



# CALVARY CONNECTION

March 2024

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## Pastor's Ponderings

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, we are going to celebrate the one event that completely changed the course of history. The one event that was the culmination of history to that point—everything pointed to it. The fulfillment of the promises to God's chosen people, a people chosen to be the conduit of God's grace and expression of God's love toward the world God created. The one event that provides eternal life for all who would receive it. Of course, I am talking about Easter! The highlight of the Christian year. Our greatest celebration. We will celebrate the victory that Jesus Christ won over death; the tomb was empty! Jesus arose and provided a way for us to overcome death as well.

But please don't forget the obvious...in order for Jesus to rise from the dead, he had to be dead. There can be no resurrection without a death. It is the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary that made a way for us to experience forgiveness of sin. In the empty grave Jesus defeats death. On the cross, Jesus defeats sin! Our two greatest enemies, sin and death, were defeated by Jesus in a matter of three days! And make no mistake – it wasn't THEIR sin, it was OUR sin. That is comforting and troubling. Troubling because we realize that our sin is what caused the crucifixion of the Son of God. Our sin. My sin. Your sin. But we find comfort knowing that Jesus willingly took our sin to the cross and because of His obedient sacrifice, it is now possible for our sins to be forgiven (just ask!). Christ has accomplished everything necessary for our salvation—His death on the cross provides for the forgiveness of our sins which in turn restores our broken relationship with God and puts us in a right relationship with God. Jesus' victory over death allows us to join Him in eternal life. No wonder we stand in awe in the presence of this God! No wonder we call this grace amazing.

I want to encourage you and challenge you on two levels. I want you to worship with all that is in you on Easter Sunday morning. Sing the hymns loudly! Participate with gusto and focus. Intentionally think about and visualize the empty tomb and the

excitement of the first disciples. Gratefully receive the gift of eternal life that Jesus offers.

But first, before we get to Easter Sunday morning, I challenge you to continue to participate in the season of Lent with fasting and reflection. Use this season as the opportunity to fast and dwell more closely with God. To be drawn into God's presence and seek God's face and love and direction. As part of the observance of Lent, I encourage you to participate in as many of the worship opportunities of Holy week as possible. We will be hosting the Jackson County Ministerial Association midday (noon) services, Monday through Friday of Holy week (March 25-29). You can see the schedule later in this newsletter. But I want to strongly encourage you to participate in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services at Calvary at 7pm on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

It is my belief that to have the proper perspective for the Easter service, you need to participate in the Holy week services. We must understand the gravity of the Cross to gain an appreciation of the glory of the empty tomb. There is no resurrection without a death. One of Satan's primary temptations offered to Jesus was the crown without the cross. Glory without suffering and dying. We are resurrection and Easter people, but we need to spend some time at the foot of the cross.

Holy week worship combined with our Easter Day celebration is the highlight of the Christian year and defines who we are and whose we are better than any other experience or worship experience. We witness the extent of God's love for us—Jesus was willing to suffer and die so that our relationship with God could be restored. We witness the power of God to overcome death by raising Jesus from death to life and inviting us to join Him in eternal life. I hope to see you at several of our worship services during Holy Week and on Easter.

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:

Mar 3 – What Foolishness – 1 Cor 1:18-25

Mar 10 – The Power of Love – John 3:14-21

Mar 17 – Glorify God – John 12:20-23

Mar 24 – Special Service (combined) – Liturgy of the Passion

Mar 31 – Resurrection! Life Wins!

### Parents of Toddlers thru Mid-Teens

The **Voyager Sunday School class** will be completing the **5-session study on Habits of the Household**, by Justin Early, on **Sunday, March 3**.

This is a great study that includes a DVD, Book, and Study Guide. **It is available for parents to view on their own time.** Just come by the Voyager Sunday School Class and pick up the items mentioned above. We all want to share meaningful, God-honoring moments with our families, but our hectic lives make that difficult! In this practical 5-session study, award-winning author Justin Early shows **how you can create daily habits** around everyday routines-from mealtimes to bedtimes-and change your family's spiritual rhythms to release a sense of peace and purpose in your home.

**Topics include: Waking, Mealtimes, Discipline, Screentime, Family Devotions, Marriage, Work, Play, Conversation, and Bedtime.**



### GRIEF SHARE GROUP

Our current GriefShare group is meeting on Tuesdays 6:30pm – 8:00pm. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider joining us. The GriefShare program employs a combination of videos with professional counselors and personal testimonials and group discussion time to help participants work through the grief process and gain some tools to help in our day-to-day lives. Many people (not everyone) find it helpful. You will also find a community of people experiencing what you are experiencing, and we form a bond and community-it becomes our tribe! Each session can stand alone and be helpful so you can join the program at any time during this 13-session series.



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Easter is earlier than usual this year – March 31, 2024. The week prior to

Easter is known as Holy Week and it is filled with worship opportunities. Calvary will be hosting the Jackson County Ministerial Association (JCMA) midday worship services the entire week (Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>) at noon each day. We will gather at 12:00 noon for about 30 minutes of worship followed by a luncheon. The luncheon will be of the sort that it is easy to “grab and go” if you need to get back to work, but we will also have a lot of people who will stay after worship and eat and fellowship in Hicks Hall. The preaching schedule is as follows and I encourage you to attend every day, if possible:

Monday—Rev. Steve Hamrick, pastor at Calvary

Tuesday—Rev. Chris Skeens, pastor of Free Will Baptist Church in Ravenswood and president of the JCMA

Wednesday—Rev. Sarah Allen of Sandyville UMC

Thursday—Joey Beane youth pastor at Victory Church and leader of Young Life

Friday—Rev. Kerry Bart of Epworth UMC



Additionally, Calvary will have worship at **7pm on Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**. These services are often some of the most spiritually impactful worship experiences of the year (other than our grand celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday).



There will be an Easter sunrise service at **7am again this year at the gazebo** on the courthouse lawn. This is a **combined effort of a few congregations** in

Ripley. **Rev. Kerry Bart** will be preaching that morning. **Bring a lawn chair** and worship at the time of day that the empty tomb was first discovered!



### COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

We will have one combined morning worship service on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Sunday school classes will meet at 9am that day. This is Passion/Palm Sunday, and we will focus on both Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His passion. We will wave palm branches! There will be a lot of scripture read and hymns sung. For me, this is one of the most important worship services of the year (the entire week of worship from Palm Sunday through Holy week and Easter is so indescribably important). I hope that everyone will plan to join us for this very special time of worship and the opportunity to be in worship with our entire church family. It is a perfect day to invite a friend and then invite them again next Sunday for Easter. A great “excuse” to ask them two weeks in a row...and then a third week and a fourth week, etc.



The Youth Groups have returned to their Sunday evening meetings. Meetings are 5:30 pm with choir and regular meetings at 6:00 pm

**Your Youth Group Leaders**

Younger Youth –	Taran Wolford	532-2317
M&M's -	Ashley Hosaflook	786-0046
High School-	Jimmy Groves	372-8768



**NEW HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY TO BEGIN**

Ryan Ruben will be starting a 6-week study on the book of Revelation in the High School Sunday School class on 3/10/24. The book of Revelation has a lot of mystery but can also be unsettling. Including numerical signs and monsters, the book of apocalypse can be difficult to wrap our minds around, but the message that Revelation brings is hope. **The class will focus on the DVD and study guide entitled *Revelation: Extravagant Hope* and is part of the Beautiful Word Bible Studies.** As there are a lot of references to scripture in the DVD, **all participants are encouraged to bring their Bible to each session.**



**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.

**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.



**United Methodist Men**

The March meeting of the UMM will be March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend.

**United Methodist Women –  
United Women in Faith**



**World Day of Prayer is March 1, 2024.** We will be holding a Prayer Vigil on that day from **7:00 am - 7:00 pm.** There will be a signup sheet in the back of the church to signup for **30 minute intervals.** You can come to the church in the Prayer Room or pray at your home or workplace at your convenience.

The **Little Kanawha District United Women in Faith are holding their Spring Meeting at Wayside UMC in Vienna on March 9, 2024.** Registration will begin at 8:30 with the meeting at 9:00. Our own Rev. Deb Higginbotham will be our speaker for the day. The program will be on "Acceptance of Each Other". We are asking persons to donate the following for the ingathering that will go to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, saltine crackers, mac and cheese, spaghetti sauce, noodles, boxed pudding and jello, peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruit, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry soap

If you do not plan to attend the meeting and would like to donate to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry there will be a basket outside the church office and we will see that it gets to the meeting.

We hope you will join us!

Calvary United Women in Faith will be hosting Epworth United Women in Faith for their annual **Call to Prayer and Self Denial meeting on March 11 at 6:00 pm.** This is a dinner meeting and ladies will need to plan to bring a covered dish. We hope you will plan to join us!



The **Deborah Miriam Circle** will meet

March 13 at 10:00 am in the church Conference Room. Linda Waybright will have the program and hostesses are Gayle Thompson and Kathy Marlow.

The **Blood Drive** will be March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the drive, please let Kathy Marlow or Lora Sturm know.

The **Mary Martha Circle** will meet March 10 at 2pm. at the home of Lora Sturm.

The **Discovery Circle** will be meeting March 24 @ 4:30 pm. for the Calvary Easter Egg Hunt..

If you are not already a member of a women's circle, you are welcome to join one of these.



## CUMC MISSION TEAM

### MISSION MOMENT

MISSION AUCTION

MARCH 17, 2024

WEAR GREEN-BRING GREEN

#### ITEMS DONATED

Stained Glass Suncatchers	Courtney Bowles
Wood Item	EJ Ulland
“Dellie Wallen” Candy	Carolyn & Dallas Wallen
Pepperoni Rolls	Melanie Purkey
Wooden Cutting Board & Wooden Bowls	Randy Williams (friend of Bill Hosaflook)
Leaf Blower w/battery & charger (Valued @\$189-\$209)	Linda/David Dickirson
Crocheted Baby Blankets	Patricia Link
Doggy Reading Pillow	Mary Ulland
Handwoven Seat Footstool	Dallas W. Skeen
Baseball Cards	Terry Landis
Vera Bradley Package (includes Tote, Throw Blanket, Beach Towel, Curling/Flat Iron Cover)	Chris Landis
Original Painting	Cameron Carr (coworker of Natalie Holcomb)
Burlington Apple Butter	Taran & Jamion Wolford
Guitar & Violin	Rev. Steve Hamrick
Chocolate Cake /Raspberry Filling	Marsha Humphrey
Handmade Bowl Koozies, Mug	Rug Coasters
Candle Placemat	Stephanie DeWees
Welcome Board	Bev Hopkins
Chocolate & Maple Nut Fudge	Shirley Catalano
Geometric Barn Quilt wall hanging -Wood (made by her brother Robert Stover)	Patty Smith
Message Board-Mary&Martha	Joy Hicks
Basket of Mary&Martha	Natalie Holcomb&
Goodies& Candles	Heather Starkey
Coasters	Keller Greathouse
Cutting Board	Scott Greathouse
Pre-lit set of 3 Ceramic Eggs	Ralph & Jenny Parsons
Carry-on 21” Expandable	
8 wheel Spinner 17” Workbook	
Travel Backpack	Ralph & Jenny Parsons



We have a group of folks who share a meal about once a week because we don't like eating alone or trying to cook for one person. If that applies to you, please consider joining us! Just contact Pastor Steve.

#### MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

February 21st the new mid-week bible study began, Toward the Cross. This Lent study will take us through the Wednesday after Easter (April 3rd). We still have one book available, if you would like to join us on this journey. Attend as often as you can.

## John 3:16 Fellowship



What better way to “spring” into our first “gathering” of 2024 than on the first day of Spring, **Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Please come and join your fellow friends in Christ that afternoon at **3:16 p.m. in the conference room.**

If you haven't been able to attend previously we cordially invite anyone who is retired or just wishes they were to be with us as we begin a new season of wonderful fellowship by sharing light refreshments, a devotion and always a laugh or two. Please bring a friend and give us a try.

**We would love to see you!**

Vanessa Rothrock

#### Wee Read & Feed



We have been very blessed. Thank you so much to the anonymous person or persons making the wonderful donation to our mission.

We greatly appreciate you and your donation.

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

#### 2\*1\*1

Do you ever encounter someone in need? Like, in need of help to pay a utility bill, need food, need to talk to someone about substance abuse, someone looking for a job, etc., really most any need? Almost all of us do at some point and usually we struggle with knowing what to do, where to send them, or how to help. The United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley has worked in partnership with 211 to make a “one call” resource available. If a person calls 211, or visits 211 ORG, or texts their zip code to 898-211, the operator will get information about their specific need and be able to connect them with local programs that address that need. They are friendly and non-judgmental – they just want to get the person in need connected to someone who may be able to help. I will have some handouts available soon, but if you encounter a person in need, and you cannot help them yourself, please make sure they know about this resource.



### Food Pantry Ministry Annual Statistics

	2020	2021	2022
# HH	2,987	1,858	1,878
# Individuals	9,179	5,514	5,673
Total lbs.	124,344	71,195	63,069

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 March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Senior High Class
8 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Smith
15 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Waybright
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Debbie Sisson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Dallas Skeen

#### Food Pantry Ministry February

During February we continued working on clearing out some of our inventory. Still, we brought in 3,740 pounds. Most of it was donated, 3,153 pounds and only purchased 587 pounds from Mountaineer Food Bank at a cost of \$417.

The donated pounds included: USDA 2,104 pounds, Kroger 403 pounds, and Kroger 320 pounds.

For the month we served 149 households or 402 individuals.

Month	Households	Individuals
June	146	396
July	127	320
August	174	496
September	189	535
October	216	628
November	275	841
December	251	661
January	172	456
February	149	402

.....Mike Wilt



Meet me at The Grind – it isn’t just about the coffee! If you have the opportunity, stop in and say hi and chat over a cup of your favorite coffee or any of their many options (and maybe a cookie or scone as well). If the hours I am normally there do not fit in your schedule, just send me a text at 681-368-4040 with a time that better suits you and I will see what I can do to accommodate your schedule. I am usually there on Tuesday mornings from 7:30am – 8:30am, Thursday mornings 9:00am – 10:00am, and often on Saturdays as well. But watch for my weekly updates via email or Facebook to get the days and times for that specific week.

#### 2025 TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

As I have mentioned, and stating the obvious, the trip I had planned to the Holy Land that was to depart on January 30, 2024, has been postponed. I do have a new trip organized with the departure date of January 28, 2025. In many ways, the Middle East area is getting even more volatile instead of less so. We should be in constant prayer for all involved. No one can know with any certainty what the next 12 months will look like for that region (well, anywhere for that matter). However, if it is safe to travel, I will be taking a group in 2025, and it is the same itinerary that we had scheduled for 2024. You can access my new brochure by clicking on this link: [HL25\\_012825B\\_50243\\_Hamrick\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.travelwithus.com/HL25_012825B_50243_Hamrick_FINAL.pdf) ([travelwithus.com](https://www.travelwithus.com)).

You can also access my new website by clicking here: [Educational Opportunities Tours / Tours · Journey Through the Bible with Rev. Steve Hamrick | Jan. 28, 2025](https://www.travelwithus.com/Educational-Opportunities-Tours-Tours-Journey-Through-the-Bible-with-Rev.-Steve-Hamrick-Jan-28-2025) ([travelwithus.com](https://www.travelwithus.com)).

I will provide more information over the next several months. You can register now or wait a few months to see what transpires (there are graduated discounts for earlier registration). If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask.

## **Bet Ya Didn't Know** **(or maybe you did)**

I often use this column to explore some theological or Christian "thing" that you may or may not know why we do what we do or believe what we believe. This month, I want to bring your attention to a very serious problem—mostly as a way of increasing awareness. The stories I relate are true and most are local, and they are disturbing. All the more reason to address them now.

I am sure that you are aware that MANY people are "scammed" every single day. The scams can be for smaller amounts or a person's entire life savings. Identity theft is on the rise and if it happens to you, you might spend hours and weeks and months trying to correct a lot of issues (just ask a couple of folks at Calvary). Victims can range in age from very young to very old. From wealthy to barely making ends meet. From highly educated to less so. I just saw a report on the national news where a guy who was divorced and lonely met "a woman" online. He was convinced that they were going to get married, but she needed money to get here and for other things. He took \$500,000 out of his retirement account (which only left him \$10,000) and sent it to "her." I keep using quotes around her because it was most likely men in a foreign country pretending to be a woman. One of the detectives from the FBI said that he had personally seen people send as much as \$4million! It will never be recovered and very rarely is the perpetrator ever caught.

But it happens locally as well. I have recently heard two stories where a person was ready to send a significant amount of money (\$25,000 and \$100,000) to what they thought was a legitimate person/need and only at the last minute, because a friend or family member intervened, they discovered that they were being scammed.

And it isn't just money. There are plenty of news stories where a young girl (almost always a girl) has been chatting with someone online who is posing as a boy their age. Then the "boy" requests inappropriate photos. Then they want to meet. Local police have said that sadly, they usually do not learn of these scams until the young girl is missing—because they went to meet this "boy" and more often than not they have been abducted. And the photos of the girl end up on the dark web and being sold to perverts all over.

There are some really bad people out there, folks. And they intend harm. I understand the need for privacy and respecting personal space, but I think if I were the parent of a young person, it would be a policy that if they have a cell phone, I would be looking at it every evening. The "price" they pay for having the phone.

Again, don't think this kind of stuff does not happen in Ripley, WV. I personally know of instances that I have mentioned. Fortunately, with one young girl in the last few days, it was discovered before she sent any inappropriate photos and law enforcement will be attempting to locate the person who is trying to lure her in. THIS GIRL IS NOT YET A TEENAGER. It can and does happen to a person of any age.

One common scam involves someone pretending to be a pastor or other close friend. The scammer tries to convince the person that either they need a gift card or prepaid Visa card or something similar for a personal need, or to participate in some ministry. You might get an email or Facebook message that appears to be from your trusted person when in reality, someone is posing as that person. Everything sounds so legitimate. I have received these requests from someone posing as Bishop Sandra. I WILL NEVER ASK YOU FOR GIFT CARDS OR MONEY THROUGH FACEBOOK MESSENGER OR PERSONAL EMAIL. There may be a time when we want to have gift cards donated for a specific ministry. If that is the case, rest assured that you will hear it from me directly—from the pulpit and by other personal means, such as face-to-face (yes, some people still communicate that way!).

March 3-9 has been designated as National Consumer Protection week. Part of that initiative also includes Slam the Scam Day on March 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a push by the Social Security Administration to increase awareness of scamming as well as offer some tools to help you and your loved ones avoid being scammed. Check out their good information and resources at this link:

[Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams | Social Media Resources | SSA](#)

I want to share one personal story—with a happy ending. Just after Paula died, I received a phone call and the person identified herself as an employee of Wespeth, which is our UM insurance group. She said that I had life insurance on Paula through my retirement and they wanted my bank account number to transfer the funds. Red flags were going off all over the place for me. I didn't think I had life insurance on



Paula through Wespeth, I did not initiate the call, and I NEVER give out my bank account number. So, I politely told this person that I was nervous and was going to hang up and then call back using the numbers and channels I knew were legitimate. It turns out that this was a legit thing and everyone I spoke with at Wespeth completely understood my hesitancy. I did receive payment for life insurance and didn't even know it was available.

Let's work together and look out after each other. I am just proud enough to think that it could never happen to me, after all, I'm a smart guy! A lot of people who have been scammed said the same thing. I do not want to live by being skeptical and suspicious of every single thing, but Jesus said to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. It would behoove us all to be diligent. One way to do that is like I did with the insurance company. If you did not initiate the call, hang up and call back using the phone number you trust or know. Please be careful out there folks. And please report any attempted scams to the proper authorities so they can follow up.



Sign up  
for  
Church  
Camp!

It is time for the youth and kids to register for camp at **Spring Heights!** Some of the groups in the church have scholarship money available for campers. We have our district camp as well. For more information about Spring Heights and the

registration form for this conference camp, check this out:

[Descriptions - Spring Heights](#)



### **JIGSAW EXCHANGE**

Do you like working puzzles? Evidently, several of us do! It has been

suggested that we share our puzzles with each other. Don't know what to do with that puzzle after you complete it? Why not bring it to the church and let someone else take it to work on it? And while you are there dropping off your puzzle, select one that someone else has donated to take home for yourself! Why go buy more puzzles when we already have plenty?



### ***Prayer Requests***

### **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](mailto:judithlieving@gmail.com) to be included on the email prayer chain.

### **GENERAL CONFERENCE**

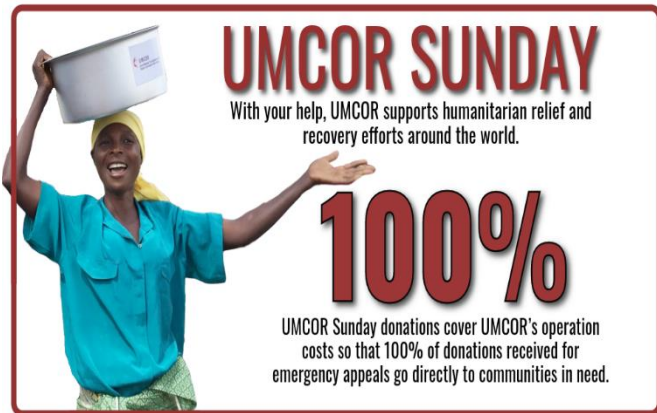
Speaking of prayer...Be looking for a prayer focus during General Conference. We haven't quite settled into what this might look like, but we will probably have a prayer vigil of sorts where folks in the church sign up for a specific time slot during General Conference. We would like someone praying for every minute General Conference is in session. Be looking for a finalized plan sometime in March or early April. General Conference begins April 23, 2024, and concludes May 3, 2024.

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

If you would like to submit a resolution for consideration at the WV Annual Conference, it has to be received in the conference office no later than March 8, 2024. Any member of a UM Church or any group from a church or any church can submit a resolution for consideration.

## UMCOR SUNDAY

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, has been designated as UMCOR Sunday this year. UMCOR stands for the United Methodist Committee On Relief. This disaster recovery ministry of the church works wherever a disaster strikes around the world. UMCOR is committed to long-term recovery and is often on-site for a few years to help the community get reestablished.



UMCOR Sunday, with special offering, is our way of funding the administrative costs of this ministry so when a disaster occurs, 100% of the donations for that event can be directed to that recovery effort. We will receive a special offering and you can use one of the envelopes provided or simply indicate UMCOR Sunday in the memo section of your check. You can also designate UMCOR if you are giving electronically.

## 2024 SPRING LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

The 2024 Little Kanawha Lay Servant Academy will be held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 4pm. You may choose from five different courses (Facilitator listed):

- The Basic Course—Pam Braden
- Leading Public Prayer—Rev. Steve Hamrick
- Called to Preach—Rev. Cindy Eakle
- Justice in Everyday Life—Rev. Shuana Hyde
- Transforming Evangelism—Rev. Ed Craft

If you currently hold the classification of Certified Lay Servant, the last four courses offered are considered Advanced Courses and will meet the requirement to maintain your certification or seek to move to Certified Lay Speaker Status.

However, you do not have to be seeking any type of certification to find these courses helpful. You will gain valuable training to help in your Christian discipleship as well as help you be a leader at Calvary. I encourage you to attend! The registration form is provided in this newsletter and is available online.

## CONFERENCE CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER COURSE TO BE OFFERED

Do you sense God leading you into more intentional and dedicated service in God's Church? If so, Certified Lay Ministry is a possible next step. In order to become a Certified Lay Minister, CLM, a person has to be approved by their local church and then there are a few classes that must be completed online. A CLM must appear before the District Committee of Ordained Ministry every two years to remain certified—this is a step of accountability and also a means of encouragement and support. A CLM is qualified to serve as the pastor of a congregation but is not obligated to do so. Do you feel like God is calling you to preach? To hold leadership positions at Calvary? In the District or Conference? I would encourage you to set up a time to come to the pastor's study and talk to me about how you feel God is calling you and we can discuss some of your options!

## CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT

Several years ago, the churches in the WV Conference began an initiative called the Celebration of Mission Event and the acronym COME was used to encourage folks to come to a specific event in their district. These events looked different in every district, but the common goal was to raise funds for our WV UM mission projects. It was also an opportunity to gather tangible products that the various mission projects needed to effectively serve in their area/community. This is one powerful example of how we are so much stronger together and a great example of our connection at work. Many things have happened over the years that necessitated changes in the way this was conducted, but the general concept has remained the focus of this annual event.

Currently, the WV Conference is supporting/sponsoring ten mission programs within the bounds of our conference. We have established a rotation so that each district is charged with the task of gathering tangible goods for two different mission projects each year. For 2024, the Little Kanawha District (that's us, folks) is being asked to collect items on the needs list for Ebenezer Community Outreach Center located in Huntington and Scott's Run Settlement House in Osage. The next couple of pages in the newsletter contain a short description of the ministry of those mission projects as well as their needs list. I encourage you to look up the website for Ebenezer and Scott's Run to find out as much as you can about how they are sharing the love of Jesus in those communities.

Soon you will see some plastic tubs located in various places throughout the church. They will be tagged for COME products and we encourage you to bring some of the items on the lists in this newsletter and leave them in the tubs. We are **not** going to have separate tubs for the



two mission projects and there are some items common to both ministries. The Calvary Missions team will separate the items collected for the designated mission. We need to complete this project sometime around the first of May. So, you have plenty of time, but there is no need to wait until the last minute. Let's fill the tubs multiple times!!!

As you might expect, all of the mission projects need money. One component of the COME initiative has always been fund raising. It is our policy in WV that all funds raised by the districts for this event are combined and then distributed among the ten mission projects. So, we are not raising funds just for Ebenezer and Scott's Run, but all projects. This year, the conference is encouraging parishes to work together to raise money. We have not yet made a final decision as to how we can combine efforts on a parish-wide basis, but one suggestion has been a golf tournament and fellowship meal. Be looking for more information about our fund-raising activity soon. Whatever we decide to do will probably take place in late April or early May. And just so you know, our parish includes (among others) Calvary, Epworth, and Sandyville.

**EBENEZER COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER, INC (ECOC)**

Celes L. Sheffield, Executive Director  
 1660 8th Avenue  
 Huntington, WV 25703  
 304-523-2882  
[ebecomout@gmail.com](mailto:ebecomout@gmail.com)

*Celebration of Mission Event Remittance Number: 881*

*2024 District Support Assignments: Little Kanawha & Nine Rivers*

**MINISTRY AND MISSION:**

Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc. offers a state licensed childcare and after-school program for youth ages two through twelve. Our philosophy is to provide children with a safe and nurturing environment where learning can be fun and free. It is our goal to help children grow in self-esteem and in their relationships with others and, by providing quality programs and services, to assist the children in reaching their fullest developmental potential.

Other programs offered include:

- Baby Bassinettes,
- School Supplies,
- Christmas Angel,
- Family Enrichment,
- Clothing Closet and
- Huntington Museum of Art program.

**NEEDS:**

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Copy Paper              | Baby Dolls |
| Children's toothbrushes | Lysol      |
| Paint Brushes           | Baby Wipes |
| Children's toothpaste   |            |
| Playdough               |            |
| Toilet Paper            |            |
| Puzzles for Ages 2-12   |            |
| Laundry detergent       |            |
| Blocks                  |            |
| Dish Soap               |            |



**SCOTT'S RUN SETTLEMENT HOUSE**

Mike Richard, Executive Director  
 Devon McDaniel, Assistant Director  
 41 Ladybug Lane Osage, WV 26543  
 304-599-5020

[mrichard@srsh.org](mailto:mrichard@srsh.org)  
[www.srsh.org](http://www.srsh.org)

*Celebration of Mission Event Remittance Number: 887*

*2024 District Support Assignments: Little Kanawha & MonValley*

**MISSION AND MINISTRY**

Scott's Run Settlement House provides basic necessities to those in need in Monongalia County. The Food Pantry, Backpack Feeding Program, Baby Pantry, and Seasonal Outreach programs allow us to provide for those most in need.

**NEEDS LIST**

- Size 5, 6, 7 and 2t-4t diapers
- Baby wipes
- Hygiene items: bar soap, shampoo, conditioner
- Dish-washing soap
- Toilet Paper
- Dog and cat food
- Any canned food item
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned meat

LITTLE KANAWHA DISTRICT  
**2024 SPRING LAY SERVANT ACADEMY**



**Saturday, April 13 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Class Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

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

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Local church: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering for (please select one of the following): \$10 each Registration Fee

- Intro to Methodist Ministry: The BASIC Course\*
- Advanced course – Leading Public Prayer\*
- Advanced course -- Called to Preach\*
- Advanced course -- Justice in Everyday Life
- Advanced course – Transforming Evangelism

\*Required courses for Certified Lay Speaker track of study.

Homework: Lay Speaker Classes are required to provide 10 hours of instruction and study. Reading assignments and prior study (2 hours) will be necessary.

Your registration for the Academy must be received by Friday, April 5. The number of participants for each class is limited, so early registration is suggested.

Classes will be held at Stout Memorial United Methodist Church, 3329 Broad Street, Parkersburg, WV.  
Directions

Send the completed form and payment to:  
(Checks payable to Little Kanawha District)

Lay Servant Ministries Registrar  
Little Kanawha District UMC  
3301 Broad Street Parkersburg, WV 26101-3420

Scholarships are available if the cost will prevent you from participating. Contact the district office for more information.

## Course Descriptions

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### **Intro to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course**

**Instructor: District Lay Leader Pam Braden**

Participants are encouraged to discover and use personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

**Book:** Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course Participant's Book – No cost. The free paperback book will be mailed to you after registering. Amazon – Kindle version \$8.49

### **Leading Public Prayer**

**Instructor: Pastor Steve Hamrick**

Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life.

**Book:** Shaping the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession. Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher  
Amazon Kindle \$11.99; paperback \$16.52; Cokesbury \$15.29

### **Called to Preach**

**Instructor: Pastor Cindy Eakle**

Called to Preach is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for pastors seeking a basic refresher course, and for others who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence. Called to Preach is the required preaching course in the lay speaker track of study.

**Book:** From Pew to Pulpit by Clifton F. Guthrie.  
Amazon paperback \$15.46 Kindle \$9.99; Cokesbury \$13.49

### **Justice in Everyday Life**

**Instructor: Pastor Shauna Hyde**

This course looks at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. The Social Principles are prayerful and thoughtful efforts to speak to complex and controversial issues in the global community. Studying The Social Principles provides opportunities to examine your own theology and ethics and to practice discipleship. To read more about the Social Principles, [click here](#).

**Book:** Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020  
Amazon Kindle \$6.15; paperback \$5.99; Upper Room Bookstore \$3.99

### **Transforming Evangelism**

**Instructor: Pastor Ed Craft**

This course leads participants to learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism. They will discover that evangelism involves not only sharing our faith with others but also welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith.

**Book:** Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith:  
Amazon (Kindle \$9.99; paperback \$10.55; Upper Room Books (Kindle \$9.99; paperback \$14)



## Attendance for February 2024

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Feb	4	Worship	132	20	85
Feb	11	Worship	131	25	104
Feb	18	Worship	148	16	111
Feb	25	Worship	134	28	100

### Tithes and Offerings

<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>\$319,653.00</b>
<b>Needed Each Week</b>	<b>\$6,147.17</b>
<b>Rec. Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$ 45,310.74</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.

### 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.



**March 2024  
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1—
- 2—
- 3—Kelsey Waybright McMillan
- 4—Scott Bolyard
- 5—Jacob Francis, Jeremy Wolfe
- 6—Jed Smith
- 7—Kalab Swisher, Kenny Swisher
- 8—Dorothy Geyer, Ashley Howery, Faye Milhoan
- 9—Ron Waybright
- 10—Garrett Boggess, Jim Powers, Mia Hall
- 11—John Thompson
- 12—Pat Shockey
- 13—Keri Starcher
- 14—Hilary Groves, Maralea Young
- 15—
- 16—Ian Bank, Hannah Gainey
- 17—
- 18—
- 19—Emily Lamb, Luke Thompson, Ashley Longwell, Korie Hersman
- 20—
- 21—Jordan Anderson, Kailee Mann, Annabelle Landis
- 22—Grant Burdette
- 23—Blake Matheny, Ester Roberts, Chris Neil
- 24—Cailyn Gerth
- 25—Shelley Harris
- 26—Chris Landis, Amaris Landis
- 27—Shirley Hicks, Bobby Poole
- 28—Matthew Groves
- 29—
- 30—Mila Bryant
- 31—Ty Elliot Cummings



**Anniversaries**







- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7—Benjamin & Megan Geyer    | 17—Ron & Connie Waybright  |
| 8---Vaughn & Tonya Anderson | 23—Steve & Debbie Sisson   |
| 14—Kevin & Laura Matheny    | 26—Keith & Gloria Burdette |



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers  
March 2024**

**Worship Leader – Scarlett Greathouse  
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 &amp; Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
<b>Mar 3</b>	Hannah Bolyard & Lilah Hosaflook (Ashley Hosaflook)	Katelyn Fish & Jameson Groves	Carlene Anderson	<b>9:00 am</b> Keller Greathouse <b>11:00 am</b> Gail/Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Matt Hicks	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Victor Greathouse <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Gail/Greg Varney
<b>Mar 10</b>	Staci Cummings & Bella Lee	Cohen Isner & Ryan Shockey	Cinda Francis	<b>9:00 am</b> Keller Greathouse <b>11:00 am</b> Gail/Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Victor Greathouse <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Gail/Greg Varney
<b>Mar 17</b>	Hilary Groves & Chloe Brown	Korie Hersman & Harper Patterson	Danielle Fish	<b>9:00 am</b> Keller Greathouse <b>11:00 am</b> Gail/Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Victor Greathouse <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Gail/Greg Varney
<b>Mar 24</b>	Alyssia Ruben & Lindsay Toler	Eliza Reed & Ashlyn Wolford	Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 am</b> Keller Greathouse <b>11:00 am</b> Gail/Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Victor Greathouse <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Gail/Greg Varney
<b>Mar 31</b>	Taran Wolford & Mary Toler	Katelyn Fish & Jameson Groves	Taran Wolford	<b>9:00 am</b> Keller Greathouse <b>11:00 am</b> Gail/Greg Varney	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Victor Greathouse <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Gail/Greg Varney
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes	 Children's Church	<i>In Our Thoughts &amp; Prayers</i> 	 MEDIA TEAM	

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 Keller Greathouse  
11:00 am Greg Varney





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	2 7:00 a Gideons Hicks Hall Booked all day
3 <b>RFL Easter Egg Project 3/3 – 4/7</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 10:00 a RFL Dessert Sale 2:00 p Evans Eagles 4-H 12-6 p Hicks Hall Booked 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Meetings	4 6:30 p UMM 	5 9:30 a Tai Chi 6:30 p Grief Share 6-8:00 p Scouts	6 1-3:00 p Prayers & Squares 11a & 6p Bible Study 7:00 p Choir Practice	7 	8 	9 7:00 a Gideons  Hicks Hall Booked All Day - WV Quilt Guild
10 <b>Pulpit Exchange</b> 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 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Meetings	11 7:00 p UWF General Meeting  Call to Prayer (here)  RHS Alumni 1:30 p	12 9:30 a Tai Chi 6:30 p Grief Share	13 10:00 a Deborah Miriam 11a & 6p Bible Study 7:00 p Choir Practice	14 9-11:00 a Food Pantry	15 <b>BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!</b> 	16 7:00 a Gideons
17 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a RFL Dessert Sale 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:00 p Nicaragua Auction & Soup Sale	18 	19 3:16 p John 3:16 9:30 a Tai Chi 6:30 p Grief Share 6-8:00 p Scouts	20 1-3:00 p Prayers & Squares 11a & 6p Bible Study 7:00 p Choir Practice	21 12-6p Blood Drive 5:30- 6 p RFL Conf Rm 6:30 p Horse Conf Rm	22 	23 7:00 a Gideons
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 a Morning Worship (Combined) 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 4:30 p Easter Egg Hunt	25 <b>HOLY WEEK NOON SERVICE</b>	26 9:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 p Grief Share 6-8:00 p Scouts <b>HOLY WEEK NOON SERVICE</b>	27 11a & 6p Bible Study 7:00 p Choir Practice <b>HOLY WEEK NOON SERVICE</b>	28 9-11:00 a Food Pantry <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> <b>HOLY WEEK NOON SERVICE</b>	29 <b>Good Friday Service</b> <b>HOLY WEEK NOON SERVICE</b>	30 7:00 a Gideons
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 p <b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice						
<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> Younger – Taran Wolford 532-2317 M&M's - Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 High School – Jimmy Groves 372-6910		<b>Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-9:00 - Noon</b> <b>Sunday Services</b> <b>Traditional/Live Streaming Service 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Sunday School 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.</b>				<b>Worship Leaders:</b> 9:00 am 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb