

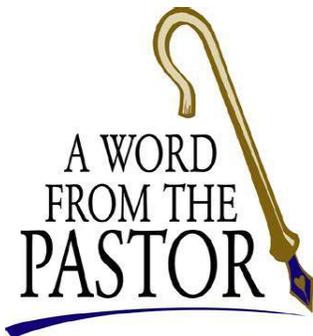


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Shady Grove United Methodist Church is a prayerful fellowship that strives to witness the love of God in our community. With God's grace and providence, we offer outreach ministries to support our church family and the needs of our neighborhood.



Grace and peace to you, our Shady Grove family and friends, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Lindsey Freeman has organized the Fredericksburg clergy into a cluster group 6. The purpose of the cluster is for clergy support and to join in community ministry together.

To that end, the cluster extends to each of the cluster churches, Eastland, Fredericksburg, Hillcrest, Peace, Shady Grove, Tabernacle, and Zion, an opportunity to join with Tabernacle UMC in their ministry outreach to feed the hungry through RiseAgainst Hunger.

In their own words,

About 673 million people around the world are facing hunger. At Rise Against Hunger, we work with Hunger Champions — just like you — to end hunger in remote, last-mile communities.

Our Rise Against Hunger Experience events provide lasting, real-life impact as your group works together for a start-to-finish meal assembly experience to combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a packet of 18 vitamins and minerals into life-changing meal packages. The food stores easily, transport

quickly and has a long shelf-life to help meet the immediate nutritional needs of people facing food insecurity, paving the way toward resilient and bright futures! You can also pair your Rise Against Hunger Experience with a Gather for Good virtual event. [riseagainsthunger.org]

Our Administrative Board has voted to support Tabernacle UMC, Rise Against Hunger Event hosted by Tabernacle UMC, 7310-A Old Plank Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 on August 29, 2026. As the event nears, I'll have the exact time for the event. In our commitment to support Tabernacle and Rise Against Hunger, Shady Grove will also contribute to the cost of the event and transportation. Our share of the ministry project will be \$1000. While the funds are available for this purpose, if you would like to join in the project by being a volunteer at the event or by donating money to cover the cost it would be greatly appreciated. The Rise Against Hunger event will be a great opportunity to meet with your sisters and brothers in Christ from the other area churches. As we journey together in this Lenten Season, I pray God's blessing upon you and that you receive Jesus' love, grace and mercy that fills your life, your soul and spirit with all heavenly blessings.

Pastor David

Upcoming Easter Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 17, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast to follow at 7 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Community Lenten Services
(12:00 noon, lunch to follow)

Feb. 25 - Zion UMC – Justin Williams
March 4 – Peace UMC – Mandy Newman
March 11 – Tabernacle UMC – Jon Poarch
March 18 – Hillcrest UMC – Tim Tate
March 25 Eastland UMC – Elizabeth Fos

From the Choir Loft . . .

John Wesley is remembered for many things but key to understanding his philosophy behind this movement called Methodism are three simple rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. These are wonderful words to live by regardless of your walk in life. The first two tenets are self-evident, but what does it take to Stay in Love with God. Our relationship with God, like all our relationships, requires a commitment. We know that God is ever faithful, but we as humans must tend to our faith. We can do this through our prayers, our praise, our worship and our study to know His will in our lives.

If you are looking for a spot to strengthen your journey with your Savior, the choir may be the right place for you to tend to your love. The choir is made up of a group of imperfect people seeking to honor God through our songs of praise and collective prayer. **We meet most Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** and invite you to come and visit if you think God may be leading your heart in that direction. We are also always looking for instrumentalists who are willing to serve God through their talents. Come and see.

Jeff Howard
Pianist

Shady Grove: A Lasting Legacy of the Faithful

The words ring out loud and clear, “O, when the saints go marching in...O, when the saints go marching in! Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!” And since the time of the Civil War, the saints have been marching down the aisles of Shady Grove Methodist (now Shady Grove United Methodist) Church. Yes, there has been more than one building...and even an Old Brush Arbor that has housed these saints of God, but their spirit of fire has never been extinguished.

If you would like to know more about our history, please click this link:

<https://spotsylvaniamemory.blogspot.com/2015/09/a-history-of-shady-grove.html>

Shady Grove Finance Committee Report On-line Giving Portal Coming Soon

The finance committee is working on creating a portal for our members and friends to give to the church they love through an electronic payment system. When it goes live, givers will be able to support the finances of the church through one-time and/or recurring gift donations to the church. This eliminates the need to write checks and provides our members with opportunity to give even when they can't be present. Look for updates coming soon!

In Other News

The **Food Box** has been a popular addition to community outreach by Shady Grove as many have taken the opportunity to take whatever they need from a variety of canned foods added to it weekly, however, recently it has sprung a leak so Bobby will make a new food box.

Shady Grove's Administrative Council, in a meeting Wednesday, February 11, as part of its Outreach ministry for 2026, voted to allow the group **Simply Angels** to use the kitchen facilities for their holiday serves.

The **Vision Committee** met recently and proposed the idea of a group of members visiting homebound members on Sunday afternoons. Information will be forthcoming as to when the visitations will begin.

Scotch, the Cat:

Scotch, the late Alberta Pritchett's beloved cat, has adjusted well to his new home with Judy Rodgers and her other two pets, Precious the cat, and Coco the dog. At first he had trouble adjusting to having a dog around as he had never been in a home with a dog before but now the two of them are close even giving each other an occasional nose kiss or sleeping side by side. Scotch plays with his toys and has scattered them in all his favorite resting spots. He does his nightly zoomies, has treats and then settles down. Every morning between 6 and 7 a.m. he has made it his job to do everything possible to wake everyone up to get on with the day.

Editor's Note: This is the First Volume, Edition Number 4 of The Shady Grove Voice, February 2026

