



Every September, I find myself doing the math on how many Septembers are left. Over the past few weeks, I took my two younger kids back to college, and that September math was particularly loud. My middle child is a senior now, moved into a house for the first time instead of a dorm, which somehow makes it more real. We rented the U-Haul and headed up the Pennsylvania turnpike – moved her in, hung the curtains and all along pretended we were not both aware that this is the last first day of her undergraduate life. May is coming. Graduation is coming. And then, as it should be, her next adventure. I am so proud of her I can barely stand it and letting go is still hard every single time.

My youngest headed back to the “BIG APPLE”, and somewhere in the back of my mind I know this may be the last summer he spends coming home. The pull of New York, of bigger places and wider horizons, is strong. He is figuring out who he is and where he belongs, and that is exactly what he is supposed to be doing. And with all that excitement and pride, it does not make that quiet drive home any easier.

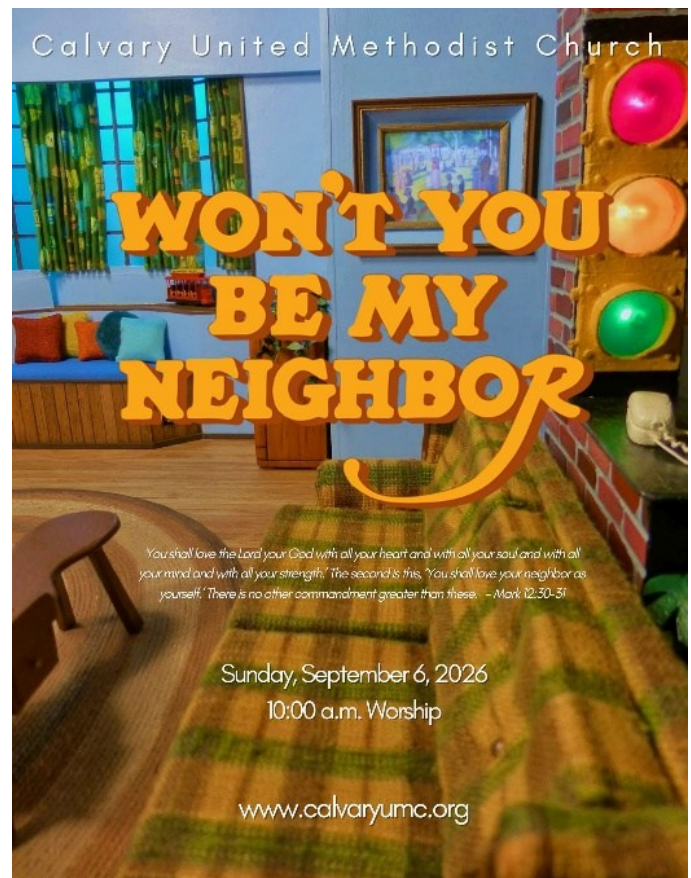
So, September finds me, like a lot of you, sitting with the tenderness of transition. The kids who filled our kitchens and around the firepit with s’mores are finding their places in the world, and we are learning, slowly, what it means to let the neighborhood of our family expand beyond our walls.

Which is exactly where Mister Rogers meets us this month.

My grandmother loved Fred Rogers. Long after my younger cousins who she watched occasionally had grown up and moved on, she would still settle into her sitting room every day, little tv tray in place, and watch Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. Just her and Fred and the Trolley and the Land of Make-Believe. I used to think that was sweet, maybe a little quirky. The older I get, the

more I think she understood something that the rest of us were too busy to notice.

Fred Rogers was not just a children’s television host. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister who believed, with his whole heart, that television could be used to do God’s work. He looked into that camera every single day and told children, and anyone else who was watching, that they were loved exactly as they were. Not when they got it together. Not when they stopped being difficult or scared or messy. Right now, they were enough.



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He changed into that cardigan and those sneakers at the beginning of every episode because he wanted children to know they were entering a different kind of space. A neighborhood. A place where the rules were kindness and curiosity and the radical notion that every person you meet has something worth knowing. He named it simply and he meant every word: won't you be my neighbor?

What strikes me, returning to Rogers as an adult and as a pastor, is how countercultural that question actually is. We live in a moment that sorts people quickly, that decides before the conversation even starts who is worth our time and who is not. We build neighborhoods, literal and figurative, around people who look and think and live like us, and we call it community. Fred Rogers called it something smaller and less impressive than that.

He would have none of it. The neighborhood on his program included people with disabilities, people of different races, people who were sad or angry or confused, people who did not fit the picture of what a neighbor was supposed to look like. He brought them all in. He asked them all the same question. And he listened to every answer like it mattered, because to him it did.

And here is something else about Fred Rogers that I keep returning to. He was slow on purpose. The pace of his program was deliberate, almost countercultural even in his own time. He understood that silence does not frighten children. It settles them. That slowness is not boring. It is regulating. That a quiet, unhurried voice speaking directly to you is one of the most powerful things in the world.

Researchers have since confirmed what my grandmother already knew sitting in her little sitting room: the calm slow rhythm of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood lowered children's anxiety and helped them process difficult emotions. He was doing pastoral care, one episode at a time.

The world right now is so loud. The noise is relentless, the pace is frantic, and the screens are everywhere. When people ask me why Calvary does not have a more contemporary worship style, why we have not put screens up in the sanctuary, I find myself

answering with a question of my own. Why? We sit in front of screens all day, everyday. The research on what constant screen exposure does to us, to our attention, to our anxiety, to our ability to simply be present in a room with another human being, is not encouraging. What Calvary offers is something increasingly rare: peace. Space. A room full of people, together, without a screen between them.

That is also why I love offering contemplative prayer stations in the chapel during the holy seasons. No instructions scrolling across a monitor. No ambient loop playing behind a logo. Just candles and quiet and the ancient practice of showing up, being still, and letting God do the rest. Fred Rogers would have understood completely.

So as these last warm days of summer give way to the cool of fall, I want to offer a gentle challenge. Get off the screen. Turn off the television. Sit in the sun, or the rain. Take a walk around your block and actually look at the houses you pass. Knock on a door. Meet a neighbor for a cup of coffee. Ask them how they are doing and mean it.

That question is at the heart of our September worship series, and it is the questions Calvary has always been trying to answer with our life together. This fall we are taking it out into the streets, literally. On September 12, we will have a booth at Frederick's In the Streets Festival, right in the Art Block alongside our Weekday School, celebrating the ministry and mission happening every day on our campus. Come find us, bring your neighbors, and let's show Frederick what it looks like when a community of welcome, affirmation, and love for all shows up to the party.

The neighborhood is bigger than we think. There is room for everyone in it. And somewhere, I like to believe, my grandmother is nodding along, tv tray in place, entirely unsurprised.

Until Sunday, and all the days between,

Dr. Hutton

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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



Use QR Code to
register for the
2026-2027
Children's
Sunday School
Session.

Or use the link:

[https://
calvaryfrederick.ccbch
urch.com/goto/
forms/113/responses/
new](https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/113/responses/new)



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*.

Children's Church is a mini-service where children can take part in the service on a smaller scale. Join us!



**The first
Joyful Voices
Rehearsal
Choir Practice will be
on
Sunday, September 13
at 11:15 am
following the Pot Luck
in the Choir Room
For more information,
please contact
Janet Fox at
jfox@myactv.com**



Calling all agents! The first Mission Possible Kids meeting for the new school year will take place on Sunday, September 20 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. Join us:

https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/event_detail.php?event_id=1351&occur=20260920

Or Use this QR Code:



BIBLE PRESENTATION THE WORD OF GOD FOR ALL PEOPLE



Bible Dedication Sunday for 3rd Grade Students will take place during Worship on Sunday, September 20. Families, please join us during Children's Church in the Chapel for a ceremony following the Bible Dedication during Family Time.



Our first Veggie Tale Movie Night of the new school year is happening on Friday, September 25 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!



Youth GROUP



**KICKOFF
SEPTEMBER
13TH AT
5:30 PM
PARISH
HALL**

Questions?
Reach out to Miss Jenn:
calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org

7:30 pm pick up

JOIN US!

**All Youth grades 6-12
are welcome**

DINNER, GAMES, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

**Calvary United Methodist Church.:
A community of welcome, affirmation, and love for all.**

Register for Youth Sunday School & Youth Group by using the link or QR Code:

<https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/71/responses/new>



ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

Back to the Table: Second Sunday Fellowship Launches September 14

Calvary is launching a new monthly tradition, and we are kicking it off with a potluck.

On the second Sunday of each month, starting September 13, everyone is invited to gather in the Parish Hall immediately following worship for Second Sunday Fellowship. Our September theme is Back to the Table. Bring a favorite dish that takes you back to school days, a comfort food, a family recipe, something that tastes like fall. Main, side, salad, or dessert, all of it welcome. Can't bring a dish? Come anyway. There will be plenty, and your presence is the point.

RSVP HERE : https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/event_detail.php?event_id=1401

Kitchen ovens will be available for warming, the refrigerator is open for drop-off before Sunday School, and beverages and paper products are provided.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup each month. SIGN UP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FAAA72FA75-64952547-potluck#/> a QR Code is also provided, or Contact the office at Office@calvaryumc.org to sign up.

Clear the calendar and come to the table. We will see you September 13.



We Need You for the Bazaar! ~ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, November 14

It takes the whole church to make the Bazaar a success! We need crafters and vendors, cheeseball makers, Silent Auction and White Elephant donations, baked goods for the Bake Table, day-of volunteers, and a clean-up crew.

Crafting begins at 9:30 a.m. Monday, September 14 in the Craft Room. You do not have to be a crafter to join us—there's plenty of gluing, cutting, organizing, and other jobs that don't require artistry. Just bring your smile and laughter!

Please mark the Bazaar date on your calendar and watch for future announcements about ways you can help. We need you!

Have a great rest of the summer! ☀️☐

Becky Isaacs, Chairperson

301-639-5377

Be the change.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive
**Calvary United Methodist
Church**
Calvary UMC-Frederick

Parish Hall
131 W Second St.
Frederick, MD 21701

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Making an appointment is easy, please scan the QR Code or use the link to the Red Cross appointment portal.

[https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?
zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick)

If you would like to volunteer during the blood drive, please contact Pam Pittman at pamlp05@icloud.com



September's Love Offering

Calvary's Youth host

**BLESSINGS IN A
BACKPACK**

PACKING EVENT

131 W 2ND ST FREDERICK



**September 27th 11 am in
the Parish Hall**

**All are welcome to pack food items for
Frederick County kids in need.**

Calvary United Methodist Church: A community of
welcome, affirmation, and love for all.

Trustees Report September 2026

Note: This is the monthly update from the Trustees

There has been a lot of work completed in the last days of August. The corridor was painted, now awaits the installation of the picture rail, so that art work can be displayed. The playground received a layer of wood chips, preparing for the new school year. And the fan assembly in the HVAC system underneath the altar was repaired. Work will begin on the new sound system on August 24th.

Work remaining to be accomplished is to solve the AC problems on the 2nd floor of Parish Hall.

Trustee meetings will now be held on the third Sunday of September and November, as the second Sunday will be the potluck lunches.



Save
the
Date

Sept. 10, 2026
6 p.m. ~Parish Hall
Frederick Health:
What's the Diagnosis
and Prognosis?

Learn what's happening at the hospital and what's in store for the future.

Join Robin Rose, Vice President
& Chief Development Officer
&

Kate Burke, Senior Development
Specialist
from Frederick Health
Development as they discuss life-
changing new initiatives,
highlighting how your local
healthcare is evolving to serve
you better

2026- 2027 Community Concert Series



Sunday, September 27, 2026 - doors open at 2:30 p.m.
Andrew Sords, violinist, Eric Schultz, clarinetist, and Elizabeth DeMio, pianist

This dynamic trio will perform showpieces by Shostakovich, Brahms, Khachaturian, and more. Don't miss this afternoon of electrifying and spirited music!

www.AndrewSords.com www.EricSchultz.com <https://www.cim.edu/faculty/elizabeth-demio>

September Birthdays

1, Judy Blacklege, Katie Dragan, Andrew Radcliffe, Bret Slovikosky, Kalia Wastler
2, Madelynn Sewell, 3, Jacob Livingston, Judy Wilson, Emily Yeager
4, Ray Gebhart, Bill Waskey, Brody Williams
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, Adam Sandel and Noah Sandel
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, Karen Baker, Paul Nelson
21, Karen Dobbs, Rubie Meyers, Cheryl Radcliffe, Matthew Staley
23, Jeannette Marshall, Lindsey Howard, 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, Parker Williams
27, Jacqueline Grimes, Beth Strakonsky, 28, Raymond Crum, Scott English, John Patterson
29, Brad Davy, Thomas Dixon, Archer Grimes, Bea Kilel, Mitch Reading
30, Haleigh Huang, Gregory Selby,

September Anniversaries

Ray and Karen Gebhart	Sept. 2	Bertram and Jennifer Edmonston	Sept. 9
Justin and Erin Perryman	Sept. 3	Larry and Lydia Van Sant	Sept. 10
Bruce and Kathy Phillips	Sept. 3	John and Ann Harper	Sept. 11
Don and Jan Cline	Sept. 4	Robert and Laura Hunter	Sept. 12
Larry and Carole Proudfoot	Sept. 4	David and Gail Colby	Sept. 16
Roy and Julie Schwarzenberg	Sept. 4	David and Cindy Mills	Sept. 16
Mark and Allison MacDonald	Sept. 6	Rob and Jen Pond	Sept. 17
Adam and Melissa Rankin	Sept. 6	Chris and Heidi Sweet	Sept. 22
Bill and Charlotte Pasquerette	Sept. 7	William and Mari Beth Schmersahl	Sept. 24
Peter and Jenn Duthoy	Sept. 26	Bob and Faye Cannon	Sept. 28

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 a.m. WRS 1:30 p.m. UMF Ex. Committee	2 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School Carnival 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	7 Labor Day Holiday Church Office Closed	8 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	9 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	10 6 p.m. FH Event	11	12 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9 a.m.-5 p.m. In the Streets
13 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices 11:30 a.m. PotLuck Meal 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Kick Off 6 p.m. VIM Meeting	14 3 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Mission & Outreach Meeting 5 p.m. Chick-Fli WDS Night 6 p.m. SPRC	15 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Wesleyan Circle 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	16 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	17	18	19
Bible Presentation 20 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Social Justice 11:30 a.m. Trustees 5:30 p.m. MKP Kick Off 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	21 3 p.m. Tai Chi 6 p.m. Finance Committee	22 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	23 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Calvary Blood Drive 2 p.m. Miriam's Circle 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study	24	25 6 p.m. Veggie Tale Movie Night	26
27 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Backpack Event 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices 3 p.m. Concert	28 3 p.m. Tai Chi 6 p.m. Administrative Council	29 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	30 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study			

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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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.*

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Thinking about joining this October's Mission Trip?

Have questions? Curious about what a mission trip is like? Want to learn more? **VIM Planning Meeting Sunday, September 13 at 6 p.m. in the John Wesley Room.**

Our mission trip is scheduled for **October 18-24**. We're grateful that many volunteers are returning this year, and we still have room for more! Even if you can't join us this year, we'd love to meet you and talk about future mission opportunities.

For more information reach out to Dave or Pat Herber. pkherber@gmail.com