



SEPTEMBER • Messenger 2024

From the Pastor

Every one of us will die one day. Deep down, we all know that to be true. Here is something we may not have considered. Most of us will be richer on that day than we ever were while we were alive. Not only will we be the direct beneficiaries of a gracious and loving God, but we also quite likely will have more money to our name on that day than at any other time. On that day we will no longer have any need of the assets we have accumulated throughout our life. And we may have life insurance benefits coming in after years of monthly premiums going out.

There is some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that none of those riches will be going with you. You will be gone. The good news is that you aren't going to need those riches anyway. Before that day comes, we might do well to stop and consider what God might want us to do with what we leave behind.

Over the last year or so, Calvary United Methodist Church has received several gifts that came from the estates of long-term members and friends of the congregation. As they were generous supporters of the work and ministry of this congregation in their weekly giving, so too that had put in place a plan to share a part of their accumulated assets with the church after their death. Todd Main, Emily Carnochan, and Donna Loeb each gave gifts to the church upon their death. They made plans in their will for a portion of their estate to be given to the church. They practiced generosity and faith through their offering of their time and financial contributions while they lived. By including the church in their estate plans, they also made it a gift to support the church after they were gone.

There are various ways to make a planned gift. It may be including a bequest in your will, including the church as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy, setting up a trust or giving appreciated stock. You can talk with your estate planner to learn about the options and what might be best for you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve



September Worship Schedule

September 01

Holy Communion.

James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15 and 21-23

Worship Series: Crucial Questions for Every Christian (4 weeks)

Here are four questions worth considering by every church worth it's salt.

Sept. 8 #1 Why do people need Jesus Christ?

John 14:1-7

Sept. 15 #2 Why do people need the church?

Luke 24:44-54 and Ephesians 1:15-23

Sept. 22 #3 Why do people need this Church?

John 15:9-17, Philippians 1:3-11

Sept 29 #4 Whose Church Is It Anyway?

Ezekiel 34:1-4, Matthew 9:35-38



We face an emergency blood shortage. When the temperatures were at record levels this summer, many blood drives across the US were cancelled and those donations did not take place. As a result, the American Red Cross had to limit distributions of some of the most transfused blood types to hospitals.

This is truly urgent. Blood products are being distributed faster than blood donations are coming in. Many of us are very busy, but I encourage all healthy blood donors to schedule an appointment to give as soon as possible.

We say it often, but this extraordinary statement is true: just one blood donation may help save more than one life. Will you give just about an hour of your time to potentially give many more years to those in need?

You can call or text me at 301-662-1464 or email me at RevSteve@calvaryumc.org to schedule an appointment. Volunteers are also needed to help with the blood drive that day. You can also schedule an appointment at our drive by using the link below or www.RedCrossBlood.org

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

Wednesday, September 25, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. in the Parrish Hall.



Music

Notes

JOIN THE SONG!

A New Choirs Season is starting in September! Calvary Choirs are welcoming new members and all returning members, too. We want to make sure that we reach everyone who sang and rang with us last year and as many other singers and ringers as possible. We at Calvary believe that music ministry begins with the congregation that sing hymns, and our music ensembles are an extension of the congregation's voice, enhancing our worship on a weekly basis. And, glorifying God together in song, you will deepen your faith, connect with others, use your talents in worship and serve the community.

Please consider joining our music family or help us spread the word among the community! All are welcome and there are **NO AUDITIONS!!!** If you are interested in joining an ensemble at Calvary or would like more information about ways you can serve in the music ministry, please contact Adela at adela@calvaryumc.org with any questions.

Children's Choir For Children ages 5 to 12 will be rehearsing every Sunday (**Start day: Sunday, Sept 8**) between 11:15 and 11.45 am in the choral room. The goal of the Children's choir is to teach the children to be active participants in music and worship life at Calvary through song, scripture and prayer as they develop their singing skills, vocal range and repertoire in a meaningful and joyful way. Come and join the fun!

Joyful Noise Ringers: Calvary's Adult and Youth handbell ensemble will be rehearsing every Tuesday (**Start day: Tuesday, Sept 10**) between 6:30 and 7:15 pm in the Handbell room. We are looking for all levels ringers including those 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!

Sanctuary Choir: Calvary's Adult Choir will be rehearsing every Tuesday (**Start Day: Tuesday, Sept 10**) between 7:30 and 9:00 pm. We are looking forward to enthuse the previous choir members and attract new singers with an exciting repertoire which will include both traditional and contemporary selections. The choir needs especially new Soprano voices and we will put to good use more Altos, Tenors and Basses as well. Please consider joining us in praising God together!

Solos, Duets, Ensembles: If you sing or play any instrument proficiently and would like to share your musical gifts, we would love to have you perform at church on an occasional basis throughout the year.

Peal Bells: (Sundays before worship services) (9:45 – 9:55 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 a monthly lessons at Calvary taught by the Peal Bells master ringers from the Washington Ringing Society (the ringers from the National Cathedral) . Please consider joining the group. It would be a rewarding experience for both the body and the mind.



Summer Special Music Pictures

- *All pictures were provided by John Mitchell*
- *Top Left: Dr. Ray Moreland, solo, Aug. 11*
- *Top Right: Ann Thompson and Joyce Summers, duet, Aug. 4*
- *Bottom Left: AGAPE, Lainey Davy, Brad Davy, Rob Summers, Dr. Ray Moreland, July 28*
- *Bottom Right: William Davy, solo, July 21*

Memorial Room Rehab

After years of diligent sorting of boxes and boxes of historic materials by Fred Schumacher followed by cleaning and organizing by Melissa Rust, and Karen & Ray Gebhart the Memorial Room on the 2nd floor is ready for use.

Many treasures, memorabilia and artifacts were discovered. They have been carefully placed in the showcases. Historic wall art and church building items were hung on the walls or placed in areas for full view.

Once the books, ledgers and binders were sorted, those of most historic value dating back to the 1800's were placed in clear bags for preservation and set on the bookshelves. Memorabilia documents from the very first church were placed in a drawer in the bookcase for safe keeping.

The conference table comfortably seats 12. An area with historic pulpit chairs has space for chairs to be moved around for a more intimate group meeting. A second smaller bookcase contains several Bibles and reference books for group discussions.

Our Memorial Room is now ready for groups to meet or gather. And perhaps it is also a quiet pace for solemn reflection while taking in our church history.

Welcome back to your Memorial Room!



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We hope you all enjoyed your summer. It certainly went by quickly. The teachers and assistants have been busy preparing their classrooms and they truly look amazing. We welcome Amanda Stanczyk and Emma Serrano to our staff. Amanda's daughter attended Calvary and her son, is currently enrolled in the 5 day 4's program. Emma's daughter was in the 5 day 4's program last year. They both bring great experiences to our school. Amanda will be an assistant in the 3-year-old class and Emma will be our Spanish teacher as well as an assistant to our multi-lingual families.

Many, many thanks to Ray and Karen Gebhart for volunteering at the school over the summer. Ray painted the alcoves on each floor and they are beautiful! He also cleaned and painted one of our storage areas in the basement. Such a huge difference and we are excited to have a nice clean space for storing our materials.

In August, we welcomed our kindergartners back and our preschoolers returned in September. It is so nice to have staff, students, and families back in the building. We have 46 returning students including 7 siblings, 10 alumni and 26 new families.

We are going to start the new school year with our first fundraiser on September 23rd at Chick-fil-A, located at 2401 Monocacy Blvd., from 5-8 pm. 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

Mission Sunday coming October 13

Once again, we will have a hands-on mission project in the Parish Hall running on a Sunday morning, 9 AM to noon. That morning the Parish Hall will be transformed into a Mission Site and we will package 10,000 meals with our partner, Rise Against Hunger.

You don't have to go faraway or give up a week of your time to offer your hands and heart to God through serving others.

We are making this easy and rewarding event for everyone. This will be the 5th time we have done this event. No heavy lifting required, you can sit, and it allows you to get to know others while working.

We will pause the work for our regular worship time that day. The worship will also lift up new and ongoing projects of the congregation.



Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School Carnival Kick-Off!

Sunday, September 8

9:00 - 9:45 am

Activities Room

Carnival Games! Face Painting! Popcorn! Crafts!



Please join us! And bring a friend!



Mission Possible Kids starts up again on **Sunday, September 15** at **5:30 pm** in the Activities Room of the Education Building. MPK is for kids in Grades Kindergarten through 5th Grade who want to help others and shine God's light in the world! Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for more information, or use this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-48584528-mission>

"God Loves Our Missions!"

Veggie Tale Movie Night is Back!

Friday, September 20

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us for coloring, pizza, a movie, discussion and a craft!

Bring your pillow and blanket!



To sign up, please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org or use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-48352788-veggie>



Children's Sunday School for **Preschool 3-Year-Olds** through **5th Graders** begins on **Sunday, September 8** with our Kick-Off Carnival! Join us for songs, snacks, crafts and Bible learning! We meet in the Activities Room of the Education Building every Sunday morning from 9:00 - 9:45.

For more information, please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org or sign up using this link:

<https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/113/responses/new>

Our Grateful Hearts Class is in need of volunteers beginning on September 8!



One Bus Driver is needed to pickup and drop off the Grateful Hearts class members in the Calvary Church Bus. Another adult would accompany you on the bus, and no special license is needed.

- For Pick Up: You would leave Calvary at 7:50 a.m. and arrive back at church by 8:50 a.m.
- For Drop Off: You would leave Calvary at 11:30 a.m. and return to church at 12:30 p.m.
- An Assistant Teacher in the Grateful Hearts Class is needed every 3rd Sunday of each month from 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.
- The Grateful Hearts are looking for a Pianist to come to the classroom every Sunday from 9:00-9:15 a.m. to play for class members to enjoy.
- Sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CACA829ABFB6-44290242-grateful#/>



Be an Elf!

Santa's workshop needs you!

The Holiday Bazaar is November 16.
We need to create more holiday gifts.

Workshop hours:

Mondays 9:30am

Wednesdays 6:30pm

Questions? Call Head Elf Becky Isaacs
(301) 639-5377 or mikbeck@comcast.com

From Policy to Practice: A Process of Reconnecting

Earlier this year the world-wide General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) made historic changes in policy related to church organization and more accepting language in the *UMC Book of Discipline* related to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and restrictions on their ministry in the UMC. The latter action, sought by many for decades, now renders greater validity to the UMC evangelistic banner of being a church with “open hearts, open minds, and open doors.” To maintain open doors is relatively easy; for hearts and minds to be open, however, often requires more time through a process of human connection ...or, for broken relationships, reconnection or reconciliation. It is for such a process that the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) of United Methodist groups and congregations has functioned since 1983 to support full inclusion of all people in the life of the church, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Subsequent to the General Conference, and the annual meeting of our Baltimore-Washington Conference, Pastor Steve challenged us through a series of sermons focused on Peter to reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, a journey of faith, sacrifice, and love in our relationships with God and one another. The Gospel of John (15:1-17) reminds us that only as we remain connected to Jesus, as a branch to the vine, can we truly realize such relationships. Yet, as the Rev. Dr. Ray Moreland reminded us on a recent Sunday, for many reasons we seem increasingly disconnected from one another in the spirit of love to which Jesus calls us. Thomas Merton, a 20th century Trappist Monk, wrote in *No Man Is An Island* (1955) that Jesus’ commandment that we love one another as ourselves is the fundamental law of human existence; that it is only through such human connections, as it is spiritually with God, that we come to understand who we are, ourselves.

And how does such a connection begin? I submit that it begins with listening! Being open to hearing the stories of others with an attitude of respect for them as children of God. Eminent psychologist Carl Rogers’ theory of counseling is based on the principle of empathy, of listening, affirming, and gaining an understanding of the world from the perspective of others. To that end, following Moreland’s message a week later, the Rev. Vicky Starnes shared with us her experience in pastoring gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in the last parish she served, a process of respectful listening that allowed her to learn about their faith journeys in a cultural climate of frequent rejection, even within the church. Taking a lead from the Gospel of Luke (7:1-10), about the unexpected faith of the Roman centurion who asked Jesus to heal his slave, Rev. Starnes reminded us that we should never make assumptions about others until we know their stories.

In the church year ahead, with approval of the Church Council and support of Pastor Steve, a laity leadership team co-chaired by Norma and Jim Hamilton, with Rev. Vicky serving as a resource guide, will invite our Calvary congregation to engage in a process of listening to one another within the framework of the Reconciling Ministry Network. Building upon the strength of faith and mission already present among our congregation, it will be a process designed to prayerfully open each of our hearts and minds as well as our church doors to all people, in the spirit of hospitality to all of God’s children, thus moving us from policy to practice in Christian love.

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministries

WASH Program Newsletter Article

For many years Calvary UMC has been involved in mission outreach activities seeking to answer Christ's call to care for the needy. In recent years our focus has been on projects at the national or local levels such as mission trips to the Henderson Settlement in Kentucky, building beds for young people through the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program, or collecting food, clothing, and school supplies for distribution within Frederick County. At a Mission and Outreach Committee meeting in February, Pastor Steve asked us to consider taking on a project with international scope. He provided examples of clean water projects in Africa with a three year commitment for monetary support. The committee liked this idea and decided to examine projects sponsored by the UMC Global Ministries organization under its Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. This program has organizational and funding infrastructure in place to support its many varied projects throughout the world. The following from the Global Ministries web site describes the overall WASH mission objective.

Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and hygiene facilities remains out of reach for billions of people worldwide. Global Ministries believes that access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services is a basic human right and is committed to improving health and wellbeing in underserved and marginalized communities. In collaboration with both Methodist and ecumenical partners, Global Ministries increases access to clean and safe water; revitalizes sanitation facilities and shares knowledge on sanitation and waste management; and helps to reduce infection from preventable, water-borne diseases by enhancing the quality of care in health facilities.

The committee researched various WASH projects with a focus on those in Africa. We learned of an existing project in Burundi in central Africa that is being supported by another UMC congregation in Georgia. This project was very attractive to us since it involves working with a United Methodist missionary in country who is also employed as the Health Operation Manager of the Burundi Annual Conference. He is coordinating construction of a borehole (well) to provide a source of clean water to a village that lacked this capability. Our thought was to partner with this congregation to help fund an additional three wells needed by the village. We recently learned that construction of the additional wells has been put on hold pending completion of a needs assessment by the missionary requested by the conference. The committee therefore decided to contribute \$5,000 from our Missions Trust Fund to the WASH general program where it can be put to immediate use where most needed.

We hope that this outreach initiative will provide an opportunity for all Calvary UMC members, including our young people, to become involved with this very worthwhile international mission project. It will require ongoing fundraising efforts, and we have repurposed our annual CROP Walk to be a WASH Walk and will dedicate funds raised to the WASH program. We anticipate holding additional fundraising projects in the future and hope our church family will be generous in their support as they have in all our mission outreach projects in the past. After Jesus arose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples and told Peter to "Tend my sheep." Here's another opportunity for us to do likewise!



SEPTEMBER

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	2 Labor Day Holiday	3 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 p.m. UMF Ex. Committee	4 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	9 7 p.m. SHP Team Meeting 7 p.m. Trustee's	10 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	11 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	12	13	14 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Backpacking Event 11:15 Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	16 5 p.m. Mission/Outreach 7 p.m. Finance Committee	17 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	18 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Blood Drive 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible	19	20 6 p.m. Veggie Tale Movie Night	21
22 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	23 7 p.m. Church Council	24 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	25 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	26	27	28
29 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	30					



September Birthdays

- 1, Judy Blackledge, Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky
- 2, Madelynn Sewell, 3, Jacob Livingston, Judy Wilson , Emily Yeader
- 4, Ray Gebhart, Bill Waskey
- 5, Robert Baltzell, Grace Dobson, Andrew Howard, Stephen Miller, Bill Pasquerette
- 6, Tyler Schroyer, Kathryn Schumacher, Kelly Stull, Janet Wiles, 8, Isabella Anderson, James Dennis
- 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 Belgrave, Laurelle Maubert, 19, Amanda Calabrese, Ryan Fox
- 20, Paul Nelson, 21, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley
- 23, Autumn Bordner, Lindsey Howard, Jeannette Marshall, Helen Sheppard
- 24, Bruce Phillips, Richard Phillips
- 25, Judy Delauter, Colin Lyon, Anne Rollins, Renee Vega, 26, Jeannie Bamagartner, 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



September Anniversaries

Ray and Karen Gebhart	Sept. 2	John and Ann Harper	Sept. 11
Bruce and Kathy Phillips	Sept. 3	Robert and Laura Hunter	Sept. 12
Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg	Sept. 4	David and Gail Colby	Sept. 16
Don and Janet Cline	Sept. 4	David and Cindy Mills	Sept. 16
Mark and Allison MacDonald	Sept. 6	Chris and Heidi Sweet	Sept. 22
Adam and Melissa Rankin	Sept. 6	Will and Mari Beth Schmersahl	Sept. 24
Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette	Sept. 7	Peter and Jenn Duthoy	Sept. 26
Bert and Jennifer Edmonston	Sept. 9	Bob and Faye Cannon	Sept. 28
Larry and Lydia Van Sant	Sept. 10		



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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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