

| JULY 2024 |



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church



Coffee with Pastor Jaci



After a scattered and harried day, I decided I'd love a cup of coffee. To my chagrin, I discovered I was only a few grounds short of having none. So, adding in another errand to my day, I headed out to buy some. I went to the store closest to home, which tends to have a good selection so I was confident it would have my favorite brand. Lo and behold they did have it and it was on sale, with over a 30% reduction. I was feeling pretty pleased with myself and with the store.

But I did not have my frequent shopper card with me. The woman troubleshooting in the self-checkout area kindly offered to enter an alternate number, but no discount showed up. She said, "Oh, it must be an electronic coupon." True confession: I did my best not to glare. I pulled up the app and, sure enough, I had not yet created a login to be able to receive electronic coupons, and I didn't do it then, either. Instead, I went to another store and paid a dollar more than the sale price at store #1 for the same coffee ... with no rigamarole (and I was still \$2 ahead!).

In Jesus Christ, we face no rigamarole to get to God. In Jesus Christ, we have direct access and don't have to jump through hoops to receive gifts and blessings and forgiveness and the hope of eternity with him. We don't have to be tracked so that God knows our preferences. He knows them perfectly well and knows that they aren't all in our best interests. He knows his perfect desires for us, and his Holy Spirit nudges us along in the right direction – sometimes with conviction and sometimes with insight and discernment. He doesn't bombard us to entice us; he speaks to us through his Word, the Spirit, through prayer and others to lead us, to comfort us, to strengthen us.

God does not do a bait-and-switch on us, saying – "Oh, that promise? That only applies in some circumstances, only if you qualify through special pathways and portals." There are no special codes or requirements. Only faith in Christ. And God's promises stand firm for everyone who believes in Christ. Yes, gifts and fruit become more mature as we grow in our submission to him and his ways; but he's been pretty clear about that since the days of Moses.

We serve a God who is Faithful and True. He is who he is and does what he promises. We are blessed in that assurance. Rejoice that we have an awesome God, and head into the rest of this day and into every tomorrow with that assurance.

Pastor Jaci

See you in church!

THE FOUR-CENTS-A-MEAL PROGRAM IS EVOLVING

The Four-Cents-A-Meal program has evolved to be called "Cents-Ability" by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. To keep up with this changing, vital ministry of our denomination, the Presbytery has created a Hunger Funds sub-committee of the Committee on Mission & Outreach (CMO). This new team will manage and promote hunger-action donations and initiatives.



Many congregations in our Presbytery participate in Cents-Ability donations - usually once a month. These donations that help alleviate hunger are forwarded to the Presbytery and are then distributed to 32 organizations in our local areas and across the globe. We currently divide the donations 60% to local hunger agencies and 40% to national and international organizations, including the Presbyterian Hunger Program. These funds are distributed quarterly and usually total around \$11,000. This giving program has grown over the years into a very significant ministry!

You can get more information about Cents-Ability at this **WEBSITE**.





Members and friends of Front Royal Presbyterian Church can now make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our church [website](#). Stop worrying about weekly envelopes or mailing in special donations or ministry program fees. Instead, give a gift at any time (from any device that connects to the internet) using a current email and checking account/credit card. It's simple and secure. You can even turn your tithe into an automatic gift that gives when and how often you'd like with your own online donor account. Visit our [website](#) to see how easy it is!

We would ask that you take some time to consider your gift to the church to continue to do the good work we have been called to do.

Unfortunately, many of our bills continue such as internet to broadcast services online, utility bills, food for our many feeding ministries as well as paying our reliable staff and maintaining the church building.

Please consider one of the many options of continuing your pledge, and if you are able to, give generously so that we might continue to feed and care for those among us.

- You may give at our 10:30 am Sunday service.
- You may drop a check by the church office.
- You may mail a check.
- You may give online **breeze** - it is a safe and secure site and is deposited into the church account.
- You may sign up for auto pay through your bank.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our **church treasurer, Ruth.**



Music News

July 17, 2024 will be Isaac Watts 350th birthday. Hopefully you're at least acquainted with that name; Watts is credited with writing as many as 700 hymn texts, including Joy to the World; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed; Am I a Soldier of the Cross; My Shepherd Will Supply My Need; Our God, Our Help in Ages Past; I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath; I Sing the Mighty Power of God; and Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun. On July 21, as Pastor Jaci concludes her sermon series on the Lord's Prayer ("For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen"), we will sing the last two of these.

One of the striking (and somewhat antiquated) expressions found in Jesus Shall Reign is found in the concluding stanza, "Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King." It's important to note that these honors are not peculiar in and of themselves, but are, rather, "peculiar to our King". In other words, there are some honors that we reserve for God and no other power or authority. Even though we don't use the word "peculiar" to mean unique very often today, Watts intent is clear when we take a few minutes to reflect. Some newer hymnals render this phrase as "peculiar honors to our King," which means something altogether different (and misaligns the syllabic and metric accents, making it harder to sing). I invite you to take a few minutes to read and ponder the text in preparation to sing this hymn on July 21. And to remember to render to God the honors that belong to Him alone.

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings,
Heather

4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!



Faith Builders



June flew by. The hot days of summer are upon us. The children have had a busy time. They made soap on a rope gifts and cards to celebrate their dads for Father's Day. On Father's Day itself the younger children sang a song for their fathers. They did a great job! They all got to enjoy popcorn for a "Special Pop" with all the dads in the congregation.

The children spent time in Sunday School this winter learning the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Jaci invited them to lead the congregation in saying the prayer during the service on Father's Day. It was special to see them showing everyone what they have been learning. Again, they did a great job!

We have been working on kindness and what that means. We were all offered the opportunity to become Secret Agents. We even got badges! Our mission was to choose an act of kindness and complete it during the week. The children reported back to their Agent Commander what their act was. They have a list of lots of suggested ways to be kind to someone. Hopefully, they will continue to do those special acts.

We have been talking about the Golden Rule. We got bookmarks to help us remember to treat others as we would like to be treated.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS).

To our incredible volunteers (Marisa Meyers, Ruth Younk, Jackie Lawall, Zach & Kara Logan, Isabelle Evans and Kathy Allen): Your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm made this week an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Your kindness and patience created a welcoming and fun environment for the children to learn and grow. We couldn't have done it without you!

To our fantastic children: Thank you for bringing your energy, curiosity, and smiles each day. Your participation made VBS a joyful and inspiring event. We hope you had as much fun as we did and took away many wonderful memories and lessons.

Together, you all made this VBS week truly special. We are grateful for each and every one of you!



Volunteers Needed

When: *July 25*



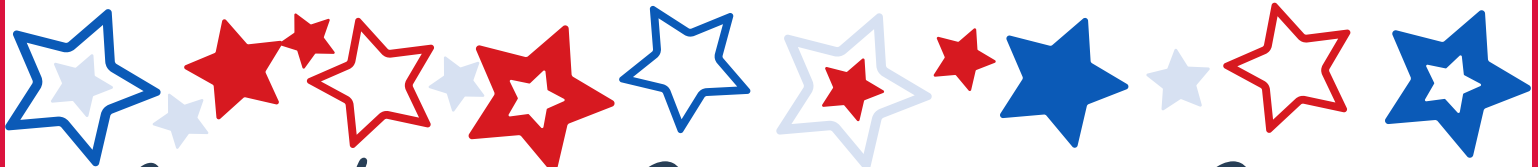
Menu: Sloppy Joes, French Fries and Dessert

We will need help prepping the meal, delivering, serving, and making desserts.

Cooks: Please arrive at First Baptist Church by 3:00 pm

Delivery Drivers: Please arrive at First Baptist Church around 4:00 pm to begin deliveries.

Servers: Please arrive at First Baptist Church around 3:30 pm to pack and prepare the deliveries. Dinner Together ends at 6:00 pm.



Ben Lacy Compassion Center

Sally Kilpatrick just put together another basket for a thermal shelter guest that was moving into their first home! The following items are needed to restock our supplies. Family Dollar, Dollar Tree or Big Lots, all have fantastic prices.

- toilet bowl cleaner
- comet or ajax
- toilet scrubbers
- laundry detergent
- window cleaner



BEN LACY
COMPASSION CENTER

Each month, we call the Phoenix Project and House of Hope to help with people getting their first place. The Phoenix Project is looking for \$10-\$15 gift cards to the following: Martin's, Dollar General, and Family Dollar.

Volunteers Needed

REACH Bag Delivery: July 28th

Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, July 28th, immediately after the worship service. Grab a box or two at the REACH/Missions cart right after service and help deliver to those in need in our community! If you would like to volunteer to deliver, please meet us after worship service in the Narthex.



Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is finished packing for the 2023-2024 school year.

What is needed for the month of July?

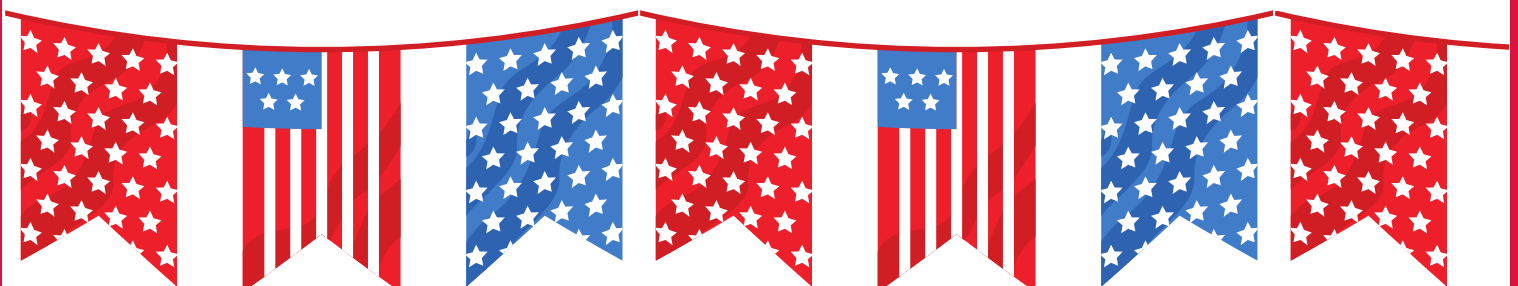
Chewy Granola Bars

We will resume BPB in August once school returns back in session.

Volunteers are welcome to join Karen on large shopping trips to purchase the supplies.

Thank you for supporting this wonderful and needed program.

If you are interested in helping with Backpack Buddies, please email Karen.





[CLICK HERE](#)

July 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Zach Logan's & Misty Bordner's Birthday
7 Worship- 10:30 am	8 SESSION Meeting 6:00 pm	9	10	11 Sherry Downs & Melissa Horton's Birthday	12	13
14 Celeste Horton's Birthday Worship- 10:30 am	15 Camden Branson's Birthday	16	17	18 William Funk's Birthday	19	20
21 Worship- 10:30 am	22 Camden Branson & Johanna Rutz's Birthday	23	24 Millie Thomson's Birthday	25 Dinner Together 3:30-6:00 pm at First Baptist Church	26 Elaine Bailey, Linda Funk & Natasha Escariz's Birthday	27
28 R E A C H Worship- 10:30 am	29	30	31 Worship- Meeting 6:00 pm			

HAPPY

Birthday

- 6- Zach Logan & Misty Bordner
- 11- Sherry Downs & Melissa Horton
- 14- Celeste Horton
- 15- Camden Branson
- 18- William Funk
- 22- Camden Branson & Johanna Rutz
- 24- Millie Thomson
- 26- Elaine Bailey, Linda Funk & Natasha Escariz



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Easily tithe with online donations and no longer worry about envelopes.



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