



Coffee with Pastor Jaci

~ A note from your pastor ~



Letting the Spirit Lead

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computers, once said this: “The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

I don't know if he knew about the first followers of Jesus, the ones who walked with him for three years, who were so human that they even sometimes frustrated Jesus in their slowness to comprehend him (see Mark 8:14-18). I don't know if Steve Jobs ever read the Gospels, which give us the back-story of how the church came into being.

The church itself has a pretty mixed history in this world. The church is flawed because it's made up of people. And people (including us) have a tendency to mess up from time to time, and a tendency to long for rest, retirement, ease and comfort, and gradually disengage from the race (the one that the Apostle Paul ran so as to get the prize in 2 Timothy 4:7). Some are only drawn to power. Some are forced into hereditary roles in the church. Some take part out of pride or obligation, doing so without the most important element at work in their life. It's that element that makes the church the church. It's the glue that holds us together. We all need the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit leads us and guides us and gives us vision. But the price of having the Holy Spirit is high: it means surrender to the person of Jesus Christ. It can mean going to places you would rather not go (John 21:18). It can mean being open to a newness of purpose just when you are getting ready to put up your feet for the duration.

The Apostles Peter and Paul were blown by the wind of the Spirit until the day each died in captivity. We know more about Paul's itinerary than Peter's; but we do know that Peter ended up in Rome – the center of the Empire. Paul must have been the most sought-after customer for cobblers for all the miles he put on his sandals. The Apostle John also opened himself to God's work well into his later years, having written at least Revelation and his three letters in the final quarter of the first century. All three of these early, highly influential leaders, were faithful to the end. And they helped change the world in obedience to their callings in Jesus Christ.

This is our calling also. We do this by following the Spirit's lead. We can follow his lead no matter what. We can follow his lead no matter the outcome of Tuesday's election. We can follow his lead despite the unknowns. We can follow his lead without knowing what the Fed will do at their next meeting. We can follow his lead no matter what other countries decide to do on the world stage.

What's Inside

We can follow his lead no matter how long we might have to deal with the effects of the government shutdown.

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All these things impact each of our lives differently. But to follow the lead of the Spirit, we pray, we listen, we watch for openings to share the love and hope of Christ with the world. We love one another. We support one another in the struggles of life. We look for people beyond our membership to consider how we can love them in the name of Christ and then we do it. (Continued on p.2)

We are about to enter a new cycle of church life. On Reign of Christ Sunday (or Christ the King Sunday), let's re-dedicate ourselves to Christ's leadership in our lives and in our life together. And on the first Sunday in Advent, we will proclaim the coming of our Lord through traditional advent texts and liturgy, and through communion, a new pattern in the life of this church. Let's open ourselves to being led by the Christ child as the countdown to 2026 begins, a New Year in so many ways. Let's be a part of the newness in total submission to Christ and his work in the world. Let's follow the Spirit as he seeks to change the world - not by might, not by power, but by the Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6). The Spirit knows the way.



Pastor Jaci

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings at FRPC

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

November Events & Service Opportunities

- Nov. 2 - All Saints' | Commitment Sunday
- Nov. 6 (Thursday, 6 p.m.) - **Community Conversation with HARTS Thermal Shelter**
Join us for an evening of conversation and Q&A. Hear from law enforcement and others involved. Learn more about the shelter's services and positive impact.
- Nov. 11 (Tuesday)
 - Veterans Day 🇺🇸 - Church offices will be closed.
 - **Session Meeting**, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 12 (Wed.) - meal prep for **Dinner Together** in FRPC Kitchen.
- Nov. 13 (Thurs.) - **Dinner Together**: 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. Meal: Baked Chicken Thighs, Roasted Veggies & Dessert **Donations Needed**: Desserts
- Nov. 13, 5:00 p.m. - **Worship Committee** Meeting
- Nov. 16 (Sun.) **Fellowship Luncheon** All are welcome! Please bring a covered dish to share and join us for food, fellowship, and community following worship.
- **Thanksgiving Day** - Thursday, November 27 🦃 - Offices will be closed for the holiday (Thursday and Friday).
- Nov. 23 - Christ the King Sunday
- Nov. 23 - **Hanging of the Greens** 🌲 - Following Worship - Join us after worship as we decorate the church for Christmas! All ages are welcome—come enjoy fellowship as we prepare our sanctuary and church for the Advent season.
- Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent | Communion Sunday
- Nov. 30 - **REACH Deliveries** - Following Worship. 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.

Wednesday Opportunities

- Adult Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. in the Virtual Classroom.
- Backpack Buddies Packing, 11:00 a.m. (Room 101)
- Bells @ 6 p.m.; Choir @ 7 p.m.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Click Here

Prayer Requests





It's Not Too Late to Pledge for 2026...

Commitment Sunday was November 2, but you can still turn in your pledge at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and on our website under the [Give tab](#).

Your faithful support enables us to plan for next year, as we 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. Your generosity will put us in a strong position as we seek to serve the Lord, the Community and one another.

You might also consider leaving a legacy to this church through your estate plan. If you would like to know more, please be in touch with a member of our Endowment Committee: Sherry Downs (Chair), Ruth Younk (Treasurer), Debbie Hunter, Dr. Furadoon Irani, Zach Logan.

...and it's never too late to catch up for 2025!

As we continue through this year, we invite you to remember the church, and your 2025 commitment, as you budget throughout the rest of this year. Your generosity and grace sustain 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 a.m. Sunday service.
- By mail: Send a check to the church office.
- Office drop-off: Visit during office hours.
- Online: [Give securely](#) and set up recurring gifts at your preferred frequency.
- Bank auto-pay: Arrange automatic giving through your bank.
- Tax-advantaged giving: Consult your financial advisor about options like securities or required minimum distributions.

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

Thank you for your generosity!!

THANKFUL



Happy month-of-Thanksgiving! In this newsletter, I'd like to take a few minutes to reflect on our gratitude for veterans, which we'll express with the singing of a hymn that isn't in the newly retired blue hymnal, but is in *Glory to God*. It will not, however, be new to most of the congregation. That hymn is "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory," which you may know as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Julia Ward Howe wrote this text in 1861 at the outset of the Civil War after observing Union troops on review near Falls Church, Virginia. Delayed by the heavy traffic of sharing the road back to DC with said troops, the party passed the time by singing "army-related" songs, including "John Brown's Body," which was sung to a well-known camp-meeting tune and memorializes deceased abolitionist, John Brown (and may also have been intended as a humorous reference to a still-living sergeant of the same name). A fellow traveler suggested that Mrs. Howe should write more pleasant words for such an enjoyable tune. It's not clear exactly who made this suggestion or if this person was aware of the sacred origins of the tune. In any event, the original camp-meeting song, "Say, Brothers, Will You Meet Us," invites the listener to meet the singer on Canaan's happy shore, a symbolic reference to heaven. So the numerous scriptural allusions in the present text to the Second Coming of Christ could be seen as a return to the tune's original theme of eternal life with Jesus.

This year the Sunday closest to Veterans' Day will be **November 9**, when the epistle reading from the lectionary will be from 2 Thessalonians 2. Providentially, in our lectionary-assigned passage, Paul writes to the Thessalonians about Jesus' return ... and we're in the midst of a sermon series on the epistle readings from the lectionary, making "Battle Hymn" a most appropriate closing hymn for that day. I hope to see you in worship on November 9. And, please, remember to express thanksgiving—both *to God for* our veterans and to those who have served.

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning
of his terrible swift sword.
God's truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.

2 God has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat
and is sifting out all human hearts
before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer; O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

Blessings,

Heather



Faith Builders



October was a busy but great month! Our biggest event, the Second Annual FRPC Trunk or Treat was a great success. We had over 150 people come to trick or treat with us, play games, jump in the Bounce House, enjoy popcorn and cider and take many pictures. Many of the children brought a can of food to trade for a special treat bag. Between these donations and those from members of the congregation we donated 96 pounds of food to CCAP. Great job everyone!

We owe a big thank you to all the folks who pitched in with trunks, candy, their time, help with planning, setup, and cleanup. We couldn't have done it without all of you. THANK YOU!

Sunday School

The children spent October learning about Joseph and all his trials and adventures. We learned that God was with Joseph throughout all his trials. We also learned about forgiveness as Joseph forgave his brothers and helped them.

In Children's Church we also talked a lot about God's continuing love for all of us. We know that he is always with us wherever we are. We talked about being kind and loving to others thus showing our faith to others.

Future Activities:

Christmas Parade

We will be participating in the Front Royal Christmas parade with a float again this year. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2025. We will be looking for assistance with stuffing candy bags, float set up and many participants the day of the parade. Watch for more information soon!

Christmas Caroling

We will be Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 13 in the afternoon. We will return to the church for hot cocoa and a sweet treat afterwards. We would love to have many singers both children and adults participating. Please think about joining us. We had a great time last year.



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