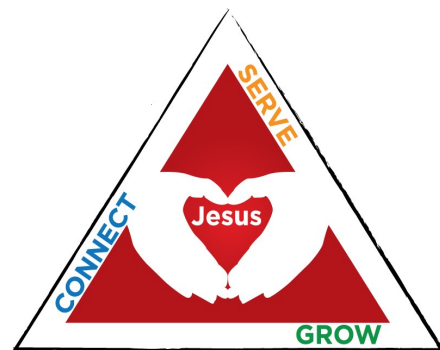




From the Hill

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.10

October, 2026

King's Kids Wednesday Night Activities Resume

Wednesday, October 7: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Calling all kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends! King's Kids will begin on Wednesday, October 7 @ 4:30 p.m. in Oxford Hall for Kindergarten through 5th Grade. We will share a snack, have a kid-friendly Bible lesson and participate in music activities together. All are welcome, so come and bring a friend! If you are able to serve in this ministry, please contact Pastor Nancy (434-401-5776; ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com). A sign-up sheet is available on the front table in Oxford Hall to volunteer to bring a light snack for the group.



Youth/Parent Pizza Pow-Pow Happening Sunday, October 4 @ 4 p.m.



Youth in 6th grade and up, and their parents, are invited to gather for pizza and conversation about planning for our ministry with youth. All are welcome! Please let Pastor Nancy know you are coming by noon on Sunday, October 4 (434-401-5776;

ncolemanjohnson@gmail.com).

FHUMC Annual Trunk or Treat Community Event Planned Sunday, October 25, 4-6 p.m.

Our Children and Youth Ministry Team looks forward to sponsoring this annual outreach opportunity for our church. We need lots of candy, trunks and volunteers for this event to be successful.

A bin has been placed in the Welcome Center to collect your donations of individually wrapped candy, and a sign-up sheet will be in place by October 1. Help us reach out to our community and meet our neighbors. Watch for more details.

October 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

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, October 11, immediately after the worship service, at LaVilla Italian Restaurant at 8109 Timberlake Road. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet there. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Ramona Davis at 434-944-5175.





A Call to Prayer

For the last two months, churches have been mobilizing to respond to the deadly August 28 flood, and resulting debris flow, that devastated areas of Nepal and Tibet. Authorities in Nepal report that the death toll reached 469 on the first day of the disaster. Nearly 2,000 people remain unaccounted for following this catastrophic event. Local leaders report that major roads, bridges and access routes have been completely destroyed or blocked by landslides, so there is currently no way to reach many isolated villages by road. In many places, transportation is at a standstill, making physical relief delivery very challenging. Unstable terrain and the threat of additional landslides and flooding have complicated search-and-rescue efforts. Asian leaders are calling on the world for prayer, humanitarian support and solidarity with affected communities.

The Rev. Jung Eun Grace Moon, general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia expressed grief for those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods and is calling on churches and ecumenical partners to support communities devastated by this disaster. "Our hearts are heavy with grief as we remember the people of Nepal and Tibet in this moment of profound suffering," Moon said. "We mourn with every family that has lost a loved one; we stand with those who are still waiting for news, and we grieve with communities whose homes and livelihoods have been swept away. In the midst of such overwhelming pain, we pray that the people of Nepal and Tibet may know that they are not alone," she added. "We are together in this hour of anguish." Rev. David Cho, missionary with the Korean Methodist Church serving in Nepal says that repeated natural disasters have left many Nepalese living with a deep sense of fear. He asked United Methodists to pray that people affected by the disaster may find comfort and courage and be freed from fear through the Spirit of Christ.

Christian communities are finding ways to help their neighbors. Since heavy transport cannot reach many of the damaged areas, local church members and youth are helping by delivering supplies on foot wherever possible. Local congregations are collecting emergency offerings to purchase dry food, tarps and clean water and to support immediate relief efforts. Pastors in the region are asking Christians around the world to pray for roads to reopen so aid can reach stranded families, for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and homes, and for protection from post-flood disease. Resources will also be needed to expand relief efforts and help rebuild devastated communities.

Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has mobilized with their mission partners in the region to respond to the disaster. United Methodist missionary Katherine Parker, who serves in Nepal with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), said the organization is joining a rapid-response effort to assist more than 1,000 affected families in three to four municipalities in Dhading District. Parker reports, "Even in the midst of tragedy, we are encouraged by the rapid mobilization of local communities, churches, and partner organizations working together to bring relief and hope. Your prayers, encouragement, and support are deeply appreciated as Nepal begins the difficult work of recovery."

Please commit to support the people of Nepal and Tibet with your prayers. If you feel led to make a gift designated for the recovery and relief efforts, please make your check payable to Fort Hill UMC with The Advance 3023568 or Nepal/Tibet in the memo, or mark your envelope accordingly. May God's healing strength, presence and comfort continually surround the people of Nepal and Tibet.

-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

Wyndhurst Rehab

Bryan Garra

Others who need our prayers:

Joyce Baker

Betty Buford

Liz Coleman

Richard Hawkins

Carolyn Maness

Jimmy & JoAnn Mays

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

Runk & Pratt (Leesville Rd)

Marye Almond

Bits and Pieces

Small Groups Are Resuming in October

Thanks to everyone that completed the survey about small group offerings for the fall. Please see the schedule below, and feel free to join a group! No registration is required in advance. Just show up! As the groups begin to form, the schedule may be adjusted depending on the needs of the group.



► **Tuesdays @ 2: Weekly Bible Study:** A weekly group Bible Study offering a chapter-by-chapter walk through the New Testament. Participants are invited to read a chapter each week, and gather for discussion, life application and prayer. Resources will be discussed at the first session, but no extra materials, other than a study Bible, are required. **Begins Tuesday, October 6, 2:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center.**

► **1st Thursdays "Java with Jesus":** A once-a-month early morning gathering for prayer, conversation and connection. We will have our first gathering on **Thursday, October 1 at 8:30 a.m. at Panera Bread (3901 Old Forest Rd, Lynchburg)** to discuss the purpose and direction of the group. If you are interested in this group, but this time and day do not accommodate your schedule, please let Pastor Nancy know.

► **"Books and Breakfast":** A once-a-month gathering to enjoy discussion and fellowship, featuring a Christian book that the group reads together throughout the month. We will have our first gathering on **Thursday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. at IHOP (5500 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg 24502).** At our first meeting, participants are invited to bring a Christian book to share with the group, from which we will choose our first book to read together. If you are interested in this group, but this time and day do not accommodate your schedule, please let Pastor Nancy know.

► **Wednesday Prayer and Share, 6:00 p.m. in FHUMC Chapel:** An informal, 30-minute prayer and share service with singing, Scripture reading and prayer. The service will begin on **Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m.** All are welcome.

Committee Chairs/Team Leaders: Your faithful leadership is most appreciated! Please help us keep our church calendar coordinated by calling Jeanette in the church office **before** scheduling your meetings to avoid conflicts. Thanks for your help!

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - October 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

Martha Circle - October 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

United Women in Faith Supporting Henry Fork Service Center

Our UWF circles supported the Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount in 2026 with 40 Birthday Cake Kits for the children. According to the director, the children were so happy to have this surprise for their birthday. If you would like to participate in this project please supply any of the following items to be assembled at a later date in 2027. We will need 40 "kits." There will be a container in the Welcome Center for this project. Here is what is needed for each kit:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY,

9x13 disposable cake pan with lofted lid
One box of cake mix (any flavor)
12 oz. can of Sprite
Container of icing (any flavor)
Candles, Balloons, Plates, napkins & forks
Sprinkles
Small toy, such as a Beanie Baby
Whisk (for mixing the cake)

A Word From Amos . . .

Hi, my Fort Hill family! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again! There sure has been a lot going on while I was on vacation. I've tried to catch up on all the happenings, but it seems that Fort Hill UMC had a great summer.



Now, with fall approaching, the handbell choir and Sanctuary choir have started rehearsals again, along with brass ensemble guys. They add so much to the music on Sundays. I understand that the choir has started rehearsing the Christmas cantata, so if you think you would like to join them this year to sing this work, you are invited to come to their rehearsals on Thursday evenings, starting at 6:45 p.m.

Well, I think I have reported all the important stuff to you, but I will be snooping around to find something to report to you next month. Until then, stay safe, be happy, and I hope to see you in church each Sunday in October!

-Amos



10/1 Mary Murphy	10/10 Chris Marsh	10/15 Spencer Bourguignon	10/22 Janet Basham
10/2 Amy Grant	10/10 Michael Wilkes	10/16 Melvin Drumheller	10/23 Erika Lowe
10/2 Joseph Saville	10/10 Jesse Nunnally	10/16 Elbert C. Minnick, III	10/24 Leah Wheelous
10/3 Diego Davila	10/11 Sue Wright	10/16 Tember Ore	10/25 Crystal Wheelous
10/5 Mike Thompson	10/11 Ben Nunnally	10/17 Lori Roark	10/28 Marlene Seale
10/5 Tim Beuerle	10/11 Michael Morgan, II	10/17 Emery Conner	10/29 Mike Robertson
10/5 Rod Ruhland	10/12 Ryan Bingham	10/18 Joan Watson	10/29 Taylor Saville
10/8 Mary Ann Robertson	10/12 Jocelyn Zelaya	10/19 Rick Poindexter	10/31 Charley Jones
10/8 Auburn Fisher	10/12 Charlotte Huffer	10/20 Anna Alvis	10/31 Campbell Spence
10/9 Andy Cooke	10/13 Eddie Englund	10/21 Andy Poindexter	

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.

October Wedding Anniversaries



10/1 Richard & Janet Hawkins	38 years	10/10 Josh & Michele Chamot	6 years
10/4 Scott & Carol Dee Robertson	40 years	10/18 David & Sally Faidley	12 years
10/5 Zach & Katherine Davis	2 years	10/21 Chris & Jennifer Marsh	31 years
10/6 Grant & Heather Seale	14 years	10/22 Kevin & Robin Wrabley	38 years
10/8 Jerry & Bev Conner	43 years	10/26 Rod & Leigh Ruhland	35 years
10/9 Craig & Lynn Gittleman	32 years	10/27 Glenn & Kelly Hann	14 years
10/10 Mark & Stacey Lowe	45 years	10/30 Robbie & Story Toney	5 years

From Our Librarian . . .

How God Takes Our Little & Makes It Much
James W. Moore – Abingdon Press, 2010

The late Old Testament scholar, Martin Buber, after studying the name of God as "I Am That I Am," determined that the name should be translated as "I Shall Be There." The name is actually God's promise to all of us, past, present and future. No matter what we face in this life, come what may, the name of God is "I Shall Be There." According to the author, we need to live fully into that promise! When you come to a moment in your life where you are called to action, don't let it pass because of fear and insecurity. Each time we fail to act, we become more withdrawn, even emotionally paralyzed. No offering you can make to God is too small or worth much to the world because God can take our "little" and make it much! Remember that behind all events, God says, "I Shall Be There." Everything is in divine order. How will you respond to God's call in your life? Nothing can come between God and His creation. Even before the battle has begun, we are already "more than conquerors," and God is already there, and He loves you unconditionally.



We extend our sympathy to Mark & Amanda Anthony & family upon the death of his aunt, Ruth Anthony Agnor, on September 21; and to Teresa & Michael Hester upon the death of her father, Troy Harris, of Bassett, VA on September 24.

About Miracle Sunday at Fort Hill UMC

United Methodist congregations around the world are being encouraged to participate in a **Miracle Sunday offering on Sunday, October 11**. This offering is an opportunity to support scholarships for international students who are preparing for pastoral ministry in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. 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. If you wish to make a gift for this special Miracle Sunday offering, please make your check payable to Fort Hill UMC with "Miracle Sunday" in the memo, or mark your envelope accordingly. You may place your gift in the offering plate on October 11, or use the designated offering containers in the front and back of the Sanctuary.

(Note: Our church's regular communion offering collected on October 4 will be collected as usual and is designated for Parkview Community Mission. See front page article)

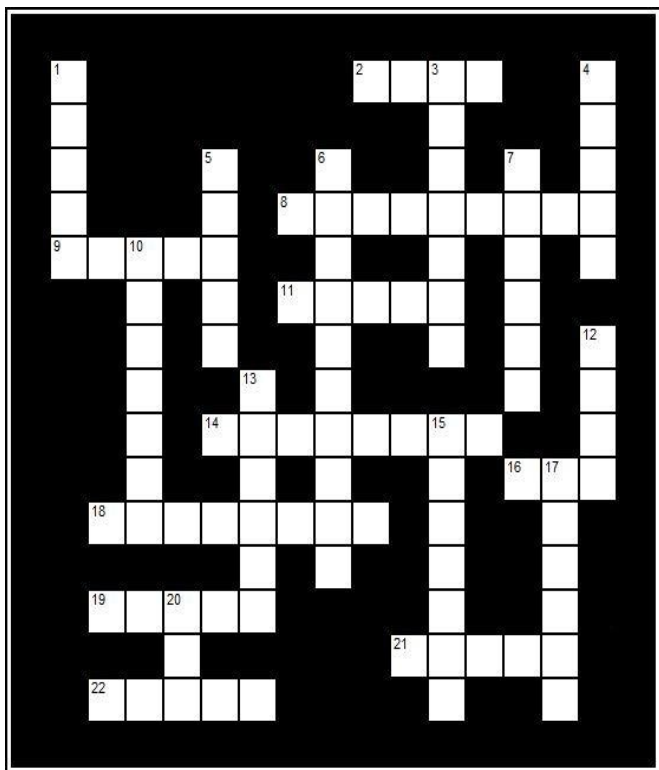
October 2026

Pastor Appreciation Month

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

In-Person Worship Each Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Java Stop 8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Staffed Nursery Available				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holy Communion World Communion Sunday		2:00 Bible Study 7:00 Genesis Circle	2:00 Martha Circle 4:30 King's Kids 6:00 Prayer & Share 7:00 Celebration Ringers	8:30 Java with Jesus @ Panera Bread 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	3:00-5:00 Wedding rehearsal	4:30 Viar-Gibson wedding
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
UWF Cande Burning 12:00 Lunch Out at LaVilla		2:00 Bible Study	3:15 Endowment Committee 4:40 King's Kids 6:00 Prayer & Share 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Laity Sunday		2:00 Bible Study	4:30 King's Kids 6:00 Prayer & Share 7:00 Celebration Ringers	8:30 Books & Breakfast @ Ithop 5:45 Brass Rehearsal 6:45 Sanctuary Choir		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		2:00 Bible Study	4:30 King's Kids 6:00 Prayer & Share 7:00 Celebration Ringers	6:45 Sanctuary Choir		

Puzzle Page

**Across:**

2. Place of torment
8. Lamb
9. Jesus' brother
11. David's father
14. Tribe of Israel
16. ___ commandments
18. Peter
19. Abraham's wife
21. Wilderness food
22. Jesus' betrayer

Down:

1. Leader of Israel
3. Satan
4. Born again
5. Whale's supper
6. First worship building
7. Used a fleece
10. Last O. T. book
12. First born son in Bible
13. 23rd O. T. book
15. Isaacs's father
17. Prophet of Ahab's day
20. Became a serpent for Aaaron



FALL WORD Scramble

LFAE EAHRDYI AQSUSH FLLA NCAOR LEAPP OLBOTFAL RRCADHO IFOBNRE ATUUMN RAEHSTV KERA UINPPKM SEERT 

Bible Quiz



Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

- A. goodness C. gifts
B. kindness D. benefits

Miscellaneous

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 September 20, 2026 - 94
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 38 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$8,012.74

Thank you for your support of the mission

Looking Ahead

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints' Sunday when we remember with love all those in our church family who have passed away since last All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. This year, in addition to remembering the members of Fort Hill UMC, we will include the close family members of our church family in the recent past as well. If you have a loved one that you wish for us to include in this time of remembrance, please call or email Jeanette in the church office (434-847-1251; secretary@forthillumc.com) with the following information: Your name, name of your loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing (if known). Please provide your information no later than October 15.

ALL SAINTS'



SUNDAY

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

You Are Invited!

The Sanctuary Choir invites all singers to join us as we prepare for our annual Christmas Cantata! Do you like to sing but cannot commit to participating in the Sanctuary Choir year-round? Then join us for rehearsal each Thursday at 6:45 p.m. (use the Wilson Street entrance). We will rehearse the cantata first, and then move on to regular service music for the latter part of the rehearsal. This year's cantata, *Peace Has Come*, will be presented as the morning worship service on Sunday, December 20. Join us!



Christmas Cantata

Save the Dates:

Fort Hill UMC Charge Conference, Saturday, November 15, 3:00 p.m. at Chestnut Hill UMC. All Church Council Members, Team Leaders, and Committee Chairs are expected to attend charge conference. All others in the congregation who wish to attend are also welcome.

Mountain View District Conference: Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m. to Noon via Zoom. All church leaders are expected to attend District Conference, and all are welcome. A Zoom link will be provided for you to attend the Conference via your own connected device. Pastor Nancy will also set up the zoom call at the church for those who prefer to attend as a group.



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



UWF 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 UWF 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 Women of Faith**. Gifts can be turned in to the church office or in the collection

plate, in an envelope **clearly labeled for UWF**. Thank you!

UWF Candle Burning Service on October 11

Your name _____

My gift is in **honor** of _____

My gift is in **memory** of _____