D.E.C.E.M.B.E.R Messenger



All through this month, we travel through Advent anticipation to the celebration of yet another Christmas season. We sing of "Joy to the World" and "Glory to God in the Highest!" and yet this can also be an anxious and troubling time. Beyond the wrappings and the bows there often lies an emptiness and an unsettled feeling. Loneliness is at epidemic level. We are mindful of the many hopes and dreams we have

that have not yet come to pass. We even worry about finding the perfect gifts to give to others. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them and sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence.

The scripture lessons this month remind us that "the Holy one is with you" and God's gift of being present to us in the child born in Bethlehem. This year, we are invited to offer the gift of being present to our loved ones, our community and to those who need it most. In this holy season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

<u>December Worship Schedale</u>

Dec. 1 Advent One: Being Present with Hope

Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 and Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 8 Advent Two: Being Present with Peace

Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 15 Advent Three: Being Present with Joy

Isaiah 61:1-7 and Luke 1:46b-55

Dec. 22 Advent Four: Being Present with Love



The Sanctuary Choir will present the Christmas Cantata *I Hear the Prophet Callin'* by Pepper Choplin Psalm 89:1-4, Romans 16:25-27 and Luke 1:26-31

Dec. 29 The Sunday after Christmas: Being Present with Assurance
Isaiah 61:10–62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40
The service will feature the singing of lots of Christmas carols



Exploring Membership Class

Persons interested in becoming a member of Calvary United Methodist Church and learning more of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ are invited to take part in an Exploring Membership class on Sunday morning, December 8 at 9 AM. We will meet in the Parish Hall. Pastor Steve Larsen will lead the class to consider the history and purpose of the church and what it means to have a vital and growing faith.

Poinsettia Order Deadline to place orders is December 2. Red 6.5-inch pot is \$15.00 White 6.5-inch pot is \$15.00 (Please return to church office) Enclosed is my check/cash for \$ for poinsettias Dedication: PLEASE PRINT In MEMORY of	In HONOR of Given by: I will pick up my poinsettia(s) please donate my poinsettia(s) Totals: Red Poinsettia White Poinsettia \$ Total amount paid

Calvary UMC Women's Annual Advent Tea



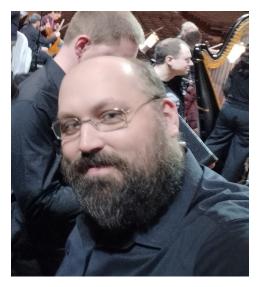
Saturday December 7, 2024, 2-4pm

131 West Second Street, Frederick MD

All women and girls of Calvary including family and friends are invited



Afternoon Tea served by the men of Calvary
Sharing customs and decor from many countries
Singing favorite Christmas songs
Solos by Lainey Davy, accompanied by Joyce Summers
and Special Holiday Door Prizes



Meet the Choir Member:
William Davy



William may only have been a Sanctuary Choir member for the last 6 years, but music has been a huge part of his life from his early childhood. Both in the Children's and Youth Choir and his School Concert Band on the Clarinet. Currently, he works as an HVAC Tech for N.E. Bob Waltz and as an Event Coordinator for Beyond Comics. He's also a performing member of the Washington Metropolitan Gamer Symphony Orchestra Choir and sings with them at a multitude of concert venues including the Gaylord National Convention Center, D.A.R. Constitution Hall, The Kennedy Center, and St. Mark's Capitol Hill performing symphonic music from a multitude of video game soundtracks and Grammy award winning composers and directors. He's also passionate about the Joyful Noise Handbell choir and has recently started doing solo hand-bell pieces. He believes that music is in everyone's heart and soul and that everyone is capable of making something beautiful with practice, all you have to do is trust that you can do it.

Youth Ministry/Youth Group Schedule

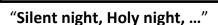
December 7 Advent Tea

December 8 Christmas Cookie Baking

December 15 Christmas Pageant 9 a.m. & Trip to Blessings in a Backpack Headquarters

December 22 Christmas Party

December 29 No Youth Group/ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



So begins one of the most beautiful carols sung most often at the conclusion of Christmas Eve worship services, with only the light from the candles held by parishioners breaking the darkness of the night. First performed in the parish church of an Austrian Empire village near Salzburg in 1818 shortly after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, during difficult times for the people, the carol's promise of "love's pure light and God's redeeming grace" were most welcome then, as they are to us today amidst the turmoil of our times.



Since the days of my youth as a choir boy in the Episcopal church in which I grew up to the most recent Christmas Eve services here at Calvary, the singing of "Silent Night" has always been for me a fleeting moment of awesome quiet reflection, a spiritual moment unlike others. My reflections as a boy, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth (I Cor 13:11), were quite different from what they are today. I am sure as a boy my thoughts were concretely with "the babe in a manger," surrounded by Mary his mother, with shepherds and wise men attending ... the typical Christian church nativity scene pageantry. And, if my mind wandered, as was likely in my youth, the excitement of opening gifts and learning what Santa had in mind for me that year, most surely would have entered my thoughts along the way! Now my reflections are more likely to be "The Meaning of Jesus," the title given their book at the turn of this century by Marcus Borg and N. T. Wright, among the leading scholars of Jesus at the time. Though good friends and colleagues, they differed in their theological understandings of the meaning of Jesus life, just as we might differ among ourselves as members of Calvary in our beliefs, while sharing a common belief as Christians that Jesus is the light and the way for our lives in relation to God.

Even the two gospels that give an account of Jesus' birth, Mathew and Luke, differ in detail and emphasis of that event, likely reflecting their different backgrounds and the audiences to whom they were thought to be writing. Mathew in writing to the Jewish community that was familiar with the Hebrew scriptures, traces Jesus lineage back to Abraham, father of the Jewish nation, through the popular King David's lineage as the promised Messiah. Mathew's story also introduces us to a devious King Herod who ruled the region under control of the Roman Empire and to three Gentile Wise Men (or three kings, as the carol would have it) who come to worship this newborn king of all kings, Jesus. The interplay of earthly versus divine kingships is at play throughout Mathew's gospel, with Jesus' teachings about God's kingdom, to Mathew, the Kingdom of Heaven. Luke's nativity emphasis by contrast is on bringing good news of peace and a savior to lowly shepherds, whose status was among those of society with the least power, influence, and privileges of life. Writing to a Gentile community, Luke's genealogy begins with Adam, representing all humankind and, following King David's reign, traces Jesus' lineage from the prophet Nathan with an emphasis in his gospel on the humanity of Jesus and his compassion for the marginalized of society, a theology of ethics and justice among all people as God's children.

For each of us, I contend, our understanding of "the meaning of Jesus" is at the heart of our beliefs and actions as Christians. Thus, as we conclude the soft refrains of "Silent Night" this Christmas Eve, may the beautiful light that shines in the darkness be a guide to each of us in the year ahead in enhancing Calvary's mission of witness as the heart and hands of Jesus in the community, thus bringing the "good news" of Jesus' love and justice to others.

Paul D. Nelson. Church & Society Ministry

Celebration of Women in Faith, Service and Unity.

Over 60 women gathered at Frederick MD Calvary UMC Saturday October 19th for a "refresh" celebration of women in faith, service and unity in Christ. Women came from seven Frederick MD District UWFaith UMC churches including Harmony (WV), Taylorsville, Centennial, St Paul, Brookhill, Middletown and Frederick Calvary, along with invited guests. This was the first time in over a decade the Frederick MD District has come together in this manner to share ideas, rejoice in song, and enjoy fellowship. The service was led by Kim Marie Walker, President of the UWFaith Baltimore Washington Conference. She brought her most of her leadership team along so the attendees could ask questions, share information and learn more about the many aspects of UWFaith. The program began with a spiritual hymn singalong, led by Jesse Ratcliffe at the organ. The service included a selection of memorable music that exemplified faith, service and unity; along with a scripture reading and heartfelt prayers, making this a very special event. Karen Gebhart, President of Frederick Calvary UWFaith, introduced their Executive Committee and invited attendees to join in a wonderful afternoon tea in Parish Hall following the service. The Tea was prepared lovingly by the Frederick Calvary women, and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Special token gifts were given to all attendees prepared by Laura Hunter, one of Calvary's members. As the BWC team circulated amongst the attendees it was heard by one and all, "We must do this again, and we must reach out to our sisters across the District and the Conference to engage in our mission as United Women in Faith, both locally and with the National organization."





Walk for WASH

On October 20, 2024, Calvary's Youth held the annual J. Ray Frank Memorial Walk to raise funds for the church's mission and outreach activities. This year the walk supported the UMC Global Mission's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Sixteen walkers and three volunteers helped to raise \$2,410 to support WASH. These funds will help the program provide clean and accessible drinking water, sanitation improvements, and hygiene programs in less developed countries around the world. Thank you to all who contributed to making this walk a success!





SHIP Homeless for the Holiday Hygiene Drive.

Calvary UMC s once again supporting SHIP's (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) Hygiene Drive. Now thru Dec 31, we will be collecting new, full sized hygiene products for students in Frederick County experiencing homelessness.

The Christmas wrapped SHIP collection box can be found in the hallway outside the Parish Hall. Listed below are the most needed items. Please contact Beth Stitely with any questions. 301-730-8282, <u>Autumn.purple@hotmail.com</u>.

- Ethnic Hair Care Products
- Razors

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Hand Soap

Toothbrushes

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- First Aid Items

Hair Brushes

Body Wash

Dental Floss

Hair Ties

- Laundry Detergent
- Mouthwash

Paper Towels

Mission Central Visit

On November 7, ten Calvary members went to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA to volunteer their time. Some of them verified contents of disaster cleaning buckets, and others sorted clothing donations or worked on making hygiene kits. In addition, we were excited to present Mission Central with a donation of \$1,000 to help support its mission of "Connecting God's Resources With Human Need". Calvary members make several trips to Mission Central each year to perform mission related work. Those interested in in joining a future trip should contact Beth Stitely at 301-730-8282, Autumn.purple@hotmail.com.

Mission Trip to Mission Central, all pictures were taken by John Mitchell

Lt. Robert and Laura Miller, Center, Judy Shickel, Rt. Beth Stitely







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".

Dec. 10 Jar of Applesauce

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	5
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

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.

Dec. 20 Tomato Soup

All cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen or church office on Friday, Dec. 13th or Saturday, Dec. 14th by 9:00 AM.

Cookie trays will be available for purchase Sunday, Dec. 15th.

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

A Thank You note from the Staff Parish Committee

The Staff Parish Committee would like to express its appreciation to each of Calvary's wonderful staff members for their hard work. We'd like to thank Reverends Steve Larson and Ken Humbert; also Adela Peeva, Amy Stone, Paul Metcalf, Sharon Brown, Cathy Baker, and Jen Duthoy. As well, we'd like to recognize Bob Jacobs, Joyce and Rob Summers a with huge thank you. Calvary is blessed to have these dedicated people who work tirelessly, and often behind the scenes, to make our parish come to life.

The SPRC extends a huge thank you to this team!

Please join us in acknowledging our appreciation for the hard work our staff does each day throughout the year.







2024 Holiday Bazaar









Children's Ministry News

Christmas Pageant Weekend – December 13, 14 & 15 2



Calvary will be participating in *Frederick's Kris Kringle Procession* on **Friday, December 13**. Line-up begins at **5:30 pm** on South Carroll Street between East Patrick and East All Saints Street and ending at Calvary where we will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish Hall! We will need *children and adults* to help us sing Christmas carols and

to participate in our mini Nativity Scene float, complete with Mary, Joseph, the angels and stable animals! Walking musicians are welcome and encouraged as well! Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for questions or to sign up, or visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-52220851-christmas. Watch the Weekly E-news and the Sunday Bulletin for our exact line-up number on South Carroll Street and look for our banner and float! Members of ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Pageant Dress Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 14, 10:00 am – Noon. Calvary's Annual Children's Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall! (Participants will put on costumes in the Education Building at 8:30).

We invite EVERYONE to 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 for more information!

Veggie Tale Movie Night is happening on Friday, January 17 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 pillow and blanket if you'd like! Please register by contacting AmyStone@calvaryumc.org.

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

Mission Possible Kids is for kids in Kindergarten through 5th 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 26 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Activities Room of the Education Building to assemble LOVE BAGS! Join us! Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for more information and to order a Mission Possible Kids t-shirt.





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 for Bible Learning, songs, games, crafts and more! Register here, or fill out a registration card when you arrive! Visitors are always welcome! https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/113/responses/new

Children's Church meets in the Chapel during the 10:00 worship service for children in Kindergarten through 5th 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".





Calvary UMC's annual *HOLIDAY* Blood Drive on Wednesday, Dec. 4th from 8:30 a.m.-7:15 p.m.

There are 2 important things you can do:

Sign-Up

For many of you – but not all – there is an easier way to sign up and schedule on your own using your Red Cross account. You can visit this link and access the drive directly: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick

If you experience <u>ANY</u> difficulties, or can't log in, email me at <u>revsteve@calvaryumc.org</u> or text me directly at 301-848-8216 with your name and preferred donation time and I'll get you signed up.

Sharing the Drive

For those who can't donate on December 4th, and want to remain on this list, you can still help immensely by sharing details of our drive with others and encouraging signups. For those with Facebook, you can also share the Event page at:

https://www.facebook.com/events/897312182499901

Thanks everyone – hoping for lots of signups and to hearing from you. In the meantime, hope everyone has a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

We are excited to announce we won Best of the Best again this school year! It was quite an accomplishment since we were up against two corporate daycare centers. Kudos to our staff for their continuous hard work and to all who supported us by voting. Look for our new banner displayed on the fence by the playground.

In November, we held Parent Teacher Conferences and a Coffee Chat about our kindergarten program for the 2025-2026 school year.

This month registration for the 2025-2026 school year begins. Registration will take place December 9th – 13th for current families and church members. Interested families should email Olivia at <u>calvaryweek-dayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com</u> or call the office 301-662-6783. On these days, Olivia will be in the elevator door entrance during drop-off at 9:00 am and during dismissal at 11:30 am to register classes on the following days.

Dec 9- Registration for Kindergarten

Dec 10 & 11 Registration for 5 Day 4's, MTTH 4's

Dec 12 & 13 Registration for MWF 3's & MTTH 3's or any currently enrolled or church members who missed registration

Dec 16 & 17 Registration for alumni

Jan 6 – Registration for the waiting list

Jan 13 – Registration opens to the general public

I can't believe it is already December. The Staff and I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful, healthy, and joyful holiday season.

See you in 2025!

Patty Lockard, Director



Children's Ministry

LOOKING AHEAD! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

True North – VBS ~ June 23 – June 26, 2024

Noah! - At Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA

Saturday, August 9, 2024, 11:00





38TH ANNUAL TOUR OF CHURCHES CALVARY UMC EVENT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH DOORS OPEN AT 3:00 P.M.

CHICKEN CORN SOUP, COOKIES, HOT CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, HOT TEA, AND WATER WILL BE SERVICED FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M. OR WHEN WE RUN OUT.

MUSICAL LINEUP

Tri State Harp Ensemble Led by Sally Lay 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Trinity Brass Ensemble Led by Matthew Stegle 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Seasonal Organ Music played by Karen Gebhart 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Peal Bells Ringing and Demonstration 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Seasonal Organ Music played by Karen Gebhart 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Peal Bells Ringing and Demonstration 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December Birthdays

- 1, David Ayersman, David Blackledge, James Gibson, Amy Jones, Dennis Smith
- 2, Chuck Engler, Rebecca Forsythe, 3, Daniel Heineman, 4, Maren Lyon, Morgann Lyon, 5, Linda Watson-Higgins
- 6, Charlotte Auth, Nathan Ellington, 7, Jim Hamilton, Christine Willard, 8, Carroll Kehne, Chad Ritterbusch
- 9, Caleb Benson, David Fish, Harper McCarthy, Riley Stone, Joe Ward
- 10, Yvonne Eicholtz, Penny Knapp, Taylor Matsler, Nick Schwarzenberg, Paulette Shockey-Petrucci
- 11, Preston Kinsey, Linda Reed, 12, Sandy Chaney, Audra Chewing, Curtis Fox
- **13**, Elizabeth Anderson, Janney Marshall, Martin Rowley
- 14, Sophia Bostian, Amanda Lee, Layton Rowley, Julie Wilson, 15, 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, 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, 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

December Anniversaries

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 Riggleman	Dec. 19
Jeff and Suzanne Rosen	Dec. 29
Steve and Christy Mossburg	Dec. 31

Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP)

On Saturday, October 26, seven Calvary UMC members helped wrap 50 collection boxes in preparation for SHIP's "Home for the Holidays" campaign. Keep an eye out for more details to come as Calvary will once again participate in collecting hygiene and personal care products to support the growing number of homeless students in Frederick County. Contact Beth Stitely autumn.purple@hotmail.com for more information.



Lt. David Shickel, Judy Shickel, Paul Nelson and Beth Stitely.

Rt. Laura Hunter



J.D.E.C.E.M.B.E.R

<i></i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 a.m. Sunday School		10 a.m. Bible Study	8:30 a.m7:30			2 p.m4 p.m.
10 a.m. Worship		1:30 p.m. UMF Ex.	p.m.			Women's
11:15 a.m. Children's		Comm.	Calvary Blood Drive			Advent Tea
Choir		6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise				
11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl		7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study			
5:30 p.m. Youth Group			,			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 a.m. Sunday School/	7 p.m.	10 a.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Men's		Bake A	9 a.m. Bake A
Exploring Member-	SHP Team	6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise	Bible Study		Batch Cook-	Batch
ship	Meeting	7:30 p.m. Sanctuary			ie Drop Off	Assembly
10 a.m. Worship					5:30 p.m. Kris Kringle	10 a.m.
11:15 a.m. Children's Choir					Procession	Children's
5:30 p.m. Youth Group					11000001011	Pageant
5.50 p.m. Todai dioap						Rehearsal
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 a.m. Christmas		10 a.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Men's			
Pageant		6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise	Bible Study			
10 a.m. Worship		7:30 p.m. Sanctuary				
11:15 a.m. Children's						
Choir						
5:30 p.m. Youth Group						
22	23	CHRISTMAS EVE 24	25	26	27	28
9 a.m. Sunday School		5 p.m. Family Service	Merry	Tour of Churches		
10 a.m. Worship		7p.m. & 9 p.m.	Christmas			
11:15 a.m. Children's		Candlelight and		3 p.m 8 .m.		
Choir		Communion Services				
5:30 p.m. Youth Group						
29	30	31				
10 a.m. Worship		Happy New Year's Eve				
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Get Ready for Advent. Now on Calvary's library cart in the Parish Hall are two books by best-selling author Max Lucado to help you prepare for the birth of Jesus. Check them out today!

In the Manger
The Angel's Story

