

# January 2024 Messenger



Some time back a man came into the sanctuary on a Sunday morning a little after the worship service had begun. He came in by himself and took a seat where nobody was close by. When we stood to greet one another and share the peace of Christ, I headed over to him to say hello. He stuck out his hand in response and said, “Good morning, Father” which threw me off guard. We don’t call the pastor “Father” around here. He was likely drawing upon some earlier practice he had known from his childhood or the movies. For the rest of the hour, I wondered what this stranger would make of what we were doing. I hoped he might encounter something of God’s love and compassion that morning.

When the offering plates were passed, the man got up and headed towards the door. I was saddened to see him leave. I was afraid that maybe he reached the conclusion that this was not the sort of place for him. Maybe something he heard upset him. Maybe he looked around him that day and saw hypocrisy, judgmentalism or people just going through the motions. Maybe he didn’t like the idea of an offering plate being passed and a church interested in money. I don’t know just why he decided to get up at that moment. He just got up and headed for the door.

When he was nearly outside, a woman reached out her hand as he came by. Some words were shared and a brief smile exchanged. I suspect more took place in that simple act of kindness than in all the rest of the worship service. The woman offered kindness and hospitality. The man was welcome to come in and even leave as he wished. But when he was with us, someone extended to him a moment of human connection.

As people of faith and followers of Christ, we should never underestimate the power of what we do. By offering kindness to strangers, we entertain angels unaware. By offering a hand, a smile, a few small words, we can make a difference in the lives of others.

See you in church.

Rev Steve Larsen



January 7, 2024

Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Communion

Luke 3:21-22

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

*We trust our belovedness*

January 14, 2024

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Weekend

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20

John 1:43-51

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

Dt 18:15-20

Mark 1:21-28



**Calvary Community Concert Series Presents:**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

Romantic, Impressionist, and Jazz Music for Harp and Piano  
Award-winning international musicians, Dr. Iraida Poberezhnaya, harpist, and Dr. Ildar Khannanov, pianist, will delight you with music from the romantic, romantic-contemporary, impressionist, and jazz eras. Don't miss *Introduction and Allegro* by Ravel, Tchaikovsky's *Nata Waltz*, *Americans in Paris with Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin, and more.



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

Happy 2024! We hope you were able to spend time with family and friends over the holidays.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will continue this month. Olivia has been busy and classes are filling up!

Dr. Brody, a veterinarian and Dad of one of our current students, will visit all the classes to talk about the importance of taking care of our pets. We also had visits from Mr. Sartwell, a marine biologist, Mr. Davis who works in construction, and Mr. Baker, an environmental lawyer. We are so lucky to have such talented families who are willing to teach the students about the many different jobs available in the community.

The three year old classes will visit Urbana Art and Soul at the end of the month. The students are looking forward to making an art project with their families. If you haven't been there I encourage you to check it out. They have workshops, events, creative celebrations, and parties for students and adults of all ages. They believe there is a spark of creativity in everyone and I certainly agree!

Stay warm until next month-

Patty Lockard, Director

## Children's Ministry News

Donations for our **Love Bags** will be collected throughout the month of January, and will be assembled by Calvary's Children in Sunday School and during Mission Possible Kids. We will be collecting:

small candies and mints  
tissues/wet wipes  
pens/pencils  
small \$ store gifts

small notepads  
small stuffed animals  
cheery decorations

crossword/activity books  
small hand lotions  
chapsticks



Help will be needed to deliver love bags to 90 or more recipients during the month of February!



## Children's Ministry News

**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).

## Bible Sunday



**Sunday, January 28** is **Bible Sunday** – the special day when 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will receive their very own Bible from Calvary!

**January 28, 2024**

9:00 a.m. Bible Unwrapping Ceremony in the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

10:00 a.m. Blessing Over the New Bibles with Pastor Steve during the Worship Service

If your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, you should receive an email from Amy Stone with more details about *Bible Sunday*. If your child is older than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade but has not yet received their own Bible from Calvary, they are also included! Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) to let me know!



**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 to put together Love Bags and to help out with other tasks. 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, 2024 at 11:00 am (leaving Frederick at 7:45 am)



Tickets are already selling out fast – please let Amy Stone know by January 15 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>



## *Stewardship*

Many hands make light work is an old adage that seems to have biblical roots. Look at Nehemiah 3 for a detailed description of the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall. Many hands were working together. This is a story of people helping others as they help themselves.

This idea of helping others was held to such a high level in Israelite society that it was codified in Exodus 23: 4. “If you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. If a donkey is overburdened and fallen down – “be sure you help them with it.” We are charged to give help to creatures of creation, we are to include those in need who are our enemy; and we help ourselves by meeting not only the “law” but meeting the intent of the law with our own hearts of compassion. The full application of others over self is intended to be the primary value.

Leviticus 25: 35 charges the Israelites to help their fellow man who is poor- “...so they can continue to live among you...” An act of helping is a part of the glue that holds the fabric of society together. A needy person who receives the help will in some way acknowledge the deed and be affected positively. I believe the Holy Spirit is intricately involved in the whole interaction.

The social imprint of helping others has been passed to us in the New Testament. It is a foundation stone in our Christian faith. We help those in need by meeting their physical needs through our charitable giving throughout the year. We give to the church, supporting the spread of the Gospel through word and deed. We meet the spiritual needs of others by showing them in tangible ways how the Triune God is living in us and working through us to bring a little of God’s kingdom in being now.

Jesus gives us a living lesson in Mark 9: 22-24, a father brings his son who is possessed by demons. He is looking for a cure. He asks Jesus; “If you can do anything take pity on us and help us.” The father needs a cure for his son and a cure for his lack of true faith. “If you can do anything..”. The boy’s father knows what he really needs – “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.” Asking for help and giving help are ways we can overcome our “unbelief”. As we help others we help ourselves.

When we help another in need – we too, in the image of Jesus Christ, may be helping them to overcome their unbelief. Just as the Holy Spirit works in us to overcome our own. This is a new year in which you can make a commitment to help others.

## Interested in volunteering?

For many years, small groups of Calvary members under the leadership of Bob and Kay Jacobs volunteered on a bi-monthly basis to prepare and serve Saturday evening meals for those who are homeless or otherwise in need at the Frederick Community Action Agency on South Market Street. Following the Covid pandemic, unfortunately, that opportunity ceased.

Looking ahead to the new year, there remain similar opportunities to serve much the same population through the *Frederick Rescue Mission* on West South Street, either volunteering to help serve breakfast or noon meals, or helping distribute food from their food pantry. These being daytime activities, this is more of an opportunity for those who are retired than for those still working. The amount of time involved is minimal and serving in such a way is always another opportunity for fellowship while doing the Lord's work.

Jesus reminds us that He is the "bread of life." While the amount of time involved in this opportunity to serve is minimal, it is a way in which we can share that message with those in need within our community. If you or a small group of which you are a part at Calvary might be interested, please contact Paul Nelson at [paul.d.nelson@outlook.com](mailto:paul.d.nelson@outlook.com).



*Fran Haller lighting the Advent Candle at the December 24, 10:00 a.m. worship service.*

*-photo John Mitchell*

## **Hearts and hands in service ....**

Such is the motto advanced for Calvary by our Mission and Outreach Ministry, both a calling and a tribute to you, the congregation, for the generosity of your hearts and hands in service, helping countless people in need last year.

On Mission Sunday in support of Rise Against Hunger, you helped pack 10,000 meals for people in distant locations; and several small groups traveled a few times to Mechanicsburg, PA to help pack needed supplies for others in need through Mission Central. Some of you including our youth helped low-income Appalachian families in Eastern Kentucky at the Henderson Settlement last summer; and virtually each Sunday during the year there were at least 1-3, and often many more, bags of groceries in our community food pantry wheelbarrow outside Parish Hall. Our youth with your support coordinated Blessings in a Backpack to afford children and youth from low-income families nutritious food on weekends, helped gather back-to-school supplies in August, and raised just under \$4,000 to help alleviate world-wide hunger through the Ray Frank Crop Walk in October! Thanks to those as well who helped with the several Red Cross blood donation events sponsored by Calvary last year.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, many of you working with SHP were active in helping build and deliver beds with bedding to children and youth who did not have their own beds; and you gave generously at Christmas to help supply personal hygiene items to homeless youth through SHIP as well as donating gifts through our annual Angel Tree to brighten the Christmas of children, youth and families in need through the Religious Coalition and Salvation Army. Thanks to your financial contributions for missions work, Calvary also contributed financial support to the Religious Coalition of Frederick that helps homeless adults and families, as well as to SHIP serving homeless youth, SHP for bed building, the Henderson Settlement of Appalachia, and the missionary ministries of Rev, Julie Wilson working with a largely Latino community in Winston-Salem, NC. Finally, I thank our women for their leadership, support, and great success in hosting Calvary's annual yard sale, Christmas bazaar, and holiday bake sale, proceeds from which also support charitable organizations helping others in need.

In the final refrain of the beautiful Christmas carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" we sing (somewhat paraphrased): "what can I give Him, poor as I am; ... I can give Him my heart!" And, as James (Jas 2:18) wrote in his letter to the Jews and early Christians, "I will show you my faith by my good deeds." On behalf of those who serve as your Missions and Outreach Ministry Team, I thank you, Calvary congregation, for your good deeds and generous hearts, serving our local and global neighbors' needs in the name of our Lord and Savior! May God continue to bless you in our ministry together in the new year ahead!





# Music Notes

Music Ministry pictures from our worship service on Sunday, December 17th, - Photos by John Mitchell

2023-2024

Calvary

Choirs



Pictured:

Julia

Mike

Lancione

Isaacs

AGAPE:

Brad Davy, Rob Summers,

Dr. Rev. Ray Moreland





# JANUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**1**, Jeff Adam, William Fout, Douglas Glock, John Karl, Susan Miller, Ruth Schipper, Judy Smith, Linda Smith, Elizabeth Wade

**2**, Joni Allen, Edwin Kinsey, **3**, Jennifer Bennett, Cyd Maubert,

**4**, Bertram Edmonston, V, Carol Keirn, Dorothy Landis, **6**, Frank Strakonsky

**7**, Eleanor Steinback, Bill Warehime

**8**, Paula Coffman, Melissa Rankin, Mary Schueler, **9**, Kate Mills, Scott Moyer

**10**, Abigail Belgrave, Eytan Moked, Peggy Rhoderick, Jean Shaff, Virginia Shoemaker

**11**, Piper Bailey, Debbie Patterson

**12**, Janet Fish, Peter Serra Milum, Mary Ann Mood, Jack Tritt

**14**, Brian Griffee, Charlotte Mueller

**15**, Rob Chewing, John Kile, Dawn Kraham, Mark MacDonald, Sue Ann Wilms

**16**, Howard Strine, **17**, Miles Absalon, Carin Quigley, Sharinna Sarmieto

**19**, Maria Calcagni, Janet Fox, Fiona Richey, Susan Staley

**20**, Scott Officer, **21**, Victoria Antieri, Hadley Aud, Matt McGreevy, Christy Whittington

**22**, Maddie Meyers, Patricia Paugh

**24**, Sharon Adams, Timothy Ritterbusch, Mikaela Vega, **25**, Zachary Pard


**26**, Deanna Rice, Walker Stone, **27**, Abbie Mueller

**28**, Katie Ballenger, Marcia Rose Fuoss, Elisa Leftwich

**30**, Susan Engler, **31**, Sandy Dunnington, Jack Vega

### [January Anniversaries](#)

Steve and Cindy Naugle	Jan 11
Greg and Anne Gray	Jan 16
Jack and Renee Vega	Jan 19

Sunday	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
	New Years Day Closed	10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. UWF Ex. Committee 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	5:30 p.m. The Birthing Group		9:30 a.m. WRS
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	5 p.m. Mission/Outreach Meeting 7 p.m. Trustee	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study			7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Peel Bell 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 3 p.m. Concert 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	7 p.m. Finance	10 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Education		6 p.m. Veggie Tale Movie Night	
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	7 p.m. Church Council	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study			
9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. MP Kids 5:30 p.m. Youth Group		10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir				

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*Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.*

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