



# CALVARY CONNECTION

September 2025

Calvary United Methodist Church  
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## Pastor's Ponderings

Many statistics that I have seen (granted, they are a few years old and statistics can be manipulated), indicate that people who are not church view “church folk” basically by what we are against instead of what we are for. Namely, for years, when asked the question, “what do Christians believe,” the most common answer, by far, was that we are against homosexuality. That has probably changed a little over the last few years, but it begs the question, why are Christians known for what they are against (although, it is always dangerous to project one belief on the entirety of the group and not all Christians hold the same view on this or any subject) instead of what they are for – namely love and grace and forgiveness and mercy and compassion...? Usually, a close second place on those surveys is that Christians are judgmental. (Maybe in a future article I can discuss the tension between a call to righteousness and holiness and a judgmental attitude).

The reason I am pondering this right now is because of an encounter I had in Ripley. My “lunch bunch” shares a meal about once a week, and since we have grown to average about 12-14 people each time we gather, instead of going to homes we are rotating around to different restaurants. Most of our regular establishments like for us to give them a “heads up” so they can make sure they are ready to host us – and they love hosting us!

A few weeks ago, we were going to try a new restaurant (new to us as a group and a new location for the restaurant) on Thursday. So, on Wednesday I stopped in to see if they could accommodate a group of 10-12 and to warn them that we would be there the next day. The young lady with whom I was speaking was very helpful and glad that we were coming there and assured me that they had the room and they would warn the cooks to have plenty of food ready. Then she asked the strangest thing, “will it be okay with your group if your waitress has green hair and tattoos?” Of course, she was the waitress and had dyed green hair and several tattoos and maybe a few piercings. I told her that would be fine – it would not be a problem at all.

But why would she ask me that? Colored hair and tats and piercings are pretty common and accepted these days – even by folks who do not personally like it! Well, here is my guess and my pondering... Wednesdays also happens to be the day I go to Jackson General Hospital for rounds as a volunteer chaplain. I normally wear a Jackson County Ministerial Association (JCMA) polo shirt when I go to the hospital for visits so I can be easily identified beyond my badge, and I was wearing one that day. Is it possible that she saw my JCMA shirt with the Christian Cross that identified me as a Christian and she assumed that I was bringing a Christian group and as Christians, we might judge her or be offended or say things to her that are not particularly nice? It would not be too far of a stretch to imagine that she has experienced that in the past and thinks that is the typical attitude of “Christians.” Perhaps, she has heard stories or read about it happening to others. Maybe it is just a misconception (or even a

“guilty conscience” because she thinks it is not the Christian thing to do). Regardless of why she said that and why she has that attitude, to me it does say volumes about how many unchurched people view Christians in general. I didn’t say anything to her to warrant her concern. I didn’t stare (well, maybe a little at one of the interesting tattoos! Maybe I should have complimented her).

Two brief points for you to ponder: Sometimes, as Christians, we face the challenge of a pre-conceived perception of what Christians are or what we believe. That notion is sometimes deserved because of the life experiences of the unchurched person or from the news outlets or hearsay, and sometimes they are making assumptions that are more a reflection of their sense of right/wrong or what Christians “probably” disagree with.

But what I want you to spend more time pondering has two parts. First, how can we change the public perception of a Christian? What can we do or say, how do we interact with folks in the community that would perhaps better reflect the love of Jesus Christ? The words we say, the way we treat people, are we kind, and generous and loving?

On a deeper and more personal level, are the statistics right? Are we, are you, judgmental? Did that waitress have reason to believe we would not want her as a waitress? When I saw her, did I immediately make judgments about her – her salvation, her lifestyle, her life choices, etc.? It sounds like I was assuming (judging?) that she is “unchurched.” Do I make judgmental assumptions when I see a person experiencing homelessness or in the grip of addiction or suffering from a mental health issue?

I wonder, or ponder, if I need to make the intentional decision that the first impression I am going to have when I meet ANYONE is that they are a person made in the image of God and someone that Jesus loves and loved so much that he was willing to die for them? And then, since they are made in God’s image, I need to determine how best to love them as Jesus would if He was standing right there with me (because He is). How can my actions and my words communicate to that person that God loves them just as much as God love me or the pope or anyone else? Am I convinced of that fact? I can’t communicate it unless I am convinced of it myself! Maybe that is the hardest question to ponder.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve



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

## **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:

Sept 7 – The Cost of Discipleship- Luke 14:25-33- (Holy Communion)

Sept 14 –Jesus-Friend of Sinners – Luke 15:1-10

Sept 21 –A Confusing Parable with a Clear Ending-Luke 16:1-13

Sept 28-Godliness with Contentment – 1 Tim 6:6-19



### **Jackson County Junior Fair Kitchen**

**WE NEEDED YOU and YOU CAME THRU!!!!**

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

### **FAIR KITCHEN SUMMARY**

What an amazing time we had providing food to fairgoers again this year! Things went so smoothly (for the most part, lol) and we were able to be a witness to the love of Jesus to a LOT of people. So, here are a few statistics for you to consider as we wrap our heads around the enormity of this ministry:

Consider how much food we served - here is a *partial* list:

72 - 10-pound cans of sausage gravy

1,620 sausage patties

1,560 eggs

4,674 biscuits (Yes, four **thousand**!)

1,304 hot dogs

1,620 hamburger patties

55 pounds of hot dog chili/sauce

210 pounds of taco meat

25 - 10-pound cans of nacho cheese sauce

120 pies

984 Pepperoni Rolls

36 pans of brownies

225 gallons of tea

495 2-liter bottles of soda

We served 700 "special dinners." Including 425 baked steak, 150 baked chicken, and 125 pork chop dinners.

#### **Dollar amounts:**

Cash sales totaled \$21,332.21 (about \$200 less than 2024)

"Free" food for kids \$45,324.57 (about \$1,000 more than 2024)

Total food sales \$66,656.78

The free food was funded by:

Jackson County BOE \$32,588.70

Jackson Co Commission \$12,7325.87

Our costs (preliminary and subject to change). Several items were donated, and Patty Smith did an excellent job purchasing things on sale to keep our costs down and by returning unused items.

Cost of food purchased \$20,071.86 (which is only \$1,200 more than 2024 - pretty good considering how prices have increased)

15% of profit to Fair board \$6,987.74

Total Expenses \$27,059.60

Once we add the amount of "sales" of the overstocked items that you have purchased, the total profit and payment on the mortgage loan at the church will be approx. \$41,000.00

### **THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!!!**

Everyone worked so well together, we pitched in where needed, we had positive engagement with the folks who showed up to eat, and we met a few new friends along the way.

I will try to get a bit more detail to you about the people who make this ministry possible (and it is a ministry), but around 100 people worked to make this a success. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!

## **Charge Conference Coming Soon!**

Our 2025 Charge (Church) Conference will be held on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 three 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.
- 3) If you are the leader of a ministry in the church that relies on funding from the general church budget, please submit your request for the level of funding anticipated for 2026. Submit this budget request to the church office, Pastor Steve, or Steve Sisson, chair of the Finance Committee, no later than Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Looking Ahead

September 14 Teacher Appreciation  
September 16 John 3:16  
October 5 RFL Service of Hope  
October 26 Charge Conference 2:00 pm  
October 26 Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival



### United Methodist Men

The UMM will meet Sept 8 at 6 pm with a covered dish meeting. All men of the church are welcome to attend and bring a covered dish.

### United Women in Faith

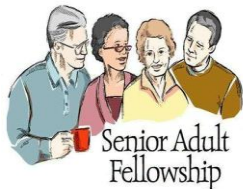


Summer Break is over and the United Women in Faith circles are back. There will be a General Meeting on Sept 8 @ 7



pm. Mary Martha will have the program and Discovery Circle will provide the refreshments. The Mary Martha circle will meet Sept 14 @ 2pm with Joy Hicks as hostess. The Deborah Miriam circle will meet Sept 10 @ 10:00 am at the church with hostesses Diane Knopp & Sharon Wilt with Betty French the program leader. The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet Sept 28. **The Next Blood Drive will be September 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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



September is here and time for John 3:16 Fellowship to re-commence with our first gathering Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 3:16 p.m. in the church conference room. This

is a really good opportunity to visit with other friends of Christ.

If you haven't been able to come previously this is your personal invitation to come alone or bring a friend to share this special bit of time with devotions, maybe a special guest, refreshments and even some laughs as we begin a new season of fellowship. I hope to see YOU there!

Vanessa Rothrock

## GriefShare



The new series of the GriefShare support group began meeting on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 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.

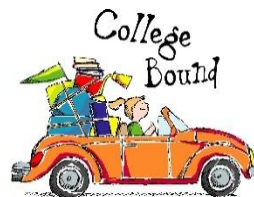


### Prayer Shawl Ministry



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 Needed



It's that wonderful time of the year with students beginning the fall semester of college. Please help us prepare an accurate list of our students and their correct mailing addresses so we can continue to connect with them. I am once again on a mission to get a complete and hopefully correct list for all. Please send me your students mailing address at [vrothro@yahoo.com](mailto:vrothro@yahoo.com) or text 304/532-5005.

If I don't hear from you in the next few days, I will be contacting you.

Vanessa Rothrock





## !!! 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 Welford** – Cell: (304)532-2317 – Remind: Text @efgfk86 to 81010

**Middle School (M&M's): Ashley Hosaflook** – Cell: (304)786-0046 – Remind: Text@fd9e 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 Broth	Canned Corn
Mac & Cheese	Dried Beans
Soups	Canned Green Beans
Corn Bread Mix	Canned Meat
Spaghetti Sauce	Spam
Spaghetti	Treet
Elbow Macaroni	Tuna
	Chicken

### Food Pick Up Schedule for September

5 <sup>th</sup>	Senior High Class
12 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Smith
19 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Waybright
26 <sup>th</sup>	Dallas Skeen

### Food Pantry Ministry July

As noted below, our food box distribution numbers were down for the month of July. In previous years the number of households and individuals served drops off during the summer. Another reason the numbers were down is we changed our distribution dates to the first and third Thursday due to VBS and the Fair Kitchen and those we serve did not read the notices we put in their June food boxes. For the month we served 112 households or 325 individuals.

Month	Households	Individuals
January	95	267
February	178	496
March	150	430
April	177	524
May	131	385
June	128	353
July	112	325

.....Mike Wilt

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

Since we are in the season of Charge Conference, I thought this would be a good time to briefly explain just a little bit about the administrative structure of the polity and discipline of the United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide Church, and regionally it is more of a church than a denomination. Our connectional structure is much more than a loose affiliation. In the WV Conference, we see ourselves as one church that happens to meet in about 700 locations on any given Sunday. Thus, the fluidity and rationale around the appointment process and the itineracy of the pastors - we go where assigned as discerned by the bishop and appointive cabinet that best serves the church - the entire church or conference.

General Conference convenes every four years and is comprised of delegates elected from every conference in the connection. General Conference is charged with making the decisions that affect the entire denomination and are reflected in the Book of Discipline. The delegates to General Conference are elected at each Annual Conference the year prior to the convening of General Conference.

Each Conference convenes an Annual Conference once each year (usually in the summer - ours is around the first of June). Annual Conference is composed of all members of the conference - ordained and licensed clergy - as well as laity who have been elected by their congregations. The Book of Discipline requires an equal number of clergy and lay members at Annual Conference. It is at Annual Conference where the budget of the conference is set, appointments for the coming fiscal year are set, new clergy are ordained and received into membership, and other business related to that conference or as required by the General Conference are considered.

The lay members to Annual Conference are elected at each congregation's or charge's Charge or Church Conference. The Charge Conference also elects church officers for the following year and receives other reports as required. Typically, the annual budget for the congregation(s) is set at Charge Conference. The Charge Conference should be a time of celebration as you review the ministries of the previous year and anticipate the ministry in the coming year.

You have probably noticed in this article and in many places that I have written that the local church's annual gathering might be a Charge Conference or a Church Conference. This isn't just nomenclature nor are these

terms interchangeable - even though they refer to the same meeting. Here is the distinction: If it is convened as a Charge Conference, it is limited to the members of the Administrative Board and a few selected officers - that is all who may vote. If it is convened as a Church Conference, all members of the church may vote. I always convene this session as a Church Conference. The Administrative Board must vote on and approve this material prior to the Conference. I see a Charge Conference (where only the Administrative Board and officers are permitted to vote) as pretty useless. At a Charge Conference, the only person present who has not already voted on the material is the District Superintendent. While this is necessary and has merit and value, I think the entire membership of the church should have an opportunity to voice their approval (or disapproval) of the items being considered. So, we will have our Church Conference on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and all members of the church are invited and have voice and vote!

## Out of the Mouths of Babes

A few weeks ago, the Reed family was acting as worship leaders. Greg and Lilah were up front, and Jenna had Graham and little Kollins in the pews. Jenna asked Graham if he wanted to go up front with her dad and Lilah and he said, "No, that man is in the way." That man was Pastor Steve!

I have been called lots of names, and "that man" isn't too bad. But it did cause me to wonder if I have ever been in the way of someone seeking Jesus. I am afraid that even in my attempt to bring someone to Jesus, I may inadvertently be blocking them by what I say or how I act or any contradiction or hypocrisy in my life. I may have to ponder on this observation from Graham in a future Pastor's Ponderings column.



## Calvary Cookbook

\* Coming soon to a kitchen near you \* Karen Facemyer has graciously offered to head up a project to assemble a new Calvary UMC cookbook. It has been several years since the last cookbook was published, and I know you have acquired more recipes that you would

like included. And many of us were not around when the last cookbook was made available.

Be thinking about what recipes you will submit - what are you known for? What is it that everyone asks you to bring to a covered dish dinner? That is a good place to start. The proceeds from selling the cookbooks will go to the stained-glass window restoration. More information will be available in the next couple of months.



## NEWS FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM MISSION MOMENT

There is a nip in the air-just a little indication that fall is just around the corner. I love this time of year with the start back to school, the cool evenings and beautiful sunsets, the vast array of autumn smells (those pumpkin candles are being pulled back out) and all the events that are beginning.

A big thank you to all that donated items for the cleaning (aka flood) buckets. And all those that came out to put them together. We were short of just a few items-poor counting on my part-but we are getting those items to complete the buckets. We will be delivering those buckets to the New Vision Depot on September 6th. We will leave the church parking lot about 8 AM and travel to Beaver, WV for a day of seeing the Depot and working for a few hours. The Mission Team would love to have a good showing from our church to experience autumn all that the Depot does across our state during the times of disasters. This would be a great time to take your young person to see all the good that is happening through the Depot and understand their part in helping others in times when they need the most help. Please let me know if you will be traveling with us. We will carpool as much as possible.

Our coat drive is also beginning. Applications are being distributed this week through the food pantry. We will also be taking applications to the Bomar Center and the health department. You will have an opportunity to purchase a specific coat requested this year-similar to Adopt A Family but it is Adopt A Coat. We are concentrating on the adults that need coats but will also provide coats for anyone that has a need. You may still bring in coats. We do ask that they be new or VERY gently used coats. WE will take adult and children's coats. Last year we had to take several bags full of coats that we could not use to the center in Charleston for distribution. Unfortunately, we do not have the storage space to keep a lot of items so we are asking that as requests come in, you volunteer to purchase what has been requested. We will then see that the person requesting receives the coat along with gloves and hats. This is trial and error this year so we hope that you will work with the Mission Team to provide the best service to our friends and neighbors.

Adopt A Family applications are out now so it will soon be time to start thinking about what your



family or Sunday School class or group would like to do. As soon as we have the info, we will get it out to you.

I know we are continually asking but each of you helps in your own way. I, along with the team, are thankful for all you do for our church and our community. Thank you!!

### Quote(s) of the Month

Maya Angelou, (born Marguerite Annie Johnson; April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014) was an American memoirist, poet, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Angelou's series of seven autobiographies focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. Consider these quotes:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"I don't trust people who don't love themselves and tell me, 'I love you.' ... There is an African saying which is: Be careful when a naked person offers you a shirt."

"Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but has not solved one yet."

### 100 YEARS OF CALVARY

(4 new windows recognized)

The stained-glass windows are 100 years old too! Many of these have been noted as in memory or honor of people connected with this church building. Starting down the left side of the sanctuary are windows

dedicated in memory of Mr. & Mrs. A.F. Parsons by their children, in Honor of Mr. & Mrs. R.P. Shinn by their family, in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Elias Stone by their children and in Honor of Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Parsons by their children. I have not been able to find much information on these people except that Mr. R.P. Shinn (Ray) died in 1962 and was a member of this church and his wife's name was Audrey (Hall). Also Mr. L.M. Parsons passed away in 1940 and Mrs L.M. Parsons passed away in 1954. What little information I did find came from 3 very old membership record books for the E.U.B. church dating back to the early 20's. I just discovered these books and am looking forward to searching them some more. Anyone want to join me?



### Joke(s) of the Month

What do you call a pastor in Munich?  
A German Shepherd!

Seems there were these three professionals sitting around talking about the oldest profession.

The Doctor says, "Well, the Bible says that God took a rib out of Adam to make woman. Since that clearly required surgery, then the oldest profession is surely medicine."

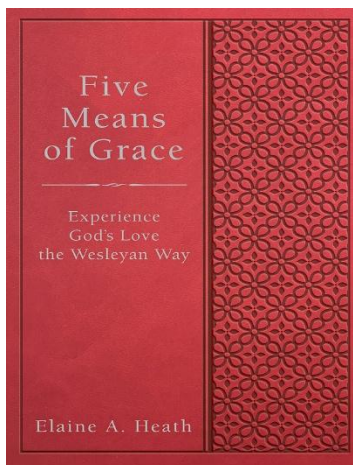
The Engineer shakes his head and replies, "No, no. The Bible also says that God created the world out of void and chaos. To do that, God must surely have been an engineer. Therefore, Engineering is the oldest profession."

The Politician smiles smugly and leans discreetly forward. "Ah," he says, "but who do you think created the Chaos?"

### New Bible Study

Join us for our new mid-week Bible study beginning Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11am or 6pm; both sessions cover the same material each week, so choose the time that is most convenient for you. We will begin a five-week look at the means of

grace using Elaine Heath's book and DVD. We have a few copies available and you can get one before the study if you would like to read ahead.



**We Hope To Share  
VBS Pictures With  
You Soon – Keep  
Watching**



**MT. PLEASANT UMC**  
**62 Turkey Foot Road**  
**Mineral Wells, WV 26150**

**DINNER WITH THE BISHOP**  
**Thursday, September 4, at 5:00 pm!**

**DINNER, CELEBRATION**  
**CONFERENCE UPDATES**  
**RESOURCE SHARING**

**You can register at this link today:**  
<https://wvumc-reg.brtapp.com/DistrictDayLittleKanawha>



#### **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.



The CUMC Missions Team would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the following hole sponsors for this year’s Calvary Golf Tournament for Missions held on Saturday, August 24th @

Route 56 Golf Course in Ravenswood:

- Sean & Tammy Banks
- Courtney & Derek Mullins
- Pam Braden
- Ralph & Jenny Parsons
- Keith & Gloria Burdette
- The Ruben Family
- Dave & Linda Dickirson
- Dallas Skeen
- Joyce & Jimmy Groves (In Memory of Gene Groves)
- EJ & Mary Ulland
- Alan & Janet Hall
- The Varney Families
- Pastor Steve Hamrick (x2)
- Dick & Linda Waybright
- Jeff & Jessica Isner
- Mike & Sharon Wilt
- Bev Hopkins – Unique Design
- Jamion & Taran Wolford
- Terry & Chris Landis
- Sweet Springs Tree Farm (Jim & Gwen Wolford)
- Midway Drafting (Steve Sisson)

6 teams competed in the day with the Varney father & son duo team made up of Greg, Ryan, Butch & Joe Varney coming in first place (for the fourth year in a row). Another father, son x2 and father-in-law team comprised of Gary Higginbotham & Jeff, Tyler & Brett Haskins tied for second along with the father, son, and son-in-law x2 teams with Keith & Steven Burdette, Trevor Cummings & Andrew Patterson. Longest Drive Winner: Jeff Haskins Closest to the Pin Winner: David Rothrock

The profits from our tournament will be donated to the local Health Department Quick Response Team (QRT) to provide shelf-stable, easy open food when they are checking on the homeless and other folks in need throughout Jackson County. Thanks so much for your continued support & generosity to our ongoing local & global mission outreach efforts!





## Attendance for Aug 2025

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Aug	3	Worship	151	16	81
Aug	10	Worship	146	22	95
Aug	17	Worship	146	combined	83
Aug	24	Worship	161	19	106
Aug	31	Worship			

### Tithes and Offerings

2025 Budget	\$314,721.00
Needed Each Week	\$6,147.17
Rec. Year-To-Date	<u>\$181,187.49</u>



## 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](https://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.



**September 2025  
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

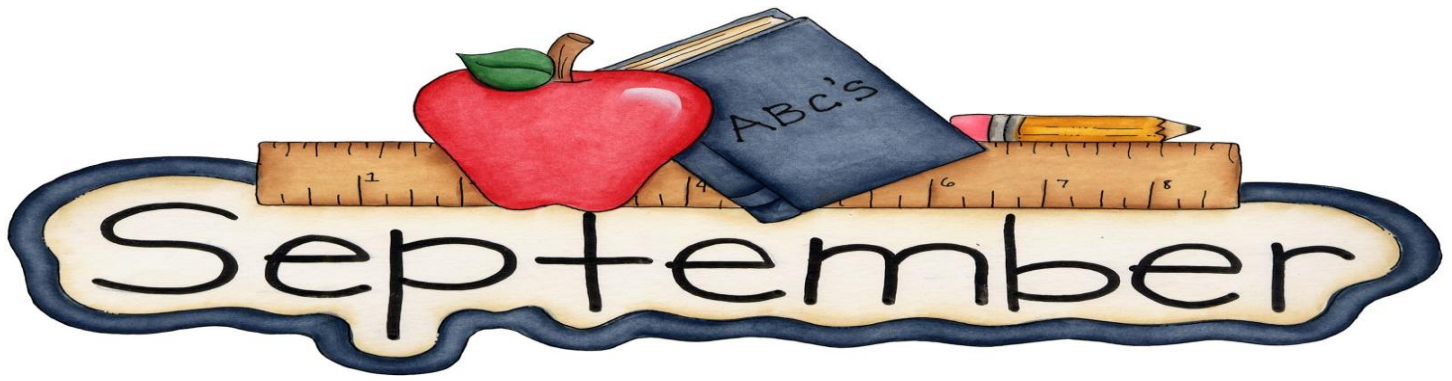


- 1
- 2 Milton Bennett, Camilla Ruben
- 3
- 4 Tammy Banks, Shawn Craddock, Morgan Groves, Bette Nuzum
- 5 Cindy Matheny
- 6
- 7
- 8 Mary Victory, Jared Cochran
- 9 Cassidy Craddock, Bianca Gyer, Denise thomas
- 10 Kevin Brown, Melanie Purkey
- 11 Joe Shockey, Riley Shockey
- 12 Linda Dickirson, Laura Matheny
- 13 Cayden Adkins, Kyler Easter
- 14 Stephanie DeWees, Jessie Thompson, Rose Nester
- 15 Sherry Poole, Jane Purkey, Olivia Smith, Nina Elizabeth Miller
- 16 Andi Lynn Ruben
- 17 Garrison Phillips
- 18 Janice Adkins, Vanessa Rothrock, Charolette Saunders, Gloria Burdette
- 19 Stephanie Potter
- 20 Tonja Anderson, Joyce Groves
- 21 Camryn Harvey
- 22 Scott Ellison, Brad Starkey
- 23 Tim Groves, Ava Isner
- 24
- 25 Scylah Hill, Paul Shockey
- 26 Connie Easter, Tara Lee
- 27 Brandon Hersman, Nick Miller, Mary Ulland
- 28 Alyssia Ruben
- 29
- 30 Adrienne Cunningham



- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Jeff & Stephanie DeWees | 15 Jared & Elizabeth Burdette |
| 4 John & Mary Victory     | 21 Kevin & Carla Brown        |
| 7 Robbie & Lisa Boggess   | 24 Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe      |
| 14 Tim & Kelly Groves     |                               |











## Schedules For Our Church Volunteers September 2025

**Worship Leader – Patterson 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 &amp; Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
<b>Sept 7</b>	Cinda Francis & Lilah Hosaflook	Lilah Reed & Harper Banks	Carlene Anderson	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Betty French	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Connie Waybright
<b>Sept 14</b>	Hilary Groves & Alexi Fish	Wes Hicks & Cason Isner	Danielle Fish	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Betty French	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Connie Waybright
<b>Sept 21</b>	Staci Cummings & Bella Lee	Harper Patterson & Henley Patterson	Staci Cummings	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Betty French	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Connie Waybright
<b>Sept 28</b>	Janet Hall & Jenna Reed	Ashlyn Wolford & Mary Fish	Alyssia Ruben	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Betty French	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 am</b> Patterson Family <b>11:00 am</b> Connie Waybright
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes	 Children's Church	 In Our Thoughts & Prayers	 MEDIA TEAM	 Scripture Reader

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 9:00 am Patterson Family  
Prayer Leaders: 11:00 am Betty French  
Children's Time: 9:00 am  
11:00 am Natalie Holcomb



**2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 HOLIDAY</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> Tai Chi 9:30a GriefShare 6:30p	<b>3</b> Prayers/Squares 1-3p Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	<b>4</b> 5:30 p RFL	<b>5</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth Shower Deco	<b>6</b> 7:00 a Mens Devo Fellowship Hall 1p-? DAR 10-12 B'day Conf Room
<b>7</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Evans Eagles 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	<b>8</b> UMM 6p Cemetery Mtg 7p UWF 7p	<b>9</b> Tai Chi 9:30a GriefShare 6:30p	<b>10</b> Deborah/Miriam 10a Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	<b>11</b> Food Pantry9-11a 6:30p SPRC	<b>12</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth	<b>13</b> Mens Devo 7a
<b>14</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service Teacher Appreciation 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages Teacher Appreciation Reception 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	<b>15</b> COM 6:30p	<b>16</b> Tai Chi 9:30a John 3:16 – 3:16p GriefShare 6:30p	<b>17</b> Prayers/Squares1-3p Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	<b>18</b> Blood Drive 12-6p	<b>19</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth	<b>20</b> Mens Devo 7a
<b>21</b> 9:00 a Sunday School All Ages 10:00 a Morning Worship-Combined Live Streaming Service 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Tai Chi 9:30a GriefShare 6:30p	<b>24</b> Bible Study 11a&6p 7:00p Choir	<b>25</b> Food Pantry9-11a	<b>26</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth	<b>27</b> Mens Devo 7a
<b>28</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF 7:00p Admin Bd	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Tai Chi 9:30a 6-9pHicks Hall Booked GriefShare 6:30p				
<b>Younger Youth and M&amp;M's Youth</b> <b>Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30</b> <b>PM choir 6:00 PM</b>  <u><b>Your Youth Group Leaders</b></u> <b>Younger –</b> Taran Wolford 532-2317 <b>M&amp;M's -</b> Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 <b>High School –</b> Jimmy Groves 372-6910		<b>Church Office Open-</b> <b>Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon</b> <b>Sunday Services</b> <b>Traditional/Live Streaming Service</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Contemporary Service</b>				<b>Worship</b> <b>Leaders:</b> 9:00 am PattersonFamily 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb