



# the Messenger



May 2021

After my first year at Calvary, I shared some of the places where I glimpsed the kingdom of God in ministry with you. Jesus talks a good bit about the kingdom of God in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke); I tend to use the term *kindom* rather than kingdom, partially because I read too much, but partially because I think it brings up images of family and tight-knit groups (kin) rather than knights and serfs (king). Sometimes as Christians we think it isn't even possible to see this place where we are knit together in love and the earth looks a bit like heaven. But I have seen it here at Calvary and I want to share some of those moments with you.

After my first year, I named Vacation Bible School as one of those places where I glimpsed the *kindom* of God. That continues to be true. In 2018 and 2019 we had two VBSes--- our usual big to-do, and then a smaller evening Harry Potter themed one. In both, I loved how the kids ate up the stories--- one mom told me that she overheard her kid telling their dad, who did not have much church background himself, all about Jonah. Another grandparent sent me pictures of his grandchild trying to set up their own VBS for younger siblings. These were kids sharing the love and the stories with others! One year we had a few students who were a little hyper, but let me tell you--- one of them could tell you everything about Jesus and approached the Easter story with great reverence and awe. Even pandemic VBS was a place where I glimpsed the *kindom* of God- which, apparently can take place on Zoom! The theme in 2020 was compassion camp, and these kids were great at giving themselves and others compassion when the rest of us adults were so pent up with anxiety!

This past year, the virtual story time with the kids has been my favorite part of the week. Before one of our youngest members was talking much, he would sign "more" after the story was done! In the *kindom*, I think we always want to learn more and spend more time with our loved ones, even if that time is on Zoom. I love the kids showing me their pets and strange toys (like the Halloween skeleton decoration one of them cuddled like a Teddy Bear) and inviting me into their lives with generosity and patience that I haven't seen in many adults (including sometimes myself) in this pandemic.

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This congregation has helped me to glimpse the *kindom* of God in some of the most difficult times of my life and some of the most joyful. I know you will continue to do so for one another, and ask God's blessing upon that work.

I have seen the *kindom* of God in youth preaching and teaching (some of their insights have ended up in Facebook posts that are then stolen by other preachers to use in sermons!), encouraging one another on mission trips, and breaking out of cliques to welcome one another at the table. I have seen the *kindom* of God in older folks too--- in the simple presence of Stephen Ministers, the eagerness to learn and share in small group study, in the prayers of the faithful. One of the places in this year that I have seen people knit together and care and love for one another has been in Christy Mossburg's Facebook group the Gratitude Cafe, where people share prayer concerns and joys each day.

I have missed the vibrance of our music ministry throughout the pandemic, but I have experienced the *kindom* of God discussing music and life with Joche over the phone and witnessing the beauty of Joyce Summers' piano playing in worship. This past Good Friday, we opened up the church for prayer, and the beauty of the candlelit space also pointed me to the beauty of God's presence.

And of course, I have been changed. I kept cards from people sent to me after my third miscarriage in 2018--- some sharing stories of their own decades-old losses that reminded me we are never alone. That we can carry one another through the hard times. The moment in worship when I shared with you that I was pregnant with Zekie is one I will never forget--- I was sobbing so much I could barely get the words out and all of you stood and clapped and cried and hooted for joy for me. The generosity you showed us for our baby shower and your love for him even when you've only seen him in newsletter pictures showed me how we are meant to show that generosity and love to all children in the *kindom* of God.



*You are Invited*

*to the baptism of  
James Ezekiel*

*Sunday May 16*

*at 2pm*

*at Calvary UMC*

*Frederick*

*Masks and social distancing required.*

Because my mom and many of Zekie's mom's friends are pastors, we are having a short baptism service at 2pm on Sunday, May 16 at Calvary. We wanted him to be baptized at the church that welcomed him so warmly at birth but have been waiting until COVID-19 has calmed down. The virus has not, but most of our family and many of you have been vaccinated so we are hoping you will join us online or in person! We have had trouble with live-streaming, so the service may be posted later on Sunday, but we hope you can help us celebrate the grace that Zeke has been born into and will cover him his whole life

### **May Worship Schedule**

May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter– Acts 8:26-40 & John 15:1-8

Abide in Me– Rev. Sullivan

May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day– Acts 10:44-48 & John 15:9-17

No Greater Love– Rev. Larsen

May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter– Acts 1:1-11 & Luke 24:44-53

We are Yours– Rev. Larsen

May 23 **Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27 & 16:4b-15

Rev. Sullivan

May 30 Memorial Day Weekend, Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 & John 3:1-17

Rev. Larsen

**Big Thank You to  
Bob and Kaye Jacobs for the clean  
up and mulching in our courtyard.**







*Renew & Rejoice*, Calvary's campaign to replace our failing pipe organ is still moving along. As of March 31, 2021, we have \$507,000 contributed and held in the Organ Trust Fund. We have another \$8,300 held in the Restricted Account at the bank. Thank you to all those who have met their pledge to date or given special

gifts to this fund over the last year. Your generosity is appreciated and helps us get closer to the goal.

The amount pledged through the Renew and Rejoice Campaign was \$949,490. Our over goal is 1.2 to 1.6 million dollars. We can see a great amount of work still to be done. But through this last year, we the church has made significant progress.

The build part of the program is also making headway. Two contractors have provided bids to do the electrical and structural work required for the new for organ. The pipe organ building committee has met with one builder and secured preliminary plans for the instrument, but addition conversations are underway to finalize the design and cost. The Organ Committee plans to provide a plan to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting in May. The plan would be that we could have sufficient funds in hand and specific plans finalized so that we can sign a contract with the organ builder this summer or fall. The installation would then proceed over the following 18 months.

What each of us can do is to participate in the *Renew & Rejoice* program. First, if you have not formally committed financially – think about it and join with the church. Second, if you have not kept up with a planned giving schedule, do so, so that we will not be embarrassed as Paul warned the Corinthian Church. Third, pray about your intentions and act upon the guidance gained from God's Holy Spirit.

## **Children's Summer Activities & VBS**

Our staff and the Children's ministry team are evaluating what options we may have for some in-person events with the children over the summer. While it is unlikely that we can have an actual Vacation Bible School this summer, we are exploring other options, such as one-time events with smaller groups several times throughout the summer. If you have ideas or thoughts on what you'd like to see Calvary offer, or if you'd like to help, contact Christy Mossburg at [christy@calvaryumc.org](mailto:christy@calvaryumc.org)





We are unique beings. We are unique because we wear the mantle of a Christian. We claim heirship of God's kingdom as adopted children of God and as brother and sister to Jesus Christ. We are unique beings in the world.

We Christians, acknowledge our uniqueness by living as good examples to our brothers and sisters in faith and to those who have not yet come to faith in God. Living as an example to others as a Christian disciple is something that is God's will.

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus tells us "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." What a grand and glorious image. To be a light and beacon of good to the world. This reflects God's will for the church in its early years as it is today. The church is to be an example of good, a reflection of God's love, grace and mercy in practice. John tells us how this is accomplished. Jesus says, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:34-35. We set an example of good relationship to others. The church is to be a light of the world and a beacon of light set high to be seen far as doing good in strengthening spirit and body through acts of love for each other of faith and those who are without faith who are considered as the lost. Jesus' focus was on the lost over emphasis on the saved.

Matthew continues in verse 16 of chapter 5 with a direct charge to each of us: "In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven. Good deeds are a reflection of God's love for us. We show grace and mercy to others as we care for and hold in esteem others that are in need. We care for them spiritually and materially.

Not only does it glorify God, it attracts others to become like us. We have peace in life and live in harmony with others. That is something all want. Luke in Acts 2 shows this in the actions of the early church, "... they broke bread... and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." v. 45. Because they became the reflection of love to others, they "Were enjoying the favor of all the people." More and more Jews recognized that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah, "and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47

Christians can spread the good news of God; God has sent his Son to save us, because we could not do it ourselves. The Kingdom is near. Through the use of their own possessions, opening their homes, breaking bread (communion worship) and meals together; they were showing their love. Through those acts we can show our love of God and to others.

## Bryan Louis Chaney Memorial Golf Tournament

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. In memory of Bryan Chaney for the benefit of **American Sleep Apnea Association** – [www.sleepapnea.org](http://www.sleepapnea.org) Or, email Sandy & Brett Chaney for more information – [bschaney6@comcast.net](mailto:bschaney6@comcast.net) or phone -301-639-2692

### ***Adopt a Student***

Throughout this pandemic, we have showered some of our older Calvary adults with love. As we close out the school year, we wanted to show a little extra love to our high school and college students! So we are encouraging Calvary folks to adopt a student! Send a letter, card, gift, gift card, snack, anything to let them know we're all rooting for them. It's a stressful time with cancelled proms and graduations postponed. Let's share the love! Reach out to Christy Mossburg to adopt a student.

[Christy@calvaryumc.org](mailto:Christy@calvaryumc.org)

### **Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!**



We are excited to share that the Weekday School has achieved Level 5, the highest level, of Maryland Excels Quality Rating again this year. Maryland Excels builds upon the foundation of the state's licensing requirements. Every licensed program is inspected by the state at least once each year to ensure compliance with Maryland regulations. Maryland Excels provides the opportunity for programs to demonstrate achievements that exceed state licensing requirements. Having staff that meet the highest level of training and experience, assessing children's developmental progress, continuous quality improvement based on feedback from families and staff, and providing opportunities to engage families in the program are just some of the requirements to demonstrate a program's commitment to continue the quality of our program. We are very proud of our school!

Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful program!

Patty Lockard, Director

## **May Birthdays**

**1**, Christopher Graham **2**, James Bear, Laura Cosby, Jennifer Long, Lindsey Shankle  
**3**, Zachary Mossburg, **4**, Judith Allen, Helen Alsmeyer, Sarah Hubbard, Alexander Sparks, Amy Vinar **5**, Mary Matsler **6**, Don Cline, Joshua Patterson, Mary Beth Pearce, Suzanne Rosen, Caroline Strakonsky, Diane E. Stull **7**, Pamela Beachley, Cara Dragan, Charlie Jones, Shauna Main, Kaitlyn Quigley, Stephanie Slovikosky, Jill Sugden, Belinda Teague-Levy **9**, Eric Anderson, Tracey Carter, Kyle Shipley, Bryce Warehime, Camden Warehime  
**10**, McGarity Harper, Alice Linton, Ryan Masser **11**, Kelly Kim, Steven Zalatoris  
**12**, Rebecca Crum, Ronald Dudley, Susan MacMullen, Susie McMullen  
**13**, Melissa Rowley **14**, Matthew Kraham, Amy Lyon, Andrea Willets  
**15**, Allison Hamilton, William Pure **16**, Rachel Carter, Ryan Ruffner  
**18**, Brad Condon, Alison Massey-Sunderman **19**, Ethan Condon, Sydney Crum  
**20**, Cathee Calvert, David Cline, Shelia Howard, Evelyn Payne, Sam Shoemaker  
**21**, Hilary Martz, Robert Pickard **22**, Traci Davies, Mike Isaacs **23**, Meredith Miller  
**24**, Natalie Cook **26**, Gary Brown **28**, Dennis Ahr, Jessica Little, Linda Mullineaux  
**30**, Allison MacDonald **31**, Stephen Harris, Doris Keeney, Emma Kinsey, Martha Moked, Jane Sowers

## **May Anniversaries**

Fred and Lynn Schumacher	May 1
Scott and Leisa Moyer	May 3
Tom and Billie Stokes	May 5
Bobbie and Emily Jarvis	May 10
David and Janet Fish	May 12
Steve and Coreen Jarvis	May 20
Doug and Kim Selby	May 22
Brad and Jennie Davy	May 26
Rob and Joyce Summers	May 28
Pat and Maria O'Toole	May 30
Eytan and Martha Moked	May 31

### **Saturday, May 15, 2021**

Soup Kitchen from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm. If interested in volunteering please contact Bob Jacobs at: [bobjacobs @calvaryumc.org](mailto:bobjacobs@calvaryumc.org)

Wesleyan Circle Meeting  
Tuesday, May 18 at 1:30 p.m.  
Church Library.

**Calvary United Methodist Church**  
**131 W. Second Street**  
**Frederick, MD 21701**  
**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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### **Calendar Reminders:**

Prayers Shawl Ministry	May 1	10:00 a.m.
UMW Ex. Board	May 4	11:00 a.m.
Flower Planting	May 8	at 9:00 a.m.
Blood Drive	May 12	12:30pm– 7:30pm
Soup Kitchen	May 15	3:00 pm
Wesleyan Circle	May 18	1:30 p.m.
Miriam's Circle	May 25	1:00 p.m.
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