

**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.*

January 5, 2025                      Sunday before the Epiphany                      10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Prelude

“The First Noel”

by William B. Sandys  
Karen Gebhart, organist

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Welcome, announcements

\*Call to Worship (read responsively)

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last:  
gathered together for worship!

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come.”

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.**

\*Hymn

“There’s a Song in the Air”

UMH #249

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod:

- whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,  
find our own need for control more compelling

than the needs of others for health and safety.

- whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,  
rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.

- whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents  
for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know,  
and to change, the injustices of this world.

**Loving God,**

**we confess our sins against you and one another.**

**We pray that you will fill us with your light,  
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,  
without counting the cost.**

**In the name of Christ,**

**the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's light is present in this world.

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.**

**We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

David Cline

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

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 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

“O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair”

UMH #258

Sermon

Rev. Steve Larsen

Time for Reflection and Commitment

## Pastoral Prayer

### We Offer Our Gifts and Tithes

*Our giving is a joyful and prayerful response to God's gifts to us.*

*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/). 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.*

### Offertory

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Text and music by John Henry Hopkins

Sanctuary Choir, Joyce Summers, pianist

### \*Doxology

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!**

### \*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 (unison)

*Please pray this prayer using the words that are closest to you heart:*

**Our Father/Mother/Parent,**

**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

\*Hymn "This is the Day of New Beginnings" UMH #383  
(verses 1-4)

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude "I Wonder As I Wander" by John Jacob Niles  
Karen Gebhart, organist

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The Prayer of Confession used in this service was *written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH, on <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>.*

**Ushers:** Terre Rhoderick, Drew Irving, Bret Slovikosky, Paul Muehl, Dave Mills

**Coffee Host:** David Cline

**Ushers Needed** please contact Dave Mills at [dacmills78@gmail.com](mailto:dacmills78@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming an usher.

**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#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4aa9a82aa4ff2-acolyte/18827003#/) If you have any questions please contact Stefanie Harris at [jujube820@yahoo.com](mailto:jujube820@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.

## Special Epiphany Study

The Old Timers & Newcomers Bible study group that meets at **9 a.m. Sundays** 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 today, 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 providing 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.



**Sunday, January 12, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

Marjory Serrano-Coyer, violinist and Dr. Hsin-Yi Chen, pianist  
Calvary UMC's 2024-2025 Community Concert Series presents Dr. Marjory Serrano-Coyer, violinist, and Dr. Hsin-Yi Chen, pianist, for an unforgettable musical journey called "Tranquil Turbulence: A Musical Odyssey."



**Calvary UMC Community Concert Series presents:**

***Anna Lapwood, organist ~ April 13, 2025 at 4 p.m.***

From the United Kingdom, international sensation and star Anna Lapwood will present a mix of classical and contemporary organ favorites. Known for her passion to bring organ music to the masses with the goal of making it relevant and fun, Anna will delight and entertain as she engages all the colors and sounds of Calvary UMC's new Zimmer pipe organ. Anna is an associate at the Royal Albert Hall (London) and is director of music at Pembroke College (Cambridge).

**THIS WILL BE A TICKETED EVENT DUE TO ANNA'S POPULARITY AND WE EXPECT TO FILL ALL SEATS IN THE SANCTUARY AND BALCONY.**

Calvary congregant members may request complimentary tickets during the month of January only by emailing Joyce Summers at [jsummers@calvaryumc.org](mailto:jsummers@calvaryumc.org) or by leaving a voice mail at 301.606.8007. Please include the name(s) of each person in your email or voice mail. These complimentary tickets are intended for Calvary congregant members only; please do not request tickets for others who are not members. On February 1, 2025, tickets will go on sale to the general public via a ticketing website. There will not be tickets available at the door on April 13.

If you're not familiar with Anna, check out her Facebook page, her TikTok or Instagram page, or search her name on YouTube. She has hundreds of thousands of followers and she performs all over the world. Calvary is extremely fortunate to have secured a date in her 2025 U.S. tour.

**January 5, 2025~January 12, 2025**

Today, 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

Monday, January 6

7:00 p.m. SPRC

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 11

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service Joyce Dixon

Next Sunday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Reconciling Ministry Team  
11:15 a.m. Children's Choir  
3:00 p.m. Concert  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

## **Prayer Concerns:**

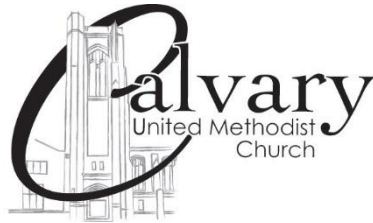
**Recent Passing:** Joyce Dixon, Mary Caruthers, Father of Roy Schwarzenberg

## **Members of Calvary:**

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

## **Friends of Calvary:**

Jan Bates (Aunt to Leisa Moyer), 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), Kassidy 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 (Sister 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)