



Front Royal Presbyterian

NEWSLETTER

Sunday Service

Worship at 10:30 am
Join us!

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Returns

Sunday School will resume on September for
Children and Youth at 9:30 am.

Adult Sunday School

Reading the Bible Together

With Rev. Jaci Smith Patman
9:30 am in Parlor

CANOEING WITH PASTOR JACI

About a Lazy River, Exhausted Paddlers, and Life Lessons

Keith and I had a great Labor Day and I hope you did too. We hauled out our recently purchased inflatable "canoe" (really a glorified air mattress with paddles) and headed out for its maiden voyage on ... the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

The book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, by Todd Bolsinger, sums up our experience. Bolsinger asserts that Lewis and Clark presumed they could canoe their way westward but encountered huge mountains that required ingenuity and flexibility to cross. A canoe and a paddle weren't enough. The book conveys that as a church moves into the future, its members and leaders can often conclude that their typical tools, modes, and roles can serve them well as they march forward. But that assumption can often hamper a church from being all it can be in Christ.



On our Labor Day adventure, we found a number of things to be true. First, there were no physical signs about anything. We were very much on our own! The biggest surprise was – a dam! Keith thought it was a waterfall as he heard the rush of water ahead. We saw a place to pull the boat out of the river. I held on to the dock while Keith went ahead on foot to check things out. There was a dam with a 20ish-foot drop. No flags, no signs. Our eyes and our ears had to tell us that something was shifting. GPS vaguely noted "Chapman's reservoir." We heard the water. We saw the current moving in a new pattern. We pulled the boat from the river and portaged our "canoe" down a gravel road filled with overgrowth. From the river on the other side of the dam, our jaws dropped. We just plain could have died! There was no warning. And internet searches showed only generic info – no maps, no specifics.

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The demands placed on us to nurture a healthy church equipped to minister to future generations can surprise us, especially in times of transition. The world changes with no warning – no signs warn us about pandemics or fraught political situations or wars or the new preferences and language of the next generation. But there can often be noise – like the loud noise of a waterfall – and perceptible shifts in the current to warn us of changes up ahead.

As we made our way downstream, something happened. Keith and I adapted how we worked together. We changed places in the "boat." I was the look-out and rudder-in-the-bow. Keith was the power motor in the stern. (continued...)

"Canoeing" with Pastor Jaci continued....

We had parked one of our cars at Seven Bends State Park, where we had visited last summer. After navigating through very shallow waters as we approached Woodstock, trying to avoid scraping the bottom too severely (not wanting to puncture our "canoe"!), I looked up, above the water. "I recognize these stairs. This is the park. We need to pull in!" God was good – and I was paying attention. 3+ hours after we put into the river, we had arrived.

As we head into the next stretch as a church, we need to continue to pay attention. We cannot be on auto-pilot, but must be alert – listening, watching, praying – as we move forward. We must be willing to trade seats in the boat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings at FRPC

Sunday School, 9:30 am - Adults meet in the Parlor to discuss the prior week's reading, as we read through the Bible together.

On September 7, Sunday School will resume for Children and Youth. Also, there will be an ice cream truck following worship.

Children's Church - Children leave the worship service after the Faith Builders' sermon and return before the last hymn. (Rm 102)

Mid-Week Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, 11:00 am in the Virtual Classroom. Newcomers welcome.

Upcoming Service Opportunities

Wednesday - Backpack Buddies Packing (Room 101)

Every Third Tuesday of Each Month -

September Meal: September 25th Turkey spaghetti, vegetables, bread and dessert

Donations Needed: 8 cans of mushrooms, 8 - 10.5 oz OR 4 large cans of cream of mushroom soup and desserts

Dinner Together: prep in FRPC Kitchen.

Every Third Thursday of Each Month -

Dinner Together: load up at FRPC (3:00);

assemble meals at First Baptist (3:45).

Meals served from 5:00-6:00pm.

Brief period of cleanup follows.



We must be willing to listen carefully, and keep alert to what's happening around us, because while we have been "doing church" for a long time, the world is a different place these days.

Being the church demands being open to a fresh wind of the Spirit moving through us. It's time to let go of our reflex responses. We must be thought-filled, prayerful, and discerning.

Be attentive so as not to go over the waterfall. Listen to the Lord. Listen for the noise of the world to know who this church needs to be to move forward. Watch the currents as they rush past you. You don't need to go with them or even fight them. You just need to know how to handle the boat when they show up. There may be moments when you hear the rocks scraping on the bottom of the boat. Look for deeper waters and redistribute your weight in the boat to reduce the drag! The North Fork is a perfect metaphor for the world today. It's not smooth sailing (or canoeing), but it's a beautiful ride, and we'll make it to our destination together.

Pastor Jaci

Session Meeting

Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm

At this meeting, the Session will receive and vote on a motion to call a Congregational Meeting for the purposes of electing a Congregational Nominating Committee that will assemble slates for electing both new elders and a Pastor Nominating Committee.



WELCOME BACK!

Backpack Buddies

We're packing every Wednesday at 11:00 AM in the Backpack Room. For September, we're collecting boxes of crackers in sleeves (Ritz, Saltines, etc.) to help serve 110 students at E. Wilson Elementary. Thank you for your support!



Bible Study

• Bible Study: Wed 11:00 AM (Virtual Classroom)
• Adult Sunday School –
• "Reading the Bible Together":
• Sun 9:30 AM (Parlor)
• All are welcome!



MUSIC NEWS

Welcome to the new program year! Many activities kickoff with the new school year. The choirs will resume weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 3** with bell choir at 6:00 until 7:00 and vocal choir from 7:00 to 8:30 (though we sometimes get out early). We would welcome any and all interested people whether you've rung or sung in the past. Please feel free to talk to me after church or email me with any questions (nkrbrnd@gmail.com).

This year we have another exciting fall kickoff event. In 2013 the PC(USA) published a new hymnal, *Glory to God*, to replace the blue 1990 hymnal that most Presbyterian churches used prior to that. Many churches have since adopted the new hymnal (there is an ecumenical edition available for churches in other denominations to use, so "many churches" include non-PC(USA) communities). The Worship Committee has had numerous discussions about updating, but the time wasn't right to make the change. Over the summer, an anonymous donor stepped forward and offered to donate the funds to purchase new hymnals for FRPC—an opportunity that we couldn't turn down!

The hymnals will be dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Beverly Clark, who served here so faithfully for so many years. We are planning a special event to roll out the hymnals. Stay tuned for specifics.

There are some major advantages to, and reasons to love, the new hymnal:

- *Glory to God (GtG)* has **more hymns** than our current hymnal. With thinner pages and sometimes printing only the melody in the pew edition (both trends in new hymnals of other denominations), *GtG* has an impressive 853 hymns in contrast to the 605 in the blue hymnal. Except for some chant-like psalm setting that, to my knowledge, no one sings, basically the new hymnal retains the repertoire of the old one with many new additions.
- In the blue hymnal, hymns with texts in languages other than English often seem to give preferential placement to other languages: from Spanish to Korean transliterations, making it more difficult for English speaker to follow the English texts. *GtG* still includes hymn texts in other languages, but **preference is given to English** (and where Korean appears, it is printed in Korean font, so that people who actually speak/read the language can sing it with ease). (Note from Pastor Jaci: Did you know that PC(USA) has 350 Congregations with 50,000 active members in 15 synods and 120 presbyteries? It also has a Synod in Puerto Rico. We are a multilingual denomination!) ...
- **New hymns** are being written all the time. While we love the hymns we grew up singing, it's important to judiciously introduce new hymns that express the faith of living writers, who face modern challenges. The intent is not to rewrite biblical truth (in fact, my intent as Music Director is to choose texts that are faithful to the Bible), but imagine a church where we still only sang Gregorian chant—which would, of course, eliminate everything from the Protestant traditions and be in Latin. Yikes!
- *GtG* is **widely respected** within the church music community. I assist with an ecumenical summer workshop at Shenandoah University each June where we use a variety of denominational resources. People who aren't familiar with it always come away talking about how much they like it. You may be interested to know that the chair of the hymnal committee that produced *GtG* is actually an SU alum! So people from our area have had input into its shape and form.
- Publishing a hymnal is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor for a denomination. As many mainline denominations shrink, many are hesitant to exert the effort or spend the money. The Episcopal Church, for example, is still using *The Hymnal 1982* (published in 1985, the title derives from the year when the hymnal committee was formed), because they have decided they can't afford to produce a new hymnal. Many church musicians postulate that *GtG* could be the last hymnal published by the PC(USA), barring a reversal of current trends. We can and should be grateful that **denominational leadership chose to invest in a new hymnal**. This is something to celebrate.
- Finally, hymnals published in the 21st century come with the option to purchase data packages of hymn texts that can be pasted into slides. This lessens the administrative burden of using screens by eliminating the need to hunt down or type out and proof the texts of every hymn - a **blessing for the staff**. And we are very grateful!

Trumpet & Organ Concert
Sunday, September 7
3:00 pm
Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave., Front Royal, Va.

Presented by
Duo Régalo

Featuring works by:
• Kenneth Baird
• Domenico Gabrieli
• Mark Hayes
• David N. Johnson
• Felix Mendelssohn
• Others



Blessings!

Heather

Donations will be accepted to benefit FRPC's Backpack Buddies program. This outreach serves 110 local elementary students experiencing food insecurity and provides them with weekend meals.

FAITH BUILDERS

Welcome Back to all our Faith Builders and their families. Summer has certainly gone very quickly! We have spent time planning lessons and activities for the new program year.

Sunday School kicks off on Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 AM. Kindergarten through 4th grade will meet in the Sunday School room. 5th grade and up will meet in the Virtual Room. Classes will dismiss at 10:15 AM and children will return to their parents.



Preschool through fifth grade children are welcome to attend the church service with their parents. They are invited to come forward and participate in the Faith Builders Sermon with Pastor Jaci. Following this time, Kindergarten through 5th graders will go with Ms. Marisa to the Sunday School room for special church-related activities during the service. The children will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Stay tuned for information regarding Pre-K possibilities. We are in process, and have been delayed a bit by illness among both applicants and interviewers! Please pray that we can proceed shortly. And stay tuned for requests from Elder Usi Mix about starting a volunteer rotation. This is a *great* way for long-time members to get to know younger children and their families.

Sunday School Kick-Off Fun!

Please plan to stay a bit after church on Sept. 7 and enjoy some ice cream with our church friends. We hope this treat gets us off to a sweet start!

Future Faith Builder Plans

September 7: Sunday School Kick-Off with an Ice Cream Social after church.

September 19: Game Night 6-8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome! Come for Pizza and fun!

October 11: Festival of Leaves We will need volunteers for shifts at the table. We will have face painting, and other activities to promote our wonderful church.

October 18 or 25: Afternoon Trunk or Treat: Final date to be determined. We will be looking for lots of folks with car trunks as well as volunteers to help with our fun games and activities.

October 24: Game Night 6-8:00 PM

November: (Date TBD.) Visit a senior living center.

November 21: Game Night 6-8:00 PM

December 6: Front Royal Christmas Parade

December 19: Game Night 6-8:00 PM

Questions? Feel free to contact us:

Marisa Meyers: 843-290-4152 mbmeyers19@gmail.com

Usi Mix: 571-405-0889 uescariz@hotmail.com



TITHES & OFFERINGS

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 to which God has called us —creating a welcoming space, nurturing the faith of our members and friends, 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.



KAIROS RETURNS OCTOBER 8–12



The next Kairos weekend is fast approaching and, with it, another opportunity to bake and pray. Most people may never enter a prison in person, but your contributions through cookies and prayers are very much needed and appreciated! Some instructions:

- Please bring cookies to the church no later than Sunday, October 5. I will have boxes in the Narthex where you can leave them.
- Cookies should be packaged, one dozen per quart-sized, zippered bag (without the sliding zipper) & labelled as type.
- Forbidden ingredients: nuts, dried fruit (including coconut), icing/frosting, sprinkles/dusting, M&Ms (or anything hard)
- Encouraged ingredients: chocolate or other flavored chips (the most popular type by far), peanut butter (second most popular--use creamy), oatmeal, cake mix. Tubs of chocolate-chip cookie dough make wonderful homemade cookies, and are the simplest solution.
- We also have some recipes that you can use, confident that the resulting cookies will comply with prison regulations. Click [here](#).
- For cookie guidelines, click [here](#)






Prayers

We cover every weekend in 24/7 prayer. You may either signup online or let me know.

- To sign up online at prayervigils.net, click [here](#)..
- Time slots are 30 minutes in length. If praying for that long seems intimidating, we have a guide that you can pray through. Click [here](#).

2025

September

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED weekly	THU	FRI	SAT
	ORGAN & TRUMPET CONCERT BPB FUNDRAISER AT 3:00 PM	1  CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	2	3 11 am Bible Study Backpack Buddies Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm	4	5	6
Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 	7 Ruth Younk's Birthday Adrian & Rachel Burt's Anniversary Foss & Margaret Smith's Anniversary	8	9 Lucas DuMez's Birthday  6:00 pm	10	11	12	13 Larry Good's Birthday Connor & Skylar Stoyka's Birthday
A C B E I N L T I S T Y	14 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	15	16	17 Renee Perry's Birthday	18  3-6 pm at First Baptist	19	20 Jamison Eo Beauge's Birthday
	21 Adrian Burt & Joan Brubaker's Birthday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	22	23 Furadoon & Jean Irani's Anniversary	24 Cadence Noel's Birthday	25 Bill Hall's Birthday	26	27 Norma Steed's Birthday
R E A C H	28 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship- 10:30 am	29	30				31  CLICK HERE 