



# The Messenger

Calvary United Methodist Church

**September 2023**

From the Pastor

Throughout the summer, annual conferences in the United Methodist Churches around the country were holding their annual meetings. Among reports and budgets, worship, Bible study, ordination and debates, each annual conference took action on those congregation that had completed a process to remove themselves from The United Methodist Church. According to the General Conference action in 2019, congregations had a limited right to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. A congregation could separate themselves from the UMC and still retain their property and assets so long as they met all the requirements. The window for completing this process has now been closed in all but a handful of cases.

For three plus years, it was uncertain just how many congregations would disaffiliate. Now we know. About one-fifth of congregation in the U.S. have completed the process. 6,240 congregations out of 30,543 in the U.S. There are approximately another 12,000 congregations world-wide. Many of the churches that have left are concentrated in the Southeast. In the Baltimore Washington Conference of approximately 600 churches, 25 congregations have disaffiliated. You can see a chart that shows disaffiliations by annual conferences.

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/disaffiliations-approved-by-annual-conferences>

I wish God's blessings on each of the church's that disaffiliated. I have worked with some of the clergy and members from these churches. These are our brothers and sisters and they will reach people that UM congregations may not reach. But I'm proud to be remaining in the United Methodist.

I am excited about the future seems to hold, both in this congregation and the larger church. We are busy engaging in mission and outreach projects, seeing guests coming to worship services, baptizing and welcoming new people into membership and offering a word of hope and love each day and week.

I got a call last week from someone moving into Frederick. They wanted to know "what kind of United Methodist Church" Calvary was. I told them that we are a church that is

- committed to the gospel as contained in the Bible and historic creeds,
- committed to welcoming and showing love to all persons, both members and those who are outside the church,
- and we are interested in building a community of love and forgiveness, witness and service in response to Christ's call on our lives.
- Here we may not all think alike, look alike, or vote alike, but we can all worship the One Lord and we follow God's direction and guidance with the Spirit's help.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Steve Larsen

## *Worship Schedule– September 2023*



- Sept. 3 Labor Day Weekend, Holy Communion  
On Calls and Claims  
Exodus 3:1-15
- Sept. 10 All Things Bright and Beautiful: A Call to Care for Creation  
Psalm 24 and Luke 12:13-21  
Choir Resumes
- Sept. 17 All Things Wise and Wonderful: We Can Make a Difference!  
Amos 5:21-24 and Revelation 21:1-4  
Special Music provided by *The Trinity Brass* ensemble
- Sept. 24 A Faith Worth Sharing  
1 Peter 1:3-9 and Matthew 5:13-16



*Calvary Community Concert Series  
Sunday, September 10, 3 p.m.  
The Knotwork Band*



## **Adult Sunday Study Group To Re-Start**

Last year a new Sunday morning study group for adults was launched, led by Paul Nelson. Over the course of a year from 3 to 8 people participated on a weekly basis, a small informal gathering for discussion of short-term thematic issues addressed in the Scriptures. In addition to use of the Bible, each study was also guided by publications of pastors or other scholars of the Bible, each raising questions for discussion.

That class will begin weekly meetings again **starting Sunday September 10 at 9am in the small conference room of the church office building** (that faces West Second Street but entry to which is best made from the patio between the Sanctuary and office buildings off Calvary's rear parking lot). So, if you are not already engaged in a Sunday morning class, and would like to become involved in a small group informal discussion of biblical themes, grab a cup of coffee and pastry in Parish Hall and join us ... or join us without the coffee and pastry!

**Whether you have never been in a class studying the Bible or have been in one or another virtually all of your adult life, this class is for you! There is no pre-requisite! We all learn together!**

Our first study this year will be Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. Hamilton, a well-known author, is lead pastor of one of our nation's largest United Methodist Churches.



## Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We hope you all enjoyed your summer. The teachers and assistants have been busy preparing their classrooms and they truly look amazing. Many, many thanks to Angela Mayer for all the extra time she put in to completing the library renovation. We are one of the few preschools that have a library and with the renovation, we can also use the space for Music and Spanish. What a blessing!

In August, we held our Kindergarten Parent Orientation and Student Orientation. During the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed 64 Pre-K students after hosting a Parent Orientation on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We had 51 returning families and 31 new families. It was fun to see the excitement from both parents and students.

After surveying our families at the end of last school year, we learned that fundraising at local restaurants seemed the easiest way for families to support our school. We are going to start off the year with our first fundraiser on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Chick-fil-A located at 2401 Monocacy Blvd. from 5-8pm. Just mention Calvary Weekday School when you place your order.

More news to come as we kick off the new school year!

Patty Lockard, Director



August 20th Blessings in a Backpack packing event was a huge success. The 59 volunteers were able to pack 556 backpacks with supplies for children in need in Frederick County. Thanks to Jenn Duthoy, Youth Director for organizing the event and getting the job done!!



## Youth Ministry

### Sept. 10

**9 a.m.** Youth Sunday School resumes in the Youth Room located in the basement of the Education Building.

**5:30 p.m.** Youth Group Kick-off Join us for pizza and games!

We are so excited to begin this new year of fun and service.

### Sept. 17

**9 a.m.** Youth Sunday School

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. Youth Council Elections and S'mores Night

### Sept. 24– PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

**9 a.m.** Youth Sunday School

**4:30 p.m.** Dinner

**5:00 p.m.** Leave for hiking trip

**7:00 p.m.** Pick Up

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We are looking for an Assistant Sunday School Teacher. No planning, just come play games and learn with our awesome Youth at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We are always looking for adults to provide our Sunday evening meal. You can sponsor the meal or come prepare it and eat with us. We need a 2nd adult each week to stay with us from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Youth Ministry/Group Questions??  
Contact Jenn Duthoy at:  
[calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org](mailto:calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org)

Children's Ministry Questions??  
Contact Amy Stone at  
[amystone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:amystone@calvaryumc.org)



Join us for our first Mission Possible Kids meeting on Sunday, September 24 at 5:30 in the Activities Room of the Education Building. Kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are encouraged to join us as we make a difference in the world by helping others. Please contact : [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) to register and to order a t-shirt if you would like one!



Our first *Veggie Tale Movie Night* for kids in Preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade will take place on Friday, September 15 at 6:00 pm! Join us in the Activities Room of the Education Building for veggie pizza, a movie, discussion, a veggie craft and so much more! Wear your pajamas and bring your blanket to get cozy! To register, contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org).



## Children's Ministry Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will kick off on September 10 at 9:00 am in the Activities Room of the Education

Building with our annual CARNIVAL and "Bring a Friend to Sunday School" Event! You can register for Sunday School At <https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/84/responses/new> or fill out a registration card when you arrive. We're looking forward to seeing you then!

# Music Notes

## JOIN THE SONG!

**The 2023-2024 Choirs Season is starting this September!!!** At Calvary, we believe that the primary role of the Music Ministry is to lead and support congregational hymnal singing and that our music ensembles are an extension of the congregation's voice in enhancing our worship on a weekly basis. By glorifying God together in song, we deepen our faith, connect better with each other, and use fully our talents in worshiping and serving the community. Calvary's Music Ministry is welcoming back all currently participating members while looking for new participants – singers, ringers and instrumentalists!

Please consider joining our music family and help us spread the word in the community! Everybody is welcome and there are **NO AUDITIONS** or pre-requirements!!! If you are interested in joining an ensemble at Calvary or would like more information about ways you can support and enrich the Music Ministry, please contact Adela at [adela@calvaryumc.org](mailto:adela@calvaryumc.org) with any questions or ideas.



### Sanctuary Choir:

Calvary's Adult Choir will be rehearsing every Tuesday (**Start Date: Tuesday, September 5**) between 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm in the Choral Room. We are looking forward to actively and creatively engage currently participating Choir members while hoping to attract new singers with an exciting repertoire that will comprise both traditional and contemporary selections. The Choir needs new Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses. Please consider joining us in praising God together!

**The Children's Choir** (children ages 5 to 11) will be rehearsing every Sunday (**start date: Sunday, September 10, 2023**) between 11:15 am and 11:45 am in the Choral Room. The goal of the Children's Choir is to teach and help each child becoming an active participant in the music and worship life at Calvary through song, scripture, and prayer by developing child's singing skills, vocal range, and repertoire in a meaningful, supportive, and joyful way. Come and join the fun!





### **Joyful Noise Ringers:**

Calvary's Adult and Youth Handbell Ensemble will be rehearsing every Tuesday (**start date: Tuesday, September 12, 2023**) between 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm in the Handbell Room. We are looking for enthusiasts of all skill-levels including ringers with no prior experience. If you can read the notes from the hymnal, you can do this! Please consider making some joyful noise for the glory of God!

### **Solos, Duets, Ensembles:**

If you sing or play any instrument and would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation, we would love to have you perform at Calvary on particular occasions throughout the new season. We also have a wonderful contemporary guitar ensemble "AGAPE." If you play guitar, bass, or percussion instruments, Agape would love to have your participation. The group plays for the church service about every other month and rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 5:45. The AGAPE director is Rob Summers.



### **Peal Bells:**

The Peal Bells ring on an ongoing basis **before Sunday worship services (9:45 am to 10:00 am)**. Calvary is blessed to have an outstanding set of Peal Bells. To learn ringing the Peal Bells is easy – no need to learn musical notes or even have a musical talent. We also have monthly training sessions at Calvary taught by the Peal Bells Master Ringers from the Washington Ringing Society (ringers from the Washington National Cathedral). Please consider joining the group. It would be a rewarding experience for both the mind and the body.

Calvary's Music Ministry is much excited and delighted to host *The Trinity Brass* ensemble during worship service on **Sunday, September 17**. We will have the joy of listening to beautiful arrangements of "Down to the River to Play", "The Lord's Prayer" and a medley based on hymns featuring texts by Charles Wesley.

The Trinity Brass is celebrating its 31st year in existence as a part of the Music and Arts Ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland. TUMC is part of the Frederick District of the United Methodist Church's Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.

Originally formed to provide music at Trinity church's Christmas Eve worship services, the group continues to participate in worship services at its own home church. Over the years, The Trinity Brass has provided sacred and secular music entertainment for a wide assortment of groups in the Frederick, Maryland and greater Washington, DC areas. Past performances have included music at several of the United Methodist churches in the B-W Annual Conference, but also at local civic and scouting groups, different assisted living facilities, the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and at Annual Banquets of the International Order of Odd Fellows in Arlington, Virginia. They have provided their musical talents at Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, Maryland by playing the *National Anthem* at the start of Frederick Keys minor league baseball games.

The Trinity Brass has selected and participated in the National Park Service's Annual "National Christmas Tree Music Program" for several years, providing seasonal music entertainment to the visitors of the National Christmas Tree on the ellipse in Washington, DC.

The Trinity Brass participated in the United Methodist 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon in May, which was the group's first performance for an international audience.



Current members include Michael Boyd and David Haughout on trumpet, Carlos Incao and Hal Grau on horn, Matt Stegle on trombone, and David Hombach on euphonium.

## Planning, a continuous process ...

According to the ancient Hebrew calendar, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, typically falls in mid-September, during which time our Jewish brothers and sisters reflect on the coming year, as in how they might better serve the Lord. In many ways, our secular society also treats the end of summer and onset of September as the beginning of a new year. Schools are back in full session, work schedules return to post-vacation times, fall and winter sports teams anticipate new seasons ahead, and most folks settle down into whatever their next year's routine is likely to be. Each of these activities is the result of prior and continuous planning.

It is not only athletic coaches that have a macro game plan for the season ahead and a micro game plan for each week's competition. Teachers have the same for their students, goals for the year ahead only to be achieved through the temporal learning units of which the year is comprised. The same is typically true in most work environments in which longer-term strategic plans are

implemented through those of a shorter-term nature. Yes, this is true even of the church, to wit, Calvary's outreach in justice and mercy ministries. The teachings and example of Jesus' ministry afford us the strategic or master plan for such ministry; Calvary's Mission and Outreach Ministry Team plans the annual goals and activities through which to put that plan into effect at local, regional, national and global levels.

On Calvary's recently revised website, thanks to Karen Gebhart, you can now follow our annual goals for mission and outreach activities, in addition to outcomes of recent ministries. In our monthly newsletters and weekly worship bulletins you can also track the most recent or imminent of such activities. Thanks to all of you who have become engaged in one or more of these ministries.

Thanks also to those behind the scenes responsible for their planning, your Mission and Outreach Ministry Team, masterfully chaired by Pat Herber, with Dave Herber, Helen Sheppard, Beth Stitely, Jenn Duthoy, Judy and David Schickel, Karen and Ray Gebhart, and recently Fran

Haller and Linda Reed. Pastor Steve also plays a significant role in facilitating this ministry, as do Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg for their year-around planning and leadership of our food pantry ministry.

*As you reflect on the year ahead, please consider how you might participate in any of these ministries, if you are not already so engaged, financially or personally.*

Paul Nelson,  
Church & Society Ministries



**The Wesleyan Circle** will meet on Tuesday, September 19 at 12:30 p.m.,  
a catered lunch will be served in the parlor.



## *Stewardship*

In addition to Jesus telling his followers, in Matthew, that they are the “salt of the earth”, he tells us “You are the light of the world” (Matt 5:14). The apostle John describes Jesus as being the light that was life (John 1:5) and the “true light that gives light to everyone” (vs. 9) If Jesus is the true light, it is important for us to understand why he tells us, we too, are the light. When we know this we can live in faith as that light to, and in the world.

We are the reflective light of Christ as the moon is reflecting light from the sun upon the earth. We are that light when we live a faith filled and holy life that reflects the character of God and the way Christ lived while on earth. Like a lamp that lights a room, we can show others, who are struggling in the dark and corrupted and corrupting world. We can cast light upon the truth about worldly temptations with unseen pitfalls. We can live a life in peace and mercy from God that leads to a better way in relationship with Him and His Son, Christ. Psalm 18:28 reads “You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light.” We can turn darkness into light for others.

We can practice generosity and kindness to others by eschewing our own selfish motives and desires. A way of self-control that shows those in need that they can be the same in practice. Think of this light we cast as a beacon to others. It is the sign to the way of safe harbor and a holy haven from shoals and reefs leading to destruction. The Church is a beacon on the hill.

A light dispels darkness. The light of truth (the word of God) brings people out of a life lived based on false understanding and into a state of knowledge of what is true about the sinful and mortal life to one that is based on what is true, promised and eternal. Isaiah 49:6; “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles (unbelievers), that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” We who live in the light do not need to act like the world, material gain, is the most important god in our life.

There is a lot of need in the world, there is a lot of need in Frederick County and the city itself. Not one of can satisfy that need by ourselves. Jesus called many to come and follow to form the body of Christ, his Church. “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 13:47) We bring that salvation through Christ and allowing the Holy Spirit guide us to great generosity of gifts, time and witness. Working together through this church and with other organizations in the city we can reflect Christ’s light and lead others to a life of peace, grace and a promised salvation. Jesus called for our self-sacrifice.

## **Henderson Settlement Update**

Calvary United Methodist Church (CUMC) completed a very successful and rewarding Mission Outreach journey to Henderson Settlement in Frakes KY July 16-22, 2023. With 8 Youth Ministry members accompanied by 2 chaperones, and the 6 person Adult Team, we completed several challenging projects. The Youth Team demo’ d the Henderson Youth Education Center kitchen cabinets, built all new cabinets, painted the stairwell, power washed and stained the 2-story deck, painted the side of a building, and built a cement basketball pad. At the same time the Adult Team renovated a living room and entry as well as attaching facial siding and soffit to the exterior of an elderly couple’s trailer home, and then installed the new kitchen cabinets in the Youth Education Center. As rewarding as these projects were, we were also very proud of our Youth Team for conducting the morning devotions Tuesday. We sang a special “Henderson” rendition of Amazing Grace written by Helen Shepherd which touched everyone present. Throughout the week, we felt the presence of God in the work we did for those in need, the collaboration of our Teams, and the appreciation of the beauty of the Kentucky mountain countryside. The CUMC Mission funding of \$4300 allowed us to have the materials and resources needed to do our work. Thank you to all who supported this important Mission Outreach program either by being part of our 16 person Team or financially. We look forward to our next Mission Outreach journey – stay tuned

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	4 Labor Day Holiday Church Office Closed	5 7:30 pm. Sanctuary Choir	6 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	7 5:30 p.m. The Birthing Group	8	9 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
10 9 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Peal Bell 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 3 p.m. Concert 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	11 7 p.m. SPRC	12 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise  7:30 pm. Sanctuary Choir	13 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	14	15 6 p.m. Veggie Tale Movie Night	16 9:30 a.m. Washington Ringers Society
17 9 a.m. Sunday School 9: 45 a.m. Peal Bell 10 a.m. Worship  11:15 a.m. Children's Choir  5 :30 p.m. Youth Group	18 7 p.m. Finance Committee	19 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle  6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise  7:30 pm. Sanctuary Choir	20 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study  7 p.m. Education	21	22	23
24 9 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Peal Bell 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir  4:30 p.m. Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Mission Kids Possible	25 7 p.m. Church Council	26 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise  7:30 pm. Sanctuary Choir	27 Calvary Blood Drive 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  2 p.m. Miriam's Circle  6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	28	29	30

- 1, Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky,
- 2, Madelynn Sewell
- 3, Jacob Livingston, Judy Wilson, Emily Yeager,
- 4, Ray Gebhart, Bill Waskey,
- 5, Robert Baltzell, Grace Dodson, Andrew Howard, Stephen Miller, Bill Pasquerette
- 6, Tyler Schroyer, Kathryn Schumacher, Kelly Stull, Janet Wiles
- 8, Isabella Anderson, James Dennis, Fannie Johnson, John Shade, 9, Collin Mood, Douglas Selby, Fon Smith
- 10, Karen Gebhart, 12, Ned Calabrese, Paul Metcalf, 13, Carole Law
- 14, Joyce Dixon, Anna Mills, 15, Jennifer Cline, Luke Vega, 17, David Calabrese
- 18, Sophie Bailey, Tristan Belgave, Laurelle Maubert, 19, Amanda Calabrese, Ryan Fox
- 20, Basil Eavey, Paul Nelson, 21, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley
- 23, Autumn Bordner, Lindsey Howard, Helen Sheppard, Cleon Stull
- 24, Bruce Phillips, Richard Phillips, 25, Judy Delauter, Colin Lyon, Anne Rollins, Renee Vega
- 26, Jeannie Baumgartner, Anna Snyder, Billie Stokes, 27, Jackie Grimes, Beth Strakonsky
- 28, Ray Crum, Scott English, John Patterson
- 29, Brad Davy, Thomas Dixon, Bertram Edmonston, Archer Grimes, Bea Kilel, Mitch Reading, Jane Tritt,
- 30, Haleigh Seek, Gregory Selby



Ray and Karen Gebhart	Sept. 2	Bruce and Kathy Phillips	Sept. 3
Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg	Sept. 4	Don and Jane Cline	Sept. 4
Mark and Allison MacDonald	Sept. 6	Adam and Melissa Rankin	Sept. 6
Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette	Sept.	Bert and Jennifer Edmonston	Sept. 9
Larry and Lydia Van Sant	Sept. 10	John and Ann Harper	Sept. 11
David and Gail Colby	Sept. 16	David and Cindy Mills	Sept. 16
Heidi and Chris Sweet	Sept. 22	William and Mari Beth Schmersahl	Sept. 24
Peter and Jenn Duthoy	Sept. 26	Bob and Faye Cannon	Sept. 28

### ***Holiday Bazaar at a glance for September***



**\*\* Crafting** starts Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and then on Mondays 9:30am to 12:00pm and Wednesdays 7:00pm to 9:00pm, please contact Becky Isaacs, with any questions, [mikbecki@comcast.net](mailto:mikbecki@comcast.net), 301-639-5377

**\*\* Cheeseball** order forms will be at the Welcome Center September 17<sup>th</sup> due October 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you know of anyone who is interested in being a vendor at the bazaar or someone who would like to donate some jellies, please contact Fran Haller, [fehaller@outlook.com](mailto:fehaller@outlook.com), 301-785-5058.

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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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 American Red Cross | Community of Giving

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Wednesday, September 27, 8:30 to 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

We have openings for both donors and volunteers. You can schedule an appointment by calling Pastor Steve Larsen at 301-848-8216 or email at [RevSteve@calvaryumc.org](mailto:RevSteve@calvaryumc.org) or follow the link below. An hour of your time can save up to three lives!

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick>

