



I have long been a fan of the writing of Philip Yancey, the author of *What's So Amazing about Grace?* (1997), *Where Is God When It Hurts* (1977) and *Soul Survivor* (2001). I particularly remember leading a video series he put together based on his bestselling book, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (1986) in which Yancey explored the person and message of Jesus in unexpected and inspiring ways.

I recently heard Philip Yancey interviewed on a podcast where he talked about his upbringing in a Southern fundamentalist church. He was the younger of two brothers. His father died from polio when he was very young, cutting short a promising career as pastor and missionary. His mother was left to raise the two boys by herself. She lived according to a strict fundamentalist faith where everything was viewed as part of God's order. God was a strict judge who was always holding people to accountability and hell was a constant threat, even to believers. She found security and purpose in faith that fought against everything: integration, Communism, the social changes of the 1960s, and her wayward sons.

In his memoir, *Where the Light Fell* (2021) Yancey writes about what it was to grow up in that Christian environment and what led him to a different sort of faith. He writes, "*We live days by day, scene by scene, as if working on a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle with no picture on the box to guide us. Only after time does a meaningful pattern emerge.*"

Now in his seventies, Yancey looks back and sees that two larger themes have surfaced in all his books: suffering and grace. What we do with our suffering can have lasting, even fatal consequences. But it can lead to greater understanding and a liberated, richer life.

Here is what Yancey has to say about his understanding of grace.

"In the churches of my youth, we sang about God's grace, and yet I seldom felt it. I saw God as a stern taskmaster, eager to condemn and punish. I have come to know instead a God of love and beauty who longs for our wholeness. I assumed that surrender to God would involve a kind of shrinking—avoiding temptation, grimly focusing on the "spiritual" things while I prepared for the afterlife. On the contrary, God's good world presented itself as a gift to enjoy with grace-healed eyes."

Yancey found God's grace reached him through walks in nature and an experience of the beauty around him. He found grace as he played the piano and works of music that spoke to his heart and spirit. And he also found grace in romantic love, as the women who he eventually married helped him to learn what it was to be accepted and truly loved. In the end, he says, "I came to love God out of gratitude, not fear."

I appreciated how this writer made such a journey of faith and had the courage to share it with others.

Pastor Steve

June Worship Schedule

June 2

Holy Communion

Special Guest Rev. Julie Wilson

June 9

Sacrament of Baptism

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 and Mark 3:20-35

Inside-Out Jesus

June 16

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 and Mark 4:26-34

A Sermon Sampler

June 23

Rev. Dr. Lucy Hogan- Guest preacher

June 30

guest preacher (to be determined)



Thank you to Bob Jacobs

For many years, Bob Jacobs has been an indispensable part of the life of Calvary United Methodist Church. He became a member of the congregation in 2001. It wasn't long before he became involved with the finance ministry and then, when Alice Mercer retired as the financial secretary in 2005, he stepped into that position. He provides for the weekly counting and recording of all offerings to the church, writes stewardship materials and contributions statements to givers. When someone has a question about their giving, Bob is the one to take the call and quickly provide an answer.

He has shared his understanding of the Bible over the years as a facilitator for the Disciple Bible Study, a teacher in the Couples Sunday School class and the leader of the Men's Bible Study. He has also served for many years as a member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference and represented the church at the annual meetings. Along with Bruce Sheppard, Bob would pick up selected students of the Calvary Week-day School with the church van and he is a frequent driver of the church bus for the Grateful Hearts class.

This month, Bob is stepping back from many of his duties at the church. He is "retiring" but will still carry on with some of the projects and programs that he has been involved with for years. I have come to see Bob as a friend with strong commitment to Christ and this church. I am grateful for the work he has done and I am glad that he will continue to be around in various ways even after he steps away from many of the responsibilities he has carried.

Please be sure to say a word of thanks to Bob when you see him. You might just get him to smile.

Pastor Steve



Greeting from Calvary Weekday School!

Thanks to all who attended our final fundraiser at Café Bueno. We will use these funds to help purchase our last display board for the kindergarten classroom and a new art easel for one of our three year old classrooms. Even though the Cisneros family will no longer have students at our school, the family would like to continue this partnership and we will continue to hold more fundraisers at Café Bueno next year.

The kids are all gone but we continue to remain busy at the school. Olivia is entering information for our new enrollment and preparing forms for all our new families. Currently all classes are filled and have waiting lists. I will order supplies for next year, update handbooks and procedures, organize materials, and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year.

During the month of June, the new AC unit will be installed at the school. Vacation Bible School will take place from June 17th-20th. At the end of the month, Ray and Karen Gebhart will tackle some painting projects for us. We are very grateful for their time, talents, and service.

Olivia and I are looking forward to our vacations and enjoying time with our families and friends.

We hope enjoy some sun-filled days!

Patty Lockard, Director

Invitation to a Conversation

Several questions have been raised to me following recent decisions made by the United Methodist Church General Conference meeting that took place in March. People both inside and outside the church have asked me:

- What was decided?
- What will be the impact on Calvary UMC?
- What do we need to do and be aware of?
- And maybe most importantly,
- Are we still *United* Methodists?

I would be happy to meet with anyone to discuss these matters. In particular, I hope that folks might be willing to stick around a bit after the worship service on **Sunday, June 2** for a brief presentation. At that point, Bob Jacobs and I will have returned from the annual meeting of the Baltimore Washington Conference as well.

The most pressing matter for most people is what does this church now have to say about same -sex marriages, LGBT clergy and how open and affirming we are as a congregation. I will be happy to share my thoughts on this matter as well as my hopes for the congregation going forward.

Pastor Steve



Sanctuary Choir during the May 14 worship.

-photo by John Mitchell



Moni Gough during the May 14 worship

-photo by John Mitchell



Savannah Muehl and Moni Gough sing a duet for the May 14 worship.

-photo by John Mitchell



Children's Choir at our May 14 worship service.

-photo by John Mitchell

Wesleyan Hymn Festival

Ringers and singers from around Frederick City joined in the festival.



Photo by John Mitchell

We are taking a church trip to see the live onstage performance of

DANIEL

at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA!

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

August 10, 2024 at 3:00 pm

There are still some tickets available please let Amy Stone know ASAP if you and your family would like to join us!

Tickets: Adults \$79, Children 12 and under \$42

Checks payable to Calvary United Methodist Church, with *Sight & Sound* in the memo.

We will be having lunch at Dienner's Country Restaurant before the show!

For more information about Children's Ministries at Calvary, please contact

AmyStone@calvaryumc.org.

Children's Ministry News



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

Children's Sunday School will have our **PROMOTION SUNDAY Celebration** on **June 16** at **9:00 am** in the **Sanctuary** followed by cake in the Parish Hall! Everyone is welcome! *Children's Sunday School will take a break from **June 23 – September 1**, but join us on **Sunday, September 8** for our exciting **Sunday School Carnival Kick-Off!***



Children's Church will continue through the summer! **Children's Church** is for children ages 5 – 3rd grade and takes place in our beautiful **Chapel** during the Worship Service immediately following the *Time With the Children*. If you would like to be the adult volunteer for

Children's Church this summer, please sign up here! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949acad2fabfbc61-childrens#/>

The **Church Nursery** will be meeting in last classroom on the basement floor of the **Education Building** during the worship service (10:00 am – 11:00 am) while renovations are being made to the Nursery in the main church building. Please follow the signs or ask one of the ushers to guide you. Thank you!



It's almost here and it's going to be amazing!

Don't miss out! Register NOW for **SCUBA VBS!**

June 17 – June 20, 2024

Register For VBS Here! **Or at** www.calvaryumc.org

If you are available to volunteer for this exciting and rewarding ministry, please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org.



Volunteers should plan to attend **one** of our VBS Volunteer Meetings

Sunday, June 2 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Monday, June 3 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm



YARD SALE CORNER

Attention Bakers – Have the fun of baking without any weight gain! Bake cookies, muffins, even cakes and pies, and bring them to the church already bagged in portions on Friday, June 7 from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Your delicious treats will encourage shoppers during the Yard Sale on June 8 to renew



YARD SALE CORNER

Attention Gardeners – Are your plants multiplying indiscriminately? Pot up your extras and bring them to the church on Friday, June 7 from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Someone at the Yard Sale on June 8 will be thrilled to take them home.

YARD SALE



SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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

Proceeds from the Yard Sale
will benefit local Frederick County charities.

Help Wanted:

A few good people to help move tables and set up for the Yard Sale.

Saturday June 1 at 9am.

Beyond shelter

A few months ago, I wrote about the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs and of Calvary's support for its mission to address homelessness and related issues of poverty over the past four decades. Following two years of strategic planning, the Coalition recently announced its name change, *Beyond Shelter Frederick*, to better reflect what its mission has been all along, namely to help people move beyond emergency needs.

As I write this article in the week approaching Pentecost, it struck me that it was upon that occasion that the earliest followers of Jesus were moved by the Holy Spirit beyond the shelter of their earlier mentorship by the human Jesus to carry out the mission he had laid out for them, even were it to cost their lives (Acts 2). In our secular world, this time of year is also marked by academic graduations, transitions from one stage of early development to another, thus moving beyond the shelter of what had become comfortable at one stage to the risks of new ventures that lie ahead in the next.

The parallels between the earliest followers of Jesus and the graduates of academic institutions can be further extended by the concept of commencement, to which graduations are often referred. For the earliest followers of Jesus, the commencement was that of a new life in Christ as was the Resurrection of Jesus a spiritual life after death. As I write this, Pastor Steve is preaching on the theme of discipleship and its implications for each of our lives even beyond the shelter of the beautiful church buildings in which we study, worship and enjoy fellowship with one another.

As we enter the summer months, a time during which we often refresh ourselves, I pray that each of us will reflect on possible ways in which in the year ahead we might risk leaving the comfort of the shelters in our lives to follow the teachings and example of Jesus, as he calls us to do, always with the attitude of seeking justice, being merciful, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Our Mission and Outreach Ministries team plans and keeps us advised of a number of opportunities through which we might do just that.

Paul Nelson, Church & Society Ministries

Thank You!!

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. They really did cheer me up. Your get well wishes were really appreciated. I miss everyone at Calvary and hope this finds you doing well. ~ Janie Hahn

Stewardship Corner

Have you contemplated: “What is it I value in life?” You may value many things. At times something valued may change in priority. We value family, job satisfaction, a God who cares for our needs, a Christ who stands with us and leads us. Let’s admit it – we also value wealth and riches.

How often do you think of the value of keeping a “good name”?

We want others to think well of us. Who does not want to be accepted or trusted for the person he/she is? We want to have a good reputation. We value a good name. We read in Proverbs 22:1, “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” Wealth and riches, identified as gold and silver, are sought innately by humans. Wealth has determined our individual status socially and in the hierarchy of power and control, since man was formed from dirt. Our wealth is valued as our status marker in relation to others. We pursue wealth, we work diligently for additional wealth, and sometimes do wrong to gain wealth. Wealth tells the world who we are.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 echoes God’s words in Proverbs. “A good name is better than fine perfume...” Perfume was a commodity that, at that time, cost dearly and still does. Perfume was used mainly for anointing at burial of a loved one; remember the woman anointing Jesus at a meal in Mark 14:3. Perfume was used to enhance their personage and to influence others. It is used today for this purpose.

In these verses God is telling us that maybe we are pursuing the wrong things when we strive for wealth, riches and even perfume. God considers a “good name” far superior to other things of the world. When you can gain respect and trust, gain the esteem of another and are trusted to do what is just, then you have gained to yourself something of greater value.

God gives to us a good name when we are obedient to him and act righteous in his eyes. We can look to Abraham as called righteous. Noah was also called righteous for his obedience. Joshua did what was right, acting with justice, integrity and honesty in service to the Lord to others. Those who love the Lord with all their being and treat their fellow man with grace and mercy are called righteous because they are obeying God’s commands. Living in obedience, humility, loving neighbor with justice and mercy brings to you a good name and has its reward of a good life lived now and a good eternal life.

Eternal life is something wealth and riches cannot give.

1, Gerald Duvall, Virginia Grossnickle, Caroline Proudfoot, June Trout, Susan Weddle, Meg Winter

2, Amy Duvall, Rita Sharpe, Jeffrey Tang, Cynthia Wilson

June 3 Anniversary- Vic and Rebecca Rohrback

3, Cindy Mills, Gloria Tang, **4**, Emily Schwarzenberg

5, Austin Keyser, Greg Shipley, Lois Tyson



June 7 Anniversaries—Bob and Constance Mason, Rick and Susan Miller, Beth and Todd Stitely

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, Jesse Moxley

June 12 Anniversary—Mike and Carol Stockhausen

13, Patti Rice, Tom Starnes, June 13 Anniversary—David and Pat Herber

14, Stephanie Felton Clair, June 14 Anniversary—Robert and Jennifer Bennett

15, Ronald Fischer, Becky Kile, Donald Shoemaker

June 15 Anniversaries—John and Becky Kile & Scott and Mary Beth Pearce

16, Ann Harper, **17**, Anne Mossburg, **18**, David Pard

June 18 Anniversary—Frank and Beth Strakonsky

19, Judy Johnson, Kevin Keyser, Caitlin Swartz, June 19 Anniversary—Dennis and Ellen Ahr

21, Jessica Bernier, June 21 Anniversaries—Lindsey and Sheila Howard, Don and Gloria Orrison

22, Ryan Willard, June 22 Anniversary—Cynthia and Gary Brown, Traci and Kevin Davies

June 23 Anniversaries—Matt and Amy McGreevy, Joe and Ginger Ward

24, Stephanie Quigley, Natalia Rojas, Hannah Yeager

June 24 Anniversaries—Jason and Jennifer Aud, James Colborn and Patricia Sterling

25, Janet Shoemaker, Amy Stone, Harper Sweet,

June 25 Anniversaries—James and Sharon Bear, Carroll and Donna Kehne

26, John Ritterbusch, Joyce Summers, June 26 Anniversary Dean and Maria Calcagni

27, Noah Shankle, June 27 Anniversaries—Curtis and Janet Fox, Daniel and Lindsey Shankle

28, Laniey Davy, Savannah Muehl, Susan Sharpe

June 28 Anniversary—Don and Barbara Mentzer

29, Karla Hembree, Andrew Rang, Beth Waskey

30, Todd Bear, Lilyen Eyler, Collin Stone

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Wheel barrow Sunday 2 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. End of Year Picnic for Youth Group	3 6 p.m. VBS Training 7 p.m. Church Council	4 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	5 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	6 	7	8 7 a.m.-1 pm Yard Sale
9 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. VBS Training 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir	10 5 p.m. Mission Team 7 p.m. SHP Team	11 11 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	13	14	15
<i>Father's Day</i> 16 Promotion Sunday 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. VBS Set Up 11 a.m. Prayer Shawl	17 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS	18 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	19 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	20 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS 6 p.m. VBS Family Fun Night	21	22 10 a.m. WRS 1 p.m. Wedding
23 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	24	25	26 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle	27	28	29
30 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship						

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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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