

August 2026



Gospel, Not Politics

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ~ Matthew 25:40, NRSVUE

Recently I preached a sermon that named an individual by name, a young man who lost his life at the hands of an ICE agent. I want to take a moment here, in print, to say a few things clearly. I do not make a habit of bringing the news cycle into the pulpit. When I do, it is not impulsive. It comes after a great deal of prayer, contemplation, and sitting with Scripture, because I take seriously both the weight of the moment and the trust you place in me when you show up on Sunday morning.

First and foremost, I am a staunch supporter of our law enforcement, our military, and the men and women who have committed their lives to the safety and protection of this country and everyone in it. That is not in question. What I am is also a pastor, ordained and called to preach the prophetic word, and that word does not stop at the sanctuary door.

My heart breaks for our immigrant communities right now. And it breaks for every person who has been dehumanized in the current social climate of this country, the widow, the orphan, the ill, the disabled, the incarcerated. That passage from Matthew 25 is not a suggestion. It is a reckoning. And it is foundational to who we are and what we do here at Calvary. The United Methodist (UM) Social Principles frame the same conviction.

The United Methodist Immigration Task Force, which includes United Women in Faith alongside other UM agencies, has spoken clearly about this pattern of tragedy. In the wake of incidents like these, they have called on United Methodists everywhere to engage in informed conversation, prayerful reflection, and prophetic action. Their words are worth sitting with: this is a critical moment to respond faithfully to our call as followers of Jesus Christ. Our Social Principles say it plainly. We affirm, value, and respect the dignity of all persons, regardless of country of origin. That is not aspirational language. That is a Gospel mandate, rooted in the conviction that every person is created in the image of God. That is the church doing its job. That is what our tradition asks of us.

Continues on page 2

The church's response has not been without basis in documented fact. A major civil rights report released this month by the American Civil Liberties Union examined immigration enforcement incidents across eight states, including Maryland, and found that of more than 1,200 incidents reviewed, over 400 involved misconduct by agents. The report documented patterns of excessive force, racial profiling, and targeting of U.S. citizens, children, and vulnerable people. It found children detained and targeted, journalists and clergy subjected to enforcement actions, and agents operating without identifying markings, making accountability nearly impossible. These are not abstractions. These are people. And the church has always had something to say about what happens to people.

So when the question arises, is this politics, or is this Gospel? I want to answer it directly. It is Gospel. It has always been Gospel.

Karl Barth, one of the most important theological voices of the last century, insisted that followers of Christ are called to hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. He and Dietrich Bonhoeffer stood together in the Confessing Church, the movement that refused to let the German church recognize and affirm Nazi nationalism as something other than what it was. For Barth, faith that does not engage the real world is not faith at all. I believe that too.

I am not a one-issue pastor. The current immigration crisis occupies a great deal of our news cycle, and I would gently encourage you to pay attention to which news you are consuming, and what it may be leaving out. But if you have wondered whether this is the only thing that keeps me up at night, I want to be clear: it is not.

My heart breaks across a long list. It breaks for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and hunger. It breaks for those living with mental illness who cannot access care. For our seniors, navigating their healthcare and living situations. It breaks for families held together by a thread. It breaks for the LGBTQIA+ community, for those who have been told by the world, and sometimes by the church, that they are less than fully beloved. It breaks for the ongoing work of racial equity, gender equity, and economic equity in a world that still has so far to go. The list really does go on.

What ties all of it together is not a political agenda. It is the Gospel. When human beings are treated as less than human, the church has something to say. Not because we are partisan. Because we are Christian.

If something said from this pulpit has challenged you, I am genuinely glad. That is the sermon working. Read more. Listen more. Research more. And always, always look at the world through the lens of the Gospel. Ask the old question seriously: What would Jesus do? Not as a bumper sticker or colorful camp bracelet. But as a discipline.

Continues on page 3

I love this congregation. I love the full range of people who walk through our doors, and I know that not everyone will agree with every word I preach. That is okay. What I ask is that we stay at the table together, keep reading Scripture together, and keep asking hard questions together. That is what a community of faith does.

The prophetic tradition is not new. It is as old as Amos and Isaiah, as urgent as the Sermon on the Mount. I did not invent it. I am simply trying to be faithful to it.

And I am grateful, always, to do that work here, with you.

Until Sunday, and all the days between,

Dr. Hutton

¹ United Methodist Immigration Task Force, "Statement Denouncing the Actions of ICE in Houston and Honoring the Life of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo," July 2026. Available at umcjustice.org.

² American Civil Liberties Union, "Agents of Chaos and Cruelty" July 2026. Available at aclu.org.



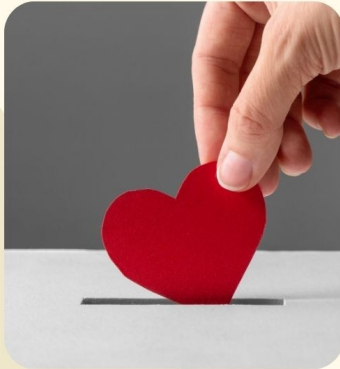


Together We Give



The Food Bank Program, operated by the Department of Housing and Human Services (HHS), provides a three- to five-day supply of nutritious food to individuals and families experiencing economic hardship.

Each month, the Food Bank serves approximately 600 to 800 households. Participants include very low- to moderate-income individuals and families facing financial challenges who rely on the program for regular food assistance.



August Love Offering



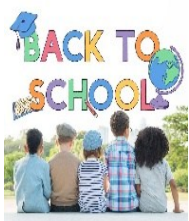
office@calvaryumc.org/301-662-1464

Join Us for Second Sunday Fellowship!

Beginning **Sunday, September 13**, join us after worship each second Sunday of the month for a potluck lunch and time of fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Bring a favorite hot or cold dish to share if you're able—whether it's a main dish, side, salad, or dessert. The kitchen ovens and refrigerator will be available before worship, and beverages and paper products will be provided. No sign-up is needed—just come and enjoy good food and great company!

We're also looking for volunteers to help with monthly setup and cleanup. If you'd like to serve, please use the attached SignUpGenius to sign up for a month.



Greetings From Calvary Weekday School

This month we welcome back staff, students, and families. The families attended Parent Orientations and Kindergarten is in full swing! Over the summer, the classroom floors were waxed and look shiny and new. Once again, my staff did an amazing job setting up their rooms and getting prepared for the beginning of the school year.

Olivia will be placing orders for Calvary Weekday School t-shirts and sweatshirts if anyone is interesting in purchasing. They come in all sizes and are not only useful for field trips but help with advertising our school. Email Olivia for more information at calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com.

Our three and four year old pre-K students have their student orientations the first week of September then begin gradually with a staggered start to help with the transition to school.

At the end of the month, some of our staff will join me in attending the Maryland Early Childhood Conference held at Hagerstown Community College. We look forward to hearing new ideas, fresh perspectives, and current practical strategies in early childhood education. It is also a great opportunity to collaborate with other professionals in our field.

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

Looking forward to another school year-

Patty Lockard, Director

Trustees Report August 2026

Note: This is the monthly update from the Trustees

This has been a very busy summer for the Trustees and for Calvary. First the air conditioning units servicing the Baker Center have been replaced by 2 new Carrier units, Just in time for the 100 degree temperatures.

The kitchen was cleaned by a contract team on 29 June. Thanks to Greg Gray, and the volunteers the removal of items and reset of the kitchen went without any problems. The stainless steel sparkles AND the floor has changed color!! No longer will tape be used on the Refrigerator doors, use magnets for your messages.

A large quantity of old electronic equipment, PCs, Laptops, switches, etc was removed and donated to Goodwill.

The next project on the horizon is the removal of the bulletin boards, painting and installing a picture rail along the main corridor of Parish Hall. This will be completed in July.

Greg Gray and Rob Summers will be presenting a comprehensive plan to update both the audio and video networks in Calvary at the Trustees meeting on 19 July.

Calvary United Methodist Church, Frederick, Maryland

Carnival Kick-Off

Annual Children's Sunday School Kick Off

Sunday, September 6th

at 9 a.m.

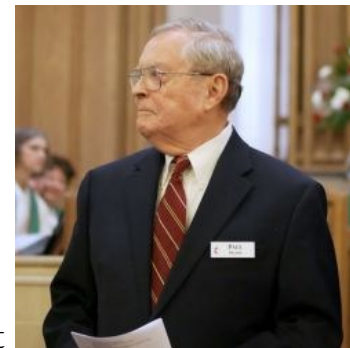
131 West Second Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701



Children's Church will continue through the summer! Children's Church is for children ages 5 – 3rd grade and takes place in our beautiful Chapel during the Worship Service immediately following the *Time With the Children*.

Being called to witness ...

When we welcome others as new members of our congregation, we also renew our membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. How many of us have thought at one time or another that while we have a pretty good sense of what the first four of these actions imply for our engagement in the life of the church, we are not quite sure about what it means to witness? Is it about sharing our faith with others? And if so, what does that imply? What is faith?



The apostle Paul in his letters to the early church spoke frequently about our faith as the source of God's gift of grace in our lives (e.g., *Romans 3:28*). He also speaks of faith in the context of hope and love as interrelated virtues of our relationship with God through Christ Jesus (*1 Corinthians 13:13*), love being the greatest virtue. The author of the letter to the *Hebrews (11:1)* defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen. It is a sense of profound trust in the ultimate reign of God's goodness, God's love, prevailing on earth.

With this understanding, how might we be witnesses to our faith? A few examples follow: We can be a source of hope to others in troublesome times; be of comfort to someone in distress; invite an unchurched friend or neighbor to join us at church; welcome someone we do not recognize in the church pew near us and invite them to join us for a cup of coffee after worship.

As we are able, we can also join others in witnessing for justice in public places within our community; go to the website of the UMC General Board of Church & Society to weigh in on justice advocacy issues important to us; and join with others of our congregation in witnessing to God's presence and love through acts of mercy and service in the community, of which Calvary is blessed with multiple opportunities made known to us each week in our worship bulletin.

John Wesley once said that "*religion is not solitary; it is lived in society!*" Is this not also what Jesus meant when he admonished us to be the light of the world through His Spirit?

Paul D. Nelson, Church & Society Ministries

August 12 -Mission Central Trip

Youth Sunday School Kick-off, Sunday September 6

Youth Group Kick-off, Sunday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact: Youth Director Jenn Duthoy

at missjenn@calvaryumc.org or more information.



A Midyear Look at Our Finances

We are now halfway through the year, and there is good news to share. Attendance is up 11.6% over last year. Offerings have grown by 8.55%. And our outreach into the community has grown even more, a real sign of a congregation putting its faith into action.

So here is the honest part. Many of us know this feeling from our own households. Even when income goes up, expenses have a way of going up faster. That is exactly what is happening at Calvary.

Our two largest expense categories are salaries and the operating and upkeep of our buildings. Today I want to focus on the buildings, since so much of our life together happens inside these walls.

Separating expenses by category is not an exact science. Worship, administration, and building costs overlap in a lot of places. But looking at what we track as "Care of God's House" and "Utilities," building expenses come to a bit over 26% of our total spending, and about half of that is utilities alone. This year, keeping the lights on and the buildings comfortable has cost us an average of \$3,403.30 every Sunday, or \$121.21 every single day.

And those utility costs have been climbing fast. Natural gas, which heats our buildings, rose 42% in 2025 and another 51% in 2026. Electricity, which cools them, rose 29% in 2025 and 8% in 2026.

None of this is meant to alarm anyone. It is meant to help all of us understand what it actually takes to keep these buildings standing, warm, cool, and welcoming for worship, for Weekday School, for funerals and weddings and every ministry that happens under this roof. Your offerings are doing real work.

What you can do

If you give regularly, thank you. Please take a moment this month to check that your giving through MyCalvary e-giving still reflects what works for you. It only takes a few minutes to update.

If you have been meaning to start, now is a good time. Use this link to our website

 <https://pushpay.com/g/calvaryumc?lang=en&src=pcgl>

And if your circumstances have changed this year, we understand. Life shifts, and your giving can shift with it. If anything has changed for you and you need to adjust, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office staff. We are glad to help, no questions asked.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to Calvary and to God's work here.

Rick Miller

Treasurer, Calvary United Methodist Church

treasurer@calvaryumc.org

TAICHI

With
Dr. Nanette Tummers

Every Monday 3 p.m.–4 p.m.
Activites Room– Education Building
There will be a suggested donation per session.

Learn gentle, easy-to follow movements that
improve balance, mobility, and relaxation.



No experience is
needed



Beginners Welcome



Both seated and standing
options will be provided

CONTACT PAT OR DAVE HERBER

pkherber@gmail.com

1, Julia Lancione, Charlotte Miller, Edward Reynolds, Mary Ritterbusch, Rebecca Staley, Rob Summers, Ernest Watkins

2, Barbara Mentzer, Gabrielle Rohrbach, Jim Sengstack

3, Marlene Bordner, Ruth Brown, Grant Keyser, Susan Leftwich, Noah Miller, Connor Radcliffe, Delores Shade

4, Stephanie Barrows, Camden Webster, Kendel Wickline,

5, Cindy Naugle

7, Fred Schumacher, 8, Cara Davy, Hayden Rohrbach

9, Seth Kahan, Cathy Karl, Allison Stone, 10, Robert Bennett, Barbara Cook, Raymond Stroh

11, Molly Kellam, Nancy Leftwich, Pat O'Toole, Doug Reilly, 12, Avery Perryman

13, Cindy Lang, Liam McGreevy, John Mitchell, 14, Gary Brown, Zachary Davies, Kay Phillips

15, David Burgener, Don Mentzer, 16, Olivia Hetrick, 17, Patsy Eavey, Will Quigley,

18, William Metcalf, Sam Mills, 19, Laura Stouter, 20, Stefanie Harris

22, Kiley Eyler, Kelli Fox, Steven Mossburg, 24, Kathy Phillips, Dianna Plotner, Jen Pond, Mary Sanders

25, Oliver Duarte, James Van Sant, 26, Nathaniel Heller, Mark Lopez, Barbara Piper, Andy Radcliffe

27, Charles Geisbert, Spencer Simpson, Mark Yeager, 28, Christina Heller

29, Leisa Moyer, Atticus Van Riper, Catherine Waskey, Thomas Woodall

30, Helen Austin, Mollie Mayer, David Mills, 31, Cavan Rankin



August Anniversaries

Mike and Melissa Rust Aug 3

Dr. Ray and Sandy Moreland Aug 3

William and Dawn Metcalf Aug 3

Jim and Sandy Sengstack Aug 4

Ryan and Bethany Webster Aug 4

Chad and Melissa Ritterbusch Aug 5

Doug and Josie Manger Aug 5

Shannon & Stephanie Whitmarsh Aug 5

Larry and Judy Johnson Aug 8

Mike and Janie Hahn Aug 9

Ed and Judith Ahlstrom Aug 12

Kevin and Patty Keyser Aug 12

Mitch and Penny Reading Aug 14

Mike Pickett and Judy Tran Aug 23

Jeff and Cara Dragan Aug 25

Jim and Norma Hamilton Aug 25

Dan and Dianna Plotner Aug 25

Steve and Mary Ann Mood Aug 30

Chuck and Susan Engler Aug 30

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 a.m. Summer Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	3 3 p.m. Tai Chi 6 p.m. SPRC	4	5 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	6	7	8 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9 9 a.m. Summer Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	10 3 p.m. Tai Chi	11 11:30 a.m. UWF Luncheon	12 Youth Mission Trip to Mission Central 6 p.m. VIM Mission Trip Planning 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9 a.m. Summer Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. New Members Class	17 3 p.m. Tai Chi	18 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle	19 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	20	21 8:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. 1st Day of Kindergarten at the Weekday School	22
23 9 a.m. Summer Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	24 3 p.m. Tai Chi	25	26 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9 a.m. Summer Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	31 3 p.m. Tai Chi					

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.*

Table of Contents.....

Gospel, Not Politics.....	1-3
August Love Offering.....	4
Weekday School/Trustees	5
Children's Ministry.....	6
Church & Society/ Youth.....	7
Treasurers Report.....	8
Tai Chi at Calvary.....	9
August Birthdays/Anniversaries....	10
August Calendar.....	11
Sign Up for Children's Sunday School.	12

**Register for Children's Sunday School
available August 2**

Sunday School begins

Sunday, September 6, 2026

9:00 – 9:45 am

**Use the link below to Register for
Children's Sunday School**

[https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/
goto/forms/116/responses/new](https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/116/responses/new)
[Children's Sunday School
Registration 2026-2027](#)