

| OCTOBER 2024 |



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church



Coffee with Pastor Jaci A note from your pastor ~



Current events around the world right now make for some intense news. For some of us, it's frightening. For others of us, it makes us angry. Some respond with compassion and tears. Some of us turn unspoken and unrealized emotions into stress and anxiety. Whatever your gut response to all that is happening – unprecedented flooding in North Carolina, an escalation in Middle East military activity, or any other myriad of things – it would be good for all of our hearts, minds, and nerves to be sure to pray every day about those things that trouble us the most.

Some of you may say in response, "Boy, that sounds just like a pastor. These are real world problems that need real world solutions, not just a spiritual response." But the strategy is tested and true. This approach is what we find in many of our beloved Psalms. King David would express to God his anger, fears, fatigue, anxiety, even hatred of his enemies over what was happening around him, about things and people that impacted David and his life. And pretty much every single time, the emotion that arose out of David's distress would resolve itself into trust, praise, and gratitude to God for his faithfulness and provision.

As Christians, we have a terrific gift in being people with one foot in this world, and one foot in God's eternal kingdom. We have a lifeline and a hotline, and they both flow two ways. We can call on the Creator of the universe to do something about the things that trouble us most. We are at our very best when we then remember that he has done something very significant – he has given us Jesus. He has given us his Spirit. As a result, we get to live as his representatives. Our calling is to live in ways that bring his love and his light into the world, giving hope to others that all is not lost. When we realize the tremendous value of all he has given us in Christ, we can praise God as David did. And when we are people of praise, the world gets a little a lighter for those around us.

And, when we lift it all up to the Lord, we look "up" to him. We move our focus away from the chaos. We are reminded that God is truly great, he loves us, we belong to him, and he has invited us to work with him. When we do, the world becomes a better place. When we don't, it can be difficult to find peace. Like the hymn says,

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer![1]

Taking it to the Lord in prayer makes our lives and the world better. Prayer is, in business speak, an “action item.” It’s more than a desperate fallback position. Let’s do it together.

[1] Scriven/Converse, © Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.



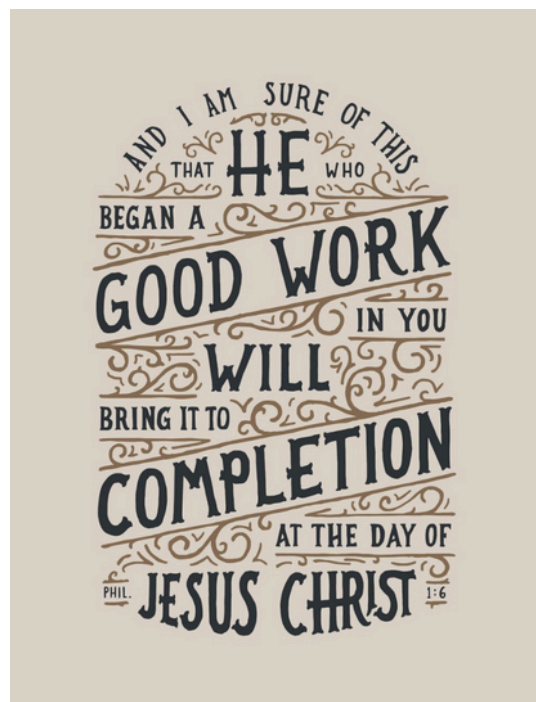
Giving With Hand and Heart



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:2-6)

This passage describes exactly how I feel about you. I love how Paul characterizes the reason for his own thanksgiving – because of how the Philippians shared in the Gospel. What a wonderful corrective to many present-day clunky divisions between ministry, mission, outreach, and evangelism!

You most definitely share in the gospel. You take its calling seriously yet are far from dour in carrying it out. You demonstrate love and joy as you work together to be the church, touching lives in this region. Your giving, with hand and heart, make you a source of refreshment.



Your leadership is excited to announce that Stewardship Sunday will take place on October 20, when we will all enjoy a time of storytelling in worship, reminding us all of the value and the impact of our giving and our participation in the full life of the church.

What is stewardship anyway? For those of us who have been around the church forever, we know it has a lot to do with financial giving. But it is about so much more. It’s about being God’s stewards, his managers, here on earth. He allows us to manage his creation and all the resources it contains. We also manage our lives – our time, our talents, our affections, and our finances. In calling us to be good stewards, God calls us to manage all those areas of our lives in ways that reflect God’s priorities for us and for the world, ways that reflect God’s calling on our lives and on the gifts he has given us.

In the weeks leading up to Stewardship Sunday, I invite you to reflect prayerfully on the blessings you have received over the past year, on the calling God has placed on you as a follower of Jesus Christ, and on how you can share your blessings and your calling in Christ with others. Following Stewardship Sunday, you will receive commitment cards which will allow you to communicate to the church the ways you intend to share those things with and through Front Royal Presbyterian Church.

I am excited to see how God will be at work in you and through you as we continue to work toward the future, discerning God's leading together for FRPC. Your continued participation, by giving from your hearts and from your hands, is vital and valued.



GIVING with
HAND and HEART

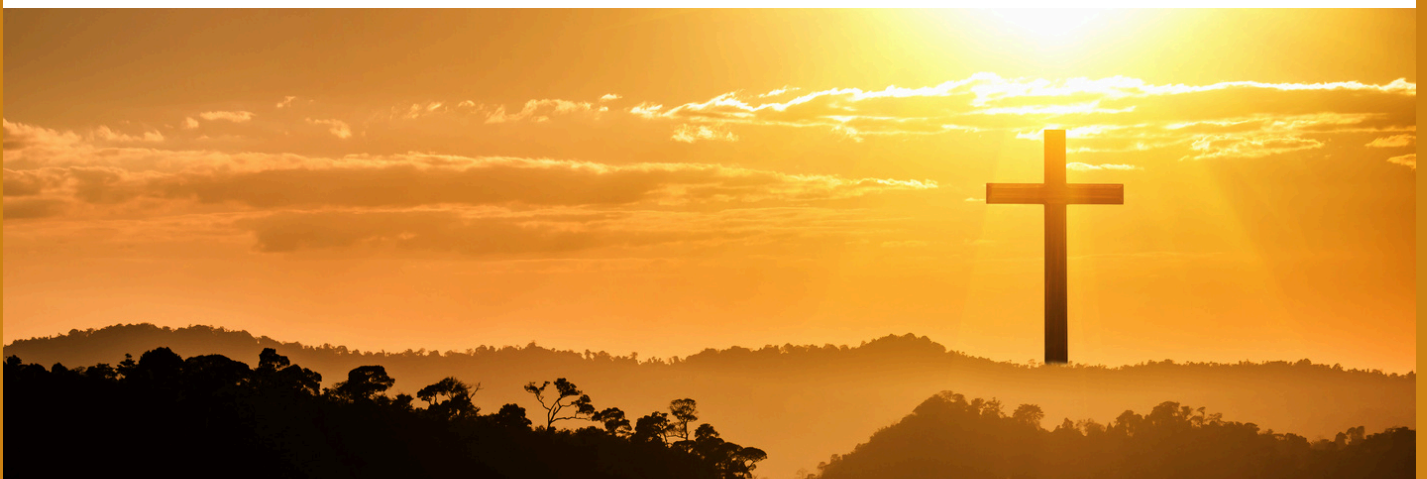
See you in church,

Pastor Jaci

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



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.**



"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is a mistress and governess of those human emotions ... which control men or more often overwhelm them. ... Whether you wish to comfort the sad, to subdue frivolity, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate ... what more effective means than music could you find?"
—Martin Luther

The above quote encapsulates the appreciation for music expressed by Luther and his fellow reformers. The result was a singing movement: the Reformation sang! And the "Battle Hymn" of the Reformation is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," written by Luther himself. Inspired by Psalm 46 (particularly vss. 1-2 & the refrain in vss. 7 & 11), this hymn has become much-loved in every Christian tradition. When all seemed lost and every effort at amelioration appeared doomed, Luther would often say to his friend, Philipp Melanthon, "Let's sing the 46th Psalm" by which he meant Ein' feste burg, most often translated as "A Mighty Fortress". If Luther himself found strength for an arduous journey in these words, is it any surprise that Christians throughout the centuries since have similarly been fortified? Of course, Luther wrote his hymn in German, so we know it only through translations, which are necessarily modified to be singable. Below is a more literal translation ("woodenly literal" according to its translators), which is stronger and more personal than the Frederick Hedge translation with which you're most familiar. As we prepare for Reformation Day at the end of October, I invite you to take a few minutes to read Luther's verse anew. May we all find comfort and strength for the challenges of our own day in these words.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A "Woodenly Literal" Translation

by John Piper, with Matthias Lohmann

A strong castle is our God,
A good defense and weapon.
He helps us become free from every misery
That has now affected us.
The old evil enemy
Is now in earnestness with his intents.
Great Power and much deception
Is his cruel armor.
On earth is not its likeness.

Even if the world were full of Devils
And would want to swallow us up,
We would not thus fear so very much.
We will nevertheless succeed.
The prince of this world,
How bitterly he might pretend to be,
Nevertheless will not do anything to us
Because he is judged.
A little word can fell him.

That word they shall let stand
And will have no thanks for it.
He is with us according to plan
With his Spirit and gifts.
If they take the body,
Goods, honor, child, and wife,
Let them go away.
They will have no profit.
The kingdom must remain for us.

With our power nothing is accomplished.

We are very soon lost.

The right man fights for us
Whom God himself has chosen.

Do you ask who that is?

His name is Jesus Christ,

The Lord of hosts,

And there is no other God.

The battlefield he must hold.

Blessings,

Heather



Faith Builders

Fall is here! The Faith Builders have had a busy start to their new session. Thanks to everyone who participated in our kickoff, especially the ice cream social. The ice cream was yummy and the time for visiting with friends was great!



The elementary aged Faith Builders have been studying the book of Genesis. Did you know that two different authors wrote a story of creation? We have talked about both. The first is the story of God's creating everything in six days and resting on the seventh. We enjoyed trying to imagine what everything looked like back then compared to now. The second story tells us that God created man to watch over the earth taking care of all its natural wonder. It emphasized that we were all farmers and continue in that today. As part of our lesson we planted some seeds which are beginning to sprout. We also had fun making vegetable soup which we shared at the Fellowship Luncheon. We hope you got to try some. We have also studied the story of when God started over with Noah and the great flood. We learned about God's promise to always be there for us.

As part of our outreach the Faith Builders decorated two posters and many placemats for the Kairos prison ministry. We had lots of fun painting, drawing and making them look very festive.



Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 19, 2024

4:00 PM

Come and join the spooky fun!

October 19th

4:00 pm

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

Open to the
Community

Volunteers Needed

Next Dinner Together: *October 24*



Our next Dinner Together event is just around the corner! On Thursday, October 24th, we'll be preparing and serving creamed chicken with vegetables, bread, and dessert to our community. We are currently seeking donations of cream of chicken soup and rolls/bread to help make this meal possible.

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

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: October 27th

Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, October 27th, 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 October?

Chewy Granola Bars




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.



OCTOBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5  Ava Bordner's Birthday	6 Worship- 10:30 am
7	8	9  Jason & Malissa Hortoni's Anniversary	10  Debbie Hunter's Birthday	11	12  Liam Mix's Birthday	13  Mark Jordons Birthday Worship- 10:30 am
14	15	16	17  Donna Edward's Birthday	18  Doug Rutz & Jonathan Rutz's Birthday	19  Heidi Rutz's Birthday	20  Phil & Sally Plew's Anniversary Worship- 10:30 am
21  Nancy Laing's Birthday	22	23	24  Kara Logan's Birthday  Jared & Usi Mix's Anniversary	25	26	27  Worship- 10:30 am
28  Gabriel Horton's Birthday	29  Quinn Blankenship's Birthday	30  John Huff's Birthday	31	CLICK HERE  		

HAPPY

Birthday

- 5- Ava Bordner
- 10- Debbie Hunter
- 12- Liam Mix
- 13- Mark Jordon
- 17- Donna Edwards
- 18- Doug Rutz & Jonathan Rutz
- 19- Heidi Rutz
- 21- Nancy Laing
- 24- Kara Logan
- 28- Gabriel Horton
- 29- Quinn Blankenship
- 30- John Huff



- 9- Jason & Malissa Horton
- 20- Phil & Sally Plew
- 24- Jared & Usi Mix

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