



# CALVARY CONNECTION

February 2022

Calvary United Methodist Church  
205 Court Street Ripley, West Virginia  
Office 372-3203

Email – [calvaryumc316@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryumc316@gmail.com)

Web Page – <http://calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.net/>

## Pastor's Ponderings



So, here we are right in the middle of winter. There are winter activities to be sure, but overall, these can be difficult days. The days are short and the nights are long. At times, daylight is a scarce commodity. If you like the outdoors, this is a challenging time. It is often so cold and windy and dark and frozen that your options are limited. Depression is more common in the winter.

But spring is coming! It is less than 50 days away on the calendar. We will have some nice weather before that official date and probably some snow after that date! But it is on its way.

Ironically, while all nature in this part of the world is in the in-between time from fall to spring or winter to spring, the church is between the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter. To be sure, we will celebrate a few "high holy days" between the two greatest observances of the Christian year. However, these days can tend to be as long and dark as the winter night, both emotionally and spiritually.

We live in a unique time in world history. It is often called, "the already but not yet." At Christmas, Christ came into the world and the process of the redemption of the world was set into motion. When Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, and then was raised to eternal life on Easter Sunday, the victory was won! Everything necessary for our redemption was accomplished. Our sins were nailed to the cross and forgiveness is ours and we are reconciled to our Loving God. At the resurrection on Easter, death was conquered and we will share eternal life with Jesus. Jesus won! God Won! And yet, that victory isn't fully consummated yet. The war has been won, but there are battles yet to fight. Jesus is King of all kings and Lord of all lords, but he is not fully recognized or submitted to yet. We know that Christ will rule and reign, but there is still evil and heartbreak.

I don't want this to sound superficial or like a cliché or polly-annish, but I do want to encourage you. If you are facing trials and tribulations, if there is heartbreak and break-ups, if illness has brought you down or death has stolen a friend or family member,

if it seems darker in your life than it ever has, know that this is a season. As a great preacher once said when referring to Good Friday, it might be Friday, but Sunday's coming!

The world in which we live can be harsh and cruel. And if you are not in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, it can be completely overwhelming—there seems no place to turn, no alternatives, no possibility of improvement. But as you draw closer to God through prayer, bible study, small groups, worship, and serving others, you begin to see and reflect the light of Christ in the darkness. You live in the hope and joy of eternal life even in the midst of trials and struggles because it is a current reality. I pray that if you are in a season of struggle, you will remain strong and focused on Christ instead of the circumstances.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

## BE PREPARED FOR WORSHIP

If you want an enhanced worship experience, read and meditate on these scriptures and sermon titles the entire week before the message:

Feb 6 – Luke 5:1-11 Let's Go Fishing

Feb 13 – Luke 6:17-26 Blessings and Cursings

Feb 20 – Luke 6:27-38 Easier Said than Done

Feb 27 – Luke 9:28-43 Shine!

(Transfiguration Sunday)



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT!!!!

We are in the process of changing our online platform. We are entering into an agreement with a group called Subsplash. We will have a new website, new online giving procedure, our own APP for mobile devices, livestream directly through Subsplash while also retaining the Facebook livestream, etc. We are still working out details, but everything should be online and ready to go in the next couple of weeks! Look for more info soon.

**CALLING ALL SEAMSTRESSES**

I have a vision about ministry here at Calvary and this vision results in a project for everyone and anyone interested in participating. In the past, I have found drama to be a powerful tool for sharing the gospel. Perhaps you recall the Sunday that I portrayed blind Bartimaeus. Most likely, you remember that better than any other sermon. Drama and storytelling can be powerful. So, my dream and vision is to get more people involved and present the gospel in costume for Sunday morning worship, special evening events – perhaps at Easter or Christmas, a live nativity, etc. If we have multiple characters, we can more fully capture the essence of the biblical story.

In order to be able to adequately present each story in a way that captures the imagination and draws the congregation into the story and etches it into their mind and spirit, we need to have everyone (multiple people for each story) dressed in costume. Therefore, here is my plea...I would like to build a wardrobe of costumes to have on hand that can be used when needed. The wardrobe would include costumes of different sizes, styles, and colors. Some very specific (think a Roman soldier or Joseph's coat of many colors) and some more general in nature that could be used for many roles. Most will be for adults, but we will need some for children as well.

Most costumes are very simple with an undergarment and outer garment to be used in combination. The undergarment is usually one piece with a hole for your head and one for each arm and that is about the extent. The outer garment is often like a bathrobe. There are plenty of patterns available to help us make the costumes as authentic as possible to the time period.

Have I piqued your interest? Does this sound like a helpful endeavor? Would our worship and ministry and evangelism benefit from such a wardrobe? I think it would. If you like to sew, please pray about this and consider participating. I'm not sure what it may look like as far as a group working at the same time or individuals working at their own home and pace. All of that can be decided later. But I would like to get started soon, so if you are interested, please contact Pastor Steve or Kathy in the church office at least by the end of February to let us know.



**United Methodist Men**

The UMM will meet on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The UMM Sweetheart Dinner scheduled for Fri. Feb. 11 at Cedar Lakes

has been postponed. Please watch closely for an update on the day and time.

**United Methodist Women**

The UMW will meet on Monday, Feb. 7 at 7:00 pm. The Discovery Circle will present the program and Deborah Miriam Circle will provide the refreshments.

The annual Chocolate Festival will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13. All UMW members are asked to bake a chocolate treat to sell that morning. Profits will go toward the Tyrand Cooperative ministry. Others in our church family are also welcome to donate a baked item to support our mission. Installation of officers will be held during the 9:00 am worship service in the upcoming weeks.

**Circle Meetings**

**Mary Martha Circle**

Mary Martha circle is scheduled to meet February 13 at 2 pm. at Pam Braden residence.

**Deborah/Miriam Circle** will meet

February 9 at 10:00 am in the church conference room. The Blood Drive was held Jan. 20, 1:00 – 6:00 pm and we collected 28 units.



**Discovery Circle** will meet February 20, 3:30 pm @ the church.

Youth Choir will practice 5:30 pm on Sundays followed by the youth group meetings @ 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



**Your Youth Group Leaders**

Younger Youth - Hilary Groves

532-7648

M&M's -	Ashley Hosaflook	786-0046
High School -	Jimmy Groves	372-8768
	Tina Cunningham	372-3852

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

I plan to start a confirmation class this winter/spring with the tentative start date toward the end of February. The class is intended for youth around the ages of 10-15 years of age (usually 12-13) who may be exploring or contemplating claiming faith in Jesus for themselves. The class expounds upon the teachings of the church about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, what it means to be baptized, and what church membership is all about. The goal is that by the end of the class sessions (usually around 6 weeks), the youth will be ready to make a personal decision to follow Jesus, be baptized if not previously baptized, and join the church as a full member. A few of you have already communicated with me about the desire to participate. If you, or your child/grandchild, are interested in participating, please let me or Kathy in the church office know before February 14th (Happy Valentine's Day!).

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and is on March 2nd this year. We will have a worship service in the sanctuary that evening (tentatively set for 6:30pm) with the imposition of ashes and I hope that you join us as we embark on the



o f  
w i l l

season of Lent, and we journey with Jesus toward the cross.

The day before Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> this year, is known by a few names – Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. In church tradition, it is Shrove Tuesday. One traditional celebration for this day is a pancake supper. The idea is that if you are going to be fasting for Lent, you should eat up all of the bad stuff in your pantry before you get started – you know, to remove the temptation! LOL! Therefore, it is my intention to offer a pancake supper on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 5pm-7pm. There will be a short devotion relative to the celebration! Please plan on joining us and if asked, please plan on helping with the food preparation and serving the food!!

### **SERVANTS NEEDED**

Are you participating in the life of the church? Where do you serve? No one expects a person to be involved with every ministry, mission, or program of the local congregation. However, you are expected to “get plugged in” somewhere. On Sunday mornings, we could always use more teachers/facilitators for Sunday school classes. We always need folks to be worship leader, or read scripture, or pray for the worship team prior to the service, or pray for the people during the service, or sing in the choir, or play handbells, or be an usher, or act as hospitality to welcome folks as they arrive, or be an acolyte, or work in the A/V booth, could you help in the nursery.....and most of that is needed for TWO services. Sunday evenings the youth leaders would love to have some other people help minister to and with the young people. Join and participate in a Sunday school class. Attend the mid-week Bible study groups. Mail cards to folks. Call people to check on them and spend time with them. Help with the prayer quilts or prayer shawls. Are you part of the UM Men or UM Women?

I know that there are numerous ways that you are living out your faith and serving Jesus by serving others that I don't even know about! And for that, I praise the Lord! There are many of you serving in awesome ways that I do know about and for that I praise the Lord! Get plugged in somewhere. If you want to be involved but aren't sure where, let me know and we will chat about it and find the perfect place for you!

### **NEW MINISTRY PROGRAM COMING SOON**

We are in the planning stages of a new fitness and exercise ministry/program. Be looking for more information in the next few weeks, but we hope to launch near the end of February. This will be a great opportunity to exercise your body and spirit, to get in shape physically and spiritually, and to maybe make some new friends.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been knitting shawls at home during this pandemic. People knit/crochet shawls and lap robes for many reasons, to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. They may also be knit/crocheted to celebrate life and its milestones. The reasons to knit/crochet a shawl or lap robe are as numerous as the people who knit/crochet them. If you can knit or crochet (or would like to learn) and are interested in this mission, please contact Faye Milhoan or call the church office at 304-372-3203. Get those needles creating.



### **Prayers and Squares Ministry**



The Prayers and Squares group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. And, on as needed times if they have special projects. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please call Joyce Davis at 372-4555.

### **EASY PEASY LEMON SQUEEZY**

Do you ever order anything through Amazon? If so, you have the opportunity to **help raise funds for our local mission projects**. During their regular meeting on January 30, 2022, the Administrative Board approved a request to establish **an account through the AmazonSmile program**. This is very similar to the Kroger card program that many of you may already use. Once the church is established as a viable non-profit organization, all you have to do when you order from Amazon is **choose Calvary UMC as your charity of choice** and Amazon will send **0.5% of the purchase price to us and it will be designated for local missions through the “Tom Goad missions account.”** We are in the process of getting established with AmazonSmile and we will let you know when that process is complete. If you do not know, **Tom Goad heads up a mission project that helps install handicap ramps for individuals at their homes, and other work for homeowners to help ease some burdens they may be experiencing.** I am sure he would be pleased if you would like to help out!

### **Relay for Life**

**June 10, 2022**

### **Ravenswood's Washington River Front Park**

Fund Raisers this year include:

Relay for Life Bake Sale March 20 From 10:00 am  
– 10:40 am

Relay for Life Easter Egg Project – April 3 – 24  
Sunday of Hope – June 5

Relay for Life Live Event – June 10

I want to thank the church family for all the support you give to the Relay for Life mission. Last year we made \$2858.00 to help in the fight against Cancer.

Our goal for the 2022 Relay event is \$8,500. We have raised \$90.00 (1%) of our goal of \$8,500 so far this year.

Our first Fundraiser is planned for March 20th and will be a bake sale. Anyone in the church that can bake can bring a baked good to sale. All items will be sold for \$15 each unless they are small packs of cookies, and we will sale those for \$2.50 each. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society and Toward our team goal. If you would like to donate more than the price of the bake goods, we would appreciate that. Again, as always if you write a check for this make it out to the American Cancer Society.

We are looking for team members to join us at Ravenswood's Washington River Front Park on June 10th . The team consists of the following members: Jeremy Rhodes.

We are also looking for donations. If you would like to give a generous donation to help in the fight against cancer you can donate online at the link provided on the church website, or you can bring it to Jeremy Rhodes or Leave it in the Church office with a note that it is for Relay for life. (Note: All donations made out in check must be made out to the American Cancer Society.)

I want to let you know what your donations are going to help with. Most everyone thinks that ACS is just for cancer research. This statement is true, but there is so much more that they help with. They provide rides to and from treatments for patients, they provide gas cards when funds allow for it, and also help with housing by putting them up in the numerous Hope Houses around the United States close to the treatment center for little to no cost to the patient and families. The money that we give through relay goes to fund all of these things and more. So please donate what you can so we can help fund all of these great services.

Thank You  
Jeremy Rhodes

### Luminaria Order Form

The Luminaria Ceremony is the soul of Relay for Life. At dusk, we quietly remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer. In the soft glow of the candlelight, we reflect on the courage and strength of all who are affected by cancer.

You can help fight cancer and honor loved ones who have had cancer, by joining our Service of Hope on June 15th, and the Luminaria Ceremony at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Jackson County. The Luminaria Ceremony will begin at dusk on Friday, June 10, 2022. During the luminaria ceremony, candles are placed in luminaria bags, which are dedicated in **Honor** of a cancer survivor or in **Memory** of a loved one lost from cancer.

When, lit, hundreds of luminarias will brighten the way for Relay for Life walkers.

Whether you participate in person or in spirit, here's your chance to support the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Keep the fire of HOPE burning by donating a luminaria.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like # \_\_\_\_\_ Luminaria (s) Minimum donation of \$5 each (you can donate more if you wish)

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

In \_\_\_\_\_ Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to American Cancer Society and return with this form to Jeremy Rhodes or the Church Office by May 29<sup>th</sup>**



### HANDBELL CHOIR

#### HANDBELLS

While we are grateful for the opportunity to borrow a set of handbells from First UMC in Ravenswood, we are moving forward in our quest to acquire a set of handbells. Thank you to all who have already donated. We will be getting out more details as they become available, but the Administrative Board gave us the approval to at least investigate purchasing the set of bells that we are currently borrowing. Several things need to come together to make this happen, but it is a very real possibility. Stay tuned...

#### HANDBELL WORKSHOP

We will be hosting a workshop on how to play handbells on Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 10am-12pm. You will be introduced to the proper way to ring a bell and the different methods of playing a bell. This will be a great opportunity for

anyone considering joining the handbell choir or if you are just curious. Everyone is invited.

### Tai Chi

The Tai Chi class is coming together on Thursday mornings at 9:30. You can decrease your joint pain, lessen stiffness, improve balance, build strength, increase focus. Wayne Shaffer is the instructor. Come join the fun – beginners welcome.

**15<sup>th</sup> of the month so the newsletter can be printed by the 25<sup>th</sup>.**



### Directions for Online Giving

Go to <http://giving.ncsservices.org/calvarygiving>  
Click on Online Giving. Under Donate type in the Church's Zip Code 25271  
Click on Calvary United Methodist Church. It will ask you to register (create username, password). Once you do this you type in the amount you plan to give and either use your debit card or your bank account number. You can choose whether you want this to be a one-time transaction or set it up to do regular transactions. The information will be saved so the next time you will just have to log in, type in the amount you wish to give and you are finished. You must have an account with username and password to access the account through the barcode scanner



### The following items are needed on a daily basis to support the church food pantry:

- Chicken & Beef Broth
- Mac & Cheese
- Corn Bread Mix
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti
- Elbow Macaroni
- Soups
- Dried Beans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Meat
- Spam
- Treet
- Tuna
- Chicken

Monetary donations are also needed ...it enables us to fill-in (buy) food when supplies are low in any area.

### Food Pantry Ministry January Report

Thank you for your continued food donations and financial support to this ministry. We also like to thank the following churches and organizations for their support during January: Library, Kroger, Walmart, Grass Lick Baptist Church, and Grace Community Church.

During December we brought in 6,635 lbs. of food.

Donations included 2,523 lbs. from USDA, 807 lbs. from Walmart, and 428 lbs. from Kroger, and 300 lbs. from Grace Community Church.

Food purchased: \$495 from Mountaineer Food Bank, and \$452 from Kroger.

We served 157 households or 497 individuals. As information in January 2021 we served 154 households or 436 individuals

**Thank You Volunteers** for helping with the Ripley Library Food pickup (Friday 4:30 pm or Saturday Morning).

### February 2022 Food Pick Up Schedule

- 4<sup>th</sup> Senior High SS
- 11<sup>th</sup> Patty Smith
- 18<sup>th</sup> Connie Waybright
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dallas Skeen

If interested in helping, please contact Mike Wilt.



### Food Pantry Ministry Year-To-Date

Households	Month	
	Individuals	Served
January	154	436
February	86	239
March	171	509
April	132	375
May	155	412
June	141	399
July	153	443
August	124	371
September	144	432
October	164	517
November	212	668
December	222	713

### Attendance for December 2021

		9:00	Facebook	11:00		
Dec. 5	Worship	132	239	38	Sunday School	97
Dec. 12	Worship	155	201	31	Sunday School	96

Dec. 19	Worship	145	225	30	Sunday School	109
Dec. 26	Worship	133	162	42	Sunday School	80

**Stewardship for Dec.2021**

**Offerings**

		<b><u>Regular</u></b>	<b><u>Building</u></b>
Dec.	5	\$6,168.75	\$100.00
Dec.	12	\$6,987.05	\$275.00
Dec.	19	\$16,126.65	\$15,360.00
Dec.	26	<u>\$5,318.00</u>	<u>\$2,210.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$36,600.45</b>	<b>\$17,945.00</b>



**Tithes and Offerings**

<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>\$289,865.00</b>
<b>Needed Each Week</b>	<b>\$5,574.33</b>
<b>Rec. Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$323,864.03</b>

---

## **RENEW YOUR KROGER CARD**

**Time to renew Calvary UMC Food Pantry as your selection for Kroger Community Rewards Program**

If you are supporting the Calvary UMC Food Pantry by connecting your Kroger Rewards Card to the Food Pantry on Kroger Community Rewards Program, then it is time for you to renew that connection for the coming year. To renew, please do the following:

1. Go online at [KrogercommunityRewards.com](http://KrogercommunityRewards.com) and click on Sign-In/Register.
2. Use your email address and password to sign in.
3. Once you are signed in, click on View Your Rewards Details.
4. Scroll to the bottom of your Account Summary to view your Community Rewards selection.
5. Select Calvary UMC Food Pantry by either typing it in or using our NPO Number which is 83824.
6. Make sure you get the Calvary UMC in Ripley (83824) because there are three Calvary UMC's listed.

If you have been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program but do not have access to a computer or do not have an email account, please contact Melanie Purkey at 304-372-6910 (H) or 304-377-6339 (C). If you have not participated in the program but would like to, follow the enrollment directions in each week's church bulletin.

We will have an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary or you can send your donation to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Hunters Helping the Hungry. Contact Mike Wilt if you have any questions.



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
205 COURT STREET  
RIPLEY, WV 25271

U.S. POSTAGE  
PERMIT NO. 9  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION







