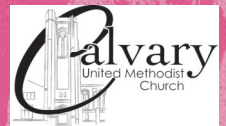




FEBRUARY 2025



From the Pastor

After serving as the lead pastor of this congregation since July 2016, I have decided the time has come for me to start a new chapter. I will be retiring from this church and pastoral ministry at the end of June this year. Since I was ordained in 1987, I have served in six different pastoral appointments, including twice at Calvary United Methodist Church. I have very much appreciated the challenge and the joys that go along with being your pastor. However, after much prayer, reflection and conversation with my wife, I have concluded that time has come to retire.

Beth Strakonsky, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee she chairs, have met to discuss the needs of this congregation. They have prepared a profile which Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and the rest of the cabinet will use to select a new pastor for the church. In the United Methodist Church, pastoral changes are made by the Bishop and become effective on July 1.

Calvary UMC has gone through many pastoral changes over its long history. There have been many talented and faithful pastors who have served here, each bringing their own gifts and personality. There is a banner hanging outside the fellowship hall, showing a tree with many leaves, each representing a different pastor and their years they served. I am one more leaf on the tree.

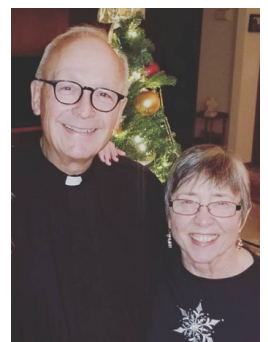
I will certainly be making the most of the next few months. There is work and ministry to do and much we can celebrate. I look forward to it all. Now and then, you just might notice me smiling a little more than usual as I take in and treasure each of you and what we have shared together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve Larsen

Looking ahead- Lenten Study to start March 12

We are pleased to announce our speaker and theme for our Lenten Study this year, starting on March 12. The Reverend William ("Gilen") Thompson-Uberuaga, is an author, retired priest of the Episcopal Church and an emeritus professor of theology, Duquesne University (Pittsburgh). He will lead us through a study of the Lord's Prayer. Each session will include a light supper shared in the Fellowship Hall.



Worship This Month

February 2 Holy Communion

In Your Hometown

Luke 4:21-30

February 9 Bible Sunday (3rd graders)

Left Everything and Followed

Luke 5:1-11

February 16 Rejoice in that Day

Luke 6:17-26

February 23 Youth Sunday

Be the Answered Prayer



Budget Summary, 2025



	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income		
Total Operating Income	563,093	584,650
Expenses		
Staff Salaries	339,494	345,386
Care of God's House	101,130	86,350
Administration	24,906	21,400
Technology	16,531	16,750
Utilities	50,241	54,500
Program Areas	6,869	6,000
Music	6,857	7,000
Education	5,535	5,000
BW Conference Mission Share	43,389	68,000
Total Operating Expenses	594,952	610,386
Net Income/loss	(31,859)	(25,736)

2025 Church Leadership

CHURCH COUNCIL

(4th Monday of January, March, May, July, September, November)

Chairperson:

Vice Chairperson:

Recording Secretary:

Leisa Moyer

Lay Leader:

David Cline

Lay Members to Annual Conference:

Karen Gebhart

Ray Gebhart

Treasurer:

Rick Miller

Financial Secretary:

Sharon Brown

President, United Women in Faith:

Karen Gebhart

President, UMM:

Bob Jacobs

Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Beth Strakonsky

Chairperson, Finance Ministry

Jerry Pierson

Chairperson, Board of Trustees (elected by Trustees)

Fred Schumacher

Missions & Outreach

Dave Shickel

Church & Society

Paul Nelson

Music Ministry

Joyce Summers

Calvary Weekday School Steering Committee Chair

Jan Cline

Youth Representatives (selected by youth)

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Steve Larsen

Pastor of Visitation

Ken Humbert

Director of Music

Adela Peeva

Director of Children's Ministry

Amy Stone

Director of Youth Ministry

Jenn Duthoy

At Large Members of the Church Council

<u>Class of 2023-2025</u>	<u>Class of 2024-2026</u>	<u>Class of 2025-2027</u>
Bret Chaney	Fran Haller	
Doris Keeney	Frank Strakonsky	
	Dave Shickel	

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

Staff Parish Relations Committee (1st Monday of Jan., March, May, Sept., Nov.)

Chairperson: Beth Strakonsky

Lay Members to Annual Conference: **Karen and Ray Gebhart**

Lay Leader: **David Cline**

Steve Larsen, Pastor

<u>Class of 2023-2025</u>	<u>Class of 2024-2026</u>	<u>Class of 2025-2027</u>
Howard Strine	Ray Moreland Melissa Rust Beth Strakonsky	Peggy Rhoderick

Committee on Finance (3rd Monday of January, March, May, September, November)

Chair: **Jerry Pierson**

SPRC: Beth Strakonsky

Treasurer: **Rick Miller**

Trustees: Fred Schumacher

Council Chair: Mark MacDonald

Financial Secretary: Sharon Brown

Lay members to A/C: **Karen and Ray Gebhart**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Larsen

Lay Leader: **David Cline**

Members at large: Scott Moyer, Dave Mills, Rick Miller, Jerry Pierson, **Andy Radcliff**

Committee on Lay Leadership

Rev. Steve Larsen, Chairperson

Lay Leader: **David Cline**

<u>Class of 2023-2025</u>	<u>Class of 2024-2026</u>	<u>Class of 2025-2027</u>
Allison MacDonald	Rob Summers	

Board of Trustees (2nd Monday of January, March, May, September, November)

(officers are chosen by the Board at the first meeting of the year)

President: Fred Schumacher

Vice-President: Jane Sowers

Secretary:

Tour of the Church Houses, 2024

More than 3000 people entered our beautiful church during the Traditional Tour of the Church Houses on Thursday, December 26th last year. The Music Ministry extends its heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful organizer, Dianna Plotner, whose hard work made this event truly memorable. Many thanks to our dedicated chefs, who made a tasty soup which was enjoyed by many Calvary members and visitors alike. Calvary's music ministry was privileged to host the Tri-State Harp Ensemble which filled the sanctuary with soulful and calming seasonal melodies. The Trinity Brass Ensemble was applauded by the audience for their majestic harmonies and dynamic expression. Our own member, Karen Gebhart played a well-prepared performance on the organ showcasing a variety of captivating Advent and Christmas repertoire. The Washington Ringing Society members, led by Quilla Roth, who recently led a Peal Bell ringing group performing during Jimmy Carter's memorial service, taught many the art of change ringing. The change ringing is a form of bell ringing in which a set of bells sounds in changing rhythmic sequences rather than in tunes. Other visitors were just intrigued by the ways the "Big Bells" could sound!

Calvary Music Ministry would like to extend a huge Thank you to Karen Gebhart, Ray Gebhart and Laura Hunter for their assistance with the musical program, and many other members who helped the Tour of the Church Houses event to be remembered as a joyful and fulfilling community event!

Dr. Adela Peeva



Left: Trinity Brass Ensemble
Right: Laura Hunter,
demonstrates the peal bell.





Left: Tri State Harp Ensemble during the Tour of Churches Event

Right: Karen Gebhart, organist during the Tour of Churches Event

~Photos provided by

Karen Gebhart



I Don't Have Time to Read. Yes, you do!

Calvary's Mobile Library has all the right stuff by:

Max Lucado, Richard Paul Evans, Barbara Kingsolver, Adam Hamilton and others.

And . . . You Can Help Us Expand. If you have an interesting title you would like to *donate* to Calvary's Mobile Library, leave it in the container in the Parish Hall near the book cart. We're looking for *exciting subjects in good condition* to add to our collection.

Some Suggestions:

Christian Fiction in All Genres

Proactive Christianity

Devotional Literature

Social Action

End of Life Circumstances

Spiritual Growth

Enduring Illness

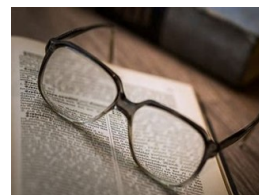
Teachings of Jesus

History of Christianity

Inspirational Biographies

John Wesley

Justice and Ethics



The 41stFrederick School of Religion

will be offering 6 classes covering a broad range of topics

WHEN: Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Monday and Tuesday evenings, for six weeks starting **March 3, 2024.**

WHERE: Beth Shalom, 1011 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701.

For more information and registration forms, you may visit our website www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657. All 6-week long courses are eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657 or visit our website at www.frederickschoolofreligion.org.

April 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. ~ Anna Lapwood, organist

From the United Kingdom, international sensation and star Anna Lapwood MBE will present a mix of classical and contemporary organ favorites. Known for her passion to bring organ music to the masses with the goal of making it relevant and fun, Anna will delight and entertain as she engages all the colors and sounds of Calvary UMC's new Cornel Zimmer pipe organ. Anna is an associate artist of the Royal Albert Hall (London) and holds the position of Director of Music at Pembroke College (Cambridge).

She was awarded an Associateship of the Royal Academy of Music and the prestigious Gamechanger Award from the Royal Philharmonic Society in 2023. www.AnnaLapwood.co.uk



Tickets for this concert are now on sale at:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/calvaryumc/anna-lapwood>

The ticket price is \$20 per person, plus online fees. **There will not be tickets available at the door.** Seating is first-come, first-served at the direction of the ushers.

February 16, 2025 3:00 p.m. – Brian Ganz, pianist

Calvary UMC's 2024-2025 Community Concert Series presents Brian Ganz, who returns for another "All-Chopin" program as he continues his quest to perform every work of music by the great composer. This concert is an interactive and highly energetic performance where Mr. Ganz brings Chopin's music to life with emotional power and warmth.

www.BrianGanz.net



March 9, 2025 3:00 p.m. ~ Brass of Peace

Sylvia Alimena, conductor

Calvary UMC's 2024-2025 Community Concert Series presents Brass of Peace. An auditioned ensemble, it features 15 gifted high-school musicians who participate in a 36-week intensive training program preparing them for the competitive field of music. Through weekly sessions by conductor Sylvia Alimena, former second hornist of the National Symphony for 29 years,



these students build individual and ensemble skills along with confidence in performing. Their programs include works ranging from Bach, Brahms, and Mendelssohn to Mahler and Copland.

Www.BrassOfPeace.org

Children's Ministry News



Love Bags have been assembled by Calvary's **Mission Possible Kids**, and are ready to be picked up and delivered by Calvary Church members! Please look for the **Love Bags** in the hallway of the main church building, and if you are able, pick up a few and deliver them to the recipient named on the label sometime during the month of February.

Thank you for brightening someone's day by delivering a bag filled with love from Calvary.

Bible Sunday



February 9

February 9 is *Bible Sunday* - the special day when 3rd grade students (and older students who have not yet received their Bible) will be presented with their very own Bibles from Calvary!

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

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

Congratulations to these students on this exciting milestone in their faith journey!



It's a **NIGHT OUT** for Parents! ☐

Friday, February 21

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Movie! Crafts! Puzzles! Popcorn!

Wear your pajamas and bring your sleeping bag for a comfy cozy evening of fun!

BRING YOUR OWN DINNER to eat when you get there!

Contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for more information.

Please register at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-51455585-parents>

Mark your calendars for this summer's



TRUE NORTH VBS!

June 23 - June 26, 2025

Registration opens April 1!

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org if you are available and would like to be involved in this exciting ministry opportunity!

Calvary is taking a trip to see the LIVE onstage performance of....



NOAH!

at *Sight and Sound Theater* in Lancaster PA!

Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 11:00 am

(leaving Frederick at 7:45 am)

A block of tickets has already been reserved - please let Amy Stone know if you and your family would like to join us! (Adults \$89, Children 12 and under \$39)

Dear Julie S. and CUMC Church family,

Thank you for the gift given to me from the Family Life Committee. I feel blessed and proud to be the beneficiary of this year's "Bake-A-Batch" fundraiser. Thank you also to all that purchased cookies or donated. It makes my heart warm, receiving so much love and support.

I was thinking the other day how the years have flown by since I was working in the Nursery. Almost 25 years, I just can't imagine all the children are now adults with possible babies of their own. I learned that the Nursery has undergone renovation. I can't wait to see it!

Thank you again, I am so blessed to be remembered.

Wishing all a wonderful 2025!

Full of Thankfulness and love,

Jennifer Fischer Esler

“thy kingdom come, thy will be done ...”

Taking a lead from my suggestion last month that our current season of Epiphany be considered as a revelation of God’s calling us through the life of Jesus to be part of a kingdom different from earthly dominions of rule, a kingdom of light and love. That this is God’s will for us we proclaim each Sunday in community worship through the prayer that Jesus taught us, a prayer focused on our life here on earth.

Some contemporary writers about the Scriptures have substituted the word “*kin-dom*” for “*kingdom*” to more closely approximate their understanding of what Jesus meant in His message about the Kingdom of God. In the words of Drew University theology professor Ada Marie Isasi-Diaz, “*kin-dom*” refers to the full inclusion and interdependent relationship of all of God’s people; that in being kin with one another, loving our neighbor, we will find God.

As I write this article, the devastation of fires in the coastal palisades of Los Angeles, contrasted with the national mourning of the late President Jimmy Carter, have filled the news media. Where in this Epiphany season of light, I wondered, might one find God’s light in such times of tragedy and loss.

The answer to that query came to me in the repeated references to a sense of community by news reporters, first responders, and those who lost their homes to fire. Their sense of hope and resilience at the same time of tears, exhaustion, and disbelief centered on the concept of being kin with one another, whether known neighbor or stranger, each having the other’s back.

The reflections on President Carter, perhaps the least political of modern presidents who had already lived longer than most in this life, were focused on his service to others as a disciple of Jesus, a life committed to justice and mercy while walking humbly with the Lord, “*kin-dom*” personified.

The fact that books and song are written about finding God in unexpected places or at unexpected times is simply a function of our limited understanding of God’s eternal presence. Thus, when we pray for God’s kingdom on earth, let us remember that God is with us, calling us as individuals and as a congregation to be an active part of the “*kin-dom*.”

Paul D. Nelson. Church & Society Ministries

Greetings from Calvary Weekday School

This month we will welcome families for Donuts and Grown-ups. It is another way for us to build community in our school and for families to see the amazing work students are doing in the classroom.

We will also hold our next Coffee Chat. Do you need help getting your preschooler to sleep? Jennifer Hopley, a parent, a licensed clinical social worker, and a certified pediatric sleep consultant will be here on Monday, February 24 @ 9:30 in the library to discuss general sleep recommendations for preschool age children (and infants if participants are interested). She will share information about the recommended amount of sleep needed, how to reinforce independent sleep, and when to start dropping naps. She works with families of children birth to 5 years old. Please visit her website for more information about services she can provide <https://www.sleepcoachjenn.com/>. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to director@calvaryweekdayschool.com so we can prepare for this event.

Our families would like to thank Amy Stone and the church for opening up the nursery for use during school hours for our younger siblings. We are so grateful for this opportunity!

Registration continues to keep us busy. We have openings in our MWF and MTTH 3's classes. We have started waiting lists for the kindergarten and 4 year old classes. Families and friends wishing to register may contact Olivia for a tour or more information at calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com or 301-662-6783.

We are always looking for additional staff/substitutes. If you are interested in working at our school email Patty at director@calvaryweekdayschool.com.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Patty Lockard, Director



Newsletter Article for February 2025 - Calvary's Reconciling Team

You may have noticed that Calvary UMC has a Reconciling Team! This group with the support of Pastor Steve, was formed under the ministry of our Church & Society work and approved to move forward by the Church Council in September of 2024. The Reconciling Team has been meeting since then and got the approval from Church Council in late November, to officially begin the reconciling process at Calvary UMC.

What is the Reconciling Process? Over the next several months, our team will begin a process of discernment, discussion, educational events, prayer and study - to consider becoming a Reconciling Congregation within the United Methodist denomination. Reconciling churches are United Methodist churches who have decided to identify themselves as reconciling and extend a special welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community. Such a designation makes it easier for LGBTQIA+ folks who are looking for a welcoming church to find us!

In April 2024, the General Conference of the UMC voted to remove the harmful language from our Book of Discipline and to approve the ordination and marriage of LGBTQIA+ persons. That decision on the global church level produced the conversations that led to Calvary's decision to move forward with the Reconciling Process.

The members of our Reconciling Team are: Paul Nelson, Jim and Norma Hamilton, Susan Baggette, Jay Pittman, Wanda Bulkowski - Larsen, Jenn Duthoy, Vicky Starnes, Marcia Rose Fuoss, Laura Hunter and Charlotte Pasquerette.

SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership)

Homeless for the Holidays Campaign Update

A huge thank you to our Calvary congregation for all the personal care donations over the last two months. Well over 600 items were collected to provide much needed supplies to school age children affected by homelessness in Frederick County. Through your generous donations, we are helping these students know they are not forgotten and can feel the love of our community. Thank you so much for your support.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 4, 2025 6-7:30 pm

*Your paragraph text
Your paragraph text*



Calvary UMC Parrish Hall 131 W Patrick St Frederick
All proceeds go towards Calvary Youth's Mission
Trip to Henderson Kentucky.



- 1, Donna Jean Jeo, Zachary Patterson, Robert Schmeltz,
- 2, Daniel Long, Michael Pfister, Carmen Vega
- 3, John Harper, David Herber, Betsy MacMullen, Tristen Palmer
- 4, Maurlea Long, Christopher Moyer, Thea Ruff, Thomas Winkler
- 5, Steven Mood, Amelia Whitmarsh
- 7, Joe Cerrito, Katherine Crum, Heidi Sweet
- 8, Pauline Baker, William Schmersahl
- 9, Gary Coffman, Kimberly Remsberg
- 10, Alison Radcliffe, Sandy Sengstack Katie Stone, 11, Amelia Irving
- 12, Wanda Bulkowski-Larsen, Abigail Proudfoot, Linda Sheridan, 13, William Davy
- 14, Ashlynd Adam, Susan Miller
- 15, Gerald Palmer, Isabelle Wilde, **Ramona Yanike (100)**, 16, Jeff Stone
- 17, Payton Forsythe, Shannon Whitmarsh
- 18, Terry Fisher, Elizabeth Kluttz
- 19, Jane Hahn, Josie Manger
- 20, Susan Burall, Jennie Davy, Edwin Kinsey, Lois Pacheco, Andrew Wilde
- 21, Pat Herber, Katelyn Irving, Patricia Kellam
- 22, Joshua Herber, Alyxandra Hoover
- 23, Roy Schwarzenberg, Adam Stone, Kathryn Woodall, 24, Luke Witmer, 25, Jean Flory
- 26, Addison Benton, Janet Cline, Peter Duthoy, Penny Reading, 27, Chase Leber
- 28, Armani Gough, Vic Rohrback, Lydia Souders

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Michael and Nancy Leftwich | February 14 |
| David and Juanita Pard | February 14 |
| Jack and Gracie Heller | February 16 |
| Jeff and Michelle Matsler | February 17 |
| Keven and Kelli Fox | February 24 |





FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Ron Dudley Memorial Service
2 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	3	4 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 p.m. UMFaith Ex. Committee 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	5 8:30 a.m.- 7:30 p.m. Calvary Blood Drive 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	6	7	8 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9 9 a.m. Bible Sunday in Chapel 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir	10 7 p.m. SHP Team Meeting	11 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 3 p.m. Concert 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	17	18 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	19 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	20	21 6 p.m. Parent's Night Out	22 9:30 a.m. WRS
23 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Children's Choir 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	24	25 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	26 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study	27	28	

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

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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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