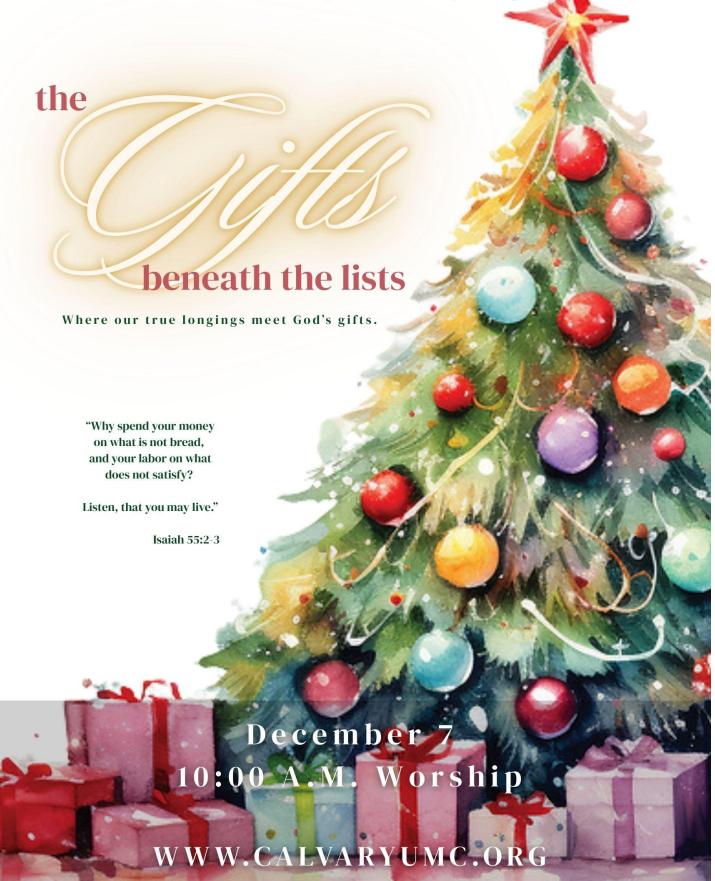
Calvary United Methodist Church 131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701



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

"Bring Forth the Kingdom"

TFWS #2190

WELCOME

Karen Gebhart, Worship Leader

PRELUDE & BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Marilyn Bierly

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the midst of our hurried days and heavy hearts, Christ speaks a word of freedom.

People: We come longing for release, from fear, from hurry, from all that binds us.

Leader: The One who opens eyes and lifts burdens is drawing near.

People: We come to receive the freedom only God can give.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, free us to hope, to trust, to follow, and to live as your people.

*OPENING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY- The Candle of Peace/Freedom

Leader: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace, a sign of the freedom Christ brings.

Reader 1: When John's disciples asked if Jesus was the One, Jesus answered with freedom: the blind see, the lame walk, the oppressed are lifted.

Reader 2: This candle reminds us that Christ breaks chains, seen and unseen, and invites us into a life of spacious grace.

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that Christ comes to set our hearts free.

People: Come, Lord Jesus. Break open our narrow places and lead us into your peace. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of liberating love, you free us from fear and call us into generosity. As we bring our gifts today, release us from whatever keeps us clinging to what we think we need. Make these offerings signs of your freedom, healing for the hurting, comfort for the weary, and hope for all who long for your peace. Amen

Offertory

"Come Quickly Lord" Sanctuary Choir Anne McNair

*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

Merciful God, we confess that we are not always open to the freedom you offer. We cling to worries that do not nourish, we chase after things that cannot satisfy, and we carry burdens you long to lift. In the rush of this season, we fill our lives with lists and noise, forgetting your invitation to come, listen, and live. Forgive us for the ways we bind ourselves, to fear, to hurry, to habits keeping us from your peace. Set us free from all that weighs us down and open our hearts to the gift of Christ's liberating love. As we come to your table, restore us with your grace, renew us with your mercy, and lead us into the spacious freedom of your Spirit.

PRAYER HYMN

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

UMH #221

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.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:1-6

Cindy Mills

MESSAGE

"The Christmas Gift of Freedom (PEACE)"

Rev. Dr. Beth Hutton

SACRAMENT OF HOLY 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Come, Share the Lord"

TFWS #2269

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

"Bring Forth the Kingdom"

TFWS #2190

CARRYING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

"Toccata in G Major"

William Pachelbel

*Congregation stands, in body, heart or spirit.

*WIFI PASSWORD: 131Guest

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

Coffee Host: Leisa Moyer Acolyte: William Harris

% 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



November Love Offering – This month's Love Offering supports the Frederick Foodbank. Frederick Foodbank needs non-perishable foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats and fish, juices and drinks, pasta products, canned soups, rice and other staples. The Foodbank also needs personal hygiene supplies and childcare items such as shampoo, towels, washcloths, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable diapers, and baby food. Please place your donations in the wheelbarrow outside the Parish Hall doors.

You are also invited to give toward this special offering by placing your gift in the offering plate and nothing **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.



During December, we will be collecting hygiene items to support SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) to be distributed to Frederick County students facing housing insecurities.

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.

A gift-wrapped collection box will be located near the Parish Hall where you can place your donations. Thank you for supporting our church's work of showing God's Love, especially to HIS vulnerable children who are homeless. Any questions please reach out to Beth Stitely Autumn.purple@hotmail.com 301-730-8282

Children's Ministry



Calvary will be participating in *Frederick's Kris Kringle Procession* on Friday, December 12. Lineup begins at 5:30 p.m. on South Carroll Street between

East Patrick and East All Saints Street **Calvary will line up in Group #2, Position #22** ending at Calvary where we will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the Parish Hall! We will need *children and adults* to help us sing Christmas carols and to complete our mini-Nativity Scene float, complete with Mary, Joseph, the angels and stable animals! Walking musicians are welcome and encouraged as well!



Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal:
10 a.m. – Noon Saturday, December 13
Calvary's Annual Children's Christmas Pageant
will take place at 8:45 a.m. Sunday, December 14 in the Parish Hall!
Children will meet in the Activities Room at 8:30 to put on costumes!

Please let us know if your family will be participating in any or all these exciting events at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-52220851-christmas

Angel Tree

The Calvary Angel Tree will once again be in Parrish Hall, helping provide Christmas gifts and meals for families in our community. For the past 25 years, Sheila Howard has faithfully led a team of Calvary women in organizing this ministry. As she steps away to focus on the Sleep in Heavenly Peace partnership, we thank her for her dedicated service and leadership.



After the Holiday Bazaar, the Angel Tree will be set up and decorated with ornaments. Each ornament lists a child's Christmas wish-list items, clothing needs, or a request for a grocery gift card. Participation is simple, and instructions are printed on the back of each ornament. Please remember to sign out the ornaments you take in the white binder.

All gifts must be returned to the tree by **Today, Sunday, December 7**, so we have time to sort, pack, and tag everything before delivery. If you purchase clothing, including a gift receipt is very helpful for families who may need to exchange sizes.

We will also collect gift cards (Target, Walmart, Kohl's, local grocery stores) and cash donations for those who prefer not to shop. A box for these contributions is located near the tree.

Please make checks out to <u>Calvary United Methodist Church</u> and reference "Angel Tree." Questions, please contact: Julie Schwarzenberg at 240-626-7666

Attention all bakers...

A favorite Calvary event is just around the corner ...

BAKE A BATCH cookie event for Jenn Esler. Jenn is a Calvary member and served as the Nursery Director before being diagnosed with a brain tumor years ago. Following surgery, she had extensive rehabilitation to improve her quality

of life. Proceeds from Bake A Batch serve to help Jenn in her rehab and to remind her that she is not forgotten by her Calvary family.

All cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen or church office on Friday, December 12 or by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, December 13. Cookie trays will be available for purchase on Sunday, December 14.

Baking Cookies is a great activity to do with your children or grandchildren and for a great cause. All homemade cookies, whether family favorites or holiday classics are welcomed.

So, get those mixers moving!!! Any questions please contact Julie Schwarzenberg at: 240-626-7666

This Week at Calvary December 7 ~ December 14

Sunday, December 7 Friday, December 12 • 9 a.m. Sunday School 5:30 p.m. Kris Kringle Procession • 10 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary • 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices – Choir Room • 11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry- JW Room • 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Monday, December 8 Saturday, December 13 • 5:30 p.m. SHP Team Meeting (Dinner) 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:30 a.m. WRS • 9:30 a.m. Bake A Batch 10 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Tuesday, December 9 Sunday, December 14 • 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study- Parlor • 8:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant • 6:30 p.m. Handbells- Bell Room • 10 a.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- Choir Room 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Wednesday, December 10 • 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study- Conference Room

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION – CALLING ALL SMART PHONE USERS!

If you can operate a Smartphone, you can operate the Calvary Live Stream Equipment, and we would like you to join our team! The goal is to have enough team members to facilitate a three- or four-month rotation making sure Calvary's message is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. If you would like to join the team or see how it works, please talk with Rob Summers or Dr. Hutton. We will be glad to show you how to get started!

Prayer Concerns:

Members of Calvary: 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

Friends of Calvary: Bob and Paula Biser daughter, Krista, Angie Miller (Mother of David Petrucci), Family of Sandi Holm (Sister of Paulette Shockey-Petrucci), Zintis Muiznieck (Family member of Paul Nelson), Leanne and Albert Hutton, Paul and Gwen Landers (Friends 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), Family of Thomas Crone (Brother-in-Law to Patsy Eavey), 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)





Congregational Vote



Calvary will hold a congregational vote in December to discern whether we will become a Reconciling Congregation within the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). This step affirms that LGBTQIA+ individuals are welcomed, affirmed, and loved as beloved children of God in our community of faith.

Who votes?

All professing members, ordained clergy connected to Calvary, and preparatory members in professing-member households will receive a ballot envelope. Ballots themselves are anonymous.

When to vote:

- Sunday, December 7 before & after worship
- Sunday, December 14 before & after worship
- Located in the Parish Hall

If you cannot attend either Sunday:

You may cast your ballot in the church office during the week (Dec. 8–12) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call the office to vote by phone with a staff member. 301-662-1464

Ballots will be counted by the Finance Team to ensure transparency and impartiality.

Calvary Congregational Vote — December 2025

The Question Before the Congregation

Calvary United Methodist Church will vote on whether to join the **Reconciling**Ministries Network (RMN) and publicly affirm that LGBTQIA+ individuals are

welcomed, affirmed, and loved as beloved children of God within our community of faith.

This step is not about perfect language but about taking our place as a church committed to full inclusion and safety for all God's people as we continue "moving on to perfection in love." As part of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, Calvary would adopt the following statement and participate in the ongoing work of the Reconciling Ministries Network.

Reconciling Ministries Network Foundational Statement

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to journey in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

Please record your vote below:

☐ Yes. I support adopting the above statement and partnering with the Reconciling Ministries Network as a Reconciling Congregation.
□ No. I do not support adopting the above statement or partnering with the Reconciling Ministries Network as a Reconciling Congregation.
☐ I support Calvary's step toward full inclusion, trusting God's grace as I continue to discern. (This vote will be counted as a "Yes.")
☐ Abstention. (This vote will not be counted as a yes or a no.)

Thank you for your prayerful discernment and participation.



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

Church Staff

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<u>AmyStone@calvaryumc.org</u>

Cathy Baker, Office Manager Sharon Brown, Financial Secretary

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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

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