



the Messenger

September 2020



I delivered a car full of food items to the food bank at Frederick Community Action Agency. Many of you offered donations over the last two weeks for this food drive. It usually is David and Amy Carter and family that take the food received on "Wheelbarrow Sunday" and deliver it to the food bank, but this time I did it on the church's behalf.

It turns out that this donation comes at a critical time. The stocks are usually low in the summer months, but they are particularly low just now as the CAA is providing extra services in the coronavirus pandemic. You can learn more about the food bank here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=351853145981514>

This is one way that the people of Calvary UMC are putting faith into action, caring for others, practicing generosity, loving one's neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable and in need. This summer we were not able to provide hosts or a space for the emergency family shelter as we have so often in the past. Instead, the Religious Coalition is providing alternative shelter arrangements that can meet the safety needs of everyone in the pandemic. This has included use of retreat center. Calvary UMC has provided \$2,000 from our "Communion Fund" to help with this and help with the important work does through the Religious Coalition.

The ways that we respond in times of great need reveal who we really are. I am grateful for the compassion and generosity that is evident in this congregation.

Stay safe and may God be with you.

-Pastor Steve Larsen

We have had a Back to School Blessing in worship and many teachers and parents on our list have received something in the mail (if you were left off the list accidentally, please contact Pastor Shannon and we will rectify that). But this year is one that really needs a lot of prayer, so Pastor Shannon also wanted to share this prayer by former school chaplain Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath:

Holy One,

I don't think I know what I'm doing.

Today, my baby bird is leaving the nest. They are flying off to Kindergarten, or freshman year, or a college campus.

I'm not ready for this goodbye, but I thought I was. Will you hold my hand, so I can be brave and then cry when they aren't looking?

I've packed their backpack with the things they'll need. There is a dinosaur lunchbox, new markers, and a face shield. There is a new laptop, hand sanitizer, and a box full of masks. There are bins full of food (so much food) and all the Lysol wipes it took me months to find. There is new corner of our house all ready for remote learning. This isn't the "back to school" I pictured, and I think we're all a little mad about it. Will you give us a gentle push when can't be brave on our own, and help us remember it's not REALLY the song on the car radio we're mad at?

I can't pack the most important things in the backpack though. There is no folder for making good choices, friendship, and healthy communication. There is no notebook for empathy, kindness, and how to say no. There is no special pen for hard lessons I wish they didn't have to learn about how to deal with stress, adversity, loss, and resilience. Will you help remind them that their own compass is better than any textbook?

The world feels SO scary right now for all of us. What if he gets sick, and I'm not there to hold his hand? What if she gets anxious, and I'm not there to remind her to take a deep breath? What if I don't know how to help through the moments of frustration on this computer screen? Who will greet them at the door after school to annoyingly ask how their first day was? What if the empty nest I've been quietly excited about suddenly feels too quiet? Will you sit with us both, wherever we are, and help us make through the moment?

Fold all of us in the folds of your skirt, Mama, help guide us through the chaos, so we don't get lost. Give us brave hearts, because we will need more courage than we ever have. Open our hearts and our hands to let them fly (even when we don't think we can). Fill our coffee cups, and make it strong. Remind us we're not alone (even when maybe we wish we were). Help me not to be a jerk to that parent whose choices I don't agree with, because someone feels the same way about me.

I don't know what I'm doing, but here we go.

Amen.

From Pastor Shannon

September Worship

We continue to draw upon the Revised Common Lectionary to guide our choice of scripture lesson, proclamation, music and prayer each Sunday. We will have three scripture passages, include two in the service and focus on one. Doing virtual ministry has shortened the time frame for sermon preparation so your pastors are not planning sermons weeks or months in advance as they commonly did before the pandemic. We don't have sermon titles provided here. However, using the lectionary allows us to draw upon the resources other preachers are using at the same time.

The virtual worship service is offered each Sunday. You can find it by following the link on Calvaryumc.org or by going to YouTube or Facebook. The worship service premieres at 9:00 AM Sunday morning but can be viewed at any time. Note, you do not need a Facebook or YouTube account to see the worship services.

In-person worship is offered on Sunday mornings, weather permitting in the church parking lot at 8:30 AM. Please call the church office or follow the link in the weekly e-news to make a reservation. We are hoping to add a worship service in the building on Sunday mornings.

September 6, 2020 (Rev. Larsen)

Exodus 12:1-14 / Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2020 (Rev. Sullivan)

Exodus 14:19-31/ Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20, 2020 (Rev. Larsen)

Exodus 16:2-15/ Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27, 2020 (Rev. Larsen)

Exodus 17:1-7/ Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the following students have received scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year.

Emily Schwarzenberg

Rachel Gray

Christopher Moyer

Rachel Carter

Cameron Simpson

Mollie Mayer

Elizabeth Anderson

Spencer Simpson

The committee was impressed by the quality of the applications. We pleased to be able to help these students with some of their educational expenses. Although the coming school year will be different for colleges and universities this fall, Calvary UMC will be providing \$500 to help these students with their expenses.



Baltimore Washington Conference Session

The annual conference session scheduled for May was cancelled and will be replaced by a virtual meeting on Saturday, September 12. This will include ordination and commissioning of candidates for ministry, reviewing the work of the conference, setting budget and recognizing those pastors who have retired. This will be the first time this work will be done entirely online. Rev. Shannon Sullivan and Rev. Steve Larsen, Helen and Bruce Sheppard and Bob Jacobs are members of BW Conference.

Laity Session

The Laity Session of the Baltimore Washington Conference will be offered for all members of the United Methodist Church. This will be a virtual event. This is usually an excellent way of learning about the ministry of the conference and celebrate Christian discipleship.

The Laity Session of the Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. This session will be held via Zoom and will be open to all laity, not just Annual Conference lay members.

MISSION TRIP

The Volunteer-In-Missions trip planned for this October to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky, has been cancelled. This means that Calvary UMC has not been able to hold a VIM trip this year. We were hoping to do home repairs and other projects in this part of Appalachia as we did in the fall of 2019. Now we have decided not to go. There have not been any Covid-19 cases reported in the Henderson Settlement compound, but there may be some in the surrounding area. The staff was very understanding about our cancelation and wished us all well. They hope to see us again in 2021. The residents in the area are very cautious about 'outsiders or strangers' coming to their homes. Henderson is hopeful that attitude will be less in 2021. Lots of on campus and residential projects will be on the list for us next year should we go back.

Calvary is having a Diaper Drive for Henderson Settlement - like we did last year. If you would like to buy diapers or donate to the effort, please send a check to Calvary UMC Make the and put in the memo 'Diaper Drive' and the monies will be put into the correct account. If you buy diapers, they can be left off at the church office. (Please call in advance to make sure someone is in the office.)

-Helen Sheppard on behalf of the Calvary Mission Team

Diaper Drive for the Henderson Settlement

Calvary and the Mission Team would love to send diapers to the Early Childhood Program at Henderson Settlement. We will not be sending workers this year but the family needs are still there.

On Sunday mornings there will be a cradle available for diapers (all sizes are needed) and /or wipes, or donations. These will be taken or sent to the Henderson Settlement in late October or November. Thank you for helping this impoverished area of Ken-



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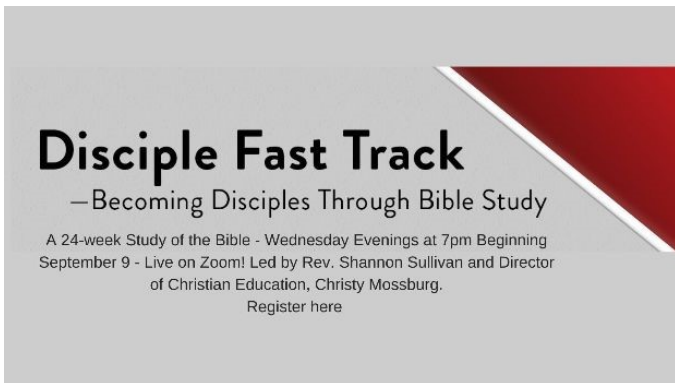
- Single point learning with a Bible point and verse, God-sightings, and more.
- Our loveable Bible Memory Buddies with take home weekly stickers.

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



Wednesday evenings this fall

In these stressful times, one way you can find serenity is by studying the Bible in community. Join us!

Rev. Shannon Sullivan will be leading an online Disciple Fast Track study, on Wednesday evenings via Zoom beginning **Wednesday, September 9 at 7pm.**

Disciple Fast Track – Bible Study for Busy Lives!

An adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study, Fast Track* groups meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes.

Let us know you plan to join us by signing up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa72fa75-wednesday>



In Luke, Chapter 3; John the Baptist was warning the people to fear God's coming judgment. And what do you think their response was? Their answer was not an obedient we will do God's will but "What should we do then?" (vs 10)

An expected answer from those who want an easy out of being told what to do. John's answer was simple: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (vs 11). Our fear and lack of security is to question of what do I do without my extra change of clothes when my only pair of pants gets dirty or wear a hole in the knee? How can I ask for the return of what I have given away to the needy? And my food from the pantry, what do I do when a friend who is greater to me than you visits and I lack enough to provide a meal? This call to generosity does not sound so simple after all – to share so much when you have so little.

John, and later Jesus, were using hyperboles to make the point of stewardship to have a great impact upon their listeners. The point is that we, as Christians, must always be mindful, and act in a fair and just manner toward others. We are to meet the needs of others when we have the ability to do so. The phrase "an opened hand" is meaningful when we perceive a need. This distills to having the grace in our heart that springs from the grace of the church's heart. The church's grace comes from grace in the heart of Christ and comes from the heart of God. Ultimately the grace of our heart reflects the grace of God's heart.

Church Conference

Our annual meeting with the district superintendent to review the ministry, membership and pastoral leadership of the church will take place on **Saturday, November 21** at 1:30 pm. More details will be provided as this day approaches.





Even in the face of great difficulty, such as the Corona Virus, Calvary is still serving meals at the Soup Kitchen. While some things change in life, some things remain the same. In response to closures, quarantines, and illness, there is still a need to feed the homeless and needy. We still make a meal. But now we provide chicken patties instead of our signature baked lemon-pepper chicken. We still provide corn, rice gravy and home-made coleslaw. We are grateful we have the means to continue this ministry to the needy.

Other change is that the people no longer eat in the dining hall – but now eat from carry out containers we pack and they eat in the street. Their comfort and life situation has thus deteriorated and a warm meal is welcomed. We include an additional 50 meals for those who have been quarantined at another facility. And the number of meals has increased. In the past we have served 70 to 100 people buffet and sit down style. Now we have been serving 150 meals with the Staff delivering 50 meals to those in quarantine.

The preparation of the meal still is the same; we only need a few to do it. However we have been starting to make the carry out meals at 3:30 or so and have finished about 6:00 pm. We need to have only 5 – 6 Calvary volunteers to do this part. We have not asked our regular volunteers to help since we do not serve the meal. It takes fewer people to prep and fill the meal containers.

So please do not feel ignored. We will call upon you as needed. We will be serving next **September 19th**.



YOUTH GROUP FALL OF 2020

Kick Off

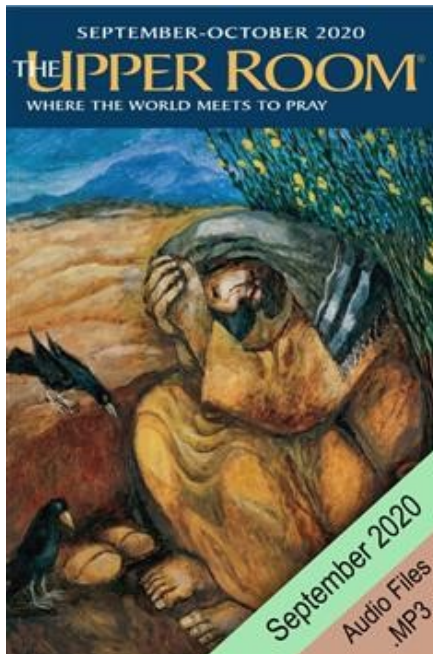
Sunday September 13
Watch Party at 5:30pm
at your own house on Zoom

HAMILTON

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



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



The September/October copies of the Upper Room are now available. Please email the church office or call to have a copy mailed to you.

office@calvaryumc.org or 301-662-1464

September Birthdays!!



- 1, Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky
- 2, Madelynn Sewell
- 3, Jacob Livingston, Emily Yeager
- 4, Bill Waskey
- 5, Robert Baltzell, Grace Dobson, Andrew Howard, Stephen Miller, Bill Pasquerette
- 6, Tyler Schroyer, Kathryn Schumacher, Kelly Stull, Janet Wiles
- 7, Tammi Barber, Kathy Shiflett
- 8, Isabella Anderson, James Dennis, Fannie Johnson, John Shade
- 9, Collin Mood, Douglas Selby, Fon Smith
- 12, Ned Calabrese, Bobbie Jarvis, Paul Metcalf
- 13, Carole Law
- 14 Joyce Dixon, Anna Mills,
- 15 Jennifer Cline, Luke Vega
- 16, Alison Fox, Eleanor Pickard, Melissa Shipley, Joe Staggs
- 17, David Calabrese
- 18, Sophie Bailey, Tristan Belgrave, Laurelle Maubert
- 19, Amanda Calabrese, Ryan Fox
- 20, Basil Eavey, Paul Nelson
- 21, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley
- 23, Lindsey Howard, Christina Leber, Helen Sheppard, Cleon Stull
- 24, Bruce Phillips, Richard Phillips
- 25, Judy Delauter, Colin Lyon, Anne Rollins, Renee Vega
- 26, Jeannie Baumgartner, Ryan Giller, Anna Snyder, Billie Stokes
- 27, Edith Eversz, Jacqueline Grimes, Beth Strakonsky, Gina Weedon
- 28, Raymond Crum, Scott English, John Patterson
- 29, Brad Davy, Thomas Dixon, Betram Edmonston, Bea Kilel, Mitch Reading, Jane Tritt
- 30, Gregory Selby

September Anniversary!!

John and Dottie Mitchel	9/1	David and Gail Colby	9/16
Bruce and Kathy Phillips	9/3	David and Cindy Mills	9/16
Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg	9/4	Rob and Jen Pond	9/17
Mark and Allison MacDonald	9/6	Justin and Karen Leggett	9/20
Adam and Melissa Rankin	9/6	Christopher and Heidi Sweet	9/22
Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette	9/7	William and Mari Beth Schmersahl	9/24
Bertram and Jennifer Edmonston	9/9	Peter and Jenn Duthoy	9/26
John and Ann Harper	9/11	Bob and Faye Cannon	9/28

Greetings from the Calvary Weekday School!



I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the last days of summer. As you know, we decided not to open the school this fall due to all the circumstances related to COVID-19 and the safety for both our staff and families. I met with the steering committee as well as my staff, to decide if we wanted to revisit opening the school in January/February or to remain closed for the rest of the school year. This was a very difficult and emotional decision with many challenging questions and still many unknowns. Based on feedback from families, the steering committee and the staff we decided we will not open for the 2020-2021 school year and to focus on using this time to learn more about the current situation, problem solve ways to follow the current guidelines and develop our programs for the 2021-2022 school year. Families who are currently registered will receive a full refund or have the opportunity to pre-register for next year.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have worked through this very complex situation. The safety of both staff and families continue to be at the forefront of our decision-making and I remain hopeful for the 2021-2022 school year.

Stay well-

Patty Lockard, Director

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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.*

<u>Table of Contents.....</u>	
Message from Pastor Steve.....	1
From Pastor Shannon.....	2
Worship Schedule.....	3
Scholarships/Conference info.....	4
Mission/Diaper Drive.....	5
Sunday School/Disciple Fast Track.....	6
Stewardship.....	7
Soup Kitchen.....	8
Youth Group/Upper Room.....	9
September Birthday/Anniversary.....	10-11

smile **OFTEN**
think **POSITIVELY**
give **THANKS**
laugh **LOUDLY**
love **OTHERS**
dream **BIG**
