

| JANUARY 2025 |



Coffee with Pastor Jaci



~ Opportunities to get together ~

I pray that each of you had a special Christmas and will have experienced the arrival of 2025 in a meaningful way. Some of us wish we had had more interaction and celebration and, honestly, some of us wish we had had less. The new year can be a time to reflect on how to make the best of our situation by practicing intentionality - having a plan that offers an option to observe a special day in an uplifting way, without making others responsible for us.

Years ago, while a grad student in Europe, I decided to use my Thanksgiving vacation to take a quick solo trip to Paris - *the City of Lights!* I was on a shoestring budget. Thanksgiving Day, I made lunch my main meal. As dinner time approached, I started missing the chance to have Thanksgiving with my extended family in Seattle. Not wanting to have a sad evening, I made a plan. I splurged on a pastry that I would normally not buy, along with a few other items, and brought them back to my hotel room. I carefully laid out my tiny feast on the tiny desk in the tiny room in a fine array. And I took my time eating, thinking all the while about the things I was thankful for. It ended up being one of my most memorable Thanksgivings ever!

Intentionality has a big payoff in this kind of situation, and in so many others. I also want to be intentional in every aspect of my time with you.

I will start to make myself available to meet with as many of you as possible over coffee, beginning in January. At least one morning a month, I will take my work to a coffee shop to be available for conversation. I want to hear about your experiences, your hopes for, and your journeys of faith as members or friends of Front Royal Presbyterian Church. If five people show up, there will be six of us chatting around the table. If one person comes, we'll still meet.

The first Coffee Connection will be: Tuesday, January 7, from 10:00 - 11:30 at the Daily Grind, 215 E. Main Street. Just show up or you can let me know in advance if you like. If you can't come then, don't worry - I'll rotate days, places and times from month to month. In the meantime, I'll see you in church beginning January 5 - *Pastor Jaci*





Come help us to
UN-DECK THE HALLS

take down & pack away decor
Sunday, January 5, 2025

A background featuring a bokeh effect of warm, golden lights and the year "2025" in a large, light-colored font.

2025

Let's Read the Bible Together!

- Participants will read and reflect daily using an easy reading guide
- Beginning January 5, we will meet Sundays at 9:30 am to share our thoughts and to discuss together (there just may be snacks...)
- Our first reading guide can be downloaded [here](#).
- Subsequent reading guides will be sent in the weekly email

Any questions? Speak with Pastor Jaci

A festive table setting featuring a plate of greenery and red berries, a knife, and a spoon on a dark surface.


JOIN US FOR OUR
JANUARY
Fellowship
LUNCHEON
JANUARY 19, 2025



Sign Up



January 5 Worship

- Observance of Epiphany
 - Installation of new elders, Marta Steane and Donna Edwards
 - Removin' of the Greens (help us put them away!)
- 



Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 pm



Worship Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 30 at 4:00 pm



in the virtual classroom.

Music News

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ... Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard."

Isaiah 58:6,8



The season of Epiphany (from the 12th day of Christmas to Ash Wednesday) celebrates the Light of Christ coming into our dark world. We begin our Epiphany journey with the arrival of the Magi, guided by a star lighting their way and conclude with repentance that purifies us to reflect His light. It is, thus, appropriate both to pray for light as God's provision and to recommit to partnering in His light production. The above verses from near the end of Isaiah are part of a call for God's people to return to sincere, authentic worship and justice. If the nation of Israel obeys, God promises light and healing and protection.

During the season of Epiphany, our sung opening prayer will similarly petition for light and health. "Light for Our Darkness" is a text by John Bell, a Presbyterian minister long-associated with the Iona community off the coast of Scotland, which focuses on justice and has produced many songs for church use (eg "The Summons"). This prayer is particularly appropriate for our time as global unrest and societal division seem to rule the day and create seemingly impenetrable darkness. It is my prayer that as we sing these words, we will truly turn to Jesus for light, faith, healing, and—most importantly—His very presence. I invite you to take a few minutes to read the words we'll be singing.

Light for our darkness, faith for disbelief,
health for mind and body when they languish;
Christ, be among us, listen to our prayer,
lift your weary people from their anguish.

Blessings,

Heather





Faith Builders hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

In Sunday School and Children's Church we have been studying the birth of Jesus. We have learned a lot about Elizabeth, Zechariah and their son John. It was interesting to think about Zechariah not being able to say a word until after John was born. We have talked about Mary and how she received the surprising news from the angel Gabriel. Joseph accepted Mary and they gladly believed in God's word. We celebrated the birth of Jesus and the visits of the shepherds and the three wise men.

We had a busy holiday season this year. We spent several weeks making Christmas cards to be given out with the Dinner Together. We made at least 80 cards. They were handed out on December 26! We hope everyone enjoyed them as much as we did making them!

FRPC and the Faith Builders had a great time at the Christmas Parade! The float was great! Thanks to the Mix family! We got to ride and distribute over 800 bags of candy! Waving to all our friends was great fun, too! We can't wait to do it again next year!

On December 21, we went Christmas Caroling to memory care residents at Commonwealth Senior Living. The choir, Pastor Jaci and Keith, and others went with us. We all had a great time singing. What fun. Afterwards, the caroling group came back to the church for hot chocolate, pizza, chili, and treats! We enjoyed sharing the Christmas spirit with everyone.

On Sunday December 22, we had a Birthday Party for Jesus during Children's Church. We sang some Christmas songs, played games, and of course, sang Happy Birthday to Jesus. Then it was off to our families to enjoy some special time with them and enjoy our holiday break!

Upcoming Fun!

For the New Year we are making some fun plans! We want to have a game night on Friday January 31 from 6-8:00 PM. We have lots of games for adults and children. We would love for anyone and everyone to participate. We will start out with pizza and drinks for everyone. Then, let the games begin! We had lots of fun with this activity last year and hope to make it bigger and better this year! Stay tuned for more information.

Ms. Marisa

Happy New Year



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
FREE



GAME 6-8PM
NIGHT
for all ages

31ST
JANUARY

Join us for games, snacks and pizza!



115 Luray Ave.,
Front Royal, VA 22630



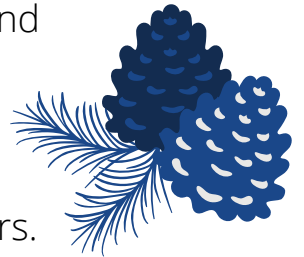


Tithes & Offerings

Start the New year with Generosity

As we enter 2025, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting our ongoing ministries, and reiterate our gratitude to those who have already committed to do so. Your generosity sustains the vital work of our church, including outreach, online worship, feeding ministries, and maintaining our church building and dedicated staff. Here's how you can give:

- In-person: Bring your gift to the 10:30 AM Sunday service.
- By mail: Send a check to the church office.
- In-person drop-off: Stop by the church office during office hours.
- Online giving: Make a secure one-time or recurring gift through our [church website](#). It's simple, safe, and convenient.
- Auto-pay: Set up automatic giving through your bank.
- Tax-advantaged giving: Consider donating securities or required minimum distributions. Speak to your financial advisor if this is an option you'd like to explore.



Online giving also allows you to create a donor account, making it easy to manage your tithes and gifts and schedule automatic contributions at your preferred frequency.

Your continued support enables us to embrace the work God has called us to do—creating a safe and welcoming space for multi-generational ministry, extending our outreach efforts, and sustaining programs that bring hope and joy to our community. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact our treasurer, [Ruth Younk](#), and cc [Misty Bordner](#).

Thank you again for your faithful support. May God bless you richly in this new year!

Volunteers Needed

Next Dinner Together: *January 23*

The menu will include chili mac, veggies, bread and dessert. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, and drive—please arrive at First Baptist Church by 3:30 p.m. We're collecting donations of desserts for this outreach. Thank you for your support!

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 3:30 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

Please help us continue supporting individuals as they transition into their new spaces, we're looking to restock our toiletry items. Stores like Family Dollar, Dollar Tree, and Big Lots offer fantastic prices for these essentials.

Items Needed:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Wash & Bar Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products



BEN LACY
COMPASSION CENTER

Each month, we also work with the Phoenix Project and House of Hope to assist individuals getting settled in their first homes. The Phoenix Project is currently seeking \$10-\$15 gift cards for stores such as Martin's, Dollar General, and Family Dollar to help these individuals purchase additional essentials.

Thank you for your continued support in making a difference in our community!

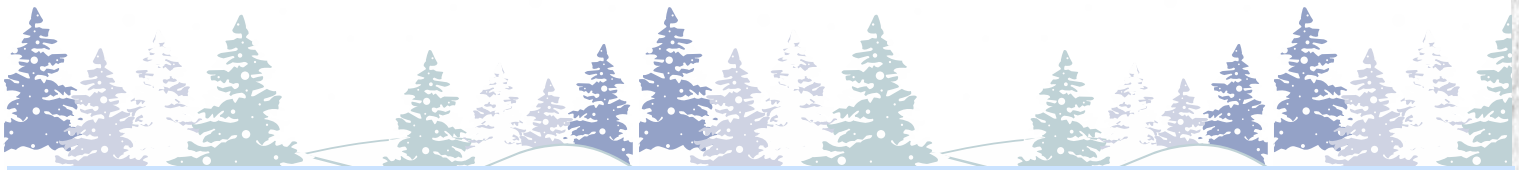
Volunteers Needed

REACH Bag Delivery

Our next REACH food distribution will be on **Sunday January 26th**, immediately after the worship service. Grab a bag or two at the REACH/Missions table right after service and help deliver to those in need in our community!



If you would like to volunteer to deliver REACH bags, please contact [Chelsea Hall](#).



Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddy volunteers meet every Wednesday at 11 a.m.

What supplies are needed for the month of January?



Fruit Cups



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](#).



2025

January



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

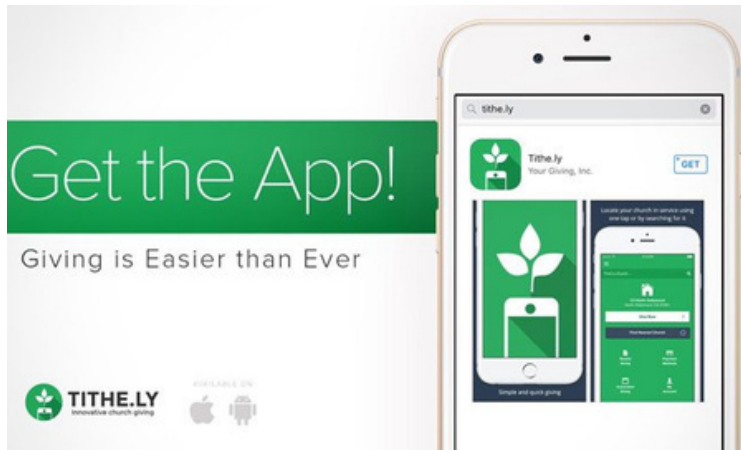
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
			Dee & Michael Whited's Anniversary			Althea Harvey's Birthday
Worship - 5:10:30 am ~Observance of Epiphany ~Installation of new elders ~Un-Deck the Halls	6	7	Sallie & Bill Hall's Anniversary  Backpack Buddies 11 am	9	10	11
Worship 12:10:30 am Baptism of the Lord Cents-Ability	13	Katherine Sparger's Birthday Session Meeting- 6:00 pm	Jean Irani's Birthday  Backpack Buddies 11 am	16	17	18
19 Worship- 10:30 am Fellowship Luncheon	20	Christine & Kathryn Guthjahr's Birthday	 Backpack Buddies 11 am	Sallie Hall & Ana Larson's Birthday  3:30- 6:00 pm	24	25
26 Worship- 10:30 am REACH	27	28	Janet Jewell's Birthday  Backpack Buddies 11 am	30 Worship Committee Meeting- 4:00 pm	31	

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



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