

| APRIL 2024 |



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church

DEVOTIONAL BY DEE

Worth all the Pain

It was dark. The garden was quiet and although He'd brought His best friends with Him — he was virtually alone. Although he'd asked them to stay awake and pray along with him — they fell asleep.

Jesus went a stone's throw away from his three friends and fell on the ground. He cried out, "Oh My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

He wanted to be comforted, but his friends slept. The same men that Jesus spent nights praying for could not stay awake for him.

He called out to the strongest, a fisherman used to hours of toil and labor. "Peter, are you asleep? Couldn't you have watched with me one hour?"

His agony was not just emotional and as he prayed for strength to fulfill the plan of salvation, "He was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood." ([Luke 22:45](#) NLT)

I have no idea how that kind of suffering feels. It was superhuman agony and none of us has been faced with similar pain — although each of us can recall when we've been in pain and wished to have it removed.

While reading about Jesus in the garden, I was hit with a somewhat flawed and typically human comparison for what Christ may have felt as he asked to be released from his promise to die for our sins.

It was 3 a.m., September 19, 1974, 50 years ago. There were some twinges of pain across my back and lower abdomen. Scott or Christy Denise was a little late in coming and I was more than ready to deliver the not-so-little bundle from Heaven.

My husband and I went to the hospital. It was dark and I was scared. Twelve hours later, my twinges were replaced with full-blown labor pains. I had decided against general anesthesia — which was very popular for deliveries in the South — and I was waiting patiently for my physician to give me the appropriate local anesthesia.

It was a small hospital and my obstetrician was in a solo practice. I could hear him in the delivery room across the hall coaching my labor room roommate of a few hours earlier through her birth.

I was in terrible pain. No one but my doctor could give me the anesthesia and he literally had his hands full. What little patience I had vanished as the pains increased. When I heard his kind voice assisting the other woman, I got angrier and angrier and found myself yelling at him to come and help me ... now! How dare he ignore me when I was in more pain than any human should possibly have to endure.

I honestly didn't think I could stand one more pain, but I did and it was worth it all. When I try to describe to Scott how much I love him, I sometimes tell him, "You were worth every pain."

Someday in Heaven, Christ is going to sit under a fruit tree with me and instead of dwelling on the sacrifice he made for me, the drops of blood he shed for me, and the pain and agony he suffered for me, he's going to hold out his arms, draw me close to his heart and tell me, "Dee, you were worth all the pain."



Dee Whited



SESSION Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 → 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Let's Dance!

featuring Martín Palmeri's Misatango, with orchestra

Friday, April 19, 2024

7:30pm

Front Royal Presbyterian Church

115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA

Sunday, April 21, 2024

3:00pm

**First Baptist Church
of Winchester**

205 W. Piccadilly St.
Winchester, VA

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:30pm

All Saints Catholic Church

9300 Stonewall Rd.
Manassas, VA

Sunday, April 28, 2024

3:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Church

9108 John S. Mosby Hwy.
Upperville, VA



BLUE RIDGE
SINGERS
2009-2024

Celebrating 15 Years of Choral Excellence

VIRGINIA
COMMISSION
Arts



Marion Park Lewis Foundation



Members and friends of Front Royal Presbyterian Church can now make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our church [website](#). 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 [website](#) 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 **breeze** - 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 our **church treasurer, Ruth.**



Music News



Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

As we move from the exuberance of our Resurrection Day celebration into the 40-day season of Easter, it's easy to lose our certainty and optimism. In fact, the Sunday after Easter is often called, "Low Sunday" as many people choose to stay home. For churches that follow the Lectionary, it's also called "Thomas Sunday" when we read about Thomas questioning the Resurrection in the wake of having missed Jesus' appearance to the others. It's easy to identify Thomas by his doubt, but perhaps we fall into the same snare when we quickly return to focusing on our circumstances rather than the hope that we so joyously proclaim on Resurrection Day. As life returns to a more mundane routine, we can easily lose the joy of Easter if we aren't intentional in our focus on and gratitude for the reality of the Resurrection. On April 7 (Thomas Sunday), the choir will sing an anthem that joyously proclaims our certainty and confidence in Jesus' sovereignty over nature and death itself. I chose this anthem as a response to the doubt that so often plagues us in a world of sickness and uncertainty. Enjoy the text below, and I hope you'll also be with us to enjoy this rollicking gospel anthem.

Refrain

Jesus said He was the Son of God.
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!
On this earth our Holy Savior trod.
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!
He walked the shores of Galilee.
He calmed the storm on a raging sea.
He came to set us free.
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!

Jesus made the blind to see.
He came and offered liberty.
Jesus broke and blessed the bread,
and five thousand then were fed!

Refrain

Jesus showed His power to save,
when He rose up from the grave.
Jesus came to conquer sin,
came to die and freedom win!

Final Refrain

Jesus said He was the Son of God.
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!
On this earth our Holy Savior trod.
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!
He walked the shores of Galilee.
He calmed the storm on a raging sea.
He came to set us free.
He died on Calvary,
then He rose for you and me!
Yes, He did! Yes, He did!

Heather



Faith Builders



March has come and gone already! The Faith Builders had a very busy and productive month. We spent all of Lent learning how to become disciples. We learned about the Great Commission. Jesus told his followers to **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you”** :(Matthew 28:19-20a). We learned many ways to share Jesus’ teachings with others in our daily lives. We looked for ways to share kindness with others.

As we were moving along in our journey, we continued to learn and say the Lord’s Prayer. We are proud to say nearly all of us have it totally memorized!

Have you noticed? We got new shirts that show our special Faith Builders logo. We are proud to be part of the FRPC team! Look for us on Sundays and at other church activities. We had a great time passing out the stones, palms and crosses before the service throughout Lent. We look forward to finding other ways to be a part of the church service.

We would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has supported our growing program. The children are truly benefiting from your assistance. However, they are also learning from your own kindness and discipleship. Our Bake Sale was a huge success. Thanks to all who donated items and purchased them, we made a grand total of \$300.00. The Easter Egg Hunt couldn’t have happened without the support of many. Thanks to those who donated treats, filled eggs and came early on Easter morning to hide the eggs! Also thanks to all who prayed to keep the rain away until after our hunt. The smiles on all the children were worth the work.



During April we will be continuing our Sunday School studies of Following Jesus. We look forward to some fun activities.

Coming Up! Game Night: Friday, April 12th from 6:00-8:00 pm

Please plan to join us. We have had lots of fun and are looking for more friends to be a part of our group. Bring a favorite game if you like. We will have pizza and drinks. Children, youth and adults are all invited. Come and bring a friend!





Join us for a family Game Night



FRIDAY
APRIL 12TH
Bring your favorite

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP HALL
DOORS OPEN AT. 06:00PM
GAMES GO TILL. 08:00PM

BOARD GAMES - CARD GAMES - GAME SNACKS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL: MBMEYERS18@GMAIL.COM
OR UESCARIZ@HOTMAIL.COM



EASTER
egg hunt



Volunteers Needed

When: *April 25*



We are looking for a few people to help with meal prep. If you are able to help, please contact Randy Wertz.

Menu: Creamed Chicken, Veggies and Dessert

We will need help prepping the meal, delivering, serving, and making desserts.

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.



Sally Kilpatrick just put together another basket for a thermal shelter guest that was moving into their first home! The following items are needed to restock our supplies. Family Dollar, Dollar Tree or Big Lots, all have fantastic prices.

- toilet bowl cleaner
- comet or ajax
- toilet scrubbers
- laundry detergent
- window cleaner

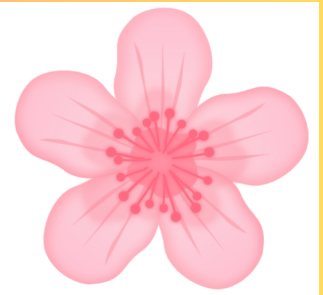


BEN LACY
COMPASSION CENTER

Each month, we call the Phoenix Project and House of Hope to help with people getting their first place. The Phoenix Project is looking for \$10-\$15 gift cards to the following: Martin's, Dollar General, and Family Dollar.



Volunteers Needed



REACH Bag Delivery: April 28th

Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, April 30th, immediately after the worship service. Grab a box or two at the REACH/Missions cart 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.



Backpack Buddies

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

Instant Oatmeal

The BPB continues to pack weekend food bags for 90 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 Karen 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 email Karen.



2024 April

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">CLICK HERE </p> | 1 | 2 | 3 Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Sunday School- 9:15 am Worship- 10:30 am | 8 Willow Rutz's Birthday  | 9  Session Meeting- 6:00-8:00 pm | 10 Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm | 11  Backpack Buddies 11:00 am | 12  Game Night- 6:00-8:00 pm | 13 |
| 14 Sunday School- 9:15 am Worship- 10:30 am | 15 | 16 | 17 Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm | 18  Backpack Buddies 11:00 am Marisa Meyer's Birthday  | 19 Blue Ridge Singer's Concert 7:30 pm  JP Thomson's Birthday  | 20 |
| 21 Sunday School- 9:15 am Worship- 10:30 am | 22 Catie Noel's Birthday  | 23 | 24 Bell & Choir Practice 6:00/7:00 pm | 25  Backpack Buddies 11:00 am | 26 Al & Ana Larson's Anniversary <i>Happy Anniversary</i> | 27 Marta Steane & Karen Young's Birthday  |
| 28 Sunday School- 9:15 am Worship- 10:30 am Margaret Smith's Birthday  | 29 Marta & Chris Steane's Anniversary <i>Happy Anniversary</i> | 30 |  | | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8- Willow Rutz

18- Marisa Meyers

19- J.P. Thomson

22- Catie Noel

27- Marta Steane & Karen Young

28- Margaret Smith

HAPPY Anniversary

26th-

Al & Ana Larson

29th-

Marta & Chris Steane

**FRONT ROYAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
115 Luray Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630
PHONE: (540) 635-3894
FAX: (540) 635-8585

EMAIL:
admin@frontroyalpres.org
Pastor Carrie:
pastor@frontroyalpres.org



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



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