



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church

AS THE SEASON CHANGES

There is a change in the air.

The mornings are beginning to feel a little different. The school year has begun. Calendars are filling again, routines are returning, and before long the temperatures will tell us what the calendar already does: summer is giving way to another season.

For some, that may come as a relief. Cooler mornings and familiar routines may be welcome. For others, there may be a little sadness. The long days are getting shorter, vacations are behind us, and the lazy, hazy days of summer can seem to disappear far too quickly.

Perhaps there is something spiritual in simply noticing that we do not all experience a change of season in the same way.

I began my ministry with you on June 12. These first months have been a season of learning: names and stories, learning the rhythms of our congregation, learning something about Front Royal, and listening for the hopes, joys, disappointments, and questions that are part of the life of this church. And I am still learning.

As I listen, I find myself asking: **What will nurture us as the season changes?**

We often respond to a new season by asking what needs to be done. What meetings need to happen?

What programs need to begin? Those are important questions. But perhaps another question needs to come alongside them: What helps life grow?

As we enter a busier season, Jesus offers us a different rhythm. He noticed people in busy places. He stopped. He listened. He ate with people. He withdrew to pray. He welcomed children. He noticed those whom others passed by.

Perhaps this is a good time to pay attention to what sustains us: worship, prayer, friendship, rest, learning, service, laughter, a conversation after church, a walk outside, a meal around a table, or simply enough quiet to notice what is happening within us and around us.

We can ask the same question about our congregation. What will nurture our church, our children and young people, those who have been here for decades, and those who may walk through our doors for the first time? What will help us become more attentive to our neighbors and community?

I don't think we need to have all the answers yet. Part of this season is learning together.

The temperatures will change. The leaves will change. Our routines will change. And perhaps, if we remain attentive, we will discover that God is at work in the changing too.

So as we move toward fall, perhaps the question is not only, **"What lies ahead?"** Perhaps it is also: **"What will nurture life among us in the season ahead?"**

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May we keep that question before us as we worship, work, and learn together this fall.

Pastor Cobus



SUNDAY SCHOOL *Resumes!*

≡ **SEPTEMBER 13** ≡

9:30–10:15 A.M. | CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

Join us as we kick off a new year of *faith* and *fellowship*—
and stay after worship for a *special ice cream treat!* ♥



Sunday Mornings at FRPC

Sunday School for Adults & Children

The Adult and the Youth & Children's Sunday School Groups are taking a break for the summer. All classes will resume on **September 13**. All are welcome to join us!

Children's Worship - Children leave the worship service midway (as marked in the order of worship) and return before the last hymn. (Room 102)

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

September 7 – Happy Labor Day! In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed.

September 8 – Session Meeting, 6:00 PM

September 13 – Sunday School resumes from 9:30–10:15 a.m., with classes for all ages! Join us as we kick off a new year of faith and fellowship—and stay after worship for a special ice cream treat!

Sept 22 (Tues.) – Meal prep for Feeding Our Neighbors in the FRPC Kitchen at 12:30 PM

Sept 24 (Thurs.) – Feeding Our Neighbors

Load up at FRPC – 3:00 PM

Assemble meals at First Baptist – 3:30 PM

Serve meals from 5:00–6:00 PM

Brief cleanup to follow.

Meal: Creamy chicken & veggies, cornbread muffins, and dessert

Donations Needed: Desserts

PRAYER REQUESTS

Click Here

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES



Tithes & Offerings

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF FRPC IN 2026

As we continue through the summer, 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.

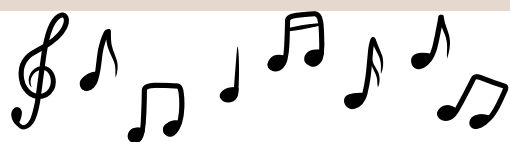
Online giving also allows you to manage your contributions and schedule automatic donations at your preferred frequency.

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.

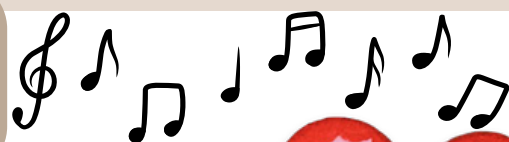
If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact [Ruth Young](#) (Treasurer) and cc [Misty Bordner](#).

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





Music News



As the program year begins again and we return to the busy-ness of everything it brings, I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about a hymn/prayer to let God lead us in how He wants us to serve Him. Noticing others takes time and intentionality, so a prayer for God's help in developing this skill is advisable. Ruth Duck, a UCC minister and prolific hymnwriter, references Ezekiel (11 & 36), Jeremiah (31), and Romans (12 & 15) in her hymn, "Spirit, Open My Heart." In singing this text, we pray for the Spirit to open our eyes to the needs of those around us. The choir will present this hymn as the anthem on September 20, and you'll have the opportunity to join in on the refrain. The Scottish/Irish folk tune, WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, is probably familiar to you.

The gospel reading on September 20 is Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard. While this text doesn't directly address the comparison inherent in the workers' sense of payment due them, it does offer guidance in the heart attitude that turns our attention outward. I invite you to take a few minutes to reflect on and, perhaps, even pray through Ruth Duck's text.

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As You love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

2. Write Your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring You glory. *Refrain*

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to Your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

3. May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

It's Kairos Cookie Time!



I will be participating in the Kairos weekend at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women this fall: **October 8-11**. As in the past, we are able to take in cookies to serve to the women participating on the weekend as well as taking cookies to the general populace on Saturday evening. As with everything pertaining to a prison, there are many rules, which you can review below. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

- Cookies must be packaged **one dozen per quart-sized zippered plastic bag** without a sliding zipper (can be weaponized). Be sure to let cookies cool completely before putting into the bags so they won't stick together.
- Cookies should be **2"-2.5" in diameter**. If you use a 1 Tbsp/.75 oz. cookie dough scoop, it's fairly easy to produce predictably-sized cookies.
- Cookies must be **home-baked**, but do not need to be from scratch (you can use a tub of cookie dough or a cake mix or a slice-and-bake dough roll). Numerous companies sell cookie dough already divided into pucks that you just need to separate and bake. I understand that Restaurant Depot, for example, sells cases of frozen cookie dough that's already divided into 1.5 oz. pucks. If you break each in half and roll a bit, the cookies will be exactly 2.5" in diameter.
- **Chocolate chip** is the most-needed type as they are the most popular and we will give these out in numerous settings. **Peanut butter** is the second-most popular.
- Things to avoid: nuts or anything hard (M&M's or other candies etc.), dried fruit (includes dried coconut as well as raisins, craisins etc.), frosting, sprinkles, or sugar on top
- Safe ingredients/types: flavored chips of any sort, oatmeal (without raisins), chocolate, molasses, peanut butter (creamy), sugar (w/o topping)

I will be collecting cookies in church on **Sunday, October 4** (Monday, October 5 at the latest).

If you're not a baker, you can also participate in prison ministry by praying for us. We cover every weekend in round-the-clock prayer. If you want to take a 30-minute slot, you can sign up at <https://prayervigils.net/vigils/515>. If you pray through the [guide](#), a half-hour isn't really daunting. Even if you choose not to take on a full ½ hour slot, we are grateful for any and all prayers.

Thanks so much! *Heather*

September! Where did the summer go?
I guess time does fly when you are having fun!

The Faith Builders have had a busy summer. We have enjoyed following the parables that the pastor has been telling us. We have learned about Jesus feeding the 5,000, how he walked on water, and how he started the church. We even got our own rock to paint to help us remember the story. Did you know that Peter means rock?

Faith Builders



Sunday School — September 13, 2026 | 9:30–10:15 a.m.

The children and youth are all looking forward to starting Sunday School.

Our great news is that we have developed a program for the 6th–12th grade youth. They will have a class taught by Malissa Horton, Kayley Pawlak, and Usi Mix on a rotating schedule. They have chosen an interesting curriculum that should be fun and challenging for the youth. They will meet in Room 105.

The K–5th grade children will continue to meet in Room 102. Ms. Marisa will continue to work with them as they learn about all the wonderful stories of the Bible.

We are looking forward to a fun and educational year!

Other News

The Youth Ministry Committee has been meeting to determine upcoming activities. We have made a lot of great plans.

Service Projects

C-CAP

We continue our collection of non-perishable goods for C-CAP. At the present time, their stores are very low. If you are able to bring in some items to the church, we will be glad to deliver them. This is a very difficult time for many people. Anything you can give would be greatly appreciated. There is a drop box near the front door in the narthex.

Meal in a Bag

We will be participating in a new service project called Meal in a Bag. We will be getting food to supply a specific menu through the food bank and other low-cost suppliers. The children will decorate bags. The children and youth will then put the food items and a recipe card into the bags. The bags will be delivered to the Senior Center to be distributed to seniors there. Hopefully, we can help to fill a need.

Future Events

Fall Festival of Leaves — Saturday, October 10, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

We will be participating with other members of our congregation with a booth at the Fall Festival of Leaves. We will have a table with samples of our hot mustard, honey, and raspberry jam. We will do some face painting with the children. We have brochures to hand out. We just really want to get out there and let the community know that we have a wonderful church family and would love to see them join us. Sign up [here](#) to volunteer.

We are looking for volunteers to come and share our good news with our community neighbors. If you can come for an hour or two, it would be great.

We all had a fun time last year visiting and sharing our good news with everyone.

Church Yard/Parking Lot Fall Cleanup

Saturday, October 17 or 24 — to be determined

Trunk or Treat — Saturday, October 24, 2026

Once again, we will be putting on our masks and handing out treats to the children. What a special time this is every year! The kids are adorable. The decorated trunks are always fun! We all have a great time. We'd love to see as many of you decorate your trunks and have time to socialize with us.

We will need some volunteers for setup and cleanup. We will also need some folks to help with crafts, games, snacks, and face painting. So please think about joining in the fun. We will be checking in soon to see if you'd be willing to spook along with us.

Fundraiser — Sunday, November 8, 2026

Bake Sale following church. We want to start a fund for our youth projects. The holidays will be coming by then. Let's get started with some holiday baking.

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



Give online—easy, secure,
and convenient.



Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA 22630