



the Messenger

September 2021

Seventeen months. That's how long it's been since the children at Calvary UMC have been in the nursery or any Sunday School classes.

Never in our wildest dreams did any of us imagine where the pandemic would take us. It's been an exhausting seventeen months. But it's also been eye opening and filled with moments of unexpected joy.

For me, those moments have come in a variety of ways. One way that has blessed me beyond anything I could have imagined is sharing gratitude and prayers daily with an online group that comprises 239 (mostly) women from all around the United States, with a core group located right here in Frederick and at Calvary. You've seen this listed as the women's ministry "Gratitude Cafe", but in reality its reach is far beyond the walls of Calvary.

For years, I've offered an online Lenten prayer group on Facebook. When March 2020 hit, I knew I needed to offer the group to a larger circle of people. In just a few days, we had over 100 women in our group and quickly mushroomed to 200 before the month ended.

The premise is simple - gratitude can help us pull us out of the spiraling "why me?" thoughts that tend to accompany challenging times. Not to gloss over those challenges, but instead serve as a touchstone. I expanded on that with the addition of daily prayer requests. Each day, there are two posts. "What are you grateful for today?" and "How can we pray for you today?"

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I named the online group The Gratitude Cafe, and it's the first thing I look at in the morning and the last thing I check before I go to bed. We've lifted each other through some of the worst moments of our lives - deaths of loved ones, cancer diagnoses, worries about medical procedures, uncertainties about jobs - and celebrated the best moments - weddings, births, final cancer treatments, and even the little things like sticking to daily exercise routines or finding joy in unexpected moments in nature.

What gifts have you found over the last year? Though the world may have turned upside down, I challenge you to find at least one thing you can be grateful for.

Blessings,

Christy Mossburg

September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 5 Labor Day Weekend

Guest Pastor, Rev. Mary Jo Simms— is a retired elder in the Baltimore Washington Conference.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ken Humbert

Sunday, September 12 Guest Pastor, Rev. Ken Dunnington -is a retired elder in the Baltimore Washington Conference and former Senior Pastor of Calvary United Methodist Church

Worship Leader: Kyle Bostian

Join Us at Calvary's Fall Blood Drive!

The American Red Cross is hosting a Fall Blood Drive at Calvary UMC on Wednesday, September 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For what amounts to 1-2 hours of your time, you can help save up to 3 people with one donation! Blood supply levels in the area continue to be a critical need, and the pandemic continues to amplify the urgency for adequate blood supplies, so why not give a gift that can save up to 3 lives? Or if you can't, consider inviting a friend to donate! To sign up, call or text Eric Anderson before the event at 240.506.5759, or connect via email at eric.anderson3@redcross.org. The earlier you sign up, the better an appointment slot you will get!

DOD Musings

What is DOD Musings you ask? Director of Discipleship Thoughts.

Greetings Calvary UMC! I have been with you about 6 weeks. I write this as my husband and I are driving down to Jekyll Island, Georgia for a week of relaxing. Let me tell you Route 95 is not relaxing especially without AC. Now we have it when hooked up but something is wrong with it while driving.

I have met so many people and I am working on names and faces. I have been to 2 Sunday School classes. So happy you are meeting again. I also met some of the youth as they installed a new shed for the religious coalition.

So many things are starting up. We are receiving new members August 29. And our Crop Walk is coming up in October. Watch the bulletin for more details.

I am starting a six week study on Monday night's starting September 20 from 6:30 to 8:00. We will be looking at Margaret Feinberg's book **Taste and See**. Discovering God's creation. Please let me know if you would like to join me so I can order enough books. There is a DVD that goes along with the book.

I am so happy our paths are crossing at this time and I look forward to seeing how we progress along the pathways to Discipleship.



The Least of These Ministry is a feeding ministry that shares food and the love of Jesus to 13 Bateys. January 15-22, 2022 there is an opportunity to join this mission team to the Dominican Republic. Please see or contact Jacki Stranathan at Discipleship@calvaryumc.org for more information.



Coming in October, for more information contact Jacki Stranathan at:

discipleship@calvaryumc.org

September Youth Group Schedule:

- 9/8 Parent Zoom Meeting
- 9/9 Youth Group Kick Off/ Ice Cream 5:30 p.m.
- 9/19 Youth Group Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 9/26 Youth Group Meeting 5:30 p.m.



Stewardship

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” Matthew 6: 3-4

We have a hard time getting the meaning of left – right hand acting independently. As hard as this is to mentally grasp, these versus have had both positive and negative effect upon the Christian steward.

The difficulty arises from the individual and private nature of a person's relationship with God and what motivates a giving person to further God's kingdom.

Jesus spoke these words to point out the sin of pride as the givers motivation. Pride by those who want to be “seen” as a generous person and to be recognized for their charitable act. In Jesus' time those who were about to do a great deed used trumpets and hired cheerers to announce to the public that they were about to do a great thing – their reward was the public recognition and honor.

When Jesus said, “do not let your left hand know what the right hand is doing”; it was to warn of the sin of pride. Humility goes a long way. God's reward in secret is the self-actualization and the inner good feeling we attain by the act of generosity. This is the reward promised by God when giving in secret. Another reward is at our final judgment.

Verse 3 is often cited by disciple stewards to keep secret from others their act of generosity. Could this be false humility?

This brings us to the counter point of being generous to the poor and needy. It is the will of God that Christian stewards share material possessions in order to encourage others in the Body of Christ. How can we encourage others to be generous if giving in secret when the act is unknown? Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church told them about the sacrificial generosity of the Macedonians to give to the poor in Jerusalem. People who are generous are special encouragers, not only to other Christians but to God himself. For, God will reward the giver in secret but often in a public way.

Acts 4:36 tells of a generous disciple named Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus. He gave a piece of property to support the work of the early church. His act of generosity was made known to all his brothers and sisters in Christ and in recognition they renamed him Barnabus, the missionary partner of Paul.

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We assume that our church family is a giving congregation because we are called to be generous with our material possessions. . We assume we are obedient and alike in practicing our faith. As disciple stewards it is our calling to give out of what we have. As a practical example, we see others placing offerings each week into the church collection plate. We are told of special gifts in time of need. We see the good deeds done by others, even if the smallest of acts.

This is the admonition of God: Be joyful in your giving, so that your gift, given in humility, can be seen by others as an example of your faith and something to be emulated. Be joyful in your giving so that God will be glad in your giving and reward you in secret.



The Prayer Shawl ministry group started meeting again in May after what seemed like a very long time. We continue to produce beautifully hand-crafted shawls to be given to anyone who would be comforted by having one. Our usual meeting time is at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month. (Occasionally there is some variation in the details, however, so please check if you plan to join us.) in calm, quiet and peace are what you crave right now, consider joining us! You would be very welcome. And please continue to spread the blessings by sharing the shawls with others; friends, family...or total strangers who need comfort.

Open Prayer will begin on Wednesday,

September 22, 7:00pm to 7:30pm. Join us for a time of prayer, reflection, music, and scripture. " For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20 KJV). Please contact Rev. Beth Richards or Wanda Bulkowski-Larsen for more information.

Open 
your heart
to prayer 

Sunday School begins!!

We are excited to share that **provided the positivity rate does not continue to increase**, the nursery will be re-opening on Sunday, August 22 and children's Sunday School for preschool through 5th Grade will resume on Sunday, August 29. Sunday School will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. The nursery is available during the worship service from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Please read the below guidelines and [click here to register your child](#) for either (or both) of the options that you plan to use.

In order to do this, we must follow guidelines from the State of Maryland for Childcare and schools. For Sunday School, we are following the guidelines that the Weekday School is following in order for them to stay compliant and open their doors for students this fall.

Please do not bring your child if they have a fever or are exhibiting any symptoms that are COVID or cold/flu related (stuffy/runny nose, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea) or if they have tested positive for COVID in the past 14 days or have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID in the past 14 days.

Here are the changes to be aware of for the nursery:

We will do temperature checks before signing in your child.

Our former nursery toys have been cleaned and packed away. Please bring a few toys for your child that we can keep in their own personal bin for use when they are in the nursery.

Snacks/food will not be permitted in the nursery.

Children in the nursery will maintain social distancing. Children ages 3 and older are required to wear a mask.

Here are the changes to be aware of for Sunday School:

Parents are not permitted to come into the Education Building. **We will greet families at the front doors of the Education Building and do a quick temperature check for each child.** There will be a binder at the door where we will record this information, (name, parents contact info and temperature recorded) along with a printout of the MD K-12 and Childcare Covid Guidance which was updated on July 23, 2021.

All classes (preschool through 5th grade) will meet in the Activities Room for Sunday School. We will start with a group opening, maybe a preview of the Bible Story, and then break out into the corners of the room for smaller groups. We'll be using a curriculum that's very similar to our VBS program, including VBS Bible buddies and music.

Students and teachers are required to wear masks.

Students will have individual baggies of materials to use with their name on their baggy.

We will maintain social distancing of 3 feet.

We will not have snacks during Sunday School.

If any child feels sick during Sunday School, we have a "Health Room" set up in the kitchen right across the hall from the Activities Room where that child will stay while we contact their parents.

Parents will pick their children up at the front door after Sunday School.

Both the nursery and the Sunday School will follow all state guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the rooms and hallways.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these changes. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Christy Mossburg, Director of Christian Education

Amy Stone, Children's Ministries Coordinator



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

Well, we are officially back! Last month we welcomed our kindergartners to school. They are settling into their new classroom and learning all the new routines. Our staff is

learning how to navigate and adjust to all the new guidelines too. Please keep in mind that we are currently unable to have parents in the building so we will be utilizing the parking lot during drop off and pick up. If we can minimize the use of the parking lot during school hours (8:45-12:30) we can keep our students and families safe. Thank you for your help with this matter!

Unfortunately, Ms. Johnson, who was planning to teach our Monday, Wednesday, and Friday four- year old program will not be returning this fall. She has been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer and currently undergoing radiation and chemo. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to battle this very challenging time.

Currently I will be teaching the four- year old class until a replacement is found. If you are interested or if you know someone who is interested in possibly applying for the position they can reach me at 301-662-6783 or

director@calvaryweekdayschool.com.

I can't wait for the preschoolers to return!

Patty Lockard, Director

One Day I Wrote Back

6-Week Zoom Study Wednesday evenings, starting September 8 at 7pm.

Led by Christy Mossburg

Do you struggle to relate the Bible to your daily life? Jane Herring wrestled with the contradictions, puzzling stories, and difficult sayings in scripture—until she discovered the power of interacting with them.

Herring guides you to talk back to those scripture passages you don't understand. Ask questions, explore your life, plead, praise, and ponder. She provides simple, practical tools for beginning and experienced writers.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Bruce and Kathy Phillips | Sept. 3 |
| Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg | Sept. 4 |
| Mark and Allison MacDonald | Sept. 6 |
| Adam and Melissa Rankin | Sept. 6 |
| Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette | Sept. 7 |
| Bertram and Jennifer Edmonston | Sept. 9 |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| John and Ann Harper | Sept. 11 | Chris and Heidi Sweet | Sept. 22 |
| David and Gail Colby | Sept. 16 | William & Mari Beth Schmersahl | Sept. 24 |
| David and Cindy Mills | Sept. 16 | Peter and Jenn Duthoy | Sept. 26 |
| Rob and Jen Pond | Sept. 17 | Bob and Faye Cannon | Sept. 28 |
| Justin and Karen Leggett | Sept. 20 | | |

Welcome Ladies!! Wesleyan Circle Meeting

Come and join us for the beginning of the fall schedule.

Tuesday, September 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the church library/conference room.

See you there.

Our current covid-19 safety plan:

Like all of you, our church leadership is aware of the changing conditions around us regarding Covid-19 and its Delta variant. We have been carefully monitoring the situation here in the Frederick area, and the Re-Open Task Force has decided that beginning today Sunday, August 22 masks will be required when attending service or events within the church building. We will, however, continue to sing and read responsively. We are masking for the safety of all and will announce all changes or enhancements to our protocols by all our media means. We want everyone to BE safe and FEEL safe. If unvaccinated, we ask you to continue to social distance and wear your mask. If you have any questions, or wish to share your feelings, feel free to speak with me or any other member of the Re-Open Task Force.



- 1,** Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky
- 2,** Madelynn Sewell
- 3,** Jacob Livingston, Emily Yeager
- 4,** Bill Waskey

5, Robert Baltzell, Grace Dobson, Andrew Howard, Stephen Miller, Bill Pasquerette

6, Tyler Schroyer, Kathryn Schumacher, Kelly Stull, Janet Wiles

7, Kathy Shiflett

8, Isabella Anderson, James Dennis, Fannie Johnson, John Shade

9, Collin Mood, Douglas Selby, Fon Smith

12, Ned Calabrese, Bobbie Jarvis, Paul Metcalf

13, Carole Law

14, Joyce Dixon, Anna Mills

15, Jennifer Cline, Luke Vega

16, Eleanor Pickard, Melissa Shipley, Joe Staggs

17, David Calabrese

18, Sophie Bailey, Tristan Belgrave, Laurelle Maubert

19, Amanda Calabrese, Ryan Fox

20, Basil Eavey, Paul Nelson

21, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley

23, Lindsey Howard, Helen Sheppard, Cleon Stull

24, Bruce Phillips, Richard Phillips

25, Judy Delauter, Colin Lyon, Anne Rollins, Renee Vega

26, Jeannie Baumgartner, Anna Snyder, Billie Stokes

27, Jacqueline Grimes, Beth Strakonsky, Gina Weedon

28, Ray Crum, Scott English, John Patterson

29, Brad Davy, Thomas Dixon, Bertram Edmonston, Archer Grimes, Bea Kilel, Mitch Reading, Jane Tritt

30, Haleigh Seek, Gregory Selby

September Calendar

Sept. 1

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Sept. 2

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

Sept. 4

10:00 a.m.

WRS Bell Ringers

Sept. 5– Wheelbarrow

9:00 a.m.

Virtual Worship

9:00a.m.

In-person Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

In-person Worship

Sept. 6

7:00 p.m. SPRC

Sept. 7

11:15 a.m.

UMW Ex. Committee

Sept. 8

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Sept. 9

1:00 p.m.

Mary Martha Circle

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

Sept. 12

9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship

9:00 a.m.

In-person Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

In-person Worship

Sept. 13

7:00 p.m. Trustee's

Sept. 15

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Sept. 16

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

Sept. 18

5:00 p.m. Calvary at the
Soup Kitchen

Sept. 19

9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship

9:00 a.m.

In-person Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

In-person Worship

Sept. 20

7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

Sept. 21

1:30 p.m.

Wesleyan Circle Meeting

Sept. 22

2:00 p.m. Miriam's Circle

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Sept. 23

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

Sept. 26

9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship

9:00 a.m.

In-person Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

In-person Worship

Sept. 27

7:00 p.m.

Church Council

Sept. 29

Blood Drive

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Sept. 30

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

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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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Saturday, September 18

5:00 p.m.

Contact Bob Jacobs
to volunteer