



# the Messenger

† March 2023

## **Lenten Reflection: Fasting for Mercy and Justice**

The Lenten season, a time for reflection, atonement, and sacrifice in our Christian faith, is a time when we prepare our hearts to follow Jesus to the Cross. It is also a time associated with fasting, typically thought of in the context of giving up an amount or type of food that we normally enjoy. In the Scriptures, we often refer to Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, following his baptism by John and the Holy Spirit, to face the tests of temptation experienced by humans before launching his earthly ministry. Fasting is thus a sacrifice of personal comfort or benefit, while fully trusting in nothing more than God's grace and love.

The Jewish prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 58) spoke about the sacrificial fasting God values from us not in terms of particular types or amounts of food, but in terms of our humility before God and diminishing ourselves through actions of the heart in mercy and justice for others, a plea to the early Israelites made also by a contemporary of Isaiah's, the prophet Micah (Micah 6:8). In keeping with his proclaimed mission to fulfill the words of the Law and the prophets, Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount by blessing those who are humble in spirit, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who are merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers for His sake (Mathew 5:1-11).

Our entry into Lent with the imposition of ashes reminds us also of our own mortality and vulnerability to human desires, our need for God's forgiveness for the wrongs of our hearts and actions. Early Christian monks, in defining the "seven deadly sins," under which all other sins might be categorized, listed gluttony, lust, greed, anger, envy, and pride, all of which are addressed in The Ten Commandments and in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We might all recognize those in one form or another in our own humanity. But those are only six in number. What we might not readily think of in that context is the seventh: *indifference*. When the time comes for us to account for our lives, as Jesus reminds us (Mathew 25: 31-45), how likely are we to ask: "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?"

In the world about us we are faced every day with evidence of injustice, poverty, oppression, prejudice and hatred, violence, and, as much as anything, indifference to the plight of others. Our United Methodist Board of Missions and Board of Church and Society inform us of opportunities for ways to make a difference for justice and mercy in the world. In the same manner, Calvary's Outreach Missions Ministry offers such opportunity for our service in the local and surrounding communities, each of us according to our means. My prayer for this Lent is that each of us reflect humbly on ways in which we might *align our hearts with action in support of God's work for mercy and justice*, whether at the global, national or local community level, a new way for us to fast sacrificially.

**Paul Nelson, Church & Society Ministry**

## Worship series for Lent

**Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places** is the name of the worship and sermon series we are using designed and created by Worship Design Studio. We often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction. Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. The title of a song from years ago reminds us that we may not find what we are looking for in the usual places. We'll consider several stories of Jesus to find out just who offers the "real deal."

March 5 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion

Title: Look for the Helper  
John 3:1-17

March 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

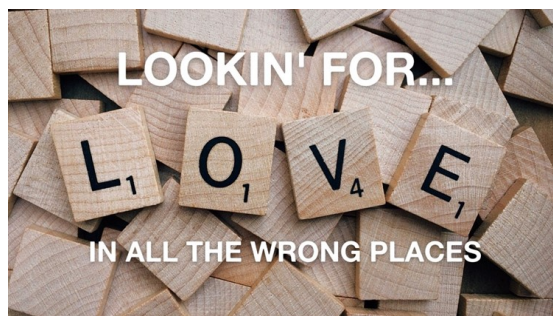
Look for the Thirst-Quencher  
John 4:5-42

March 19 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent. Baptism

Title: Look for the Shepherd  
Psalm 23 and John 9:1-41

March 26 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Title: Look for the Liberator  
Psalm 130 and John 11:1-45  
Mission Moment: Sleep in Heavenly Peace



## Lenten Study- Wednesdays in March

We are pleased to announce that Calvary United Methodist Church will be providing a church-wide study for all ages starting on Wednesday, March 1. On five Wednesdays, we will be coming together as children, youth and adults to focus on a psalm from the Bible. This will be a rewarding experience whether you come for just one week or all five. Each week will have four activities:

Eating Together- sharing food together

Playing Together- a time for games and simple craft projects

Studying Together- discussing the scripture lesson with a mixture of people at each table.

Praying Together- closing prayer and singing



We will start at 6:00 PM and finish by 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, March 8	Psalm 27	"You are my fortress"
Wednesday, March 15	Psalm 63: 1-8	"My satisfaction is in God"
Wednesday, March 22	Psalm 32	"You surround me with songs of rescue"
Wednesday, March 29	Psalm 126	"The Lord has done great things for us"

# MISSION POSSIBLE Kids

We're on a mission!



Mission Possible Kids Sunday,  
assembling Love Bags.



Mission Trip to Mission Central  
January 31st.



## Stewardship

Paul writes to the Corinthian Church a reminder of the foundation of living in Christian faith. He tells them, and us, that living in the light of God's grace and mercy, living under his generosity of blessings to us – we should be of the same attitude toward others. As we serve him, we are to reflect upon what Jesus Christ did for us by committing himself to the cross for our salvation.

Paul, in 1 Cor 3: 12-15, says the material (gifts) we use can be precious; gold, silver and costly stones. Or the material can be the lowly and perishable; wood, hay or straw. To me this means that rich and poor are in parity in God's eyes – it is the giver (builder's) attitude in giving the gift that is important. Paul points out what we build will be shown for what it is at the last Day of Judgement. If our work in faith survives, meaning what is good and serves the kingdom of God past the last Day, we will receive our reward, our salvation. What worldly things will not melt away in the end? It is heavenly things that will pass the test.

Let's argue that nothing survives. Paul says elsewhere all is made new. Even if our work in serving God and His Son does not survive, because we served the Lord, we will suffer the loss but gain our eternal reward.

John in his Epistle talks about Christ like attitude toward generosity as we live toward others. John says: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" 1 John 3: 17. He continues "...let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth." (v18) Do we hear God's word in Sunday morning service and are pleased that our "duty" is done with the offering plate. If we do not put into action those words we hear or even read from our own bible, but sit on our hands the rest of the week, do we not gain the world but lose our soul?

The Methodist model can be made at this point: When you see something, do something. God calls us to action. This requires us to use time, talent and or witness to and for others. It calls us to use the material possessions which have come from God. It calls us to stretch ourselves, to sacrifice by putting God first over our own interests, wealth and even safety. Paul was telling the Corinthian Church to put themselves last, as servants to God, servants to Paul and a servants to one another.

*Friday, February 3, 2023 reading in the Upper Room spoke to us of being a light in the world. And interestingly, Pastor Steve's message on February 5 also included messages to us of being a light. One of the "lights in our world" at Calvary leaves money in offering envelopes, every Sunday, on the piano in the conference room for the members of the Grateful Hearts class. The envelopes with the coins inside are presented to the worship's offering plate by class members. I, and all of the helpers in the GHs class, want to thank this anonymous donor for shining Christ's light on the Grateful Hearts members.—*

*Paulette Shockey*





## Greetings from Calvary Weekday School

Thanks to all who joined us for the Chick-fil-A fundraiser. We raised about \$150.00 from this simple fundraiser. These funds are used to reimburse teachers for all the extra supplies they purchase for the classroom.

Mark your calendars for the next fundraiser on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-8pm located at 2401 Monocacy Blvd. in Frederick. Just mention Calvary Weekday School when you place your order. Unfortunately, online orders are not applicable.

Last month, the three- year old classes had a field trip to the Original Playhouse in New Market and we welcomed families in for Donuts and Grown-ups. It was fun to spend time with families and of course, everyone enjoyed the donuts!

At the end of the month, Soccer Shots will visit our school to provide a short demonstration for all the classes. Soccer Shots is a children’s soccer program that focuses on character development as well as teaching soccer skills. We are looking forward to their visit.

Happy Spring!

Patty Lockard, Director

### Children’s Ministry News

*Children’s Sunday School* for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Activities Room of the Education Building for songs, Bible stories, crafts and fun! *Youth Sunday School* for Middle and High School students meets just down the hall. Please join us!

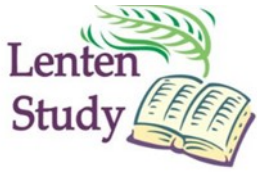


Thank you to those who have signed up to help with **Children’s Church** during the 10:00 am Sunday morning worship service. Everyone can help; please find out more and sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-childrens>.



The first meeting of the new **Calvary Mission Possible Kids** took place on February 5. We made love bags using the generous donations of members of Calvary’s congregation. Our goal is to take on missions to help others, and to be God’s Light in the World. Mission Possible Kids is for children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our next mission will be to help the Youth Group pack backpacks in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, March 12**, beginning after the worship service. To register, and to order a Mission Possible Kids t-shirt, please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org).



Join us for multi-age **Lenten Dinners and Study** on the 5 Wednesdays in March, beginning March 1, from 6:00 – 7:30. Families and members of the congregation of all ages will join in with dinner and fellowship, discussion, and even crafts and games!



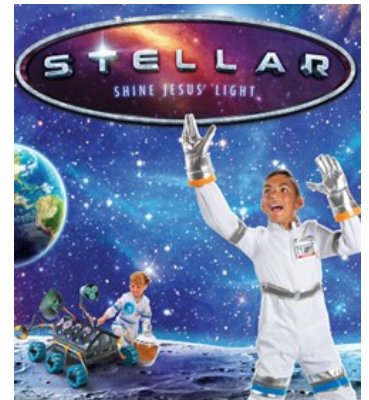
On **Saturday, April 8**, please join us from **1:00 – 3:00 pm** for a fun-filled afternoon of **Easter Celebrations!** We will have an Easter Egg Hunt, a visit from Mrs. Bunny, games, crafts and snacks!



**Veggie Tale Movie Night** will take a break during Lent, but join us on **Friday, April 21** from **6:00 – 7:30** to enjoy The Penniless Princess! Feel free to bring a blanket and wear your pajamas! Contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information and to register!

Volunteers are needed for this year's **STELLAR VBS –**

**Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22!** There are so many exciting ways to help out! Please sign up in Parish Hall or contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information or to volunteer. It's going to be **OUT OF THIS WORLD!** Registration for participants begins on April 3.



## Youth Ministry News

### Calvary's Hearts and Hands in Service



## **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**

*Who will feed the kids this weekend?*

## Packing Event

March 12, 2023 11 am

(Directly after the service.)

Join us in the Parish Hall to help

feed Frederick's kids in need.

All ages and capabilities welcome

Email Miss Jenn with any questions:

[calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org](mailto:calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org)



# CALVARY

## COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

### 2022-2023 SEASON



**March 12, 2023– 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**  
**Ronn McFarlane and Carolyn Surrick**

Ronn McFarlane and Carolyn Surrick are distinguished artists of the lute and viola de gamba who have been champions of their respective instruments for decades, immersing themselves in music from the Renaissance and Baroque, music from Ireland and Scotland, and composing new works. Individually, they have been awarded, acclaimed, celebrated, and now finally, they have become musical partners in an extraordinary journey. Their musicianship is impeccable, the ease with which they play together is stunning, and their music-making is a joy to behold.

Calvary's Children Choir joined voices with the Sanctuary Adult choir during worship service on Sunday, February 12, 2023. The exciting and inspiring moment was captured by Mr. John Mitchell in the photograph below.



Calvary's Combined Choirs Performance on February 12, 2023 ( Courtesy of Mr. John Mitchell)



## Meet the Calvary Sanctuary Choir Members

**Dear Calvary Family,**

For almost a year now, it has been a profoundly fulfilling, joyful, and spiritually uplifting experience to sing with and lead Calvary's Sanctuary Adult Choir! This time was a humbling opportunity to learn from each of the Choir singers while collaborating and interacting with these wonderful members of the Calvary family who discovered and adhered to the joy of praising God in singing. And what an empowering and enriching experience it has been for me to glean unique insights into the practice of devotional singing by listening to and learn from each of our Choir singers. And this is how the idea came to initiate the series "Meet the Choir Members." These are Calvary's family members that you probably know anyway. And yet, we would like to give you the opportunity to read the very personal story of discovering and embarking on the joyful and life fulfilling path of Choir singing as experienced by each of our devoted singers. We hope that reading these stories might help you in discovering your own joy of singing in your own personal spiritual journey and experience as members of the Calvary family. We are much excited to open the series "Meet the Choir Members" with the personal essay that **Rev. Dr. Raymond Moreland** wrote with excitement while taking the opportunity to talk to each of you very close to his heart.

Dr. Adela Peeva

SINGING FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD!

From Rev. Dr. Ray Moreland, Retired UM Elder and Choir Member

***"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Colossians 3:16 (NIV)***

The late teacher and spiritual guide, Dr. Wayne Dyer, said "Don't die with your music still in you." What a profound thought. There is a truth hidden in those words. For me it makes perfect sense, and it is the reason that singing and making music has been such an important part of life as a Pastor, teacher, and singer, and a beginning piano player. It is the reason that singing in the Calvary Choir is such a joy. I grew up in a singing church and even led singing in the Sunday evening services as a young person before going to college. When I was ten my father handed me a guitar and told me that I was going to learn how to play the guitar. Music has captivated my life physically, emotionally, and spiritually as a source of my devotional life and ministry. At Randolph Macon, I sang in one of the oldest male Glee Clubs in the South and at Wesley Theological Seminary, I sang in the Seminary Singers. I even worked with Bill Kerns in Annapolis to create the Soul Searchers, a choir of 40 young people. When I retired, I recorded six albums and raised over \$7,000 for homeless missions and ministry in the Frederick area. And now I have the pleasure and joy of playing guitar in our Agape group with Joyce Summers and Rob Summers, and Brad Davy and Bob Abbott and Lainey, Brad's daughter.

Since 1970, I have been a member of the Fellowship of United Methodist of Worship Artists. I hope you are getting the reason and picture for my article. It is amazingly simple. No matter what your musical skills are, no matter what your background is, if you love to sing, there is a place in the choir for you. I want to encourage you, and yes, challenge you, to come and make a "joyful noise unto the Lord" in the Calvary Sanctuary Choir.

Continues on page 9



Why? Well, come and discover the marvelous musical leadership of our Director and Organist, Dr. Adela Peeva, come and share the fellowship of other singers who truly don't want to die with their music in them. Mary Travers, of the folk group Peter, Paul, and Mary, said, "We sing to each other or listen to music together or make music together in the knowledge that the sharing of sound makes us all belong to each other, enables us to give all of ourselves in every way we can with all the feeling we have inside." It is time for you to consider letting the music live in you no matter whether you are a soprano, or alto or baritone, or bass or tenor.

Here is a question for you. Do you think Jesus ever sang? Was he a tenor, or baritone, or bass? Jesus certainly knew the Psalms – the songs of his Jewish tradition – by heart and I can just hear Jesus singing with the disciples around a fire or after a supper. I can also hear Jesus' whistling or humming a tune after the Passover meal. Dr. Karl Kraft writes that we are so taken by the melancholy paintings of Jesus that we have a difficult time imagining a joyful, smiling Jesus singing the songs of Zion. Remember what the Gospel of Matthew says, when the Last Supper was over "they (at least the disciples and Jesus) sang a hymn and went out to the Mt. of Olives."

Yes, Jesus sang, and you are welcome to come and share the joy of singing and rehearsing in the Calvary Choir each Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Also remember, Paul and Silas were singing while in prison (Acts 16:25). Again, Dr. Kraft reminds us that if "music is the language of angels" then you must believe that people of faith, including Jesus himself, have always raised their voices in praise to God in song. Wayne Dyer is correct, "don't die with your music still in you." See you at Calvary's Choir rehearsal soon to learn great music and help lead the congregation in our corporate praise and rejoicing of God in worship. John Wesley gave Directions for singing. He told the early Methodist to "Above all sing spiritually. . . see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually, so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here (at Calvary) and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven."

Dr. Rev. Raymond Moreland



## March Birthdays

- 1, Rev. Ken Humbert, Mason Leber 2, Rebecca Hall, Finley Melhorn  
3, Georgina Engler, Blake Rust, Taylor Selby  
4, Rebecca Acklin, Taylor MacDonald, Franklin McKnight, 5, Jeff Rosen  
6, Emily Harris, 7, Casper Cline, Doug Manger, Shannon Rust  
8, Lou Finneyfrock, Linda Warehime, 9, Anna Bidinger, Tom Burall, Mari Beth Schmersahl  
10, Ethan Mueller, Emily Sewell, Franklin Tang  
12, Betty Brewer, Dr. Ray Moreland, Amelia Mueller, Gregory Pfister, Patrick Stalnaker  
14, Amy Kulesa, 15, Matthew Cline, Steve Loss  
16, Reed Keirn, Nancy Manthey, Lauren Reilly, Abigail Waskey, 17, Raymond Crum  
18, Zachary Heller, 19, Seth Kraham, Brady Pond, 20, Aiden Rankin  
22, Samuel Kahan, Randy Paugh, Jeffrey Ramsburg, Stephanie Schmersahl  
23, **Carroll Doggett (100)**, Thomas Kellam, 24, Constance Mason, Brad Stone  
25, Marjorie Johnson, Bobbie Parsons, Donald Shipley  
26, Gail Colby, Cassie Krahm, Paul Muehl, 27, Jennifer Kinsey, 28, Sarah McGarity  
29, Linda English, Paige Willard  
31, Molly Anderson, Lorraine Davis, Aubrey Greaves, Sharon Green, William Harris, Carrie Pure

## March Anniversaries

- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Gary and Paula Coffman               | March 3  |
| Jeff and Brandy Adam                 | March 11 |
| Gerald and Sandra Palmer             | March 12 |
| Shane Wickline and Monica Campolongo | March 24 |
| Bill and Beth Waskey                 | March 25 |
| Edward and Angela Milum              | March 30 |



## **March 2023**

March 1

6 p.m. Lenten Study

March 2

5:30 p.m. Birthing Group

March 5

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

March 6

7 p.m. SPRC

March 7

10 a.m. Bible Study

1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Comm

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Handbells

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

March 8

6 p.m. Lenten Study

March 10

2 p.m. World Day of Prayer

March 11

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

March 12

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

3 p.m. Concert

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

March 13

7 p.m. Trustees

March 14

10 a.m. Bible Study

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Handbells

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

March 15

6 p.m. Lenten Study

March 19

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

March 20

7 p.m. Finance Committee

March 21

10 a.m. Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Handbells

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

March 22

2 p.m. Miriam's Circle

6 p.m. Lenten Study

March 26

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

March 27

7 p.m. Church Council

March 28

10 a.m. Bible Study

6 p.m. AGAPE

6:30 p.m. Handbells

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

March 29

6 p.m. Lenten 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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Sunday School 9 am in the Youth Room- Education Building

**Youth Group Schedule**

- March 5-5:30 pm Service Trip to Blessings in a Backpack
- March 12 11 am Blessings in a Backpack Packing Event  
12:30 pm Lunch (no evening Youth Group)
- March 19 4:30 pm Youth Council  
5:30 pm Planning Session- Youth Sunday
- March 26 Potential hiking at Greenbrier