|NOVEMBER 2026|





VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal Presbyterian Church

The Beauty in Every Season

The beauty of the Shenandoah Valley jumps out at one's eye throughout the year. Even so, no season is as adored as autumn. Beyond capturing the changing of the leaves, words often fail to describe the colors that light up the valley during this special time of year.

But time marches on. As November arrives, day by day we notice that the beauty of the fall leaves will not last. The canopy begins to get thinner as the leaves drop, and ultimately the ground is covered by soft brown and gray leaves. As we watch this change, we find ourselves dwelling on the previous beauty and wonder how we might hold on to it.

This feeling of longing for the beauty of the past and what will undoubtedly pass has been felt by all humanity. Robert Frost captures this feeling in his poem "October."

> *O hushed October morning mild,*
> *Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;*
> *To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,*
> *Should waste them all.*

Have you ever felt that subtle tension, that anxiety? Many of life's most brilliant moments are transient by nature. How do we give thanks for the beauty of a season, while we also mourn its passing?

There is some solace in the book of Ecclesiastes, which says, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

There is a spiritual purpose to be found in every passing of the season. We can give thanks for the gorgeous hues of fall, find peace in the stillness of a lazy winter, and hope in the new life of spring. All in the knowledge that the turning of the seasons is an intent and faithful circle of renewal.

In faith we come to know the unseen and the inexplicable. It gives us a place to stand and to face the unknown and encourages us to look for the quiet beauty that lies beyond. The same Creator that tinged the hillsides in a flame of glory is at work when the trees stand bare.

Pastor Cobus

What's Inside

2 Upcoming Events
3 Stewardship
4 Music News
5 Faith Builders



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. 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 | Bells at 6:00 p.m., Choir at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 1 | 10:30 a.m. | All Saints' Sunday
Join us for worship as we remember and honor the lives of loved ones who have gone before us.

Sunday, November 8 | Commitment Sunday
Please return your 2027 pledge card by today. See Stewardship on page 3.

Tuesday, November 10 | 6:00 p.m. | Session Meeting

Wednesday, November 11 | Veterans Day
The church office will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Sunday, November 15 | Following Worship | Fellowship Luncheon
All are welcome! Bring a dish to share and join us for good food, fellowship, and time together following worship. Sign up here!

Sunday, November 15 | 3:00 p.m. | Installation of Pastor Cobus
Join us for a special service celebrating the installation of Rev. Jacobus "Cobus" Greyling as pastor of Front Royal Presbyterian Church. We hope you'll be part of this meaningful occasion in the life of our church!

Wednesday, November 18 | 11:00 a.m. | Backpack Buddies Double Pack (Room 101)

Sunday, November 22 | Christ the King Sunday & Communion
Join us for worship as we celebrate Christ's reign and share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sunday, November 22 | Following Worship | Hanging of the Greens
Help us prepare FRPC for Advent and Christmas! All ages are welcome to stay after worship as we decorate the sanctuary and church together. Come enjoy fellowship and share in this special tradition!

Monday, November 23 | Backpack Buddies Thanksgiving Pack, Bag 2 (Room 101)

Thursday–Friday, November 26–27 | Thanksgiving
The church office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Sunday, November 29 | First Sunday of Advent
Join us as we begin the Advent season, a time of hope, anticipation, and preparation for the coming of Christ.

Sunday, November 29 | Following Worship | REACH Sunday
Help us deliver food and essential items to neighbors in need! Volunteers are encouraged to take a box (or two!) following worship and share Christ's love through a simple act of kindness.

Monday, November 30 | Feeding Our Neighbors
Our November menu features sloppy joes, veggies and dessert. Donations needed: hamburger buns and desserts.
Volunteer schedule: 3:00 p.m. | Load supplies at FRPC
3:45 p.m. | Assemble meals at First Baptist Church
5:00–6:00 p.m. | Serve meals, followed by a brief cleanup

Saturday, December 5 | Christmas Parade
Our youth will ride on the float and hand out candy and invitations to FRPC.

Prayer Requests Click Here Birthdays & Anniversaries



Commitment Sunday is November 8!

As we look ahead to 2027, we invite you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Front Royal Presbyterian Church. Our stewardship theme, Rooted in Grace, Growing in Generosity, reminds us that God's grace is the foundation of all we do, and through our generosity, we continue to grow in faith, service, and love.

Commitment Sunday is November 8, and we encourage everyone to return their 2027 pledge cards by that date. Cards are available in the Narthex, or you can conveniently submit your pledge online. Your faithful support helps us plan for the year ahead, sustain meaningful worship, nurture faith, strengthen our outreach ministries, and continue serving our congregation and community. Every commitment, regardless of size, makes a difference in the life and mission of FRPC.

Remembering Your 2026 Commitment

As we approach the end of 2026, we also encourage you to review your current-year pledge and fulfill any remaining commitment, if you are able. Your generosity supports the daily life and ministries of FRPC, from worship and fellowship to feeding programs, community outreach, and the care of our church and staff.

Ways to Give

- **In Person**: Bring your gift to Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.
- **By Mail**: Send a check to the church office.
- **Office Drop-Off**: Stop by during regular office hours.
- **Online**: Give securely or set up recurring contributions.
- **Bank Auto-Pay**: Arrange automatic giving through your bank.
- **Tax-Advantaged Giving**: Consult your financial advisor about gifts of securities or qualified charitable distributions.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

You may also consider including Front Royal Presbyterian Church in your estate plans. Legacy gifts help ensure that our church's mission and ministries continue for generations to come.
To learn more, contact a member of our Endowment Committee: Sherry Downs (Chair), Ruth Younk (Treasurer), Debbie Hunter, Dr. Furadoon Irani, or Zach Logan.
For questions about pledges or giving, please contact Ruth Younk, Treasurer, and copy Misty Bordner.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. Together, rooted in grace, we are growing in generosity and sharing God's love with our community!

Music News

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20

November brings the beginning of what society might consider the "holiday season," but for those of us who follow the Church Year, it also brings an end as the year concludes with Christ the King Sunday (sometimes called "Reign of Christ"). Appropriately we conclude the year seeing Jesus exalted as King over all, seated in glory, and reigning without a rival. On November 22, as we observe both Christ the King and Thanksgiving, the choir will sing an arrangement of Andraé Crouch's familiar gospel hymn, "Soon and Very Soon," which joyfully anticipates seeing King Jesus. Many hymns sung for Christ the King Sunday exhibit an appropriate level of reverence and grandeur. But we also know that as Christians—adopted as God's children—we are invited into a close relationship with this King, so the joyous exuberance here is equally appropriate … and a fitting reflection of our gratitude for this relationship.

It's worth noting that the expression "going to" in English is a colloquial way of expressing future tense. In Revelation, Jesus promises that He is returning "soon" (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). And when He does, we will see the King. Somehow singing "Soon and very soon, we will see the King" doesn't convey quite the same ebullience as "going to," though the meaning is identical to Crouch's text.

I invite you to gratefully reflect on Crouch's text.

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
No more crying there we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're goin' to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
No more dying, there we are going to see the King;
No more dying, there we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!



Blessings,

Heather

Faith Builders

A chill is in the air and the leaves have finally started to turn. It's the season of turning your heat up and down several times a day. But we are moving into an exciting and extremely busy time of year. The Fall Festival of Leaves and our Trunk or Treat are both now just wonderful memories. We met lots of folks at both activities. We hosted over three hundred neighbors and friends at our Trunk or Treat (179 children). What a spectacular way to reach out to our community and invite them to join our church family. Everyone had a great time!

The next couple of months are filled with many activities for all our youth. On Sunday, November 15, we will be completing our first "Meal in a Bag" project. The youth will be filling 24 bags with the complete ingredients needed to make a meal. The meals will be distributed to seniors.

On Saturday, November 28, at 9:00 a.m., the youth will be filling bags with candy and an invitation to join us at FRPC to be handed out during the Christmas Parade. Last year we handed out over a thousand bags!

December is also filled with activity. We will participate in the Christmas Parade on December 5. The youth love to ride on the float and toss out candy treats to the onlookers.

We are putting together a little presentation for the youth to do during a church service. We look forward to having the youth share their children's program during worship on Sunday, December 20.

We pair with the choir and all interested others to go Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 20; the time is to be determined. We usually go to Commonwealth Senior Living in Front Royal. The residents enjoy it and love to make requests. We are all learning "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" because it was requested last year and was not in our repertoire. Everyone is invited for this activity. It is a fun group activity for all involved.

Our next Youth Ministry meeting will be Sunday, January 10.

Of course, we all look forward to the holiday season and love finding ways to share the love of Christ with everyone!

Ms. Marisa



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



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