



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church



Coffee with Pastor Jaci
**A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words:
Send Us One of You!**



When I first came to Front Royal, I requested a copy of the church directory. My next question was, "Where are all the pictures?" It was filled with lots of generic head & shoulder characters like the one pictured here. It turns out, we don't have current pictures of most of you. Pictures are important. Jesus may have been the Word, but he was also a kind of photo image of God for his disciples and for us. Remember how he said to Philip, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father"?



Graciously welcoming newcomers is one way to let people see God at work in us, but picture directories are a wonderful means of hospitality in that they help newcomers learn to match names and faces more quickly. (There are several newcomers here – not just me – and aren't we hoping and praying for more?) So as we move forward in this interim period, I would like to see us populate that directory with lots of interesting SELFIES!

You see, the wonderful thing about selfies (or other shots taken by loved ones) is that we typically really do look happy, engaged in an activity, and/or connected with the world around, able to engage spontaneously. All of those bits of information that work their way into the photo speak volumes about the interests and character of the people pictured, as well as about things and people that give us joy. Such pictures show the church (that's YOU) engaged in the world OUT THERE (that's our calling to a great extent), not just in organized ministries but in how we live our lives. Often, church directory photos can make us appear more uniform, closed off, and stiffer than we are, and often don't really communicate our best selves.

So don't worry if your hair is blowin' in the wind, or that your dog's muddy paws got dirt on your shirt; don't crop out your brother making a face for the camera or your cat snubbing you. Send us a picture that shows you "living your best life," as my daughter-in-law says about snaps of our granddaughter just living with joy. Let's build a directory that shows our lives and our joy. If you have a pic that you quietly think (or that someone who knows you thinks) is the best and truest picture of you ever, but... the hair, the shirt, the stance, whatever is not up-to-snuff, well, that's probably the kind of picture we are looking for!

The next generation is not looking for perfection, but for authenticity. So let's practice that quality by sharing pictures where we are not perfectly coiffed, not dressed in our Sunday best, but are just depicted as the best kind of human, warm and approachable.

See you in church (and in the directory, I hope!),

Pastor Jaci

Please send your photos to Misty at admin@frontroyalpres.org. If you need help with a photo, feel free to stop by and see Misty during office hours, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



With my "nephew," Murphy. He lives in Seattle with my sister!

SESSION MEETING

Session Meeting- Tuesday, September 10th at 6:00 pm

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Returning
Sunday,
September 15th



sign up here!



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.**



Kairos Update

Preparation for the upcoming Kairos weekend (October 10-13) is progressing nicely. There are numerous opportunities to participate in this ministry that don't necessitate actually going to prison! Here's a review of some ways you can help.

- **Cookies:** In the past each team member has been responsible to bring 100 dozen cookies (post-covid the prison population is down, so this time we're only on the hook for 85 dozen—still a good amount, but slightly less intimidating for our newest members!). There are many rules to follow when taking anything into a prison. Here's a brief summary (for more info, please see the [guideline sheet](#)).
- **Do's:** package cookies one dozen per quart-size zippered bag, make cookies 2-2.5" in diameter of medium thickness, feel free to include flavored chips (chocolate, PB, butterscotch) and/or oatmeal, cool the cookies completely before placing in baggies (using a cookie scoop helps to make the cookies consistently the right size)
- **Don'ts:** no nuts or any hard candy (includes M&M's), no dried fruit (includes coconut), no frosting or sprinkles, no plastic sliders on the baggie zippers
- The easiest plan is to use a tub of chocolate chip cookie dough; the next easiest is to use a cake mix. Here are some [recipes](#) (including cake mix cookies).
- **Pray:** One of the features of Kairos is ensuring that the entire weekend is covered in prayer by asking people to sign up for half-hour time slots during the weekend. We will share a prayer scroll with the ladies (first names only) to show them that they are not forgotten by God or His people. You can sign up to pray online at <https://www.prayervigils.net/vigil.php?pvId=1880> or on paper in the Narthex.

Opening Prayer



RECIPES & GUIDELINES

Starting on September 8, we will be singing a new opening prayer for worship. I was thinking about what we might pray for that would be meaningful for our time. Given the tumultuous times in which we live (that somehow continue to grow increasingly tumultuous despite the perpetual impression that we've reached the nadir of chaos), I've chosen a simple Taizé chant, "Give Peace". I invite you to take a few moments to reflect on the simplicity of this prayer in preparation for singing it throughout the autumn season.

Give peace to every heart.

Give peace to every heart.

Give peace, Lord.

Give peace, Lord.

It's my prayer that we, as a community, will truly seek and find the peace that passes human understanding promised in Philippians 4:7.

Blessings,

Heather



Consider Joining Choir!

By now you've undoubtedly heard that the choirs are starting up again on Wednesday, September 4. If you like to sing, please consider joining us in the choir room at 7 pm for vocal choir. If you're interested in ringing handbells, please consider coming at 6 pm for bells. In either case, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks,
Heather



**Choir & Bell
Practice will start
again on
Wednesday,
September 4th.**



LABOR DAY

**Church offices
will be closed**

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Genesis 2:2

Faith Builders



Summer certainly flew by! The Faith Builders had some fun activities and took a couple weeks break during August. They did participate in the Sunday activities before school started. Thanks to all who prayed for the children and adults involved in the beginning of the school year. Also, thanks to all who took a bookmark representing a child of God from our congregation. It is wonderful to know that each of our Faith Builders and educators will have someone praying for them throughout the school year.

Another opportunity to use these connections might be to send a note or card of encouragement periodically to your selected one. Not looking for gifts just encouragement as they go through their daily activities. If you would please send the cards to Miss Marisa, and she will deliver them. In this way she can be certain everyone is receiving a positive thought. (She will not be reading the notes.) Plans for the fall are well underway!

Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 8. Classes start at 9:30 and will end around 10:15 in time for a short break before the start of church.

All children are welcome to participate in the opening portion of the service with their parents. They are invited to participate in the special time with Pastor Jaci and listen to her stories and messages. Following this, the children (Pre-K through Elementary) are invited to go to Children's Church with Miss Marisa where they will participate in stories, prayers, crafts, songs and activities to learn about worship.

Older youth are welcome to check out the clipboards provided at the back table of the sanctuary. Included on the clipboard is a sheet designed for Sermon Notes. This is to aid the youth in following along with the service. Also provided are some fun puzzle activities related to the scripture and topics of the pastor's message.

If you have questions please see Pastor Jaci.

After church on September 8, please stay and enjoy some ice cream!



We are looking forward to more Game Nights and will let you know when the first one is scheduled. Other activities are in the beginning planning stages. If you have an idea for an activity or service project in which the children can participate, let Miss Marisa know. Please stay tuned for more information!

Volunteers Needed

Next Dinner Together: *September 26*



Join us as we serve BBQ sandwiches, carrot sticks and dessert. We need donations of BBQ sauce and hamburger buns.

Volunteer Opportunities: We offer various ways to contribute, whether you love prepping meals, delivering, serving, or creating delightful desserts. Dessert donations are greatly appreciated.

Schedule:

- Cooks: Arrive at First Baptist Church by 3:00 pm.
- Delivery Drivers: Arrive by 4:00 pm to start deliveries.
- Servers: Arrive by 3:30 pm to help pack and prepare deliveries.

Let's make Dinner Together a memorable experience for all. Spread kindness and joy in the Front Royal area by volunteering, donating desserts, or sharing the word about this event. Together, we can make a difference!



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: September 29th

Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, September 29th, 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 Buddy volunteers meet every Thursday at 11 a.m.
What supplies are needed for the month of August?

Flavored Oatmeal

Volunteers are also welcome to join Karen on larger shopping trips to purchase supplies.

Thank you for supporting this important program!

If you're interested in donating or helping with Backpack Buddies, please email Karen.



2024

September

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1 Worship- 10:30 am
2	3	4	5	6	7 Ruth Younk's Birthday Adrian & Rachel Burt's Anniversary Foss & Margaret Smith's Anniversary	8 Worship- 10:30 am
9 Lucas DuMez's Birthday	10	11	12	13 Connor & Skylar Stoyka's Birthday Larry Good's Birthday	14	15 Furadoodon Irani's Birthday Worship- 10:30 am
16	17 Rence Perry's Birthday	18	19	20 Jamison Eo Beauge's Birthday	21 Adrian Burt & Joan Brubaker's Birthday	22 Worship- 10:30 am
23 Furadoodon & Jean Irani's Anniversary	24 Cadence Noel's Birthday	25 Bill Hall's Birthday	26 <i>Dinner Together</i> 3:30-6:00 pm at First Baptist Church	27 Norma Steed's Birthday	28	29 Worship- 10:30 am
30	CLICK HERE 31					

R
E
A
C
H

HAPPY

Birthday

- 7 - Ruth Younk
- 9 - Lucas DuMez
- 13 - Connor & Skylar Stoyka, Larry Good
- 15 - Furadoon Irani
- 17 - Renee Perry
- 20 - Jamison Beauge
- 21 - Adrian Burt & Joan Brubaker
- 24 - Cadence Noel
- 25 - Bill Hall
- 27 - Norma Steed



7 - Adrian & Rachel Burt,
Foss & Margaret Smith

23 - Furadoon & Jean Irani



FRONT ROYAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
115 Luray Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630
PHONE: (540) 635-3894
FAX: (540) 635-8585

EMAIL:
admin@frontroyalpres.org



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



Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA 22630