

the Messenger

† January 2022

Worship, January 2022

Jan. 2, 2022 Second Sunday of Christmas. Celebrating Epiphany

Matthew 12:1-12

Sermon: Welcoming the Stranger

Jan. 9 Baptism of the Lord (First Sunday after Epiphany)

Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22

Sermon: First the Dove, Then the Thunder

Jan. 16 Martin Luther King, Jr Weekend

(Second Sunday after Epiphany)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11

Signs of the Savior

Jan 23 (Third Sunday after Epiphany)

Luke 4:14-21 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Jesus at Nazareth, Part 1: His Inaugural Sermon

Jan. 30 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany)

Luke 4:21-30 and Jeremiah 1:4-10

Jesus at Nazareth, Part 2: Trouble with the locals



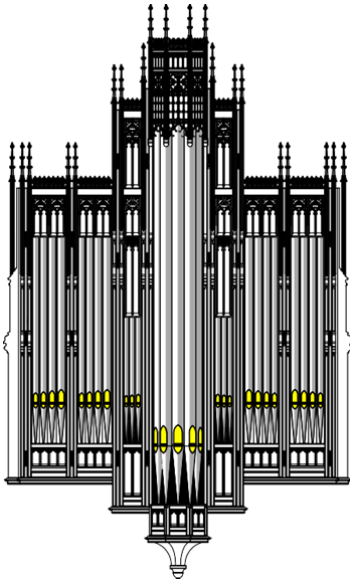
A word of thanks

Thank you for the emails, cards, Facebook posts and other comments made during my father's last few weeks and following his death last month. I am grateful for the kindness offered and the love that was shared with me and my family during our time of loss and sorrow. After several challenging years of failing health and isolation, I know my father now rests from his labors and his good works follow him to a better place that God has prepared.

-Pastor Steve Larsen

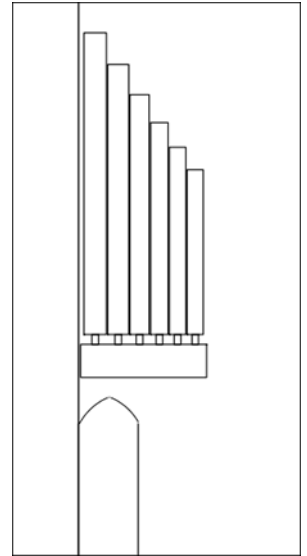
Renew & Rejoice

CALVARY'S NEW PIPE ORGAN



This drawing depicts the new casework design for the Chancel. Cases will be installed on both sides of the Chancel where the exposed pipes currently reside.

This drawing depicts the wood pipes that will be installed on each transept wall. The pipes will be painted and possibly stenciled with a design to coordinate with the chancel area.



It is with great joy that the Pipe Organ Building Committee, Trustees, and Church Council announce the selection of a builder for our new pipe organ: Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders, located near Raleigh, NC.

Throughout the pandemic, the Pipe Organ Building Committee was hard at work keeping this project moving. Since June 2020, three pipe organ builders visited Calvary Church again gathering information to update their proposals. The Committee reviewed each proposal and chose Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders for many reasons, including:

Zimmer's willingness to consider multiple options and find creative ways to build the most organ possible within our budget.

The casework design for the Chancel area, which coordinates beautifully.

Zimmer's plan to restore to new condition about 40% of the existing pipes and re-use them, creating "heritage" pipes. This reduces cost and gives us a wonderful history to carryover into the new instrument.

An ad-hoc pipe organ finance committee convened in October to develop ways to fund the additional money needed for the project not covered by campaign pledges. After meeting with the Trustees and Church Council in November, a funding plan was approved, and the project will be paid for in full and without debt by the spring of 2023 at a cost of \$997,713. The Trustees have also agreed to use the Calvary Trust income to cover the cost of work to the building to accommodate the new instrument, estimated at \$125,000 or less.

When Can We Expect to See and Hear Our New Pipe Organ?

January 2022 – Zimmer representatives will spend 3 to 4 days at the Church gathering detailed information so that engineering drawings can be made.

Mid-May or early June – Zimmer representatives will dismantle the current organ and take all pipes to their shop.

Preparation work by a contractor will occur somewhere between July 2022 and March 2023 to provide renovations needed prior to the installation of the new pipe organ. This includes improvements to the pipe chambers and blower room, adding electrical lines, and more. The Trustees will determine the best time for this expenditure to occur.

Barring any material/supply delays that are beyond Zimmer's control, the installation of the new organ is expected to begin in the spring of 2023 and be completed in the summer of 2023.

We will be without a pipe organ for about a year. Zimmer may provide us with a small electric organ at no charge; those details are not finalized.

Calvary Church is making history again with this new instrument. It will serve multiple generations and be an extraordinary addition to our Church, our worship, our ministry, and our community. We extend our heartfelt thanks for all the support provided for this project and we are saving each of you a seat for the inaugural dedication concert!

Pipe Organ Building Committee:

Joyce and Rob Summers, Chairs

Sandy and Brett Chaney

Brad Davy

Greg Gray, Trustee Representative

Becky and John Kile

Rev. Steve Larsen

Linda Muehl

Fred Schumacher, Trustee Representative

Joche Wilmot

Ad-hoc Finance Committee:

Bob Jacobs, Chair

Sandy Chaney

Rev. Steve Larsen

Mark Mayer

Fred Schumacher

Joyce and Rob Summers

Love Bag Adoption Project

Last year our Love Bag Adoption Project was such a huge success that we decided to continue the tradition.

What are Love Bags?

These are bags put together for members of our church who need a little extra love for Valentine's Day. Instead of donating bulk items to the church for a group to assemble, we are asking people to adopt someone to offer them a Love Bag.

If only one person or family is making a love bag for one other person, what does that look like?

We want it to be flexible. Normally our love bag has crossword puzzles, lotion and chapstick, notebook, pens, and sometimes a stuffed animal, in addition to various snacks (not too sweet since some folks can't have a lot of sugar). Maybe you want to continue that.

Or maybe you want to offer a gift of a prayer cross or a gift box you find at a local store. It does not need to be an expensive item. Something small done with love. It is a connection point, an opportunity for a little luxury for those who need a little extra love right now. Loving our neighbor is an important part of living out our faith, and it is also a way we can be the hands and feet of Christ for another.

If you'd like to adopt a Love Bag recipient, contact Christy Mossburg at christy@calvaryumc.org to be matched up to one of our congregation members. We can promise you will get as much joy out of giving this small gift of connection as your newly adopted recipient does. Gift bags must be distributed by February 14. Thank you for your support!

Here are steps for the Love Bag Adoption:

1. Email Christy Mossburg and let her know how many you would like to "adopt."
2. Prepare a bag filled with special items to make your adoptee feel loved and remembered.
3. Take a picture of the bag so we can share with the congregation the number of filled bags we were able to complete.
4. Deliver the bag to the recipient by February 14.

Musings from the Director of Discipleship

Happy New Year!! 2022. 2021 is over when you see this and 2022 has begun. I am praying that I will be in England seeing my daughter, son-in-law, and grandson Harrison when you read this. It is complicated to travel but so far so good. Also I will be going to Dominican Republic in January sending the love of Calvary with me. You will hear more about this.

What are your plans for 2022? There are two new opportunities to take on a study as well as the other classes we offer. Here are some details about the two studies: Found on pages six and seven of this newsletter.

If you are new to Calvary United Methodist Church and would like to learn more about our church join us at 11:00 on January 23. Grab a doughnut and coffee and join us in the library. Please email me and let me know you are coming. Or give the church office a call so we have enough materials.

We thank Paul Nelson and his crew for the set up and welcoming of families in the Family Shelter program. What a blessing to see they had a warm meal and a safe place to lay their head. Thank you to Margie Wilde for delivering the gifts to our Grateful Heart members. And our youth made and designed beautiful cards for the homeless, and shut ins.

Helen Sheppard is looking into continuing with a Build a Bed Mission. Watch the bulletin for further details.

It was great to hear about Habitat for Humanity's big project. I look forward to seeing how Calvary UMC can get involved.

Thank you, church, for making Room at the Inn for all.

Blessings

Jacki

Unclobber – a Book Study on Rethinking what the Bible says about Homosexuality

- If you feel the church has been wrong to demonize and reject the LGBTQ community, but you're still pretty confident the Bible condemns homosexuality
- If you feel drawn to a more inclusive Christian faith but are held back by what you've been taught about the Bible.
- If you have close friends or family members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer and you love them with your whole heart, but your view of the Bible prevents you from fully celebrating them
- If you're an already affirming Christian but are still struggling to articulate what you believe about the clobber passages
- If you are LGBT or Q and you grew up in a Christian home or are drawn toward faith in Christ, but you have been told and maybe believe that God sees you as less-than, or despises you, or expects you to remain celibate or try and become straight
THEN Unclobber is for you

We hope you'll join us in a 5 week study of Colby Martin's book Unclobber, beginning on Tuesday nights, Jan. 18th from 6:30-8pm. Led by Rev. Vicky Starnes and Paul Nelson. Questions? Contact Vicky at 302-745-2278 or revvicky@aol.com. Books will be available for those who register for the class. Just call the church office or send an email to office@calvaryumc.org.

Youth Ministries Schedule:

Youth Sunday School will be meeting on an as needed basis. Please email calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org if your child plans to attend Sunday School in January. If there are no Youth signed up, we will not be meeting that week.

Youth Group:

January 2- no meeting

January 9- 5:30 Youth Group

January 16- possible snow tubing date.

January 23- Youth Group

January 30- Youth Group



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.

Stewardship

We know the about the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28: 19. Of course that was the commission given by Jesus to his own disciples. Since Jesus charged them it has little to do with me, - you think. It has more to do with the ministry of the big Church, the elders, deacons and missionaries. We are the members of the church who are ministered to. We do not minister or are responsible to make disciples. It is others who go out and make disciples.

We think we are not trained to minister. How do we minister? I do not know the scriptures well enough. I have inadequate answers to the hard question. Mark Moore in his book *Core 52* addresses this lack of faith. He writes that the Great Commission is simple: “Walk with people as you walk with Jesus. Before long they’ll meet each other.”
Page 175

We are called to make disciples within our own abilities and means – remembering that God gives us all that we need to accomplish the task he calls us to do. In this calling we are to make disciples. It is a matter of our own strength of faith.

Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth to accomplish his ministry in service to his Father. He in turn gave that authority to his own disciples and when he calls we are given authority to spread the Good News to others knowing that we have all the tools and backing of God and the guidance and counsel of the Holy Spirit. “For it is not you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” Matthew 10:20. Matthew has it right.

Jesus tells us how we should make disciples: “Teach them to observe all that I commanded to you.” Matthew 28:20. This may seem mind numbing. How can we teach others all of the New Testament? It is simple: Love God and others. This practice in your disciple life will open the way to others as you walk with them. Your words and deeds will match your disciple life that is magnifying glass held on scripture and God’s calling of all. By the way, Jesus said he will always be with you.

Humble Origins, Kingdom Seeds

Over the years I have come to believe that the most defining human quality of Jesus is the attitude of humility, before God and humankind. The Advent and Christmas stories we know so well (Luke 1: 26-38; 2: 1-7) reveal the humble origins by which God chose to reveal his Son to the world, certainly not the parenting or birthing circumstances of which most people would think of kings being born. From accounts of Jesus' baptism (Mathew 3: 13-17) to his trial and death upon the cross (Mathew 27: 11-55), an attitude of humility was ever present in his actions and words. This attitude prevails in Jesus' teaching as well, as in the Beatitudes (Mathew 5: 1-12), and in the Apostle Paul's writings about his Lord and Savior, as in his letter to the early church at Philippi (Philippians 2: 6-11).

How contrary this attitude was to the glory days of the Roman Empire and remains so today in the secular, commercial, political world in which we live, so characterized by power, pride, arrogance, greed, and glitzy superficial trappings where display of material wealth is valued and "bigger is better." Yet, God's work continues with humble origins among us, more often than not in places we least suspect or know about. I am reminded of the popular song of recent years "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places." In her book *Christianity for the Rest of Us* (Harper Collins Publisher, 2006), Diana Butler Bass, a scholar of American religion, tells of a three-year study she completed of mainline Protestant churches in different regions of the country. Prompted in her research by the prevailing theory that mainline Protestant churches were dying and had been surpassed by the evangelical mega-churches and TV evangelism, her study revealed quite the contrary. She found that God is very much alive in the neighborhood churches through the faith and witness of small congregations, reminding us of Jesus' parable of the mustard seed (Mathew 13: 31; 17:20) in which the Kingdom of God begins with the smallest of seeds, the most humble of origins in faith.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons of our church year we have witnessed to such Kingdom seeds as small groups of our adult and youth members have served as humble disciples of Jesus helping others, building beds for children who otherwise might sleep on the floor, providing gift cards to families in need and for those of our sisters and brothers who are disabled or otherwise home bound, even allowing those without shelters to seek comfort at night beneath the eaves of our church building. Yes, Calvary exhibits many of the characteristics discovered by Diana Bass in neighborhood churches around the country. Like theirs, our efforts are modest, most humble before God's greatness, but through our faith and discipleship with Jesus they are God's kingdom seeds. Let us welcome the Christ child into our lives again this year in an attitude of humility and gratitude for God's grace among us as we continue our discipleship Journey.

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministry



1, Jeff Adam, Ed Ahlstron, David Ayersman, Rebecca Burgee, Cynthia Burke, David Dimock, Gerald Duvall, Judith Eyler, Doris Fruth, Virginia Grossnickle, Jean Jeo, Mary Sue Krause, Ruth Lenhart, Thomas Littleton, Susan Miller, Carole Proudfoot, Joan Rothenhoefer, Mary Sanders, Barbara Shipley, Rebecca Staley, Dorothy Stull, June Trout, Elizabeth Wade, Ernest Watkins, Susan Weddle

2, Joni Allen, Edwin Kinsey, **3**, Jennifer Bennett, Cyd Maubert

4, Bertram Edmonston V, Carol Keirn, Dorothy Landis

6, Frank Strakonsky, **7**, Eleanor Steinback, Bill Warehime, **8**, Paula Coffman, Melissa Rankin, Mary Schueler

9, Kate Mills, Scott Moyer, **10**, Abigail Belgrave, Eytan Moked, Peggy Rhoderick, Jean Shaff, Virginia Shoemaker, **11**, Piper Bailey, Debbie Patterson

12, Judith Ahlstrom, Janet Fish, Peter Milum, Mary Ann Mood, Jack Tritt

13, Hannah Willets, **14**, Brian Griffie, Charlotte Mueller

15, Rob Chewing, John Kile, Dawn Kraham, Mark MacDonald, Sue Ann Wilms

16, Howard Strine, **17**, Miles Absalon, Carin Quigley, Sharinna Sarmieto

19, Maria Calcagni, Janet Fox, Fiona Richey, Susan Staley, **20**, Scott Officer

21, Hadley Aud, Matt McGreevy, Christy Whittington, **22**, Maddie Meyers, Patricia Paugh

23, Terri Giambarresi, **24**, Sharon Adams, Timothy Ritterbusch, Mikaela Vega

25, Mark McKann, **26**, Gene Selby, Walker Stone, **27**, Zachary Park

28, Katie Ballenger, Marcia Rose Fuoss, Elisabeth Leftwich

30, Susan Engler, Robert Sacoman, Kent Willets

31, Sandy Dunnington, Jack Vega

January Anniversaries

Steve and Cindy Naugle January 11

Bruce and Mary Caruthers January 16

Greg and Anne Gray January 16

Jack and Renee Vega January 19

1/1

Happy New Year!

1/2

10 a.m. Worship

1/3

7 p.m. SPRC

1/4

10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Comm.

1/5

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

7 p.m. Open Prayer

1/6

6 p.m. AGAPE

1/9

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

1/10

7 p.m. Trustee's

1/11

10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

1/12

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

7 p.m. Open Prayer

1/13

12: 15 p.m. Mary Martha Cir.

6 p.m. AGAPE

1/16

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

1/17

7 p.m. Finance

1/18

10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle

6:30 p.m. Unclogged

1/19

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

7 p.m. Open Prayer

1/20

6 p.m. AGAPE

1/22

10 a.m. WRS

1/23

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

3 p.m. Brian Gantz Concert

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

1/24

7 p.m. Church Council

1/25

10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Unclogged

1/26

2 p.m. Miriam's Circle

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

7 p.m. Open Prayer

1/27

6 p.m. AGAPE

1/30

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

****Sacred Rhythms: Spiritual Practices will meet during Sunday School for 6 Weeks.**

Jan. 23-Feb. 27

****Wesleyan Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 18 in the library**

****Unclogged Book Study begins Jan. 18 for 5-weeks study.**



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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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January 23, 2022 – Brian Ganz, pianist Chopin’s Musical Garden, Part II
A constant presence in Calvary’s Community Concert Series, Brian Ganz continues his quest to perform all the works of Chopin. He will expand upon his 2019 concert of Chopin’s Musical Garden with a variety of early mazurkas, waltzes, polonaises, including the “Heroic” polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53, followed by mature examples of the same genres. This interactive, highly-energetic performance is a must-see!