

the Messenger

November 2020



From Pastor Steve

The present moment sits between the past we stand on and the future we strive for. To know who are and what tomorrow holds, we have to know our history.

This year has been full of challenges and not a little sorrow. Our routines have been disrupted and much has changed. Graduations, weddings, even funerals have been delayed or carried out in new ways and simply coming together safely has not always been possible. But this year still represents a big milestone in three ways for this congregation. Construction was begun on the Education Building in 1960 in order to make room for growing Sunday School classes and a new early education program for the community. The main building, sanctuary and parsonage were dedicated on September 14, 1930 and the congregation made the walk from its previous location on East Church Street to the building we have today on North Bentz Street. (Anne Mossburg took part in that walk, but she was too little at the time to walk by herself.) Looking back even further into history, it was in 1770 when the first itinerant Methodist preacher, Robert Strawbridge, came to "Fredericktown" to preach and organize a Methodist society that would much later be known "Calvary United Methodist Church." This year, the congregation is marking a 60th, a 90th and a 250th anniversary simultaneously.

We will not be celebrating these anniversaries in the usual way with speeches, distinguished guests, banquets and other festivities. The present pandemic will not permit us to carry out the plans that fit such historical milestones. However, I am pleased to announce that we have a new history that has been compiled and written by a noted historian in our area. Gary L. Dyson is the current Vice President, Frederick County Civil War Round Table and author of several historical works. He researched and wrote an excellent history of Calvary United Methodist Church in Mount Airy in 2017 where I was previously pastor. He approached me about the possibility of writing a history of this congregation. I was familiar with the history that was put together by Charles Burt and the materials that have been collected in the Memorial Room and thought this would be a great project and the time was right.

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The history was written (and reviewed by Fred Schumacher) printed, and now available for sale. I have a box of 40 copies available in my office and one can be yours for the low price of \$12.00 each. It involves pictures, lists of the pastors who have served, and descriptions of many of the key events in the life of the congregation. You can call the church office or email me to arrange for a pickup or delivery of a copy of the new history.

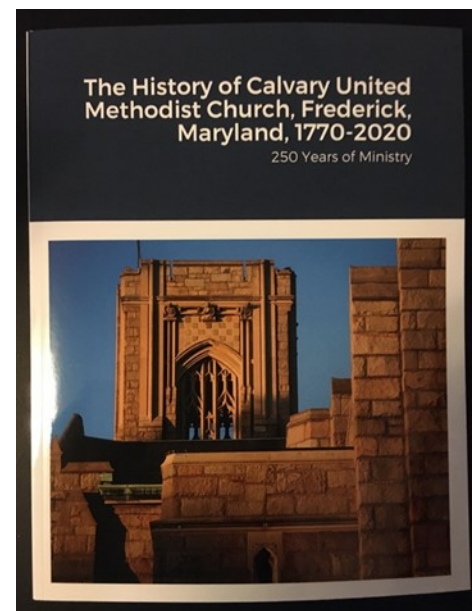
As I worked with Gary to produce this updated history, I learned many new things about the congregation and the challenges the people have faced over the years. I also came to see that there are many stories that were overlooked or hardly touched on that would be interesting to know. For example, there is not a word about how the congregation faced the 1918 flu pandemic, how the congregation responded to the issue of slavery that divided the denomination and the congregation in 1844, or how the congregation started its relationship with the Grateful Hearts (what used to be known as the Exceptional Class).

Every historical work is to be revised and enlarged upon by others, especially those who come after us. Our part of the history is yet to be told and still yet to be lived! We will trust that God will continue to be at work and Christ will be calling us to minister in the days and years ahead even if there will be changes.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Steve Larsen

Available for \$12



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.

Worship This Month

November 1, 2020 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

(Rev Larsen, preacher)

For All the Saints.

Remembering the Lives of those Lost this
Past Year

Revelation 7:9-17,

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 8, 2020

(Rev Larsen, preacher)

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2020

(Rev. Sullivan, preacher)

Judges 4:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2020

Reign of Christ Sunday.

(Rev Larsen, preacher)

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 ADVENT 1

(Rev Larsen, preacher)

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Cor. 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Advent/Christmas at Calvary

Like so many things in 2020, the upcoming holiday season year will be changed by the ongoing pandemic. Although there are many things that we cannot do, WE WILL NOT BE CANCELLING CHRISTMAS!

There are many creative ways that we can celebrate Advent and Christmas together. We are planning to decorate the church and hold special worship services both in person and online during the season. We will be providing materials to each household that will help us celebrate Advent and Christmas even though we will not be gathering together in the usual ways. We will be creating some new practices that will help us see that the Lord of Life we long for still comes to be with us and offer us hope and joy.

More details will be coming in the weeks ahead.



From Pastor Shannon

I often tell the story of my first Thanksgiving away from my family and how much it stands out to me as the time when I really understood the power of thankfulness to change the world, really. When I was in college, I studied abroad in Toulouse, France, with about ten other women, most from my college but a few from other schools. Living abroad can be really difficult, especially for those of us who had never been so far from home before, and especially around the holidays. So the director of our program, a petite French woman who would take one kernel of popcorn just to taste it and then be done, decided to throw a Thanksgiving dinner for us.

Truthfully, I was not thankful about this at first. We were not eating dinner until 8 pm, which is what you do in France, and which had been a sore point with me since I got there because that is too long to wait to eat. And at that time, I did not have internet at my host family's home, and so I could not watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or talk with my family. What was the point of celebrating at all if we couldn't do it *right*?

Have you had similar thoughts about the 2020 holiday season?

But I tried to let go of my grumpiness and focus on making something special for the dinner. We had all split it up and offered to bring something. I was bringing peanut butter cookies. Not quite tradition, but pretty US American I must say. I had to go to three grocery stores before I found a place that even sold peanut butter. And when I brought the cookies and put them down among the other food, I was surprised at just how wonderful of a meal we had put together. I had never had pumpkin pie that good--- it was made from real pumpkins! I've only ever had it from the can. I had also never had champagne at Thanksgiving before. Or saltine toffee. And even the food I had had at Thanksgiving before, the myriad of brilliant green vegetables, the cranberry sauce, the mashed potatoes, and, though I didn't eat this because I'm a vegetarian, the turkey--- all these things others had brought with them to the table made the night one of the yummiest Thanksgivings I had ever had (don't tell my parents; they are good cooks and I don't want to hurt their feelings).

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But more than that it was one of the best Thanksgivings I had ever had. Here we were, women feeling very alone in this new place with a few Frenchies thrown in, none of us with anything really in common other than that we were far from home. But all of us came to the table together to eat and talk and just be together in the warmth, stuffing ourselves silly as you should on Thanksgiving. Eating too much was a holiday tradition we got right that night! And as I left that night to walk back to my apartment, I realized that because of the time difference we had been eating at the same time as my own family: 2 in the afternoon in Maryland, 8 at night in France.

In French, Thanksgiving Day is translated as *le jour de l'action de grâce*. The word used for thanksgiving here is *grâce*, which we would usually translate not as thanks but as grace. And this night for me was a very grace-filled night, where I felt connected to a community even though I was far from home, and I felt loved and loved others. Giving thanks changed me in a way it didn't on a normal holiday when I didn't have to think about it much. When I have shared this story with others who have traveled, they say their unusual holiday experiences are always the ones that stick with them, that remind them why we give thanks in the first place. And so this year, as many of us prepare for unusual holidays, let us let these unusual celebrations remind us about what matters most and seek the grace God offers us in every moment.

Pastor Shannon Sullivan



“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”

“Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Calvary United Methodist Church.



Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? The Lord Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God’s power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of an anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly: “Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. ‘Til I’m living as Your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!”

As we experience God’s power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, “. . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God.” God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He “richly provides us with everything” (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God’s provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by “faith,” implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by “speech,” sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by “knowledge” through the study of God’s Word. We respond in “complete earnestness,” that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the “grace of giving.”

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — “. . . they gave themselves first to the Lord.” Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God’s instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2,

“... from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.” This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God’s grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace.” That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Calvary United Methodist Church.

Stewardship Corner

During the three years of Jesus' ministry, He spoke of many things to the people and his disciples. It was often about the differences between what they thought was important in their lives and what God thinks should be important. We are no different today, 2000 years later.

When Jesus spoke about worldly treasures, He said they failed to provide us anything lasting. Worldly treasures are only temporal and any satisfaction gained is shallow. Jesus told us that we have a choice. We can seek heavenly treasures that will not be destroyed or lost by adversity of this world.

As you read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew; if you look closely, if you read each word and phrase with concentration, as you let the Holy Spirit lead, you can understand that Jesus could look into the heart of all who heard. Jesus could discern what motivated people, what we want to have and own, how hard we are willing to gain that which we have our heart set upon. He strikes us deeply when He continues, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6:21) Now we are focused. Each of us now asks of ourselves –What is important to me?

Do I hold in my heart the rewards of hoarding, greed, power defined by wealth, status supported by pride and envy. "Instead, collect treasure for yourselves in heaven..." (Matt 6:20) These treasures of the heart are grace, mercy and love shown in word and deed to the poor, oppressed and needy who are with us. They are our family in Christ. The Body of Christ, the Church, is the place where great comfort is given to all who are in need. They know to look to the Methodists because it is in our DNA to do all we can to open the door where their needs are met.

Each year, we look forward to the time when we can accept the opportunity to commit ourselves to God's call to minister to the poor and needy among us. It is a time when we open our hearts to God and embrace treasures not of worldly things reflecting greedy or envious motives, but, of kindness toward neighbor, treasures of love, grace and mercy that grow so nothing can push God out of our heart.





Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We have currently enrolled 24 families for the 2021-2022 school year. It is a great start. We will continue with a rolling registration rather than beginning in December due to the school being closed and the inability to have families in the building.

Last month I attended a class on Emergency Preparedness through Project Security. Olivia and I are updating our current Emergency Preparedness Plan, securing alternative relocation sites, and checking all first aid and disaster supply kits. Staff will be trained before the start of the new school year and all procedures will be shared with families. This class was a good reminder to not only practice these drills at school but to remind families to create a plan at home.

We had to replace the office computer at the school. Olivia and I would like to thank Cathy Baker and her mom for helping us purchase, install and answer many of our questions. Their knowledge, patience and willingness to help was invaluable as we continue to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

Olivia and I would like to wish you and your family a very blessed, safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Patty Lockard, Director



The Hannah Circle invites you join us in providing Christmas gift cards for those families we serve through the Religious Coalition and the Salvation Army. With the pandemic, families need help more than ever, but we also want to keep givers safe. This year we are asking for gift cards to grocery stores and stores like Target and Wal-Mart.

All gift cards need to be returned to the tree no later than **Sunday Nov. 25th** . If you wish to contribute but do not have time to grab a gift card, checks or cash donations will be gratefully accepted. The Hannah Circle will be glad to do your shopping for you! Please make checks out to Calvary United Methodist Women and reference "Angel Tree". There is a place in the narthex for your donations, but you can also mail them or leave them in the church office.

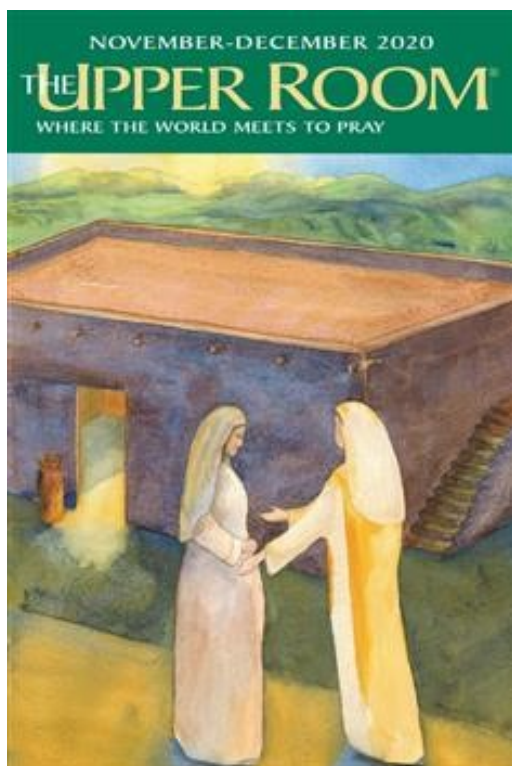


- 1, Coreen Jarvis, Anna Marshall, Rick Miller
- 2, Ezra Belgrave, Jack Farner, Brian McKann, Abigail Ritterbusch
- 3, Christy Quigley
- 4, Chaz Jones

- 5, Robert Bennett, Jenn Duthoy, Laura Miller, Alan Newcomer, Anna Stroh
- 6, Thelma Fischer, Randy McClement, Delilah Richey
- 7, Michael Reilly
- 8, John Bolyard, Sharon Cole, Sally Farner, Gregory Gray
- 9, Dean Calcagni, Dollie Gibson, Scott Moyer, Carol Whittington
- 10, Mark Mayer
- 11, Jessica Chaney, Andrew Farmer, Riley MacDonald, James Mackley, Ezra Ritterbusch
- 12, Caroline Auth, Drew Hardy, Adelyn Melhorn
- 13, Regina Hall, Elizabeth Krause, Lucy Vinar
- 14, Joan Buckley, Mary Crum, Teddy Miller
- 15, Cooper Gaeta, Amy Leigh, Adam Nazari, Nancy Slovikosky
- 16, Amy Carter
- 17, Faye Cannon, Sally Meyers
- 18, Makayla Buchanan, Margery French, Tara Shoemaker
- 19, Christina Kim, Hunter Weedon, Adelynn Wilde
- 20, Catherine Duvall, Edith Edmonston, Claire Moked, Diana Nazari
- 21, Ian Connors
- 23, Charlotte Richey, Connie Scoggins
- 24, Carl Reed
- 25, Marietta Anderson, Angela Burke
- 26, Micah Milam, Zeke Sullivan-Harrington, Elizabeth Wyatt
- 27, Monica Campolongo, Jennifer Esler, Ivy Tang
- 28, Alaina Pond, Margie Wilde
- 29, Bob Manthey **(80th)**
- 30, Sylvie Duthoy, Mary Ann Fogle, Michael Leftwich, Didi Willard



Richard and Judy Delauter	Nov. 2
James and Tamara Shoemaker	Nov. 4
Charlie and Amy Jones	Nov. 5
Gregory and Liz Selby	Nov. 5
Cleon and Diane Stull	Nov. 9
Stephen and Laura Miller	Nov. 12
Robin and Bonnie Duggan	Nov. 15 (40 yrs.)
Kyle and Becky Bostian	Nov. 18 (20 yrs.)
Chris and Amy Vinar	Nov. 18
Dennis and Kim Remsberg	Nov. 21
Jeremy and Susan Leftwich	Nov. 21
Bert and Virginia Edmonston	Nov. 27



November/December Upper Room's are now available. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office by phone 301-662-1464 or email Cathy at: office@calvaryumc.org



What Will the Holidays Look Like for Calvary's Kids?

As we stretch into another month of pandemic life, many parents may be wondering what's ahead for the Children's ministries at our church. While we may not be able to gather in large groups together, our leadership team is still doing all it can to provide a meaningful space and time for your child's spiritual growth and opportunities to "see" other church friends.

We are still offering our Sunday School program every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. on Zoom. This is a short and delightful story time, sometimes accompanied with our favorite VBS music. The kids bring show and tell and we engage them through stories, songs, and conversations. If you haven't participated in this and would like to, email Christy at christy@calvaryumc.org to join in. If you're an adult that loves to tell stories to the children, let us know. We'd love to have you join us one Sunday! The kids are a delight!

What about the Christmas Pageant?

While we won't be standing on stage in groups of 30 or more, we do have some big plans to turn our pageant into a fun and memorable service through video. We're just beginning to contact families to assign key roles and several of our Sunday School leaders will be delivering costumes to church members' homes. We are so excited about this opportunity for so many people to see our children AND our adults in this format. More details to come!

Poinsettia Order

Deadline to place orders is November 24, 2020

Red 6.5-inch pot is \$10.00

(Please return to church office)

_____ Enclosed is my check/cash for \$_____ for _____ poinsettias

Dedication: **PLEASE PRINT**

In MEMORY of _____

In HONOR

of _____

Given by:

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s)

_____ please donate my poinsettia(s)

Totals:

_____ Red Poinsettia

\$_____ Total amount paid



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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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