



the Messenger

✠ August 2020

From Pastor Steve

During the summer, Rev. Sullivan and I have been using the Revised Common Lectionary to shape the worship and preaching each Sunday. Each week, there are three scripture lessons that are provided for use. The readings don't typically connect thematically. They simply are the next portion of scripture that has been selected from the Old Testament, the Gospel and the Letter of the New Testament. The preacher can choose which scripture lesson to focus on for the day.

This summer the readings from the Old Testament run from Genesis through Exodus. During July, Shannon took on the story of Jacob and Esau. On the Sunday that followed, I had a choice between a parable of Jesus and the story of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:10-19a. I chose to preach on the parable, but there is something I'd like to lift up from the passage in Genesis, so here goes...

Briefly the passage goes like this. Jacob has tricked his father into giving him the blessing that would have gone to his older brother, Esau. Then he hightails it out of town to escape his brother's anger. On his journey, he spends the night in the wilderness sleeping on the ground and using a stone for a pillow. That night he had a dream. He saw a "raised staircase" or "ladder" with angel messengers ascending and descending on it. This passage is the basis of the old African-American spiritual "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder."

In the dream, Jacob also saw God standing before him and he heard the promise that he will have many descendants and they will be blessing to all the families of the earth. And God said, "I am with you now, I will protect you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you" (v. 15).

Up until this point in the story, Jacob has been operating on his own. He hasn't given any thought to God's promise or God's care. This is the first time that Jacob had some direct encounter with God and the promise that was made to his ancestors is now extended to him and his descendants. When he awakes from the dream, he had the presence of mind to recognize that something significant had taken place. He thought to himself, "The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it." And he took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on top of it. He named that sacred place Bethel.

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The part that strikes me is that Jacob recognized that God was present with him. While he was about his own business, which was rather messy at that point in his life, he was able to distinguish that God has a message for him. We call that discernment. Looking back, he could see something that at first, he could not see. God was in this place. God was present, at work in the world and at work in his life, even though Jacob wasn't aware of it at the time.

When we move through uncertain times, times of fear and uncertainty, times of frustration and irritation, times when we may not even have a decent place to lay our head, we might discover that God was already present with us and for us all along, even if we didn't know it at the time. That's good to know.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

Outdoor, in-person worship

Reservations are required for this service. You can make a reservation between Monday morning at 8:00 AM and Thursday afternoon at 6:00 PM each week. You should get a confirmation of your reservation by Friday. A new reservation is required for each Sunday service. More information about the services were sent by mail to each home and can also be found at www.calvaryumc.org.

Reservations to attend the worship service can be made on-line, just click the link in our weekly e-news to reserve a seat or give us a call at 301-662-1464, and leave a message.

Please provide your name, the number in your party and how you can be reached.

Those wishing to volunteer can contact the church:

by telephone (301-662-1464)

by email at office@calvaryumc.org

or by clicking here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FAAA72FA75-outdoor>

(You can sign up as a volunteer for any week during the summer)

We will continue to offer this outdoor option until it becomes clear that it is no longer needed. In the meantime, we will also continue to offer a virtual worship service each week on Facebook and YouTube and the church website.

From Pastor Shannon

Every Tuesday we have a Zoom Bible study for young adults from Calvary, Middletown, and Brook Hill. We used to meet out in the community, trying a bunch of cool restaurants all over the Frederick area. We were super desperate to see one another in the beginning of the pandemic but now Zoom fatigue has set in, no one knows what day it is, Zekie has fussed through entire studies...sometimes Bible study is a chore, even in a fun group of people who love one another and miss one another.

But just a month ago we were reminded why we do this, even when it sometimes seems like a chore. I had planned a lesson on the spiritual discipline of fasting but only four of us gathered this particular week and we were catching up and joking with one another. After we prayed, I took a breath to launch into the lesson when someone said, "Since we're a small group, I have a question. How do you know God is with you? Like on your worst days, how can you be sure?"

Have you had some of those worst days recently, or at least some bad ones? A loved one dies unexpectedly, and far too soon. Your close friend has relapsed in their addiction. Your furloughed job becomes permanent. The people you live with are being so difficult. You are lonely or angry or just tired. The world seems so uncertain.

We shared our experiences. About trying to pray and going to therapy. About finding connection and losing it and finding it again. And after almost an hour, the person who asked the question said, "It seems like we know God is with us because of community."

In community we are reminded that though our experiences are unique, others have struggled in similar ways. In community we find resources we didn't know about before. But perhaps most importantly, in community we are lifted up in prayer when we no longer have the words to pray. Our community holds onto hope--- holds onto God--- for us when we can't find either anymore.

Of course here I am talking about community when cases of COVID-19 are on the rise and we are being encouraged to buckle down in stopping community spread. Yes we are joining together for in-person worship but there are so many unable to join us and even those of us who can be together can't catch up over donuts and coffee! This is not the community we are used to. But even if you don't have the community you are used to, you need community. If you are Zoomed out, call and text one another. Send funny emails. Have a socially distanced picnic where you bring your own food. Pray pray pray.

Where is God in all this mess? You might be asking yourself this question, but you also might encounter someone asking this question. So answer it for them. Allow God to be present to them through you. Be the community who holds onto love in the hard times.



Greetings from the Calvary Weekday School!

I hope this newsletter continues to find you and your family well and enjoying the lazy days of summer. We continue to attend virtual meetings and gather updates and resources from Governor Hogan, Karen Salmon, MSDE, Office of Child Care and the health department in order to reopen in the fall. It is all very challenging and constantly changing. Last month we sent out a survey, including the guidelines we would need to follow in order to open safely, to incoming families and families on our waiting lists. I appreciate and applaud their patience. We are planners and it is difficult to plan without answers to the many unknowns. At this point, we are compiling the results, meeting with staff as well as waiting for a decision from Frederick County Public Schools since their reopening plan greatly impacts our staffing for the school year. We will meet with Pastor Larsen and the steering committee and look at all aspects of reopening but making the safety of our staff, students and families is our first priority. This has certainly been a learning process and hopefully we can utilize all that we have learned to continue the programs we all value and love at the Calvary Weekday School.

Stay safe and be well-
Patty Lockard, Director



Baby Zekie is working on becoming an usher. He encourages all to give their gifts of time, talent, and treasure to make the future brighter for everyone.



“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21

Our trials seem to be endless, piling upon each one that has come before, before the former has receded as waves upon the shore. Does not life have a time of rest, the rest promised by God to his children? In verse 20, Isaiah tells us “God gives us the bread of adversity and the water of affliction”. A sparse and meager meal for the prisoner or the condemned – not like the promised banquet of a resurrected Christian.

When we face trials and hardships, as we have the last few months under the threat of illness and the need for social distancing, we may experience a feeling of detachment from others who may be seen as fellow comrades against an evil force sweeping over us. As God’s children we are not alone. We have each other at a distance and close in spirit.

God has instructed and advised us how to live our earthly lives as a Christian through the Old and New Testaments, the teaching of Christ and the Wisdom Writings. We can turn to thousands of places in the Bible where God gives us sound and acceptable advice and commands. Good places to look and enter into meditation are the Psalms, Proverbs.

Part of our faith creed is that God will always be with us. He will never leave us is his promise. Isaiah reinforces this in the introduction verse. No matter where we go, what we do, turning right or left, we will here God’s voice. He is telling us the way to go and to walk in that way.

update - Calvary UMC Community Concert Series

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we have cancelled our scheduled concerts for the fall of 2020. We have already re-scheduled those concert for the fall of 2021. We are leaving the remainder of the season scheduled for now, and will re-evaluate as the time gets closer.

Beginning January 2021



January 31, 2021- Brian Ganz, pianist

Brian returns to Calvary for his “All Chopin” concert as he continues his quest to perform all the works of Chopin. The interactive, highly energetic performance is a must-see.



February 28, 2021- Women’s Guitar Gala

Classical guitarists Danielle Cumming, Magdalena Duhagon and Candice Mowbray have enjoyed unique and multi-faceted musical careers that have intertwined for years.



March 21, 2020- Meraki

This dynamic clarinet and piano duo of Dr. Elizabeth G. Hill and Dr. Anastasia Christofakis is dedicated to bridging cultures through music with pieces rooted in the composer’s native countries. The program will include works by Jerod Tate, Anthony R. Green, Horowitz, and Whitmarsh. Learn more at www.elizabethghill.com/meraki.



April 18, 2021- Beau Soir Ensemble

Returning to the Community Concert series by popular demand, the Beau Soir Ensemble with Ruth Lottchen Wicker, viola, Michelle Lundy, harp, and Carole Bean, flute, come together to perform classical and contemporary music. Learn more at www.beausoir.org.



May 2, 2021- Michael Adcock, pianist

Michael has cultivated a career as a versatile soloist, chamber musician, and pre-concert lecturer in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to traditional classical piano repertoire, Michael will perform pieces from his recent CD.



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- Our loveable Bible Memory Buddies with take home weekly stickers.

Some of your favorite VBS music videos

We cannot wait to share this program with you and your kids! Online lessons each Sunday morning, starting in September and will eventually transition to a combination of online and in-classroom lessons once we are able to hold Children's Sunday School in person, ensuring that everyone can participate regardless of their comfort level.

Contact Christy Mossburg, Director of Christian Education for more details at Christy@calvaryumc.org

A Note of Thanks...

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the members of our congregation for their love and support the past few weeks following the death of my mother June Walden. Whether it was through text messages, emails, beautiful cards or phone calls, your thoughtfulness meant so much. Over the years, our Calvary family always welcomed her when she would visit, even including her to one of the women's circle groups. As of late, weekly inquiries about her health were so appreciated. She often commented on how fortunate we were to have found such a supportive church family..mom always knows best!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.
Julie Schwarzenberg

Church News

Food Drive

It's been a while since we have been able to have a "Wheelbarrow Sunday" at the church and collect non-perishable food items for those in need. We will be offering two possibilities for collecting food. First, if you plan to join us for an outdoor worship service this summer, you can bring items. We will have a collection point for those who participate in the Sunday worship.

Second, we will have a Saturday morning collection set up on Saturday August 1 as well as Saturday, August 15 from 9 AM to 11 AM. You can drive into the lot behind the church and find the collection wheelbarrow near the kitchen door.

Emergency Family Shelter

The Religious Coalition's Family Shelter program is no longer being held in churches. Due to the pandemic, the location is now at The Ridge Inn @ Mar-Lu-Ridge Campsite. Volunteers are needed to provide dinners for families using the shelter during these trying times. If you are interested in preparing or purchasing a dinner for the families (for approximately ten to twelve individuals) or helping with delivery you can find information and sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4aa9ac22a3fa7-meals>

Damage to church chimney

Lightning seemed to have struck the church building during a storm on July 16. Stones fell from the chimney onto the slate roof and ground near the kitchen door. No one was injured but a hole was made in the roof and into the men's choir robing area and some Wi-Fi equipment was damaged.

Visitors to the church will notice a temporary metal patch has been made in the roof and the church began an insurance claim to make more permanent repairs.



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>

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>


Meeting ID: 823 5014 0354

Password: 1234

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82350140354# US
(Germantown)

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

 **YOUTH GROUP**
FALL OF 2020

Kick Off
Sunday September 13
Watch Party at 5:30pm
at your own house on Zoom

HAMILTON

Songs and Conversation Sundays September 20–October 25 from 7–8

See the weekly e-news for Zoom details to join the fun.

Aug 1- Charlotte Miller, Mary Ritterbusch, JC Rossman, Rob Summers

Aug 2- Barbara Mentzer, Gabrielle Rohrback, Jim Sengstack

Aug 3– Marlene Bordner, Ruth Brown, Grant Keyser, Susan Leftwich, Connor Radcliffe, Delores Shade

Aug 4– Stephanie Barrows, Camden Webster, Kendel Wickline

Aug 5– Cindy Naugle, Leslie Williams

Aug 6– Kyle Bostian, George Washburn

Aug 7– Vivian Clipp, Fred Schumacher

Aug 8– Cara Davy, Jennifer Richey, Hayden Rohrback

Aug 9– Seth Kahan, Cathy Karl, Allison Stone

Aug 10– Robert Bennett, Barbara Cook

Aug 11– Molly Kellam, Nancy Leftwick, Pat O'Toole, Doug Reilly

Aug 12– Karen Leggett, Merle Meacham

Aug 13– Cindy Lang, Lawrence Proudfoot

Aug 14– Zach Davies, Jody Francisco, Steven Francisco, Kay Phillips

Aug 15– Don Mentzer, Jeff Wilson

Aug 16– Olivia Hetrick

Aug 17– Patsy Eavey, Will Quigley

Aug 18– Ray McKinnon, William Metcalf, Sam Mills

Aug 19– Laura Stouter

Aug 20– Stefanie Harris

Aug 21– Logan Boston, Zachary Engler, Darlene McKnight

Aug 22– Kiley Eyer, Kelli Fox, Steven Mossburg, Walker Zimmerman

Aug 23– Bethany Adams, Liam Boston, Edna Snyder

Aug 24– Kathy Phillips, Dianna Plotner, Jen Pond

Aug 25– Bert Edmonston

Aug 26– Skip Boston, Nathaniel Heller, Mark Lopez, Barbara Piper, Andy Radcliffe

Aug 27– Charles Geisbert, Spencer Simpson, Mark Yeager

Aug 28– Christina Heller

Aug 29– Leisa Moyer, Atticus Van Riper, Catherine Waskey, Thomas Woodall

Aug 30– Helen Austin, Elfrieda Bell, Mollie Mayer, David Mills

Aug 31– Cavan Rankin





Bill and Dawn Metcalf	Aug 3
Michael and Melissa Rust	Aug 3
Jim and Sandy Sengstack	Aug 4
Ryan and Bethany Webster	Aug 4
Doug and Josie Manger	Aug 5

Shannon and Stephanie Whitmarsh	Aug 5
Larry and Judy Johnson	Aug 8
Health and Julie Wilson	Aug 8
Bruce and Jane Shafferman	Aug 10
Jack and Jane Tritt	Aug 11
Ed and Judith Ahlstrom	Aug 12
Kevin and Patty Keyser	Aug 12
Michael and Lauren Carlisle	Aug 14
Mitch and Penny Reading	Aug 14
Rev. Steve Larsen and Wanda Bulkowski-Larsen	Aug 16
Lou and Judy Finneyfrock	Aug 17
David and Amy Carter	Aug 20
Joe and Pat Staggs	Aug 20
Jeff and Cara Dragan	Aug 25
Jim and Norma Hamilton	Aug 25
Dan and Dianna Plotner	Aug 25
Chuck and Susan Engler	Aug 30
Steve and Mary Ann Mood	Aug 30

Calvary United Methodist Church
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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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