



VINE & BRANCHES

Newsletter of Front Royal
Presbyterian Church

PASTOR'S PEN

What is in the Church's DNA?

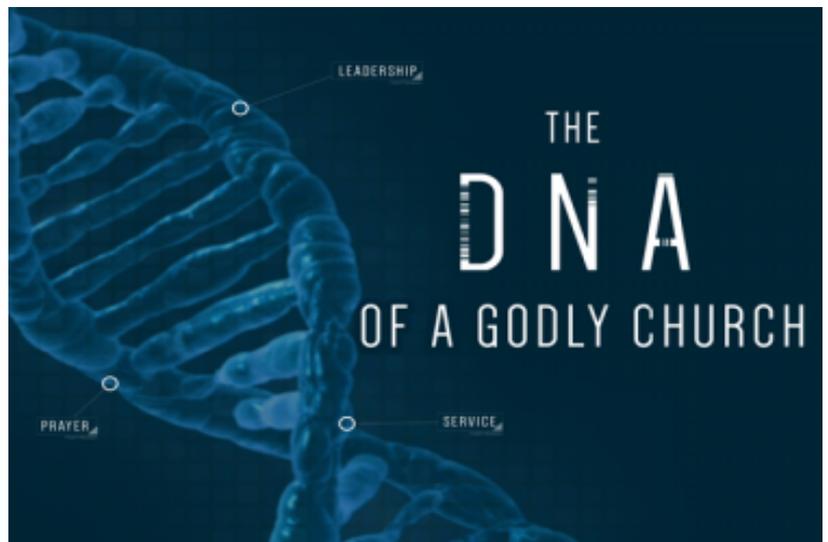
Who are we as the people of God gathered together, physically and spiritually?

There are plenty of passages of scripture about the Temple, what we now consider the Church. How to place the

candlesticks, what clothing to wear and not to wear, how to gather and how not to gather. As COVID has challenged our view of the physical church and as we return to a very different way of doing worship, it's also time we look introspectively, using scripture and the Spirit to guide us forward.

I'm not even sure I know what that looks like. I do know it looks different that it did in March of 2020. Somehow, we have morphed from a group of rag tag Israelites wandering the wilderness seeing God's very presence in clouds by day and pillar of fire by night to people who have normalized God to one hour a week on Sunday morning. What began as a place to keep the Ten Commandments safe in the Old Testament, oftentimes, we now view the Church as not keeping God safe, but ourselves.

When we get down to the very DNA of the Church, and more specifically, our church... what defines us? What can't be changed, but makes up the very core of who we are?



The logical answer is the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are nothing without that. But we are only bricks and mortar if we don't declare that to the community in which we live.

Sadly, sometimes I feel we have gone from keeping God safe in the tabernacle (as if God needs to be kept safe...) to not needing that physical tabernacle, or church at all. People find God everywhere – in nature, in peaceful meals with family, prayer with friends, comfort of strangers, the list can go on. In fact, Generation Z would tell you clearly that God is not contained or to be found in the Church... God is everywhere. And we would agree with them in concept, but do we live as if God is immersed in our everyday life?



I've been saying throughout COVID that we can't go back to the way it was. So, the challenge is, can we really imagine a different way of being God's people in this new normal?

There will be changes. Think before you criticize – is it critical to how we worship... or could it possible open up worship to someone new?

Consider the possibilities that what we do here in worship and as a church is more than just tradition or ritual... it is a constant conversation with God.

The Holy Spirit moves in creative and imaginative and often scary ways. Hold on... God has much to do with us here at FRPC – we just have to be open to the movement.



*Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Carrie*





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  **TITHE.LY** Innovative church giving - 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 [Pastor Carrie](#) or our church treasurer, [Deanne McVey](#).

Volunteers Needed

Dinner Together Opportunities to Serve in June: June 24th

Last month our meals were very well received and we even had a few guests come back to let us know just how wonderful the food was and how very much they appreciated it!

Special thanks to all of those who donated, prepared, and served the community through Dinner Together last month!

We need volunteers to cook at home (main courses/sides/desserts), 2 volunteers help in the kitchen (3PM-5PM), 3 volunteers to help with meal service (5PM-6PM) and 2 teams of 2 volunteers to deliver meals (4:30PM-5:30PM)

If you are interested in volunteering we would love to have you! Please, email Jill at missions@frontroyalpres.org.



FOR ALL THAT YOU DO

Thank You!

REACH Bag Delivery Opportunities to Serve in June: June 27th

Our next REACH food distribution will be Sunday, June 27th, immediately after the worship service. See Jill at the REACH/Missions table to pick up bags which will be available right after service until 2PM.

We are still in need of 2-3 teams of 2 to deliver a total of 11 REACH Bags. Delivery route information will be provided to you at pickup. If you would like to volunteer to deliver email Jill at missions@frontroyalpres.org.



Volunteers Needed

**Welch Community Garden Opportunities to Serve in June:
A huge "thank you" to every church member for their loving donations to the
Welch Community Garden!**

**There is about 1/3 of the community garden planted and we also have seeds
growing that will be planted soon.**

**We already have two community members enjoying some of the bounty of the
garden. They have been enjoying a drive-by meal of tomato plants. We are
happy to report that most of the tomato plants were spared! While we love
feeding the community here at FRPC we have put up a bit of deer netting with
the hope that the deer will come back later when there is enough to share.**

Opportunities to Serve in June:

**Do you love to be outside? Garden? Sign-up to water and weed the community
garden! Email Jill or follow the link below!**

**If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Welch Community
Garden email Jill at missions@frontrovalpres.org.**



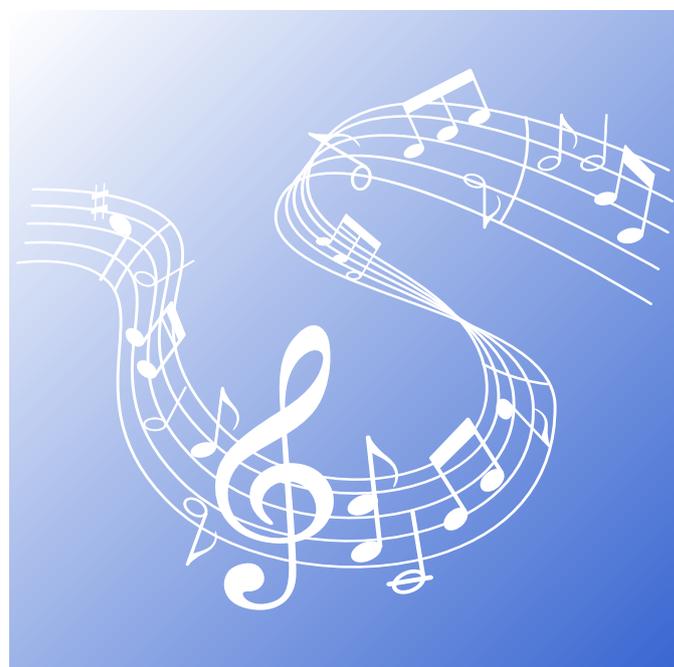


Music News



Join Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as we remember those who have died over the past year (plus) and recognize those who serve on the frontlines to battle COVID and serve those in need of care and treatment. Now through Labor Day, you can access a video of local organists and friends performing a concert to Remember and Honor. Simply go to www.winchesterago.com until September 6. (I've been told this video came out even better than Lessons & Carols in December, so you'll want to take the time to watch and listen.)

*Blessings,
Heather*





Babbette the Bat



From the Belfry

Last Sunday was amazing! I got to get a sneak peek at Ben Weddle here at church, he has been missed... does this mean COVID is coming to an end? I even heard Sally Kilpatrick our new member has been here and Ed Rutz sits with me in the balcony each Sunday – life seems a bit more normal.

Well, not for everyone, Lee Bowen is recovering at home from hip replacement, I overheard Sarah saying to Pastor Carrie that they were resorting to duct tape to hold him down. And poor little Jamison – emergency appendectomy! That's another one that doesn't sit still easily.

It was awesome seeing Heidi and Jo Rutz when Heidi was recording liturgy. I was quite jealous of how much attention Monty was getting from Jo! But I loved hearing about their soccer and softball teams. And everyone loves to peek in Pastor Carrie's office at Monty on Sundays, but nobody comes looking for me.

I've missed Misty this week, she and the family flew to Turks and Caicos and after much confusion, they were sent home – Turks and Caicos' loss! They rescheduled and spent a week in Belize! I'm looking forward to hearing her stories.

Mark and Donna Jordon snuck away to the beach for a few days, Mark has been so busy tending to his mom and preaching that they deserved a nice relaxing few days.

We have some college graduates! Congratulations... welcome to the real world. Lucas Dumez even had the opportunity to deliver a message to the graduating class at Virginia Tech – Debbie was glowing when she told us the story. Jacob Evans will be doing an internship this summer in Richmond with the State Police and Kaylee graduated James Madison.

Now... I'm anxiously awaiting these cicadas, I hear they are delicious. See you Sunday.

BABBETTE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1>June 2021</h1>			2 Phil Plew's 5pm - Dinner	3 5pm - Dinner	4 Larry & Linda	5 5pm - Dinner
6 Debby Lewis's 10:30am - Worship- 11am - Worship-	7 5pm - Dinner	8 5pm - Dinner	9 5pm - Dinner	10 J.P. & Millie Ron Harvey's 5pm - Dinner	11	12 Ed Rutz's Birthday Richard 5pm - Dinner
13 10:30am - Worship- 11am - Annual 11am - Worship-	14 5pm - Dinner	15 5pm - Dinner	16 Jason Horton's Karl Guthjahr's 5pm - Dinner	17 5pm - Dinner	18	19 5pm - Dinner
20 10:30am - Worship- 11am - Worship-	21 5pm - Dinner	22 Rachel Burt's Zach & Kara 5pm - Dinner	23 Jacob Evan's 5pm - Dinner	24 5pm - Dinner	25	26 5pm - Dinner
27 Jim & Debra L' Kevin Sparger's OUTREACH SUNDAY 10:30am - Worship- 11am - Worship-	28 5pm - Dinner	29 5pm - Dinner	30 5pm - Dinner			

FRONT ROYAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE FELLOWSHIP PICNIC LUNCH OUTSIDE ON FRONT LAWN



SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH

FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP AND ANNUAL MEETING

SANDWICHES, CHIPS, DRINKS AND DESSERTS
WILL BE PROVIDED AT NO COST.
BRING A CHAIR AND RSVP SO WE CAN ORDER YOUR LUNCH.

June Birthdays

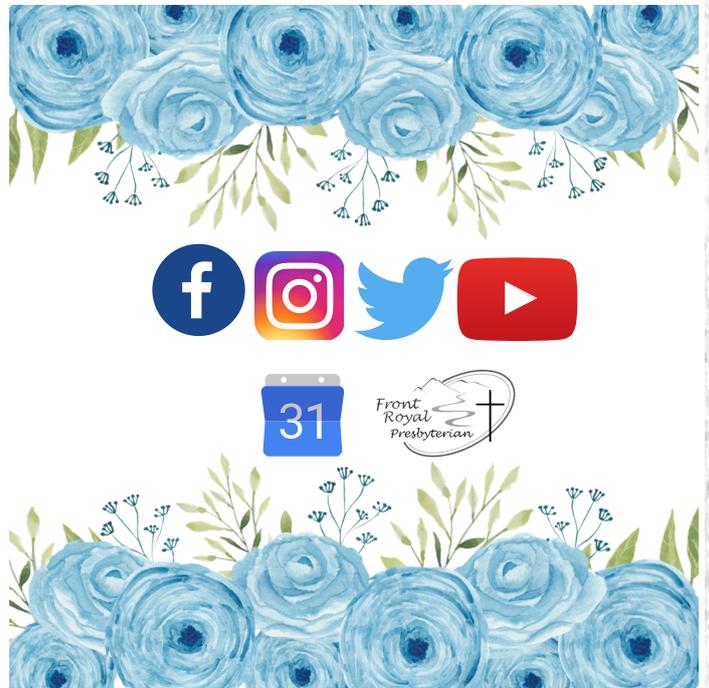
- 6- Debby Lewis
- 10- Ron Harvey
- 12- Ed Rutz & Richard Johanson
- 16- Karl Guthjahr
- 22- Rachel Burt
- 23- Jacob Evans
- 27th- Kevin Sparger

Happy Anniversary

- 4-Larry & Linda Funk
- 10- J.P. & Millie Thomson
- 22- Zach & Kara Logan
- 27- Jim & Debra L' Amoreaux

**FRONT ROYAL
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Pastor Carrie:
pastor@frontroyalpres.org



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



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