



# December

## The Messenger

### Advent Worship Series

#### How does a weary world rejoice?

We spend this season looking at how the story of Jesus begins alongside the stories of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. These stories involve feelings of isolation, fear, disbelief as well as trust, joy and connection. Somehow, all of these emotions are part of the larger story of what God is doing in the world. The question is: How does a weary world rejoice? This Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. The theme and worship services come from Sanctifiedart.com.

**Dec. 3**                      ADVENT 1  
Luke 1:1-23 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Theme Title: We recognize our weariness

**Dec. 10**                     ADVENT 2  
Luke 1:24-45  
Theme Title: We find joy in connection

**Dec. 17**                    ADVENT 3  
Time with the Children: Angela Mayer  
Christmas Music Sunday featuring all the music ensembles at CUMC.  
Luke 1:57-66  
Theme Title: We allow ourselves to be amazed  
Christmas Carol Medley

**Dec. 24**                  ADVENT 4- **Morning**  
Luke 1:46-55  
Theme Title: We sing songs of hope

**Dec. 24**                    **Christmas Eve**  
Luke 2:1-20  
5 PM Service for Children and families.

Using music, stories and scripture we will enter into the miracle of God who comes to us in Bethlehem and in our hearts today.  
7 PM and 9 PM

Christmas Candlelight and Communion  
Theme Title: We make room

**Dec. 31**                    New Year's Eve  
Luke 2:21-38  
Theme Title: We root ourselves in ritual



## Homeless for the holidays ... children and youth at risk

The holidays celebrated in December by those of us who are relatively privileged in this world are typically characterized by the gathering of family and friends in warm homes for fellowship, the exchange of gifts, and the enjoyment of more than enough good food. Sadly, such is not the case for so many in this troubled world. For many reasons of both human making and natural disasters, homeless refugee populations, including children and youth, around the world and including our nation's borders, represent one of the greatest humanitarian challenges of our day. Indeed, we often forget that the birth of Jesus with his temporary home a stable, followed shortly thereafter fleeing as a refugee with his family to Egypt to escape death at the hands of a tyrannical ruler, is such an instance!

In addition to refugees at our national border, far too many people are also homeless within our nation's cities, towns, and rural communities. We often see homeless adults on our streets and in tent camps, or hearing about them through community shelters and media. Less apparent are the children and youth who are homeless or otherwise in need within our community. Families with children in such circumstances are helped by the *Religious Coalition* of Frederick that Calvary supports financially. But even among children and youth in homes, many are in such low-income families that they lack their own beds, a need Calvary helps address in partnership with the national organization *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* through financial and volunteer support to build and deliver beds. *Our congregation led by our youth group also ensures nutritious food options for these youth over weekends when not in school through [Blessings in a Backpack](#).*

In similar manner, **during this holiday season**, we are collecting personal hygiene items for homeless youth as well as clothing and other gifts for youth and children of low-income families in need through the **Homeless for the Holidays** and **Angel Tree** projects, coordinated respectively with *SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnerships)* and jointly the *Religious Coalition* and *Salvation Army*. Notices about each of these projects and our monthly collection of food for the community food pantry will be in the Sunday worship bulletins.

Please give generously as you can, sharing God's love for our children and youth in special need during this holiday season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Paul Nelson, Church and Society Ministry

Welcome New Members

Emma Cerrito, Amy Cerrito, Joe Cerrito,  
Laura Hunter, Kristin Wise

Not pictured: Beth Stitley, Robert Hunter



## Children's Ministry

Calling carolers of all ages! Calvary is participating in *Downtown Frederick's Kris Kringle Procession* on **Friday, December 8**. Lineup begins at **5:30 pm** on South Carroll Street between East All Saints Street and East Patrick Street at Position #11

(near the Delaplaine Arts Center near where South Carroll Street crosses over Carroll Creek) and ending at Calvary where we will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish Hall. Children will wear simple costumes, and adults and youth are encouraged to walk with us and sing Christmas carols! We would also love to have a few walking musicians in our group. Help is also needed in the Parish Hall to set up refreshments beginning at 6:00 pm.

Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information.



**Pageant Dress Rehearsal** is on **Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am – Noon**.

**Calvary's Annual Children's Christmas Pageant** will take place on **Sunday, December 10** at **9:00 am** in the Parish Hall! Please join us as Calvary's Children act out the traditional story of Jesus' birth!

It's not too late to take part in Calvary's Annual Children's Pageant! Contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information!



**Veggie Tale Movie Night** is happening on **Friday, January 19** from **6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the Activities Room of the Education Building. Join us for pizza, a movie, discussion, a craft and more! Wear your pajamas and bring a blanket if you'd like!

Please register by contacting [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org).

(There is no Veggie Tale Movie Night in December).



**Mission Possible Kids** is for kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade who want to help others and make a difference in the world! Mission Possible Kids will not meet in December, but next month, **MPK** will meet on **Sunday, January 28** from **5:30 – 7:00 pm** in the Activities Room of the Education Building. Join us! Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information and to order a Mission Possible Kids t-shirt.

**Children's Sunday School** is for children in **Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**. We meet every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Activities Room of the Education Building for Bible Learning, songs, games, crafts and more! Visitors are always welcome!





**Children's Church** meets in the Chapel during the 10:00 worship service for children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Children's Worship Bulletins are provided, and children are encouraged to play or color quietly while listening to the service in the "Big Church". If you would like to sign up to volunteer as an adult leader for Children's Church, please use this link:

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

If no adult leader is available for Children's Church, children are welcome to continue down the hall to the Nursery. Children's Worship bags are also available in the Narthex to be used during the service and returned.



**Mark your calendars for this summer's SCUBA VBS!**

**June 17 – June 20, 2024**

**Look for more information to come in the new year!**

We are hoping to take a church group to see the live onstage performance of **DANIEL** at *Sight and Sound Theater* in *Lancaster PA!*



**August 10 or August 17 at 11:00 am**

(leaving Frederick at 7:45 am)

Tickets are already selling out fast – please let Amy Stone know if you and your family would like to join us! (Adults \$89, Children 12 and under \$39)

<https://www.sight-sound.com/shows/lancaster/daniel/2024>

The Youth Schedule is as follows:	December 17
December 3	Christmas Party with Sneaky Santa
5:30 Cookie making (service project)	December 24
December 10	No Youth Group- Merry Christmas
Sunday School: Assist with the Christmas Pageant	December 31
5:30 Cards for Record St Home	No Youth Group- Happy New Year

**Attention all bakers... a favorite Calvary event is just around the corner..**

BAKE A BATCH cookie event for Jenn Esler. 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, Dec. 8th or Saturday, Dec. 9th by 9:00 AM.

Cookie trays will be available for purchase Sunday, Dec. 10th.

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

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. The "Reverse Advent" food bank collection was such a success we decided to bring it back again this year.

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

**Wish List!**

- |                            |                               |                          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dec. 1 Box of Cereal       | Dec. 11 Canned Sweet Potatoes |                          |
| Dec. 2 Peanut Butter       | Dec. 12 Cranberry Sauce       |                          |
| Dec. 3 Stuffing Mix        | Dec. 13 Canned Beans          |                          |
| Dec. 4 Boxed Potatoes      | Dec. 14 Box of Crackers       |                          |
| Dec. 5 Macaroni and Cheese | Dec. 15 Package of Rice       |                          |
| Dec. 6 Canned Fruit        | Dec. 16 Package of Oatmeal    | Dec. 21 Can Corn         |
| Dec. 7 Canned Tomatoes     | Dec. 17 Package Pasta         | Dec. 22 Can Mixed Veggie |
| Dec. 8 Canned Tuna         | Dec. 18 Spaghetti Sauce       | Dec. 23 Can Carrots      |
| Dec. 9 Dessert Mix         | Dec. 19 Chicken Noodle Soup   | Dec. 24 Can Green Beans  |
| Dec. 10 Jar of Applesauce  | Dec. 20 Tomato Soup           |                          |





Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We held our first Parent Teacher Conference in November and the Kindergarten class went on a field trip to Rose Hill Manor to learn about life in early America. It's always fun to hear a 5 year olds perspective of "long ago."

Olivia and I are very busy preparing for registration this month. Where did the time go? Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will take place December 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> for current families and church members. Registration opens up to alumni Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and to the general public Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Olivia has a waiting list and many tours set up for interested families so please call the office at 301-662-6783 or email [calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com](mailto:calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com) if you are interested. Olivia will be in the elevator door entrance during drop-off and dismissal to register classes on the following days.

- Dec 11- Kindergarten Registration
- Dec 12 Registration for 5 Day 4's
- Dec 13 Registration for MTTH 4's
- Dec 14 Registration for MTTH 3's
- Dec 15 Registration for MWF 3's & anyone who missed registering during the week.

The Staff and I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful, healthy, and joyful holiday season.

See you in 2024!

Patty Lockard, Director



### **December 17<sup>th</sup> worship**

At the worship service on Sunday, December 17th, all of Calvary's music ensembles will be participating sharing their musical gifts in the celebration of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Sanctuary choir, Children's Choirs, Agape ensemble featuring a vocal soloist, guitars, piano and saxophone, the Handbell Choir and soloists will present venerable favorites as well as newer settings of traditional carols.

### **Join the Sanctuary Choir**

#### ***Sunday, December 24, 7pm or 9 pm Christmas Eve Services***

You're invited to join the Sanctuary Choir in singing the famous "O Holy Night" during our Christmas Eve Worship. Rehearsals on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in December are optional but helpful. To learn more and participate, please contact Dr. Adela Peeva at [adela@calvaryumc.org](mailto:adela@calvaryumc.org). Thank you!

**CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PRESENTS:**




*Winter  
Solstice*

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023  
FROM 12:00 NOON TO 12:45 P.M.**


**ORGAN AND PIANO RECITAL OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER  
MUSIC CELEBRATING THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR**

**PRESENTED BY DR. ADELA PEEVA**



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS NEW EVENT IN CALVARY'S  
BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY AND RECIEVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC, WHICH  
HEALS THE HEART AND BRINGS HOPE AS WE REMIND OURSELVES  
THAT THE CHRIST CHILD CAN BRING LIGHT INTO DARKENSS

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH \* 131 WEST SECOND ST. FREDERICK MD  
(301)662-1464



**37TH ANNUAL  
TOUR OF CHURCHES  
CALVARY UMC EVENTS  
TUESDAY, DEC. 26TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 4:00 P.M.**

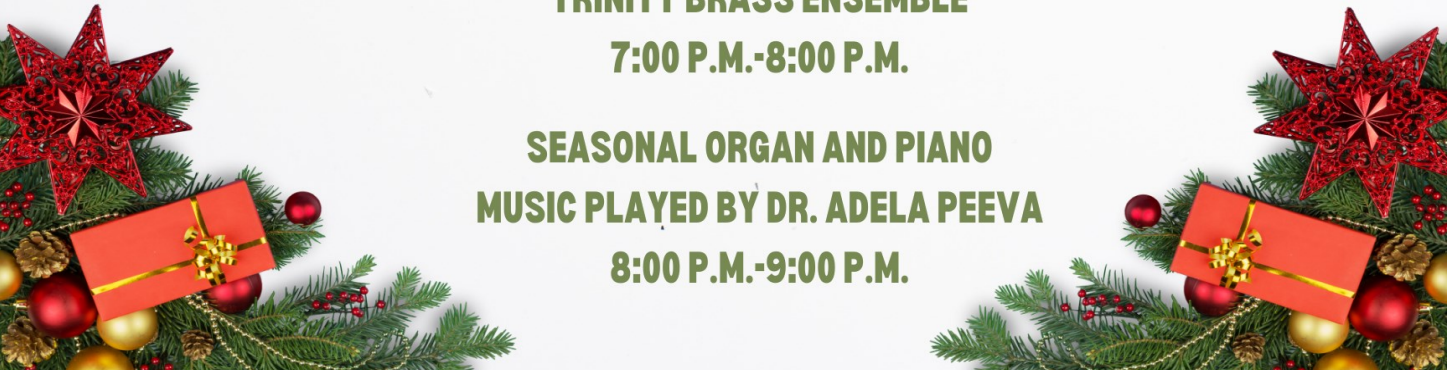
**CHICKEN CORN SOUP, COOKIES, HOT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, HOT TEA, AND WATER WILL  
BE SERVED FROM 4:00 P.M. UNTIL 9:00 P.M. OR WHEN WE RUN OUT.**

**MUSICAL LINEUP  
TRI STATE HARP ENSEMBLE  
4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.**

**PEAL BELLS RINGING AND DEMONSTRATION  
6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.**

**TRINITY BRASS ENSEMBLE  
7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.**

**SEASONAL ORGAN AND PIANO  
MUSIC PLAYED BY DR. ADELA PEEVA  
8:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.**







## Stewardship

A former Calvary Pastor had a personal tradition of reading “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens each Christmas Season. One year he presented an Advent Study of its theological themes.

My personal tradition is to eat as many cookies as I can, and re-read the Scriptures that foretell and tell of Christ's coming and birth. There are many characters important to the story. Mary and Joseph had a major part in the story. Herod in his fear of a rival and maybe a rebellion had his role. A deadly one to the Jewish people. There is the innkeeper that allowed the use of his animal stall and the manger for a crib we sing about. The Magi, three wise men from somewhere east to bring gifts in worship. We tend to forget the idea of gift giving was an act of worship at the beginning.

This year, my mind kept returning to the shepherds watching over their flocks at night. Luke word paints a picture of stillness and deep quiet. A time of darkness in time and in spirit. How was this night any different than all the previous ones? The heavens full of light, glorious singing and angels too many to count. I can relate to their attitude toward what is routine in life; the routine being disrupted by something unexpected. This is what I kept thinking about as I read Luke 2: 8-20 for the third time. We too are focused on our lives and making it through each day. We tend to overlook, over-ignore, and overly discount what is happening around to us. This is the time to remember God is with you in these times as He was with the shepherds in their dark and cold time.

Luke describes how God abruptly entered their world. An angel of the Lord appeared with the glory of the Lord all around them. Fear gripped their hearts. An angel of good word –“Do not be afraid” and news of a birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord. I can imagine the response of the shepherds. The sight and sounds must have been over whelming. But they heard and understood. They took courage with each other and obeyed the word to come and see the child and the truth of God's spoken word. We here the call of come see. Do we obey?

Think of a child on Christmas morning opening their gift to find something wonderful that was hidden from their eyes. That feeling is yours too as we come to see Christ out of our own darkness and fears. We open God's no more hidden gift of Jesus Christ, His Son and our savior.

Update from Sleep in Heavenly Peace:

We are most grateful to the church community for your ongoing support of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). So far in 2023, we have provided the funding and labor for the building of 20 beds. With our weekly delivery team, we have assembled and delivered over 200 new beds to local children.

Next year, we will support Bed Builds on the evening of May 9th as well as Saturday, May 18th thanks to funds donated in memory of John Slovikosky as well as funds in memory of Charles and Lucille Main awarded through the Community Foundation. Plan to join us as we honor the memory of these dear servants and continue our work so No Kid Sleeps on the Floor In Our Town!.

Thanks!

Pat

- 1, James Gibson, Amy Jones, 2, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe  
 3, Daniel Heineman,  
 4, Darren Chamblee, Mikael Johnson, Maren Lyon, 5, Linda Higgins  
 6, Charlotte Auth, Nathan Ellington  
 7, Jim Hamilton, Christine Willar, 8, Carroll Kehne, Chad Ritterbusch,  
 9, Caleb Benson, David Fish, Riley Stone, Joe Ward, 10, Yvonne Eicholtz, Penny Knapp, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci  
 11, Preston Kinsey, Linda Reed, 12, Sandy Chaney, Curtis Fox, Audra Chewing, Curtis Fox  
 13, Elizabeth Anderson, Martin Rowley, 14, Sophia Bostian, Amanda Lee, 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, Kristin Wise, 22, Donna Bruchey, Abigail Colby, Bonnie Duggan  
 23, Holly Martz, Lydia Van Sant, 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, Jack Willard



Mike and Becky Isaacs	Dec. 4	Edwin and Jennifer Kinsey	Dec. 5
Howard and Nancy Strine	Dec. 10	Tom and Susan Burall	Dec. 12
Bill and Georgia Riggelman	Dec. 19	Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	Dec. 29
Steven and Christy Mossburg	Dec. 31	Ethan and Abbie Mueller	Dec. 31

***Ladies, please join us at Calvary's Advent Tea,  
 sponsored by the United Women in Faith from 2 – 4 p.m. Saturday December 2,  
 in the Parish Hall***



**Order your Poinsettia by December 3!!!**

**Call the Church office to order or complete an order form.  
 Forms can be found at the Welcome Center, or the Ushers  
 Table in the Narthex.**

**\$15 per poinsettia– Red or White**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday 1	Saturday 2
						9:30 a.m. WRS 2 p.m. Advent Tea
Wheelbarrow 3 9 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Peel Bell 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	4	5 10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Comm. 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 Blood Drive 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Poinsettia Orders DUE 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	7 5:30 p.m. The Birthing Group	8 5:30 p.m. Kris Kringle Procession	9 Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. Children's Pageant Rehearsal Bake –A– Batch Tray Assembly
10 9 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	11	12 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	13 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Peel Bell 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	18	19 10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	20 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	21 12:00 p.m. Winter Solstice Recital	22	23
Christmas Eve 24 10 a.m. Advent Worship 5 p.m. Family Service 7 p.m. Candlelight and Communion 9 p.m. Candlelight and Communion	25 Merry Christmas	26 Tour of Churches 4 p.m.-9 p.m.	27	28	29	30
31 10 a.m. Worship						



**Calvary United Methodist Church**  
**131 W. Second Street**  
**Frederick, MD 21701**  
**301-662-1464**

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**Calvary UMC** will be holding a **Blood Drive from 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 6** in the Parish Hall. We are looking for blood donors. You can call or text me at 301-848-8216 or send a note to [RevSteve@calvaryumc.org](mailto:RevSteve@calvaryumc.org) to set up an appointment or you can schedule your own donation at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick>. For several years now, Calvary Church has been holding the largest blood drive in Frederick County and has provided lifesaving blood to thousands of people. Just an hour of your time can make a big difference in the lives of others.