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## VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal Presbyterian Church

**PASTOR'S CORNER** 

As we continue our journey through Lent, we are studying the spiritual disciplines. The first week we took a long, hard look at confession and we were challenged to look inwardly on our hearts with absolute honesty. Knowing that we are forgiven, yet we still must acknowledge our failings in order that we might grow into our relationship with God.

The second week we took some time to share different ways of reading scripture, praying and even meditating on God's Word. At the end of the message, we practiced the art of lectio divina – which is the process of reading scripture slowly, prayerfully, silently allowing God to make the agenda instead of oneself. You can find more information on the website.

Over the next few weeks we will look at prayer, Sabbath keeping and fellowship in the Body of Christ. As we do so, you are invited to take one of the many Lent devotional books that Dee Whited and Sally Kilpatrick generously donated.

I hope you can join us in person as we work together on both our personal relationships with our Creator as well as our relationships with one another and our community.

On Sunday, March 12 we will welcome Chelsea ...and Dee Whited into the Front Royal Presbyterian Church family. Dee has been attending for quite a while, along with her husband Michael. She sings in the

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choir and rings handbells and serves as liturgist. Welcome Dee! Chelsea is the daughter of Marisa Myers and the mother to adorable, jumpy AJ and shy and quiet Gracey. They attend with Marisa and have been volunteering in the nursery. Chelsea generously stepped up to oversee the REACH program and we are thankful.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Carrie



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The staff, board and guests are so thankful for a warm place to stay that is welcoming and convenient and the ruling elders are thrilled with how the year has been going. The last day will be the end of March and they have had an average of been going. The last day will be the end of March and they have had an average of 30-35 guests each night. The community has been so generous with donations of food and supplies, and the church has received significant donations towards the cost of utilities, including a donation of 100 gallons of oil!

The Session unanimously approved the forming of a scholarship committee that will receive applications for the Front Royal Presbyterian Scholarship Honoring Ava Bordner.

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Ava is a four time all state cross country champion, 2 time all state indoor track champion and 3 time all state outdoor champion and is currently ranked 3rd in her class with a GPA of 4.22.

She is loved dearly by the children here at FRPC as she leads them in Children's Worship. Her name was recommended by a congregation member who not wanting to be named himself, wanted to celebrate Ava's gifts, talent, passion, and commitment to the community.

Two scholarships will be presented, one to a student in need at each high school.

In order to fund the scholarships, we are requesting donations, in honor of Ava Bordner, that will then be given to the students the committee determines are the best candidates and are in the greatest need of financial support.

As we walk out in faith, certain of the financial generosity of the church and community, we ask for your support so that we in turn can support the students of Warren County, VA

You may support the fund by making a check payable to FRPC with "scholarship" in the memo line.

Juesdays during Lent Noon - 12:45

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This year, the Warren County Ministerial Association is working together to offer Lenten services for each week of Lent. We gathered on Ash Wednesday,



TOGETHER

here at FRPC for a time of reflection, meditation, and the imposition of ashes. Each Tuesday of Lent, beginning on February 28th, we will hold a brief worship service and lunch in the FRPC Fellowship Hall. Each week will be led by a different worshipping congregation in way of worship and food. Lunch will be a collection of soup, sandwiches and desserts. We will begin with a blessing over our meal and 15-20 minutes of worship beginning around 12:25.

FRPC will be hosting on Tuesday, April 4th and we will be serving chili, cornbread, and desserts. We would love your hands to help cook, serve and clean up our meal together. Maundy Thursday service will also be held here at FRPC on April 6th at 7:00 PM.







I am over the moon excited about this warm weather. The bugs are out early, Winnie spends more time outside and Jake and Lee are getting the church yard looking fantastic – I even saw Jesse and Mike (Pastor Carrie's guy) out there helping. The Girl Scouts are busy tending to the garden beds, I love the fairy lights.

Did you know the LOVE sign has gotten quite a few visitors? People have been seen stopping and taking their picture with it! Even Winnie got in on the fun.

A huge shout out to our guy Ron Harvey! The county honored him for his commitment to the community. Well deserved!





I'm not so sure about what Pastor Carrie, Usi and Ava are doing with the kids in Children's Worship right now, yesterday I saw them shooting flies out of straws and wearing shower caps on their heads. Their snack was Lice Krispies?!?! I'm looking forward to Palms and Plagues Sunday so I can see what they are up to.

So good to see Sherry back in church, that back surgery was

not easy ... good thing Clayton is so good to her along with the four-legged feline therapist. We had a wonderful celebration of life for Richard Christoph, so many amazing things he did and so good to hear Alex and Debbie share their stories. Debbie Young lost her mother this past week and I am keeping her in prayer, and she generously brought the flowers for us to enjoy in worship. But, so sad, my friends Joan Brubaker and Peggy Zinsli both lost their best kitties. That is a difficult and unique pain, I've been keeping them all in prayer.

That little AJ... he's a smart boy! I love that he says his greatest gift to the church is jumping, but he surprised me when Pastor Carrie offered to read the Bible cover to cover for them, and he chimed in and said, "maybe just a couple of words." Liam, Kellan, and Callum are going to have an amazing surprise in the next week when their dad returns after six months!

That Isabelle Evans, she is loving JMU and presented her request to Session asking if she could raise money for American Cancer Society, her heart is all about her grandfather and her dearest adopted grandmother Joan Bundy. She's having a bake sale; hope she leaves some behind for me.

I must fly now... Lent Together on Tuesdays allows me a few extra crumbs for my bat belly... hope to see you there.

Members and friends of Front Royal Presbyterian Church can now make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our church <u>website</u>. Stop worrying about weekly envelopes or mailing in special donations or ministry program fees. Instead, give a gift at any time (from any device that connects to the internet) using a current email and checking account/credit card. It's simple and secure. You can even turn your tithe into an automatic gift that gives when and how often you'd like with your own online donor account. Visit our <u>website</u> to see how easy it is!

We would ask that you take some time to consider your gift to the church to continue to do the good work we have been called to do.

Unfortunately, many of our bills continue such as internet to broadcast services online, utility bills, food for our many feeding ministries as well as paying our reliable staff and maintaining the church building.

Please consider one of the many options of continuing your pledge, and if you are able to, give generously so that we might continue to feed and care for those among us.

- You may give at our 10:30 am Sunday service.
- You may drop a check by the church office.
- You may mail a check.
- You may give online Dreeze it is a safe and secure site and is deposited into the church account.
- You may sign up for auto pay through your bank.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact **<u>Pastor Carrie</u>** or our **<u>church treasurer, Ruth.</u>** 

Volunteers Needed





March 30 When:

We are looking for a few people to help with meal prep. If you are able to take some potatoes to mash or carrots and onions to peel and chop, please stop by and let Pastor Carrie know.

Menu: Turkey Shepherd's Pie & Dessert

We will need help delivering meals, serving meals, and making desserts. Please see Randy Wertz or Pastor Carrie to lend a hand.

Cooks: Please arrive at First Baptist Church by 3:00 pm

**Delivery Drivers**: Please arrive at First Baptist Church around 4:00 pm to begin deliveries.

**Servers**: please arrive at First Baptist Church around 3:30 pm to pack and prepare the deliveries. Dinner Together ends at 6:00 pm.

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Sally Kilpatrick has been organizing, stocking shelves, and putting all the donations to good use.We have even given TWO baskets to thermal shelter guests that were moving into their first place of their own.As she is looking through items, she has some requests that we need. If you are out at Family Dollar, Dollar Tree or Big Lots, they all have fantastic prices.

- Bath Towels
- Shower curtains and liners
- Small skillets or small pots and pans
- Bed sheets- preferably full size
- Personal hygiene items

Reminder, We ask for new or gently used items.

Each month, we call the Phoenix Project and House of Hope to help with people getting their first place.



Volunteers Needed

REACH Bag Delivery: March 26th Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, March 26th, immediately after the worship service. Grab a bag or two at the REACH/Missions table right after service and help deliver to those in need in our community! If you would like to volunteer to deliver, please meet us after worship service in the Narthex.



REACH

Backpack Buddies meet every Thursday to pack at 11 am. What is needed for the month of March?

Chicken Ramen Doodles

The BPB continues to pack weekend food bags for 80 elementary students experiencing food insecurity from EWM Elementary School. BPB has a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who come pack every Thursday at 11 am. Volunteers are welcome to join me on large shopping trips to purchase the needed inventory that we use each week.

If you have any time on a Thursday come join us and thank you for supporting this wonderful and needed program.

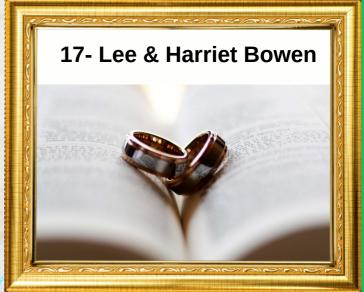
If you are interested in helping with Backpack Buddies, please <u>email Karen</u>.





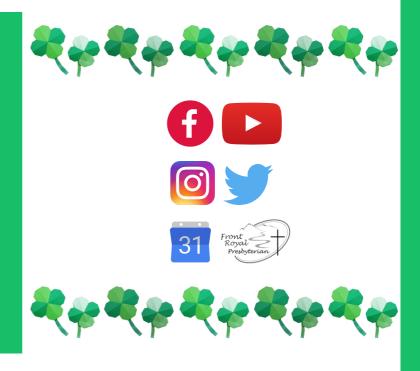
11- Usi Mix 16- David Edwards 19- Clayton Downs 28- Betty Powers 30- Peggy Zinsli





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Easily tithe with online donations and no longer worry about envelopes.



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