



the Messenger

December 2020



The ways we celebrate the season and Christmas will be different this year.

Our lives continue to be disrupted in multiple ways. The coronavirus pandemic leaves us anxious about getting sick. We are weary from the ongoing isolation and social distancing that leaves us separated from friends and loved ones. The rising numbers of infection, hospitalizations and deaths from covid-19. Medical professionals are stressed and stretched beyond what they have ever had to face before. Students, teachers, families and administrators are trying to provide education to children and youth under difficult and constantly changing circumstance. Political divisions and rancor continue even after the election. Economic challenges and the growing awareness of unhealthy and destructive racism that still is present in our nation.

This is the time in which we might- even more than ever before --lean into the promises given voice by the prophets and Jesus himself. We long not only for a cozy moment when we might gather to light a candle or sing a carol. We long for Immanuel, God with us.

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to see thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

Grace and peace to you.

Pastor Steve

THOSE WHO DREAM

Worship this month takes us through the season of Advent waiting and anticipation to the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve and the twelve days that follow ending with visit of the magi we celebrate on Epiphany Sunday. We are drawing upon the art and words provided by Sanctified Art, LLC (sanctifiedart.org.).

Psalm 126 opens with the line: *“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”* What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray they shape our reality.

The worship services are for all of us who dream of a deeper connection with God and dream of a better world. They’re for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. They’re for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God’s dreams for our world.



The Children’s Traditional Christmas Pageant

Version 2.020

Our Christmas Pageant this year is going to be a little different – just like everything else we’re experiencing in 2020. We’re taking the Traditional Christmas Pageant, breaking down parts, and filming the program to share with the congregation. If your family is not part of our Sunday School program but would love to share your acting talents with us, we would love to have you! We’ve got plenty of costumes that we’re distributing and simple parts for every age.

Contact Christy Mossburg at Christy@Calvaryumc.org to join us!

December Worship Schedule

December 6 ADVENT 2

Those who dream... prepare the way (peace)

Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a and Mark 1:1-8

December 13 ADVENT 3

Those who dream... sow Joy (joy)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 ADVENT 4

Those who dream...are not alone (love)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, December 24, 2020

This night, we are those who dream

ONLINE SERVICE -- A family service with children's Christmas pageant.

IN PERSON WORSHIP- We hope to offer worship in the sanctuary if conditions allow us to do this safely. We will be putting out a survey/reservation system to gauge interest. We are currently considering the following options:

- holding several smaller services in the sanctuary over two afternoon/evenings
- an outside service with carols and candlelight in the Memorial park or bandshell
- a drive up communion service.

December 27, 2020. Christmas Sunday

Those Who Dream...Will Not Be Kept Silent

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 22:22-40



From Pastor Shannon

Advent, as you have heard for as long as you've heard about Advent, is a season of waiting. We know all about waiting these days. I saw a meme that said, "Today marks five years we've been in 2020." What a year! And the long drawn-out nature of this year doesn't seem to be ending anytime soon. How many of you all like waiting?

Advent is celebrated as the liturgical season of waiting, waiting for Christ to come again. But waiting is exhausting. Even demoralizing sometimes. Often, because of the nature of celebrating Christ's birth this time of year, we liken the waiting of Advent to a pregnant woman waiting to give birth. But I am a year out from pregnancy now and I can tell you not to romanticize waiting for a baby to come. I was in pain, barely able to walk, and I was scared given my history of loss that the longer he was inside the more time we had for something to go wrong with my body. I was not happily nesting or getting a few last dates for two with Aaron. And yet, the baby did come, and it was messy and somewhat traumatic, but the joy was there too.

Our waiting might feel a little more on the verge of something messy and traumatic than the fairy tale Advent kind of becomes with our holiday cheer. But even in the mess, God brings joy. If you don't feel it yet, that's OK. Find someone to send you snacks the way my sister sneaked snacks into labor and delivery. Keep your strength up and your heart open. Waiting sucks. But God's got us. So let's hurry up and wait.

-Pastor Shannon



Christmas: A Small Wrapped Gift

Of all the secular, but such fun, trappings of our traditional family Christmas celebrations, the tree, the wreaths, the festive lights and other decorations, the small wrapped gift under the tree always guarantees intrigue ... the larger the package for young ones being an exception, of course! This came to mind in my reflection on the Christian meaning of Christmas, especially in these times of such duress in our world. The birth of Jesus was foretold by the ancient prophets, heralded by the angels as a savior, and acknowledged in the gospel of the apostle John as God's son, his greatest gift of love to humankind.

And what a paradox of origin for such a gift, wrapped not with bows and ribbons but rather with swaddling cloths, lying in a manger in a smelly stable surrounded by animals, visited for adoration first by nearby lowly shepherds and later by kingly wise men from afar! "What child is this?" our Christmas hymn begins, and though the answer comes a few strains later as "Christ the King," it is the question I believe we need to ponder once more as we progress through Advent and observe the joyful, if even a bit subdued this year, Christmas season. For there is in our Christian faith, in the tradition of ancient Chinese philosophy, an element of "yin and yang."

Let me be more specific in the context of our times. As many of you also have done this year, I am sure, I have been reading a number of books on the history of racism in our nation, one among which is the biography of the late Honorable John Lewis in Jon Meacham's *"His Truth is Marching On."* As Meacham tells it, when John was a young seminarian in Nashville during the early 1960s when the civil rights movement was stirring, the strong emphasis of his theological training was on personal salvation. Very early on, however, John was recognized and questioned by his peers as to why he was more concerned about the gospel's accounts of social justice, a cause to which he was to devote the remainder of his life, literally putting it at risk in discipleship to Jesus.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

The questioning by young John's seminarian classmates, reflects the contrast between a focus on our earthly life and our fate in the life hereafter, a contrast that has scriptural foundation and was addressed through the teachings and ministries of Jesus. As United Methodists, we profess belief in personal salvation through Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; but we also have a long tradition of social justice ministry, following the call of Jesus. In the world about us today, from the local community of Frederick County to the global community at large, there are abundant opportunities for us as individuals and as a congregation at Calvary United Methodist Church to engage in such ministry.

If you or a group to which you belong wish to become more engaged in such ministry, please contact me or either of our pastors. As Jesus said, "the harvest is great, and the workers are few!" Let us therefore share the spirit of Christmas year around through loving acts of mercy and justice that God is calling us to do through the example of His gift to us in Jesus, the greatest gift of all!

Paul D. Nelson, Chair

Church & Society Ministry Team

Thank You!!

I am blessed to have my Calvary Family. You have sustained me in your prayers and gifts for many, many years. Thank you so much for your support over the last 10 weeks. What began, as an emergency appendectomy and a three-day hospital stay warped into many complications and subsequent hospital admissions. I could not have done as well through this ordeal without your many prayers, get-well wishes, and gifts of food from the Meal Train organized by Christy Mossburg. You are a true example of Paul's words in Galatians, "It is not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." I have, and will, hold you in my heart and prayers of gratitude.

In Christian Love, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We now have over 30 families registered for the 2021-2022 school year. Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful school program. Families can contact Olivia at calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com for more information.

Our staff continues to keep up to date on training even though we are currently closed. Last month and over the next month, they will be participating in a Covid-19 training provided by MSDE to keep them informed about the latest guidelines and regulations. This information will be helpful as we continue to plan for the next school year.

We would like to thank Pastor Shannon for helping us secure an evacuation site for our school as part of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. Pastor Linton at Centennial Memorial United Methodist Church has agreed to provide shelter for our staff and students in case of an emergency evacuation. We appreciate their help and are excited to work with another outreach of the church. **The school is looking for donations of 5 gently used or new red backpacks to replace what we currently have at the school.** These backpacks will hold the necessary supplies, first aid kits, and emergency information that staff will need to take with them during an evacuation. If you are interested in making a donation please email me at director@calvaryweekdayschool.com to make arrangements for collecting the backpacks. Due to the closure of the school, we are working under a very tight budget so we appreciate your support.

Olivia and I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful, healthy and joyful holiday season.

Patty Lockard, Director

#StillInMission

REV. JULIE M. WILSON
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKER
Advance # 3022608

Email: JWILSON@UMCMISSION.ORG
Websites: <https://openarmsumc.org>
<https://umcmmission.org/missionary->



Merry Christmas! I greet you from Winston-Salem where I am waiting to see who gets more snow this season, my husband and son (who are still in Maryland) or myself who is several hundred miles south of them. Either way, I pray that the pandemic clears by the time all the snow melts.

Meanwhile, we at the Open Arms Community are operating at a limited capacity and serving a small number of children and adults in our building. Other families will still receive Christmas gifts, as well as food, and other supplies which we deliver periodically.

I pray you and yours have a peaceful Advent and a blessed Christmas!

Your Support Makes a Difference!

Thank you for giving Hope, Love, Joy & Peace this year!

Your support and prayers during this challenging time in ministry and mission has infused my work with your hope, love, joy and peace.

I look forward to being in mission with you in the year to come.

Continue journeying with me in God's mission by:

Following me on Social Media

@DEACONJULIE (Facebook)

@UMDEACONJULIE (Instagram)

@UMDEACONJULIE (Twitter)

Signing up for my newsletter!

Giving to my Advance #3022608 at
www.umcmmission.org

Prayer Requests

- An end to the pandemic
- An end to violence in our streets
- Immigration reform
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Strength, stamina, and continued good health for me to be able to continue in my ministry
- For the families and individuals who are involved in the Open Arms Community

December Birthdays

- 1, James Gibson, Amy Jones
- 2, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe
- 3, Delphine Hamilton
- 4, Neidel Hamilton, Mikael Johnson, Maren Lyon, Morgan Lyon
- 5, Linda Watson-Higgins
- 6, Charlotte Auth, Earl Beck (98)
- 7, Jim Hamilton, Christine Willard
- 8, Carroll Kehne, Chad Ritterbusch
- 9, Caleb Benson, Gus Eversz, David Fish, Harper McCarthy, Riley Stone, Joe Ward
- 10, Yvonne Eicholtz, Penny Knapp, Taylor Matsler, Nick Schwarzenberg, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci
- 11, Steven Jarvis, Preston Kinsey, Linda Reed, Sydney Tyler
- 12, Sandy Chaney, Audra Chewing, Curtis Fox
- 13, Elizabeth Anderson, Martin Rowley
- 14, Sophia Bostian, Laurene Carlisle, Amanda Lee, Rob Pond, Layton Rowley, Julie Wilson
- 15, Mary Caruthers, Makayla Sawyer, Thomas Shoemaker
- 16, Monica Pearce
- 17, Robert "Robin" Duggan, Amanda Stone, Shane Wickline
- 18, Noah Benton, Brett Chaney
- 19, Deborah Fleming, Sarah Gray, Robert Sharpe, Kern Thornton
- 20, Jim Dobbs
- 21, Eleanor Bowersox, Paul Maubert, Taylor Rosen
- 22, Donna Bruchey, Abigail Colby, Bonnie Duggan
- 23, Holly Martz
- 25, Bob Jacobs
- 26, Eden Kelly, Michelle Matsler, Wilhemina Winkler
- 27, Liam Condon, Kaitlin Herber, Gabriella Lee
- 28, Brent Moyer, Cora Vinar, Betty Waltz
- 29, Laurali Gough
- 30, Art Fennington, Cheryl Gray, David Lopex, Danielle Mentzer
- 31, Charlotte Elliott, Jack Willard



December Anniversary

Mike and Becky Isaacs	Dec. 4
Ed and Jennifer Kinsey	Dec. 5
Jeff and Katie Grossnickle	Dec. 6
Howard and Nancy Strine	Dec. 10
Tom and Susan Burall	Dec. 12
Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	Dec. 29
Steve and JoAn Ehlers	Dec. 30 (50 yrs)
Steve and Christy Mossburg	Dec. 31
Ethan and Abbie Mueller	Dec. 31

Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship - Virtual Edition

Presented By Visit Frederick (/LISTING/FREDERICK-VISITOR-CENTER/788)

December 14, 2020—January 5, 2020

Recurring daily

Visit Frederick Online Event

Frederic, MD 21701

301-600-4047 (Tel:3016004047)

4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Free

Wesleyan Circle will be meeting on Tuesday December 8th at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please bring an item for the church “Wheel Barrow”

Miriam’s Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Fellowship Group will meet on Saturday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m.



I have always enjoyed the Christmas season more than I let other people know, even family. To me there always is an air of closeness and intimacy with other people that is not experienced during other times of the year.

It may be that each of us is more open to receiving and to giving. Open hearts and open minds to the need of others leads to open hands and helping hands.

The Christmas tree supporting those in need through the Salvation Army was not physically set up this year, but we had a shoe box that was its spirit.

The wishes of those around us, most visible at Christmas, are wishes that exist all year. Why do we respond so eagerly at this time of year? I admit that giving makes me feel good and gratified; God has made the act of generosity a good feeling characteristic in man.

We speak of the Holy Spirit working within us to respond to the call of God and to follow the teachings of His Son, Jesus. The Holy Spirit is working all the time, every where and with everyone. We should be aware of those in need through the rest of the year if we are intentional in openness to God's call.

This year, 2020, why not commit yourself to entering a serving attitude, open heartedly to the work of the Holy Spirit's call. Pick a need within the community or in the Church and put some all year effort into it. Plan your time to volunteer (an idea is to tithe your time). Bring a friend into your effort.

Winter clothing is on sale at the end of the season. Plan ahead and get more for your money to meet needs that will inevitably occur. The fellowship Group at Calvary has taken on the challenge of leading the Sunday school for the Middle School Class. We will be serving at the Soup Kitchen six times in 2021 and there is always the wheel barrel.

Your hands are needed all year.

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FREDERICK, MD 21701
PERMIT No. 52

*Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of our community and our world.*

Table of Contents.....

Message from Pastor Steve.....1

Sermon Series/Pageant.....2

December Worship.....3

From Pastor Shannon.....4

Church in Society/Thank You..... 5-6

Weekday School.....7

#StillInMission.....8

December Birthdays.....9

December Anniversaries.....10

Stewardship11

