



# CALVARY CONNECTION

January 2023

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

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

Web Page – [www.calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://www.calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.com)

## **We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of:**

Annabelle Carney

Paula Hamrick

Rachael Fisher

Basil Randolph Keller

### **THANK YOU**

On behalf of my entire family, I want to say thank you once again. I cannot adequately put into words how much your care and love and the many ways you expressed that love to us through the month of December and surrounding Paula's illness and death has meant to us. I know that many of you are hurting as well, since you had already bonded with Paula and had friendships that were growing each day. I apologize if you think you should have received a thank you card and did not get one. Paula was always very attentive to doing things like that, and, alas, I am not so good at it. But thank you for the food, the cards, the gifts, the flowers, sharing of memories, texts, Facebook comments, covering for me at the church, calls, offers for meals, prayers, and other ways you extended, and continue to extend the love of Jesus Christ. I am thankful for your friendship, and I am blessed to be your pastor.

Pastor Steve

### **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

I think I have told you this before, but my mother died at the age of 54, when I was 17 years old. It was one month before my high school graduation. My father was 56 years old and had been retired for one year. One thing that my dad told me that has stuck with me through the years was this, "If there is anything you want to do in life, do not say you will wait and do it when you retire. If there is any way possible, do it when the chance arises." I remembered that and used that approach when I was in seminary. At the conclusion of my first year in seminary, the group, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks

(ACMNP) was on campus recruiting people to minister in the national parks for 12 weeks in the summer. I said, I am going to Yellowstone and live in the park for the summer. It was a great experience.

Of course, you know where this is going. Paula and I had a lot of plans for the future and our years of retirement. None of that will be possible now. However, we also lived life and tried to do what we wanted if we had the chance. We had some wonderful experiences that I would not trade for anything in the world.

As I have been thinking about this, I have also reflected on the fact that when an hour or minute or second is past, it is gone forever. It is also true that God's mercy is new every morning. When we sin and fall short and mess up, we can't undo what happened, but we are always offered forgiveness and grace through Jesus Christ for a new start. But please remember this, don't say that once you retire you will serve in the church more, or talk to your neighbor about Jesus, or go on a mission trip – you know, when you retire and have more time. If the opportunity arises, don't put it off. If you have a chance to witness to someone about God's love, do it! You may never get another chance. Teach a Sunday school class. Volunteer at the food pantry. Claim each moment for Jesus.

May each of us "seize the moment" in 2023, and live the Christian life (and personal life) to its fullest. Make the most of every opportunity. Don't assume that you can put it off (whatever it is) until later. The Holy Spirit may have prepared that moment just for you to act so that God can accomplish something awesome. And, friends, make sure that you frequently tell and show your loved ones how much you love them.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

## **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:

Jan 1 – The Fourth Gift - Matt. 2:1-12

Jan 8 – Baptism – Matt 3:13-17

Jan 15 – Fellowship with Jesus – 1Cor 1:1-9

Jan 22 – One United – 1 Cor 1:10-18

Jan 29 – Foolishness – Matt 5:1-12

## **CONFIRMATION MENTOR TRAINING**

We will be training mentors at 6:00pm on Sunday, January 8, 2023, for the upcoming confirmation class. If you are interested or curious, we welcome your participation.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a congregational meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 10:00am in the church sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and a space for conversation around the future of the United Methodist Church, especially concerning the General Conference in 2024. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## **NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN**

The next Bible/book study led by Pastor Steve is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. We will meet at 1:00 pm or 6:00pm in the conference room. This study is actually two studies by Max Lucado back-to-back – Because of Bethlehem/He Chose the Nails. This study will take us through Lent and to Easter. We begin with four weeks of looking at the significance of Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus and then we have six weeks of the significance of the cross. This promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking study and I hope that you will plan to join us. Please call the church office to sign up no later than January 11<sup>th</sup> so we can order books. The cost should be less than \$15 for the books and you are free to order your own, if you prefer.

## **United Methodist Men**

Calvary UM Men will be meeting on Monday, January 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish and join in the fellowship.

## **United Methodist Women**

**Deborah/Miriam Circle** will meet January 11 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room of the church. The Blood Drive will be held January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-6:00 pm.



Please continue to make and keep your appointments. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the drive, please let Kathy Marlow or Lora Sturm know.

The **Mary Martha Circle** will be meeting on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

The **Discovery Circle** will meet January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 pm.



We invite 1st-12th graders to join us Sunday for youth choir 5:30-6pm and Youth Group 6-7pm!

## **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



## **Mission Updates:**

### **Food Pantry Ministry 2022**

**Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. During 2022 we distributed 63,000 lbs. of food. 37,000 lbs., almost 60%, of that was donated.**

**Donations included 19,000 lbs. from USDA, 8,500 lbs. from Walmart, 5,000 lbs. from Kroger, and the rest from churches and organizations in the area.**

**We spent \$28,500 to purchase 26,000 lbs., a little over 40%, of the food distributed.**

**Households served 1,878**

**Individuals served 5,673**

**God is good. All the time God is good.**

## 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.



## 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.

## **FOOD PANTRY** **MINISTRY**

## **Food Pantry Ministry** **Annual Statistics**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
# HH	2,568	2,987	1,858
# Individuals	8,290	9,179	5,514
Total lbs.	122,106	124,344	71,195

### **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
Corn Bread Mix	Canned Meat
Spaghetti Sauce	Spam
Spaghetti	Treet
Elbow Macaroni	Tuna
Soups	Chicken

### **Food Pick Up Schedule for January**

<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Senior High Class</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Patty Smith</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Connie Waybright</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dallas Skeen</b>

## Food Pantry Ministry December Report

We had a busy Christmas distribution on Thursday, December 22. We distributed a 40-45 lbs. food box and a ham to 142 families.

We continue to be blessed in December with financial support from our congregation as well as Hopewell Baptist and Fairplain Union. Also, Ripley Library, Walmart, Kroger, Main Street Ripley Teens, Ripley Middle School, Fruth Pharmacy, and Greens Feed and Seed for their food donations during December.

During December we brought in 7,919 lbs. of food, 3,552 lbs. were donated and 4,367 lbs. were purchased.

Food donations included 1,489 lbs. from USDA, 877 lbs. from Walmart, 310 lbs. from Ripley Middle School, and 258 lbs. from Ripley High School Main Street Ripley Teens.

We purchased \$1,980 of food from Kroger, \$1,552 from Walmart and \$2,140 of food from Mountaineer Food Bank.

We served 259 households or 791 individuals.

Month	<b>YTD Monthly</b>	
	Households	Individuals
January	157	497
February	167	477
March	172	509
April	168	449
May	125	378
June	108	336
July	98	299
August	130	371
September	135	413
October	139	454
November	220	699
December	259	791



Thank you to  
all who donated  
for our ADOPT-A-  
FAMILY this year.

We provided Christmas for 17 families including  
65 children. We also provided 11 brand new  
bikes. Thank you for being so generous.



## NICARAGUA CLINIC UPDATE

**THANK YOU** for your support  
of the Clinic this year.  
Here is an update of the total  
Clinic expenditures for  
2022(March to December)

Physician	\$1540.00
Transportation (to get supplies/medicines)	\$150.00
Jackie and Phyllis who run the clinic	(\$1100)
Total drug/supply costs	\$2727.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5517.00</b>

The clinic was open 4 hours 2 days a week and provided help to all ages, babies through adult. The clinic was able to meet many physical needs, refer some that needed more help to the hospital and, also, spread the good news of Jesus Christ to each patient. They are very thankful to our congregation for starting the clinic back up and look forward to continuing to be Gods hand in the Sandino Community in 2023.

We will continue to have a couple fundraisers in 2023 and will certainly continue to accept your donations for this very worthwhile mission. **THANK YOU!**

## Attendance for November 2022

			9:00	Facebook	11:00		
Nov	6	Worship	165		42	Sunday School	122
Nov	13	Worship	143	234	34	Sunday School	113
Nov	20	Worship	152		32	Sunday School	122
Nov	27	Worship	152	257	28	Sunday School	103

### Tithes and Offerings

2022 Budget	\$289,188.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,561.30
Rec. Year-To-Date	\$303,305.24



## 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.

### Amazon Smile

**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. When you order from Amazon use **Amazon Smile instead of simply Amazon and under your profile select Calvary United Methodist Church, Ripley, WV (make sure it is our church; there are several Calvary United Methodist churches on the list)** 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."**

### 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.



**January 2023  
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1—
- 2—Anderson Phillips, Sidney Varney
- 3—Mike Keller, Mary Elizabeth Fish
- 4—
- 5—Shirley Catalano, Patricia Kent, Molleigh Chappel
- 6—Jerelyn Rothrock, Patty Smith, Drew Swisher
- 7—Max DeGregori
- 8—
- 9—
- 10—
- 11—Patrick Boggess, Tom Elliott, Virginia Skeen, Ryan Varney
- 12—
- 13—Val Carnell, Melanie Pierson, Steve Sisson
- 14—Jay Pierson, Mackenzie Casto
- 15—Bill Hosaflook
- 16—
- 17—Ryan Hunter, Trevor Cummings
- 18—
- 19—Greg Varney, Meleyah Mitchell, Debbie Showen
- 20—Chandra Gray, Morgan Pierson, Derek Wallen
- 21—Tom Jenkins
- 22—Cohen Isner
- 23—Noah Tariq Landis
- 24—Skyy Leek, Caleb Hartung
- 25—Chloe Brown, Kelly DeGregori, Terry Landis, Isaiah Adkins
- 26—Becky Tucker, Maggie Cox, Ellie Landis
- 27—
- 28—Andrew Francis, Jason Groves, Sheila McCoy, Emery Thomas
- 29—Isabella Lee, Virginia Rouse
- 30—Jace Cunningham, Jake Harvey, Bea Lowe, Brynlee Banks
- 31—Cinda Francis, Devin Pierson, Benji Thompson



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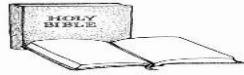
**Anniversaries**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1—Charles & Joy Hicks    | 16—Bill & Susan Hosaflook |
| Stan & Sandy Hopkins     | 20—Kim & Kay Carmean      |
| Bryan & Gayle Thompson   | 22—John & Patricia Kent   |
| 7—Scott & Hannah Bolyard | 29—Emery & Sue Thomas     |



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers  
January 2023**

**Worship Leader – Amy Haskins      9:00 am  
Natalie Holcomb      11:00 am**

	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Prayers of the People</u>	<u>Sound &amp; Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
<b>Jan 1</b>	Alyssia Ruben & Jenny Parsons	Jameson Groves & Katelyn Fish	Danielle Fish	9:00 am Debbie Higginbotham 11:00 am Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming –</b> Matt Hicks	9:00 a.m. Aubrey Haskins 11:00 a.m. Kay Casto
<b>Jan 8</b>	Megan Geyer & Grace Matheny	Korie Hersman & Alexi Fish	Annette Keller	9:00 am Debbie Higginbotham 11:00 am Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming –</b> Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 a.m. Aubrey Haskins 11:00 a.m. Kay Casto
<b>Jan 15</b>	Carla Brown & Adelyn Groves	Isaac Young & Cohen Isner	Stephanie Dewees	9:00 am Debbie Higginbotham 11:00 am Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming –</b> Andrew Francis	9:00 a.m. Aubrey Haskins 11:00 a.m. Kay Casto Family
<b>Jan 22</b>	Cinda Francis & Staci Cummings	Alaina Hicks & Eliza Reed	Taran Wolford	9:00 am Debbie Higginbotham 11:00 am Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming –</b> Andrew Francis	9:00 a.m. Aubrey Haskins 11:00 a.m. Kay Casto
<b>Jan 29</b>	Hilary Groves & Chloe Brown  Nursery Ministry	Ava Isner & Ashlyn Wolford  Acolytes	Kendra Hersman 	9:00 am Debbie Higginbotham 11:00 am Greg Varney <i>In Our Thoughts &amp; Prayers</i> 	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming –</b> Russ Hunter  MEDIA TEAM	9:00 a.m. Aubrey Haskins 11:00 a.m. Kay Casto 

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 Debbie Higginbotham  
11:00 am Kay Casto

## JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages	<b>2</b> 6:30 p UMM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00 – 3:00 pm Prayers & Squares 7:00 p Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 a Gideons
<b>8</b> 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Group 6:00 p Confirmation Mentors Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Tai Chi 6-8 p Conf Rm & Hicks Hall booked	<b>11</b> 10:00 a Deborah/Miriam 7:00 p Choir	<b>12</b> 9-11:00 a Food Pantry	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 a Gideons 10:00 a Congregation Mtg in Sanctuary 2-6 p Hicks Hall Booked
<b>15</b> 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 2-4 pm Conf Rm & Hicks Hall booked 2:00 pm Mary Martha 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Discovery Circle 5:30 p Christmas Dinner	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Tai Chi	<b>18</b> 1:00 – 3:00 pm Prayers & Squares 7:00 p Choir	<b>19</b> 12-6 p Blood Drive 5:30 p RFL 6:30 p 4-H Horse	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 a Gideons
<b>22</b> 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Tai Chi	<b>25</b> 7:00 p Choir	<b>26</b> 9-11:00 a Food Pantry	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 a Gideons
<b>29</b> 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 am Tai Chi			 <small>gg117544721 GoGraph.com</small>	
<b>Younger Youth and M&amp;M's Youth            Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM            choir 6:00 PM</b> <b>Your Youth Group Leaders</b> <b>Younger</b> – Hilary Groves 532-7648 <b>M&amp;M's</b> Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 <b>High School</b> – Jimmy Groves 372-6910 Tina Cunningham 372-3852		<b>Church Office Open-</b> <b>Monday thru Friday-9:00 - Noon</b> <b>Sunday Services</b> <b>Traditional Service</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Live Streaming</b> <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Seeker Service</b> 11:00 a.m.				<b>Worship Leaders:</b> 9:00 am Amy Haskins 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb



