



the Messenger

† December 2022



Christmas Is an Inviting Time

The weeks in December are a wonderful time to invite friends, neighbors, coworkers and family to come and visit the church. The building is decorated in a festive way, the music is particularly special, there is a sense of anticipation and excitement among the people here—everything makes this a wonderful time for guest to see us at our best. Even more important, this is the time when we hear the news that God is coming into our world not just as a baby many years ago, but into our lives today. Research shows that most people would be glad to come to church if only they were invited by someone they knew. You could be that someone.

December Worship

This Advent and Christmas season, we are using materials from a worship series called “Reflecting the Sacred” from Worship Design Studio to help us focus on the wonderful ways God is at work in our hearts, in our community and in the larger world. (www.WorshipDesignStudio.com)

The Christmas season is a time when the sacred and secular gets jumbled. The word “sacred” points to something dedicated as “holy” and “set apart.” This year, you are invited to a spiritual journey of seeing ALL things pregnant with the Holy. What could our experience of the Advent and Christmas season be like if we lived it imagining that everything reflects the sacred?

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent
Sacred People (Love)

Romans 15: 4-13 and Matthew 3: 1-12

When we look through the lens of the sacred, we can recognize something holy in everyone. We are inspired to see our own walk upon this earth as part of the call to be sacred people who usher in the presence of love.

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December Worship

December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sacred Space (Joy)

Isaiah 35: 1-10 and Luke 1: 46b-55

The pregnancy of Mary is connected to the promise of justice and joy in the readings this week. Mary's womb becomes a sacred space for the gestation of grace that moves into the world and transforms it. We will ponder the spaces we inhabit at home, work, and community, asking whether they are feeding, nurturing, and reflecting the freedom and joy that is so desperately needed.

December 18 4th Sunday of Advent
Sacred Knowing (Peace)

Isaiah 7: 10-16 and Matthew 1: 18-25

Many of us look for signs to help us know what to do. Some of us wish we could have our own personal angel to let us know the "right" next steps. Uncertainty is a fact of life. This week we will remember that there is a Christ within us constantly birthing wisdom and providing us guidance if we will listen with a contemplative heart.

December 24 (Saturday) Christmas Eve
Sacred Being

Titus 3: 4-7 and Luke 2: 1-20

5:00 PM Family Christmas Service (designed for younger children)

7:00 and 9:00 PM Service of Candlelight and Communion

We gather and sing and light candles and dare to believe that love truly enters the world time and again and anything is possible. What may be more difficult to understand, is that this love is ours, not because we've been "good", but simply because we are beloved.

December 25 (Sunday) Christmas Day
Surprisingly Sacred

Isaiah 52: 7-10 and John 1: 1-14

In the early church, Sunday was known as the "day of light." And so, it is special when Christmas falls on a Sunday, as it does this year. As light dawns on this morning, as the children scramble to the tree to see what has appeared, we remember that the sacred often comes in the form of surprise, just as it did when light and life was known in the form of a baby born in a humble stable.



Note from the Music Ministry

Would you like to add even more joy by willing to experiencing the season of Advent in a deeper and a more profound way? If so, you might consider joining one of Calvary's music groups even just for the coming Advent and Christmas seasons. There is so much beautiful music to look forward to! Singing more carols gives you additional time to reflect on their meaning and experience the season in a joyful way!

If you would like to sing in the Sanctuary Choir, ring bells, or your child likes to sing Christmas songs - **solo or in a group**, it is now a great time to join in! You might also wish to play an instrument that will be a perfect accompaniment to our Advent or Christmas hymns! Please let us know. We would be glad to have you, even if it is only for the Advent and Christmas seasons. There is a place for everybody in our Music Ministry!

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on **Tuesday evenings at 7: 30 pm** in our Choral Room. In addition to the Sunday worship services in December, the Sanctuary Choir will lead the Christmas services on **December 24th at 7 and 9 pm**. Please join us as we use our voices and instruments anticipating, and then celebrating, Christ's birth.

The Children's Choir (ages 5 - 11) rehearses on **Sunday mornings at 11:15** meeting also in the Choral Room. The Children's Choir will lead **the family Christmas service at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve**. We hope more children will join our Sunday rehearsals in December and raise their voices together in celebration of Christ's birth.

The Handbell Choir, "Joyful Noise Ringers" rehearses on **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm in our Bells Room**. If you can read the music in the hymnal, you can do this. Please come to make a joyful noise with us!

If you have questions, please talk to a member of any of our ensembles, just show up for a rehearsal, or contact our Music Director & Organist Dr. Adela Peeva as indicated below.

Dr. Adela Peeva

Director of Music & Organist

Email: adela@calvaryumc.org

Phone: (301) 662-1464 Ext. 117 (Office)
(786) 512-4503 (Voice or text)

Reverse Advent Collection

We would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their weekly donations to the wheelbarrow/food bank. It truly warms our hearts to walk in on Sunday mornings to see the generous donations. With the season of giving upon us, there are numerous ways for us all to spread love thru giving.... hygiene items for the homeless youth (SHIP), Angel Tree gifts for children to name a few. If you enjoy collecting food items for the food bank, you may want to challenge yourself or your family to this "Reverse Advent" collection.

Basically, 1 item per day. We will gladly take your collections and deliver them to the food bank. If you prefer to bring items weekly instead of waiting until Christmas Eve, feel free to place them in the "holiday wheelbarrow".

May your hearts be filled with the spirit of love and joy.

Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg



- DEC 1** - box of cereal
- DEC 2** - peanut butter
- DEC 3** - stuffing mix
- DEC 4** - boxed potatoes
- DEC 5** - macaroni & cheese
- DEC 6** - canned fruit
- DEC 7** - canned tomatoes
- DEC 8** - canned tuna
- DEC 9** - dessert mix
- DEC 10** - jar of applesauce
- DEC 11** - canned sweet potatoes
- DEC 12** - cranberry sauce
- DEC 13** - canned beans
- DEC 14** - box of crackers
- DEC 15** - box of rice
- DEC 16** - container of oatmeal
- DEC 17** - box of pasta
- DEC 18** - spaghetti sauce
- DEC 19** - chicken noodle soup
- DEC 20** - tomato soup
- DEC 21** - can of corn
- DEC 22** - can of mixed vegetables
- DEC 23** - can of carrots
- DEC 24** - can of green beans

Advent Tea

December 3, 2022

2:00 p.m.



Nancy Huffman is now settled into her new residents.

Nancy's new address is:

20811 Soneta Lane, Apt. 3

Boonsboro, Maryland 21713 #240-367-5806

Kris Kringle Procession

Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish Hall
to follow the procession.



**Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m.-noon: Children's Christmas Pageant
Dress Rehearsal in the Parish Hall.**



Annual Children's Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Parish Hall

Bake A Batch

ATTENTION All Bake... Get Ready...It's BACK!!

Pleased to announce after a 2 year hiatus, our beloved Bake-A-Batch fundraiser for Jenn Esler is back. Jenn is a Calvary member and served as the Nursery Director before being diagnosed with a brain tumor years ago. Following surgery, she had extensive rehabilitation to improve her quality of life. Proceeds from Bake A Batch serve to help Jenn in her rehab and to remind her that she is not forgotten by her Calvary family. All cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen or church office on Friday, December 9 or the parish hall on Saturday, December 10 by 9:00 a.m.

Cookie trays will be available for purchase Sunday, December 11

Baking Cookies is a great activity to do with your children or grandchildren and for a great cause. All homemade cookies whether family favorites or holiday classics are welcomed. So get those mixers moving!!

Any questions, please contact Julie Schwarzenberg 240-626-7666



It is the Christmas season! Our senses and awareness are heightened toward good will, loving others, care for the needy and hope that all God's promises come to completion.

We cherish the Christmas the story of Christ's birth in the second chapter of Luke and in Matthew. There are thousands of uplifting seasonal stories movies and songs. We will hear sermons and homilies on the real meaning of Christ's birth and God's love for us. It is a love so great that Jesus is God's gift of self to us. It is a gift showing the way to salvation and eternal life. What a story!

At the end of the Christmas season, what happens to us? This feeling of Christian love, while still present, seems to be put away until next year. We know that Jesus did not want us to become complacent in our Christian living.

The need then is to look deeply into ourselves. How can we make this different? We can express our Christian love by serving and caring for others throughout the year with time, talent and even our money.

As the shepherds and Magi came to worship the new born Jesus, they went away to spread the Good News. They did not keep the event to themselves. We can follow their example through our "worship" of god by intentional and continuous service, care and love for those near us.

We have lifted up those who have committed themselves to making beds for children in need of their own place to sleep. In the past we have served through the Lord's laundry and the soup kitchen those in need and without. We give to the Frederick Food Bank each month through the wheel barrow ministry. Some of us go on mission trips. There are others who just give and give.

Jesus uses the word "**GO**". Go and serve where and when you can. Those who lack the time or ability to be a hands-on volunteer – take stock of your financial means and become a generous giver. Re-evaluate your commitment to the Church you made last month. If not doing so, start to include gifting to the Communion or Mission Outreach Fund.

The Communion Fund is a local giving that supports the emergency need of own members and our nearest neighbor. It was recently used to contribute to UMCOR hurricane relief. The Mission Outreach is used to support needs in the world that are before us. These a pressing needs that relieve spiritual and physical needs and suffering.

Consider how you can employ the Christian Christmas season of love. Pick one thing and do it, through your stewardship service of talent, witness, and generous giving.

Love came down at Christmas

It seems as though God's love is our most needed gift at Christmas each year, given the rather continuously troubled world in which we live, certainly within our own nation as well. So too it was at the time of Jesus' birth under the reign of the Roman empire. "Many in first-century Palestine ... as in every time since ...were looking for political deliverance," wrote Michael Gerson in his *Washington Post* editorial on December 25, 2020. ... "Instead ... the birth of Jesus points to a power found in vulnerability, service and humility. Humankind is offered not a new way of organizing human society but a new way of being human, marked by compassion, purpose, dignity and kindness."

Certainly the peace on earth foretold by the angelic messengers to the lonely and lowly shepherds on that first Christmas (*Lk 2:8-14*) had in mind the justice and mercy for all humans that God intended through the earthly life and death of His son Jesus; justice and mercy based upon human compassion, humility, and service, honoring the dignity and worth of all humans. In his introductory remarks to *John Wesley for the 21st Century* (2006, p. 6), John Gooch states: "For Wesley, above all, the key to religion was found in the answer to the question, 'How does one live a holy life in front of God? ... It's not just 'talking the talk' about God and our relationship with God, it's also 'walking the walk.'" As Jesus taught us through His disciples, we are to love God and our neighbor through actions of justice and mercy, humbly serving those in poverty or otherwise marginalized in human society. Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy*, preaches that the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice.

In the months ahead in our new year, I will share with you and invite your participation in a number of ways within which Calvary's outreach mission ministry continues and plans to serve those in need within our immediate and geographic distant communities. As we prepare during the Advent season for the re-birth of Jesus in our hearts, having also just made our financial stewardship pledges for the new year, may each of us in addition prayerfully reflect and act upon how we might commit ourselves to Calvary's outreach mission ministries in the year ahead.

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministry



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School

This month registration begins for the 2023-2024 school year. **Registration** will take place from **December 12th-16th** for currently enrolled families and church members.

Please see the programs offered next year along with the days to register:

Monday, December 12th- Kindergarten Registration

Half-day Kindergarten- Monday- Friday 8:45-12:30

Tuesday, December 13th & Wednesday, December 14th- Registration for four year old classes

5 day 4 year old program- Monday- Friday 9:00-12:00

3 day 4 year old program- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-12:00

Thursday, December 15th & Friday, December 16th – Registration for three year old classes

3 day 3 year old program- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-12:00

3 day 3 year old program- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-12:00

Olivia will be in the elevator door entrance at drop-off starting at 9:00 am and at pick up time from 11:45 -12:30 to accept your forms, non-refundable registration fee, and deposit. All checks should be payable to Calvary Weekday School. Applications are not accepted without payment.

Registration for alumni will be Monday, December 19th and Tuesday, December 20th. All registrations will be open to the public starting January 4th.

Please email Olivia at calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com or call the office 301-662-6783 for more information about our programs.

Happy Holidays!

Patty Lockard, Director

The Tour of Churches Returns!

For the last two years the Tour of Churches was not held or was virtual. This year we return to seeing the beauty of Christmas through the lens of God's touch. Calvary will be participating as in the past. We will be opening our doors along with the other churches in Frederick for all people. The date is December 26th and will be from 4 to 9 pm.



We will be hosting the community with the world famous corn soup, coffee and cookies. Adela will be providing the music program. We need you to participate by volunteering to be host greeters to greet and guide visitors to the sanctuary and the parish hall. This is a chance to express the joy of Christmas with you neighbors.

A signup sheet will be in the Parish Hall for host times and maybe some of you left over Christmas cookies. If you have questions or wish to signup contact Kay Jacobs,

kacee2@msn.com or 301-371-8987.

Organ Update

This is a time of celebration! We have been gathering funds for the new organ for 3 years. This month, December 2022, is the official end of the *Renew and Rejoice* Organ replacement capital improvement project. We are almost there. There is good news in the almost all have completed and are about to complete their pledges to the Organ Fund. There are rumors of more good news. The new organ is being built as Joyce Summers has kept us up to date. As of November 15th we have collected \$974,730. We only have \$23,000. This is makeable!

We thank all who have completed their commitment. You have lead us to within a cat's whisker of our goal. I hope you all feel in your heart a peace and joy that you felt God's call and have met it. I truly believe the Spirit of God has been upon you.

The building portion of *Renew and Rejoice* started last August with the de-construction of the old organ and the start of refurbishment of some of the old pipes. We hope to have the new organ installed sometime in the summer of 2023. This gives us a surprising opportunity to continue to contribute to the organ fund. Some of our members have said that they wish to continue to support future maintenance expenses.

Well done, yes, well done indeed.

December Birthdays



1, James Gibson, Amy Jones, **2**, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe
3, Delphine Hamilton, Daniel Heineman
4, Neidel Hamilton, Mikael Johnson, Maren Lyon, 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 Caruthers, Makayla Sawyer, Thomas Shoemaker, **16**, Monica Pearce
17, Robin Duggan, Amanda Stone, Shane Wickline, **18**, Noah Benton, Brett Chaney
19, 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, Michelle Matsler, Wilhemina Winkler, **27**, Kaitlin Herber, Gabriella Lee
28, Brent Moyer, Cora Vinar, Betty Waltz, **29**, Laurali Gough
30, Art Fennington, Danielle Johnikin, David Lopez, **31**, Charlotte Elliott, Jack Willard

December Anniversaries

Mike and Becky Isaacs	Dec. 4	Ed and Jennifer Kinsey	Dec. 5
Howard and Nancy Strine	Dec. 10	Tom and Susan Burall	Dec. 12
Bill and Georgia Riggleman	Dec. 19	Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	Dec. 29
Steve and JoAn Ehlers	Dec. 30	Steve and Christy Mossburg	Dec. 31
Ethan and Abbie Mueller	Dec. 31		



December 2022

Dec. 1

8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Weekday School Conferences

Dec. 2

8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Weekday School Conferences

Dec. 3

2:00 p.m. UMW Advent Tea

Dec. 4 Wheelbarrow Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Dec. 6

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

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

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Dec. 7 Calvary Blood Drive

8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

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

Dec. 9

6:30 p.m. Kris Kringle

Procession

Dec. 10

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Bake A Batch

10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

12:30 p.m. Private Party

Dec. 11

9:00 a.m. Children's Christmas
Pageant

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Dec. 13

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Dec. 14

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

Dec. 18

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Christmas Party

Dec. 20

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Dec. 21

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

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight and
Communion

9:00 p.m. Candlelight and
Communion Service

Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!!

10:00 a.m. Worship

Dec. 26

Church Office Closed

Tour of Churches

4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Dec. 27

6:00 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Dec. 28

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

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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We are in need of adult volunteers for Children's Church for children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, which meets in the Chapel during our 10:00 Worship Service immediately following the "Time With the Children".

For more information please contact Amy Stone:

AmyStone@calvaryumc.org