



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church

TO NEW BEGINNINGS!

There is something fitting about beginning a new ministry during the summer. The season reminds us that life is always unfolding. Gardens quietly bear fruit. Trees offer their shade. Long evenings invite conversation. Even amid the heat of July and August, God continues the patient work of making all things new. As I begin this journey with you at Front Royal Presbyterian Church, I do so with a grateful heart, humbled by the welcome you have extended to me and my family.

From the moment we arrived, we felt the warmth of this congregation. Every handshake, every shared story, and every act of kindness has been a gift. Thank you for opening your hearts and your church to us. We are eager to walk alongside you, to learn from you, and to serve Christ together in this place.

I'm looking forward to discovering the story of this church - the faithful worship, the quiet acts of service, the celebrations and the challenges that have shaped who you are. Every congregation has a story, a testimony to God's faithfulness through the generations, and I'm eager to hear yours. We're beginning a new chapter together, but we're not starting from scratch. We stand on the foundation of those who have gone before us, and we know the One who goes before us.

Behind all these stories - the worship, the service, the moments of both challenge and celebration—there runs one constant thread: the self-giving love of Jesus that binds us together.

I have always been moved by these words of the South African writer Alan Paton, author of *Cry the Beloved Country*: "There is only one thing that has power completely, and that is love. Because when a man loves, he seeks no power, and therefore he has power." Those words echo the radical nature of Christ's love. The Church is not built on our strength, our programs, or our cleverness. It is built on the self-giving love of Jesus - a love that welcomes the stranger, forgives the sinner, serves the neighbor, and binds us together as one body. That is our superpower!

My prayer is that Front Royal Presbyterian Church would be a place where that love is felt and expressed in tangible ways. A place where neighbors are welcomed, children are cherished, and the weary find rest in the grace of Christ. A place where we encounter the grace of Jesus not just in words, but in the way we care for one another and for our community.

May we make room to notice God's quiet work among us this summer. May we find time to rest, to reflect, and to be renewed by the Spirit. I look forward to worshiping with you, learning with you, and discovering together what God has in store for us.

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With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Cobus



Backpack Buddies

RETURNS



**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 18TH**



All are welcome to join us
in this ministry to help feed
110 children at E Wilson Elementary School.



Together,

we can make a difference—one
backpack at a time.



**SERVE. SHARE.
SUPPORT.
CHANGE
LIVES.**

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

August 2 – Youth Ministry Meeting, following worship

August 18 – Backpack Buddies returns! Join us as every Tuesday at 11:00 am, as we help provide weekend food packs for 110 children at E. Wilson Elementary School. Everyone is welcome to be part of this meaningful ministry!

August 25 (Tues.) – Meal prep for Feeding Our Neighbors in the FRPC Kitchen at 12:30 PM

August 26 (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: Sloppy joes, baked beans, macaroni salad, and cookies.

Donations Needed: Hamburger buns — nine packs of 8-count buns and mayonnaise.

[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 Younk](#) (Treasurer) and cc [Misty Bordner](#).

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





I'm back! Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to my recent attendance to the FABM conference at Green Lake Conference Center (GLCC) in Wisconsin. It was a wonderful experience, and I'm so grateful to have been able to spend time learning in such a beautiful place. Since my return coincides with the need for a newsletter article, I've decided to share a little about my trip in this space.

I had the privilege of singing in a choir of 70-80 under the direction of Joel Raney (<https://www.hopecublishing.com/197>) who is the current music editor for Hope Publishing. The most immediate past music editor, Jane Holstein, was also on hand to accompany the choir, present keyboard workshops, and perform an organ/piano duet concert with Joel. Here's a link to another concert they gave in 2025: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mU-m_QW5fc. Some of the pieces are the same that they presented for us (and Jane does reference an earlier Green Lake conference at which she was a clinician—this year they performed at a church in Ripon with a nice organ). Both of these musicians were inspiring and educational to work with. Additionally, I had the opportunity to play in a bell choir under Bill Mathis (<https://www.bellsofthelakes.org/index.php/about/bios/>), which was educational. Since I usually lead these ensembles, it was wonderful to be able to be a participant under the direction of nationally-known leaders. I also enjoyed daily worship, discussions, and hearing other ensembles. The theme for this year's conference was, "Lead with Love" in observance of the 70th anniversary of a speech MLK gave at GLCC (then called the American Baptist Assembly) in which he urged his listeners to act in love.

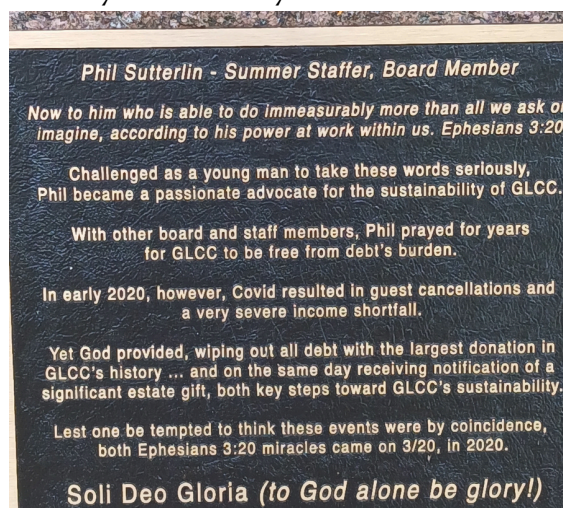
Though not a photographer, I took numerous pictures of the lovely conference center where I spent the week.

Enjoy!

I stayed in Roger Williams Inn (RWI), named for the Baptist minister who founded Rhode Island. This is a picture that hangs over the bed in the room where I stayed. The narrow strip of land jutting out into Green Lake is called Lone Tree Point.



Behind RWI is the beginning of Memory Lane, which features quite a few stones with plaques memorializing dearly departed loved ones, commemorating anniversaries/retirements etc. Several contained inspiring quotes or narratives. Here's an example of one I found particularly noteworthy.





I wondered about the name, “Lone Tree Point” since there are numerous trees growing along the water. Here's a picture of the solitary tree on the point. Now I get it!

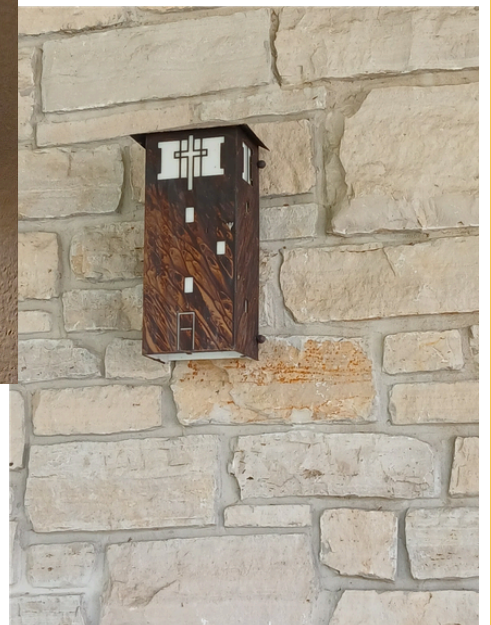
RWI, built in a bygone era, featured several quaint accommodations, such as this phone nook off the lobby. I didn't lift the handle to check for a dial tone.



Apparently RWI has been around before the Baptist purchase of the land during the Great Depression (paid for by Kraft and Pillsbury, founders of food companies still in existence today). Supposedly Al Capone stayed there while bootleggers used the lake for their smuggling activities during Prohibition.



Overlooking the conference grounds is Judson Tower, which chimes every 15 minutes, followed by a hymn on the hour. This is a view of the tower from Lone Tree Point. Wall lights—both indoor and outdoor—in Kraft (where we checked in and ate meals) are little replicas of the tower.





Most of the worship services were held in Pillsbury Hall, which I didn't photograph. The closing worship communion service on Friday morning was held in Vesper Circle, which is at the other end of Memory Lane. Here's the view of the lake we enjoyed during the service.



I was determined to visit Judson Tower, though I couldn't figure out how to get there initially. After asking for directions, I found the stairs on my last day before leaving. The climb isn't too bad, but it is —as noted by an employee who allowed me to borrow a key—"all uphill". A bench allows for a respite on the journey.



The very tight spiral staircase in the tower itself proved to be a bit more strenuous, but the view was worth it. This is RWI, Lone Tree Point, and the Green Lake, which I learned is the deepest lake in Wisconsin from the tower.

Thank you again for the chance to experience this wonderful FABM conference!

*Blessings,
Heather*

Faith Builders



July, and the summer has just flown. The Faith Builders have had a very busy month! They have been learning from the parables of Jesus. We planted seeds as part of our learning. We are watching them carefully as they slowly sprout and grow. Hopefully, we will have some delicious herbs to add to some of our meals. We have continued working on how to pray. We will soon have another good one to share, but we also will be able to pray for our needs and those of others.

Some of the Faith Builders were able to attend the Vacation Bible School, Proof Pirates. We spent the four days learning about Grace. Did you know that each of the letters of the word Proof has a special meaning? Well, here you go! P=Planned Grace; R=Resurrected Grace; O=Outrageous Grace; O=Overcoming Grace; and F=Forever Grace. The overall scripture for the week was:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

The children spent their time participating in fun Bible studies, playing fun games and making some great pirate themed crafts. Captain Nathan and Pirate Bob shared their adventures with the children. VBS ended with the best activities. First, everyone got to choose an ice cream. Then, they got to run through the spray of the firemen's hose. What a great ending to a great week!

AJ asked if we could do VBS every week! I think he had a great time!

Youth Ministry

Our church is at an exciting place with our children and youth. We have at least ten middle school/high school aged youth. They need a strong program developed. Our younger children's group continues to grow and learn.

The Youth Ministry group has been meeting to discuss future plans for all of our youth. The group is comprised of parents of current youth and those who are interested in planning for the youth. We have some exciting ideas and hope to put them into place starting in September.

Malissa Horton has volunteered to develop/find an appropriate curriculum for the older youth. She will also teach the class on the first Sunday of each month. We are looking for volunteers to teach one Sunday a month with the older youth.

We are also looking at other activities that would involve all of our youth. Please share or come to our meetings. We would love to hear from you.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Join us as we kick off a new Sunday School year! Children and youth will return to their Sunday School classes on September 13. If you know a child or youth who would enjoy participating, please invite them to join us. We'd love to welcome new families!

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Stay after worship for an Ice Cream Social! An ice cream truck will be on-site with treats for everyone. We hope you'll join us for a sweet treat and a time of fellowship together!

Ms. Marisa

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