

the Messenger

† June 2020

When can we do church again?

We all miss coming together. Perhaps you recall the words from the hymn:

*"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love,
the fellowship of kindred hearts is like to that above"*

It is good to come together to worship, to pray, to see one another, to be in community. As the weeks of staying at home continue, we miss each other more and more.

As of Friday, May 15, Governor Larry Hogan opened up some businesses and public spaces while other remain closed. Some of the recommendations involve religious communities gathering for worship. We are planning at this moment to have the buildings remain closed through the end of May. No decisions have been made beyond that date.

By the time you read this, the situation and recommendations are likely to have changed in several ways. The situation is fluid and dynamic as we continue to learn more about the virus and its transmission. One thing, however, should never change. The church should always be concerned with the well-being of others. One of the best ways to show love is first "do no harm." We will need to err on the side of safety, particularly for those who are most vulnerable.

We have been growing in our ability to do church ministry in new ways. Bible study, worship, prayer and fellowship activities are available in online formats and people are appreciative for what is offered. Some of what we are doing is actually reaching many people that were not coming to our building before the pandemic. Our online worship services regularly are getting more than 700 clicks or visits each week. We will continue to offer online worship and other ministries for the foreseeable future so that people can participate who may not feel safe to come to the buildings. Of course, not everyone can make use of these ministries, but they have become meaningful to many who do.

Continuous on page 2

I've been reading articles and emails and meeting with other colleagues about what might be prudent when it comes to gathering together and the use of the church buildings. As time goes on there will be ways that we may begin to offer services and other events in person. We don't have outdoor spaces available to do "drive up" worship in cars but it might be possible to arrange for the use of a parking lot for this purpose. I've contacted the City of Frederick to see about the possible use of the Bandshell for outdoor services this summer. (They aren't issuing permits at this time.) We will continue to consider these and other options including how to re-open our own facilities.

To this end, I am working with leaders in the congregation to form a task force to look at our context and all the key matters that will need to be considered before resuming in-person gatherings. This includes:

- Do church members feel ready and willing to return? (If no one feels safe to come, it doesn't really matter if the building is open or closed)
- Do we have the ability to sanitize the facilities adequately?
- Can we maintain appropriate social distancing?
- What worship practices will need to be modified or eliminated for the time being?
- What other programs can we provide safely?

(Can we, for example, provide Sunday School, Bible studies, weddings and other gatherings on site?)

Many of the things we've routinely done in the building on a Sunday morning in the past can actually spread the transmission of the virus. It is highly possible for people to unknowingly share the virus with others through public singing, using a hymnal or bulletin, the passing of offering plates, and conversation at coffee/fellowship time. Even though the sanctuary is large and would allow for adequate spacing, we have to consider how to adequately disinfect the pews and pew cushions, doorways, restrooms, handrails and other areas used by those who enter the building.

The bottom line is that we can be a witness and a sign of God's grace wherever we are. God is still with us, we are not alone. We are still the body of Christ and we are still doing the work of ministry, growing in our walk with Christ, offering care to those in need, lifting up hope, making disciples for the transformation of the world. So, we never stopped doing "church", we just shifted in the ways we do it.

Stay well and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you to bring you peace,

Pastor Steve

Do you have a sewing machine?

Frederick Health Center is asking the community to make 5000 surgical gowns. Please consider joining in this effort, if you can sew. Kits of five gowns can be picked up from the Development Office at 405 7th St., across from the hospital 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. week-days. Entrance to the area is from Toll House Ave. The kits come with cut-out gowns and elastic or knitted cuffs for the sleeves. Finished gowns are to be returned to the large cardboard box outside the same building. Please call Helen Sheppard(310-898-3464) or Alice Linton(301-473-4974) if you have question. We really need you!!

Face masks are still available.

Call Alice Linton (301-473-4974) to arrange for pick-up. If your mask is uncomfortably tight, you can cut the elastic or rubber band and insert a 36 inch shoe string or ribbon to make it fit more comfortably. (Pastor Steve says that if you use the shoestring, it's much easier if you first remove it from the shoe. Wanda pointed that out to Pastor Steve!)





Hello from the Calvary Weekday School!

As you know, we were not able to return to school for the remainder of the school year. Our staff and families were heartbroken but know it was the best decision in order to keep our families and staff safe. Our teachers worked together to create educational packets for families, continued to hold Zoom lessons, created videos, and tried our best to navigate these difficult times. We are all learning! I couldn't be more proud of our staff and families for working together. As we move forward we will continue to work with Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care, and recommendations from the CDC and the health department to make decisions for the next school year. It may not look the same but we will try continue to work hard to make Calvary Weekday School the best it can be.

As we look toward staffing for next year I would like to announce the retirement of Colleen West and Elaine Jachowski. Colleen has been the administrative assistant for twenty five years and Elaine has taught in the three year old program for twenty eight years. Both of their children and grandchildren have attended or continue to attend Calvary Weekday School. Colleen and Elaine have dedicated many hours and hard work to our school and most importantly have impacted our staff and families in such a positive way. They are both known throughout the school community and will be truly missed.

We hope your families continue to stay safe and in good health-

Patty Lockard, Director

Big Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to those who have been helping keep the grounds looking good. Thanks to Josie and Doug Manger who have been weeding and Helen and Bruce Sheppard who trimmed hedges and did other clean up. Thank to Bob Jacobs who has been mowing the grass. (See pictures and names of others who helped with the grounds on page 15)

Gnome More Quarantine

What have the youth been up to while we have been stuck at home? Well, we have met to check in, share concerns and God sightings, and play games. It is important in the midst of such strange times that we cultivate joy in ways we can. One of the new ways we will be spreading joy is through a silly sharing of a garden gnome named Egnoch (after one of their favorite strange Bible stories about Enoch in Genesis and Hebrews). Check out his adventures with them by looking up the hashtag #CalvaryUMCGnome. What are ways you are cultivating joy for yourself and your neighbors?



Zekie hopes that the Force---

I mean God--- has been with you during May (May 4th is Star Wars Day).





"God Can Do It: We Can Help" US.

Christians sometimes limit their thinking about "worship" as that time spent in church Sunday morning. We sing, pray, repeat the creeds, listen to Scripture, and are reminded of who we are through Pastoral care and leadership. With us in self-imposed quarantine gathering to worship is not available to

But why limit yourself to Sunday morning community worship? Worship should be incorporated daily into your faith life as a spiritual discipline. The same faith discipline as meditation and prayer are practiced disciplines. A practiced faith life with discipline is an ordered way of living that sets us before God so he can transform us.

To support worship as a discipline, there are things we can do to enhance the experience of God within our hearts. Learn to be still and open yourself to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Meditation is a time where stillness can be entered. Psalm 37:7 says "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him,..." and "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

Learn to practice the presence of God daily. Be aware, use all your five senses as well as your sixth sense. Paul says "Pray without ceasing." (Thessalonians 5:17) Cultivate the inner words of adoration, praise and thanksgiving.

Worship in all things and in all ways. Pew sitting is not mandatory. Give thanks for someone's smile or a white puffy cloud. Honor God at the family table, not just in grace over the meal, but in conversation.

Prepare yourself for the time of worship. Read the study scriptures ahead and meditate upon them. Pray for guidance as you enter or join the group. Think about what you will bring to God as your New Covenant offering and ask God if this is what he wants of you. Are you reflecting your blessings from God in your presence and gifts presented to God?

Enter with an open heart and a willingness to encounter God. This is call the proper attitude. Leave your own agenda in the car or at home. Think of some of your blessings received and acknowledge your dependence upon God's mercy and grace even more evident is this time.

Calvary's Graduating Seniors

What a strange time to be graduating from either high school or college. Who could predict something would cancel or postpone in-person graduations, proms, internship opportunities? And we continue to be without a full picture of when life will "return to normal." These graduates miss out on so much, but as I've talked to them they still are hopeful and finding the good in this difficult situation. Many are currently applying to jobs. Elizabeth Anderson wrote a heartfelt Facebook post about how even though she is missing out on some things, she is getting more time with her family before leaving for college. May we all look to find blessings in our lives even as we acknowledge our grief over what is lost.

Our graduates could use our prayers and support through this next part of their journeys. Below I have them listed by name so you can add them to your prayer list. Their emails and home addresses are listed too--- drop them a note of encouragement to remind them of God's presence with them and the love of their Calvary family! If you would like to "adopt a senior" and be part of a more concerted effort to show our love to these seniors, please reach out to revshannon@calvaryumc.org and I will give you the name of a



Kayleigh Adam

Graduating from
Heritage High School in
Leesburg, VA
Future Plans: *University of Delaware to study Athletic Training*
8 W Broad Way, Lovettsville,
VA 20180
winniekra@icloud.com



Elizabeth Anderson

Graduating from
Liganore High School
Future Plans: *Drew University in Madison, New Jersey*
10211 Allview Drive,
Frederick, MD 21701
eliz.anderson2001@gmail.com



Jake Chewning

Graduating from
Urbana High School
4230 Tabler Rd
Frederick, MD 21704

Molly Rhoades

Graduating from
Thomas Johnson High School
Future Plans: *Frederick Community College*
5541 Golden Eagle Road
Frederick, MD 21704
merhoades02@comcast.net



College Graduates

Rachel Gray

Graduating from The George Washington University
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Future Plans: *"I will be continuing at GW to pursue my Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, with a focus in fluid mechanics, thermal science and energy. My Ph.D. Project will be working on integrating renewable energy technology and storage into cities."*

3838 Triton Lane, Frederick, MD 21704
rachelgray97@gwu.edu



Mitch Holson

Graduating from Hoffstra University
Major: Film Production

Future Plans: *"My post grad plans are to stay in NYC to pursue a career in video journalism."*
2903 Greenhill Court, Ijamsville, MD 21754
holsonmitch@gmail.com



Reagan Kinsey

Graduating from Radford University
Major: Interior Design.

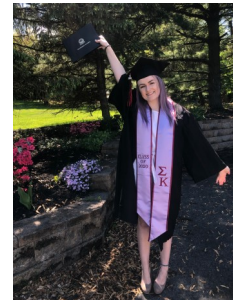
Future Plans: *"I hope to get a job doing Interior Design somewhere near Maryland and move in with my best friend Chloe."*
5011 Bob White Court Frederick, Maryland 21703
reagkinsey@gmail.com



Mary Grace Mayer

Graduating from University of Tampa
Major: Psychology, Minor: Art Therapy

Future Plans: *"I plan on staying in Frederick and finding a job I enjoy."*
8421 Aynsley Court Frederick, MD 21702
grace.mayer00@gmail.com



Elizabeth Rubie Meyers

Graduating from Penn State University
Major: Supply Chain Management and Information Systems,
Minor: International Business.

Future Plans: *"She will begin work for Welly as a logistics analyst immediately after graduation."*
8233 Fox Hunt Lane Frederick, MD 21702
rubiemeyers@gmail.com



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Caroline Strakonsky

Graduating from High Point University

Major: Elementary Education.

Future Plans: *"I am planning on being an elementary school teacher in Maryland or Northern Virginia (applying for jobs now!)."*

618 Taney Ave. Frederick MD 21702

caroline.strakonsky@gmail.com



Mikaela Vega

Graduating from the United States Air Force Academy

Major: Aeronautical Engineering

Future Plans: *She will be stationed at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas for one year and then will go on to pilot training for two years. She will find out which base next year this time.*

6703 Kings Mill Court, Frederick, MD 21703



Looking for Ways to Connect with your Calvary family?

Join our new Facebook group where you can share prayer concerns and connect with church members and friends. Search for Calvary UMC Frederick, Maryland Group on Facebook or contact us and we'll get you added to the group.

Our Women's Ministry Gratitude Group is another place you can join us. We share daily gratitude and joys, daily prayer requests, and share inspirational messages. All are welcome. Search for The Gratitude Café on Facebook or contact us and we'll get you added to the group.

Missing your Sunday School? Many of our Adult Sunday School groups have found ways to continue to meet online through Zoom and other platforms. Our youth group is also doing twice weekly Zoom meetups. If you have not connected with your group or would like to find a group to join, email Christy Mossburg (Christy@calvaryumc.org) to get connected.

The Asbury Class is meeting through Zoom Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. The first 15 minutes (9:45-10:00) are open for folks to join and chat (and overcome any technical difficulties). Then we have a check in where we invite everyone to share a bit and then Dave Herber leads a scripture based discussion. We encourage folks to have their bibles available. We invite and welcome anyone to join us. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82440352670>

Join us for our next online book study beginning **June 10** -

The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron. Don't get stuck on the word creative - we're all creative to some degree, whether it's in the meals we cook for our families, the organizational efforts we make for our jobs, or the way in which we approach difficult conversations - creativity permeates every part of our life. This book study guides you to connect deeper with your faith through creative expression. The 12-week study will meet via Zoom on Wednesday nights at 7 and have regular check-ins through our private Facebook group.

Email Christy Mossburg at christy@calvaryumc.org to sign up.

What is Zoom and how do I use it?

Are you wondering what Zoom is? It's an online meeting platform you can call into using your phone or an audio only option, but it is primarily a group video chat. Check out the Zoom instructions below!



If you haven't used Zoom before:

On a computer: when you click the meeting link it may prompt you to add the Zoom extension to your browser - this is totally safe to do. It may also just automatically ask for your camera and mic access - this is also safe! Once you grant access you will be connected to the meeting.

On a smart phone or tablet: when you click the meeting link it'll prompt you to download the Zoom app if you don't already have it. When it's installed, go back to the link and click Join Meeting, and it will automatically connect you.

By phone: dial the meeting telephone number provided. When it asks, enter the meeting code you've been provided for that particular meeting. We'll be able to hear you but not see you (like a conference call). It can be a house phone or flip phone, doesn't need to be a smart phone!

Once you have the Zoom app on your tablet, phone or computer, then next time you want to join a meeting on Zoom, you can open the app, click on "join a meeting" and enter the meeting code, and you are ready to Zoom.

*** Tips for Using Zoom ***

I recommend using headphones during the meeting - otherwise your computer hears your computer playing the sound of the meeting and then sends it out as what it thinks you are saying, creating an echo and sometimes a screech!

I also recommend learning about the Mute button. Zoom tries to pick up all sound going on around you - the dog's collar jingling, grandkids asking for a pencil sharpener, even the dishwasher starting a new cycle. If there are many people on at once this can get overwhelming. So if you're not talking, hit the Mute button (usually in the lower left hand corner of your screen) and it won't pick up on all that background noise.

Thank You!!

The church has received several phone calls to say thank you for the stuffed animals that were sent out to various members in May. Thank you's include Elinor Eiker, Nancy Dobbs, and Anna Belle Childers.

More Thank You's in the mail

Betty Rollins sent a little note— Thank you for the big “Hug” from my Calvary friends. I give my big bunny a big hug everyday. A lovely and loving gift.

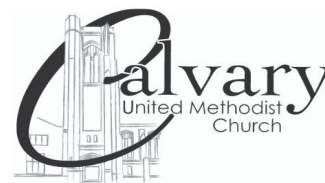
Norie Shipley sent a card— My Calvary family, You may think you know what the gift I received late yesterday afternoon meant to me-but you don't. So many bad things have happened in my life during the last few months that I am barely functioning. You saved me, my dear true faith family. I love you all beyond words. Teddy bear and hugs, and lavender, my favorite things, you know. How I miss you all and cherish you. Christ's Spirit lives in you and blesses me. Until we meet again...

Linda and Tom Mullineaux shared an update and thank you. Dear Calvary Friends, We want to tank you so much for the wonderful stuffed lavender cow, we were surprised with in the mail. He is adorable and such a comfort to have in our living room. We are raising two young steers now, and we do love cows. This Spring is trying for everyone and my operation just made it a bit harder. I am recovering so nicely and am stronger everyday. We wish all of you a blessed Spring!! We are so looking forward to be able to get out and come to church. We miss the Calvary community!

I don't know who to thank for this adorable, lovable, huggable panda bear, but it sure has made my day! What a caring act during such a stressful time (and thanks to the delivery people too!) Bless them everyone, Barb Piper

I received an adorable stuffed animal from my Calvary family. I don't know who sent it, but I am so appreciative of such a thoughtful and caring gift. I Thank you, and stay well
— Marietta Anderson

I am so grateful to Christy Mossburg and the give-a-hug project. I happened to know the recipient of the bunny I sent, but haven't seen her for a long time, so I added my name to the card. My church friend called in tears. Whatever joy she received has been returned to me tenfold. I am writing to encourage everyone to consider participating.—Gail Colby



Thursday Call 7:00 PM

Lunchtime Prayer Group

<https://zoom.us/j/94534936489>

Tuesdays at Noon on Zoom.

or call 301-715-8592

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/860345341> US Meeting ID: 945 3493 6489



1, Caroline Proudfoot, Meg Winter, **2**, Amy Duvall, Rita Sharpe, Jeffrey Tang, **3**, Cindy Mills, Gloria Tang, **4**, Rodney Hamilton, Emily Schwarzenberg, **5**, Katherine Hembree, Austin Keyser, Greg Shipley, Lois Tyson, **6**, Libby Hale, Christy Mossburg, Alexander Nazari, Joseph Polvinale, Kristine Schumacher, **8**, Katy Cosby, Linda Muehl, Dustin Newcomer, **9**, Cynthia Brown, Alexander Heller, **10**, Katie Flory, Quinn Mood, Grace Ritterbusch,

11, Anastasia Pard, **12**, Regan Forsythe, Ray Frank, Jesse Moxley, **13**, Elena Huss, Patti Rice, **14**, Stephanie Felton Clair, **15**, Ronald Fischer, Becky Kile, Donald Shoemaker, **16**, Ann Harper, **17**, Anne Mossburg, **18**, David Pard, Bruce Sheppard, **19**, Judy Johnson, Kevin Keyser, Caitilin Swartz, **20**, Beth Condon, **21**, Jessica Bernier, **22**, Ryan Willard, **23**, Zan Fleming, **24**, Stephanie Quigley, Natalia Rojas, Grace Sheetenhelm, Hannah Yeager, **25**, Janet Shoemaker, Amy Stone, Harper Sweet, **26**, John Ritterbusch, Joyce Summers, **27**, Noah Shankle, **28**, Lainey Davy, Savannah Muehl, Susan Sharpe, **29**, Kaye Chesemore, Karla Hembree, Madelyn Shealer, Andrew Tang, Beth Waskey, **30**, Todd Bear, Lillyen Elyer, Collin Stone, Todd Weedon

Vic & Rebecca Rohrback	June 3
Rodney & Delphine Hamilton	June 4
Chad & Melissa Ritterbusch	June 5
Bob & Constance Mason	June 7
Rick & Susan Miller	June 7
Bill & Linda Warehime	June 8
Kent & Andrew Willets	June 10
Mike & Carol Stockhausen	June 12
David & Pat Herber	June 13



Robert & Jennifer Bennett	June 14	Traci & Kevin Davies	June 22
John & Becky Kile	June 15	Joe & Ginger Ward	June 23
Scott & Mary Beth Pearce	June 15	Jason & Jennifer Aud	June 24
Frank & Beth Strakonsky	June 18	James Colburn & Patricia Sterling	June 24
Dennis & Ellen Ahr	June 19	James & Sharon Bear	June 25
Randy & Maryjane McClement	June 19	Carroll & Donna Kehne	June 25
Jeremy & Kayla Durstine	June 20	Dean & Maria Calcagni	June 26
Bret & Stephanie Slovikosky	June 20	Curtis & Janet Fox	June 27
Lindsey & Shelia Howard	June 21	Daniel & Lindsey Shankle	June 27
Don & Gloria Orrison	June 21	Don & Barbara Mentzer	June 28
Gary & Cynthia Brown	June 22		



On May 30th, Carroll and Nan Doggett celebrated there 75th wedding anniversary . We at Calvary wanted to wish them the very best.

Signs of Spring on Bentz Street



Garden Helpers:

Tom Mullineaux

Doug and Josie Manger

Jennie Davy

Melissa Rust

Becky Kyle

Bruce and Helen Sheppard



Calvary United Methodist Church
131 W. Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-662-1464

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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.



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