

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-662-1464 • www.calvaryumc.org

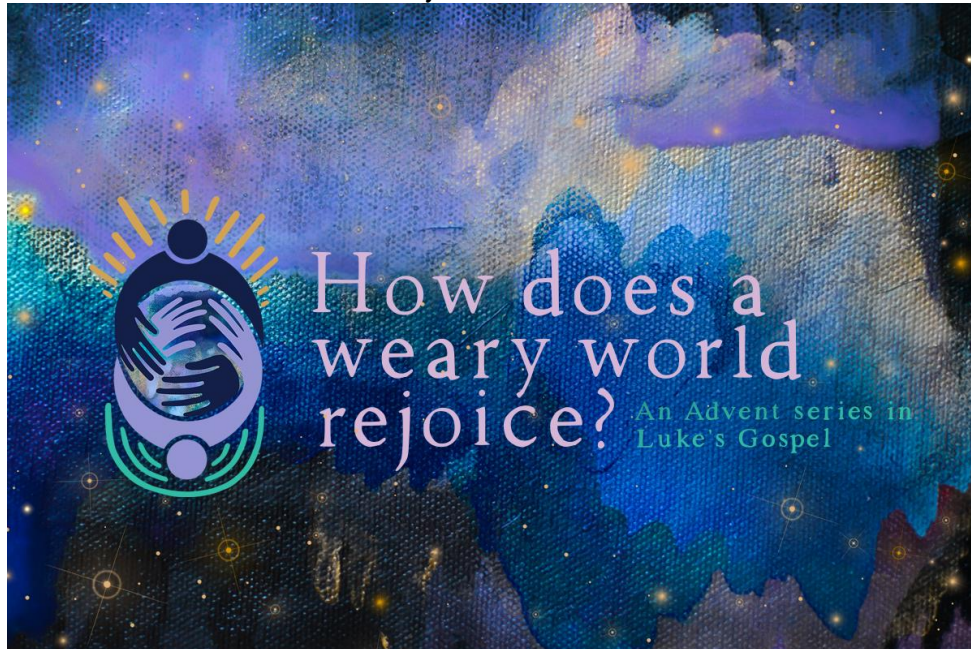
Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Holy Communion



GATHERING

Prelude

“Come To Us Emmanuel” text & music by Carol McClure
Children’s Choir

Welcome and announcements

*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*Lighting the Advent Candles

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

The candle is lit this morning by Amy, Joe, and Emma Cerrito

*Hymn

“People, Look East”

UMH #202

Prayer of Confession (read responsively)

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Pardon

Family of faith,

No matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, “*How can this be?*” God’s love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PROCLAIMING

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:1-23

David Cline

*Response

The word of God for the people of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Time With the Children

Following the Time with the Children, all children in K-3rd grade are invited to Children's Church either in the Chapel or in the Nursery for the remainder of the worship service. Parents are asked to walk their children to narthex/lobby where they will find the children's church leader.

*Hymn

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

UMH #720

WE RESPOND

Time for Reflection and Commitment

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Hymn tune by Lowel Mason, arr. by Crawford R. Thoburn

Sanctuary Choir, Joyce Summers, pianist

When we pass the offering plate in the worship service we are linking our giving with other ways we worship God.

Checks can also be sent to the church office at 131 West 2nd St, Frederick, MD 21701.

Online payments can be made easily and securely by going to www.Calvaryumc.org/give/. (See QR code on the back of this bulletin) You can make a one-time gift or set up ongoing electronic payments. Please use this time to register your attendance here today in the red folders found in the pews.

*Doxology

UMH #211

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...and so, with you people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

...and so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen

*Sharing at the Lord's Table

Prayer After Receiving

GOING FORTH

*Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

*Dismissal with Blessing

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.

Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.

Hold onto hope.

And remember

that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved.

So go rejoicing.

The world needs it.

Amen.

*Postlude

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” Hymn tune “Wachet auf”

Arr. by Johann Gottfried Walther

*Going Forth



Our worship theme for Advent and Christmas is **“How does a weary world rejoice?”** and is based on ideas and materials from A Sanctified Art LLC. We spend this season looking at how the story of Jesus begins alongside the stories of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. These stories involve feelings of isolation, fear, and disbelief as well as trust, joy, and connection. Somehow, all these emotions are part of the larger story of what God is doing in the world. This Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy.

The words for the worship service are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Ushers: Dave Mills, Rick Miller, Bill Pasquerette, Susan Baggette, Paul Muehl

Acolyte: Anna Mills

Coffee Time Host: Margie Wilde

2024 Church Ministry Guide

We are updating our Church Ministry Guide of Groups and Activities and will publish the 2024 edition for distribution in January. If you have any changes or additions, please email Karen Gebhart at kgebhart1@gmail.com

Acolytes Needed: Dates have been added to the sign up list, please use this link to sign up: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4aa9a82aa4ff2-acolyte/18827003#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4aa9a82aa4ff2-acolyte/18827003#/) if you have any question please contact Stefanie Harris at jujubee820@yahoo.com

Children’s Church is for children in grades K-3, and takes place in our chapel during the worship service, immediately following the *Time with the Children*. If you would like to volunteer as a Children’s Church Adult please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949acad2fabfbc61-childrens>

If there is no adult in the chapel to lead Children’s Church, children are welcome to continue down the hall to the Nursery. For more information, please contact Amy Stone at AmyStone@calvaryumc.org

Poinsettia Orders are due **today, December 3!** Complete an order form or give the church office a call with your order. Red or White poinsettias are available at \$15 per plant.

Calling carolers of all ages! Calvary is taking part in Downtown Frederick's **Kris Kringle Procession** on **Friday, December 8.** Lineup begins at **5:30 p.m.** on South Carroll Street between East All Saints



Street and East Patrick Street at Position #11 (near the Delaplaine Arts Center near where South Carroll Street crosses over Carroll Creek) and ending at Calvary where we will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish Hall. Children will wear simple costumes, and adults and youth are encouraged to walk with us and sing Christmas carols! We would also love to have a few walking musicians in our group. Help is also needed in the Parish Hall to set up refreshments beginning at 6 p.m. Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for more information.



Please join us in the Parish Hall for **Calvary's Annual Children's Pageant** at **9 a.m. Sunday, December 10.** Dress Rehearsal is **10 a.m. – noon Saturday, December 9.** Please contact AmyStone@calvaryumc.org for more information!

Bake-A-Batch

Attention all bakers! A favorite Calvary event is coming up! Cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen or church office on **Friday, December 8** or by **9 a.m. Saturday, December 9**. Cookie trays will be available for purchase on Sunday, December 10. Please contact Julie Schwarzenberg at 240-626-7666 with any questions. Remember, all proceeds from Bake-A-Batch serve to help Jenn Esler in her rehab and to remind her she is not forgotten by her Calvary family.

Mission/Outreach

We are grateful to the church community for your ongoing support of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). So far in 2023, we have provided the funding and labor for the building of 20 beds. With our weekly delivery teams, we have assembled and delivered over 200 new beds to local children.

Next year, we will support Bed Builds on the evening of Thursday, May 9 as well as Saturday, May 18 thanks to funds donated in memory of John Slovikosky and funds in memory of Charles and Lucille Main awarded through the Community Foundation. Please join us as we honor the memory of these dear servants and continue our work so No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!

Homeless for the Holidays

As we did last year, Calvary is collecting personal hygiene items for homeless youth (boys *and* girls) during the holiday months of November and December. This project is coordinated with Student Homelessness Initiative Partnerships (SHIP), a not-for-profit organization partnering with Frederick County public schools and other organizations to assist, mentor, and encourage youth without a permanent home in our neighborhoods. A holiday wrapped box marked SHIP is in the Parish Hall (near coat rack) for collection of items donated. Please give as generously as you can help our community youth in need.

Calvary UMC will be holding a **Blood Drive from 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 6** in the Parish Hall. We are looking for blood donors. You can call or text Pastor Steve at 301-848-8216 or send a note to RevSteve@calvaryumc.org to set up an appointment or you can schedule your own donation at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=CalvaryUMCFrederick>. For several years, Calvary Church has held the largest blood drives in Frederick County and has provided lifesaving blood to thousands of people. Just an hour of your time can make a big difference in the lives of others. We also need volunteers to welcome and register donors and to provide refreshments.

Join the Sanctuary Choir on our 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Services

All are invited to join the Sanctuary Choir in singing the famous “O Holy Night” during our Christmas Eve Worship. The choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; the rehearsals are optional but will be helpful. To learn more and take part, please contact Dr. Adela Peeva at adela@calvaryumc.org. Thank you!

Dates to Remember:

Friday, December 8, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: *Celebrate Frederick's* **Kris Kringle Procession**

Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. – Noon: **Pageant Dress Rehearsal** in the Parish Hall

Saturday, December 9: **Bake a Batch** Tray Assembly in the Education Building Activity Room

Sunday, December 10, 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: **Annual Children's Christmas Pageant** in Parish Hall

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.: Advent Worship with musical offerings by all of Calvary's music ensembles: Children's and Sanctuary Choirs, Joyful Noise Ringers, Agape Ensemble & solo singers.

Thursday, December 21, 12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m.: **“Winter Solstice,”** organ and piano recital of worship and prayer music celebrating the longest night of the year, presented by Dr. Adela Peeva.

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m. Advent Worship

- 5 p.m.: Family Christmas Eve Service
- 7 p.m.: Candlelight and Communion Service
- 9 p.m.: Candlelight and Communion Service

Tuesday, December 26, 4 – 9 p.m. – Tour of Churches

Calvary Calendar for December 3~December 10

Today, Sunday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
9:45 a.m. Peal Bell
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl
11:15 a.m. Children’s Choir

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Pastor’s Bible Study
1:30 p.m. UWF Ex. Committee
6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise Handbells
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday, December 6

8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Calvary Blood Drive
6:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Study

Saturday, December 9

7:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

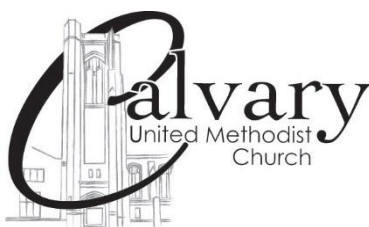
Next Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all Ages
9:45 a.m. Peal Bell
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Children’s Choir
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Prayer Concerns:

Members of Calvary: Mary Caruthers, Jackie Grimes, Basil Eavey, Peggy Griffie, Todd Main, Dick Alsmeyer, Ramona Yanike, Betty Brewer, Rita Sharpe, Nancy Dobbs, Nancy Crum, Fannie Johnson, Judy Allen, Lois Pacheco, Kitty and Nathan Robinson, Joyce Dixon, Eleanor Bowersox, Susan Howe, Reed Keirn, Raymond Crum

Friends of Calvary: John and Dottie Stenner, Donnie Green (former member), Sarah Jenkins (Sister of Mary Crum), Irene Shafer (Friend of Betsy Bryant), Cheryl Christine (Chris) Irving (Wife of Drew Irving), Patty Lockard (Weekday School Director), Steve Twiss (Brother of Margie Wilde), Allan Huffman (Son of Nancy Huffman), Brian Jones (Friend of the Linda & Scott English), Joey Nichols (Friend of Paul Nelson), Erik Karl (Son of Cathy Karl), Janet Stone (Mother of Jeff Stone), Hope Patterson and Cathy Short (Sisters of Charlotte Pasquette), Ken Kessel (Brother of Susan Baggette), Audrey Cash (Friend of Helen Sheppard), Kitty and Jack Cooley (Sister and brother-in-law of Connie Scoggins), Suzanne Simpson and Adam Shake (Sister & brother-in-law to Christy Mossburg), John and Lynn Mills (Friends of Charles Geisbert), Linda Horinie Henke (Niece of Charles Geisbert), Alice, Marion and Becky Woodward, family members of Rita Sharpe, Virginia Painter Floyd, Jill Sizemore, Anne Hovis, Gil Crippen, Rhonda Wills, Ann Kushick, Jim Clark, June Tucker and family, friends of Rita Sharpe



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Church Staff

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Joyce Summers, pianist

Calvary Weekday School

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or visit our website at www.calvaryumc.org/give