

**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 29, 2024

Sunday of Christmas

10:00 A.M. Worship Service



**We Celebrate Our Presence Together: Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The gift of HOPE is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word.

The gift of Christ's PEACE reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations.

The gift of JOY is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things.

The gift of LOVE is the call to each of us as Jesus' disciples.

The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

The gift of Christ's LIGHT is the declaration that we are never alone.

The gift we recognize today is the gift of ASSURANCE.

With Christ in each of us, these other gifts continue to be with us and available for us to give to others.

**We light these candles as a sign that we will be Present with Assurance in the world.**

Prayer of Presence

Let us pray:

**Holy Living Light of God,  
you are our Reassuring Presence.  
Let this assurance grow in our lives each day,  
so we can be a Present of Assurance to others.  
Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.**

**The Word Present Among Us: Proclaiming**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism Emmett Thomas Christian  
Son of Caitlin and Jameson Christian

Introduction and Presentation of the Candidate

Renunciation of Sin and Baptismal Vows

*The pastor addresses parents:*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:  
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world,  
and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
In union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church,  
that by your teaching and example he may be guided  
to accept God's grace for themselves,  
to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,  
reaffirm both your rejection  
of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith  
and life and include these persons now before you  
in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround this child  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that he may grow in his trust of God,  
and be found faithful in service to others.**

**We will pray for him,  
that he may be true disciples  
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Eternal God: when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your spirit.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare God's works to the nations,  
the Lord's glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin, and clothe him in righteousness through his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

## Baptism With Laying On of Hands

### Commendation and Welcome

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sibling in Christ. Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you  
in the body of Christ and  
in this congregation of  
The United Methodist Church,**

**We renew our covenant faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, and our service, and our witness  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

\*Carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" UMH #229

Reading "Where the Light Begins"  
Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

New Testament Lesson Galatians 4:4-7 Rick Miller

Readings "Christmas Night"  
"Mary's Prayer"  
Max Lucado, *God Came Near*

Carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" UMH #221

Readings "The Child Is Born Again"  
"It Is Not Over"  
Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

\*Gospel Lesson Luke 2:22-40 Rick Miller

\*Response

The word of God for the people of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Time With the Children

*God's Holy Darkness,*  
Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick

*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.*

\*Carol

“Away in a Manger”

UMH # 217

**Fully Present in the Moment: Praying**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

*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

UMH #221 (st. 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Present to the World: Sending**

Reading

“Putting Away the Bows”  
*An Upper Room devotion by June M. Boone*

\*Closing Carol

“What Child Is This”

UMH # 219

*Those who have a birthday in the month of December are invited to come forward to the chancel rail for a blessing.*

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude

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Our worship series throughout the season of Advent and Christmas is called “The Gift of Being Present.” It is based on a theme and materials from [WorshipDesignStudios.com](http://WorshipDesignStudios.com). The scripture lessons this month remind us that “the Holy One is with you” and of God’s gift of being present to us in the child born in Bethlehem. This year, we are invited to offer the gift of being present to God, to our loved ones, to our community and to those who need it most.

**Ushers:** Paul Nelson, Bill Pasquerette, Bret Slovikosky, Paul Muehl, Dave Mills

**Coffee Host:** Margie Wilde

**Acolyte:** Briella Lozinski

**Children's Sunday School for Preschool 3-Year-Olds through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders.** Join us for songs, snacks, crafts and Bible learning! We meet in the Activities Room of the Education Building from **9:00 - 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.** For more information, please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) or sign up using this link: <https://calvaryfrederick.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/113/responses/new>

**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- 5th, and meets in the chapel following the **Time with the Children.** Children's Church is now incorporating many elements of our traditional service so that children are interactively engaging in worship, just on a smaller scale.

### Looking Ahead: Special Epiphany Study

The Old Timers & Newcomers Bible study group, that meets at **9 a.m. Sunday mornings** in the conference room of Calvary's Administrative Building, will have a special study of the Gospel of John during the Epiphany season for eight weeks, beginning January 5. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Veggie Tale Movie Night** is happening from **6 – 7 p.m. Friday, January 17** 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 pillow and blanket if you'd like. Please register by contacting [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org)



**Mission Possible Kids** next meeting will be **5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Sunday, January 26** in the Activities Room of the Education Building to assemble LOVE BAGS! Join us! Please contact [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information and to order a Mission Possible Kids t-shirt.



### Pajama Drive for Heartly House

Since 1979 Heartly House has been the only organization in Frederick County, MD that provides comprehensive services – free of charge – to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and child abuse. Fleeing for their safety, many come with nothing in hand. To sleep comfortably, especially that first crucial evening, they need night clothes. Calvary is holding a **Valentine Drive for NEW pajamas** – women's and children's – all sizes and some non-gender specific. As you notice after-Christmas sales be sure to look out for new pajamas to donate to this important cause. A container will be available on the Parish Hall stage from January through February for donations. Please package your selections in clear plastic bags to help their distribution.

## December 29, 2024~January 5, 2025

Today, Sunday December 29

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!!

Church Office Closed

Next Sunday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Children's Choir

11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

\*\*Please make sure to pick up your poinsettia by Monday, December 30 from the sanctuary or the parish hall.

### Prayer Concerns:

#### **Members of Calvary:**

Jim Dobbs, Patricia Pettingall, Rev. Ken Humbert, Mike Isaacs, Jackie Grimes, Helen Alysmeyer, Nancy Huffman, Gracie Heller, Joyce Dixon, Lois Pacheco, Rita Sharpe, Ann Crum, Marilyn Moyers, Peggy Griffie, Ramona Yanike, Nancy Dobbs, Judy Allen, John Stenner, Paul Metcalf

#### **Friends of Calvary:**

Isla (Granddaughter to Friends of Pat and Dave Herber), Ruth Spring (Friend of Stephanie Felton), Dom Norris (Friend of Drew Irving), Waldo Blake (Father of Melissa Rust), Jan Nefflen (Friend of Peggy Rhoderick), Cassidy Noble (Niece of Brad and Jennie Davy), Eileen Morrow (Cousin of Karen Gebhart), Angela Gorens (Friend of Stephanie Felton), Jerry Black (Son-in-law of Betsy Bryant), Drew Wilson, Marie Slovikosky Miller, and Mike Miller (Brother and Sister-in-law of Nancy Slovikosky), Sarah Jenkins (Sister of Mary Crum), Cheryl Christine (Chris) Irving (Wife of Drew Irving), Allan Huffman (Son of Nancy Huffman), Brian Jones (Friend of the Linda & Scott English), Scott Berry, Janet Stone (Mother of Jeff Stone), Hope Patterson and Cathy Short (Sisters of Charlotte Pasquerette), Ken Kessel (Brother of Susan Baggette), Audrey Cash (Friend of Helen Sheppard), Kitty Cooley (Sister of Connie Scoggins), Suzanne Simpson and Adam Shake (Sister & brother-in-law to Christy Mossburg), Alice and Becky Woodward (Family of Rita Sharpe), Virginia Painter Floyd, Jill and Tracy Sizemore, Gil Crippen, Jim Clark, Ida Durden, and Janella Walls, Louise Brieto (Family Members and Friends of Rita Sharpe)



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## **Church Staff**

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Paul Metcalf, Custodian  
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Joyce Summers, pianist

## **Calvary Weekday School**

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To give online visit our website at [www.calvaryumc.org/give](http://www.calvaryumc.org/give)