



the Messenger

† December 2021

Year-end reflections 2021

The year 2021 has been another year of challenges for us as individuals, as a congregation and as a nation. While for a time we thought life was returning to the way it used to be, we discovered that our daily and weekly practices have changed in ways that will be with us for a long time to come. This includes a smaller number of people in the building for worship, for Sunday school and Bible study and for other ministries. But at the same time, there are many ways that the church and the Calvary Weekday School have made a positive difference in the lives of many.

Music is returning to the church. We can all be grateful for the ways that Joyce Summers has helped to keep music with us. She has lined up soloists and groups to provide anthems and special music on Sunday mornings. She found organists to fill in while we are looking for a permanent new organist and director of music. And Joyce will be putting together a choir of our own members to sing at Christmas time. All the while she and Rob Summers were working to put together a plan for the new organ. Thank you so much, Joyce!

After more than eight years of study, we have a clear plan for purchasing and installing a new organ that will serve the needs of the congregation for many decades to come. I am grateful for the hard work that has been done and the many generous people who have contributed to the Renew and Rejoice campaign. More information will be available in the January Newsletter.

At the same time, the church has continued to offer care and outreach in the community in various ways. We held 5 days of blood drives organized by Eric Anderson, each being two shifts rather than just one, running from 8:30 am to 7 pm each day. Under the leadership of Bob Jacobs and Kay Hirsh, Calvary provided the food and volunteers for five evenings at the soup kitchen run by the Community Action Agency. We have entered a covenant relationship with the Board of Global Ministry to support the work of Deacon Julie Wilson who serves as a missionary with Open Arms United Methodist Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina. We are hosting the Family Emergency Shelter December 18 through January 1. The Mission Team will continue to promote one day projects in the area, such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace which is an organization that makes beds for families in need. The team is also looking at Volunteer in Mission trip in 2022. And it was great to see the Calvary Weekday School up and running once more after being closed for a year.

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Many changes have taken place this year as we said goodbye to Rev. Shannon Sullivan as Associate Pastor and Joche Wilmot as organist and director of music. We miss all that these two persons brought to the church. We are glad to welcome Jacki Stranathan and Jenn Duthoy on the church staff. We have received multiple applications for the organist/director of music position and are hopeful that we can find someone to lead the music ministry going forward.

One of my goals for the coming year is to explore what can do to be better caretakers of our environment as individuals and as a congregation. Another goal is to help the congregation learn what it might mean to become a reconciling congregation and consider if this is a good fit for us as a congregation, especially in light of decisions that are coming in the United Methodist Church as a whole.

In this season of thanksgiving and celebration, it is good for us to come together and renew our connections to one another and to God. God is with us and God will always be inviting us into a day filled with hope and possibilities.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

Update on Candlelight Tour at Christmas

Visit Frederick, that hosts and promotes the annual candlelight tour of churches at Christmas time has decided that the tour will not be held in person this year.

Advent Worship Series-

The Inn: Housing the Holy (Worship Design Studio)

The story of the nativity tells us there was no room in the inn for Mary to give birth. The child would have to be born elsewhere. As we enter the Advent season, how can we be a place where the Holy can find room to be born? How might we offer respite, welcome and care to those seeking shelter from the challenges that life brings? How might we find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Dec. 5 Advent 2 Holy Communion

“A Place at the Table”

Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 12 Advent 3: **“How Much is Enough?”**

Rev. Ken Humbert, preacher

Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 19 Advent 4: **“A Room with a View”**

Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:46b-55



Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (Friday) Two worship services.

Both will be livestreamed and in person.

7:00 PM Worship Service. Family Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve: **“The Inn”**

Luke 2:1-20

9:00 PM Worship Service -Holy Communion and Candlelight

Christmas Eve: **“The Inn”**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-7 (8-20)

Dec. 26

Sunday after Christmas: **“Dwelling”**

Colossians 3:12-17 - Luke 2:41-52



Join Us at Calvary's **Holiday** Blood Drive!

The American Red Cross is hosting a Holiday Blood Drive at Calvary UMC on Wednesday, December 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For 1-2 hours of your time, you can help 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 holiday 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. Limited appointment times remain, primarily in mid-afternoon and in the last hour, so to secure a spot on the schedule, please reach out soon!



It's that time of year again! We would like to deliver Christmas gift bags and cards to our Grateful Heart members. Delivery date will be the afternoon of December 17th. We will use the church van to travel from group home to group home, those who would rather drive themselves are welcome too. For more information, please contact Margie Wilde at skywilde@comcast.net or Paulette Shockey-Petrucchi at drbpshockey1@gmail.com to join or ways you can get involved.



UMW Advent by Candlelight Tea

Join the UMW celebrate the Advent Season. A program, tea, treats, and fellowship are planned for Saturday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. Please RSVP on the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall or by emailing Jane Sowers at jsowers@fred.net by December 5.

Musings from the Director of Discipleship

December 2021

Malcolm and I have been thinking about the Inn in Bethlehem. We have been in the same situation searching for a place to sleep. We were camping and a huge storm came so we didn't have reservations. We looked and looked no room at the Inn. Ended up driving and driving. I can't imagine Mary and Joseph and their search. Our theme at Calvary is The Inn Housing the Holy.

Calvary is stepping into the theme whole heartedly. We had our Charge Conference on Saturday morning celebrating the ministries that are awakening.

A team travelled to Hagerstown both last Wed. and Sat to build beds for children who do not have a bed. Sleep in Heavenly Peace was brought to our attention by Helen Shepherd. What a great ministry.



On Saturday night we celebrated 25 years of the Jacobs hosting the Soup Kitchen. An excellent outreach. We were blessed our youth were there. What a great ministry. Sunday many hands came to church to bring items to decorate our church for Advent and the Christmas season. And Sunday night our youth making over 150 cards for the homeless and shut ins. What terrific Ministries.

As December progresses there will be more opportunities for Ministry. Watch the bulletin. There will be service projects, teas, Bible Studies, get togethers, and more. Our hearts will be full as we look to House the Holy.

Sacred Rhythms: Spiritual Practices that Nourish Your Soul and Transform Your Life

***A winter Sunday morning 6-week group study beginning
Sunday, January 23rd
(Jan. 23rd—Feb. 27th)***

Do you long for a deep, fundamental change in your life with God? Do you desire a greater intimacy with Jesus? Do you wonder how you might truly live your life as God created you to live it?

Spiritual disciplines are activities that open us to God's transforming love and the changes that only God can bring about in our lives. Developed by United Methodist pastor, Ruth Haley Barton, and picking up on the monastic tradition of creating a "rule of life" that allows for regular space for the practice of the spiritual disciplines, *Sacred Rhythms* takes you more deeply into understanding seven key disciplines along with practical ideas for weaving them into everyday life.

Each chapter includes exercises to help you begin the practices---individually and in a group context. The final chapter puts it all together in a way that will help you arrange your life for spiritual transformation.

This study will be led by Calvary member Amy Kulesa. More information will be given about ordering materials in the near future. To sign up, please contact the church office.



You're invited to join Missionaries from around the globe for a special virtual Christmas Celebration offered from United Methodist missionaries to the Church in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Missionary Association. Use this address to see the event.

<https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtd-uvpz0oG92dW7n80eDGgk3Uf2FTTpSq>

REMINDER: I was a stranger and you welcomed me!

As the colder temperatures of winter set in, Calvary is blessed to be able to provide warm shelter again this December to families that are in transition from being homeless to having a home of their own. In support of the Family Shelter Program of The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, we will host such families in our Education Building from December 18-Jan 1.

We will need a few helpers to set up cots in our Education Bldg. on Saturday, December 18 and again two weeks later to take them down; and evening meals for the families are always welcomed. Helping in either of these ways requires not much more than 30' on site! There are generally no more than half a dozen such families, the specific number of whom we will know closer to the date of their arrival.

Please consider volunteering for either of these service opportunities to welcome our neighbors in need at this time when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus! If you are able to help, please contact me (paul.d.nelson@outlook.com) or Jacki Stranathan (discipleship@calvaryumc.org). Merry Christmas!



Greetings form the Calvary Weekday School!

We received great news last month that our school qualified for the Child Care Stabilization Grant. The goal of the Child Care Stabilization Grant is to provide financial relief to help defray added expenses and unexpected costs due to the pandemic. Child care providers have suffered staffing shortages due to the challenges faced from the pandemic and unfortunately we experienced staffing loss at our school. Under this grant, our school will be able to adjust our current budget to cover additional costs while also providing a one-time bonus for our employees. Our school has always been fortunate to have a qualified staff and our goal is to recognize their hard work in order to continue the outstanding program Calvary Weekday School has to offer for families. I am continually grateful for the extra time and dedication they provide to families and students each day.

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year for current families and church members will take place December 13th-17th for our kindergarten and preschool classes. Alumni may begin registering December 20-21st. Please contact Olivia at 301-662-6783 or calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com for information about registration.

Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your family!

Patty Lockard, Director



Traditional Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday December 12 at 9:00 am in Parish Hall.
All are invited!

Stewardship

Nichodemus was a learned and prominent Pharisee. He held high status in the Jewish society and their religious system. He thought he knew a lot about God. But, he sought out Jesus to discuss questions for which he did not have answers.

There was a lot at stake for Nichodemus , status, reputation, maybe even his position in the synagogue (worldly things to be sure) – so he came at night to meet with this teacher, or was he a Rabbi, or maybe a prophet. What he learned was that he held more questions than he thought. He received a lesson that was beyond his understanding. “How can someone be born when they are old?” (John 3:4) What is this “born of water and the Spirit”; what is the Spirit and where does it come from?

Nichodemus did not get the answer to his original question. As we often do not get clear answers to our questions. But Jesus did give him a great deal of insight into God’s will, the Holy Spirit’s ministry and what the Kingdom of heaven is like. If you read John 3: 1-17 you will get insight to Nichodemus’ dilemma and by coming at night the idea of his taking risk. Nichodemus mirrors our own image of a seeking disciple. He came to Christ seeking answers. Who is Jesus and how does he relate to God?

This trained Pharisee, as Paul was, had a curiosity to learn – “seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7) Nichodemus may never have heard those words, but he innately had the idea and he acted upon them. He sought out the Christ/God without having much insight to their direct relation to him. How much more insight do we have and we still neglect to act in seeking out God, Jesus words, or the Holy Spirit. Can we even measure up to Nichodemus?

After this night time meeting, Nichodemus must have meditated upon his time with Jesus. Jesus’ words gained meaning to Nichodemus. How do we know? John gives the answer; after Jesus’ death Joseph of Arimathea took his (Christ’s) body for burial; “he was accompanied by Nichodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.” (John 19:39) Over time Nichodemus came to understand. If we seek, we will understand and find.



- 1**, James Gibson, Amy Jones **2**, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe
- 3**, Delphine Hamilton, **4**, Neidel Hamilton, Mikael Johnson, Maren and Morgan Lyon
- 5**, Linda Watson-Higgins **6**, Charlotte Auth, Nathan Ellington
- 7**, Jim Hamilton, Christine Willard, **8**, Carroll Kehne, Chad Ritterbusch
- 9**, Caleb Benson, David Fish, Harper McCarthy, Riley Stone, Joe Ward
- 10**, Yvonne Eicholtz, Penny Knapp, Taylor Matsler, Nick Schwarzenberg, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci
- 11**, Preston Kinsey, Linda Reed, **12**, Sandy Chaney, Audra Chewning, Curtis Fox
- 13**, Elizabeth Anderson, Martin Rowley
- 14**, Sophia Bostian, Amanda Lee, Rob Pond, Layton Rowley, Julie Wilson
- 15**, Mary Cartuthers, Makayla Sawyer, Thomas Shoemaker
- 16**, Monica Pearce, **17**, Robin Duggan, 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, 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 Lopez, Danielle Mentzer
- 31**, Charlotte Elliott, Jack Willard

Mike and Becky Isaacs	December 4 (50th)	Steve and JoAn Elder	Dec. 29
Ed and Jennifer Kinsey	December 5	Steve and Christy Mossburg	Dec. 31
Howard and Nancy Strine	December 10	Ethan and Abbie Mueller	Dec. 31
Tom and Susan Burall	December 12		
Bill and Georgia Riggelman	December 19		
Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	December 29		



Dec. 1	Dec. 14	Dec. 25
Calvary Blood Drive	10:00 a.m.	Merry Christmas!!
6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	Pastor's Bible Study	Dec. 28
7:00 p.m. Open Prayer	Dec. 15	10:00 am.
Dec. 2	12:00 p.m.	Pastor's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. AGAPE	Miriam's Circle Luncheon	Dec. 29
Dec. 5 –Wheelbarrow Sunday	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Sunday School	7:00 p.m. Open Prayer	7:00 p.m. Open Prayer
10:00 a.m. Worship	Dec. 16	Dec. 30
5:30 p.m. Youth Group	6:00 p.m. AGAPE	6:00 p.m. AGAPE
Dec. 7	Dec. 19	
10:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m. Sunday School	
Pastor's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Worship	*No Bake A Batch this season.
1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Commit.	Dec. 21	
Dec. 8	10:00 a.m.	
6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	Pastor's Bible Study	
7:00 p.m. Open Prayer	Dec. 22	
Dec. 9	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	
6:00 p.m. AGAPE	7:00 p.m. Open Prayer	
Dec. 11	Dec. 23	
2:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. AGAPE	
UMW Advent Tea	Dec. 24	
Dec. 12	7:00 p.m.	
9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant	Christmas Eve Service	
10:00 a.m. Worship	9:00 p.m.	
5:30 p.m. Youth Group	Christmas Eve Service	

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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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.

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Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday in the Church Office at 9am. We would love our 6th-12th graders to join us for music, games, and Bible study.

Youth Group meets every Sunday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and starts each fellowship time with a dinner together.