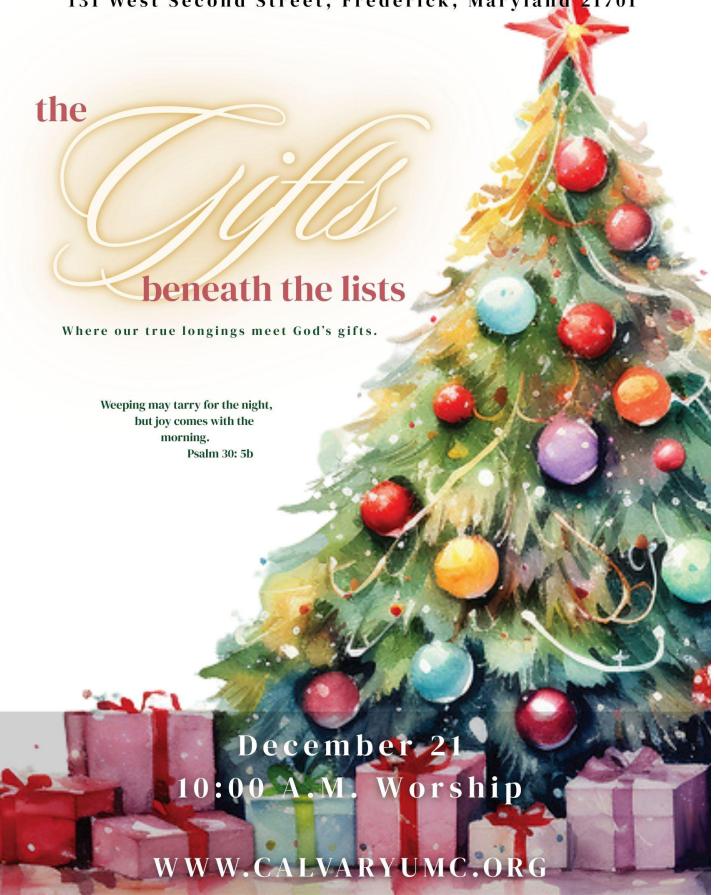
Calvary United Methodist Church 131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701 www.CalvaryUMC.org Facebook & Instagram @CalvaryUMCFred

Your presence is an offering to God. Please take a moment to record your participation in worship on the welcome pad located at the end of the pew and pass to your neighbor. This is a great place to leave prayer joys, concerns or notes for the pastoral staff as they are reviewed each week in the office.

GATHERING HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH #230

WELCOME

Beth Strakonsky, Worship Leader

PRELUDE & BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

"O Come All Ye Faithful" with "O Come, Little Children" John Francis Wade Bonnie Moore, guest organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the fullness of time, God came to us in a child.

People: We come to worship the One who brings life, healing, and salvation.

Leader: In a crowded world and a humble manger, God's love took on flesh.

People: We come to make room for Christ, who saves, restores, and renews. All: Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us again and lead us into your saving love.

*OPENING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY- The Candle of Love / Salvation

Leader: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of Love, the candle that shines with the promise of salvation.

Reader 1: In the most unexpected place, God's saving love broke into the world.

Reader 2: This candle reminds us that salvation is not an idea but a person, Christ, born for us.

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that God's love comes quietly, tenderly, and with great purpose.

(Light the fourth candle.)

People: Come, Lord Jesus. Let your saving love take root in our lives and shine through us to the world. Amen.

MINISTRY INVITATION & CELEBRATIONS

FAMILY TIME

Children's Church is for children ages 4 - 5th Grade and meets in the Chapel immediately following Family Time in the service.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

"Mary's Boy Child" Monica Smith & Angie Killian Joyful Voices

OFFERING PRAYER

Saving God, your love enters the world in humility and grace. As we bring our gifts to you today, may they reflect our gratitude for the salvation you freely offer. Use these offerings to share your love with those who hunger, your comfort with those who grieve, and your hope with all who seek you. Amen.

Offertory

"Advent Hope" Joyful Noise Handbells

Derek K. Hakes

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Saving God, we thank you for the love that took on flesh and entered the world in the quiet glow of a manger. You draw close to us in our longing, meeting our deepest needs with your steadfast, redeeming grace. Thank you for the salvation that restores what is broken, heals what is wounded, and gathers us into the fullness of your life. As we approach the holy mystery of Christ's birth, help us to make room in our hearts for the transforming power of your love. Let this salvation take root in us, shaping our compassion, guiding our choices, and sending us into the world as bearers of your light. Fill us with gratitude for all you have done and all you continue to do through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER HYMN

"Noel"

Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, & Ed Cash Agape; Lainey Davey, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

ANTHEM "Come, Emmanuel" Nancy Price & Don Besig

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Laura Hunter

MESSAGE "The Christmas Gift of Salvation" Rev. Dr. Hutton

The Christmas Gift of Love

*CLOSING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238

CARRYING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE "How Great Our Joy" with "Joy to the World!"

German Melody, arr. Dick Torrans

*Congregation stands, in body, heart or spirit.

Ushers: Bill Pasquerette, Mark MacDonald, Paul Muehl, Dave Mills

Coffee Host: David Cline Acolyte: Josephine Lozinski

% Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube @CalvaryUMCFred Services are livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube weekly



Want to receive our weekly e-news? You can get a "Between Sundays", announcement of upcoming events, prayer concerns and other great information each Tuesday. Just send an email request to office@calvaryumc.org, sign up at https://calvaryumc.org/newsletter/, or the scan the QR code to the left.

Stay Connected & Support Calvary through Online Giving

Scan the QR code to give online or to update your contact information in our Calvary database. Keeping your information current helps us stay connected as a church family — and your gifts help us shine Christ's light in our community. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! www.calvaryumc.org/give





JOIN THE CALVARY LIVE STREAM TEAM!

You don't need to be a tech expert — if you can use a smartphone, you already have the skills! We are looking for more volunteers so we can create a simple rotation (just once every 3–4 months) to help share Calvary's ministry on Facebook and YouTube. If you're curious or would like to try it, please speak with Rob Summers or Dr. Hutton. They would love to show you how it works.



December Love Offering – This month's Love Offering supports SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) to be distributed to Frederick County students facing housing insecurities.

You are also invited to give toward this special offering by placing your gift in the offering plate and noting **Love Offering** in the memo line. You may also give directly online using the QR code above- again, please mark **Love Offering** in the memo line.

Please see the attached list of items that are most needed.

- Ethnic Hair Care Products
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent
- Razors
- Face Wash
- Hand Soap
- First Aid Items
- Dental Floss

- Mouthwash
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Feminine Hygiene Products (Pads)
- Body Lotion
- Hair Brushes
- Hair Ties
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

New and sealed items only, please do not donate used hygiene items.

Thank you for supporting our church's work of showing God's Love, especially to HIS vulnerable children who are homeless. If you have any questions please reach out to Beth Stitely Autumn.purple@hotmail.com or 301-730-8282.



A Reminder to all Professing & Preparatory members...

Today is the final day to participate in the vote regarding Calvary becoming a Reconciling Congregation within the Reconciling Ministries Network. If you have not yet cast your ballot, there is still time. Please visit Parish Hall after worship to submit your vote.

Thank you for taking part in this important moment in the life and direction of our church. Your voice matters.

This Week at Calvary December 21 ~ December 28

Sunday, December 21

- 8:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
- 10 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas to All!

Tuesday, December 23

- 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study- Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells- Bell Room 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- Choir Room

Friday, December 26

3 p.m.-8 p.m.

Candlelight Tour of Historical House of Worship

Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve

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

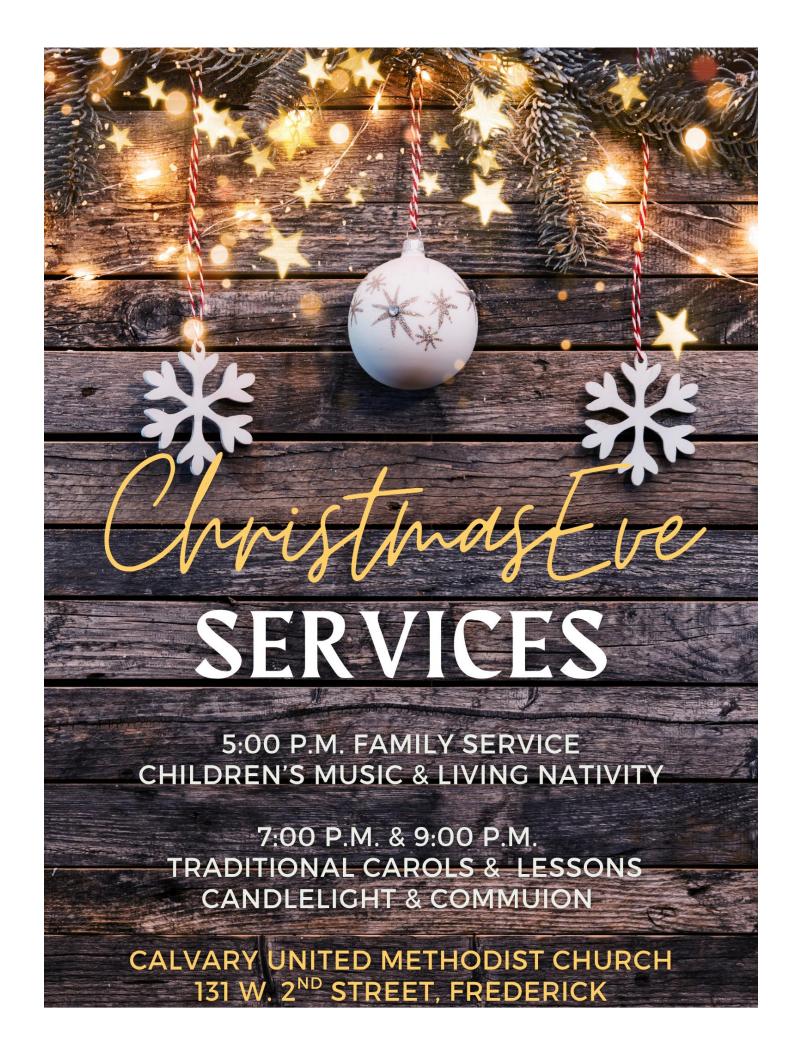
Sunday, December 28

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship- Sanctuary

Prayer Concerns:

Members of Calvary: Tom Kellam, Carol Fennington, Judy Johnson, Becky Acklin, Lois Tyson, Lois Pacheco, Tom Mullineaux, Charlie Geisbert, Jim Dobbs, Patricia Pettingall, Mike Isaacs, Helen Alysmeyer, Nancy Huffman, Gracie Heller, Jack Heller, Rita Sharpe, Ann Crum, Marilyn Moyers, Peggy Griffee, Nancy Dobbs, Susan Howe, Josie Manger, Marietta and Gina Anderson

Friends of Calvary: Bob and Paula Biser daughter, Krista, Angie Miller (Mother of David Petrucci), Zintis Muiznieck (Family member of Paul Nelson), Leanne and Albert Hutton, Paul Landers (Friend of Stephanie Felton) Melissa Gekas (Friend of Stephanie Felton), The Moldenda Family (Stephen Harris sister's family), Patrick Henry and Joe Birch (Friend of Paul Nelson), Judy Keys (Charlie Geisbert Caregiver), Charlotte Woodward (Friend of Betsy Bryant), Charles LeMaster (Father of Didi Willard), Chris Cubby (Friend of Paul Nelson), Lillian Schwarzenberg (Mother of Roy Schwarzenberg), Wendi Cyford (Friend of Angie and Eric Anderson), Marcy (Friend of Julie Schwarzenberg), Agnes Dobson (Mother of Grace Dobson), Dom Norris (Friend of Drew Irving), Jan Nefflen (Friend of Peggy Rhoderick), Angela Gorens (Friend of Stephanie Felton), Drew Wilson, Marie Slovikosky Miller (Sister-in-law of Nancy Slovikosky), Cheryl Christine (Chris) Irving (Wife of Drew Irving), Allan Huffman (Son of Nancy Huffman), Brian Jones (Friend of the Linda & Scott English), Janet Stone (Mother of Jeff Stone), Hope Patterson (Sister of Charlotte Pasquerette), Kitty Cooley (Sister of Connie Scoggins), Gil Crippen, Jim Clark, Ida Durden, and Janella Walls, Louise Brieto (Family Members and Friends of Rita Sharpe)



December 24 - Christmas Eve at Calvary

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service & Living Nativity

All children are invited to take part in our Living Nativity during this very family-friendly service. Arrive at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for costume fitting with Ms. Amy and our helpers. No rehearsal or speaking parts required, children simply join the Nativity as we sing carols and tell the Christmas story. This service is joyful, memorable, and the perfect way for families to welcome Christmas together.

7:00 & 9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services

Join us for beautiful worship featuring:

• Traditional Christmas carols • Scripture lessons • Holy Communion • Candlelight as we welcome the Christ Child

December 26 • 3:00-8:00 p.m. Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship

Experience Frederick's historic churches adorned for Christmas. Wander through sanctuaries illuminated by candlelight, enjoy seasonal music, view nativity displays, and take in the beauty of the holiday season. Calvary is honored to participate in this beloved community tradition.

December Missions & Love Offerings

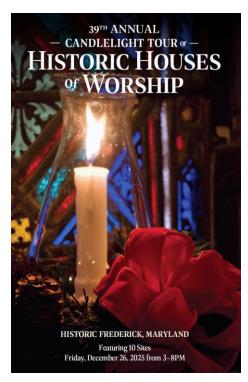
Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP)

This month we are supporting local youth experiencing housing instability through a Hygiene Collection and Love Offering.

You may donate:

Shampoo • Soap • Deodorant • Toothpaste • Toothbrushes
 Other personal care essentials

These items offer dignity and comfort to students facing daily challenges in our own community. Monetary love offerings may also be designated for SHIP. Thank you for your generosity and compassion during this season of giving.



The beloved Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's stunning architecture, local history, and the holiday season from 3 – 8 p.m. Friday, **December 26**. This is Frederick's most popular church tour and is a great opportunity to step inside some of its most beautiful buildings.

As the sun begins to set, visitors can tour many of Frederick's famous clustered spires and other historic houses of worship by candlelight. Guests will be welcomed with special programs, angelic choirs, and nativity scenes.

Looking for volunteers for the Candlelight Tour, please sign up in the Parish Hall at the Welcome Center.

Calling All Christmas Treats!

As you tidy up from Christmas and wonder why you baked 47 dozen cookies... we have the perfect solution!

Calvary UMC is collecting cookies and candies for the **Tour of** Churches on December 26. These sweet treats will help round out the soup we serve to our visitors.

If you would like to share any of your holiday goodies, please drop them off before 3 p.m. Friday, December 26.

Thank you for adding a little more sweetness to the season!







Calvary, you continue to shine. Each year, the interest earned from our RS Will investments allows us to make a tangible impact in the lives of our neighbors near and far. This week, our Missions Team finalized the 2025 Interest Account Disbursement, sharing \$14,600 across twelve incredible mission partners who are doing transformational work in our community and beyond.

These gifts support everything from beds for children in need, to food and shelter, to safety, education, and disaster relief. They represent the heart of who we are as a church, a people committed to serving with generosity, compassion, and hope.

A huge word of gratitude to our Missions Leadership, **Pat and Dave Herber**, and to the entire Missions Team for their faithful discernment and steady hands throughout this process. Their dedication makes Calvary's outreach strong, consistent, and deeply rooted in Christ's call to love our neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about mission opportunities here at Calvary, whether you're ready to serve, give, or simply explore, Pat and Dave would love to connect with you. You can reach them anytime at Missions@calvaryumc.org.

Thank you, Calvary, for being a church that shows up for the city we love. This is ministry well done. -- Dr. Hutton

Partnership Recipient	Amount
Ashe County North Carolina Hurricane Helene Relief	\$ 500
Beyond Shelter – Frederick Cold Weather Shelter	\$ 2,000
Blessings In a Backpack, Frederick	\$ 1,000
Children Of Incarcerated Parents (COIP)	\$ 500
Frederick Food Bank	\$ 2,000
Frederick Rescue Mission & Faith House	\$ 1,500
Heartly House	\$ 1,500
Mission Central	\$ 500
Mission of Mercy	\$ 500
Student Homeless Initiative Partnership	\$ 1,000
Sleep In Heavenly Peace - Beds for Henderson Settlement	\$ 2,600
Supporting Older Adults through Resources, Inc. (SOAR)	\$ 500
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	\$ 500
	\$14,600



Stewardship Update — Every Light Matters!

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign continues to grow, and I am grateful to share three additional pledges were received this week, totaling \$4,628. This brings our new total to:

Updated Commitments to Date: \$393,178

What a beautiful sign of faithfulness from this congregation. Every card, every response, every prayer offered for this church helps us move closer to our 2026 goal of \$652,677. We are well on our way, and we are getting there together.

Haven't turned in your commitment card yet? There is still time! Your participation matters deeply. Whether you give weekly, monthly, annually, or through commitments of prayers, presence, service, and witness, your response helps Calvary plan faithfully and boldly for a new year of:

- vibrant worship and music,
- compassionate mission and outreach,
- pastoral care,
- children's and youth ministries,
- community partnerships,
- and the daily work of shining Christ's light into Frederick.

Even if your financial situation feels uncertain, returning your card, indicating the ways you will support Calvary in 2026, strengthens our shared ministry.

You may return your card by:

- Placing it in the offering plate this Sunday
- Mailing it to the church office
- Submitting your commitment online with the code



Light For the City - Stewardsh

Every pledge brings us closer. Every response strengthens our ministry. Thank you for the love you carry for this church, for your generosity, and for the ways you help us keep shining together.

Grace and peace, Dr. Hutton



131 West Second Street Frederick, Maryland 21701 301-662-1464 ~ office@calvaryumc.org

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Beth Hutton, Senior Pastor Rev. Ken Humbert, Visitation Pastor

<u>bhutton@calvaryumc.org</u> <u>revkenh@starpower.net</u>

Jenn Duthoy, Director of Youth Ministries Amy Stone, Director of Children's Ministry

Cathy Baker, Office Manager Sharon Brown, Financial Secretary

<u>cathybaker@calvaryumc.org</u> <u>finance@calvaryumc.org</u>

Brenda Weiser, Interim Director of Music Ministries and Organist bweiser@calvaryumc.org

Paul Metcalf, Custodian Joyce Summers, Pianist

jsummers@calvaryumc.org



Calvary Weekday School

133 West Second Street, Frederick MD 21701 301-662-6783 ~ www.calvaryweekdayschool.com

Patricia Lockard, Director director@calvaryweekdayschool.com

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