Community Mission clients, along with 15 meals for the Fort Hill Fire Department, on April 29. Below is a thank you note from Park View:

*Dear Pastor Nancy and Volunteers: Thank you so much for the delightful meal you fixed and packed for our neighbors! They loved it, especially the chicken casserole! All the meals were handed out that evening, and very much appreciated. Our volunteers were able to chat with and pray for several of our neighbors, and we look forward to your group staying next time to do the same. We know from experience how much work it is to fix a meal for so many, and want you to know that you are so appreciated.*

*-With Gratitude, Roberta Shriver, Parkview Café Volunteer Coordinator*

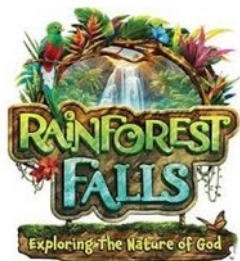
# Bits and Pieces

## Summer Prayer Circle Forming

Come join this Summer Prayer Circle that will begin on Wednesday, June 3, at 2:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center.. Join with others for an informal time of prayer and sharing as we come together to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 2:6). All are welcome!

## Vacation Bible School Returns to FHUMC

Our Children and Youth Ministry team is excited to offer **Rainforest Falls VBS** for our church and community, **July 20-24 (M-F) from 5:30-8:15 p.m.** Snack supper will be served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. with the evening’s activities beginning at 6:00 p.m. Kids will enjoy learning about who God is while rotating to Bible Adventures, Treetop Treats, Sticky Scripture, Imagination Station, and Wild Games. Thanks to everyone who has already committed to serve in VBS, **but we need more volunteers!** A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex, or you may call or email the church office. We look forward to a wonderful week of outreach in our neighborhood! Plan now to join the fun by volunteering!!



## June Communion Offering Designated for Meals on Wheels

For the month of 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!


## About Our Children & Youth Sunday School Classes

Our Children and Youth Sunday School Classes will take a break for the summer months of June, July and August. We look forward to relaunching the program in the fall with a Rally Day to kick things off for a new school year! Many thanks to the following persons who have rotated the teaching for our Children and Youth Sunday School classes: Children’s Class (K thru Grade 5): Jean Fielding, Roberta Litten, Stacey Lowe, Madison Wiley, Pastor Nancy; Youth Class (Grades 6 and Up): Bonnie Kiger-Doney, Mark Lowe, Scott Roberston, Pastor Nancy.

? ? ? ?

### 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)

## Reflecting the Father’s Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, “I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father’s life.” For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?



For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

*God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.*

## From Our Librarian . . . .

*Rich in the Things that Count the Most*  
James W. Moore – Dimensions for Living - 2006

When I was very young, our family never had a lot of material wealth. I grew up thinking “We must be poor!” My folks worked hard, and we always had food on the table. I was reminded of that, along with other memories of that life. This book reminded me,



and should remind us, that we may or may not be wealthy when it comes to material things, but we can be rich in the things that count the most. According to the author, “True prosperity comes from recognizing spiritual abundance, focusing on the presence of God and gratitude.”

Each chapter of the book features a key passage of Scripture and centered on a specific area of life where one can find this spiritual abundance. Seek those things in life “that will last and endure, that won’t rust or corrode or become boring or go out of style.” Just know that God is with you and be grateful for all the blessings He has given you.

## Lunch Out Anyone?

The next meeting of Lunch Out will be on Sunday, June 14, immediately after the worship service, at Shakers. 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

True to his word, Amos must be on vacation! We have not heard from him in a few weeks. Maybe he will tell us about his vacation when he returns. Wherever you are, Amos, stay safe and enjoy your vacation time.



## UWF Circle Meeting Dates

**Genesis Circle** - June 2 at 5:00 p.m. at Charley’s

**Martha Circle** - June 3 at 5:00 p.m. at The Summit dining hall

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

## 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 May 24, 2026 - 102

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

*“Bring the full tithes 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 21 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$10,344.70

**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](mailto:ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com)

Diego A. Divila, Director of Music  
[diego@forthillumc.com](mailto:diego@forthillumc.com)

Jeanette J. Seale, Administrative Assistant  
[secretary@forthillumc.com](mailto: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*



6/1 Jason Spence	6/9 Rick LaReau	6/19 Jared Jones	6/26 Kyle Wrabley
6/1 Elizabeth Ruhland	6/9 Jessica Hamilton	6/19 Jesse Mays	6/27 Tracy Lee
6/1 Trent Mawyer	6/10 Scott Bosiger	6/19 Klare Tatum	6/27 Scott Winnagle
6/3 June Plunkett	6/11 Dot Morcom	6/20 Patty Marsh	6/28 Bonnie Kiger-Doney
6/3 Ann Vincent	6/11 Christina Dore	6/22 Tommy Wyant	6/28 Ethel Lloyd
6/3 Steve Huskin	6/11 Riley Seale	6/22 Valerie Fusco	6/28 Anna Gay
6/4 Karen Beverly	6/13 Greg Sullivan	6/22 Clara Jo Anthony	6/29 Meriel Wiley
6/5 Mary Key	6/14 Terry Thompson	6/24 Laura Turpin	6/29 Neal Cassidy
6/5 Jessie Blanks	6/14 Willie Moseley	6/24 Jennifer Thompson	6/29 Aaron Lee
6/6 Jeanette Seale	6/14 Megan Marsh	6/26 Hank Bollmer	6/29 Hailey Gibson
6/7 Les Marsh	6/17 Ken Knott	6/26 Gail DeNoon	6/30 James Blanks
6/8 Greg Starbuck	6/17 Bob Alvis	6/26 Annette Moseley	6/30 Cassidy Elliott
	6/18 Cindie Allen	6/26 Eric Mitchell	

*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.*

## June Wedding Anniversaries

6/5 Michael & Teresa Hester	22 years	6/23 Ron & Roberta Litten	42 years
6/10 Austin & Jessica Martin	9 years	6/23 Donovan & Sarah Huffer	14 years
6/11 Mike & Cindie Allen	43 years	6/26 Marc & Karen Beverly	27 years
6/13 Joey & Kate Ware	13 years	6/26 Bob & Bonnie Kiger-Doney	5 years
6/14 Bill & Lynn Cash	46 years	6/27 Eddie & Cindy Englund	45 years
6/17 Jon & Lori Roark	37 years	6/27 Wiley & Carolyn Green	56 years
6/21 Mike & Valerie Fusco	12 years	6/28 Ed & Jean Fielding	57 years
6/22 John & Macy Hamilton	35 years	6/28 Dennis & Sallie Johnson	51 years

### A NOTE OF



Dear Fort Hill Church family,

Thank you so much for your many expressions of love and support since Richard's hospital stays in January and February. Words fail to adequately convey our heartfelt gratitude. We are humbled and overwhelmed by your prayers, visits, calls, cards, food and generous gifts. Your friendships and gestures of love have uplifted, strengthened and sustained us. You are truly family to us.

Though we are currently unable to worship with you in person, know that we are with you in spirit. May God bless you all.

*-With gratitude,  
Richard and Janet*



**We extend our sympathy to** Bryan Garra and family upon the death of his wife, Lisa Garra, on May 2; and to Tillie Hunter and family upon the death of her brother-in-law, Larry Bingham, on May 17, and her nephew, Roger Terry of Amherst, on May 26.

## Miscellaneous

**Many thanks to** everyone who pitched in to organize our Ladies' Spring Luncheon in May. Special thanks to the Genesis Circle for coordinating the event, and to the Martha Circle for providing desserts. Over 40 ladies gathered in our Social hall from Fort Hill, Jackson Street and Chestnut Hill for a wonderful time of food, fellowship and sharing. Ann Vincent received a lovely note from one of the attendees: Dear Ann, The ladies of Fort Hill pulled out all the stops for the luncheon on Saturday. You thought of everything to make it a successful event: an invitation list of like-minded friends (familiar and new); inspiring welcome and remarks by your pastor, Nancy Johnson; and her clever duet with Roberta Litten; a delicious and graciously served meal; treat bags; and the opportunity to share fellowship and ideas around the table. Thank you, and may God bless you, everyone.

*-Frances Unruh, Chestnut Hill UMC, (clergy widow).*

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2:30 Summer Prayer Group 5:00 Martha Circle meets at The Summit	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8	9 5:00 Genesis Circle meets at Charley's	10 2:30 Summer Prayer Group	11	12	13
14 11:45 New Beginnings 	15	16	17 2:30 Summer Prayer Group	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24 2:30 Summer Prayer Group	25	26	27 4-6 Church Picnic at the American Legion
28	29	30	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>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.</b></p> </div>			



**Fort Hill United Methodist Church**  
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**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  
JUNE 15. Please submit  
SHORT articles by this date.  
Thank you!**

### **It's Picnic Time!**

The JOY Team is planning a church-wide picnic at the American Legion Pavilion on Greenview Drive. The date and time is June 27, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Come join your Fort Hill family for a fun-filled afternoon of good food, fellowship and games (cornhole, bubbles, badminton or bring your favorite game).

Fried chicken, bottled water and ice will be provided! You are invited to bring your favorite picnic food to share (veggie, salad, bread or dessert). More info will come later so you can reserve a spot.



### **New Beginnings Event Coming**

A NEW BEGINNINGS CELEBRATION will be held in Oxford Hall on June 14 at 11:45 a.m. to welcome Kingsley Wood into our church family. Kingsley is the adopted daughter of Jeremy and Amanda Wood and granddaughter of Greg and Wendy Meese. Kingsley is almost 2 ½ years old and is a beautiful and very active little girl. We are so happy to welcome her to our family.

Come and meet Kingsley and join the fun on June 14 as we welcome her with cards, hugs and small gifts.