



# the Messenger

† July 2020

## Message from Pastor Steve

I recently came across an interesting article that looks ahead to what the virus pandemic may mean for us as individuals and for organizations like the church. The article is titled "Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization is Now a Startup" and was written by Andy Crouch, Kurt Keilhacker and Dave Blanchard. The article makes the argument that a crisis can be like a blizzard, a season or an ice-age, each with its own challenges.

A blizzard requires that life will be disrupted for a few days. Stores may close, road become inaccessible, and maybe power goes off. You prepare for an acute weather event like a blizzard or a tornado by gathering the immediate supplies you need and then find shelter. This is when we all tend to make a run to the grocery store for milk, toilet paper and bread. Winter presents a different sort of challenge. When you know it's going to be cold and the weather might be severe not just for a few days but for several weeks or months, you prepare by having the furnace checked out, bring in the outdoor furniture and bring out your warmer clothing. More than one blizzard may come along in any particular winter, but even if they do not, we have to change some of our expectations and behaviors to the changes that winter brings.

There is another kind of emergency that is represented by an ice age. The authors mention that 1816 has been called "the year without summer." The eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia led to a worldwide ash plume that reduced solar radiation that brought about widespread crop failures and colder average temperatures than were previously recorded. Frost events took place in Europe and North American even into the summer months that year. Scientists believe that this took place near the end of a several century-long reductions in global temperatures that has been referred to as "The Little Ice Age". Just as winter is a more chronic and long-lasting event than a single blizzard, an ice age represents a large-scale event that reshapes the climate for several successive seasons. The impact of even a "little ice age" will impact human life and culture for decades or even generations.

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The authors argue that the pandemic is more of an ice age event than a blizzard. Back in mid-March, when the schools closed down and the church and many other businesses shut their doors, the hope was that this would be for a few weeks. We are now past three months. We have done a remarkably good job of sheltering in place and “flattening the curve”, wearing masks and practicing social distancing. But we all have a bit of pandemic fatigue. We’d like to go back to the way things were before. However, what we are living through is more of a long-time disruptive change on the order of an ice-age than a short-live emergency or a seasonal condition. The virus is not tired. We have no vaccine. There are no effective medicines for treating the disease. Herd immunity is a long way off.

Over the next 18 months or more, we are going to have to find ways to address the massive loss of jobs. We are going to have to find ways to care for young children who are still at home and provide meaningful education to those both in schools and in colleges and universities. We are going to have to find ways to connect with the elderly who are most vulnerable and are cut off from physical contact with their family and friends. We are going to have to find ways to connect with one another while still doing those things that can limit the spread of infection.

In a very real sense, we are facing blizzard, winter and ice-age conditions all at the same time.

For the church, the mission has changed and also remained the same. We continue to seek out and invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world. But now the focus is on offering a beacon of light to people here in Frederick. We can offer hope to those who are feeling restless or gloomy. We can offer encouragement to those feeling isolated or uncertain about tomorrow. We can remind people that God is with us in the difficult times as well as in the times when things are easy. And we can offer a message that is trustworthy and true rather than confusing or overly optimistic.

This can be an important time to be the church, not just for ourselves, but for everyone.

-Pastor Steve

## From Pastor Shannon

Three months. Pastor Steve just reminded me that we have been out of the church building as long as I was out on maternity leave. Zekie is seven months old and three times his birth weight. He loves reading and being outside. He loves our dog and cats. He does not love naps currently, which is less fun for me. And every single day I give thanks to God for him. Our lost babies taught me how to love extravagantly, even for the short time I was pregnant with each of them, but with Zekie I can see him responding to that love with laughter and snuggles, happily kicking feet and still a little clumsily reaching hands. It's like a song we sing together: Aaron and I sing a few bars and he adds in the harmony, music swelling to fill the house. And then he takes over the melody and we add in the harmony, watching in delight as he learns new things. It's a continual call and response relationship, like ours with God.

God loves us extravagantly, far more than a parent ever could and with patience humans just can't master. And God is forever calling us to live in love. When we respond to love with love, love grows, the way music builds toward that chorus one enjoys belting out. God calls, we respond, over and over, and love keeps growing.

As I consider that love growing in my relationship with Zekie and with God, I've also been thinking about the state of the world we've been living in, especially these last three months. How can we love well when we are still so distant, isolated? How can we love well when the problems of the world are brought into such sharp relief as they were when George Floyd was murdered and as 38.6 million Americans filed for unemployment, and as countries like Yemen struggle to survive the pandemic alongside violence and poverty? God doesn't give us an exact answer. But I think our love must start with empathy, listening to the voices of those hurting most. Our love must start with nurturing, doing what we can to help those we can. Our love must start with recognizing that we are a family.

Extravagant love never runs out. As we respond to God, we are helping love grow. It is hard work, but it is beautiful!

Pastor Shannon



### Celebrating Pentecost

Zekie on his first Pentecost, celebrating the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The third is a picture of Zekie enjoying our beautiful town. He is 7 months old now. We miss you all and pray God's blessing upon you.

**July / August Upper Room's are available!**

**Please contact the church office if you would like one mailed to you.**

**office@calvaryumc.org or 301-662-1464**

***We're All in this Together***

**Calvary UMC– Frederick**

**Blood Drive**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2020**

**1:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

**Contact Eric Anderson for an appointment– [eric.anderson3@redcross.org](mailto:eric.anderson3@redcross.org)**





... with liberty and justice for all!

Thus we concluded, in my childhood, as we began each school day with the pledge of allegiance to our nation's flag, "and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, ..." I think of this as we observe (or once did, at least) Flag Day on June 14th.

This year's observance of that day, however, comes at a time when our nation seems bitterly divided politically and reeling in despair from the effects and remaining threat of the Covid-19 virus, its devastating effects on our economy and employment, and a yet another series of tragic killings reflective of racial injustice, followed by mass protests for justice across our nation. As the month of June concludes, we observe again the Poor People's March on Washington DC, inviting attention to economic injustices that continue to pervade our society. The combination of these events reveals once again the systemic vulnerabilities of different communities of our nation's population to injustice and discrimination based on race and ethnicity alone. Let us also not forget that June was Gay Pride month, in recognition of injustices experienced by brothers and sisters based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. And, yes, there remain issues of gender discrimination in the workplace that need to be addressed.

We are a nation of laws and our ideals embrace the concept of equal justice under the law, as noted over the entrance to our Supreme Court. Yet, as historian Jon Meacham reminds us in his book *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*, these ideals have been far from achieved in our nation's history. He reminds us in that writing, however, that we have always been a nation of hope when faced by the adversities of our actions or those imposed on us by others, hope as is illustrated in the peaceful civil rights protests across our nation in recent days and weeks. As in times past, we are hopeful that new or modified laws and policies can address issues of systemic injustice in our society, that once again "our better angels" will prevail, as President Lincoln referred to in his first inaugural address. However, as Christians we also know that laws and policies alone will not bend the moral arc of the universe sufficiently towards justice, any more than the Mosaic Law did for the ancient Hebrews. Rather, as the prophet Isaiah foretold (Is 42:1) and Jesus fulfilled (Lk 4:16-21; Mk 12:28-31), God's love and sense of justice must be implanted in our hearts for that to be ultimately achieved.

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As this newsletter is received, we will be celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our nation's birthday. May we take a few moments to pause in that celebration, however it may be observed in our "new normal" circumstances, to remember the ideals for which our nation was formed and to pray for God's healing where it is needed and God's support and guidance as we seek to achieve, through love of God and our neighbor, liberty and justice for all.

Paul D. Nelson, Chair

Church and Society Ministry Team



Greetings from the Calvary Weekday School!



Summer has arrived. We have been busy cleaning and sanitizing the school as well as cleaning out closets and making room for the new materials we were able to purchase using the MSDE Textbook Grant. We are very fortunate to receive this grant which enables us to purchase books and instructional materials for our school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Olivia Watkins to the Calvary Weekday School staff. Olivia will be the new administrative assistant and comes to us from the Children's Center in Damascus. She has many years of experience in Accreditation, Ex-cels, Office of Child Care and most importantly working with children and families. We are very excited she is joining our team!

Over the next two months I will continue to work with MSDE, Office of Child Care, local directors in the community, as well as my staff as we look to open in the fall. There are still many unanswered questions, but we continue to stay hopeful. We continue to remain flexible since the regulations and guidelines change as we navigate the different phases of re-opening. Our goal will be to provide a learning environment where staff, students and family feel safe while offering a strong educational program.

Stay safe and be well-

Patty Lockard, Director

**Compassion Camp: Be loved. Be kind.  
Be you.**

**July 6th-August 6th online**



Join us for Compassion Camp: Be Loved, Be Kind, Be You! We are hosting a completely virtual Vacation Bible School this summer. The theme will be Compassion: for others, for ourselves, and for the world. Interactive video presentations will introduce a new idea each Monday, and there will be opportunities for art, crafts, and other activities using a few simple supplies, and more!

This event is FREE, and we would love for you to join us, wherever you are!

#### FAQs

**I see that it goes on for a month. How will that work?** Great question! Everything is taking place in a private Facebook group made just for this event. The week before the program starts you will receive an email with a link to the group, where you can request to join. There are five sessions in this program, so each session will span 3 days. Interactive videos will introduce a new idea/session every Monday, and you and your kids will have the week to complete the crafts and activities. Your family will be able to participate at your own pace. There will also be chances to share our art with everyone!

**What if something happens and we miss a couple of days or a week?** Not a problem! All content will remain in the group for the duration of the event for you to visit as you're able.

**Can I invite my friends and family with kids?** Absolutely! This is open to all kids and kids at heart. The more, the merrier!

Register at this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/7f8134>



We believe when we respond to God's call to partner with him in his kingdom work, he provides us the means to support our effort in his work. God gives us the talent, ability, time and resources. God has also given us grace in our hearts to be motivated to act generously. This attitude of generosity allows us to utilize what he has given us. Without grace, all that we have and all that we are is a waste.

Without the grace from God that bursts from your heart, the attitude of generosity of biblical proportions would only be a reflection of greed, self-centeredness and the lack of concern for others. This is starkly different from a Christ like attitude portrayed in the Sermon on the Mount.

We can remember when we were lost and not a child of God. Any generosity was hidden and paltry. God sent Christ to show us the depth of his love for us, to forgive us by his grace (generousness). Only God could do this indwelling of your heart for we have no self-will to do it, nor the purity of heart to do it. In 2 Corinthians 8:8-12, Paul reflects upon this as well as our needed response to God's grace. Paul writes "test the sincerity of your love" in the way we reflect God's grace. Paul wants us to remember what Christ gave up, "...he was rich... for our sakes he became poor..." Christ in sacrificial giving is the supreme example for us to follow in our lives.

To reflect God's grace, Christ points to the sacrificial attitude that our faith calls us to hold in our heart. We must assume a receptive attitude to God and allow his Spirit to enter. Then we are able to act.

Paul in verse 11, recognizes that God gives, by his grace, different kinds and amounts of the means to respond to his generosity. The means given should in turn be expressed by our actions demonstrating our own generosity, "...according to your (own) means..." God calls us to give **all**. What God is asking is that we give all of ourselves.

To have a heart attitude that is turned to God in faith, is the true response of faith in God. Giving generously is a sacrifice of what we have at our means and not out of what we do not have. As we have that attitude of generosity, and act to completion out of scarcity we have fulfilled God's call. We can then claim the promised rewards in heaven.



## **Task Force on Re-Entering the Church Safely**

We are discussing ways to re-enter the church building and offer ministry in person. We will continue to offer worship and other ministries online for everyone to use for the foreseeable future. We are pleased to see that we continue to have six hundred or more connect with the online worship services each week. This is an important way to connect and continue to be the church for those who do not feel safe coming to the buildings or live some distance away.

Some churches in Frederick County, including some United Methodist Churches, have started offering outdoor services. Some are looking at using a fellowship hall as a space for worship. The Task Force sent out a survey to let church members and friends know we are looking at several options and wanted to know the interest people have around each option. The results show a preference for an outdoor option while still providing an online worship experience. The task force will continue to plan and invite you to let us know what will work best for us as a congregation. We can expect to be offering multiple options and to make adjustments regularly over the weeks and months ahead.

We are looking closely at what state and local government advise as well as what other churches are doing. We will want to be flexible while always working to provide a safe option that works for everyone. This is all new for everyone, but we can work creatively to find workable answers to the challenges before us.

### **Thank you!!**

Please thank Abigail and my Calvary family for the stuffed river otter. He is where I can see him everyday and remember how blessed I am.

Also, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and words of hope while Bob was sick and after his passing. -Doris Keeney

I don't know who to thank for the adorable animal I received from Calvary. It was so thoughtful and it made my day. Thanks again, Vivian Clipp

What a surprise I had after receiving a package in the mail, opening it and discovered I had a "warmer dog" sent to me by my Calvary church family. How nice! I love it!

As it helps to keep me warm, I will always remember the thoughtfulness, kindness and warmth of my church family.

In appreciation with God's blessings for all. -Lois Tyson

Shirley Lakel received her bear and loves it. She thought it was a wonderful way to remember folks that can't attend Calvary in person. It reminds them that they are still thought about. Eleanor and Christine Bowersox both received their animals and appreciate being remembered by Calvary. -Helen Sheppard

## **How is the church doing financially?**

You may be wondering how the church is doing financial since we have moved to online and virtual ministry. We applied for and received a PPP grant through the federal CARES Act. This allowed the church to continue to pay salaries and benefits to church employees as well as Calvary Weekday School employees for the 56-day period ending June 12. This funding was received as forgivable loan. Since March, we have cut expenses in various ways including reducing heating and cooling, discontinuing our contract for custodial work in the Education Building and ordering virtually no materials or supplies. At the same time, many of you have continued to fulfill your pledge and contributions to the church. Some have even made additional gifts to the church to help get us through this time of uncertainty. The Committee on Finance continues to watch our expenses and income closely as we begin the summer and look to the fall.

As of the end of May, we have received \$263,882 in income or 37.8% of our budgeted income for 2020. We have spent \$264,697 in expenses or 37.9% of our budgeted expenses for the same period. Our giving towards conference apportionments is down but we hope we might be able to increase our payments towards this as the year progresses.

We also wish to encourage those who have made a pledge to the organ fund continue to give as you are able. We have begun discussions with an organ manufacturer around specific designs, a timetable and price for a new instrument. The hope is to be able to move forward and share these plans with the congregation in the coming weeks.



**Lunchtime Prayer Group**  
Tuesdays at Noon on Zoom

**Evening Prayer Group**  
Thursdays at 7PM on Zoom

**See below for link and call-in info**

Tuesday Afternoon Prayer

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/860345341?  
pwd=bkZwVldsZGRWc2Q1dIZwcTR1aHJqZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/860345341?pwd=bkZwVldsZGRWc2Q1dIZwcTR1aHJqZz09)

Meeting ID: 860 345 341

Password: Calvary

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,860345341# US (Germantown)

+16513728299,,860345341# US (St. Paul)

Thursday Evening Prayer

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82350140354?  
pwd=SjZmYS9uM3VPcVRtWE1EajB6NGJKZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82350140354?pwd=SjZmYS9uM3VPcVRtWE1EajB6NGJKZz09)

Meeting ID: 823 5014 0354

Password: 1234

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82350140354# US (Germantown)

+16513728299,,82350140354# US (St. Paul)



# Frederick Anti-Racist Reading Group

**2nd & 4th Thurs.  
from 7:30-8:30  
on Zoom**

**Or check out the  
Facebook Group**

Pastor Shannon invites you and any other Frederick friends to join a reading group designed to help us learn more about racism and do some things to combat it together. In July our schedule will be:

July 9: a short article by Peggy McIntosh called "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," which you can find here: [https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ivBxQXIk3hIOUEeP9MDoG35h1ggYxW\\_Onlb050t\\_e7-BVQb88n-O3s3k](https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ivBxQXIk3hIOUEeP9MDoG35h1ggYxW_Onlb050t_e7-BVQb88n-O3s3k)

July 23: The beginning of Ijeoma Oluo's book *So You Want to Talk about Race* (available through the library as well as in bookstores)

Introduction-Chapter 5

August 13: Ijeoma Oluo's book *So You Want to Talk about Race* Chapter 6-Chapter 11

August 27: Ijeoma Oluo's book *So You Want to Talk about Race* Chapter 12-Chapter 17

Follow along with us and join the conversation on Zoom or on Facebook (search Frederick Anti-Racist Reading Group). In September we will watch a video and read a novel before turning to *How to Be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Drop in on any part of the conversation.

## July Birthdays

1, Lucille Etzler, Ethan Simpson, Pat Staggs, Carter Vinar, 2, Isaac Benson, Adryana Slovikosky, Lindy Witmer, 3, Suzanne Duvall, Michael Rust, Linda Schmeltz, 4, Virginia Edmonston, Katie Lopez, Blake Rosen, Rylee Rossman, 5, Christopher Blackledge, Marilyn Moyers, Margaret Selby, 6, Madi Davies, Luci Palmer, 7, Shirley Lakel, Jane Shafferman, 8, Becky McKinnon, Abel O'Toole, Eduardo Valentin-Morales, 9, Joann Crum, Bob Mason, Caitlin Perry, Julie Schwarzenberg, Nickolas Twilley, 10, Linda Bennett, Gwyn Sewell, 11, Marley Crum, 12, Angie Anderson, Wyatt Greaves, Deborah Hammond, Cynthia Yeager, 13, Ronda Dudley, Page Fox, Betty Rollins, 14, Christopher Howard, Mary Pfister, 15, Molly Rhoades, Caitlyn Wilson, 16, Savannah Buchanan, 17, Mary Boyer, Anne Gray, Allison Rossman, Candace Whiting, 18, Carol DeLaski, Sara Dragan, Donald Linton, Emma Livingston, 19, Sebastian Duthoy, 20, Steve Ehlers, 21, Michael Karl, Jonah Milam, 22, Brent Paugh, 23, Maria O'Toole, Don Orri-son, 24, Thomas Mullineaux, William Shiflett, 25, Michael Hahn, Jack Heller, Rebecca Rohrback, 26, Jack Almeida, Malachi O'Toole, 27, Ben Davies, Brianne Paugh, William Selby, Kelsey Sunderman, 28, Keith Krause, 29, James Colburn, Alice Zalatoris, 31, Ricky Munday, Carol Officer, Allyson Sewell, Daniel Shankle, Liberty Stottlemeyer



## July Anniversaries



Jeff and Amy Stone	July 1		
Zan and Deborah Fleming	July 3		
Eric and Angie Anderson	July 5	Bruce and Helen Sheppard	July 12
Scott and Linda English	July 6	Andrew and Amanda Radcliffe	July 14
Isam and Katie Ballenger	July 7	Andrew and Carol Keirn	July 15
Christian and Lori Leber	July 8	Sam and Kate Mills	July 16
Jeffrey and Alice Zalatoris	July 8	Jonathan and Alison Massey-Sunderman	
Ralph and Michele Lopez	July 9		July 18
Carl and Linda Reed	July 11		

**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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