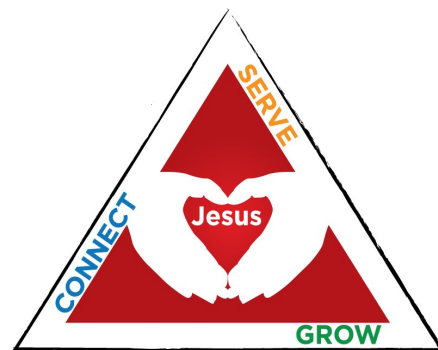




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251
Corner of Memorial and Oakridge Blvd.
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Volume 61, No.11

November, 2026

All Saints Day to Be Observed on November 1

All those in our church family who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday, and the close loved ones of our church members, will be remembered in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After worship, the Care & Share Partners will provide a luncheon for the families of all those we remember during morning worship.

All Saints Day commemorates all Christian people, of every time and place, and has been celebrated, in Christian churches, for many years. It is one way of honoring the gifts and graces of faithful Christians, and to celebrate the power of God to raise up new saints in our midst. We will give thanks for those loved ones and for all the saints who have preceded us in death. A candle will be lit and a bell tolled as each name is called.



Missionary Sunday at Fort Hill is November 8

Rev. Jonathan and Terra Park, missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC in Southeast Asia, will be with us on Sunday, November 8. Rev. Park serves as the mission coordinator of the United Methodist Mission in Southeast Asia. His wife, Terra, serves as the Christian education coordinator for the Mission. Originally from South Korea, the Parks have served God with a missionary zeal for many years, both here in the US and as global missionaries. Rev. Park is an elder in the California-Pacific Conference of the UMC. Prior to his present assignment, Rev. Park served as associate pastor of Wilshire United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California (2001-08); Emmaus UMC, Richmond, VA (2008-12); and Korean UMC, San Diego, California (2012-20). Previously, Ms. Park was an elementary teacher with the Garden Grove Unified School District in California (1996-98); directed children's ministries at Emmaus United Methodist Church, Richmond, Virginia (2009-12); and served as children's pastor at Korean UMC of San Diego, California (2012-19). Most recently, she worked at the Homeless/Low-Income family ministry in downtown San Diego, mentoring young students with a goal of improving their academic performance.

Fort Hill UMC has been in a Covenant Partner relationship with the Parks through the General Board of Global Ministries for many years, offering prayer and financial support for their work. We look forward to hearing from the Parks at the following times:

Saturday, November 7 at 4:00 p.m. A Gathering with our Children and Youth in Oxford Hall, followed by supper. FHUMC children, youth and their families are invited for a special time of sharing with the Parks. If you plan to attend the meal, please reserve through the church office no later than noon on Thursday, November 5. In light of this gathering, there will be NO UMYF on Sunday, November 8.

Sunday, November 8, 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. All Adult, Children's and Youth Sunday School classes will meet together on this special Sunday for a combined Sunday School session with the Parks during Java Stop. Java Stop will be provided as usual, and others who usually do not attend Sunday School are welcome to come to this combined Sunday School session.

Sunday, November 8, 10:30 a.m.: The Parks will be our special speakers for morning worship on November 8. After worship, they will enjoy "Lunch Out" with the Outreach Team and any others from the congregation that are able to attend.

We look forward to having the Parks with us at Fort Hill UMC!



Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving

The season of thanksgiving has arrived, a time when we are all reminded to offer our thanks and praise to the Lord, our God, the Creator of all that was, is and ever will be, and the Lord of our lives as believers. The month of November also coincides with our church's annual Stewardship Emphasis, when we explore together in worship the meaning of Christian stewardship and generosity, and prayerfully consider what God may be calling us to give in our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness in the coming year.

This year's theme is *Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving*. As Christian disciples, it is part of our faith commitment to give to God through the local church as an act of generosity and faithful discipleship. Our motivation as believers extends beyond the church's need to fund the annual budget. It is our spiritual response to God's great love for us as an act of worship and commitment to God in Christ. In his popular book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, Bishop Robert Schnase identifies *Extravagant Generosity* as one of the five fruitful practices. Schnase writes, "The practice of generosity describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. Generosity is a fruit of the Spirit, and a worthy spiritual aspiration."

The theme of generosity will guide us during the first four Sundays of November as we explore what Scripture says about giving, and take time to consider how we can live into greater faithfulness in our own lives. During the second week of November, the congregation will receive stewardship materials by mail, including a Faith Promise Card, inviting all of us to prayerfully consider what God may be calling us to give in 2027. Sunday, November 22 is Commitment Sunday, when the congregation will have the opportunity to return our Faith Promise Cards during the worship service, in response to God's goodness and grace to each one of us.

It is my sincere hope that we all will take time to pray over our giving decisions for the coming year, and seek God's will for our lives and for our church as we seek to faithfully serve the one "from whom all blessings flow!"

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nancy

November Communion Offering Designated for Society of St. Andrew

For the months of November and December, our communion offering will be divided between the Society of St. Andrew and our own Local Relief Fund.

The Society of St. Andrew is based in Big Island and brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. Did you know that more than 40 million Americans sometimes go hungry, including women, children, the unemployed, the working poor, seniors, and those who are homeless? One in eight Americans experience food insecurity every year, including one in six children. Food insecure people either do not have enough to eat or they do not know where their next meal will come from. SOSA works tirelessly to help alleviate these problems. Your gift on Communion Sunday will help.



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!

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

Runk & Pratt (Leesville Rd)

Marye Almond

Others who need our prayers:

Joyce Baker	Carolyn Maness
Betty Buford	Jimmy & JoAnn Mays
Liz Coleman	Becky Spangler
Richard Hawkins	Kendra Toney

We extend our sympathy to Mary Wootton and family upon the death of her sister-in-law, Bonnie Johnson of Amherst, on October 13; to Greg Blanks and family upon the death of his nephew, Littleton G. Blanks, IV, on October 14; to the family of Bryan Garra upon his death on October 20; and to Tillie Hunter & Betty Burford upon the death of her daughter-in-law/her niece, Earlean Burford, on October 20.



Bits and Pieces

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.



The director tells this **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**, dearing story of a new child that came into the program during the summer: She was not aware of the kits, but the ones with siblings, who had received them already, were aware. This little 5-year-old girl was so excited to be able to help make her birthday cake and set up for a small family party, as most of her family lives out-of-state. The parents were very appreciative because they were not planning on doing a cake, since there were only a few people who would be coming, and they didn't want to have the extra expense. After her birthday, she came in talking about making her cake and decorating it. She was so adorable and couldn't wait to tell me all about it. It was the coolest thing for her. She had been able to invite a couple of friends from her PreK class last year, so a "no real party" ended up being a real party for her.

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:

9x13 disposable cake pan with lofted lid
One box of cake mis (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)

UWF Circle Meeting Dates

Genesis Circle - November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall

Martha Circle - November 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

UWF Reading Program is Back!

The United Women of Faith Reading Program. has been restarted as of October 18. This program is for anyone who would like to read from a list of books and media, divided into five core subjects as listed below:

Education for Mission
Leadership Development
Nurturing for Community
Social Action
Spiritual Growth

You do not have to be a member of one of the UWF circles to participate in this program. Anyone, who reads the books, can get "credit" and is recorded. The books for 2026, as well as and the ones from 2021-2025, that are available for credit reading, are in the church Library. Pick a book and sign out.



Calling All Christmas Elves!

Help us decorate the church for the Advent Season!
We will be meeting on November 22, in the Welcome Center after the church service, to decorate.

We Have New Members!

On Sunday, October 25, Fort Hill welcomed the following new members into our church family:

Christopher R. Christensen - received by baptism and profession of faith



Philip Kivindu & wife, Stella Mulinge - transferred from Thomas Road Baptist Church

Joanne B. Newton - transferred from West Lynchburg Baptist Church

Please welcome these new members when you see them on Sunday mornings.

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!

More Bits and Pieces

November Worship Services Preview

Here's a sneak preview of what is coming up in our November worship services:

November 1: All Saints Day/Communion Sunday and *Extravagant Generosity* Stewardship Emphasis, Week 1: All those in our church family who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday, and the close loved ones of our church members, will be remembered in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After worship, the Care and Share Partners will provide a luncheon for the families of all those we remember during morning worship.

November 8: Missionary Sunday with Rev. Jonathan and Terra Park; *Extravagant Generosity* Stewardship Emphasis, Week 2.

November 15: *Extravagant Generosity* Stewardship Emphasis, Week 3. All Veterans will be honored during morning worship.

November 22: Christ the King Sunday, *Extravagant Generosity* Commitment Sunday. Worship Team sponsors "Deck the Halls" of the Sanctuary and church immediately following morning worship.

November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent

A Word From Amos . . .

Hi, my Fort Hill family! This is Amos, your little church mouse, reporting in again!



This is the season where we begin to think about things we are thankful for. What are some of the things you are thankful for?

I am thankful for a few more warm days this month and have been enjoying being outside scampering around. I'm also very thankful that you allow me to have a habitat inside your beautiful buildings as it allows me to report to you things that you would not normally see on a Sunday morning, like the Trunk or Treat event. It was a great afternoon of fun, and there were so many children and parents here enjoying all the activities. It was fun watching the children playing, screaming, and going from car trunk to car trunk in their costumes for treats.

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 November! Oh, and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

-Amos

For Your Calendar Important Meeting Dates

Charge Conference for Fort Hill UMC, Sunday, November 15, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hill UMC (4660 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia, 24502). We will join with other churches from the Peaks View Region of our Mountain View District to conduct the annual business of charge conference, and to enjoy a time of sharing and inspiration. All members of the Church Council/Finance Team, Committee Chairs, and Ministry Team leaders are expected to attend. All others are welcome.



Mountain View District Conference will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to noon via Zoom. A link will be provided for those that wish to attend virtually from their own connected device. Pastor Nancy will also provide the meeting at the church for those who wish to gather as a group to participate. If you plan to gather at the church for District Conference please let Pastor Nancy know of your plans by NOON on Friday, November 13. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend District Conference. All members of the Church Council/Finance Team, Committee Chairs, and Ministry Team leaders are expected to attend.

Schedule Change: The FHUMC Council/Finance Team meeting scheduled for November 9 has been rescheduled for **Friday, November 6 at 2:00 p.m.**

Children & Youth Programs

UMYF in November: Due to the Charge Conference schedule and other conflicts during the month of November, our regular UMYF meeting on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. for ages 12 and up will vary. Please watch the weekly bulletin and email communications for changes, and thanks for your flexibility. **UMYF will not meet on Sunday, November 29** due to Thanksgiving weekend, but as a service project, the youth are encouraged to help the Worship Team with decorating the Sanctuary and church for the Advent/Christmas season following worship.

King's Kids Wednesday Program for K through age 11: King's Kids is off to a great start! We enjoy an after-school snack together, a Bible lesson and music activities. **We are adjusting our schedule as follows:**

4:15-4:30	Snack time in Oxford Hall
4:30-4:55	Bible Lesson with Pastor Nancy
4:55-5:30	Music Activities with Diego

11/1 Virginia Watson	11/6 Nick Fisher	11/14 Norma Smith	11/24 Marye Almond
11/1 Gabriel Zelaya	11/7 Mark Lowe	11/15 Kendra Toney	11/24 Faye Meek
11/2 Bryan Fielding	11/7 Mike Ledin	11/15 Allyson Miller	11/25 Philip Kivindu
11/3 David Robertson	11/8 Greg Meese	11/16 Mindy Zelaya	11/25 Stella Mulinge
11/4 Erik Drinkard	11/12 Deborah White	11/16 Christian Zelaya	11/26 Matthew Lee
11/5 Jennifer Jenks	11/13 Grace Thompson	11/17 Betty Burford	11/26 Dana Bosiger
11/6 Esther Markert	11/15 Suzanne Evans	11/23 Cara Hannell	11/28 Derrick Duncan
11/6 Judith Merryman	11/13 Amanda Wood	11/23 Kathryn Davis	11/28 Kenny Tolley

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.

November Wedding Anniversaries



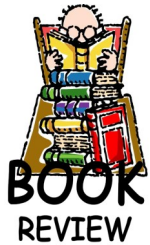
11/5 Mike & Lydia Ledin	38 years	11/25 Tracy & Tammy Roark	37 years
11/22 Kevin & Crystal Wheelous	22 years	11/29 John & Mary Siegle	58 years

From Our Librarian

Have You Ever Seen a Hearse Pulling a Trailer?

James W. Moore – Abingdon Press, 2009

You know the old saying, "You can't take it with you." Believe it or not, the phrase is a warning against materialism. Wealth and possessions are only temporary, and you can't carry them beyond death. It encourages people to enjoy life and the fruits of their labor while they are alive. Beyond money, the phrase can apply to any attachment to worldly things, including property, pets, or other possessions. It serves as a reminder to focus on experiences, relationships, and personal fulfillment rather than accumulating material wealth. In essence, "you can't take it with you" is a philosophical and practical reminder to live fully and appreciate what you have.



As the author states, we should give our lives not to things that fade and rust and go out of style. Instead, give your life to the values, commitments, and relationships that are eternal, because they are of God. Put your faith in God and focus on the things in life that money can't buy. So instead of putting our faith in material things that we can acquire, let's put our faith in God and focus on the things in life that money can't buy.

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for giving us all that we need to live a fruitful life. Forgive us when we fall short. Help us to be faithful to you in word and deed. Amen.*

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

Please join us for any of the following groups. Some of the days and times have been adjusted. All are welcome.

Tuesdays @ 2: Weekly Bible Study: 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.

2nd Thursdays "Java and Jesus" @ 9:00 a.m.: A once-a-month gathering for prayer, conversation and connection. We will meet @ **Panera Bread** (3901 Old Forest Rd, Lynchburg) at **the new time and day** beginning **November 12**.

"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. Typically, we will meet on the **4th Thursday at 9:00 a.m.** Due to Thanksgiving, we will meet on **Thursday, November 19**.

Our November book is [Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference](#) by Tim Keller, co-edited John Inazu. For December, we will use the Advent devotional [Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent](#), a seasonal study by Enuma Okoro, published by Upper Room Books. If you have questions about any of our groups, or need assistance in purchasing a book, please contact Pastor Nancy.



November 2026

7Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 2:00 Bible Study 7:00 Genesis Circle	4 2:00 Martha Circle 4:15 King's Kids 7:00 Celebration Ringers	5 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	6 2:00 Church Council/ Finance Meeting	7
8	9	10 2:00 Bible Study	11 Veterans Day 4:15 King's Kids 7:00 Celebration Ringers	12 9:00 Java & Jesus 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	13	14 10:00 District Conference via Zoom
15 3-4:30 Joint Charge Conference @ Chestnut Hill UMC	16	17 2:00 Bible Study	18 2:00 Bible Study 4:15 King's Kids 7:00 Celebration Ringers	19 9:00 Books & Breakfast 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	20	21
22  CHRIST the King SUNDAY Commitment Sunday	23	24 2:00 Bible Study	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving  Church Office closed	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent New Beginnings Event	30			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		

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 October 25, 2026 - 98

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 43 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$7,556.44

Thank you for your support of the mission

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

Poinsettia Orders Now Being Accepted



Once again, we are accepting orders for poinsettias for the Advent/Christmas season. **If you give a plant, please plan for it to remain in place through Christmas Eve. We will not be delivering leftover plants to shut-ins, as we do not have the personnel to do this**, so please make arrangements to have your poinsettia(s) picked up after the Christmas Eve Service. Deadline for ordering is December 6! The cost is to be determined as the search for a new provider is ongoing. Watch for announcement in upcoming bulletins.

Poinsettia Order

Order deadline is December 6

Price to be determined

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

☐ I would rather give a gift for the Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$ _____

☐ I will pick up after services

Name _____ Phone _____



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



**Daylight Savings
Time Ends**
At 2:00 a.m. on
Sunday,
November 1
FALL BACK!
**DON'T BE EARLY
FOR CHURCH!**

**SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...**

In honor of Veteran's Day



the Worship Team looks forward to recognizing all veterans who are present in morning worship on Sunday, November 8. We give thanks for all of our military personnel who have served our country so faithfully.

New Upper Rooms Are Now Available

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

New Beginnings Event Coming!

You are invited to a New Beginnings for Charlotte Rose White on Sunday, November 29, at 11:45 in Oxford Hall. Charlotte was born on April 25, is the daughter of Madison Wiley and Adam White, sister of George White, granddaughter of Meredith Daughtery and great granddaughter of Meriel Wiley.

Please come and join the party as we welcome Charlotte into our church family with hugs, cards and small gifts.