

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

the

Gifts

beneath the lists

Where our true longings meet God's gifts.

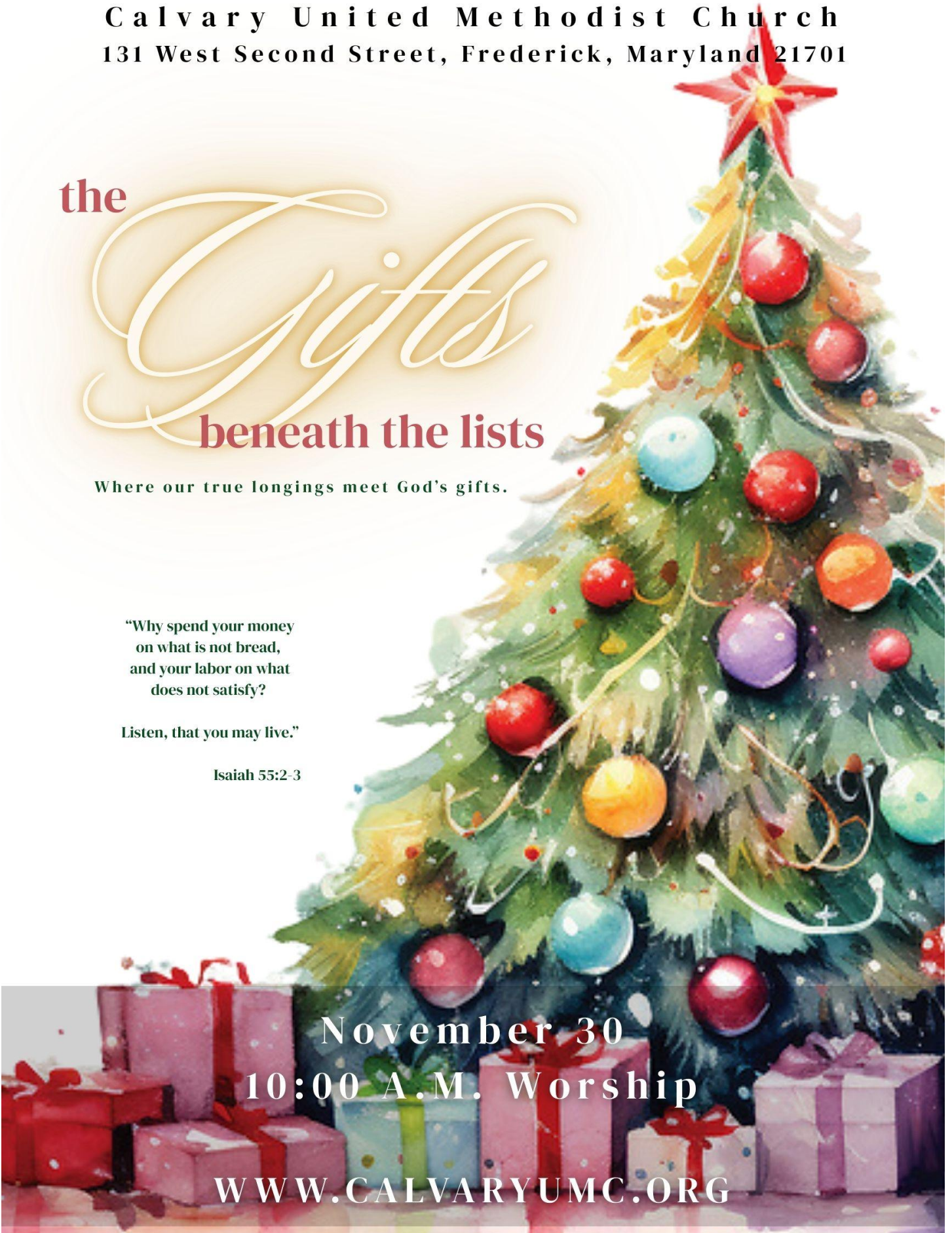
"Why spend your money
on what is not bread,
and your labor on what
does not satisfy?

Listen, that you may live."

Isaiah 55:2-3

November 30
10:00 A.M. Worship

WWW.CALVARYUMC.ORG



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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

WELCOME

Beth Strakonsky, Worship Leader

PRELUDE & BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

“Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland”

J. S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this season of lists and rushing, of noise and bright distraction, God invites us to listen.

People: We come to quiet our hearts and open our hands.

Leader: Why spend your energy on what cannot satisfy? Why hunger for what cannot nourish?

People: We come seeking the gifts that last, the gifts only God can give.

Leader: Today, we wait for the first gift of Advent: the gift of hope.

People: Hope that steadies us, Hope that meets our longing, Hope that points us toward Christ.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, light your hope within us, and lead us into your rich and abundant life.

*OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH #211

Verses 1-4

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 Hope

Leader: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. In a world hungry for meaning, God calls to us: “Listen, so that you may live.”

Reader 1: This candle reminds us that hope is not wishful thinking, it is the steady promise that God is drawing near.

Reader 2: Hope is the light that glows beneath the noise, beneath the lists,
beneath all we think we need.

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that Christ is the One who meets
our longing with the richest feast of grace.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus. Kindle hope in our waiting, peace in our
pacing, and joy in our hearts. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

"Thankful"
Joyful Voices

Jay Stocker

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you offer us gifts that no list can hold and no store can provide, hope for our discouragement, strength for our living, and grace that meets us again and again. As we bring our offerings today, our prayers, our gratitude, our resources, shape our giving into a holy response to your extravagant love. Let these gifts nourish others with the abundance you promise, "Eat what is good, that your soul may delight." Bless what we offer, and bless your people who give with open hearts. Amen.

Offertory

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Joe Utterback

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

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of hope and promise, we thank you for meeting us in this season with gifts deeper than anything we could ask for. You call us away from what does not satisfy and lead us toward your life, your light, your love. Thank you for the hope that anchors us, for the mercy that restores us, and for the grace that welcomes us home. As we begin this Advent journey, turn our attention to you. Quiet our striving, open our hearts, and fill us with the hope that comes from Christ alone.

PRAYER HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

UMH #626

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 "Lord, before This Fleeting Season" Libby Larsen
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 6:8, Luke 1:30-31, 34-35, 38 Beth Strakonsky

MESSAGE "The Christmas Gift of Hope" Rev. Dr. Beth Hutton

*CLOSING HYMN "Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH #213

CARRYING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE "Toccata in e minor" Johann Pachelbel

**Congregation stands, in body, heart or spirit.*

***WIFI PASSWORD: 131Guest**

Ushers: Linda Watson, Richard Delauter, Judy Wilson, Paul Muehl, Dave Mills

Coffee Host: Beth Strakonsky

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

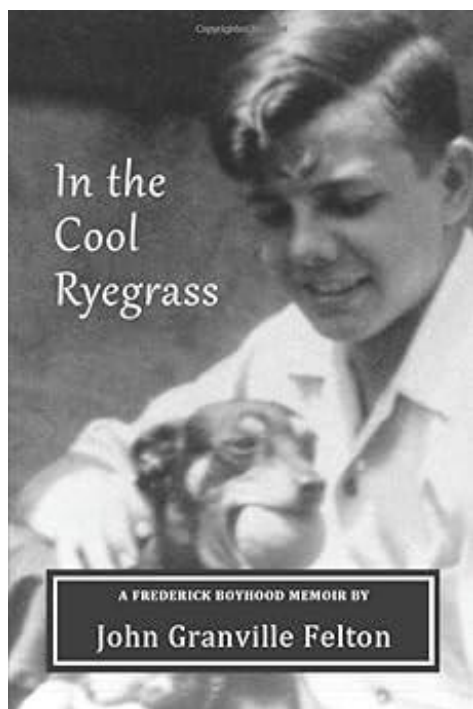
Scan the QR code to give online or to update your contact information in our Calvary database. Keeping your information current helps us stay connected as a church family — and your gifts help us shine Christ's light in our community. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! www.calvaryumc.org/give



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 fishes, 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.

NEW IN OUR LIBRARY



In the Cool Ryegrass by John Granville Felton.

Calvary's own John Granville Felton's memoir is what an old-fashioned boyhood looked like in a time before television, cell phones, computers, and video games. It's the homespun story of Granville, a scrappy "Everykid" whose childhood growing up in Frederick, Maryland spanned the years of the Great Depression and the World War II homefront.

To Granville, every day was an adventure – whether it was spent visiting his father's grain mill or helping on a dairy farm, roaming around downtown Frederick or roving along the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, swimming and fishing in the Monocacy River, or rambling through the Catoctin Mountain woods, or just living his daily life in his 1930s-era home and neighborhood on Market Street.

Recounted in rich detail and told with humor and heart, this is about Vintage Frederick "back when there were more cows than people."

Granville and his wife Doris were members of Calvary for many years.



**READY?
DONATE BLOOD.**



**Blood Drive
Calvary UMC
Frederick**

Parish Hall

131 W Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: CalvaryUMCFrederick
to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor,
consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Give blood Nov. 17-Dec. 7 for an exclusive pair of Red
Cross x PAC-MAN socks, while supplies last!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Children's Ministry



Calvary will be participating in *Frederick's Kris Kringle Procession* on **Friday, December 12**. Line-up begins at **5:30 p.m.** on South Carroll Street between East Patrick and East All Saints Street and 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 of these exciting events at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ACAD2FABFBC61-52220851-christmas>

Advent Tea



Save the date!

Come and enjoy the beginning of the Advent Season at **2 p.m. Saturday December 6**. Share tea, cookies and cakes and join in the fellowship of singing hymns with the Calvary Women. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Parish Hall, **All Are Welcome! Last Day to Sign up – Today, November 30**

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 **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 Calvary United Methodist Church 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 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 November 30 ~ December 7

Sunday, November 30

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices – Choir Room

Wednesday, December 3

- 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Calvary Blood Drive
- 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study- Conference Room

Monday, December 1

- 5 p.m. Mission and Outreach –JW Room

Saturday, December 6

- 2 p.m. Advent Tea

Tuesday, December 2

- 10 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study- Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. UWF Ex. Comm. – Conference RM
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells- Bell Room
- 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir- Choir Room

Sunday, December 7

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship- Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Joyful Voices- Choir Room
- 11:15 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry –JW Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group

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!

The We Care Committee will be honoring Jane Sowers and Bonnie Strine for their 26 years of leadership and dedication. If you have served with this group or helped in any way, you are invited to join us in celebrating the retirement of these two remarkable ladies! Call or text Peggy Rhoderick 301.676.7599 by Sunday, Nov. 30. Hope lots of We Care volunteers can join us!

What: Retirement Luncheon for Jane and Bonnie
 When: Friday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m.
 Where: Gladchuck's, 489 West Patrick Street, Frederick

Gladchuck's will honor individual tabs, so order anything you want for yourself from the menu. You can bring a donation that day (or to Peggy) to cover Jane's and Bonnie's meals. Any excess money will be donated to the We Care Committee in honor of Jane and Bonnie.



It is with a joyous heart that we thank you, the congregation, for all of your time, talents and gifts given to the 2025 Calvary Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to cooks, bakers, cheeseball makers, crafters, musicians, greeters, donors, furniture movers, elves, Mrs. Claus and Santa himself. Thanks to folks who gave of their time on the day of the bazaar to greet the public and help sell items. The 2025 Bazaar was a big success. Not all the proceeds are in yet but we know we have grossed over \$9, 250. The charities in Frederick will happily receive our donations for them. We can't say THANK YOU enough to everyone who participated in some way. We wish you a very happy Christ-filled holiday with your family, neighbors and friends. God Bless us everyone.

Craft Group (Lydia Circle)
Becky Isaacs, chairperson

Prayer Concerns:

Members of Calvary: Judy Johnson, Becky Acklin, Anne Mossburg, Lois Tyson, Lois Pacheco, Tom Mullineaux, Charlie Geisbert, Jim Dobbs, Patricia Pettingall, Mike Isaacs, Helen Alysmeier, Nancy Huffman, Gracie Heller, Jack Heller, Rita Sharpe, Ann Crum, Marilyn Moyers, Peggy Griffiee, Nancy Dobbs, Susan Howe, Josie Manger

Friends of Calvary: 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), 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)

Christmas Eve
SERVICES

5:00 P.M. FAMILY SERVICE
CHILDREN'S MUSIC & LIVING NATIVITY

7:00 P.M. & 9:00 P.M.
TRADITIONAL CAROLS & LESSONS
CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
131 W. 2ND STREET, FREDERICK



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.



Poinsettia Order

Deadline to place orders is December 3.

Red 6.5-inch pot is \$15.00 ~ White 6.5-inch pot is \$15.00

(Please return to church office)

_____ Enclosed is my check/cash for \$_____for _____poinsettias
Dedication: **PLEASE PRINT**

In MEMORY
of _____

In HONOR
of _____

Given by:

_____I will pick up my poinsettia(s)

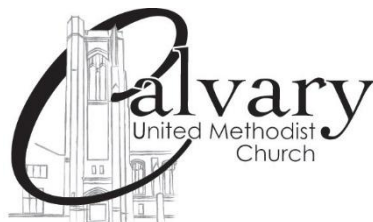
_____please donate my poinsettia(s)

Totals:

_____ Red Poinsettia

_____ White Poinsettia

\$_____ Total amount paid



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Calvary Weekday School

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