



## VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal  
Presbyterian Church



### Coffee with Pastor Jaci

#### What Kind of Love?



February - the month of love! At least that is what it is commercially. Emotionally, many of us have also built expectations that we will receive some special tokens of other people's love. And yes, we also place the expectations on ourselves to find tangible ways to give *expressions* of our love to those dear to us: a card, a gift ... candy or flowers...

The lack of any such expressions to us has wired us for a little disappointment when they don't come our way. Maybe it stems back to grade school when we exchanged Valentines with our classmates - do you recall doing that? Moms usually were wise enough to have us prepare a Valentine for everyone. But we, well, maybe some of us *sometimes*, held back dropping a card in someone's decorated shoebox, someone we didn't love so much. Honestly, I don't think I ever did that, but I did sometimes complete the task of sharing universally with a poor attitude... What about you?

Jesus calls us to love. I know, I know - that's not what Valentine's Day is about. However, that is exactly what we should be about as followers of Jesus Christ. We should not be grumpy when it comes to loving our neighbor. The entire world would be a much better, much gentler place right now if all who call Jesus Lord would heed this call. We would melt hearts, set a good example, and we might even raise the bar in our society for how we should treat one another. Everyone could benefit.

Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:1 – “*Make love your aim...*” (RSV). We know from our recent Sunday morning passages that the Corinthians struggled with loving one another well in the church - struggled with loving people different from them, whose ideas may have varied a bit, people who looked different, or came from different backgrounds than they did. Paul wipes away any possible objections with these words.

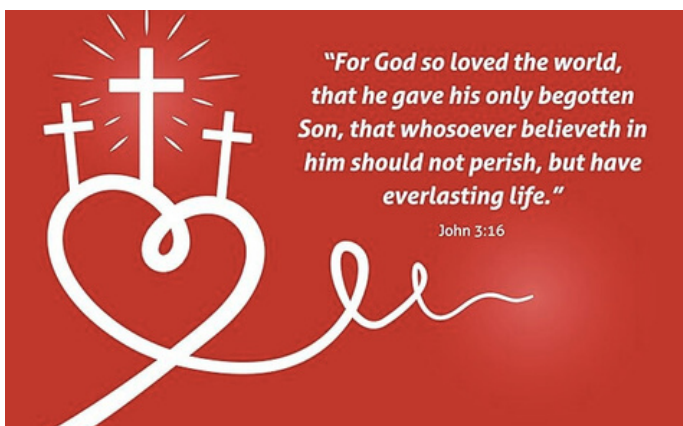
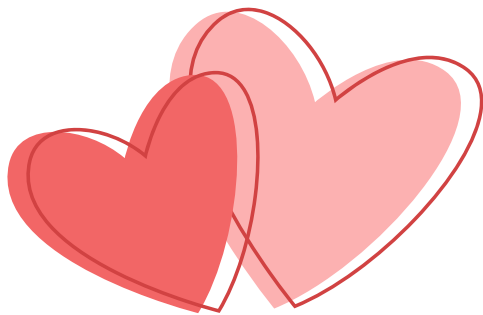
And when Jesus affirmed the lawyer, who had asked about inheriting eternal life, for his astute two-part answer about what the law says (loving God and loving neighbor), Jesus made it clear that this is our calling as his followers also. (Luke 10:25-29 and following)

#### What's Inside

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So, in those famous words, “Just do it.” Do the equivalent in life of giving a valentine to the classmate you preferred to avoid. This is our calling in Jesus Christ: to let love be our aim, with no equivocation.

Pastor Jaci



## Sunday Mornings at FRPC

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

Adults are taking a break until the first Sunday in Lent, when we will be discussing spiritual gifts. Please join us. Details forthcoming.

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

### February 2026

HARTS Thermal Shelter remains open (6 pm-7 am, 7 days a week)

Feb. 8 (Sun.) Scout Sunday returns!

Feb. 10 Session Meeting at 6 pm

Feb. 18 (Wed.) Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm, preceded by a soup meal.

Feb. 22 (Sun.) - 9:30 am - Adults begin a new Sunday School class on spiritual gifts (Parlor)

Feb. 24 (Tues.) - meal prep for Dinner Together in FRPC Kitchen at 12:30 pm

Feb. 26 (Thurs.) - Dinner Together: Load up at FRPC (3:00); assemble meals at First Baptist (3:30). Meals served from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Brief period of cleanup follows.

Meal: BBQ Sandwiches, Potato Salad & Dessert

Donations Needed: Hamburger Buns & Desserts

Feb. 22 - REACH Deliveries - Following worship. Grab a box (or two!) and help deliver food and essential items to our neighbors in need. Volunteers always welcome!

Feb. 28 - Coldest Night of the Year. If you are interested in helping the HARTS shelter meet its financial goals through a short fundraising walk, while also raising awareness, mark your calendars and sign up to join our FRPC team.



### Wednesday Opportunities

Backpack Buddies Packing, 11:00 a.m. (Rm 101)

Bells @ 6 p.m.; Choir @ 7 p.m.



**FEBRUARY**  
BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

*Click Here*

PRAYER REQUESTS





February already! Christmas was wonderful! We all enjoyed the festivities of the season with our church family. We got to participate in the church service through the advent candle lighting. We made decorations with the symbols of the Jesse Tree story. We were able to tell the story of Jesus' birth with the finger puppets we made.

The new year arrived in January. In the primary Sunday School class we learned about Moses and how he trusted and followed God's word to free the Israelites from the Pharaoh. We learned about the plagues, and about Moses talking to God on the mountain before the burning bush. We watched as God helped Moses part the waters so the Israelites could get across the sea. We learned how God provided enough food each day for the Israelites. This has been an exciting adventure for all of us. We managed all of this even though we missed some Sundays due to the weather.

Looking ahead we will be shifting from the Old Testament stories to the New Testament as we move into Lent. We will be working on a unit called "Jesus: Beginings." We will learn about Jesus as a child and a young man beginning his ministry.

During Children's Church we will continue to follow the lessons presented by our pastor in the church service. We will discuss her message and dig a bit deeper into the stories. We will continue to learn about what it means to follow Jesus. We are beginning to make plans for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for more information coming very soon!

*Ms. Marisa*



GOD IS LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16





*"Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you." Proverbs 4:5-6*



Repeatedly throughout Proverbs, the writers encourage us to seek wisdom, which is frequently personified as a woman. On February 1, the choir introduced a new hymn from Glory to God, "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom." Written by Ruth Duck in 1993, this text expresses a Trinitarian perspective on wisdom. Each of the three verses sees Lady Wisdom in settings associated with the three Persons of the Trinity: Creator, Teacher, and Counselor. Below is each verse of the hymn with a corresponding selection from Proverbs.

In the first verse, the text invites us to seek Wisdom and her teachings, perhaps calling us to work to restore the perfection of Creation before the Fall. The imagery of dancing alerts us to the fact that this pursuit will not be drudgery, but delight as we move into closer alignment with who God created us to be and what He intends for us to do.

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
showing us what love must do.

Proverbs 3:19-20

"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew."

In the second verse, the text invites us to listen to Wisdom from whom we learn Truth. We are blessed to have the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, now available on many digital platforms as well as hard copy Bibles.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the marketplace.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.

Proverbs 1:20-22

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

The third verse addresses Wisdom directly, inviting her to counsel us as we go about our daily lives. Here we respond to the invitations of verses one and two, friends of God who become holy as we walk with Wisdom.

Sister Wisdom, come assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit-guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

Proverbs 7:4

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call insight your intimate friend.

In 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (on which the sermon was based), Paul explains that even though the message of the Cross is foolishness to the world, it is truly wisdom and power from God. May we all seek God's wisdom even when secular society calls it foolishness. And may this contemplation prepare us for the beginning of Lent on Wednesday, February 15.

Blessings,

*Heather*



## *Support the Mission of FRPC in 2026*

As we move more fulling into the new year, we continue to invite members and friends to prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing ministries of FRPC. Your generosity sustains vital work, including 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.

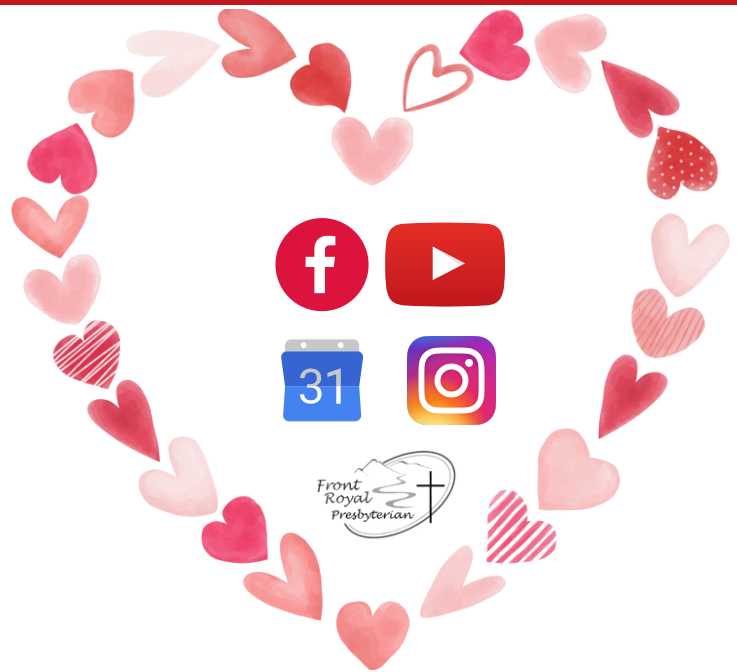
Your faithful support enables us to continue the work God has called us to—creating a welcoming space, extending our outreach, and sustaining programs that bring hope to our community.

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!

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Give easily online—securely  
and conveniently, anytime.



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