



DEVOTIONAL BY DEE

Two Roads by Dee Whited

When I was a baby, we moved to Earlysville, Virginia, where my parents bought a farmhouse and 80 acres of land. The proximity to Charlottesville made it easy for my father to do his chores before traveling to the University of Virginia where he was enrolled on the GI Bill. My dad loved poetry, something I didn't appreciate until much later in life.

Following graduation, dad was invited to teach English at a high school in New Market. He'd memorized many dozens of poems and was often called upon to recite at various programs. One of his favorites was "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost. I can almost hear him reciting this as I write.

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.



I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



Frost was not a professing Christian. So, the poem is not referenced for any super spiritual insight, but that what he says in the poem is true. There are two roads from which to choose. There are two paths. Two ways we can take. Matthew 7:13, 14, “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

And because of what Jesus did, we have a choice today. Think about the choices that Jesus made. He had to take both roads. One to Bethlehem and one to Jerusalem.

The Road to Bethlehem began before the foundation of the world. God had this planned from the beginning. 1 Peter 1:20, God knew when He created mankind that they would fall. He knew that sin would enter the picture. But He still chose to go through with His plan, He still chose to leave Heaven and go down the road to Bethlehem knowing it would lead to another road.

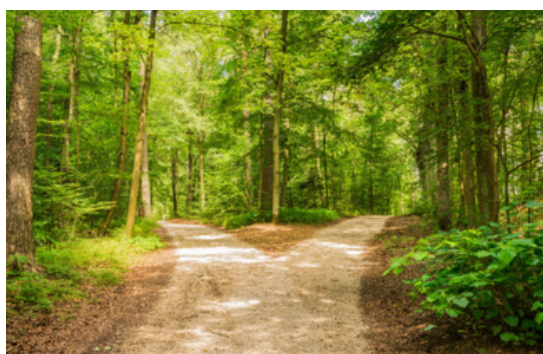
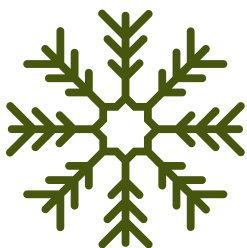
And there's a second passage about the other road to Jerusalem Luke 9: 51, “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,”

It was a long journey to Jerusalem. Jesus passed through different towns along the way. He healed the sick and the lame. He taught and preached along the way. He brought joy to many but anger to those who opposed him. And at the end there awaited a cruel death.

Both roads were a choice. He didn't have to choose the road to Bethlehem. He didn't have to walk the road to Mt. Calvary. But if not, where would you and I be today?

For you, reading this at the dawning of a new year. “Choose you this day whom you will serve,” Joshua 24:15. There are two roads before us. And there is a right time to choose. So, when is the right time? Now. Don't put it off. There are no guarantees for tomorrow.

There are two roads.





January

LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 21st
Immediately following Worship



Sign Up

Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 pm

Worship Committee Meeting

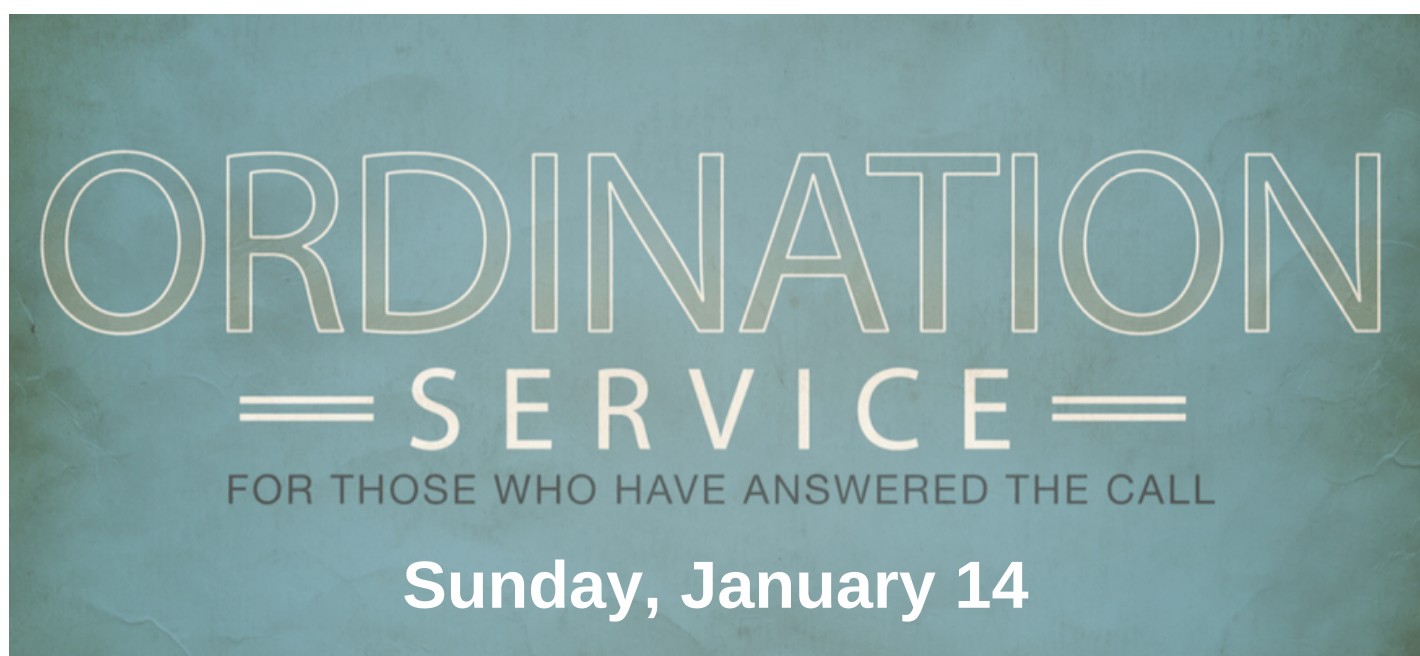
Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 pm

in the virtual classroom.

Music News

Happy New Year! I hope 2024 is off to a great start for you. A new year is a great time for resolutions, breaking old habits, building new habits...and starting new activities. If you've ever thought about joining either choir, now is a great time to do so. We meet on Wednesdays with bells 6:00-7:00, followed by vocal choir 7:00-8:30. We have a good crew of very friendly and encouraging people who would welcome you to our group. Please see Heather if you have any questions. Blessings on your 2024!

Heather



Sunday, January 14



Youth

News

Happy New Year

December was a busy and fun month. We learned about Jesus' birth through our activities. Some of us got to go Christmas caroling at the Hidden Springs Senior Center. The residents were happy to see us and some even sang along with us. It was fun to see their smiles.

Throughout December we practiced a special song with Mrs. Ruth. We got to sing it for everybody on Christmas Eve. We are very proud of how we did. Afterwards we got to have a party with Miss Ava and Ms Marisa.

We had great snacks, did a fun Christmas craft, and played games. We played pin the halo on the angel. Some of us got the halo pretty close. Others, well, the angel looked pretty funny with halos on her nose and on her ear. Our most favorite game was popping the balloons and looking for papers with the Christmas story.

We were all excited to spend Christmas with our families.

Our next adventure will start on January 14. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 and end at 10:15 AM. There will be two classes: Preschool-Grade 5 and Grade 6-12. All children are welcome. We are excited to get started!



Ms. Marisa





Front Royal Presbyterian Church SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us beginning on
Sunday, January 14th for
Sunday School!

**JAN 14
2024**

09.30-10.15 AM
115 Luray Ave.,
Front Royal, VA 22630

**ALL ARE WELCOME!
WORSHIP SERVICE
AT 10:30 AM**



**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME
FREE**



**GAME 6-8PM
NIGHT**
for kids & teens

**26TH
JANUARY**

Join us for games, snacks and pizza!

115 Luray Ave.,
Front Royal, VA 22630

childrensministry@frontroyalpres.org






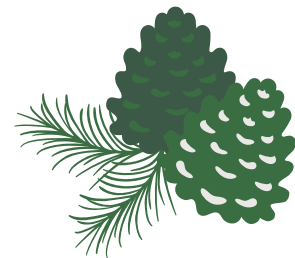
Members and friends of Front Royal Presbyterian Church can now make one-time or recurring gifts directly on our church [website](#). Stop worrying about weekly envelopes or mailing in special donations or ministry program fees. Instead, give a gift at any time (from any device that connects to the internet) 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** - it is a safe and secure site and is deposited into the church account. Innovative church giving
- 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 Younk.**

Volunteers Needed

HELLO
January



Dinner Together: January 25th

Meal: TBD



Kitchen Volunteers:

- We are in need 3-4 volunteers to help prepare, warm, portion and pack 180 meals for delivery and pick-up. 3:30PM-5PM.

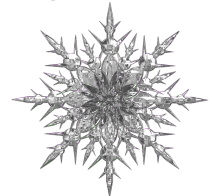
Distribution Volunteers:

- We are in need of 2-3 individuals willing to assist with handing out meals to community members from 4:45PM-6:15PM

Delivery Volunteers:

- We are in need of 2 delivery team(s) to complete delivery routes, 2 team(s) of 2.
- Delivery teams will deliver meals to our home-bound guests in Front Royal. Each route takes between an hour to an hour and a half to complete.
- Please arrive at Front Royal First Baptist at 4:30PM to pick up meals and a delivery route sheet.

Please contact [Randy Wertz](#) if you are able to volunteer.



Ben Lacy Compassion Center

As a result of your donations, we have been able to provide 13 Welcome Home Baskets to neighbors in our community emerging out of homelessness. The average cost to assemble each one of these baskets, at full price without your donations of new or lightly used items, is between 50-75 dollars each. With your help and donations, we have been able to make the baskets for about 20-40 dollars each.

We are seeking donations of:

- **NEW BED SHEETS (FULL SIZE)**

Looking for other ways that you can help? Email us at admin@frontroyalpres.org.



Volunteers Needed



REACH Bag Delivery

Our next REACH food distribution will be on
Sunday January 7th, immediately after 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 REACH bags,
please contact Chelsea Hall.



January



Fruit Cups



Backpack Buddies




Backpack Buddies meet every Thursday at 11 am. Please join us to help pack bags.
What is needed for the month of December?

Fruit Cups

As always, our goal for each item is to collect 90 servings!
Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

If you are interested in helping with Backpack Buddies,
please email Karen Heier.

JANUARY 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 Diane Straightiff's Birthday	3	4  Backpack Buddies 11 am Althea Harvey's Birthday	5	6	7 Worship- 10:30 am REACH Sunday
8 Linda Devor's Birthday Sallie & Bill Hall's Anniversary	9	10	11  Backpack Buddies 11 am	12	13	14 Worship- 10:30 am Katherine Sparger's Birthday
15 Jean Irani's Birthday	16 Session Meeting- 6:00 pm	17	18  11 am Backpack Buddies Charlotte Branson's Birthday Worship Committee Meeting- 6:00 pm	19	20	21 Worship- 10:30 am Christine & Kathyrn Guthjahr's Birthday
22	23 Sallie Hall & Ana Larson's Birthday	24	25  Backpack Buddies 11 am  Dinner Together 3:30- 6:00 pm	26	27	28 Worship- 10:30 am
29 Janet Jewell's Birthday	30	31				

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

EMAIL:
admin@frontroyalpres.org



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



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Front Royal, VA 22630