



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church

A CHANGE OF SEASON

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me."— Emily Brontë

October is here, and with it comes change.

The mornings are cooler, the light is different, and the trees are beginning to show their autumn colors. Hockey season has started, school is well underway, and our calendars have found their familiar fall rhythm.

Last month, I wondered about what nurtures us when our calendars become full. This month, I find myself wondering about something different:

What season are you in?

Not the season we see outside our windows, but the season of your life.

For some of us, this is a season of new beginnings. For others, it may be a season of change, of waiting, of carrying something difficult, or simply of trying to keep up. And for some, perhaps this is a season of contentment - a time to notice and give thanks for what is good.

Ecclesiastes reminds us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

There is something reassuring in knowing that we do not all have to be in the same season at the same time. That is part of the gift of being a congregation. We rejoice with one another, encourage one another, sit with one another in difficulty, and sometimes simply remind one another that we are not alone.

As the leaves change this October, perhaps we can allow ourselves to notice our own season too. What is bringing you joy? What are you carrying? Is there something you are ready to let go of? And where, perhaps unexpectedly, are you noticing God?

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Whatever season you find yourself in, may you know that you do not walk through it alone.

*We walk together.
And God walks with us.*

Pastor Cobus



SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FRPC

Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children

Sunday School is back! Join us Sundays from 9:30–10:15 a.m. with classes for adults, youth, and children. The Adult Sunday School class has begun “Comfort Those Who Mourn.” All are welcome!

Children's Worship

Children leave the worship service midway (as marked in the order of worship) and will return during the final hymn. (*Room 102*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Wednesday, 11:00 am - Backpack Buddies Packing (Room 101)

Sunday, October 4, 10:30 am - World Communion Sunday

Festival of Leaves - Saturday, October 10

Come visit us at our table at the Festival of Leaves from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We'll be sharing the love of Christ with our community and inviting others to connect with FRPC. Volunteers are needed to staff the table—**sign up** for a one-hour slot online or with Usi or Marisa.

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, October 11

A Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, October 11, for the purpose of establishing and electing the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Fellowship Luncheon - Sunday, October 18

All are welcome! Please bring a dish to share and join us for food, fellowship, and community following worship. **Sign up here!**

Feeding Our Neighbors: Oct. 22

Meal: Chili Mac, Corn Muffins & Dessert

Donations Needed: Tomato Soup & Desserts

Tuesday, October 20: prep in FRPC Kitchen. Every fourth Thursday of each month.

Load up at FRPC (3:00); assemble meals at First Baptist (3:45).

Meals served from 5:00–6:00 p.m. Brief period of cleanup follows.

Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 24

Join us for a fun, family-friendly afternoon as we welcome children from our community! How you can help:

- Decorate your trunk and hand out candy.
- Donate candy to support the event. **Sign up here!**

Let's share the love of Christ and make this a joyful time for kids and families in Front Royal.

REACH Deliveries: Sunday, October 25

Join us as we deliver food and essential items to those in need in our community.

Volunteers are always welcome—grab a box (or two!) and help share Christ's love in a practical way.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Click Here

**BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**



SUPPORT THE MISSION OF FRPC IN 2026

As we continue through the fall, we invite members and friends to prayerfully and faithfully support 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:** Make a secure gift 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 to explore options like securities or required minimum distributions.

Online giving also allows you to manage your contributions and schedule automatic donations at your preferred frequency.

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

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

Thank you for your generosity, and may God continue to bless you and FRPC.





"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 *Theses* to the church door at Wittenberg, setting off the Protestant Reformation. As the movement developed, reformers articulated five "solas" to define where they broke from the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church (see image). Perhaps the most familiar and beloved of these is *sola gratia*, grace alone—a grace that Luther discovered through studying Romans and which defined his beliefs. It is also the title of a hymn that we'll sing on October 25 for Reformation Sunday. Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson teamed up in the 1990s to write this gentle hymn that well expresses both our dependence on God's grace and a commitment to live our lives depending on His grace. We've sung this hymn numerous times before, so it is familiar, but take a few minutes to reflect on this text.

1. Every promise we can make,
every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make
is only by His grace.
Every mountain we will climb,
every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind
is only by His grace. Refrain

Blessings,
Heather

Refrain

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown He will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

2. Every soul we long to reach,
every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share His peace
is only by His grace.
Every loving word we say,
every tear we wipe away,
every sorrow turned to praise
is only by His grace. Refrain



Faith Builders



Faith Builders have had a great start to the new Sunday School session. The children are studying a unit called "Hopes and Dreams." We are learning about the history of some of God's people. We get to see how God is working through the leaders he has chosen. We have talked about Jacob's dream of the ladder and the promises God made to him during this dream. How his family would grow and become the ancestors for the twelve tribes of Israel. We have also been talking about praying and practicing more ways of putting together prayers when we need them.

Fall is also bringing us many fun, upcoming activities. Two of them are coming up very soon.

First is the **Fall Festival of Leaves.**

Saturday, October 10 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

We will be joining other members of the congregation at the church's booth. This is a great opportunity for our church family to do some outreach with our community. We can let them know who we are, what we believe, and what we are doing to help others in our community. We want to invite them to join our loving and caring church family.

Volunteers are needed. Think about coming for an hour or two during the day to share with others the great things about Front Royal Presbyterian Church! You can sign up [online](#) or let Marisa, Usi, or Misty know.

Second is our annual **Halloween Trunk or Treat.**

Saturday, October 24, from 1:00-3:00 PM

Please plan to join us as we welcome the ghouls, goblins, fairies, and other wonderful characters who come to trick or treat with us. You can decorate your trunk or just bring treats and sit with us to share in the fun. We always have a great time.

Again, this is a great outreach for our church and an opportunity to let the community know we're here.

Food Drive: We will, once again, offer a special treat to those who donate a can or some type of shelf-stable food item for our fall food drive.

Volunteers will be needed for setup and cleanup. [Sign up here!](#)



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