



CALVARY CONNECTION

October 2025

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Pastor's Ponderings

Something has been weighing heavily on my mind lately and I want to share a piece of it with you in this article. This might take a while.

I am very concerned about our country. Some of my concern surrounds the way we are treating people of color and the poor and others who do not think or look like us. By the way, who is “us?”

But my concern has deepened in watching some footage of the savage stabbing attack in Charlotte, NC. The stabbing is a disturbing tragedy. But the second tragedy is the fact that the girl was not killed immediately – she was alert. My biggest concern is that NO ONE HELPED HER! They just walked away and left her to bleed out alone. I know there are “good Samaritans” all around, but is the larger population becoming numb to violence and callous to the pain and distress of others?

As I type this, there have been three events that have made state-wide and/or national headlines over the last couple of weeks that have religious components; the death of James Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family, the assassination of Charlie Kirk, a conservative leader who encouraged debate of disagreements, and the declaration that “In God We Trust” should be posted in every school.

When James Dobson died, I saw posts on social media that said, “Such a great man of God – a sad day,” as well as posts that said, “There will not be any mourning in this house because he did more harm in the name of Jesus than anyone over the last several years.” Such

drastically diverse opinions! From Christians!

When Charlie Kirk was assassinated, the same type of argument or discussion ensued. Some Christians believed he was a great ambassador for the faith and others thought he perpetuated oppression of the marginalized with his views.

When it was announced that the schools should post “In God We Trust” in the classrooms, I saw a clip where President Trump said we need to get religion back in our country. My question would be, “Which iteration of religion and even which religion?”

That concern is why I am NOT a proponent of mandatory prayer in schools or teaching Bible in schools. Who is leading the prayer? Who is teaching the Bible? Would a far-right leaning family want their children to be taught by a far-left leaning teacher? It seems to me that the Bible should be taught in the home and in the church.

Also, the debate over “In God We Trust” and posting the ten commandments could fall along these lines as well. One question would be, “In WHICH God do we trust?” And not all of the kids in school trust in God or have even heard that there is a God in which we can trust.

The separation of Church and State is essential – not because I am anti-Christian (as, I hope, you know!), but because history has proven over and over when religion in general and Christianity in particular becomes bedfellows with the state or with empire the faith is distorted and compromised. Again, it can become the question of whose

interpretation or understanding of the faith gets to make the rules?

It has troubled me greatly to read a few messages on social media in response to the assassination of Charlie Kirk that in so many words said that we are better off without him or his views of Christianity. They did not say that in those words, but it certainly gave me that impression. Others who did not support Mr. Kirk or his views, have publicly denounced the assassination and faithfully witnessed to the call of Christians to be people of peace who should not resort to violence.

While even the use of terms conservative or liberal can be divisive, I am going to risk it just a little. I have friends all over the religious spectrum. My more conservative friends think I'm liberal and my more liberal friends think I am conservative! Since this is my column and my ponderings, I can espouse my views! I think that we can learn from each other. As a matter of fact, I think we need each other to grow in faith and be a better reflection of Jesus. I think diversity (in nearly every area) is a strength and not a weakness. I need you liberals to make sure I am properly caring for the poor and the environment and freeing people from enslavement to the "rules" of Christianity. I need you conservatives to remind me of the rules and traditions and more literal interpretation of scripture. In my opinion, sometimes the "liberal" response is the most faithful and sometimes the "conservative" response is the most faithful.

Regardless of where you stand politically or religiously, the assassination of anyone, any public figure, elected or not, should immediately spark hurt and pain and loss and anger and compassion for the family. As we consider it, it should also draw us into prayer for the person who brought harm because if one resorts to violence, and in this case,

violence to the point of taking a life, there is a lot of pain and hurt and anger.

I want to share a message from Heather Murray Elkins, an elder in the WV Conference UMC and Frederick Hannan Emerita Professor of worship, preaching and the arts of Drew Theological School at Drew University, in response to the assassination of Charlie Kirk:

Have we reached a turning point?

Have we come to such polarization that we can't debate our differences or risk exercising freedom of speech without invoking violence?

The motto for Utah Valley University is "a place for you" and some unknown gunman decided there was no room for a bright young political leader named Charlie Kirk.

I disagreed with everything Charlie supported politically, but I grieve his loss.

A college campus should be a safe community that helps you to learn about yourself and grow into the person this world needs. The mission of the place where Charlie stood his ground is for every student to achieve "success in work and life through excellence in engaged teaching, services, and scholarship." That mission should be life-giving, not death-dealing.

The terrible irony of his assassination is that Charlie was being questioned about mass shootings in America.

"Do you know how many mass shooters there have been in America in the last 10 years?", he's asked.

"Counting or not counting gang violence?" he responds and then he's shot.

One is too many, but there have been too many school shootings to count.

Perhaps this tragic consequence will be the turning point.

For now I can only pray and trust in the promise the Prince of Peace made to Charlie and every child lost through our wanton violence and heartless hate.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Have we reached the point where we cannot hold and debate diverse opinions, politically and religiously, with a level of respect? Are

we so certain that we are “right” and the other person is “wrong” that we cannot even consider the possibility that we might be wrong? Or the truth may be somewhere between the two extremes? Violence is never the answer. According to Jesus, love is always the answer. I love you, even if we disagree on everything politically and even religiously. How can we be witnesses to the love of Jesus in this world? How can we demonstrate the love of Jesus in tangible ways with everyone – whether we agree or disagree on any issue? Can we transform the world? How about our little corner of the world? How about in our sphere of influence? Can we agree to respect one another and show the rest of society what it means to follow the Prince of peace? I’m still pondering.....

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve



**The church office is
open Monday through
Friday 8:00am – 12:00
noon.**



United Methodist Men

The UMM will meet October 6 at 6:30 pm with a covered dish meeting. All men of the church are welcome to attend and bring a covered dish.

Looking Ahead

Oct 5 Relay for Life Service of Hope
Oct 5 Blessing of Pets
Oct 12 Combined Worship service @ 10am
Oct 26 Children's Sabbath - Combined Service @ 10am
Oct 26 Charge Conference @ 2:00 pm
Oct 26 Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival @ 5:30pm
Nov 2 All Saints Sunday
Nov 24 UWF Decorate Church
Nov 30 Keith Burdette Song & Praise

BE PREPARED FOR WORSHIP

Worship is supposed to be participatory with each person contributing to the worship of Almighty God. One way that you can participate more fully, is to come to Sunday worship prepared and expecting God's presence. To assist your preparation, read and reflect on these scriptures and themes the entire week before worship:

Oct 5 – A Godly Heritage- 2 Tim 1:1-14
Oct 12 – You are not Forgotten or Abandoned – Jer.29:1, 4-7
Oct 19 – The Lord Stood By Me – 2 Tim 4:6-18
Oct 26- Children's Sabbath-Combined Service

Charge Conference Coming Soon!

Our 2025 Charge (Church) Conference will be held on Sunday, October 26th, at 2:00pm, in our sanctuary. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Amy Shanholtzer, will preside. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important event in the life of the church.

There is much work to be done in preparation for Church Conference; a partial list includes, the nominations committee will be asking people to serve in various roles in ministry, groups will be compiling report of the ministry accomplished in 2025, and the finance committee will be compiling a budget for 2026.

I am requesting two things from you at this time:

- 1) Please pray – pray for the conference and all who are working to prepare.
- 2) If you are the leader of a ministry or discipleship group at Calvary, I would like you to complete a report to be included in the Church Conference paperwork.

United Women in Faith



Summer Break is over and the United Women in Faith circles are



back. The Mary Martha circle will meet Oct 12 @ 2pm with Carolyn Wallen as hostess and Gail Varney with the program. The Deborah Miriam circle will meet Oct 8 @ 10:00 am at the church with hostesses Daisy Bennett & Mary Ulland and Patty Smith the program leader. The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet Oct 26 with the Fall Festival. **The Blood Drive was held September 18th. We received 35 units. The next drive will be Nov 20.** If you are interested in volunteering to help with the drive by checking in donors, running the canteen by giving snacks to and monitoring the donors after giving, or providing food for the Red Cross workers please let Kathy Marlow or Lora Sturm know. The time is broken up into 2 periods and it takes 3 people per period. If you are interested in helping for 3 hours every 2 months please let us know.

John 3:16 Fellowship



For the start of the fall season of John 3:16 we picnicked indoors with hotdogs, watermelon, deviled eggs, and beans, beans, beans. Our special guest, Mayor Carolyn Rader shared details for upcoming events and listed some very welcome improvements in the near future to Ripley. With her retirement as Mayor coming next year, she encouraged us to think about running for the office.

We also recognized Mike and Sharon Wilt and Barbara Smittle with a going away keepsake to remember their special times with us as they are moving out of state in the near future. Each will be greatly missed. Our next gathering will be October 21st and you are invited to join us.

Vanessa Rothrock

GriefShare



The new series of the **GriefShare support group began meeting on Tuesday, August 12th, at 6:30pm.** If

you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one I encourage you to attend these group sessions intended to help you navigate this very difficult season of life.

Prayers and Squares Ministry

The Prayers and Squares group meets on the 1st & 3rd 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to create beautiful prayer shawls for comfort and hope. Currently they are working on Prayer Scarves for our graduating seniors to remind them when they are away, their home church continues to pray for them. 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.

College/Higher Ed Student Addresses

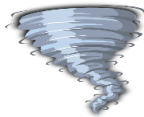


It's that wonderful time of the year with students beginning the fall semester of college. You will find the list of students and addresses at the end of the newsletter.

Vanessa Rothrock



Confirmation Class – with a new twist!



It is time to once again be thinking about a confirmation class. As a reminder, the purpose of confirmation is to give young people (typically between the ages of 10 and 15, with 12-13 being most common) resources

and directed teaching about the Christian faith so they can claim the faith as their own. Frequently, young people in the church were baptized as a baby and “adopted” as a child of the church. The family and the church pledged to help teach the child about Jesus and the Christian faith until they are ready to make that decision for themselves. In other words, the young person will now be confirming the faith pledged on their behalf when they were baptized.

However, it is also often the case that some (or all) of the kids in any particular year's confirmation class have not yet been baptized. When that is true, the kids will have the opportunity to be baptized as part of this process. But no one will be baptized more than once.

For the last few years, Calvary has been using a mentor approach to confirmation that pairs one youth with one adult who has been a Christian for a few years to share this part of their faith journey. The program curriculum we use has 13 sessions. We have been starting the class close to the beginning of the year in an attempt to complete the course sometime between Easter and June 1st.

Here is the new twist...We are considering making a retreat at Spring Heights part of confirmation. We are working with camp director, Louisa Smith (who will be transferring her membership to Calvary in October), to plan and implement this aspect of confirmation. Being in a retreat setting would help remove a few distractions and should greatly enhance the experience.

What I need from you – please help us identify youth in the 11-14 age range who may be ready to participate and make the decision to claim the Christian faith as their own and make a commitment to follow Jesus. They will also have the option (and most choose it) to join the church as a full member at the conclusion of the class. But no one will be

under the obligation or forced or coerced into making this decision and we will emphasize this throughout the experience. So, if your child or grandchild or other kid you know, is ready to start this journey, please let Pastor Steve know by November 1st so we can make the necessary arrangements and plans.



!!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!

Although it's always sad to see the summer season come to an end, the youth leaders are excited to begin meeting again on Sunday evenings – We have missed everyone! We will kick off the year with our first meeting on Sunday, September 7th . Youth choir practice will start at 5:30 followed by a meeting in the sanctuary to discuss the history and the current stained-glass window restoration project and ways in which the youth of Calvary may be able to contribute with a fundraiser (or two) over the next year. On Sunday, Sept. 14th we are planning our first “activity” of the year at the Go Mart Ballpark for the final regular Dirty Birds baseball game of the season. It's Grandparents Day so families are invited & grandparents are encouraged to join us, too! If the weather doesn't cooperate, we do have a backup plan :o) We'll hold regular meetings again at the church on September 21st & 28th . Also, mark your calendars because the youth choir is planning to sing during the 9am worship service on the 28th as well! As a reminder, Sunday Evening youth groups are for students in grades 1st thru 12th . Please don't hesitate to reach out if anyone has any questions – We look forward to seeing everyone soon (and bring a friend!) Contact information & Remind group info can be found below.

Elementary Youth: Taran Wolford –

Cell: (304)532-2317 –

Remind: Text @efgfk86 to 81010

Middle School (M&M's):

Ashley Hosaflook – Cell: (304)786-0046 –

Remind: Text@fd9d to 81010

High School: Jimmy Groves –

Cell: (304) 532-7649

Youth Choir: Hilary Groves – Cell: (304) 532-7648



Wee Read & Feed

Our mission is to bring children and their families to Jesus and to improve literacy skills by making books available at no cost. Donated books may be left at the desk by the church office. Leave a note so we will know they are for Wee Read & Feed. Joyce Groves 372-8612.

GROUP TRAVEL 2026

I have made a decision about our 2026 trip. We will be taking a river cruise on the Rhine River!! I am a tour host with Educational Opportunities (EO) and each year they have dozens of trips to places all around the world. This is the company we traveled with in February 2025 to Greece, Turkey, and Rome. I will have brochures for this trip available very soon and registration will be open. The travel dates are: departing the US on Sunday, October 25, 2026, and returning on Monday, November 2, 2026.

We will spend 7 nights aboard the Amadeus Riva departing from Basel, Switzerland, and we will visit Strasbourg, France, Speyer, Mannheim, Heidelberg, Cologne, and other cities in Germany, and end up in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. We will

visit many castles and ancient cathedrals and churches as well as historically significant sites from WWII and more. Check out this trip on the EO website here:

<https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/rc26102526r#eotours>

Take a look at the vessel here:

<https://www.amadeus-rivercruises.com/our-amadeus-fleet/detail/amadeus-riva.html>

Pastor at The Grind

Just a reminder that most weeks I am at The Grind coffee shop in Ripley on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am - 10:00am and Thursday from 7:30am - 8:30am. This is a great opportunity to sit a spell and chat. If you have something on your mind, or have a question about the church or theology, or have a great story to share with me, or just want to talk about the weather, (or talk about nothing in particular), The Grind is a great venue. If your concern is more of a private matter or confidential, we need to talk in my office.

I am more than willing to meet you at The Grind at other times that are more convenient for you. Just call or text me (681-368-4040) and we will set something up. I am typically in my office during church office hours: Monday through Thursday 8am - 12pm. Fridays are normally my day off. If you need to talk to me and your schedule

does not permit you to be at the church during office hours, let me know and we will make other arrangements.



**Food Pantry Ministry
Annual Statistics**

	2022	2023	2024
# HH	1,878	2,076	1,929
# Individuals	5,673	6,023	5,402
Total lbs.	63,069	62,536	59,671

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

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

Bet Ya Didn't Know (or Maybe You Did)

John Wesley believed that the Christian faith should not only be practiced individually but also in community with others. This idea is encapsulated in his famous phrase, *"Solitary religion is not to be found there. "Holy Solitaries" is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than Holy Adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."*

So, what is social holiness? Consider this description from the Board of Discipleship:

When Wesley says that holiness is social, he means that the depth of your love for God is revealed by the way **you love whom God loves**. The writer of 1 John describes the social nature of holiness:

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:19-21).

Also from 1 John (3:16-17), ¹⁶ *We know love by this, that he laid down his*

life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ *How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?*

If you truly love God, then you must love your brother and sister in Christ and your neighbor. This requires you to be in relationships with the people God places alongside you in the church, and the people of your neighborhood, city, and the world. You need community, what Wesley called "society", for grace to nurture you into the persons God created you to be. The Baptismal Covenant describes the relationship between God, the baptized, and the Church. The General Rule of Discipleship provides the means for living the covenant and becoming agents of social holiness.

What does this look like in practice? Perhaps it is feeding those who hunger - like our food pantry ministry. Maybe it is giving the cold person a nice warm coat, like with our coat drive. Or helping hurting families like through the Adopt-a-family program. Even taking food to BoMar for those who are struggling with addiction and need a warm meal for the day. It might even look like befriending that person at work or school or in the community who is being bullied or is lonely.

But is also means fighting "city hall" in the coalfields because the residents do not have safe drinking water. Or peaceful demonstrations that bring attention to atrocities and try to instigate change. Helping people recover from floods and tornadoes. And when you get down to "brass tacks," it means a lot more to not just give someone a sandwich, but to share your sandwich and give some time to listen.

The way I understand scripture and in the Wesleyan tradition, this attitude and disposition and desire and ministry is essential for all Christians (the exact way it manifests in the outward action will differ for each person, of course). This isn't just for "super Christians", whatever that is.

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven", we are praying to be instruments that God will use to bring His kingdom to this world. So, where have you demonstrated social holiness?



NEWS FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM

MISSION MOMENT

When this reaches you, we will be right in the middle of our coat drive. We decided to do things a little different this year and you have responded greatly. As of this newsletter, we have requests for 121 coats-children and

adults. We have filled many of those requests but still have several more to fill. Thank you so much for assisting in this mission as you always are ready to do.

We will recognize National Coffee Day on Sunday. It was brought to my attention that there was a need for an area rug at the DoHS parent/child visitation room. The Mission Committee felt it would be a good project to put our coffee money so we will be purchasing that after next Sunday. Thank you for helping in this project. I know the DoHS and the parents and children that use the room will appreciate it.

I received a message from Jackie in Nicaragua. On 09/24/2025, they were able to have free consultations with eye doctors. The consultations were free or affordable. They were able to treat 38 patients including 12 children. Your continual assistance with the clinic there is helping so many get healthcare that they would not receive except for your donations. Thank you!

Soon we will have the Adopt A Family list. This mission helps families in our community have a Christmas for their family. What a blessing this program is to our community. As soon as we have chosen the families, we will be putting up the Angel Tree to allow you to choose a person or persons to purchase Christmas. Remember, we also do household goods- blankets, towels, washcloths, cleaning supplies, etc. If you see a good deal, remember the Adopt A Family.

The Mission Team will be represented at the Monster Bash on October 25th from 6PM -8PM. Come out and have a fun time as the City of Ripley enjoys an evening of music and fun. If you would like to help. Please contact someone on the Mission Team. Again. Thank you for all you do! We have the best church! I pray that our ministries will carry far beyond our doors!

Quote(s) of the Month

Anselm of Canterbury OSB (1033/4–1109), also known as Anselm of Aosta (French: Anselme d'Aoste, Italian: Anselmo d'Aosta) after his birthplace and Anselm of Bec (French: Anselme du Bec) after his monastery, was an Italian Benedictine monk, abbot, philosopher, and theologian of the Catholic Church, who served as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, he defended the church's interests in England amid the Investiture Controversy. For his resistance to the English kings William II and Henry I, he was exiled twice: once from 1097 to 1100 and then from 1105 to 1107. While in exile, he helped guide the Greek Catholic bishops of southern Italy to adopt Roman Rites at the Council of Bari. He worked for the primacy of Canterbury over the Archbishop of York and over the bishops of Wales, and at his death he appeared to have been successful; however, Pope Paschal II later reversed the papal decisions on the matter and restored York's earlier status.

Consider these quotes:

“For I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand. For this also I believe-that unless I believe I shall not understand.”

“Come now, insignificant man, fly for a moment from your affairs, escape for

a little while from the tumult of your thoughts. Put aside now your weighty cares and leave your wearisome toils. Abandon yourself for a little to God and rest for a little in Him.”

“Teach me to seek You, and reveal Yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek You if You do not teach me how, nor find You unless You reveal Yourself.”

Goodness of God Story

I thank God for YOU, the people of Calvary UMC. We are in Charge Conference season, which means we are preparing to elect a slate of leaders for most administrative and ministry positions in the church for next year. In the vast majority of cases, when we ask, you say yes! You have been prayerfully selected to serve in very specific ministries that fit with your gifts and graces, and you respond to the call to serve God and serve the church. Thank you!

This is not surprising or unusual in my experience at Calvary. We communicate a need, and you provide. We ask for money for a ministry or project, you give. We have “energetic” kids in worship, and you smile and love them and accept them and even help the family. As St. Paul often said when he wrote to a church he had founded, “I never cease to give thanks for you in prayer.”



100 YEARS OF CALVARY Stained-Glass Restoration

On or about September 19, 2025, Calvary entered into a contract with Lynchburg Stained Glass to restore the windows in our sanctuary. This has been an interesting and challenging process for the trustees! The farther we got into the process, the more we realized how little we knew! I think all of us are glad that this only happens about once every 100 years or so!

I want to commend the trustees for their diligent work with this project. Lynchburg was selected from four different contractors after much debate, revisions, the checking of references, etc.

The current anticipated schedule is that they will remove the windows with the sash sometime in early January 2026. They anticipate this project to take 4 – 6 months to complete. So, if all goes well, the restored windows will be in place by July 4th. They should definitely be in place for our 100-year celebration in October 2026.

Joke of the Month (or is it a joke????)

A man, down on his luck, went into a church that catered to the "uppity." Spotting the man's dirty clothes, a deacon, worried about the church's image, went to the man and asked him if he needed help. The man said, "I was praying and the Lord told me to come into this church."

The deacon suggested that the man go and pray some more, and he might get a different answer. The next Sunday the man returned. The deacon asked, "Did you get a different answer?"

The man replied, "Yes, I did. I told the Lord that they didn't want me in that church. And the Lord said, 'Don't worry about it son; I've been trying to get into that church for years and haven't made it yet.'"

Blessing of the Animals



**A Blessing of the Animals
Will be held at
Calvary UMC Courtyard
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025
@ 5:00 pm**

**All pets are welcome to be blessed by
Pastor Steve Hamrick
Stuffed animals & pictures of pets
are welcome if the pet is not
great with crowds or other animals**

**CALVARY UNITED
METHODIST
100TH
ANNIVERSARY
COOKBOOK**



Dear Friends,

Our church is creating a custom cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our members. These cookbooks will be professionally published and are sure to be a treasured keepsake for us all. Money raised will be used for updating our stained-glass windows and missions.

Please submit 3-5 (or more if you choose) of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our cookbook. Many recipes from all members will ensure that our cookbook is a success. We are using Morris Press Cookbook's web site to easily submit recipes online. If you do not have Internet access, our committee can enter them for you. Submit hardcopies of your recipes to Karen Facemyer or email to kfacemyer@me.com

Please submit your recipes online by April 1st 2026, so we can meet our deadline. We are aiming to have the books ready to sell by Sept./Oct. 2026 to coordinate with the celebration of our 100th anniversary. We will be asking later how many you would like to order and the price in order to prepare the amount to order. They will make wonderful family keepsakes and Christmas gifts for 2026.

Thank you!

To Submit Recipes Online:

- Go to www.typensave.com and click 'Login.'
- Enter the User Name: **kfacemyer**
- Enter the password: (**spatula449**) and click 'Submit.'
- Enter your name and click 'Continue.'

· Click 'Add Recipes' to begin adding your recipes.

Recipe Writing Tips:

- When adding recipes, review the "Tips" and use standard abbreviations.
- Only enter 1 ingredient per ingredient line.
- List ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., (16-oz.) pkg., (24-oz.) can.
- Write directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Additional comments about the recipe (history, nutritional data, suggested uses, etc.) are not allowed unless a "Recipe Note" field is visible. Enter extra recipe content in that field.



EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that Calvary has an email group for the “soul” purpose of intercessory prayer? When a church member (or person actively involved at Calvary) becomes aware of a specific prayer need, the information is communicated to Judy Lieving, our prayer coordinator, who then forwards the request via email. When we receive the email, we then enter into a time of prayer for the need listed. Do you feel called to a ministry of intercessory prayer? Would you be willing and available to join with us in intentional prayer? This is not intended to be a source of information—just to let you know there is a need. It is intended to be a form of communication to allow you to pray for a specific need. If you feel called to intercessory prayer for the needs that might be shared in this way, please contact Judy Lieving at judithlieving@gmail.com to be included on the email prayer chain.



GREAT NEWS!!!!!!

It is our intention to pay the remaining balance due on the mortgage during the week of October 5, 2026! This is awesome news, and you are to be commended. You have managed to pay off a refinanced loan of \$573,552.24 in less than five years! This timing is right for a number of reasons, but two of the major ones are that the interest rate on our invested money has decreased to less than the rate the mortgage costs, and we will have it paid off just before the 99th birthday of the current sanctuary (October 12th). We are going to celebrate this milestone on October 12th with a combined worship service at 10am, the celebration of Holy Communion, a luncheon, the burning of the mortgage, and possibly other activities.

You are welcomed and encouraged to continue to make donations to the building fund. All money received through October 4th will be used to help pay off the current mortgage. We will leave the dedicated fund open and all money received after October 4th will be accumulated and used for future major projects at the church such as replacing HVAC units (like we had to do the week of September 15th).

Attendance for Aug 2025

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Sept	7	Worship	171	15	123
Sept	14	Worship	145	20	110
Sept	21	Worship	177	15	120
Sept	28	Worship	122	25	87

Tithes and Offerings

2025 Budget	\$314,721.00
Needed Each Week	\$6,147.17
Rec. Year-to-Date	\$236,338.19



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 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.

From Dec 1, 2024 to Feb 28, 2025 84 Households Participated bringing \$301.03 to CUMC

ONLINE GIVING

The QR code has changed for online giving. Please use this barcode for your online giving through your credit or debit card or your bank account number. This can be a one time or regular transaction. You can also choose to pay the fee or have the church pay the fee.



October 2025 Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 Bryan Wallen
- 2 Sandy Hopkins
- 3
- 4 Scott Easter, Kinsley Facemyer
- 5 Case Thompson
- 6
- 7 Jack Victory, Emma Barnette
- 8 Sean Banks
- 9 Lindsay Toler, Patrick Wallen, Katelyn Fish, Brody Hersman
- 10 Jameson Groves
- 11
- 12 Shae Purkey, John Victory
- 13 Jeff Cox, Russ Hunter, Doug McGrew
- 14 Harper Patterson, Ava Landis
- 15
- 16 Ritchie Anderson, Lilah Reed
- 17 Solomon Phillips
- 18 Carla Brown
- 19
- 20 Pastor Steve Hamrick
- 21 Joah Defren, Megan Geyer
- 22
- 23 David Rothrock, Danielle Fish
- 24 Ava Bolyard
- 25 Emma Shockey
- 26 Benjamin Geyer
- 27 Janey Hall, Susan Hosaflook, Tim Showen
- 28
- 29 Dale Ruben
- 30 Lyndsay Cox
- 31



12 Bill & Ashley Longwell
25 Ralph & Jenny Parsons
Brent & Sarah Sturm

17 Brad & Heather Starkey
26 Joey & Keri Starcher



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers
October 2025**

**Worship Leader – Hersman Family
Natalie Holcomb**

**9:00 am
11:00 am**

	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Prayers of the People</u>	<u>Sound & Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
Oct 5	Alyssia Ruben & Lindsay Toler	Katelyn Fish & Sophia Wolford	Hannah Bolyard	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Bev Hopkins	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 a.m. Tom Willoughby
Oct 12	Megan Geyer & Adelyn Groves	Rhett Ruben & Ridley Ruben	Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Combined Seervice	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Combined Service
Oct 19	Hannah Bolyard & Cheyene Hicks	Ava Bolyard & Harper Banks	Taran Parsons	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Jessie Thompson	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Tom Willoughby
Oct 26	Taran Wolford & Mary Toler	Lilah Reed & Wes Hicks	Kendra Hersman	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Bev Hopkins	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Hersman Family 11:00 am Tom Willoughby
						

Reminder: The nursery is for ages 5 years and under. -
If you are unable to tend the Nursery as scheduled,
please switch with someone or call Cinda Francis (273-5264)

Pre-worship
Prayer Leaders: 9:00 am Hersman Family
Children's Time: 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb
9:00 am Keri Starcher
11:00 am Tom Willoughby



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Prayers/Squares 1-3p Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	2	3 11a Tai Chi Youth	4 7:00 a Mens Devo DAR 10-12 12-4p Hicks Hall Bk
5 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 9:00 a RFL Service of Hope 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Evans Eagles 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	6 UMM 6:30 p	7 Tai Chi 9:30a GriefShare 6:30p	8 Deborah/Miriam 10a Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	9 Food Pantry9-11a	10 11a Tai Chi Youth RFL Live Event	11 Mens Devo 7a 11 a Quilt Guild
12 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Mary Martha – Wallen Res 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	13 Columbus Day	14 Tai Chi 9:30a Scouts 6-8 p GriefShare 6:30p	15 Prayers/Squares1-3p Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	16	17 11a Tai Chi Youth UWF Annual Mtg	18 Mens Devo 7a 11-4p Hicks Hall Bk Potomac Highlands
19 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 9:00 a Transfer of Members 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	20	21 Tai Chi 9:30a John 3:16 – 3:16p GriefShare 6:30p	22 Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	23 Food Pantry9-11a Coat Drive	24 11a Tai Chi Youth	25 Mens Devo 7a Hicks Hall Booked 2p Conf Rm Booked
26 Children's Sabbath-Combined 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Charge Conference 4:00p PJH 5:30p Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival	27	28 Tai Chi 9:30a Scouts 6-8 p GriefShare 6:30p	29 Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	30	31 11a Tai Chi Yth	
Younger Youth and M&M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM <u>Your Youth Group Leaders</u> Younger – Taran Wolford 532-2317 M&M's - Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 High School – Jimmy Groves 372-6910		Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon <u>Sunday Services</u> Traditional/Live Streaming Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.				Worship Leaders: 9:00 am Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb

CALVARY UMC – STUDENT LIST**2025-2026***** *Student is new to mailing list*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Adkins, Cayden	601A McLane Ave, Morgantown WV. 26505	
Brown, Chloe	36 N. McKinley Ave. Apt. 803 Athens, OH 45701	
Cox, Lindsay***	P.O. Box 232 Kenna, WV 25248	
Francis, Jacob	Room 1061 Ohio State ATI 1775 Universal Drive Wooster, OH 44691	
Harris, Avery	River Gate Apt 105-B 10 Rufus Street Athens, OH 45701	
Harris, Jaxon	1075 Granada Street Grundy, VA 24614	
Harvey, Camryn***	28 Real Quiet Dr. Evans, WV 25241	
Harvey, Jake	704 Cherry St. Ravenswood, WV 26164	jakeharvey597@gmail.com
Haskins, Aubrey	20 Squibb Wilson Boulevard Apt 204-E Fairmont, West Virginia 26554-6343	
Haskins, Brett	Waiting for P.O. Box	
Hosaflook, Ellie	1402 3rd Ave. Apt. 16 Huntington, WV 25703-9605	
Howery, Bailey	1014 Rawley Lane Lincoln Hall room 452 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Keller, Brody***	332 East Oakland Hall 438 Oakland St. Morgantown, WV 26505	
Lee, Sophia	6313 Diana 3009 Broadway New York, NY 10027-6909	

Matheny, Vivian (Grace)	80 Newton Dr. Apt. 205 Morgantown, WV 26505	
McCutcheon, Kallie***	Cub 1805 208 University Dr. West Liberty, WV 26074	
McCutcheon, Katie***	1718 6th Avenue Willis Hall Room WS-0308a2 Box 78 Huntington, WV 25703-14130	
Neil, Christopher	971 Valley View Ave. Apt. 806 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Neil, Ryan	971 Valley View Ave. Apt. 806 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Phillips, Anderson	346 Crown Drive Ripley, WV 25271	
Phillips, Garrison L.	1211 MacTavish Avenue 907T Richmond, VA 23230	GarrisonPhillips17@gmail.com
Purkey, Jacquelyn (Shae)	4312 University Commons Drive Morgantown, WV 26505	
Shockey, Emma	1032 Franklin Ct. Wooster, OH 44691	
Shockey, Regan***	20 Squibb Wilson Blvd. Room 1-205 Fairmont, WV 26554	
Shockey, Riley	1870 Quaker Way Pyle Center Box 934 Wilmington, OH 45177	
Shockey, Wren	1120 Pine St. Apt. 204 Klamath Falls, OR 97601	ers.wren@gmail.com
Simons, Kaci***	455 Charleston Dr. Apt A-8 Ripley, WV. 25271	
Starcher. Joe "Trey" (Please use Joe)	601A McLain Avenue Morgantown, WV 26505- 4755	Treystarcher3@gmail.com
Swisher, Kaitlyn	c/o Dave Clatworthy 3927 Mt. Union Rd.	

Huntington, WV 25701

The following pages were developed by the St. Mark's UMC Justice and Advocacy Team. Perhaps you will find some nuggets of wisdom.

Best Practices for Faithful Engagement on Social Media

As followers of Christ, our online presence should reflect the same love, integrity, and hope we're called to embody in daily life. Grounded in compassion, committed to truth, and open to dialogue, we seek to be a faithful witness in digital spaces.



Written by the St. Marks United Methodist Church Justice & Advocacy Team, 2025

Invite Deeper Conversation

"Always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you... yet do it with gentleness and respect."

– 1 Peter 3:15

Post to spark dialogue, not just debate. Ask open-ended questions. Leave room for others to respond. A great phrase to use when you want to do this is, "Help me understand." And then listen.

Know when to move offline. Invite deeper, more nuanced discussion in person or over private message. Fruitful conversations rarely happen in comment threads.

Don't feed trolls (and don't be a troll). Engage when conversation is possible; disengage when it's not.

Protect Vulnerable People

"But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

– Luke 18:16

Don't share pictures of individuals, especially children, without permission. Assume everything you post is public. Do not share sensitive information or information that is not yours to share.

Do not share pictures of individuals in vulnerable positions (i.e. the unhoused, those battling addiction, etc) without permission. Never post with the intent to shame or dehumanize another.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Is this post something I would say to someone's face in love?

Does what I'm sharing reflect both integrity and love?

Am I leaving space for the Spirit to work in this conversation?

Is this my information or story to share?

Would this bring about embarrassment, shame, or humiliation of another?

Am I becoming too preoccupied with my screen?

Am I living for online debate?

Before posting, consider this prayer:

"May the words I type and the tone I take reflect the grace of Christ, the truth of the gospel, and the love of God for all people."

Practice Sabbath from Screens

"Be still, and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10

Take regular breaks to rest, reflect, and reconnect. If you find yourself "doom-scrolling," too much, step away. Read a book. Spend time in nature. Have dinner with loved ones. Play outside with your kids. Chat with a friend. Create something. Journal. The alternatives are endless.

Let silence be a holy discipline, not a social media absence to apologize for.

Speak with Compassion

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." – Colossians 3:12

Assume humanity before hostility. Even with the rise of bots on social media, assume that every comment has a person behind it.

Pause before posting. Ask: What is my intention of posting? Is it to try to change someone's mind? Is it to share information? Is it to speak up against injustice? Will this build someone up or tear someone down?

Don't weaponize Scripture. Use the Bible to bring healing, not harm.

Don't use ad hominum attacks. If you disagree on an issue and you want to further engage, focus on the actual content. Don't attack the person and don't allow yourself to be baited, but also do not expect to change someone's mind through debate on social media.

Signs that Someone is Trolling

- Using inflammatory or extreme language
- Ignoring your point and/or twisting your words
- Constantly moving the goalpost or changing the argument
- Posting only to provoke and create conflict
- Refusal to listen/learn or acknowledge nuance
- Making it personal – attacking people's character, intelligence, appearance (ad hominum attacks)
- Continuing to seek attention and stir the pot
- If you see someone doing these things,
DISENGAGE

Speak the Truth in Love

"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."

– Ephesians 4:15

Be honest and clear. Avoid half-truths, misleading headlines, or unverified claims.

Cite well. Share reliable sources and name authors when quoting. Verify sources before posting. When sharing information, try to use sources that maintain a more neutral bias. (See Media Bias Chart at the end)

Correct with care. If someone shares misinformation, offer correction kindly and privately first if possible.