



VINE & BRANCHES

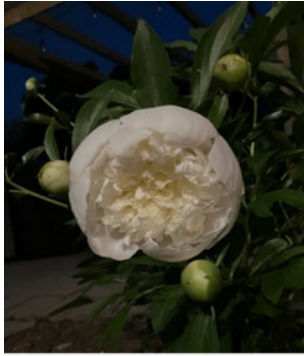
Newsletter of Front Royal Presbyterian Church



Coffee with Pastor Jaci



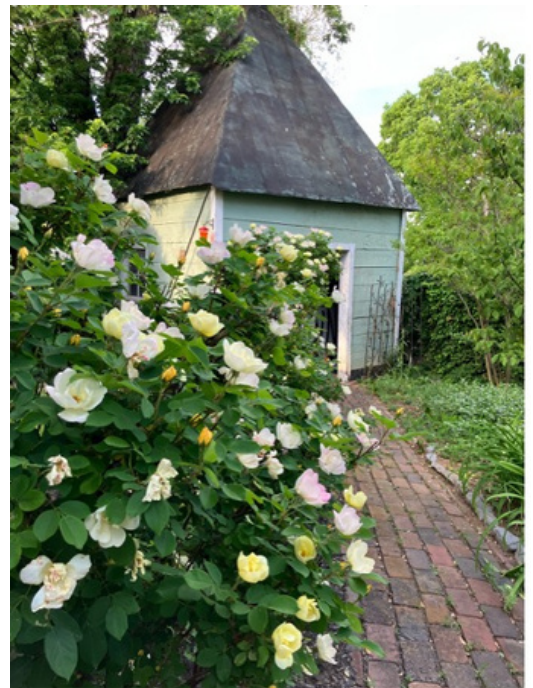
The Wonders of May



Keith and I have been enjoying all the amazing changes in our landscape that began in April and have continued into this month. The leaves are filling out the tree silhouettes more and more in multi-shaded hues. Tree blossoms largely have come and gone, but we enjoyed all we could. We sniffed other peoples' lilacs (ours did not bloom – we over-pruned!). We admired the new-to-us variety of Magnolia blooms on a sapling on the sidewalk in front of our home. And now our own azaleas and peonies and roses are popping out.

As our observations of both the Ascension and Pentecost approach, the freedom and beauty and life of spring are good reminders of the New Life that is available to us in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Trees and shrubs and plants may be around all year, but only with spring do they grow and yield and undergo a miraculous transformation that can be such a source of beauty and joy. By the same token, we can go through the motions of church activities, but we display the beauty of Christ in us when we blossom, watered as with Spring rain by the Spirit, and when we joyfully apply our gifts to serving Christ and his church.

Before spring yields to summer, use all the lovely signs of spring as a reminder to ask the Lord to help you grow and yield beautiful works that inspire the awe and joy of others. And, oh by the way, when you engage in such a way, it will bring joy to you as well.



Praying joy for us all,

Pastor Jaci

What's Inside

- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 Tithes & Offerings
- 4 Music News
- 5 Faith Builders

The Importance of History (and Faithful Session Clerks!)

Since October, the Session has had a chance to delve into a bit of history, and all because of the need at Buckton Presbyterian Church to replace their septic system. A needed survey revealed a surprise: A key parcel of land on which their septic system was located was deeded to us, and they could not proceed until the deed was in their name. Our General Presbyter, Bronwen Boswell, asked us if we could help Buckton figure this out. A dive into Session minutes from 1948 revealed that discussions had begun regarding transitioning Buckton, then operating as a chapel under FRPC's oversight, to a church with its own Session. In subsequent minutes, there was mention of a donation of land for Buckton. The date of the latter set of minutes coincided almost exactly with the date of the deed. With guidance from our attorney and a vote from the Session (acting also as Trustees), we committed to righting what seems to have been an administrative error. It took a little time as we figured out all the needful details, but the deed was at long last transferred. And if you ever need to know, old minutes that precede the unification of the Lexington and Winchester Presbyteries into Shenandoah Presbytery are, amazingly enough, stored in underground storage in Utah of all places, and are accessible online. The website is noted in a file in the administrative office. Thanks to all the faithful Clerks who have kept faithful minutes over many years, we were able to figure this out and provide the needed documentation for the court to approve the transfer. So thank a Clerk. They do important work.

Sunday Mornings at FRPC

Sunday School (all ages): 9:30 a.m.

Adults have begun to learn some Bible study methods and will continue for the next few weeks (no gathering on 5/17). Join us in the Parlor!

Worship: 10:30 a.m. — All are welcome!

Children's Church: Children leave after the Faith Builders' sermon and return before the last hymn. (Room 102)

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

May 17 (Sun.) – Fellowship Luncheon

(Please bring a dish to share!)

May 19 (Tues.) – Session Meeting at 6:00 PM

May 26 (Tues.) – Meal prep for Dinner Together in the FRPC Kitchen at 12:30 PM

May 28 (Thurs.) – Dinner Together

Load up at FRPC – 3:00 PM

Assemble meals at First Baptist – 3:30 PM

Meals served from 5:00–6:00 PM

Brief cleanup to follow

Meal: Leftovers, Bread & Dessert

Donations Needed: Desserts

May 12, May 20 & May 28 – Backpack Buddies at 11:00 AM

(May 28 is the double and final pack of the school year.)

Wednesday Opportunities

Bells – 6:00 PM

Choir – 7:00 PM

[PRAYER REQUESTS](#)

[Click Here](#)

[BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES](#)



SUPPORT THE MISSION OF FRPC IN 2026

As we head toward summer, we continue to invite and remind members and friends to prayerfully and regularly support the ongoing ministries of FRPC. Your generosity sustains vital work: worship, outreach, feeding ministries, and maintaining 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 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 bless you richly in the year ahead!





Music News

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
with groanings too deep for words.
Romans 8:26*



Happy May! This month is liturgically busy with Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday all occurring during May. Pentecost falls on May 24 this year. Often, we associate the vivid, colorful imagery of wind and flame with Pentecost, which is appropriate. But another, gentler image associated with the Holy Spirit is the dove as seen at Jesus' baptism. In *A Religion for Our Time*, Louis Evely associates the "groanings too deep for words" in Romans 8:26 with the cooing of a dove (not how I've previously thought of the Spirit's groanings, but a connection that I find appealing). When Carl Daw was asked to write a new hymn text for Peter Cutts' gentle tune, BRIDEGROOM, to be published in *The Hymnal 1982*, he drew inspiration from Evely's reference to the dove's moan. The happy result is "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song," which we will sing as the middle hymn on Pentecost. Often the middle hymn is a prayer that prepares us to hear the reading of Scripture and the sermon as it is here. Two weeks before Pentecost (May 10), the Gospel reading will be from John 14 where Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. The prelude that day will be a setting of BRIDEGROOM (hint, hint, listen up!).

The first verse explores *how* the Spirit comes, with imagery associated with dove (song, flight) as well as the wind and fire of Pentecost. The second verse encompasses language from Paul, John, and Luke to *express to whom* the Spirit comes. The phrase "members of Christ's body," comes from Romans, I Corinthians, and Ephesians (all by Paul); "branches of the vine" references John 15; and "the church in faith assembled" calls to mind Acts 2:1 (written by Luke). The third verse examines *why* the Spirit comes: to reconcile those divided, offer prayer, and give power and confidence. Each verse concludes with a one-line refrain: "Come, Holy Spirit, come."—a fitting prayer for Pentecost.

Pentecost also falls on Memorial Day weekend this year, which makes the promise of "the healing of division" that opens the third verse especially poignant. As May includes several events in the Church Year, there are also numerous national occasions that call us to pray for our country, both in gratitude and supplication. As we gratefully observe Armed Forces Day on May 16 and Memorial Day on May 25, may we also pray for healing on the national day of recommitment to God on May 17. I recently learned that May 17, 1776, was observed as a day of fasting and prayer (as they prepared to declare independence from Great Britain on July 4). So, when we observe a day of prayer in 2026 on the same date, it will be exactly 250 years after the original (observed annually during the Revolutionary War). I doubt that modern leaders were aware of this historical fact when deciding on the 2026 date, but I can't deny the hand of God in orchestrating this "coincidence".

1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

Blessings,

Heather



3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the pow'r to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
Heather

Faith Builders



May already! Time has just flown by. We have been very busy in the children's class. We have been learning about Jesus. We spent four weeks learning about who Jesus is. We looked at four of the stories that are called the "I Am" statements. We noted that Jesus used objects and ideas that would have been common to the people in that time to help them understand who he is. We talked about Jesus being the Good Shepherd. We learned that we are part of Jesus' "flock." We learned that Jesus called himself the "True Vine." We are all connected to that vine. Jesus called himself the "Light of the World." We need to follow and share his light with others. Lastly, Jesus told us he is the "Bread of Life." We learned that bread is very important to almost everyone in the world in one form or another. Jesus gives us spiritual nourishment to help us as we grow and help others in our world today.

We have also spent time learning about some of Jesus' teachings. We talked about the different lessons Jesus taught through his sermons on the mountainside. We learned what a blessing is and talked about the blessings Jesus described in the Beatitudes. We discovered we are blessed! We heard about Jesus being the "Light of the World." He wants us to be like salt, and change things around us, so we can shine our light for others. We found that Jesus doesn't want us to worry and that he and God are there to help us whenever we need them. We just need to ask. Lastly, and our favorite, we talked about the Lord's Prayer. We know it by heart, so it was fun to hear versions in Swahili, Aramaic, American Sign Language, and by a modern praise band. We also looked at a version from a different Bible translation than the one we use in our church. We talked about how to pray and what kinds of things to include: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. That translates to Wow, Oops, Thanks, and Help in kid-friendly language. Our favorite part was taking the magnetic tiles with lots of words on them and making them into our own prayer. We had fun doing it together. Best of all, we got to share it with our whole church family.

Notes for the Future

- Sunday, May 31 will be our last Sunday School class for this school year. We will take a break over the summer and begin again in August.
- Children's Church will continue throughout the summer.

Bible School

- We are working with several churches in town develop a Bible School program.
- Projected dates: Sunday, July 19 through Wednesday, July 22.
- **Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.** We always have a great time sharing God's word with our friends in our community.

Ms. Marisa

**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