

the Messenger

✠ April 2021

Standing on the edge of something new

As we begin the season of spring, we are at a pivotal moment. More and more people have been vaccinated or will be eligible to receive the vaccination soon. The spike in infections, hospitalizations and deaths that we saw in January and February has been going down. Many restrictions are being eased or lifted and we can begin to do many things that we could not do for a long time. But we still need to be vigilant and careful since the threat of the virus is not gone. The loving and most Christ-like thing to do is still “do no harm” to ourselves and to our neighbors.

I am glad the Calvary Church has been able to continue to offer ministry and worship in various ways through the last twelve months. We’ve had to forgo many things and much had to stop, but at the same time, the virtual services have proven to be meaningful to many people. The phone calls and Zoom meetings, mailings and delivery of gift items has been a way to continue to connect and “be the church” in this disruptive time.

Here’s some of what we’ve learned:

- There is a consistent number of people that participate in the online services each week and that number has remained consistently high over all these months.
- Some of the people who have participated had not been in the church building before the pandemic and some have moved out of the area or have other limitations that would make it difficult to attend services in person even if we did not have the pandemic.
- The virtual services are different in significant ways from in-person worship and some of the differences aren’t all bad. Of course, we miss the hugs and handshakes, the conversation and sharing communion. However, the online medium allows us to include more visuals and music, more close-ups and creative use of video than is possible in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

As we go forward, we will continue to offer the virtual online services as an option to in-person morning worship in the sanctuary.

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I am glad that we have also consistently offered the option for worship in person since last July. We started with the outdoor worship in the parking lot and then moved into the sanctuary in September. After some dip during the January and February, we are now back to seeing forty-five or more people each Sunday. On Easter, we will offer two morning services in the sanctuary. This spring, we will be looking at ways to continue to offer more in this worship service. We will also be prayerfully considering whether it will be appropriate to go back to offering two Sunday morning worship services or continue with just one service.

As we follow the story of God's people through the Bible, we can see that God never takes the people back to where they were before. God is always calling the people to go forward. God is always creating new possibilities and giving birth to a future filled with promise. That means that God's people always need to be creative, flexible, and open to new ways of doing things. At times the people want to go back to the way things had been before, but God tells them they need to go forward and receive the promises that lay ahead for them.

After the first Easter, the early followers of Jesus found new ways to worship and grow in discipleship together. In the 18th century, Methodism was sparked as a movement when the established church in England was no longer meeting the spiritual needs of the people in England and Ireland. When Methodism came to America, it provided a new way for people to grow in spiritual holiness when there were no established congregations to serve the people in the American Colonies and westward across the frontier.

Now, in these days of the global pandemic, we are learning that the church is much more than a building. Even when the buildings were shuttered, the church continued to be in ministry. We've learned the value of relationships and connections and the importance of trying new ways to reach people with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. We are learning to trust that even in challenging times, God will be with us and God lead us forward. There are challenges ahead, but also great opportunities.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve Larsen

Worship in April

Living the Resurrection is the name of the worship series through the season of Easter. The resurrection gives shape and life to our present life in Christ and the future we share together.

April 2, Good Friday

Good Friday. Online Service

Good Friday open prayer. The sanctuary will be open for prayer, music and reflection from 5pm to 8 pm on Friday, April 2.

April 4. Easter Sunday.

Online worship premieres at 9 A.M.

In-person worship in the sanctuary, 9 A.M. and 11 A.M. Reservations can be made by calling the church office, or online through the church website.

Mark 16:1-8 Sermon Title: "Unfinished Business"

April 11 Youth Sunday. The youth will provide leadership for the online and in person worship services

April 18 Acts 3:12-29 and Luke 24:36b-48
Sermon Title: Touch and See

April 25 Acts 4:5-12 and John 10:11-18
Sermon Title: Listen to My Voice



Seeing his great grandfather once every-one (except Zeke) was vaccinated






Holy Week

NATURE WALK

a cross MARK 15:21	a leafy branch MARK 11:8	something broken MARK 14:3	the sound of a bird MARK 14:72
water JOHN 13:5	a heart JOHN 13:34	a table LUKE 22:14	twelve of something MARK 14:17
Something Sharp or thorny MARK 15:17	something purple JOHN 19:5	something hiding JOHN 20:19	a stone MARK 15:46
Something empty MARK 16:6	something springing to life LUKE 24:5	a sweet or spiced scent JOHN 19:40	each letter of Alleluia! HE IS RISEN INDEED!



During Holy Week we tell the story of Jesus' last week, from the triumphal entry to the Last Supper, cross, and empty tomb. Take a walk and use all your senses to find the things listed above. Take a photo or check it off, then look up the verse.



Message from Pastor Shannon

Calvary family, I made an announcement February 28th in worship that I wanted to share again. I have been your associate pastor for the past four years, but it is now time for me to move on to a new church.

You have suffered through multiple Harry Potter references in sermons with grace and patience. You have allowed me to minister WITH our young people, who are such a gift. Vacation Bible School, confirmation, youth group, and our Storytime on Zoom have been some of the highlights of my ministry here. I have been so honored to be with you in the joys of baptisms and weddings and in your grief at funerals. These last four years have been too short in many ways, but we have been through a contentious denominational event in General Conference 2019 and a global pandemic. You have wept with me when I had our third miscarriage and rejoiced with me when James Ezekiel Sullivan-Harrington was born. You have been supportive of me, even if you don't agree with me theologically or politically, from the beginning, and I have felt your prayers even as I've prayed for you.

It has been a gift to work on a church staff, especially with Pastor Steve who has helped show me how bigger churches work, which will be especially helpful as I move on to become a senior pastor myself.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling has appointed me, starting July 1, to be the senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church here in Frederick. We are very excited about this move, not least because we will get to continue to share (and experience) God's love here in Frederick! Please pray for myself, Trinity, and Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón, who is the current senior pastor of Trinity but will be becoming our new District Superintendent for the Frederick District July 1.

But this also means that come July 1, I will no longer be your pastor, so as much as I love you, I will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation. Part of this is so I can have space to get to know the new church and figure out how best to do ministry with them. Being so close will make this hard in some ways, but I am hoping our history will also open up space eventually for you and Pastor Steve to partner in ministry with Trinity and myself.

I am still your pastor until July, though, and know the Holy Spirit is at work with us these next few months. I will be praying for all of you and ask that you keep me and my family in prayer. We give thanks to God for you and trust in God's presence throughout this transition!

Stewardship

In Acts, Chapter 3, Peter and John, on their way to pray at the temple, encounter a beggar at the temple's gate. The beggar is lame and has been so from birth. The beggar asked them for money as was his daily custom. No one can ignore such need. The poorest of the poor. A person stricken with a disability that forced him into a life of misery and little hope of change for the better.

The interesting point is that the beggar does not continue to engage the two Apostles after his initial request for money. To me, the beggar has been rebuffed so often that any response was the exception and not the norm. So it happens with us. How often have you or I noticed, but did not see a person in need? To think about it, it is a matter of self-centeredness and self-deception about the world that we live. We tend to ignore things that make us uncomfortable and place demands upon us. Those who sought to follow Jesus were more in the mode to receive than to give. Peter and John were not of that mind.

The beggar gets the attention of Peter and John. They look directly at him. What does the beggar want – what does he really need? With the power given them by Christ they can look deeply into the beggar's heart and see what he wants. The Apostle James say in James 2:16; "If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" When asked, we need to act to aid the needy. Peter see's the beggar's need.

Peter now gets the attention of the unfocused beggar. Neither Peter nor John have the money to give. Peter says to the beggar; "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you." v. 6 *"What I do have I give to you."*

What Peter and John have is power to heal, power given to them from God by Jesus Christ. Not gold or silver, but the power of healing is what the beggar needs most. How much more will the beggar's life be changed if made whole in body. And while he was made whole in body – he was made whole in spirit. The beggar got up and walked and pranced and danced his way into and through the temple praising God.

I do not have the power to heal – that I know. The power given to me by God is much less than that given to Peter or John. But, I can follow Peter by giving to the needy what I do have. If I do have money, I can give it. If I have time and attention, I can give it. If I have love in my heart, I can give aid. If I can listen to a story, I can do that. I can give what I have as Peter and John did.

Counter Culture to and from the Cross for Easter People

In her message of March 7th, Pastor Shannon offered an interpretation of the Ten Commandments not as God setting forth a set of rules, but rather as the foundation of an alternative way of living for humankind, a way of life that was counter-cultural to the ways of life in earthly kingdoms of the day. Jesus brought forth this message, especially to those in power who queried him about his authority (e.g. Jn 8: 1-20; 18: 33-38) by indicating, so to speak, that His Father's world was not of this world. Indeed, what could be more counter-cultural in today's world than Jesus's Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5), all of which reflects the Ten Commandments and is subsumed in the spirit of Jesus's Great Commandment to us that we love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and our neighbor as ourselves (Mt 22:34-40). Jesus practiced a way of living that was counter to the local culture of His day, healing the afflicted on the Sabbath, dining with tax collectors and others looked down upon, even sharing water and conversation with a Samaritan woman of questionable past at a roadside well, He was condemned to die on a cross not because he was found guilty of a crime against the Roman law but largely due to his pronouncements and actions that defied cultural dictates of the religious authorities of His day.

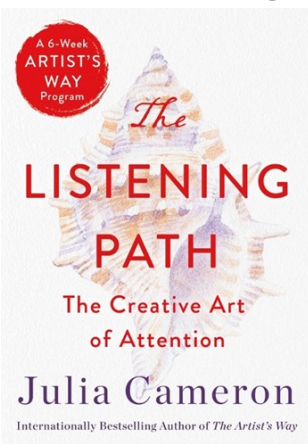
We hear a good bit these days about references to culture in our nation. Culture is a construct that embraces the customs, language, values, beliefs, and artifacts of a community of people. It is historical and contemporary, passed on from one generation to another. The reference to conflicts in culture at this time in our country is largely, though not exclusively, a reference to the greatest civil rights movement since the 1950s and 1960s, largely focused on concerns about discrimination and equal justice for people of color, especially Black Americans, but also our Indigenous people, Latinx, and lately, once again, Americans of Asian ancestry. We cannot cancel culture. We can deny it or decry it; but it was what it was and it is what it is. We can do away with its icons; but that does not eliminate the cultural referents of those icons that remain in the hearts and minds of the people who supported them. It was with the purpose of educating us about the complex cultural infrastructure of racism in American that Isabel Wilkerson wrote her scholarly book *Caste* that draws parallels with the centuries old caste system of India with its "untouchables." Was it any accident that in responding to the lawyer's question "who is my neighbor?", following Jesus's pronouncement that we love our neighbor as ourselves, that Jesus told the parable in which the despised Samaritan was the good neighbor to a roadside victim of robbery and assault (Lk 10-25-37)? No, it was not! But it was counter cultural.

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While we believe our nation's guiding principles and aspirational values to be of the highest order, we have fallen short in their attainment. In this context, if we are to be an Easter people following the example of our Risen Lord, we are called upon to be as counter cultural as Jesus in the society within which we live. In that spirit, let us each examine our hearts and minds for the preconceptions, prejudices, stereotypes, and activities or lack thereof, that have allowed injustices within our communities to be exercised and to commit ourselves to a closer discipleship with Jesus in loving God and our neighbor. That is my Easter hope for all of us and for our beloved nation!

Paul D. Nelson, Chair, Church and Society Ministry Team

The Listening Path Book Study, Wednesday evenings starting April 7



The Listening Path is a transformational journey to deeper, more profound listening and creativity. Over six weeks, readers will be given the tools to become better listeners—to their environment, the people around them, and themselves. The reward for learning to truly listen is immense. As we learn to listen, our attention is heightened and we gain healing, insight, clarity. But above all, listening creates connections and ignites a creativity that will resonate through every aspect of our lives

Join us for our online book study:

Wednesday evenings, 7 pm on Zoom

Beginning Wednesday, April 7 – Wednesday, May 12.

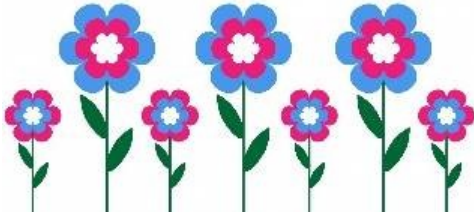
Led by Christy Mossburg. Email for more information Christy@calvaryumc.org

Many people have reached out to find out the status of VBS for 2021. At this time, no plans have been made. We are interested to hear what families are interested in doing, though, to see if there's a way we can possibly meet your needs and still enjoy something even remotely similar to what we have in years past.

Please take a minute and answer this quick survey:

<https://forms.gle/t7NbUQ66w6LGxcaQA>





Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

I can't believe it is already April. As I reflect on where we were at this time last year, I am proud of what we have overcome and what lies ahead for us in the new school year.

We continually adjust our plans but the sense of community, excitement and support for our school remains the same. The classrooms on the third floor got a fresh coat of paint and our updated website is ready to go. Many thanks to Christy Mossburg for helping us with this process. Her time, expertise and flexibility has been a blessing!

Our staff is just about fully vaccinated and the handbook is just about complete. At the end of the month, our teachers and staff will participate in CPR and First Aid training to renew their certificates which is required by the Office of Child Care. We have adjusted our programs to meet the guidelines and we have a clearer vision of how we will open in the fall. Currently, we have 60 students fully registered. We still have plenty of work to do, but Olivia and I will continue with getting the building, staff, and families ready for the 2021-2022 school year.

Continue to be safe-

Patty Lockard, Director

Mission Donations/projects

The Mission Fund allows the church to fund various projects around the world and locally. The income from the fund usually is used to support Volunteer in Mission and youth mission trips. Since we were not able to have such trips in 2020, the mission steering team has designated this money to some projects and organizations that are in particularly need.

American Red Cross- \$1,500 for COVID-19 testing kits that are used for each unit of bloods donated in our area. These kits allow the Red Cross to identify blood that contained antibodies that can be used to provide treatment for those with covid 19 infection. We will also be adding \$1,000 from our local communion restricted fund to this project.

Emergency Family Shelter. \$2,500 The Religious Coalition has secured a building that will be used as a permanent shelter for families who are in need of housing. This will replace the Emergency Family Shelter that moves from church to church each year. The building requires extensive upgrades and renovations, and this contribution is for that work. Calvary Church has been a sponsor site and provided volunteers for this shelter for many years.

Bryan Louis Chaney Memorial Golf Tournament

In memory of Bryan Chaney for the benefit of American Sleep Apnea Association – www.sleepapnea.org

Friday, May 21, 2021 at Glade Valley Golf Course, Walkersville, MD. 9am Shotgun start, 4 person scramble. Golfers & Sponsors wanted. \$300.00 per foursome. Sponsorship opportunities still available or if you are not a golfer, we are accepting donations as well.

FB Event:

[Bryan Louis Chaney Memorial Golf Tournament | Facebook](#)

Or, email Sandy & Brett Chaney for more information – bschaney6@comcast.net or phone -301-639-2692



Wesleyan Circle of UMW will meet

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

1:30 p.m. in the church library



Bill and Amy Lyon	April 6
Martin and Melissa Rowley	April 6
Robert and Linda Bennett	April 8
Brett and Sandy Chaney	April 8
Andy and Cheryl Radcliffe	April 19
Ben and Marilyn Marshall	April 24
James Mackley and Cheryl Grey	April 27
Mark and Angela Mayer	April 28

- 1, Owen Duthoy, Leslie Hutzell, Abigail Shankle
- 2, Rachael Bostian, Nancy Dobbs, Rodney Hamilton, Henry Maubert
- 3, Dal Hardy, Jeremy Leftwich
- 5, Aaron Burall, Scott Pearce
- 6, Becky Bostian, Jeff Dragan, Eryn Keyser
- 7, Adam Heller, Patty Keyser, JoAnn Leigh, Nicole Mentzer, Melissa Rust, Logan Sparks
- 8, Leo Daugherty, Melissa, Dennis Remsberg
- 9, Allison Engler, Rev. Steve Larsen, Marilyn Marshall, Patricia Sterling, Nancy Strine
- 10, Nancy Huffman
- 11, Katie Glock, Amy McGreevy, Douglas McKinnon, Magda Morales, Norie Shipley
- 12, Todd Main, Shirley Sibernagel (90)
- 13, Lori Leber, Martha Long
- 14, Olivia Bernier, Becky Isaacs, Justin Leggett, Katherine Ruth Marshall
- 15, Mandy Mossburg
- 17, Nathan Benson, Gina Calcagni, Rachel Jones, Charlotte Pasquerette, James Shoemaker
- 18, Jacob Leggett, Parker Leggett, Stephanie Whitmarsh
- 19, Angela Muehl
- 21, Juanita Pard
- 22, Jacob Mayer, Ben Moked, Cristian Rojas
- 23, Shannon Kraham
- 24, Ryley Harper, Rachel Reading
- 25, Suzanne Nusbaum, Jason Ramsburg, Bonnie Strine
- 26, Rev. Ken Dunnington, Garth Phebus
- 27, Jessica Jarvis, Elaina Souders
- 28, Michele Lopez, Trisha Stouter
- 29, Rev. Harry Cole, Richard Delauter, Elinor Eiker, Joshua Reading
- 30, Xavier Gaeta, Sharon Govotsos



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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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Church Scholarship

Applications

Each year the church provides scholarships to students in the congregation pursuing higher education in 2021/2022. See the church website for more information and to obtain an application. Applications are live April 1, 2021 and due by June 1, 2021.