

the Messenger



June 2021

A Blessing for New Ministry

In my letter last month, I talked a lot about how I saw God at work in my four years as your associate pastor. In my sermons the next few weeks, I will be talking about this some more, as well as my prayers for your future ministry. In the newsletter this month, I wanted to offer you a blessing on that ministry based out of the liturgy for baptism, confirmation, and membership.

May you always remember that in baptism we are made to share in Christ's royal priesthood- we are all ministers together, sharing the grace of God that has been given to us. So may you grace one another and receive grace as you minister here at Calvary:

May the swell of music lift your spirits in worship in such a way that you carry the beauty of mystery and transcendence of the Divine with you throughout the whole week long.

May you find nourishment at the table in communion where we become part of God's story.

May you experience the joy of children's voices echoing in the sanctuary and may their play inspire you to delight in God's gifts.

May you gain wisdom from young people leading you in worship even if- or when - they make you uncomfortable.

May you get uncomfortable serving alongside people in need here in Frederick and out on mission trips as you learn to be God's hands and feet in the world and as you learn to see God in the people and places you least expect.

May you feel God's comfort through your church family sharing in the most difficult and the most joyful times in your life.

May you continue to faithfully support one another and our community through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as we promise in our membership vows.

May you SEE the presence of God. May you BE the presence of God.

May God establish and strengthen you to live in grace and peace. Always. Amen.

Transition Reminder

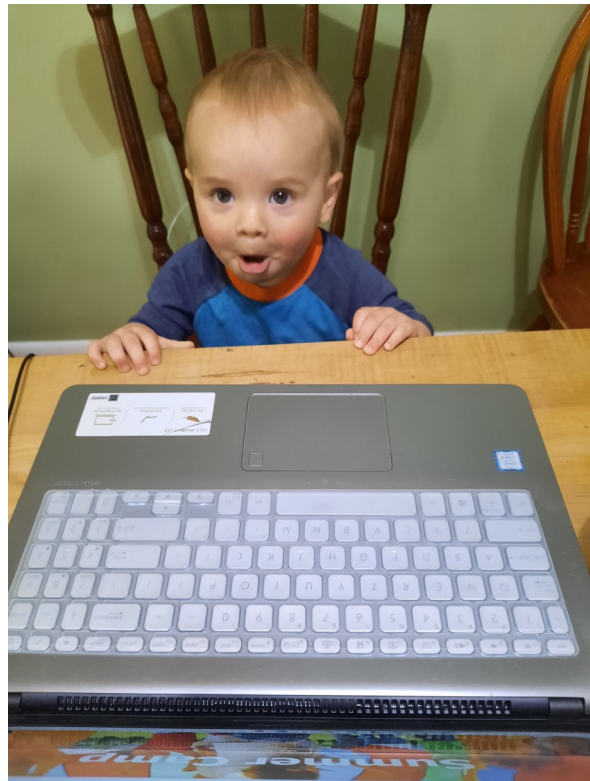
Transitions, even when there is a lot of love between the pastor and congregation like for us, can be joyful times, because our system of moving pastors around (itineracy) allows us to experience new ways of understanding God and serving the community through new insights from new leaders. You will not be receiving a new associate, but you will be welcoming new staff people! Ours is a strange transition because I will still be nearby and hope to see you all participating in future partnerships between Trinity UMC and Calvary, and I will keep tabs on you through Pastor Steve. But because I will be acclimating to a new role and you will be welcoming new staff, it is important to create space for these new connections to form and grow. I will no longer be offering pastoral care to Calvary members, nor will I participate in weddings, baptisms, or funerals (even though we'll be close and even though there is one baby coming in August who I would love to help baptize)! I will send my love from Trinity and give thanks for the care you will receive from Pastor Steve and Pastor Ken. I have included our conference policy here if that is helpful for you. Please know that me not coming back is not about me not loving you, but about creating that space and allowing new ministry to blossom.

Our conference policy (from ¶4015.Returning to a Previous Appointment - Clergy Transition Policy).

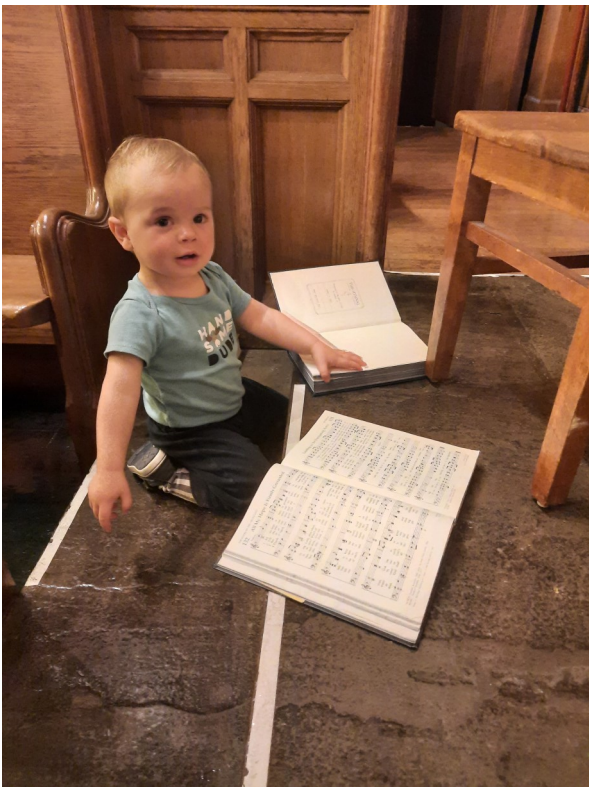
1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.
2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor. This policy is ongoing and doesn't have an expiration date.
3. Several weeks prior to concluding a pastoral appointment, a pastor shall inform all members of the church of this policy by printing sections one and two verbatim in either a pastoral letter to be sent to each member or a church newsletter to be sent to each member and encourage them to support the policy by their prayers and actions.



For Zekie's baptism, Rita blessed us with the gift of trees that will grow with Zekie. He is currently taller than it.



Zekie is surprised by his own creativity working on Mommy's sermon. If only she could understand what he typed.



Zekie plays with hymnals. He loves books and he loves music.

Plans for worship and other activities at Calvary Church

After months of staying home and limiting our exposure to others, wearing masks and practicing social distancing, we are nearing the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. With infection rates going down and vaccinations rates going up, Gov. Larry Hogan has lifted many of the restrictions we've been under. As a congregation, we are trying to determine what is the best way to proceed. We are going to move in a series of steps over time rather than all at once so that we can all move together and, hopefully, avoid missteps along the way.

We will continue to offer both an online and in person worship service each Sunday.

If you have symptoms associated with COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who currently has been found to have COVID-19, please stay home and participate online. Persons who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and have gone two weeks or more after their last vaccination **do not have to wear a mask** inside the building. You might still want to have a mask handy and wear it when you are around those who have not been vaccinated.

If you have not been vaccinated or have been vaccinated within the last 14 days, you may enter but you are **asked to wear a mask**. The ropes in the sanctuary seating will continue to be in place to allow physical distancing for those who may not have been fully vaccinated at this time, including children under 12. Everyone who enters the building for worship or other events over 50 people are asked to register their attendance with name and contact information.

Starting on Sunday, June 6, we will shift the worship service in the sanctuary to 10 AM. We will allow people to sing together and plan to add more music offerings as the summer goes on.

We will NOT be holding a Vacation Bible School this summer but hope to have some learning and activity kits to share with families over the summer. We also might hold some in-person events together as the summer goes on. The plan will be to return to Sunday School for the children in the fall. Adult Sunday School classes have the option to hold classes during the summer and we will be providing information about this as it becomes available.

The plans will continue to evolve and change as needed and situations require. One thing that we have all learned during this time is that it is important to feel connected to one another, to see each other's face, to share hugs and handshakes and laugh and sing and cry together as the situation warrants. I look forward to when we can do these things again without any hesitation or uncertainty.

I look forward to seeing you and greeting you soon.

-Pastor Steve Larsen



Say Goodbye to Our Pastor and Family

Farewell

There will be a farewell celebration for Pastor Shannon Sullivan on Sunday, June 13. At the morning service, we will be offering our prayers and hearing her preach for the last time at Calvary UMC. At 2 pm that afternoon, we will have the chance to share some words together, both formally and informally, and offer her and Aaron and Zekie a fond farewell.

Members and friends are invited to write a note or card, offer a picture from her time here or other tangible expressions of thanks and best wishes. This might be particularly appropriate for those who are unable to participate on June 13.

Worship in June

Worship in the sanctuary will be offered each Sunday at 10:00 A.M.. The online worship will be offered on YouTube and Facebook each week as well, premiering at 9:00 A.M.

June 6 (Rev. Shannon Sullivan)

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

Title: Being Renewed

June 13 Rev. Sullivan.

(This will be Pastor Shannon's last Sunday with Calvary UMC)

Mark 5:21-43

2 Corinthians 8:5-15

June 20 Father's Day (Rev. Steve Larsen)

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

Title: Enduring the Storms

June 27 Rev. Ken Humbert

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43



Job Opportunities at Calvary

The Church is creating three new part-time positions to help us with the ministry needs of the congregation going forward starting July 1.

Director of Digital Ministry

The Director of Digital Ministries will create and help to implement an online and digital communications strategy to reach and engage church members and visitors. This person will work with video, social media and the church website.

Director of Youth Ministries

The Director of Youth Ministries will provide leadership of youth ministries that enhances the spiritual, emotional, and relational development of the youth in the congregation and their families. Work with youth and their families to help the youth grow in their faith and fully participate in the congregation.

Discipleship Coordinator

The coordinator will oversee and direct the discipleship process of Calvary United Methodist Church and help people, especially new members and guests, to build relationships with others in the congregation.



Spring Planting at Calvary

Terry Rhoderick and

Wanda Bulkowski-Larsen pictured.



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

These months keep flying by but we continue to remain busy with almost 100% enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. We have a waiting list for kindergarten, the four year old program, and we just have a few spots open in our three year old program. We can't wait to have students and staff back in the building. August will be here before we know it!

We have been working with staff to plan for our reopening, parent orientation, and student orientation. It is hard to change from our traditional ways but we are adjusting and we will continue to offer the best program while continuing to keep our families safe.

Special thanks to Angela Mayer, Gail Colby and Paul Metcalf for their help again at the school. Angela helped me wipe down the student chairs along with always being a support system for our school. Paul hung crates and bulletin boards strips for the teachers and Gail has been helping with cleaning and organizing at the school. It is a team effort and I appreciate the continuous support.

Enjoy the sunshine-

Patty Lockard, Director



Sunday, June 6 at 11:00 am on the Calvary playground join us for our weekly Story Time with Pastor Shannon LIVE and in-person. Visit with your friends and take some time to play on the playground.

Stewardship

What do we expect, or hope for, as a result in our acts of generosity that we express toward the church and its body in Christ? As Christians, when we give of our material wealth to meet the needs of others, we hope that our love, given freely, will enhance the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters and in turn the love expressed by them to others. This is an example of the mustard seed is like the kingdom of God. This can be seen as a principle in action in the first century Church. Luke says of the Church in Jerusalem: “All the believers were one in heart and mind.” Acts 4:32

As a body, formed for a common single mission, no one claimed any of their possessions as their own. The greater value of *we* is lost to the *self*. Luke continues “...but they shared everything they had.” Another characteristic, in addition to “one heartedness” is the concept of unity.

Unity is the acceptance of oneness. Even if we naturally tend to promote individuality. As the body of Christ, we are in common in relationship with Christ and are active in our expressing the will of God.

This love in action, and unity becomes supernatural and powerful under God’s hand. It is used by God as a means to convince others (not of faith) that the gospel message is true. John 17:23 Jesus prays: “May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” Our love in acting and single mindedness is for the world to see and instilling a desire to become a part of the body. As we act in God’s will as an individual, while in unity with others, our small act becomes super in size and power. It is a God act and it affects others. It gives spiritual nurture to our brothers and sisters.

It is the nature of man to be individually motivated and to be self-centered to care first for self and family. Others are left to be last and we provide from our excess at a defined arbitrary limit. In today’s society we do not give all that we can – but we delude ourselves to think we are generous.

When the spirit of the risen Christ comes upon the faith community and people within it, believers possess courage to overcome their own nature. Rather than aligning to self-preservation, we will offer our possessions for the common good. Paul’s letter in 2 Cor 9:14 speaks to a hoped for response: “And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.” What we do with our possessions has a positive benefit to the spiritual well-being of our fellow believers and to those who are looking at us to see how we live to the word.

Bearing witness to the truth: Our civic, moral, and spiritual responsibility



We hear much today in the public media about “truth” and its opposite, whether in the context of the pandemic virus and how it is transmitted, the outcomes of political elections, or the basis on which criminal or civic indictments can be validly brought to our courts of justice. Unfortunately, our society has become polarized over disputes of what constitutes the truth, even bringing into question well established principles of science, political constitutional authority, and legal practice. This, in spite of the fact that from an early age we are taught to always tell the truth, even if it puts us at risk, and to understand through our education the philosophical and empirical foundations upon which truth may rightly be proclaimed, the foundations upon which our civilization is based.

In our Christian faith, we also learn about truth. Jesus, himself, proclaimed “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) and, in speaking to his followers, said: “You are my true disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31) As some in the early church began to stray away from those teachings and doubt what Jesus had proclaimed, the apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, spoke to the church in Ephesus about his personal witness to Jesus and his ministry on earth among us (1 John 1) And, to the same early church, the apostle Paul spoke to the need for unity of spirit through love of one another, humility, and respect for diversity of personal gifts and experience, living as children of light and truth. (Ephesians 4)

At this time in our democratic society, as the church of Jesus the Christ we are called upon to bear witness to the truth, as our civic, moral, and spiritual responsibility. In so doing, may we put into action our commitment to become disciples of Jesus as we also observe in the weeks ahead the birth of our nation founded on principles of constitutional authority and equal justice for all under the law.

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

Vic and Rebecca Rohrback	June 3
Rodney and Delphine Hamilton	June 4
Bob and Constance Mason	June 7
Rick and Susan Miller	June 7
Bill and Linda Warehime	June 8
Kent and Andrea Willets	June 10
Mike and Carol Stockhausen	June 12
David and Pat Herber	June 13
Robert and Jennifer Bennett	June 14
John and Becky Kile	June 15
Scott and Mary Beth Pearce	June 15
Frank and Beth Strakonsky	June 18
Dennis and Ellen Ahr	June 19
Randy and Maryjane McClement	June 19
Bret and Stephanie Slovikosky	June 20
Lindsey and Sheila Howard	June 21
Don and Gloria Orrison	June 21
Eliezer and Magda Valentin-Morales	June 21
Gary and Cynthia Brown	June 22
Kevin and Traci Davies	June 22
Matt and Amy McGreevy	June 23

Joe and Ginger Ward	June 23
Jason and Jennifer Aud	June 24
James Colborn and Patricia Sterling	June 24
James and Sharon Bear	June 25
Carroll and Donna Kehne	June 25
Dean and Maria Calcagni	June 26
Curtis and Janet Fox	June 27
Daniel and Lindsey Shankle	June 27
Don and Barbara Mentzer	June 28



1, Caroline Proudfoot, Meg Winter
 2, Amy Duvall, Rita Sharpe, Jeffrey Tang, Cindy Wilson
 3, Leo Giambarresi, Cindy Mills, Gloria Tang
 4, Rodney Hamilton, Emily Schwarzenberg
 5, Katherine Hembree, Austin Keyser, Greg Shipley, Lois Tyson
 6, Christy Mossburg, Kristine Schumacher 8, Katy Cosby, Linda Muehl, Dustin Newcomer
 9, Cynthia Brown, Alexander Heller 10, Katie Flory, Quinn Mood 11, Anastasia Pard
 12, Regan Forsythe, Ray Frank, Jesse Moxley 13, Pattie Rice
 14, Stephanie Felton Clair 15, Ronald Fischer, Becky Kile, Donald Shoemaker
 16, Ann Harper 17, Anne Mossburg 18, David Pard, Bruce Sheppard
 19, Judy Johnson, Kevin Keyser, Caitlin Swartz 20, Beth Condon 21, Jessica Bernier
 22, Ryan Willard 23, Zan Fleming
 24, Stephanie Quigley, Natalia Rojas, Grace Sheetehelm, Hannah Yeager
 25, Janet Shoemaker, Harper Sweet, Amy Stone 26, Joyce Summers 27, Noah Shankle
 28, Lainey Davy, Savannah Muehl, Susan Sharpe 29, Karla Hembree, Andrew Tang, Beth Waskey 30, Todd Bear, Lillyen Eyler, Collin Stone, Todd Weedon



June 1	June 13	June 23
Pastors Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	Worship 10:00 a.m.	Miriam's Circle Meeting 2:00 p.m.
UMW Ex. Committee 11:15 a.m.	June 15 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	June 25 Wedding 1:00 p.m.
Staff Meeting 2:00 p.m.	Weslyen Circle Meeting 1:30 p.m.	June 27 Worship 10:00 a.m.
June 6 Wheelbarrow Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.	June 20 Worship 10:00 a.m.	June 29 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
June 8 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	June 22 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	

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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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