

S E P T E M B E R

A New Season of Ministry at Calvary

As September approaches, there is a sense of excitement and renewal in the air. The return to school, the changing of seasons, and the rhythm of fall all remind us that life is made up of both endings and beginnings. Here at Calvary, we are stepping into a new ministry year filled with opportunities for our children, youth, and adults to learn, grow, and serve together.

Over these past two months, I have had the joy of beginning my own new season with you as your pastor. Moving back into this community, onto the same streets, near the same playgrounds and stores where I first raised my children more than twenty years ago, has been both surreal and deeply meaningful. These weeks have been filled with worship, conversations, learning your stories, and seeing firsthand the ways Calvary continues to be a place of welcome, service, and hope. I am so grateful to be walking into this next chapter with you.

On a personal note, I confess to being a little “monacolin” these days as I drop off my two youngest children at college, one just this past weekend and the other in the days ahead. They are stepping into a brand-new season, and so am I. These are new leaves indeed. While it is bittersweet to let go, I am also so excited for them, and excited for the new ministry God is unfolding here at Calvary.

For Our Children and Youth

This fall, our children and youth ministries will kick off with fresh energy. From Sunday School classes that nurture faith in our youngest disciples to youth group gatherings where teens can grow in leadership, friendship, and service, there are abundant opportunities for the next generation to be rooted in Christ’s love. Parents, grandparents, and volunteers, thank you for the ways you invest in these ministries. They are a vital part of the church’s witness today and tomorrow.

For Our Adults

Sunday mornings will also offer rich opportunities for adults to deepen their faith. Whether you are new to Bible study, hungry for deeper conversation, or seeking community, there is a class for you. These groups are not only places to learn, but also spaces to build relationships that sustain and strengthen us for the journey of faith.

New Member Classes

If you’ve been worshiping with us for a while and are ready to learn more about what it means to be part of Calvary, or if you’re already a member but would like a “refresher” on your vows, we invite you to join one of our New Member Classes this fall. Two sessions are being offered: on the second Sundays of September and October, following worship. These gatherings will provide time to reflect on our faith, explore what it means to belong to this community, and discover how God is calling us forward together.



Pastor's Bible Study & New Worship Series

On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., I invite you to join me for a Pastor's Bible Study as we begin studying Adam Hamilton's newest book, *The Message of Jesus: The Most Important Words Ever Spoken* (<https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Message-of-Jesus>). Together we will explore the Gospels, listening closely to the words of Jesus that continue to challenge, guide, and inspire us.

This book will also shape our new worship series beginning in September. If you would like to read along, I encourage you to pick up a copy of the book, it will deepen our conversations and help us walk together through the heart of Jesus' teaching.

Friends, September marks more than just the start of a new program year. It's a reminder that God is always doing a new thing in our midst. My prayer is that each of us will find a way to grow, to serve, and to take a next step in our faith this year, whether that's through a class, a ministry, or a new act of service.

I look forward to walking with you as together we build on Calvary's strong foundation and embrace the future with hope.

Until Sunday and all the days between,

Dr. Hutton



September 7

The Kingdom of God Has Come

Mark 1:14-15; Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 6:33

September 14

The World's Most Important Sermon

Matthew 5:1-12; Matthew 6:9-13

September 21

He Spoke to Them n Parables

Matthew 13:1-9, 31-33

September 28

Who Do You Say That I Am?

John 6:35, 8:12, 10:11; 14:6

Fall Sunday School begins September 7!!

Newcomers and Oldtimers Sunday Study Class

If you are relatively new to Calvary or have been a member for a number of years, but are not in another Bible study group on Sunday morning, you are invited to our *Newcomers and Oldtimers Sunday Study Class*. You are likewise welcome whether you have ever been active in an adult Bible study class! Even if you have hardly ever read much of the Bible outside of worship, you are welcome. We all learn together in our faith journey!

A particular emphasis of this class is on the historical and cultural context of the scriptures, as well as their authorship and for whom and what purpose they were presumed to have been written, from the perspective of religious history and theology scholars, *The class is led by Paul Nelson and meets at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of Calvary's Administration Bldg*, entrance to which is off the patio behind the sanctuary across from the pre-school children's play area.

The Fall study will focus on Jesus' foundational teaching about God's Kingdom, The Sermon on the Mount. *The first class will meet on Sunday, September 7.*

As Jesus said, "Come, follow, and see!"

Asbury Class Resumes- Sunday, Sept. 7

Meets in the Memorial Room. Discussion-based format using *12 Rules for Life* by Jordan Peterson to explore living our faith daily.

New Members Class- Sunday, Sept. 14

Those interested in joining Calvary UMC or learning more about following Christ are invited to a class at 11:15 a.m. in the John Wesley Room, led by Rev. Dr. Hutton. The session will cover the church's history, purpose, and growing in faith.

MUSIC REHEARSALS RESUME!

Tues. Sept. 2: Joyful Noise Handbell Choir (6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m., Bell Room) and Sanctuary Choir (7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal Room).

No Experience needed-everyone is welcome!

Sunday, Sept. 7: New Joyful Voices Choir (Children/Youth Choir, Choir Rehearsal Room) 11:15-11:45 a.m. will meet after worship for ages 5 +



Children's Ministry News

Please join us on **Sunday, September 7** at 9:00 am for our

Annual Carnival Kick-Off!

Plan to bring a friend! ☺



Children's Sunday School Carnival Kick-Off
Sunday, September 7, 2025 9:00 – 9:45 am
Activities Room in the Education Building



If you are new to Calvary's Sunday School program, WELCOME! Please register by filling out this form: <https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/116/responses/new>



The first "Joyful Voices"

Choir Practice will be on

Sunday, September 7

at 11:00 am following the Service in the Choir Room



Children's Church is for age's **Preschool 4-year-olds – 5th Graders** and takes place in our beautiful **Chapel** during the 10:00 Worship Service immediately following *Family Time*. Please join us!

Children's Church is a mini-service where children can take part in the service on a smaller scale. There is a focus on traditional aspects of worship, including offering, reading scripture, singing hymns, reciting prayers and completing a special children's bulletin. Children take turns in the roles of acolytes, scripture readers, ushers, and even a pastor! Children's Church encourages participation and strengthens children's understanding of worship to prepare them for participating in the Church service in the sanctuary when they begin Middle School.

Children younger than four may continue down the hall to the Nursery during the service. We ask that children who are in 6th grade – 12th grade remain in the church service as active listeners and participants! Thank you!



We had a wonderful time at *Sight and Sound Theater* in Lancaster PA on August 9! Thanks to everyone who came, and thank you to Margie for driving the church bus!

Please plan to join us next summer for *Joshua*!



Calling all agents! The first **Mission Possible Kids** meeting for the new school year will take place on **Sunday, September 7** from **5:30 – 7:00 pm** in the Activities Room! MPK is for kids in grades K-5 who want to make a difference in the lives of others and shine God's light in the world. We work hard and we have fun! ☺ Bring a friend to join us!

Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-48584528-mission>



Our first **Veggie Tale Movie Night** of the new school year is happening on **Friday, September 26** from **6:00 – 7:15 pm** in the Activities Room! We will have pizza and snacks, a lively discussion, watch a movie, do a craft, color a picture and so much more! Please feel free to **bring a blanket** and **pillow** and **wear your pajamas**! ☺



Bring a friend to join us!

Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-48352788-veggie>



Greetings From Calvary Weekday School

Last month we welcomed back students and families and held our Parent Orientations. The staff worked hard to ensure that families felt informed and relaxed about the start of the school year. I am so fortunate to have such an exceptional team!

We want to thank Rev. Dr. Hutton and Amy Stone for attending these events and helping us build the Calvary Weekday School community. Families are looking forward to utilizing the nursey again this year and we appreciate the church making this space available to them.

During the month of September, the staff will focus on teaching routines, establishing a positive learning environment, and building strong relationships with their students. We look forward to a fresh start full of learning, laughter, and emotional growth.

Olivia will be placing orders for Calvary Weekday t-shirts and sweatshirts if anyone is interesting in purchasing. Email Olivia for more information at calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com.

Our Chick-fil-A Fundraiser will be September 15 from 5-8 pm located at 2401 Monocacy Blvd in Frederick. Please mention our name when ordering.

We will finish out the month with individual school pictures and look forward to signs of fall as we head into October.

Looking forward to a great year!

Patty Lockard, Director





BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?



ABOUT THE EVENT

Calvary's Youth are hosting this event to provide the congregation a service opportunity. Blessings in a Backpack provides weekend meals for school aged children in need. We will be packing 500 bags during the event.



Packing Event

September 21, 2025

11 am (after the service)

Parish Hall



DONATIONS:

Please consider bringing one of the following food items needed for future packing events.

- Meat sticks (i.e., Jack Links, Slim Jim)
- Chef Boyardee (or generic brand) ready-to-eat pasta bowls (pop-top lids required)
- Fruit pouches or cups



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

Blood Drive
Calvary UMC
Frederick

Parish Hall

131 W Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: CalvaryUMCFrederick to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor,
consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/fall**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

“From the beginning ...

...God called us into covenant, bound with God, with one another, and with God’s wonderfully diverse creation. ...Created in God’s image to live in covenant with God, we honor the dignity of all beings and affirm the goodness of life. ...By God’s grace we are called to be more Christ like, and thus to become merciful, just, and compassionate. Responding to that call, we seek to follow Jesus who gave boundless love to all.”

This summarizing statement from the Preamble to the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, 2025-2028* (p. 19) reminds us that we are created to live in harmonious community with God, other humans, and all else of God’s creation. The *Social Principles*, updated by the General Conference of the UMC in 2024, remind us of our needs to reconcile that harmony in four broad categories of community: all creation, Economic, social, and political.

This Fall, at a time to be announced, following a year of sharing, study, and discernment, our Calvary family will make a decision as to whether it wishes to become formally recognized as a Reconciling Congregation within the United Methodist Church by endorsing the following Reconciling Ministry Statement, a statement consistent with the *Social Principles*:

We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

In another article of this issue of the *Messenger* is an announcement of three planned listening sessions in September for anyone in the congregation who may have questions or concerns about adopting this statement. The sessions will be co-chaired by the Rev. Vicky Starnes and the Rev. Dr. Beth Hutton.

During this final period of discernment as a congregation, may we also prayerfully seek God’s guidance and grace, such that, even though we may not all be of one opinion, we may welcome and open our hearts as well as our church doors to all who seek God’s love, in a safe and affirming faith community of the United Methodist Church.

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministries



Calvary United Methodist Church is filled with members who care about those less fortunate than we are. Those who purchased and donated shoes to Soles of Joy reflect this repeatedly in multiple ways, and most recently.

Thank you for your generosity. 25 pairs of shoes were collected and will result in 25 bright smiles on August 20th, the first day of the 2025-26 school year. Paulette Shockey-P

Save the Date! Calvary Christmas Bazaar – Nov. 15, 9 AM–3 PM
Get ready for holiday fun, shopping, and community!

— Now collecting: —

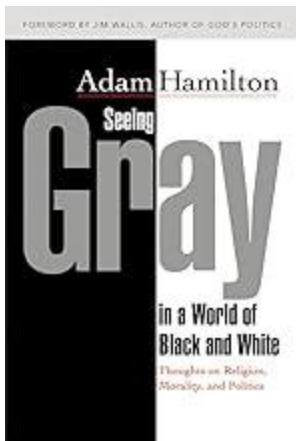
- White Elephant items – Helen Sheppard
- Silent Auction donations – Laura Hunter
- Homemade jams/jellies – Becky Isaacs
- Garden produce (red/green peppers & onions) for cheeseballs – Beth Strakonsky

Vendors Wanted!
Contact Becky Isaacs at 301-639-5377 or mikbeckiecomcast.net.

Crafting begins Sept.
Mondays 9:30 AM–noon • Wednesdays 6:30–9 PM in the Education Building craft room.

Mark your calendars – see you this fall!

The graphic is set against a light-colored wooden plank background. It is decorated with various Christmas-themed items: two red gift boxes with white snowflake patterns at the top, a gold reindeer figurine on the left, a gold Christmas tree in the center, several red and gold ornaments, a white gift box with a large red bow on the right, and some dried orange slices at the bottom.



New in Calvary's Library and a MUST READ!

***Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White:
Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics***

By Adam Hamilton

Mission/Outreach Ministry

BAKE SALE to benefit the Mission Trip to Western North Carolina, Oct 12-18

We will be sending a CUMC Volunteer in Mission (VIM) team of 18 people to Western NC to help with rebuilding in an area very hard hit by Hurricane Helene last September.

You have an opportunity to help support this team by:

- Baking and individually wrapping baked goods to be offered for donations on Sunday, September 7th
- Purchasing baked goods on Sunday morning, September 7th
- Or the easy, low-calorie way, making a Love Donation (check payable to the church with Mission VIM Team in memo line) to support the mission team and work being done in Ashe County, NC

Note: if you are baking to help us out, you may drop off your donations in the kitchen on Saturday morning September 6th between 10am - noon or on Sunday morning.

Our Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trip to Western NC to help with rebuilding after Hurricane Helene is planned for the week of October 12. We still have a couple of openings for our Calvary and Friends volunteers. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining us please contact Dave and Pat Herber at pkherber@gmail.com

Meeting Dates

Sept. 7- 7 p.m. Mission Team Information Meeting ~John Wesley Room

Sept. 8- 5 p.m. Mission and Outreach Work Area Meeting~ John Wesley Room

Oct. 5 Mission Sunday

Oct. 6 – 7 p.m. Mission Team Meeting ~ John Wesley Room



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery is always looking for volunteers to help load, assemble, and make the new bed for a local child of Frederick County.

Delivery Dates: Sept. 3 ~1 p.m., Sept. 10 ~ 4:30 p.m., Sept. 24 ~ 4:30 p.m.

Food Bank Ministry

Dear Calvary Family,

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who have generously supported the Food Bank Ministry. Your donations whether canned goods, boxed items, toiletries or financial gifts have made a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who service the food bank.

As fall approaches, the demand is still there for families in our community. In the narthex there is a wheelbarrow where weekly donations can be dropped off. We would like to encourage you to continue to bring in your donations!! There is a bookmark list you may take with you shopping. Every donation makes a difference and is appreciated.

Thank you again for your support

Roy and Julie

SNACKS

- ☐ Fruit Cups
- ☐ Granola Bars
- ☐ Applesauce Cups
- ☐ Nutri Grain Bars

GENERAL NEEDS

- ☐ Jelly
- ☐ Peanut Butter
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Pasta
- ☐ Rice

CANNED FOOD

- ☐ Tuna
- ☐ Soups
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Meats

HYGIENE PRODUCTS

- ☐ Body Wash
- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Deodorant

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Labor Day 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Church Office Closed	1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Comm. 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 p.m. Men's Bible Study			
Wheelbarrow Sunday 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 a.m. Sunday School Kick Off Grateful Hearts Kick Off 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices 5:30 p.m. Mission Kids Possible 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Kick Off	5 p.m. Mission and Outreach Meeting 6 p.m. SPRC 7 p.m. SHP Team Meeting	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 p.m. Men's Bible Study			7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Frederick in the Streets
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices 11:15 a.m. New Members Class 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	6 p.m. Finance Committee	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Education Committee (virtual)			9:30 a.m. WRS
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. BIAB Packing Event	7 p.m. Trustee	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Calvary Blood Drive 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6 p.m. Men's		6 p.m. Veggie Tale Movie Night	
28	29	30				
9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	7 p.m. Administrative Council	10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir				



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1, Judy Blackledge, Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky, **2**, Madelynn Sewell
3, Jacob Livingston, Judy Wilson, Emily Yeager, **4**, Ray Gebhart, Bill Waskey
5, Grace Dobson, Andrew Howard, Stephen Miller, Bill Pasquerette
6, Tyler Schroyer, Kathryn Schumacher, Kelly Stull, Janet Wiles
8, Isabella Anderson, James Dennis, John Shade, **9**, Collin Mood, Douglas Selby, Fon Smith
10, Karen Gebhart, **12**, Ned Calabrese, Paul Metcalf, **13**, Carole Law, **14**, 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 (93), **21**, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley
23, Autumn Bordner, Lindsey Howard, Jeannette Marshall, Helen Sheppard, Cleon Stull
24, Bruce Phillips, Richard Phillips, **25**, Judy Delauter, Colin Lyon, Anne Rollins, Renee Vega
26, Jeannie Baumgartner, Anna Snyder, Billie Stokes
27, Jackie Grimes (93), Beth Stakonsky, **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	September 2	Larry and Lydia Van Sant	September 10
Bruce and Kathy Phillips	September 3	John and Ann Harper	September 11
Larry and Carole Proudfoot	September 4	Robert and Laura Hunter	September 12
Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg	September 4	David and Gail Colby	September 16
Don and Jan Cline	September 4	David and Cindy Mills	September 16
Mark and Allison MacDonald	September 6	Chris and Heidi Sweet	September 22
Adam and Melissa Rankin	September 6	William and Mari Beth Schmersahl	September 24
Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette	September 7	Peter and Jenn Duthoy	September 26
Bertram and Jennifer Edmonston	September 9	Bob and Faye Cannon	September 26



Friday, October 3

Ages 4 – 5th Grade

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Bring a bagged dinner! 🍱

Wear your pajamas! 🧥

Bring a pillow and blanket! 🛏

In Calvary's Parish Hall

Please sign up here! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-51455585-parents>



Calling all knitters, crocheters, and yarn enthusiasts! Join our vibrant community for a monthly gathering where love and stitches unite to create comforting prayer shawls and foster meaningful connections. Consider joining us on **October 5** at 11:15 in the John Wesley Room, to enrich our prayer shawl

collection and connect with compassionate Calvary members while expanding our heartwarming ministry. We meet regularly on the 1st Sunday of the month following worship service. For more information, contact Jennie Davy: Jennieleee81@msn.com or 301-524-5842 (text of voice)



October 5 at 3:00 p.m. – Ars Gratia Populi

A vocal ensemble founded in 2023 by All-Ireland Champion Kevin Elam, the group explores the interactions between art music and folk music in a cappella setting. The name, Ars Gratia Populi, translated as “art for art’s sake,” represents their view that art derives its meaning not from itself but from the positive reaction it can create in the human mind and soul.



We are planning a trip to the Strawbridge Shrine in New Windsor on **Wednesday October 8**, leaving church at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m., Strawbridge is known as the Home of American Methodism. The Shrine and museum is the home of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge. Our tour includes the history of how the church spread into America, as well as the first Sunday school

and first house of worship. The visitor's center has displays, artifacts and video presentations. Come with us to see where the seeds of Methodism were planted and circuit riders spread The Word. After the tour, we will stop for lunch before returning to church. Contact Helen Sheppard at brucehelenshep@msn.com to reserve your seat on the church bus

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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