



the Messenger

† January 2023

A CELEBRATION

After years of hoping and dreaming, after plans were made, trips to visit other churches, and conversations with builders, fund raisers, members and friends, Calvary United Methodist Church has reached a moment of celebration. We have come to the end of our three-year fulfilment stage of our capital campaign to purchase a new organ, and WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!

A tremendous thanks goes to all the member of the congregation that contributed to the organ fund in addition to their regular giving to the church. We have paid for the work being under contract with C.A. Zimmer for the new instrument. The upgrades to the physical space in the sanctuary and organ chambers are underway to accommodate the new pipes and console. Any additional money that comes in for the project can be used to fund maintenance and related organ expenses down the road.

This Advent and Christmas season has been a wonderful time to experience the value that music brings. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Adela Peeva as our music director. She has inspired and led the children, the handbells, the sanctuary choir and soloists to offer their talent. And each week she provides wonderful leadership from the organ and piano.

We plan to make the formal announcement of this accomplishment at our worship service on Sunday, January 8. There will be more updates to come about the progress being made towards the installation.

-Pastor Steve Larsen

Worship this month -Glimpses of the Kin-dom

This month move from the celebration of New Years and Epiphany and into the period in the Church Year known as “Ordinary Time.” This is a time when we explore together what it means to live as the people of God in daily life.

The followers of Christ who live their faith day by day are anything but ordinary. At least that is our hope and our belief: that our lives represent the kin-dom of God, that is, a new sort of kinship and community shaped by love for God and neighbor. Of course, we will fail from time to time. But how we deal with failure is also a sign of that presence and glimpse of God’s kin-dom.

January 8 Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 3:13-17.

Title: The Water’s Fine

January 15 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Psalm 40:1-11.

Title: Not Lacking

January 22 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Title: Have the Same Mind

January 29 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-11

Title: Blessed Are...

Grateful hearts ...

When my sisters and I were growing up, when the excitement of a childhood Christmas was over, one of the first things our mother would remind us was to write a “thank you” note to each person (usually a relative) from whom we had received a gift. Yes, even if it were for a pair of socks rather than what might have been a preferred gift at that age of a new game! Little were we aware that some children not far from where we lived might have loved receiving a pair of new socks, as they only had ones with holes in them, if any, to wear to school. Nor did we understand at that age how grateful were the hearts that gave in addition to those who received!

Continues on page 3

This thought crossed my mind as I reflected on the greatest gift of all to each of us, God's special love that came down at Christmas in a baby who in time would teach us all how to give and receive with grateful hearts, to share the love that we receive by grace from God. And, my, how Calvary gave to others in need with grateful hearts this Christmas! Immediately in the aftermath of our church-wide mission Sunday in November when we filled bags of rice and other grains to help relieve world hunger, our church women under guidance of Becky Isaacs held their annual Christmas bazaar for the community, bountiful proceeds from which contribute in part to Calvary's various mission ministries. Our youth, led by Jenn Duthoy, helped sponsor collection of personal hygiene products for boys and girls their age who are homeless in Frederick, personal items without which they might well drop out of school. Still more, in what is a year-around ministry for us, the wheelbarrow just outside Parish Hall was full during Advent and delivered to community food banks each week, thanks to everyone who contributed and to Julie and Roy Schwarzenberg for their leadership in that mission. Yes, and I didn't forget the annual Angel Tree through which Calvary members helped families, youth, and children with special gifts that otherwise they might not have received this Christmas.

I would be remiss in an article of this theme were I not also to thank Margie Wilde, Paulette Shockey, Wanda Larsen and others, including our van drivers, for their leadership in Calvary's weekly ministry to our adult brothers and sisters known together as the "Grateful Hearts."

The joy they visibly show each Sunday while learning, worshiping, and joining in fellowship with us is testimony to their group name. This ministry, though it may not be thought of as such, is truly a mission of outreach to the community, as are ministries through which volunteering or contribution of food, clothing, or money is made. Your mission and justice ministry team thanks all of you for what you have given this past year as volunteers or otherwise to help others in need, locally, nationally, and globally. We will keep you informed in the months ahead of other opportunities for your ministry to others.

In the immediate future, in fact, we plan to take a small group of volunteers to help assemble care kits at Mission Central, about an hour away in Mechanicsburg, PA, a Wesleyan ministry that partners with more than 500 benevolent organizations to meet global needs in medical and other supplies. For those who do not have day jobs, please consider joining us for that ministry on *Tuesday, January 31, from 1-3 pm*. Transportation will be provided. If interested, you may contact Beth Stitely at autumn.purple@hotmail.com or call me at (301-831-4166).

Paul Nelson, Church & Society Ministries

2023 Church Leadership

CHURCH COUNCIL

(4th Monday of January, March, May, July, September, November)

Chairperson: Mark MacDonald

Vice Chairperson:

Recording Secretary: Leisa Moyer

Lay Leader:

Lay Members to Annual Conference: (3) Paul Nelson

Rick Miller

Bob Jacobs

Treasurer:

Financial Secretary: Bob Jacobs

President, UMW: elected by UMW

President, UMM: elected by UMM

Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meg Winter

Chairperson, Finance Ministry

Chairperson, Board of Trustees (elected by Trustees) Fred Schumacher

Chairperson, Education Ministry

Chairperson, Worship Ministry Rita Sharpe

Chairperson, Missions Ministry Pat/Dave Herber

Chairperson, Church & Society Ministry Paul Nelson

Chairperson, Music Ministry Joyce Summers

Calvary Weekday School Steering Committee Chair Jan Cline

Youth Representatives (selected by youth)

Church Staff

Senior Pastor Steve Larsen

Pastor of Visitation Ken Humbert

Director of Children's Ministry Amy Stone

Director of Youth Ministry Jenn Duthoy

At Large Members of the Church Council

| <u>Class of 2021-2023</u> | <u>Class of 2022-2024</u> | <u>Class of 2023-2025</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Terry Fisher | Bret Chaney Doris Keeney |

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

Staff Parish Relations Committee (1st Monday of Jan., March, May, Sept., Nov.)

Meg Winter Chairperson
 Lay Members to Annual Conference
Dave Herber Lay Leader
Steve Larsen Pastor

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Class of 2020-2023</u> Meg Winter David Cline | <u>Class of 2022-2024</u> Julie Schwarzenberg Monica Campolongo Jan Cline Bill Waskey | <u>Class of 2023-2025</u> Howard Strine |
|--|---|---|

Committee on Finance (3rd Monday of January, March, May, September, November)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chair: OPEN | | |
| Pastor, Steve Larsen | SPRC: Meg Winter | Trustees: Fred Schumacher |
| Lay Leader: | Council Chair: Mark MacDonald | Treasurer: |
| Financial Secretary: Bob Jacobs | Lay member to A/C: | Bookkeeper: Ken Switzer |

At Large Members of the Finance Ministry

For 2023

Scott Moyer
Sandy Chaney

Committee on Lay Leadership

Rev. Steve Larsen, Pastor and Chairperson
Dave Herber, Lay Leader

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Class of 2021-2023</u> Charlie Jones | <u>Class of 2022-2024</u> Beth Strakonsky Brad Davy | <u>Class of 2023-2025</u> Allison MacDonald Carl Reed |
|--|---|---|

Board of Trustees (2nd Monday of January, March, May, September, November)

(officers are chosen by the Board at the first meeting of the year)

President: Fred Schumacher
Vice-President: Jane Sowers
Secretary:

Stewardship

A Way of Life

Well, the year 2022 is over. My commitment to the church is complete, I feel a joy and peace that I served God in his kingdom as I was called. But, there is something missing. It is more of a relief akin to the feeling you have when you made that last car or mortgage payment. Where is the joy, the good feeling, or an abundance of peace in God's grace of a "well done my servant"? I know that it is the world that is holding me.

Has my generosity this past year may have been made from the "mind" and not from the "heart". When we commit ourselves to something, if we hold poor motives and a poor attitude we may incur self-corruption of spirit, we may live a faith that is less than golden but one of brass.

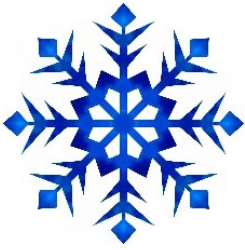
We are a people that values independence. We provide for ourselves and hard work is rewarded with individual success. These are valued characteristics in today's society. It leads to an attitude of: I earned it – I can use it as I want. What I have is mine! Whatever success we have is ours to keep or use to meet our own very special desires and needs. This is what Jesus calls a worldly view. Is it the view you harbor?

In our own mind we give generously to God through the church. Would God see it that way? Did you give out of what you have after all other needs and wants have been met? In this past year did you give out of what you could, when you comfortably could, and not experiencing the compulsive need to give but a begrudging dollar as the plate was passed Sunday morning?

We are beginning a new year. We have made a new commitment to support God's presence through Calvary by serving a world in need. Let us meet this commitment joyously, with open hands and with a heart that is spiritually receptive to the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask God the help us shake the trappings of the world. Let us boldly do more than what we think we can. Let us give what your heart leads to and not what your mind commands. Your heart is responding to God, you mind is shackled to the world.

Thank you!!

Thank you to all congregation members who supported our Bake A Batch event this year after it's 2 year absence. Whether you baked cookies, helped assemble the trays, purchased a cookie tray or simply gave a monetary donation your participation is greatly appreciated.



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

Happy 2023!

I hope you were able to spend time with your family over the holidays. Last month the teachers enjoyed learning about the different holiday celebrations and traditions of our school families. It is always fun to learn about new cultures and the many ways families celebrate the holiday season. Our school staff and families also provided donations in support of Healthy Families' drive thru celebration for at risk, first time parents. We were able to donate toys, books, and games to help families in the community.

We are excited to announce that the Maryland Decision Committee, under MSDE, has fully re-accredited Calvary Weekday School. This recognition confirms that we continue to meet high quality state standards at our school. I commend our staff for all their extra work and dedication in helping to achieve this goal.

We also started registering currently enrolled families, church members and alumni for the 2023-2024 school year. Registration is now open to the public and Olivia has been busy providing tours for new families. Please call Olivia at 301-662-6783 or email calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com for more information in registering for the next school year.

Stay warm-

Patty Lockard, Director

Thank you!!

Calvary, you are simply amazing! The food bank collections went to another level this holiday season when people participated in the advent food item collection. Thank you so much for your generous giving and participation.



The Children's Sunday School Classes were busy during Advent! Our Kris Kringle Procession and Annual Christmas Pageant were wonderful events - as usual, our Calvary kids made us all proud and reminded us all of the reason for the season!

The **Children's Sunday School Curriculum** kicks off the new year with stories of Jesus' ministry from the books of Matthew and John. We will also be starting to learn the names of all the books of the Bible in the Old and New Testaments! Sunday School for Preschool through 5th Grade meets in the Activity Room of the Education building every Sunday from 9:00 - 9:45. Join us!



Family Input

Looking ahead, we are interested in feedback from families regarding possible evening programs for Children at Calvary. Mission Possible Kids, Kids for Christ, Parents Nights Out or Movie & Craft Nights are some of the possibilities we are hoping to get off the ground in the new year. Some things for families to think about:



- Which evening would work best for your family: Friday, Wednesday or Sunday?
- Would your child(ren) be able to participate once a month or twice a month?

Would an adult from your family be available to volunteer on a rotating basis?

Please contact Amy Stone at AmyStone@calvaryumc.org to share your thoughts, or fill out a paper questionnaire at Sunday School. Thanks!



Love Bags!

We are collecting items for our LOVE BAGS for Calvary members who may need a "pick me up" this winter. Calvary's children will be assembling the bags, and they will be delivered by church members in time for Valentine's Day! We are asking for donations of:

- hard candies (no chocolates please)
- lip balms
- Notepads
- small hand lotions
- small crossword books
- pens and pencils
- markers
- hand sanitizers
- other small cheery items!

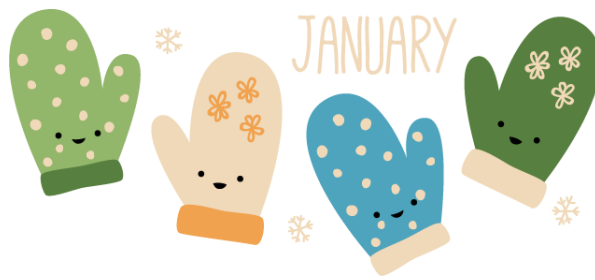
We would like to have all items collected by January 29, 2023. Thank you!



We are still in need of 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". During Children's Church, we listen to the service as it is happening in the "Big Church", and we follow along in the bulletin and discuss each part of worship. Children can color, do puzzles, sing along, or talk quietly. Sometimes we read a book that relates to the sermon or message. The purpose of Children's Church is not to provide a separate lesson but to help prepare children to sit with their families in the regular worship service when they get older.

Right now, when there is no adult signed up for Children's Church, *children will be meeting in the Nursery* following the Children's Message in the worship service.

While we are working on creating a weekly rotation of adult volunteers, parents are also welcome to sit in the Chapel with their children while listening to the service. Children's worship bags are also available in the Narthex. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Amy Stone @ AmyStone@calvaryumc.org or sign up at: at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949acad2fabfbc61-childrens>



January Birthdays

2, Joni Allen, Edwin Kinsey, **3**, Cyd Maubert, Jennifer Bennett
4, Bertram Edmonston V, Carol Keirn, Dorothy Landis, **6**, Frank Strakonsky, **7**, 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, Mary Ann Mood, Jack Tritt
14, Charlotte Mueller, **15**, Rob Chewing, John Kile, Mark MacDonald, Sue Ann Wilms
16, Howard Strine, **17**, Carin Quigley, Sharinna Sarmiento
19, Maria Calcagni, Janet Fox, Fiona Richey, Susan Staley, **20**, Scott Officer
21, Victoria Antieri, Hadley Aud, Matt McGreevy, Christy Whittington
22, Maddie Meyers, Patricia Paugh, **23**, Terri Giambarresi
24, Sharon Adams, Timothy Ritterbusch, Mikaela Vega, **25**, Mark McKann, Zachary Pard
26, Gene Selby, Walker Stone, **27**, Abbie Mueller, **28**, Katie Ballenger, Marcia Rose Fuoss
30, Susan Engler, Robert Sacoman, Kent Willetts, **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 |

*Please contact the church office if we missed your birthday or anniversary.

office@calvaryumc.org

Jan 1

10:00 a.m. Worship

Jan 2

Church Office Closed

Jan 3

1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Comm

Jan 4

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Jan 8

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Jan 9

7 p.m. SPRC

Jan 10

10 a.m. Bible Study

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Jan 11

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Jan 14

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast

10 a.m. WRS

Jan 15

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Jan 16

Martin Luther King Jr.

Church Office Closed

7 p.m. Trustees

Jan 17

10 a.m. Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Jan 18

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Jan 22

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Jan 23

7 p.m. Finance Committee

Jan 24

10 a.m. Bible Study

1 p.m. Steering Comm.

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Jan 25

2 p.m. Miriam's Circle

6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Jan 29

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Jan 30

7 p.m. Church Council

Jan 31

10 a.m. Bible Study

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir



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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.

Table of Contents.....

From Pastor Steve.....1
January Worship.....2
Church and Society Ministry.....2-3
Church Leadership 2023.....4-5
Stewardship.....6
Calvary Weekday School.....7
Sunday School.....8
Love Bags/Children’s Church.....9
January Birthdays/Anniversaries.....10
January Calendar.....11



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