

**CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

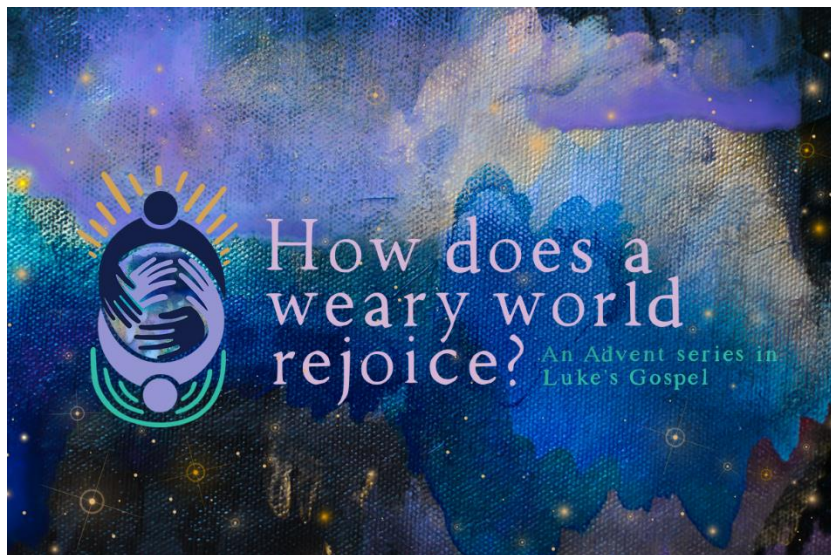
131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-662-1464 • [www.calvaryumc.org](http://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 31, 2023

Sunday of Christmas Season 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Prelude

“Fantasia”

setting by Jennifer Lin  
Dr. Adela Peeva, pianist

Welcome and announcements

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*Call to Worship

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

**Every month we break bread.**

Every week we gather for worship.

**Every day we count our blessings.**

Every minute God is near.

**Yes, every minute God is near.**

These are the rituals of our faith.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

\*Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH #230

## Call to Confession

Church family, our faith is decorated with rituals and rhythms that help tie us to God. Confession is one of those rituals. Every week we gather in this space and tell the truth about our lives. And every week God hears our prayers and offers us grace. This holy dance of confession and mercy is one of the many rituals I could not live without. So let us embrace this holy tradition together. Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of rhythms, we confess: Our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray, Amen.**

## Forgiveness and Pardon

Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. *Every single week* we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace. So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel!

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Epistle Lesson                      Revelation 21:1-6a                                              Beth Strakonsky

Special Music                                      "Sing We Now of Christmas"    arr. by Cathy Moglebust  
William Davy, Handbells soloist

\*Gospel Lesson                      Luke 2:21-38                                              Beth Strakonsky

## \*Response

The word of God for the people of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## Time With the Children

Amy Stone

*Following the Time with the Children, all children in K-3<sup>rd</sup> 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                                      "In the Bleak Midwinter"                                              UMH #221

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?  
We root ourselves in ritual

Time for Reflection and Commitment

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory “Christmas Medley” setting by Sam Ellison

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Frederick, MD 21701. Online payments can be made easily and securely by going to [www.Calvaryumc.org/give/](http://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 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” UMH #229  
*We invite those who have a birthday in December to come forward for blessing during the singing of the hymn.*

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude “In Dulci Jubilo” by J. S. Bach

\*Going Forth

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Our worship theme for Advent and Christmas this year is called, “**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 opening prayer was written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com/2013/12/17/advent-3-worship-pieces/>.

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

**Acolyte:** Laurali Gough

**Coffee Time Hosts:** Beth Strakonsky

**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#/> If you have any questions please contact Stefanie Harris at [jujubee820@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org)

**Tour of the Churches** – A special THANKS to Roy, Frank, and Mark for their donation of the food for those who toured our church. They started chopping, peeling, deboning chicken and preparing the soup the day before the tour and buying ingredients days before. At 8 a.m. the day of the tour, they had their team on kitchen duty and never stopped until 9 p.m. The success of this would not have happened without ALL the volunteers who helped and contributed to this preparation of this delicious soup and cookies. Thanks to Dianna and Kay who organized the tour for the guests from a lighted walkway, handouts, changing candles and making certain that volunteers were in place to greet the guests. It would not have been successful without the beautiful music arranged by Dr. Adela Peeva – and there were so many compliments about how moving it was. The congregation is what makes Calvary so special! We all have so much to be proud of about our church!

**2024 Wish List:** Do you have an artificial Christmas tree you no longer need? Or maybe you plan to replace your tree and your old tree needs a home. We are in need of trees to replace those that have fallen in disrepair. Just drop off your tree by the stage in Parish Hall. Thank you in advance for helping keep our church beautiful for Christmas next year.

## New Church Information Cards



Available at the Welcome Center in Parish Hall, we now have business cards with key information for distribution. The card provides a QR code to our website, Sunday church service times, and other details. These are perfect to hand out to anyone visiting our church, or you may take some to give to prospective visitors you may know.

### Prayer Concerns:

**Members of Calvary:** Marilyn Moyers, Josie Cottone, 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

## Week of December 31 ~ January 7

### Today, Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

### Monday, January 1

Happy New Year

### Tuesday, January 2

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

1:30 p.m. UWF Ex. Committee

6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise Ringers

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Wednesday, January 3

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

### Thursday, January 4

5:30 p.m. The Birthing Group

### Saturday, January 6

9:30 a.m. WRS

### Next Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

## Events in January at Calvary:

Monday, January 8 – Organ Installation Begins

Saturday, January 13 – Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.



### Sunday, January 14, 2024

Romantic, Impressionist, and Jazz Music for Harp and Piano

Award-winning international musicians, Dr. Iraida Poberezhnaya, harpist, and Dr. Ildar Khannanov, pianist, will delight you with music from the romantic, romantic-contemporary, impressionist, and jazz eras. Don't miss *Introduction and Allegro* by Ravel, Tchaikovsky's *Nata Waltz*, *Americans in Paris with Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin, and more.



Donations for our **Love Bags** will be collected throughout the month of January, and will be assembled by Calvary's Children in Sunday School and during Mission Possible Kids.

We will be collecting:

small candies and mints

wipes

lotions

decorations

small notepads

small stuffed animals

pens/pencils

chapsticks

crossword/activity books

tissues/wet

small hand

cheery

small \$ store gifts

Help will be needed to deliver love bags to 90 or more recipients during the month of February!



**Veggie Tale Movie Night** is happening on **Friday, January 19** from **6 pm-7 pm**, in the Activities Room of the Education Building. Join us for pizza, a movie, discussion, a craft and more! Wear your pajamas and bring a blanket if you'd like! Please register by contacting [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org).

## Bible Sunday



January 28, 2024

**Sunday, January 28** is **Bible Sunday** – the special day when 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will receive their very own Bible from Calvary!

9:00 Bible Unwrapping Ceremony in the Chapel followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

10:00 Blessing Over the New Bibles with Pastor Steve during the Worship Service

If your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, you should receive an email from Amy Stone with more details about *Bible Sunday*. If your child is older than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade but has not yet received their own Bible from Calvary, they are also included! Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) to let me know!



**Mission Possible Kids** is for kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade who want to help others and make a difference in the world!

**MPK** will meet on **Sunday, January 28** from **5:30 – 7:00 pm** in the Activities Room of the Education Building to put together Love Bags and to help out with other tasks. Join us! Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information and to order a Mission Possible Kids t-shirt.



We are hoping to take a church group to see the live onstage performance of

**DANIEL** at *Sight and Sound Theater* in Lancaster PA!

August 10, 2024 at 11:00 am (leaving Frederick at 7:45 am)

Tickets are already selling out fast – please let Amy Stone know by January 15 if you and your family would like to join us! (Adults \$89, Children 12 and under \$39)

<https://www.sight-sound.com/shows/lancaster/daniel/2024>



131 West Second Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
301-662-1464 or [office@calvaryumc.org](mailto:office@calvaryumc.org)

## **Church Staff**

Rev. Dr. Steve Larsen, Lead Pastor  
[revsteve@calvaryumc.org](mailto:revsteve@calvaryumc.org) or 301-848-8216

Rev. Ken Humbert, Visitation Pastor  
[revkenh@starpower.net](mailto:revkenh@starpower.net)

Dr. Adela Peeva, Director of Music Ministries  
[adela@calvaryumc.org](mailto:adela@calvaryumc.org)

Jenn Duthoy, Director of Youth Ministries  
[calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org](mailto:calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org)

Amy Stone, Director of Children's Ministry  
[AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org)

Cathy Baker, Office Manager  
[cathybaker@calvaryumc.org](mailto:cathybaker@calvaryumc.org)

Bob Jacobs, Financial Secretary  
[bobjacobs@calvaryumc.org](mailto:bobjacobs@calvaryumc.org)

Paul Metcalf, Custodian  
[paulmetcalf@calvaryumc.org](mailto:paulmetcalf@calvaryumc.org)

Joyce Summers, pianist

## **Calvary Weekday School**

133 West Second Street, Frederick MD 21701  
301-662-6783 ~ [www.calvaryweekdayschool.com](http://www.calvaryweekdayschool.com)

Patricia Lockard, Director  
[director@calvaryweekdayschool.com](mailto:director@calvaryweekdayschool.com)

Olivia Watkins, Administrative Assistant  
[calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com](mailto:calvaryweekdayschool@calvaryweekdayschool.com)



Use this code to give online,  
or visit our website at [www.calvaryumc.org/give](http://www.calvaryumc.org/give)