

MESSENGER 2025

What will happen when the Pastor retires? Well, I won't love you one bit less. It has been my honor to serve as your pastor. My last Sunday worship with the Calvary congregation will be June 15. After that day, I will lay aside my professional responsibilities and role as your pastor. My plan is to shift from being "Pastor Steve" to simply "Steve."

Wanda and I will continue to live in the City of Frederick, but we will not attend Calvary UMC or participate in any of its ministries and programs. If asked to do a wedding or a funeral, a baptism or a sermon, I will politely say "no, thank you." For the first time in my married life, I will get to sit with her in the congregation rather than up front in the chancel. I look forward to that. We will be visiting various churches in the area. Right now, we don't have a plan as to which church might become our new home.

The Baltimore Washington Conference has the following policies regarding pastors who leave an appointment. The outgoing pastor is responsible for sharing the following with the congregation:

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.

2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.



I will do all I can to support Rev. Dr. Beth as your new pastor. I have met with her already to make this transition go smoothly. There is a lot that she will be learning and new responsibilities that she will be taking on, just as it was the case with me when I arrived. I believe that she will be a very capable and caring pastor. Soon you will get to know and appreciate her and the particular gifts and talents she brings to pastoral ministry.

Should we see each other in the community, I would be happy to say hello and hear how you are. I will be glad to share the same with you. You and the church will continue to be in my prayers. I plan refrain from posting on social media for a time. Wanda and I plan to visit family and friends and travel to some places on our "bucket list". Then we will see what God had in mind for us in this new chapter.

This is so much that I have come to appreciate and love about the people here and the ministries of this church. This church has a bright future. God will provide all that you will need to prosper and thrive. The work you do is valuable and a vital part of his community.

For all we have shared together, THANKS. For all the good that God has plans to do, YES.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

	June Worship Schedule	June 15	Father's Day
June 1	Holy Communion		Rev. Larsen's final Sunday at Calvary UMC
	You Can Come Home Again		
	John 15:1-17		Philippians 4:4-9
June 8	Pentecost	June 22	Rev. Ken Humbert, guest preacher
	Confirmation Sunday		
	Acts 2:1-8, 12-21	June 29	Rev. Dr. Lucy Hogan, guest preacher
	John 14:12-27		





Alice and Stephen Ricketts. Alice took piano lessons as a child and began playing handbells in middle school. She played in the handbell choirs at Grace UMC (in Baltimore), Bel Air UMC, Glen Mar UMC, and Damascus UMC. When Stephen was appointed to Providence-Fort Washington UMC (PFWUMC), she briefly served as the interim director and transcribed several hymn tunes for the choir to play when there was no music available to fit the group's size and experience level. Stephen's musical biography is much briefer. He had no experience playing an instrument until he agreed to join the handbell choir at PFWUMC because the choir needed one more ringer. But, once he began playing, he discovered he enjoyed the challenge and being part of the group. Unfortunately, Linganore UMC did not have a handbell choir, so both Alice and Stephen took a break from playing. When they retired in 2024, they made finding a church with a handbell choir a priority. Since joining the handbell choir at Calvary, they have both enjoyed the music and the camaraderie in the choir. They look forward to playing the bells at Calvary in the future.

Improvements at Calvary Chapel

In April, several improvements were made at the Calvary Chapel. The Rodgers organ and speaker system (not functioning) were removed to make room for an Allen organ coming in as a donation from Baltimore. The nonfunctioning piano was removed from the altar area. The Weaver pump organ was left, as the Frederick Historic Society expressed an interest in this instrument which is over 100 years old. To prepare for this new instrument, the worn section of carpet was removed and replaced by carpet tiles. To make the pew rows even the last pew was removed and placed against the back wall. Photos are attached. Thanks to all who made this project a success.





Baltimore-Washington UMC Annual Conference Report

Karen and Ray Gebhart represented Calvary United Methodist Church at the Baltimore Washington Conference (BWC) Annual Conference Session, May 13-15 held in Baltimore. They were in attendance along with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Larsen and representatives of the 600 plus other congregations that make up the BWC. The theme this year was based on the message from Paul in Philippians 4:4-9 to "Rejoice in the Lord: Dwell in Joy." As noted in the online Conference recap: "Claiming joy as a mindset, a discipline, and a way of life, the members of the 241st session of the BWC-UMC Conference met to worship, witness and celebrate the glory and possibilities of God." Bishop LaTrelle Easterling gave a rousing opening sermon on Joy and Pain and how "they can coexist, and sometimes, often times, they must." She said ""joy is not an escape from life; rather it is a declaration that we will not succumb, surrender, secede, nor submit. What we will do is rejoice, dance, sing and shout of the goodness of God."

The first day we were introduced to our new BWC structure effective July 1st, and met with our District Superintendent, Jim Miller as well as those churches in our regional collaborative Hub. The Downtown Frederick Hub is comprised of Calvary, Asbury, Brook Hil, Centennial Memorial, Jackson Chapel, Mt Pleasant, Trinity and Walkersville United Methodist Churches. Brook Hill will be the lead church for our Hub. Emphasis was on the need to build "authentic relationships, discerning community needs, and co-creating ministry that is contextual, courageous, and transformative." Reports told about significant growth in Young People's Ministry and the huge success of the IGNITE youth retreat.

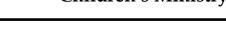
Quite a bit of the focus for the conference was on the new Advocacy and Action ministry "Hate Divides, Love Unites" campaign. Several constitutional amendments were voted on including Regionalization of the UMC, adding "gender" and "ability" to the list of characteristics that don't bar people from membership, strengthening the stance for racial justice, and clarifying clergy delegate elections for General Conference. The outcome of the conference vote will not be known, as it will be aggregated into all the conferences for a total vote to be announced in November.

Additional items were adopted including a new African American Statement of Faith, administrative standards for clergy, advocating for peace with justice for the people of Sudan, opposing all forms of religious nationalism, and actively supporting and embracing LGBTQ+ people. Pastor Larsen was honored amongst those retiring from ministry. And Pastor Hutton was formally appointed as Calvary's incoming pastor.

In conclusion, the BWC-UMC Annual Conference was a resounding success, an inspiration for change to come, and a promise for the future that is based on "Rejoicing in the Lord and Dwelling in Joy."

Respectfully,

Karen and Ray Gebhart, lay members



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 15** for Bible Learning, songs, games, crafts and more! Visitors are always welcome!





hello - 🖉

Children's Church will continue through the summer! **Children's Church** is for children ages 5 – 5th grade and takes place in our beautiful **Chapel** during the Worship Service immediately following the *Time With the Children*. Children's Church is an interactive mini-service that helps prepare children to understand the aspects of worship in our church!

Calling All Agents! Kindergarten-5th Grade,

our next Mission Possible Kids meeting is Sunday, June 1, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Please register at:



https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-48584528-mission



Children's Sunday School will have our **PROMOTION SUNDAY Celebration** on **June 22** 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 29 – August 31, but join us on Sunday, September 7 for our exciting Sunday School Carnival Kick-Off*!

Help Wanted!!

The Grateful Hearts Class is in need of your help! Paulette Shockey will be stepping down at the end of this school year as the main teacher for this important ministry, and we thank her for her many years of service and dedication to this class.

We are in need of a new **Lead Teacher** for the Grateful Hearts class, beginning this fall on **Sunday**, **September 7.** This teacher would volunteer to plan and implement weekly lessons with the help of the assistants. In addition, our class is also in need of **assistant teachers and bus drivers**.

Calvary has been able to continue this wonderful ministry for over 40 years because of the help and support of so many amazing and compassionate volunteers. We would be devastated to have to discontinue this program due to lack of support. Please contact Margie Wilde for more information at skywilde@comcast.net.



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

Don't miss out! Register NOW for

TRUE NORTH VBS!

Monday, June 23 – Thursday, June 26

Register for VBS HERE Or at www.calvaryumc.org

This year, each child who registers for VBS will receive a

FREE VBS t-shirt,

sponsored by the **Bryan Chaney Memorial Fund** in memory of our beloved Calvary Member, Bryan Chaney.

VBS Volunteers should plan to attend *one* of our VBS Volunteer Meetings which are offered on Wednesday, June 4 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. or Sunday, June 8 from 11:15 a.m. –12:15 p.m. in the conference room

Snack Donations for Vacation Bible School are being collected through June 22! Please look for the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall under the Children's Events Bulletin Boards! Thank you so much for helping to make this year's VBS a huge success!



NOAH at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA! August 9, 2025 at 11:00 am (Leaving Frederick at 7:45 am) A block of tickets has already been reserved. Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org if your family would like to join us! Tickets: Adult \$89, Children 12 & under \$39 (Payment will be due at a later date)



Calvary UMC SHP Bed Build

For the fourth year, Calvary UMC will be sponsoring a bed build for Frederick Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), our local non-profit that provides beds with all new bedding for any child ages 3-17 who needs a bed. The build will be held on Thursday, June 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the build barn in Adamstown. The barn is located at 2553 Buckeystown Pike, Adamstown, MD 21710. Look for the flags at the farm entrance.

This is a wonderful evening of service and fellowship as we work together to assemble parts for 20 beds and then stay to enjoy a time of fellowship and ICE CREAM! Consider bringing your grandchildren or inviting others to join you. We are inviting all ages this year and just ask that any children under 10 be accompanied by an adult (one adult for each child). We now have a much safer solid concrete floor (no more remnants of the uneven flooring of the old milk barn). We hope the June date will have warmer weather and less conflict with school/sport activities. Or consider just riding out to see the activities and enjoy some ice cream (served around 7 pm). Please bring your own chairs as we will be sitting near the barn.

To sign up for the event or if you have any questions, please contact Dave or Pat Herber (<u>pkherber@gmail.com</u>). If you are viewing this notice in an electronic version, you may also register on the SHP Golden Volunteer system using the link below. Also, if you would like to make a financial donation to support this build, please make your check payable to CUMC and designate SHP Bed Build on the memo line. Hope to see many of you on June 12!

Sign up here: https://volunteer.shpbeds.org/timeslots/jOcfUEe8ff

Looking for Volunteers

Calvary's Youth & Adult Mission Team are traveling to Henderson Settlement In Frakes Kentucky from July 20-26th.

> We are looking for team members with home repair knowledge that are willing to teach our Youth.

> > Trip includes air conditioned accommodations with real beds as well as 3 hot meals a day on work days. Please contact Miss Jenn at Calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org If interested.

Diaper Drive

Henderson Settlement Diaper Drive: The Youth Group would like to take LOTS of diapers to Henderson on their mission trip. Diapers of ALL sizes are needed-infant to adult sizes and wipes. Please put them in the basket in the foyer of the cradle in the Parish Hall. The little ones and their parents will be very thankful.



Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

Kindergarten Graduation will take place June 4th and then the 2024-2025 school year will come to an end. Where did the time go?

Thanks to all who attended our last two fundraisers at Café Bueno and Rita's. This year we were able to raise over \$4000.00 which was essential to helping us purchase new curriculum for the school.

We were very fortunate to have 62 volunteers at our school this year. Pretty amazing when we have only 82 students! We did want to recognize one special volunteer, Marion Keeler. "GG" assisted with arrival, substituting in all classes, art projects, community service projects, and anything that came up at our school. She dedicated over 600 volunteer hours. She is amazing.

This summer, our IT capabilities will be updated thanks to funds received from the MSDE Aging Grant. I'm sure we will complete some other smaller projects.

We wish Pastor Steve the best of luck in his retirement filled with many new adventures. We welcome Rev. Dr. Beth Hutton and look forward to working with her and the church community.

I hope you and your family enjoy some sun-filled days!

Patty Lockard, Director



Seeking and inviting all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.

"This piano is one of the best on the planet. I love playing here. This room is filled with love." - Brian Ganz, February 16, 2025, after performing his Extreme Chopin Concert on Calvary UMC's Steinway D.



Dear Calvary members,

In 2008, our church invested in the Steinway Model D piano that resides in our Sanctuary. In the 17 years since, this gorgeous instrument– both visually and in sound – has been a constant part of our worship service. It has celebrated weddings, honored family and friends at funerals, and has been a cornerstone of the Community Concert Series, making it possible to host renowned musicians from all over. Brian Ganz, a concert pianist who has played our Steinway at least once a year since 2011, returns to Calvary regularly because he loves playing this instrument so much.

Pianos, just like other things with moving parts, must be maintained and eventually refurbished. Our piano's soundboard – the most critical element it contains – has held up well and is in excellent condition. However, the other hundreds of moving parts behind the keys and the mechanisms that allow the hammers to strike the keys at the right velocity and weight, are becoming worn and must be replaced. A full regulation (adjustments for hammer swing, rate of key depression, and voicing) must be completed to bring the instrument to like-new condition. In addition, the case has scratches, dents, and dings and needs repair.

The estimated cost of this work, including professional movers to transport it to and from Piano Craft's shop is \$10,540. We are able to cover the majority of the cost with a \$2,500 grant provided by the Delaplaine Foundation, a \$1,000 gift from the Music & Arts Fund, and a \$5,000 commitment from Calvary trustees. Your help is needed to cover the remaining \$2,040.

The refurbishment is scheduled to begin in late June through the end of August. If you can help with a gift towards the remaining cost, please mark your check as "piano refurb" and place it in the offering plate or send to the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joyce

Joyce Summers Chair, Music & Arts Committee Adela

Dr. Adela Peeva Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Calvary UMC Steinway Piano Refurbishment Budget

Piano Refurbishment Estimated Revenue

Calvary UMC Trustee's Contribution Grant Income ¹ (Delaplaine Foundation) Calvary UMC Music & Arts Fund Private gifts and support via fundraising	\$ 5,000 \$ 2,500 \$ 1,000 \$ 2,040	
Piano Refurbishment Total estimated revenue	e:	\$10,540
Piano Refurbishment Expenses:		
Piano Craft – refurbishment work ² Piano Craft – case repair ³ Transport of instrument to Piano Craft shop and return to Calvary UMC ⁴	\$ 8,740 \$ 500 \$ 1,300	
Piano Refurbishment Total estimated expense:	\$10,540	

¹ Amount received from Delaplaine Foundation, must be used in 2025

² Per estimate provided by Piano Craft. It is possible that the cost of materials will increase by June 2025.

³ Piano Craft will repair scratches, dings, and dents on the piano case. The cost of this work is unknown until Piano Craft evaluates the case upon arrival at their shop. Case repair work is not included in their quote. This amount is a "best-guess."

⁴ Transportation by qualified piano movers is required.



Looking for ways to connect, follow Calvary!!

Follow us on Facebook or watch a worship service livestreamed at:

https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryUMCFrederick

Want to receive our weekly e-news? You can get a "pastor pondering", announcement of upcoming events, prayer concerns and other great information each Tuesday. Just send an email request to <u>office@calvaryumc.org</u> or sign up at <u>https://calvaryumc.org/newsletter/</u>

To give online visit our website at www.calvaryumc.org/give



SATURDAY, JUNE 7

7:00AM - 1:00PM

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 131 West 2nd Street in Frederick [Corner of 2nd and Bentz Streets] Rain OR SHINE VINDOORS BAKE SALE VINDOORS

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

Nametag cemeteries do NOT grow churches

And what is a nametag cemetery, you might ask? I refer not to names on tombstones in memorial gardens or other cemeteries, but rather in this instance to the bulletin board just outside Calvary's Parish Hall near the food donation wheel barrel. Except for ushers and a few others, there are far more nametags on that board than are worn during worship in the Sanctuary. Why is that? Most likely it is due to the fact that those who have been members for a long while already know others who have been longtime members, thus setting an example for more recent members who are given name tags but see few if any others wearing theirs. The attitude of "they already know me and I know them" among regular worshipers can lead a congregation to an inward focus, that can become antithetical to church mission, making new disciples for Jesus Christ by reaching out and welcoming those in our community not already among our fellowship.

There is a reason scholars of church growth, Diana Butler Bass being among them, emphasize the construct of Christian hospitality as welcoming the stranger. For one thing, it is biblical (e.g., Rom 12:13; Heb 13:1-2). But think also of what hospitality connotes outside the context of church. It is *invitational, welcoming, affirming,* and *engaging*; and normally associated with bringing together family, friends, or neighbors, all of whose names, and often much more, are known. And when a few do not know one another, we introduce them by name to each other. Names are perhaps the most fundamental identity we have as humans; infants first learn to respond to their given names.

So important are names, that other scholars of church growth (Farr, Anderson, and Kotan. 2013), United Methodists from the Missouri Conference, have written a book titled *Get Their Names: Grow your Church by Building New Relationships*. When I meet a new person whose name I want to remember, I have to write it down with a comment that reminds me of them; and in time with practice I no longer need that reminder. When visitors attend our worship service or other church activities, it is very important to get their name; and it is hospitable for you to be wearing your nametag as an example so that they can see as well as hear you give your name to them! No more embarrassment for them having to say "I'm sorry; I know we have met, but I've forgotten your name!" They can read it!

We have a new pastor coming to Calvary in July. We know her name as (Rev. Dr.) Beth Hutton. She does not know most of our names, however; **so let's each of us help her by faithfully wearing our nametags**. And if you have lost yours, have Cathy Baker, our church office manager, get you another one! Let's take this first baby step towards truly becoming a church known for its Christian hospitality ... welcoming the stranger!

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministry

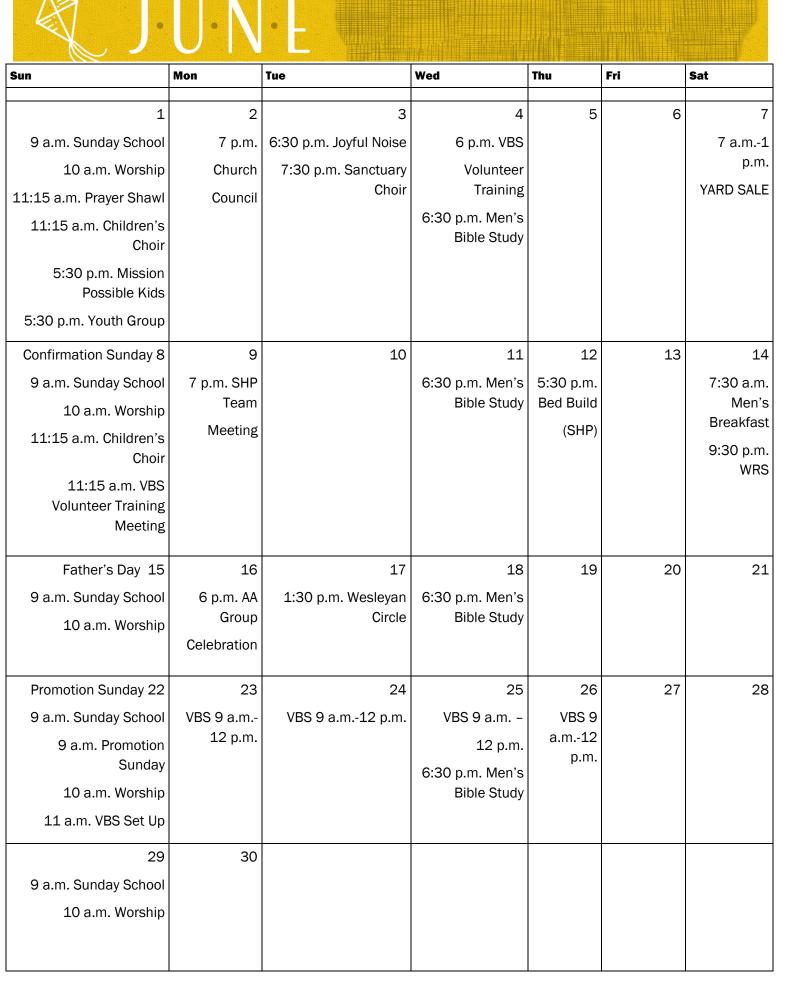
- 1, Caroline Proudfoot, Susan Weddle, Meg Winter
- 2, Amy Duvall, Rita Sharpe, Jeffrey Tang, Cynthia Wilson
- 3, Mabel Douglas, Cindy Mills, Gloria Tang



- 4, Emily Schwarzenberg
- 5, Austin Keyser, Greg Shipley, Lois Tyson, 6, Christy Mossburg, Kristine Schumacher
- 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
- 13, Patti Rice, Tom Starnes, 14, Stephanie Felton Clair, 15, Ronald Fischer, Becky Kile
- 16, Ann Harper, 17, Anne Mossburg, 18, David Pard
- 19, Judy Johnson, Kevin Keyser, Caitlin Swartz, 21, Vivian Lukasiak, 22, Ryan Willard
- 24, Stephanie Quigley, Natalia Rojas, Hannah Yeager
- 25, Janet Shoemaker, Amy Stone, Harper Sweet, 26, John Ritterbusch, Joyce Summers
- 27, Noah Shankle, 28, Lainey Davy, Savannah Muehl, Susan Sharpe
- 29, Karla Hembree, Andrew Tang, Beth Waskey
- 30, Todd Bear, Lillyen Eyler, Collin Stone

June Anniversaries

Vic and Rebecca Rohrback June 3 Bob and Constance Mason June 7 Rick and Susan Miller June 7 Todd and Beth Stitely June 7 David and Pat Herber June 13 Robert and Jennifer Bennett June 14 John and Becky Kile June 15 Scott and Mary Beth Pearce June 15 Frank and Beth Strakonsky June 18 Dennis and Ellen Ahr June 19 Lindsey and Sheila Howard June 21 Daniel and Lindsey Shankle June 27 Don and Gloria Orrison June 21 Eliezer and Magda Valentin-Morales June 21 Gary and Cynthia Brown June 22 Kevin and Traci Davies June 22 Matt and Amy McGreevy June 23 Joe and Ginger Ward June 23 Jason and Jennifer Aud June 24 James and Sharon Bear June 25 Carroll and Donna Kehne June 25 Dean and Maria Calcagni June 26 Curtis and Janet Fox Iune 27 Don and Barbara Mentzer June 28



Calvary United Methodist Church 131 W. Second Street Frederick, MD 21701 301-662-1464 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID FREDERICK, MD 21701 PERMIT NO. 52

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

Table of Contents......

-2
2
3
4
-6
.7
.8
.9
-11
12
13
4
5

