

the Messenger

† December 2019

... and he is named

Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty
God,
Everlasting
Father,
Prince
of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, NRSV

What Is “Advent” Anyway?

Advent is season leading up to Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from a Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming.” The season is marked by expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice, and yet carry the hope of deliverance by a God.

Advent is all about the hope that God, however distant God sometimes seems, will set things right. God will arrive on the scene to rule with truth and justice over all the people and even over creation itself. This hope goes back to the time of the ancient prophets, who longed for a time when “the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places made plain.” The hope is taken up again and again even to the present day.

In the season of Advent, we hear about the coming of the Christ-- not just once long ago in Bethlehem of Judea, but who will also come in final victory at the end of time. The same Christ comes to us now in Word and Spirit. The word “Christ” comes from Greek word for “anointed”. The Hebrew word for “anointed” is “Messiah.”

This year, the season of Advent starts on Sunday December 1 and ends on Christmas eve. During this season, let us prepare ourselves for what God has in store for us. As the scripture lessons tell the story first of promise then of birth, we can come to see how God comes to be born in us and among us today.

Here is a prayer that might help us shape a holy Advent for us this year:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One. Once again, we come to this time of Advent and await your presence. Give us the patience to seek the meaning of these busy days. Give us the courage to wait in times of pain and trouble. Give us the compassion to love for one another. Give us the faith to wait for the Messiah when we are threatened by the Herods of this world. Give us the hope to wait for the Savior even when we cannot hear the angels singing. Give us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbor. Amen.

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Grace and peace,

Rev. Steve Larsen

December Worship Schedule

December 1 Advent 1 Holy Communion Rev. Larsen
The Trouble with Waiting ~ Matthew 24: 36-44, Romans 13: 11-14

December 8 Advent 2 Rev. Larsen
John the Baptist, the Voice in the Wilderness ~ Matthew 3: 1-12, Isaiah 11: 1-6

December 15 Advent 3 Rev. Larsen
Tidings of Comfort and Joy ~ James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

December 22 Advent 4 Rev. Larsen
The Part that Joseph Had to Play ~ Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24– Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service ~ Listen to Christmas

7:00 p.m. Youth Service ~
Lessons and carols that bring us to the wonder and joy of Christmas

9:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion
Luke 2: 1-18
Go Ahead and Open It

11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion
Luke 2: 1-18
Go Ahead and Open It



Renew and Rejoice Campaign

On Sunday, November 17, the announcement was made that we have completed the active portion of the Renew and Rejoice Campaign to raise money for a new pipe organ. The campaign raised more than \$880,000 as of November 20. Nearly 70 committee volunteers contributed their time to the project, which resulted in 132 gifts and pledges from members and community supporters.

The Renew and Rejoice Campaign, launched in August 2019, aims to raise \$1,600,000 to replace the church's failing pipe organ, which dates back to 1930 and includes parts from the church's second pipe organ constructed in 1911. Age, failing relays and wiring, deterioration of the winding system in the console and throughout the organ, along with outdated technology, are major factors in the decision to raise funds for a replacement.

"The Renew and Rejoice Campaign has been a wonderful project for our church," said Rev. Dr. Larsen. "It has revitalized many connections between members, created new friendships, and helped us evaluate our mission and long-range goals. As we move forward in our fundraising efforts to complete the pipe organ project, we move as a stronger congregation in many ways." The campaign will continue to seek additional contributions for members as well as grants, community business and other sources over the next three years.





Greetings from the Calvary Weekday School! This month the three and four year old classes will hold Parent Teacher Conferences. It is a wonderful time to share the growth the students have made since the beginning of the school year. We will continue to collect hats, mittens/gloves, socks and underwear for CASS (Community Agency for School Services) until Friday, December 6th. Collection bins can be found on each level of the school.

This is a busy month for us as we begin registration for the 2020-2021 school year. We held our Open House tours in November and registration for currently enrolled families and church members will begin on December 9th at 8:50 in the activities room. Alumni families may register on January 6th and then we will begin opening up registration for families on our waiting list starting January 7th. To register and secure a spot you will need a signed and completed application, a copy of your child's birth certificate and the registration deposit and last month's tuition.

Tuition Rates for 2020-2021 School Year

3 days a week for 3 & 4 year olds- \$245.00 plus \$100.00 registration fee
5 days a week 4 year olds- \$325.00 plus \$110.00 registration fee
5 days a week Kindergarten- \$340.00 plus \$110.00 registration fee

On December 17th, the five day four class will visit the residents at Homewood. Angela Mayer, our music teacher, will read The Night Before Christmas and then everyone will enjoy a holiday sing-a-long. It is such a heart-warming experience for both the residents and students especially during this special time of year.

On behalf of the Calvary Weekday Staff we would like to wish you a safe and very happy holiday!

Patty Lockard, Director

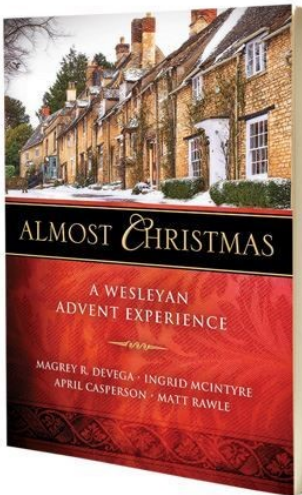


Henderson Settlement Mission Trip 2019

On October 13, a team of 8 people went to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky for a week long mission trip. While there, the team installed new LED lighting for the administrative building, replaced floor vents, painted several rooms, built growing tables for the green house, sorted clothing, installed chair railing and prepared a porch and ramp for staining.

We would like to thank the members of Calvary for their prayers and financial support.

Pictured: Bruce and Helen Sheppard, Andy Keirn, Kent Willets, Sue Howe, Sue Sarner, Mike Lennox, and Tom Candill.



The Open View Adult Sunday School class will be leading an Advent Study called *Almost Christmas* beginning **Sunday, Dec. 1** in the Activity Room (lower level) of the Education Building. Anyone is welcome to join!

Almost Christmas explores how we can make the commitment to the traditional advent themes of love, hope, joy, and peace and includes a DVD introduction, followed by a group discussion.

Contact Christy Mossburg at Christy@calvaryumc.org



VeggieTales Movie Night is BACK!

Friday, January 10, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

All children ages 4 and older are invited to join us. (Younger children can stay with a parent or guardian.)

Watch for signups!

Contact Christy Mossburg or Amy Stone for more information.



Next Mission: Sunday, December 15, 3:00 pm

Assignment: Caroling with the Youth Group at Northhampton Manor. This is a family event – all are welcome to join us!

Contact Christy Mossburg for more information.



CALVARY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 8
10:00 am in Parish Hall

Rehearsal 12/7, 10-noon

**Come see our Children's Sunday School
classes put on our annual Traditional
Christmas Pageant.**

All are invited!

ESCAPE THE CHILL AT

COOKIES & HOT COCOA

AFTER THE KRIS KRINGLE
PROCESSION



Friday, December 13

7:00 pm

Calvary United Methodist
Church

A decorative image on the left side of the section featuring several wrapped Christmas gifts in red and white striped and polka-dot paper, tied with white ribbons. There are also red and silver Christmas ornaments and green pine branches.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 21

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Join us for a pancake breakfast, Christmas
crafts, and a visit with Santa Claus!

RSVP online

**Calvary United Methodist Church, 131 W. 2nd ST., Frederick MD
301.662.1464 | www.calvaryumc.org**

Advent by
Candlelight
December 14
2:00-4:00



You are invited to attend an afternoon of fellowship and reflection as we journey together at our Advent by Candlelight event.

You are encouraged to host a table or be our guest as we listen to the wives of the Magi share their view of the event.

Each hostess decorates her table with holiday décor. Candles and music set the mood as we are still for a short time listening to the magic of Advent.

Tea and desserts are served by our wonderful United Methodist Men.

If you have any questions please contact Andrea 920-850-0958



Tour of Churches Help Needed! We need volunteers to make soup from 8 am-12pm and then to serve and make cookies from 4pm-9pm on Dec. 26. Additionally, we need greeters from 4pm-9pm. Sign up in 1-hour increments or volunteer for more time if you wish. This is great opportunity to highlight our church and our amazing congregation! Sign-up sheets are located at the welcome center or speak with Kay Jacobs, khirsch@capron.con for more information.

Bake A Batch



SAVE THE DATE!

Bake a Batch cookie fundraiser is Sunday, December 15. Please help support this event with your homemade cookies. Please drop cookies to church office anytime on Friday December 13 or Saturday December 14 by 9:30am.

Bake your holiday cookies, drop off at church and we'll assemble them into beautiful serving trays to sell on Sunday morning. Tray are perfect for holiday guests and parties. The proceeds from the sales of these cookies benefit Calvary member, Jenn Esler

**Questions? Contact Julie Schwarzenberg,
240-626-7666 or jds6148@aol.com**



Financial Peace University begins January 23 at Calvary!

Never worry about money again with *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! It's the proven plan to help you master budgeting, beat debt, and live the life of your dreams! Through nine lessons rooted in biblical wisdom, your FPU group will learn from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts. FPU includes your member workbook and other exclusive online benefits through a free year of Financial Peace Membership. For more information, contact Mark MacDonald. To register, go to:

https://www.financialpeace.com/groups/1103425c=ccf&cd17=b2ch_FP_Coord_3ActionPoint_190715



God is good ...all the time!

All the time ...God is good!

We hear this said as a greeting among Christians. It is a reminder that not only is God good, he is always good and he is ever with us.

This saying came to my mind recently out of a discussion with a member of Calvary. He was talking about his relationship with God and his practice of stewardship and generosity. For ease, I will call him Mike. Mike was working through his problem of how to allocate his finance in his life. He was trying to satisfy his needs of living in a world that demanded money toward food, lodging, insurance, etc. We all must work through that "living" stuff.

Mike, while in prayer, was hearing the voice of God. His prayers about his financial limitations and his faith living were often lifted up. He wanted to increase this year's pledge to the church by, what was to him a large increase. Mike had already committed to the previous Building Fund for the new pipe organ. Mike responded to the voice he heard in prayer. He committed to both in the amounts he wanted – even though this would clearly make him skimp on other things that he would have liked to have. Mike was giving back to God in an attitude of gratitude, and in a sacrificial way.

Mike's story could end at this point with his decision to respond in faith. However, God's ways are grand and our God has demonstrated through history to give beyond our own hopes.

"God is good...All the time!" At work, Mike was looking at his new medical plan for the next year. Putting pencil to paper to calculate his cost of his benefits, Mike realized the numbers were not the same as last year. An expected increase was in fact a surprising decrease. And, the decrease was exactly the same amount as his newly increased commitment to both pledges at the church. "All the time...God is good!"

Where has God shown you his love and care?

December Birthdays

1, James Gibson, Amy Jones, **2**, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe, **3**, Delphine Hamilton, **4**, Neidel Hamilton, Mikael Johnson, Maren Lyon, Morgan Lyon, **5**, Linda Watson-Higgins, **6**, Charlotte Auth, Earl Beck, **7**, Jim Hamilton, Christine Willard, **8**, Chad Ritterbusch, **9**, Caleb Benson, Gus Eversz, David Fish, Harper McCarthy, Riley Stone, Joe Ward, **10**, Yvonne Eicholtz, Penny Knapp, Taylor Matsler, Nick Schwarzenberg, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci, **11**, Preston Kinsey, Linda Reed, Sydney Tyler, **12**, Sandy Chaney, Audra Chewing, Curtis Fox, **13**, Elizabeth Anderson, Martin Rowley, **14**, Sophia Bostian, Laurene Carlisle, Amanda Lee, Rob Pond, Layton Rowley, **15**, Mary Caruthers, Makayla Sawyer, Thomas Shoemaker, **16**, Robert Keeney, Monica Pearce, **17**, Robin Duggan, Amanda Stone, Shane Wickline, **18**, Noah Benton, Brett Chaney, **19**, Deborah Fleming, Sarah Gray, Robert Sharpe, Kern Thornton, **20**, Jim Dobbs, **21**, Eleanor Bowersox, Paul Maubert, Taylor Rosen, **22**, Donna Bruchey, Abigail Colby, Bonnie Duggan, **23**, holly Martz, **25**, Bob Jacobs, **26**, Eden Kelly, Wilhemina Winkler, **27**, Kaitlin Herber, Gabriella Lee, **28**, Brent Moyer, Cora Vinar, Betty Waltz, **29**, Laurali Gough, **30**, Art Fennington, Cheryl Gray, David Lopez, Danielle Mentzer, **31**, Charlotte Elliott, Jack Willard.

December Anniversary

Mike and Becky Isaacs	December 4
Ed and Jennifer Kinsey	December 5
Jeff and Katie Grossnickle	December 6
Howard and Nancy Strine	December 10
Tom and Susan Burall	December 12
Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	December 29
Steve and JoAn Ehlers	December 30
Steve and Christy Mossburg	December 31
Ethan and Abbie Mueller	December 31



Wesleyan Circle Meeting
Tuesday, December, 17 at 1:30 p.m.
At the home of Jane Sowers

Every Week At Calvary

Every Sunday

8:30am—Worship & Children's Church
9:45am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00am—Worship
12:30pm—Children's Choir
5:30-7:30pm—UMYF (Youth Fellowship)

Every Tuesday

10:00am—Pastor's Bible Study
6:00pm—Gentle Yoga—Parlor
6:30pm—Dinner Theology
6:30pm—Joyful Noise Handbells
7:30pm—Sanctuary Choir

Every Wednesday

6:30pm—Men's Bible Study
7:00pm—Open Prayer & Communion

December Youth Schedule

December 8	Youth Worship Planning	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
December 15	Caroling and Christmas Party	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
December 22	Practice and Game Night	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
December 24	Youth Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
December 29	No Youth Group	

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 12: Youth Council Meeting
January Snow Tubing— TBA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Wheelbarrow 1	2	3 11:15 am UMW Ex. Committee 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Comm. Team	4 1:00-7:30 pm Blood Drive	5 6:30 Kitchen Committee	6	7 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 am WRS Bell Peal 10:00 am Prayer Shawl
8 10:00 am Christmas Pageant	9 6:45 pm Worship Committee	10	11	12 1:00 pm Mary Martha Circle	13 Kris Kringle Parade	14 8:00 am UMM Breakfast 9:00 am Bake A Batch 2:00 pm UMW Advent by Candlelight
15 Bake A Batch Sale 3:00 Mission Possible Kids Caroling Youth Christmas Party	16	17 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	18	19	20	21 8:00am- 11:00 am Breakfast with Santa
22	23	24 5pm Family 7pm Youth 9pm & 11pm Candlelight Services	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Tour of Churches Church Office Closed	27	28
29	30	31				

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Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.



UMM Breakfast
Saturday, December 14
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

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