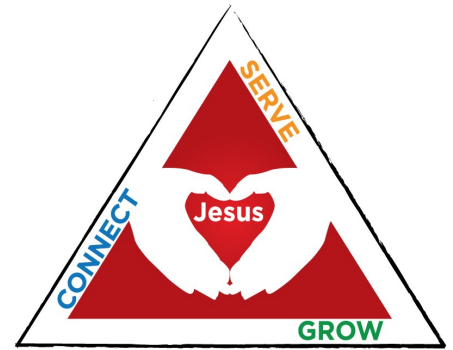




From the Hill

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.9

September, 2026

Free Fraud Education Program Coming to Fort Hill UMC

Thursday, September 17th 2:00PM
Oxford Hall



Mr. Shaun Smith, Director of the Senior Medicare Patrol, will provide educational programming to empower seniors, family members and caregivers to prevent, detect and report fraud. The topic for this presentation will be **AVOIDING COMMON HEALTHCARE SCAMS**. In addition to providing valuable information about fraud safety, each person in attendance will receive free resources they can take home to help keep them safe. Light refreshments will be provided.

Bible Study, Small Group and Prayer Group Opportunities Available

In mid-September, these groups will resume, but we need to hear from you! We are hoping to expand our small group opportunities for learning, connection and spiritual growth this fall. Please complete the survey included in the worship bulletin, or contact Pastor Nancy with your interests, including the following: Are you interested in Bible Study, a book study, a prayer group or covenant discipleship group (growing in grace together)? What time would suit you best? (Weekdays: Morning, afternoon or evening; Saturday morning/afternoon; Sunday morning before worship during the Sunday School hour/Sunday afternoon). What format would work best for you? (Online via zoom or in-person). Please be specific with your preferences, and email, call or text Nancy to share your interest (ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com, 434-401-5776). Thanks for considering these opportunities.

September Communion Offering Designated for Park View Community Mission Program

For the months of September and October, our communion offering will be divided between Park View Community Mission Program and our own Local Relief Fund.

Park View Community Mission helps those who are financially and food insecure and offers them hope. They not only feed the hungry, but also provide free nourishing foods through their pantry. They also have resources to teach those less fortunate on how to manage their money, how to apply for a job and how to handle other life circumstances. Providing these resources is costly, and they rely on donations from churches and other organizations to keep their doors open. Your gift on Communion Sunday will help them to continue to help others.



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!

Next Lunch Out Date Set

Fall is just around the corner, and the Lunch Out group will start meeting again in September. Those who have been attending the monthly Lunch Out meals have said how enjoyable it is to sit down and share a meal with their church friends and to make new friends. They also say that the fellowship is so meaningful.



The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, September 13, immediately after the worship service, at Shaker's. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet there. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.





United Methodist leaders are inviting 30,000 worldwide congregations in the fall of 2026 into a God-led, Holy Spirit-empowered opportunity to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously. **Miracle Sunday will take place on Sunday, October 11** when a special offering will be collected to help support 500 students annually, who are preparing for pastoral ministry across Africa, Europe and the Philippines. By equipping pastors, teachers, and lay leaders, the Church invests in leaders who will guide communities with wisdom, compassion, and courage. Through

this special opportunity, we will join with congregations around the globe to further God's mission with bold love, joyful service and courageous leadership.

Throughout September, and leading up to October 11, we will share more information in worship about Miracle Sunday. In light of this special offering, our October communion Sunday offering (World Communion Sunday) will be designated for the Miracle Sunday offering. Thank you for considering the special invitation to support ministerial students around the world.
- Many blessings, Pastor Nancy

Sunday School for Children and Youth will resume on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15**. Thanks to all those who have volunteered to serve in leadership for Sunday School. If you feel led serve in this way, please contact Pastor Nancy (ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com; 434-401-5776).



There are also two classes for adults each Sunday morning. Come visit one of the classes at 9:30 a.m. and learn more about the scriptures. You will be warmly welcomed!

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - September 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

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

All ladies of the church are invited to attend one of these circles to find out what United Women in Faith is all about or join one.

Outreach Team Is Helping With Back-to-School Needs

The Outreach Team has been busy helping Perrymont Elementary School get ready for a new school year. Perrymont has a new Principal this year, Dr. Laura Hussein. The team met with her in August to determine what needs there are for the upcoming school year.

At Perrymont there are 3 kindergarten classes, 3 first grade classes, 3 second grade, 3 third grade, and 2 Adaptive classes. For the classes, the needs are tissues, hand sanitizers, and erasers. For the teachers, the needs are sticky notes, dry erase markers(all colors, and seasonal sets for bulletin board decorations. We will have a more refined list at a later date, so watch for it in upcoming bulletins.

Dr. Hussein will be attending our worship service on September 27 to share with the congregation how appreciative the school is of Fort Hill's continued support each year and to inform us of upcoming events at the school. We look forward to having Dr. Hussein with us on that Sunday. During the service, we will have a blessing of the school supplies that have been collected.

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

Wyndhurst Rehab

Bryan Garra

Others who need our prayers:

Marye Almond

Joyce Baker

Betty Burford

Liz Coleman

Richard Hawkins

Carolyn Maness

Jimmy & JoAnn Mays

Mary Murphy

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

September/October Upper Rooms Available

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



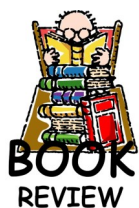
Books of the Bible Puzzle Answers:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Ruth | 10. Philemon |
| 2. Matthew | 11. Daniel |
| 3. Proverbs | 12. Genesis |
| 4. Numbers | 13. Ephesians |
| 5. Hebrews | 14. Malachi |
| 6. Joshua | 15. Jeremiah |
| 7. Romans | 16. Hagai |
| 8. Judges | 17. Galatians |
| 9. Esther | |
| Answer: The Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) | |

Bits and Pieces

From Our Librarian

If God has a Refrigerator, your picture is on it
James W. Moore, Dimensions for Living, 2003



While speaking at a campground, Pastor James W. Moore met a young man wearing a T- shirt with that slogan. When asked what it meant, Moore responded that it illustrated God's unconditional love for us—comparable to how parents love their children. He likened God to the father in the parable of the prodigal son, running to meet us, forgive us, redeem us, celebrate us, and welcome us into His loving circle.

No matter what we have done, God always loves us unconditionally, accepts us just the way we are, and always offers us forgiveness and a new start. This unconditional love is the answer for family relationships, as well as our relationships with others, including a relationship with God.

Even though we may have wandered away, God still waits for us to come home. As the old song says, "Coming home...never more to roam; open wide thine arms of love; Lord I'm coming home."

Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every 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 August 23, 2026 - 99

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 34 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$8,488.44

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

diego@forthillumc.com

Jeanette J. 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

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.

-Andrew Marsh

With Sympathy

Answers on pg. 2 - no peeking!

September 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 7:00 Genesis Circle	2 2:00 Martha Circle	3 5:45 Brass rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	4	5
6 Holy Communion	7 Labor Day Church Office closed	8	9 7:00 Celebration Ringers	10 5:45 Brass Rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	11	12
13 12:00 Lunch Out at Shaker's	14 2:00 Church Council/Finance meeting	15 10:00 Outreach Team	16 7:00 Celebration Ringers	17 2:00 Fraud Education Program 5:45 Brass Rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	18	19
20	21	22 First day of Fall 	23 7:00 Celebration Ringers	24 5:45 Brass Rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	25	26
27	28	29	30 7:00 Celebration Ringers	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		



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



UMW Candle Burning Service Will Be Held in October



If you would like to honor or remember a loved one at our October 11 worship service, consider a gift to UMW missions through our **candle burning** tradition. A gift of any amount can be given, and the honorees will be listed in a bulletin insert. The candle is burned at the rate of 60 cents per second to represent UMW mission work around the world on behalf of women, children, and youth. If you would like to honor or remember someone this way, please turn in your donation by October 1, along with the completed form below. Checks should be made out to

Fort Hill United Methodist Women. Gifts can be turned in to the church office or in the collection plate, in an envelope **clearly labeled for UMW.** Thank you!

UMW Candle Burning Service on October 11

Your name _____

My gift is in **honor of** _____

My gift is in **memory of** _____