



Calvary United Methodist Church

Disaffiliation

In February of 2019, the United Methodist Church held a special session of the General Conference to address the matter of same sex marriage and the ordination of homosexual persons. At that General Conference, a motion was passed that allowed individual congregation who felt that they could no longer abide by the policy of the United Methodist Church on these particular issues to leave the United Methodist Church. Several conditions had to be met for this to take place. This process of leaving the denomination is called “disaffiliation.” It represents the first time in the history of Methodism in American that a congregation could sever their ties to the denomination and take their church buildings with them.

According to the action taken in 2019, the process for disaffiliation must be completed by December 31, 2023. There are approximately 30,000 United Methodist Congregations in the U.S. and around the world. A bit more than 2,000 have disaffiliated as of the end of 2022, which is about 6.6% of the global denomination, according to official estimates from the United Methodist Church. More congregations are expected to complete the process by the end of the year. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership has done a study to show what sort of churches has disaffiliated and by what region. Most of the churches leaving the denomination are found in the southeast and Midwest.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the resident bishop of the Baltimore Washington Conference, hosted a town meeting that addressed this issue in great detail last September. This was recorded and is available on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/VayeZQI3RGY>). She also provided a recent update at <https://youtu.be/7BFvq88IFE>.

I am honored to serve a congregation that has been faithful in welcoming people into discipleship and stepping forward in faith together. I see us continuing to be part of the larger United Methodist Church and carrying out the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve Larsen



June Worship Schedule



On Youth Sunday, the theme for the morning was

“Faith Like a Youth” and the youth shared what faith was for them. Our services in June will be exploring faith at other points in life. We will be considering “Ages and Stages” and how God might speak and guide us.

June 4: End of Year Picnic

- Water balloon battle
- 5th graders and their families are invited

June 14: Mission Central Trip

- Departure from Church parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

June 04

Holy Communion

Ages and Stages: Faith of a Child
Psalm 131 & Matthew 18:1-6

June 11

Ages and Stages: The Faith of a Parent.
Matthew 20:1-16 & Philippians 1:21-30

June 18

Ages and Stages: The Faith of Growing Adulthood
Colossians 3:12-17 and Matthew 13:44-52.

June 25

Vacation Bible School Sunday.
Lessons & songs from VBS

Scholarship Awards

We are pleased to announce the awarding of scholarships to ten outstanding students from the Calvary congregation pursuing higher education.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Elizabeth Anderson | Molly Anderson | Isabella Anderson |
| • Owen Duthoy | Kaitlyn Quigley | Jacob Mayer |
| • Brent Moyer | Kendel Wickline | Jack Willard |
| • Paige Willard | | |



Youth Sunday

May 7

YARD SALE



SATURDAY, JUNE 10

7:00AM – 1:00PM

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

131 West 2nd Street in Frederick

[Corner of 2nd and Bentz Streets]

RAIN OR SHINE ♥ BAKE SALE

INDOORS

100%
of all sale proceeds
will benefit
Frederick charities



Mission Plans:

July 16-22:

Henderson Settlement trip

The informational and planning meeting was held Sunday, April 2nd after the service in the John Wesley Room. A PowerPoint presentation described the Henderson Settlement project and some details about our plans for a trip this summer, July 16-22. If you are interested in joining the mission team or learning how you can support this mission activity, please contact Helen Sheppard brucehelenshep@msn.com or Dave Herber dlherber@comcast.net.

July 19: Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the Gift of Life on Wednesday July 19th. Calvary UMC is hosting our next Blood Drive for the American Red Cross from 8:30am to 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Watch for details on registering or feel free to come as a Walk In. We welcome all to participate, including volunteering to help with the event.

June 10: Annual Church Yard Sale

Help support our mission work by donating gently used items you no longer need to our annual yard sale. Saturday June 10th from 7:00am to 1:00pm hundreds of folks will visit Parish Hall to shop for a selection of garden and lawn equipment or tools and camping gear, baby, kids and household goods, clothing, and everything in between. Also, our congregation bakers have another opportunity to share their goodies in the bake sale too. All the proceeds from the sale will help benefit local Frederick community mission work including Habitat, Heartly Home and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed projects. Drop off your items in Parish Hall on the stage through June 4th. If you would like to assist with set up June 5th-9th or during the Sale on the 10th, please contact Helen Sheppard brucehelenshep@msn.com or Mary Crum crum.mary.k@gmail.com

May 4: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build a Bed

The Calvary Mission Team wants to thank the congregation for a great response to the bed build for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). Almost 50 people and our financial support to purchase lumber and mattresses ensures that 20 more local, needy children will be served. The beds will be delivered by church members complete with mattresses, sheets, blankets and pillows, free of charge.

Visit www.calvaryumc.org, mission page for more information on how you can help.

MEET THE CHOIR MEMBER– Amy Stone



Calvary's Choir has always been one of my favorite things about our church! When we joined Calvary in 1992, our family loved to sit in the balcony for Sunday services and listen to the Sanctuary and Gospel Choirs on alternating weeks, and I repeatedly said to my husband Jeff, "One of these days, I'd love to sing in the choir!"

But we were busy raising our family in those days and there never seemed to be time! Finally, after our last son had left for college in the fall of 2018, I got up the nerve to come to a Tuesday night rehearsal. I thought I would enjoy it, but I didn't realize how much I would *love* being part of this amazing group of people.

Unlike many of those who sing in Calvary's choir, I don't have a strong background in music - I just love to sing! I sang in the church choir when I was a little girl, and I sang with a group of girls in talent shows in high school. I took a few voice lessons in college, but I have never really sung as an adult, and I never studied music. As an elementary school teacher for 35 years, I sang to my students every day, and constantly used little made up "jingles" to help teach vocabulary and curricular concepts. And of course I love to lead the songs during VBS!

Being in Calvary's choir means learning something new each week. From reading music to applying feeling and emotion to each song we sing, and even learning about composers and music history, I have learned so much just by being part of the choir. Adela is so warm and welcoming, and brings such joy and compassion to every piece she introduces. We are so fortunate to have such an accomplished and qualified Director of Music at Calvary – she is absolutely wonderful. We feel comfortable about asking questions and making sure we feel confident about each part, even if it means asking to hear and sing a certain section over and over until it feels right. Joyce expertly and cheerfully plays and replays any parts we need to hear – she is brilliant! Sometimes when we rehearse, listening to the beautiful voices of these unbelievably talented singers all around me brings tears to my eyes, even as I'm singing my own part! What a joy to be able to participate in such an important

If you love to sing and have always wondered what it would be like to be a member of a group of choral singers, I encourage you to join us on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 and see what it's all about. You will be warmly welcomed by this lovely group of amazingly talented musicians, just as I was! Calvary's Choir is such a blessing!

Calvary Weekday School



We have wrapped up graduations and end of the year celebrations. Olivia is already busy entering information for our new enrollment and gathering the necessary forms from families for the 2023-2024 school year. All classes are full with waiting lists.

This summer we will be installing new carpet in the library thanks to funds received from the MSDE Aging Grant. Angela Mayer, the media and music teacher, and I will spend time this summer entering the books into our new check -out system, Tiny Cat. We can't wait!

Materials have arrived from the MSDE Textbook Grant. Again, we are fortunate to receive these funds to purchase instructional materials for the classroom and new books for the library. It's like Christmas in June!

I hope you and your family enjoy some sun-filled days!

Patty Lockard, Director



Pictures from the inspiring handbell workshop presented by Dr. Paul Sticha on Saturday, April 29th.

Our ringers had a great time learning new skills and playing great music selections, some of which composed by Dr. Sticha.

Church and Society

“All About Love” ...

... is the theme of this year’s Annual Conference of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) of the United Methodist Church (UMC), of which Calvary UMC is a member. The Conference, to be held in Baltimore from May 31-June 3, is an occasion on which clergy and laity representatives of local churches gather in fellowship to worship, learn, and conduct the business of the Conference, as well as to recognize retiring and newly ordained clergy and those of clergy families recently deceased.

Among the business items on this year’s agenda are seven resolutions, four among which seek to directly or indirectly address issues of human sexuality that have been the source of divisiveness within the global UMC for many years. A major proposal among them seeks to eliminate discriminatory policies and hurtful language in the *UMC Book of Discipline* related to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, including their ordination. Other issues are related to current policy enforcement and church organization issues, including misunderstandings about local church disaffiliation from the UMC, related directly or indirectly to human sexuality issues.

The UMC is not the only Christian church that has wrestled with these issues, the scriptural basis of which is found in about half a dozen verses of the Bible, none from the sayings of Jesus. A number of biblical scholars of various backgrounds have shed light in recent years on the historical and cultural contexts in which those verses were written, interpretations from which allude to behaviors that were abusive, disrespectful, or otherwise acts of debauchery, quite different from current understandings of sexual orientation and gender identity and the caring, loving relationships among same-sex couples.

Our heritage denomination, the Anglican Church, has been addressing the same issues of human sexuality over the past decade. In his book *Love is the Way* (2020), Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Michael Curry shares the way through holy conferencing that the global Anglican Church has moved forward in love while also acknowledging diversity of opinions. He reminds us that we are all one in Christ, citing the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Galatians (3:28), with love of God and one another as a central tenant of our faith. Yes, it’s **all about love!**

I invite you to join me in the days and weeks ahead in praying for that love to abound during and in the aftermath of the BWC Annual Conference, even though opinions may differ, “Because,” as Bishop Curry puts it (*op. cit.*, p. 206), “prayer, real prayer, is both contemplative and active.” The action is in loving our neighbors, all of God’s children.

Later this month, as well, on Saturday June 24 at 11 a.m. during Gay Pride Day in Frederick, there will be another opportunity to join in such prayer for reconciliation at an interfaith worship service with others of our community hosted by Grace United Church of Christ at 25 East Second Street.

I invite you to join me there if you are able. In addition, if you would like to participate in future conversation or study about the issues raised in this article, please contact me or Pastor Steve.

Paul D. Nelson,
Church & Society Ministry



Stewardship

John the Baptist is described in Chapter 3 of Matthew. If we read closely we find a number of characteristics that show us who God is and His Son Jesus Christ. These can be guides to us today in how we are to live in this world as heirs to the kingdom. Look at the description of what John wore. He is a prophet wearing a camel's hair coat tied with a leather belt. He was eating locusts and wild honey. Simple in attire and subsistence, more of natural unprocessed material than the fine linen of the Pharisees with tassels and fringe on their robes. Jesus echoed this when he spoke of the birds of the air and flower of the field dressed in finery from God. It is not what we dress ourselves in that shows who we are or even our station in life, as the Pharisees perceived themselves. God looks at what is in your heart and not how you look.

This reflection of God through John is the reflection of your soul and not your appearance to the world. It is putting God in the right place in your lives. While you do not need to dress in camel hair you do need to put your heart upon the right things.

John also calls the Pharisees and Sadducees, "brood of vipers". This is not a good image of a people who claim to be of God. Through history, man has associated snakes with evil and darkness, something to be feared. John then shows the

Pharisees a better way.

What does John call them to do – "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."? (v8) Two more insights to God's character and his call. Repent of what you have not done to favor God and turn to a new life of serving faithfully your creator and provider. There are no shades of gray. It is a black or white, an either or choice. Repent! Then act by doing good, bear Fruit!

You do this by bearing fruit that is good and acceptable to God. Paul and James write about doing good deeds as it relates to having faith. Jesus spoke of widows and orphans as those in need – He said care for them. They represent to us all who are in need in this world. Good deeds are any act(s) of grace and mercy from us to others. It is the re-purposing the grace and mercy granted by God to us. All things are God's, even this.

Next Matthew tells us that John gives us God's end plan. John gives a warning to those who do not receive God and practice a faith life. Not producing good fruit will result in a "cutting down and destruction by fire." You are the tree bearing fruit. This not a concept of an eternal life in God's Presence.

John emphasized this last point. There are two paths – remember the two roads of Jesus? One path leads to God "gathering his wheat into his barn." A ripe harvest of his faithful people.

The other path that leads to being "chaff (something unwanted a waste and thrown into the wind) burning with unquenchable fire."

Paul tells us we have a choice to live or to die. John tells us the same thing. While there are some mysteries unknown to us, God through the scriptures openly tells us his plan.

Record breaking Red Cross Blood Drive

Calvary's May 10 Blood Drive was an extraordinary success thanks to the donors, volunteers and Red Cross Biomed team. A special thanks to Eric Anderson who finished his 75th drive as the local coordinator and is turning over his role to Pastor Steve. We achieved a record-breaking 100 units of blood, a first for Calvary and we reached ten new donors. This blood drive will impact up to 300 lives in desperate need of this precious gift of life. Look for future Blood Drive scheduled on July 19th and again on September 27th.



Rev. Larsen and Eric Anderson—May 2023

Children's Ministry News

Children's Sunday School for Preschool through 5th grade meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Activities Room of the Education Building through **June 11** for songs, Bible stories, crafts and fun! Sunday School will take a break for the summer, but will kick off again on **September 10**.



Families, please join us on **Sunday, June 18 at 9:00 am** in the **Sanctuary** for a brief **“Promotion Sunday”** Celebration! Students will be recognized with a certificate of participation for being such an important part of Children's Sunday School this year! A celebration with cake and lemonade will follow in the Parish Hall.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out this year with Children's Church, especially **Grace Dobson, Beth Stitely** and **Laura Miller!**

Children's Church will continue throughout the summer months.

Please sign up if you're available!

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

Thank you. 😊



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 for more information or to volunteer. ***We are especially in need of adults and youth to help in the nursery and in our preschool crews.***

Please join us in the Library for our final VBS Information Meeting on **Sunday, June 4 at 11:00 am.**

It's going to be **OUT OF THIS WORLD!** Crews are filling up fast! Register your child (ages 4 through 5th grade) now at calvaryumc.org.

VBS Set Up will take place on **Sunday, June 18** immediately following the worship service.

Please help out if you can!

- 1, Caroline Proudfoot, Meg Winter
- 2, Amy Duvall, Rita Sharpe (80), Jeffrey Tang, Cynthia Wilson
- 3, Cindy Mills, Gloria Tang, 4, Rodney Hamilton, Emily Schwarzenberg
- 5, Austin Keyser, Greg Shipley, Lois Tyson (95), 6, Christy Mossburg,
- 8, Katy Cosby, Linda Muehl, Dustin Newcomer
- 9, Cynthia Brown, Alexander Heller, 10, Katie Flory, Quinn Mood,
- Grace Ritterbusch, 11, Anastasia Pard, Mike Pickett, Jeminah Ritterbusch
- 12, Regan Forsythe, J. Ray Frank, Jesse Moxley,
- 13, Pattie Rice, Tom Starnes, 14, Stephanie Felton Clair,
- 15, Ronald Fischer, Becky Kile, Donald Shoemaker, 16, Ann Harper, 17, Anne Mossburg
- 18, David Pard, 19, Judy Johnson, Kevin Keyser, Caitlin, 21, Jessica Bernier
- 22, Ryan Willard, 24, Stephanie Quigley, Natalia Rojas, Hannah Yeager
- 25, Janet Shoemaker, Amy Stone, Harper Sweet, 26, John Ritterbusch, Joyce Summers
- 27, Noah Shankle, 28, Lainey Davy, Savannah Muehl, Susan Sharpe
- 29, Karla Hembree, Andrew Tang, Beth Waskey
- 30, Todd Bear, Lillyen Eyler, Collin Stone



Vic and Rebecca Rohrback	June 3
Rodney and Delphine Hamilton	June 4
Bob and Constance Mason	June 7
Rick and Susan Miller	June 7
Bill and Linda Warehime	June 8

Mike and Carol Stockhausen	June 12	Gary and Cynthia Brown	June 22
David and Pat Herber	June 13	Matt and Amy McGreevy	June 23
Robert and Jennifer Bennett	June 14	Joe and Ginger Ward	June 23
John and Becky Kile	June 15	Jason and Jennifer Aud	June 24
Scott and Mary Beth Pearce	June 15	James Colborn and Patricia Sterling	June 24
Frank and Beth Strakonsky	June 18	James and Sharon Bear	June 25
Dennis and Ellen Ahr	June 19	Dean and Maria Calcagni	June 26
Lindsey and Shelia Howard	June 21	Curtis and Janet Fox	June 27
Donald and Gloria Orrison	June 21	Daniel and Lindsey Shankle	June 27
Eliezer and Magda Valentin-Morales	June 21	Don and Barbara Mentzer	June 28
Kevin and Traci Davies	June 22		

[JUNE 2023]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5:30 p.m. The Birthing Group	2	3
4 Wheelbarrow 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	5	6 1:30 p.m. UWF Ex. Committee 6 p.m. AGAPE 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	7 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	8	9	10 YARD SALE 7a.m.-1 p.m. 
11 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	12	13 6 p.m. AGAPE 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	14 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	15	16	17
18 <i>Father's Day</i> Promotion Sunday 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	19 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS "STELLAR"	20 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS "STELLAR" 12:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle at Firebirds Restaurant	21 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS "STELLAR"	22 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS "STELLAR"	23	24 10 a.m. Washington Ringers Society
25 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	26	27 6 p.m. AGAPE 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle Meeting 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	29	30	

Calvary United Methodist Church
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Frederick, MD 21701
301-662-1464

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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.

Table of Contents.....

From Pastor Steve.....1
June Worship.....2
Yard Sale.....3
Mission/Outreach.....4
Meet the Choir Member.....5
Weekday School.....6
Church and Society.....7
Stewardship.....8
Children’s Ministry.....9
June Birthdays/Anniversaries.....10
June Calendar.....11



**Congratulations
Graduates!**

High School

Isabella Anderson
Paige Willard
Kendal Wickline

College/University

Mollie Mayer

Welcome New Members

Deanna Rice
Judy Wilson