

| APRIL 2025 |



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church



Coffee with Pastor Jaci



Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2, NASB)



As I write this entry for the newsletter, Keith and I are in Georgia, heading home after a wonderful time of study leave – plus a few vacation days – in Florida. We are all always heading *somewhere*; we are going in some direction. And in the most fundamental way, during Lent, we have an opportunity to be more mindful about our daily journey as Christ's disciples as we follow him to the cross.

Lent can wake us up a little and remind us that how we live our lives for Christ, inwardly and outwardly, is of great importance. This is true for us on an individual basis, and true for us as a church. Some big questions that arise as we follow him include:

- How do we steward all that we have and all that we are according to God's calling, the world's need, and our particular set of gifts as a church?
- Who are we in this season of the life of FRPC, and who is God calling us to be in this community as we move forward?

This is some of the work that we will be tackling together as a Session and as a church as we move forward on our journey together during this transitional time.

Some items on our to-do list will be, and have been, more process-oriented. These things are not exactly rocket science but it can take time to "straighten out what is left unfinished" (Titus 1:5) amidst all the other daily and weekly demands of life and ministry. We have already made two important process-related changes that grease the wheels for success moving forward: reducing the size of Session and adopting a new congregational rule for a quorum.

At the upcoming Session meeting, we will begin (1) to develop a timeline for addressing additional priority items, and (2) to set a realistic schedule for checking in with you as a congregation for both input and feedback as we move forward. The work ahead requires endurance from us all. The brand of endurance we need comes from spiritual training that is rooted in prayer, Scripture, and listening to and for the Spirit.

So part of our agenda overall will be to strengthen our spiritual muscles in these areas, and to increase opportunities for unity of focus in our learning and prayers and our listening. This, too, has already begun in our Read-Through-the-Bible program, meeting Sunday mornings. Hebrews 12, from which I quoted above, continues with the following exhortation later in the chapter:

Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. (Hebrews 12:12-13)

Of course, the author of the letter to the Hebrews was speaking metaphorically about strengthening those muscles in our spiritual and personal discipline, muscles that are needed for the task ahead. The work has begun and is ongoing. Keep praying.

In our Bible reading group, we have recently read the Lord's commissioning words to Moses' successor, Joshua: "Be strong and bold." (Deut. 31:23) He then repeats the charge multiple times in the book named for Joshua, saying "Be strong and courageous." Like God's people in that day, we will get to our destination but with the added benefit of having the Spirit to lead us, and we all have a role to play to get us there. The Lord bless you as we continue on the road, during Lent, Holy week, Easter and beyond.

See you in church!

Pastor Jaci



*in honor or memory
of a loved one*



Each plant is available
for a donation of \$15,
Due by Sunday, April 13th



Anchored in Song

featuring *The Lighthouse Keeper*
by Jake Runestad

Friday, April 25, 2025

7:30pm
Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA

Sunday, April 27, 2025

3:00pm
First Baptist Church of Winchester
205 W. Piccadilly St.
Winchester, VA

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:30pm
All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd.
Manassas, VA

Sunday, May 4, 2025

3:00pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
9108 John S. Mosby Hwy.
Upperville, VA



Marion Park Lewis Foundation

FREE CONCERT • SUGGESTED DONATION \$15.00

Artwork by: Harold Newton

LIKE US ON
facebook

www.blueridgesingers.org



FREE
1 PM - 3 PM

COMMUNITY
EASTER
• EGG HUNT •

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME AT FRPC!

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR:
SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES):
9:30-10:15 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30 AM
(CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AVAILABLE)
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!



FUN GAMES & EGG HUNT

115 LURAY AVE.

FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630

WWW.FRONTROYALPRES.ORG

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025

🕒 1:00 PM – EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

🕒 2:00 PM – EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN AGES 6 AND UP





Support the Mission of FRPC in 2025

As we continue through this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing ministries of FRPC. Your generosity sustains vital work, including worship, outreach, feeding ministries, and the care of our church and staff.

Ways to Give:

In-person: Bring your gift to the 10:30 AM Sunday service.

By mail: Send a check to the church office.

Office drop-off: Visit during office hours.

Online: Give securely or set up recurring donations through our church website.

Bank auto-pay: Arrange automatic giving through your bank.

Tax-advantaged giving: Consult your financial advisor about options like securities or required minimum distributions.

Online giving also allows you to manage your contributions and schedule donations at a frequency that works best for you.

Your faithful support enables us to continue the work God has called us to—creating a welcoming space, extending outreach, and sustaining programs that bring hope to our community.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [Ruth Youngk](#) (Treasurer) and cc [Misty Bordner](#).

Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you throughout 2025.



Faith Builders



March has been a busy time with us learning many stories about Jesus. We talked about the story of Mary and Martha. Next we learned that Jesus chose twelve disciples. Do you know why Jesus chose twelve? We learned that there are many references to the number twelve in Jewish history so it just makes sense he would have chosen twelve. We watched as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. We discussed why he chose to arrive on a donkey. We learned about the palms and clothing they put down for him. We learned how to make a cross from a single piece of paper. We can't wait until Palm Sunday to try it with a real palm. We have talked about Jesus reminding us to love and to grow our circles of love every day. We learned the four things Jesus would remind us of today. Jesus might say, "First is I love you. Second is Love Me with all your heart. Third is that you really can't see me, but you Can See Me in others when you do kind things for them. By doing things for others your circle of love can grow very big. Fourth is to remember I Am There watching your circle of love grow!"

Our service project this month was to decorate posters for Miss Heather to take for her Kairos Ministry. We enjoyed sharing our faith and our love with them. We want them to know that God is with them always and he has a plan for them.

Game night was fun for those who attended. The group was small but truly enjoyed the fun and fellowship.

Please Note: There will be no Game night in April due to the many other activities scheduled for the Fellowship Hall.

Game night will resume in May.

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 12th
from 1:00-3:00 pm

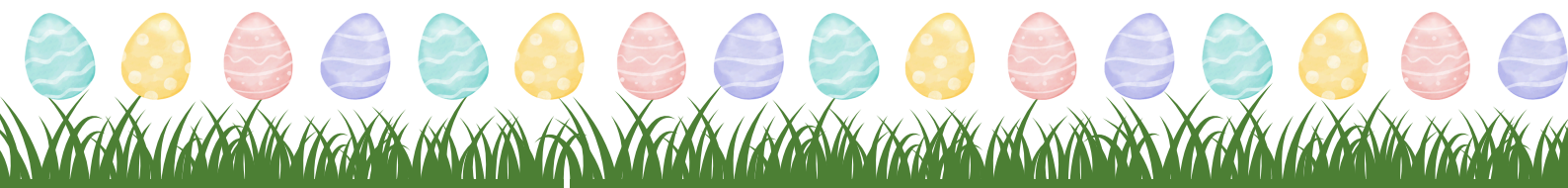


Please join us for the fun. We would love to have members of our congregation come to mingle with the families. This is wonderful time for us to reach out to the community. We want to let them know who we are and what we have to offer families.

Egg Hunt for the Under 5 year olds will start at 1:00 PM.

Egg Hunt for the 6 year olds and up will start at 2:00 PM.

We will also have games, crafts, cotton candy and drinks, photo with the Easter Bunny, and face painting..





Happy Easter



Music News



As hard as it is to believe, April is upon us, and with it Holy Week and Resurrection Day. On Maundy Thursday (April 17), the choir will sing an anthem on a text adapted from a poem of Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). If you recognize her name, you most likely know her as the poet who wrote "In the Bleak Midwinter" and, perhaps (if you're an overachiever), "Love Came Down at Christmas." Actually she was a very prolific poet, publishing under her own name at a time when doing so was rare among women.

The hymn, "None other Lamb, none other Name" appears in 26 hymnals according to Hymnary.org and is paired with at least 5 tunes. The anthem we'll be singing uses an original tune by Jay Althouse, who also updated the language and added a bridge with new text. I've included both texts below for you to read and compare.

Both versions express the hope found only in Jesus, the Lamb of God, and speak of the author's desperation as hope burns low. Althouse's version specifically links that hope to the Cross...and subsequently is most appropriate for Holy Week. Rossetti's original, however, references the sacrificial nature of Christ's life and work only implicitly through the title "Lamb". Her third verse (replaced by Althouse with a repetition of the first verse) looks beyond the Cross to the Jesus as "Life" and even as the Provider of our ultimate home. And it's this hope of life beyond the grave and a secure home beyond earthly woe that enables us to walk through Holy Week without despair. I hope to see you on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Anthem

Original

*None other Lamb, none other Name,
None other hope in Heav'n or earth or sea,
None other hiding place from guilt and shame,
None beside Thee!*

*My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me
By the deep thunder of its want and woe,
Cries out to Thee.*

*Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead;
Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:
Nor Heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,
Nor home, but Thee.
— Christina Rossetti*



*Blessings.
Heather*

No other lamb, no other name.
No other hiding place from guilt and shame.
No other hope on earth or sea.
No other lamb, but Thee.

My faith cries out; my hope burns low.
My heart is heavy from its pain and woe.
O, dearest Lord, now hear my plea.
My faith cries out to Thee.

Jesus, You are life, tho' I am filled with dread.
You see what I cannot see.
You gave Your life just as you said.
Upon the cross You suffered and bled.
Jesus remember me.

No other lamb, no other name.
No other hiding place from guilt and shame.
No other hope on earth and sea.
No other lamb but Thee.
Amen, Amen.

— Jay Althouse



Volunteers Needed



When: *April 24*

Menu: **Chili Mac, Canned Corn, Bread and Dessert**



We are seeking donations of desserts as we continue to serve meals to those in need.

Your generosity and support make a meaningful difference—thank you!

We also need volunteers to help with the following:

- Cooking: Arrive at First Baptist Church by 3:00 PM
- Delivery Drivers: Arrive around 4:00 PM to begin deliveries
- Servers: Arrive by 3:30 PM to pack and prepare meals for delivery

Dinner Together wraps up at 6:00 PM. Please see Randy Wertz if you can lend a hand. Your support and contributions are greatly appreciated!



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:

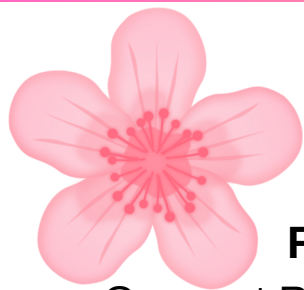
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Wash & Bar Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products



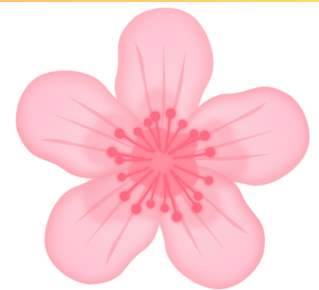
BEN LACY
COMPASSION CENTER

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: April 27th

Our next REACH food distribution is Sunday, April 27th, immediately after worship. Help us serve our community by grabbing a pre-addressed, ready-to-deliver box from the REACH/Missions cart and delivering it to a family in need. No need to sign up—just pick up a box (or two!) after the service and make a difference.



Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ! 🙌



Backpack Buddies

We are collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese throughout April!

April Packing Schedule:

Tuesday, April 8th – DOUBLE Pack (to cover Spring Break)

Every Wednesday at 11 AM (Regular weekly packing)

Tuesday, April 29th – DOUBLE Pack (due to no school on Friday)

How You Can Help:

Join us for packing! If you're free on a Wednesday at 11 AM, stop by and lend a hand.

Assist with shopping! Volunteers are welcome to join Karen on large shopping trips to stock up on needed food items.

Interested in helping? Email Karen for more details.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry and helping ensure local students have food for the weekends!



2025 April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 31 CLICK HERE		1	2  11:00 am Backpack Buddies Bible Study 11 am Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	7	8  11:00 am Backpack Buddies Willow Rutz's Birthday  Session Meeting 6:00 pm	9 Bible Study 11 am Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm	10	11	12 Community Easter Egg Hunt 1:00-3:00 pm 
13  Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	14	15	16  11:00 am Backpack Buddies Bible Study 11 am Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm	17  Service 7:00 pm	18 Marisa Meyer's Birthday 	19 JP Thomson's Birthday 
20  Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	21	22	23  11:00 am Backpack Buddies Bible Study 11 am Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm	24	25 Blue Ridge Singer's Concert 7:30 pm 	26  Steve Allen's Birthday Happy Anniversary Al & Ana Larson's Anniversary
27 Marta Steane & Karen Young's Birthday  Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	28 Margaret Smith's Birthday 	29  11:00 am Backpack Buddies Happy Anniversary Marta & Chris Steane's Anniversary	30 Bible Study 11 am Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm			

A
C
B
E
N
I
T
I
S
T
Y

R
E
A
C
H

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

EMAIL:
admin@frontroyalpres.org
Pastor Carrie:
pastor@frontroyalpres.org



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



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