



# CALVARY CONNECTION

June 2026

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## Pastor's Ponderings

I want to share some reflections via stories that may seem completely unrelated – stay with me to the end and it might all make sense.

So, I am typing this not long after a group of four of us from the church went on a golf outing. It was a beautiful day outside with a group of really great guys – and I played terribly! Atrocious! I have said in the past that the only reason golfers let me go with them is because it makes their scores look a lot better!

This is road racing season for those of us who like to run. By the time you get this newsletter I will have competed in four races! And I will not have won any of them! I can predict that ahead of time – I am definitely not the fastest runner around. But I enjoy running with a group (and sometimes by myself) and I firmly believe in the health benefits that running (or walking) provides.

One thread that is common in both stories – I am comparing myself to others! My golf score is the worst in the group – Every. Single. Time. I never finish first in a road race (on rare occasion I might finish first in my age group).

I suppose that comparing ourselves to others is common and in some ways it can be helpful. But it can also be detrimental if I am trying to attain impossibly high standards. If I compare my golf game to a professional who practices 8 hours a day and makes the game look easy, I will constantly be disappointed and never measure up. It would be tempting to just give up and not play anymore (which I

constantly consider). If I watch these fast runners cross the finish line in about half the time it takes me, then why bother? But is that a reasonable comparison? Even if I am comparing to others my own age? If the only reason I am running is to run fast and beat everyone else, I will give up.

I want to encourage you to find “your thing” for exercise and physical activity, both for physical and mental health reasons (and often, you can find a “tribe,” a community of people to connect with), and “just do it,” as Nike encouraged us a few years ago. No shaming. No disgrace. As long as you give it your best and be consistent and enjoy it, try not to get discouraged by what others may or may not be doing.

However..... What about our life as a Christian? Do we ever compare ourselves to other Christians? I am certainly not as holy as the Pope! Or as educated as our bishop. Or 100% committed and dedicated as a monk who has taken a vow of poverty and prays 15 hours a day. On the other hand, I am certainly “better” than the so-called Christian who still... insert here whatever “sin” you witness a church person committing – racism, selfishness, self-centeredness, adultery, excessive consumption of alcohol or other substance, angry, mean/unkind to others, abusive, rarely attends church, doesn’t know anything at all about the Bible, etc. I don’t look so bad after all. I must be a good Christian.

But aren’t we supposed to compare ourselves to Jesus? But isn’t that an

impossible standard? Do we feel shame or disgrace when we don't measure up?

So, here is the fine line we must walk: just because we think we are better at this Christianity thing than someone else, is no reason to beam with pride (which is one of the most devastating sins). We shouldn't attempt to compare our life of faith with other people – for good or bad.

However, we should strive to be like Jesus, our Lord and example of what a person is purposed to be. But isn't that like me comparing my golf game with Scottie Scheffler, the world #1 player? Is the example of Jesus out of reach, and if so, might that discourage me to the point of just giving up? This is where grace comes into play. We are created to be like Jesus, but sin has distorted that to the point that at times it looks nothing like Jesus! Hello Cross of Calvary! Hello empty tomb! Hello Holy Spirit within me! Hello grace! Hello forgiveness!

Yes, we strive to be like Jesus and follow His commandments and His example. We do need a standard for which to measure our life. But when we fail, we do not lose heart. We do not give up. And we do not need to live in shame. We claim the grace and forgiveness offered and walk in newness of life. One saying is, "You just be you!" That is pretty good advice; but try to be the "you" God has created you to be!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve



**Do You Need a Ride to an appointment? We have several drivers that would like to help you. Give us plenty of time, just let the church office know and we will help get you there. Call 304 372-3203 between 8am and noon Monday thru Friday.**

## **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:

June 7 -- Faith-Matt. 9:9-13,18-26 Holy Communion

June 14 – Faith Part II- Rom 5:1-8

June 21 – Death & Life-Matt 10:24-39

June 28 – Power to Not Sin-Rom 6:12-23



May 29 - June 5 Nome, AK mission trip

June 1 Church Picnic

June 10-13 Annual Conference

June 11 Food Pantry

June 15-18 DaySpring at Cedar Lakes

June 19 Office Closed - Juneteenth

June 25 Food Pantry

July 4 UMM Pancake Breakfast

July 6-10 VBS

July 19-26 Fair Kitchen

July 26 - August 7 Anchorage, AK mission trip

Beginning in June, the Choir will be taking a break for the summer. If you would like to provide music at the 9:00 service, please contact Jessie Thompson 304 531-1068.



We would love to hear you!

## A Message from Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett



The **WV Conference of the United Methodist Church** is experiencing God's renewal. Foundational to this renewal is our

commitment to being **rooted in love** for God and others.

One way to move from words to action is through the 2026 Annual Conference offering, which centers on **two initiatives that are truly rooted in love**. Both of them develop leaders who share God's love with others.

The newly established **Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines** seeks to strengthen theological education outside the United States, where access to advanced theological training remains limited. While 71% of clergy in the United States hold a master's degree in theology, fewer than 5% of clergy outside the U. S. have similar preparation. Through this effort, **the church hopes to equip 500 additional graduates each year for faithful leadership and ministry**.

At **Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center**, young people encounter the love of Christ, discover belonging, and begin forming the kinds of relationships and faith foundation that last a lifetime. **Supporting camp scholarships is one more way we invest in the next generation of disciples and leaders for the Church**.

I love the witness of pairing these two ministries together, one reaching across the globe to strengthen theological education and one nurturing faith formation right here in West Virginia. Together, they remind us that

**our calling to be rooted in love is both local and global.**

Ways to Give – Now Through June 30, 2026

At Annual Conference

Online Giving – 2026 Annual Conference Offering Fund

Church Gifts to your local congregation



Jimmy Groves will be leading the children's time during worship in the month of June,

and he has a special request - for Father's Day, June 21st, he would like to present a slide show of some of the Calvary fathers over the last 100 years. So, if you have pictures of your father (or grandfather) - especially (but not exclusively) if they are pictures taken at the church or a church event/ministry, please submit them to us no later than Monday, June 15th. We prefer to receive them digitally. So, if all you have is a printed photograph, snap a pic of it on your cell phone and submit that. You can email the pics to us at the church email address: [calvaryumc316@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryumc316@gmail.com)



### United Women in Faith

The Mary Martha circle will meet June 14 @ 1pm at the Poole Residence with a Pool Party & Cookout .

The Deborah Miriam circle will meet June 10th @ 11:00am for their annual dining out @ Boba.

The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet June 1 @ the Church Picnic.



## United Methodist Men

Don't forget the  
Church Picnic  
June 1<sup>st</sup> at



6:30pm.

The men will be having their pancake breakfast for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration from 7:00 am to 10:00 am.



## *Blood Drive*

Thank you all for making last month's blood drive a huge success! We had a great group of phlebotomists from Huntington who made our blood drive run smoothly with almost no wait time including working in several walk-in donors.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who made food and to those who came to man the canteen. Shirley's cookies stole the show and were enjoyed by everyone!

The Red Cross collected 44 units, and they couldn't do it without you! I encourage you to get involved with our next blood drive coming up on July 16th from noon until 6pm.

If you'd like to give blood you can sign up for an appointment time online or just walk in on the day of the drive. If you'd like to volunteer please see Autumn Hopkins. The success of these community opportunities depends on you!

This is a great way to meet our neighbors and to build rapport within the community. Sitting at the canteen handling out snacks may not feel like a big deal, but it is ministry!

On his way out the door after his donation a gentleman asked if we (volunteers at the Canteen) went to church at Calvary. He said, we always seemed so happy and like we were having a good time. We told him Calvary was a great place to be and we love our church

family! We invited him to come to service and find out what it's all about. You never know what opportunities God might put in front of you. So please come out and get involved!



## **Flowing in the Spirit:**

We all agree the scripture tells us our bodies are a temple of the holy spirit, but how many of us really treat our bodies with the care and respect we would show a temple? Life is busy. We're tired. It's easy to sit down and get lost in our phones or the latest television program.

How can we step back into treating bodies with grace and respect through gentle movement? Join me for a 10-week series of light movement and spiritual exploration each Thursday at 11am in the Fellowship Hall, concluding June 25th.

Each class will begin with a scripture reading, then we will move into the asana of yoga (the physical movements) and end with a short devotional reflection and a few moments of silent meditation.

If you're a seasoned athlete or you haven't gotten up from the couch all year it doesn't matter. Join us and invite your friends! This will be a fun and hopefully meaningful time of exploration. Yoga is for everyone and this first series will be especially accessible. It will be chair yoga! You won't have to get on and off the floor. All the movement is modified to be done from a seated position or from standing with the support of the chair.

Mats, chairs and blocks will be provided. Wear comfortable clothes, bring some water and an open heart. I hope to see you there! If you have any questions or concerns please see me, Autumn Hopkins, and I'll be happy to chat with you.



### 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.

### **Quotes(s) of the Month**

Meet Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons:

Irenaeus was born around 125 A.D. in Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey). He was raised in a Christian home (which was kind of rare at that time) and elected as Bishop of Lyons. He had seen and heard the preaching of Polycarp who had seen and heard the preaching of John the Evangelist. His primary contribution to Christianity was the book *Against Heresies*, where he defended orthodoxy against Gnosticism, which claimed a secret revelation, or secret wisdom. Consider these quotes:

*Jesus Christ, in His infinite love, has become what we are, in order that He may make us entirely what He is.*

*Error never shows itself in its naked reality, in order not to be discovered. On the contrary, it dresses elegantly, so that the unwary may be led to believe that it is more truthful than truth itself.*

*As long as any one has the means of doing good to his neighbours, and does not do so, he shall be reckoned a stranger to the love of the Lord.*

*The church has been planted as a paradise in this world.*

### EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN



If you have a prayer concern that you would like to share with the members of the Calvary prayer chain, please send your request to Kathy at [calvaryumc316@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryumc316@gmail.com) or Pastor Steve at [stevecpa@hotmail.com](mailto:stevecpa@hotmail.com). You may call or text the request as well. Please ask the person for whom you are requesting prayer for permission to place them on the prayer chain. If they say no, I am sure you will honor that request and either just pray for them privately or submit an “unspoken” request for the entire team.

### Prayers and Squares Ministry

The Prayers and Squares group meets on 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 304-377-1388.



### 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. 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.



## Lunch Bunch

Do you normally eat alone? Do you find it difficult (not to mention lonely) to cook for one? Do you eat out more than you should or settle for cereal or a PB&J sandwich? Would you rather have some company about once a week? It is often the highlight of the week for many. There are a lot of smiles and conversations! Let Pastor Steve know if you would like to join them sometime!



## John 3:16 Fellowship

Tuesday, May 19th was our last gathering for spring and our theme was "Having Mustard Seed Faith." Our very special guest was Riley Knotts, survivor of a recent tragic, almost fatal accident. He shared the sad details of the accident, rescue and his journey of recovery, healing and the faith that brought him through these last two months. Able now to walk with a cane, he smiles and says "God is good." As an added special treat, he sang and played on his guitar a song of inspiration he had written since his injury followed by two old time gospel hymns on the banjo. Such a blessing that we could share the time together and listen to his testimony of faith. Spring has once again passed. I am so thankful that God continues to bring us together with the fellowship of John 3:16. Hope you enjoy a healthy, happy summer – see you in September.  
Vanessa Rothrock

## !!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!



The youth groups have stopped meeting for the summer. They will resume in the fall – watch for details in the coming months  
Contact information & Remind group info can be found below.

### Elementary Youth: Taran Wolford –

Cell: (304)532-2317 –

Remind: Text @efgfk86 to81010

### Middle School (M&M's):

### High School: Jimmy Groves –

Cell: (304) 532-7649

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

## Joke(s) of the Month

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible? David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.

Where was Solomon's temple located?  
On the side of his head.

What kind of plants didn't Noah want on the ark? Leeks.



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



**MISSION TEAM**  
**UPDATE**

**MISSION MOMENT**

May has been a busy month. I pray that you have been able to enjoy some family times as well as prepare for a wonderful summer to come. The work of the church doesn't stop just because we are going on vacation or trips or having those family reunions, picnics and all of the fun times that we all look forward to. As much as we all need to refresh and rest, we also must still be attentive to those around us that may need just a little assistance.

The Mary Martha Circle got to tour the Jackson County Family Support Center that is located behind the health department. If you get the chance, stop in and see what a wonderful facility this is for our county. The center helps to meet needs that people may have such as hygiene items, baby items, etc. One thing that Amy Haskins stated was not covered in the grant money they received is pet food. **The first week of June is Pet Appreciation Week. The Mission Committee will be sponsoring a week of a pet food drive. If you are able, purchase either cat or dog food (or both) and bring it to the church any time during that week. We will see that it gets delivered to the health department so they may be able to help those that are struggling to feed their pets.** I know how important my pups are to me. This is just one small way we can help in our community.

And you might want to be in service on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> or watch online for a presentation about the pet food drive.

Mission trips and work teams are a meaningful way to serve our local community while working alongside others toward a shared goal. Our pastor and Bill Hosaflook

will soon leave for Alaska to join a team repairing a roof, and they will likely help with other needs while they are there. Although this type of service is not for everyone, if you have ever considered joining a work team, talk with Pastor Steve. He can explain what to expect, and financial assistance is available for these trips. The Mission Team wants to encourage you to be a part of these teams.

**Don't forget that June 7<sup>th</sup> is Quarter Sunday for Loads of Love. Bring your quarters to church and drop in the container.**

Our next Mission Meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing guidelines for Calvary in the Classroom, the golf tournament, the upcoming coat drive, and the 100-year anniversary celebration. We hope that you will join us. Anyone is welcome and we encourage you to come and join us.



**Food Pick Up Schedule for June**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Senior High Class
- 14<sup>th</sup> Patty Smith
- 21<sup>st</sup> Connie Waybright
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dallas Skeen

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

If you cannot help with the food deliveries or the distribution days and are searching for a way to support the food pantry, the Kroger Community Rewards program is an easy way to do this. The program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. If you are not already signed up for this, check out the procedure on the financial page in this newsletter. We receive a check of about \$300.00 quarterly from this program. If you need help signing up for this program, check with the church office.



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

For the next several months I hope to use this space to bring to your attention some info from the United Methodist Book of Discipline (BOD) and Book of Resolutions. Of course, most of you are well versed in these documents and this will only serve as a reminder - right?

The UM BOD is the foundational document for the polity of our denomination - it describes how we do

things and the proper protocols, etc. It also spells out the "official" theological position of the denomination. General Conference, that meets every four years, is the only body that can speak authoritatively for the UM Church as a whole. It is their responsibility to consider updates and changes to our polity and/or theological understandings. Therefore, a new BOD is produced every four years with the last one coming from the 2022/2024 General Conference held in 2022.

The Book of Resolutions contains all currently active resolutions that present the official United Methodist stance on many issues that are encountered not only in the life of the church but also issues that we encounter in our communities and world. The Resolutions are generally not legally binding (unlike the BOD), but the judicial council (the highest legal branch in the denomination) recently ruled that some of the resolutions ARE legally binding in some circumstances (Note Judicial Council Decision 671). The purposes of the resolutions are for "reference, encouragement, study, and support." You may or may not agree with a particular resolution, and that is okay - but you should know why you disagree and be able to biblically defend your position in your own spirit.

I will get into some specifics beginning with the July newsletter.



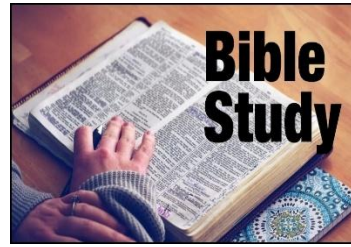
## MISSION TRIP – NOME, AK

Bill Hosaflook and Pastor Steve will be heading to Nome, AK, May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup> as part of a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team. They, along with 8 others from WV, will be rebuilding a garage at the Community Church in Nome that has collapsed. Please hold the entire team in prayer for safety and success.



### **NEW CALVARY CONNECT CARD**

Calvary has a new way for us to connect with new members, visitors, or even regular, long-time members. The intention is for folks to be able to share their contact information with us, to communicate a desire for follow up by a member of the church or the pastor, ask for additional information, and there is a section to allow them to ask anything else they want! The form can be accessed by scanning a QR code in the bulletin (and included at the top of this article), or directly in the app and website. If you see someone new in worship, mention it to them and encourage them to fill out the form! Why don't you scan it or check it out on the website or app? We will gladly receive comments and suggestions for improvements!



### **NEXT TWO BIBLE STUDIES**

I am in the planning stages of two new Wednesday Bible studies. Both studies will be developed based on requests by you! The start dates will be announced at least two weeks prior.

The first study will be conversation around your questions about God, the Bible, and our faith. I invite you to submit questions to me that you would like to discuss – things that have confused you or challenged you, or perhaps there are questions for which you have heard many various answers, and you want me to explain the difference views and why they may be professed. Please submit your questions in advance in as much detail as possible via text to 681.368.4040 or by email to [stevecpa@hotmail.com](mailto:stevecpa@hotmail.com) We will discuss as many each week as time allows. One warning – the answer might be, “I don't know.” But I will do as much research as I can to speak to the question. You may start submitting your questions now.

The second study will be, “The Basics of our Faith.” Or “United Methodism 101.” Or “Basic Christianity.” My current plan is to start with an overview of the history of the Church and discuss the divisions and disputes and disagreements that have contributed to our current structure, denominational differences, and the varied ways we understand our faith. From that foundation we will look at some of the commonly held beliefs of Christianity and then move into a discussion of the distinctions of United Methodist theology.

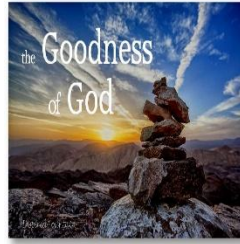
## NEW MODE OF COMMUNICATION

Friends, we are in the process of activating the ability to communicate with you through SMS text messaging! This service will allow the church office to send everyone in the system the same text at the same time – this is a very efficient way to share information.

I know what you are thinking...I don't want to get 3 or 4 text a day from the church! Don't worry. We signed up for an average of 3 text messages per month – less than one a week. AND, you must explicitly give us permission to add you to the texting list. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to opt out of receiving text messages if you choose. AND, there will not be an option for you to reply to the message (it won't be like a group chat text where a couple of people carry on a conversation and everyone in the group keeps getting dinged!)

The primary uses will be to remind you of special events or combined worship services, inform you of time-sensitive information, make the quick response to a need more likely, let you know about weather-related scheduling changes, etc. There may be the occasional uplifting or positive (but very brief) reminder that you are loved by God! But we will not send out trivial or inconsequential texts – and we will only be sending texts that apply to everyone, or nearly everyone.

This service is part of Constant Contact, which is the provider we use for emails. We can start adding mobile phone numbers to the Constant Contact profiles immediately. However, as I mentioned before, we must have your explicit permission to add your number. We will let you know the proper procedure for granting your permission in the next few weeks



## Goodness of God

When my husband was scheduled for surgery at CAMC, little did I know it was going to be a very drawn-out process. After the surgery, and we were told he would be coming home, things started to change. He would spike a fever or have stomach issues. He was scheduled to transport to Mountain View, and we had to wait for insurance approval. After several days of waiting, he was to be on his way, and then more medical problems kept him at CAMC. Medical issues would straightened up, and then something at Mountain View would break down. This happened for one day shy of a month. By this time, he was to be released to come home and travel to do therapy. Through this story all we seemed to be doing was waiting. Waiting for the insurance and waiting for broken things to be fixed until I realized that things were happening like this because God was in control. God wanted my husband to be able to go home and not be placed somewhere for physical therapy. Yes, God is in control and he writes the story. It is always in God's Time.

Submitted by Nancy Smith

God  
IS GOOD  
All Time



**VBS 2026**

**July 6 – 10**

**5:30pm meal: Program 6 – 8:30pm**

### **Ways you can help:**

Pray!

Advertise this in your neighborhood

We can always use more volunteers

Monetary donations are accepted

Donate snacks:

8 boxes of Graham Cookie Sticks or Scooby snacks

2 large bags of Puffcorn, Pirates Booty or another 'hulless popcorn'

5 cases of Hugs (drinks)

Snack packs of Mini Powdered Donuts, (3-4 small donuts prepackaged)

**A LOT of Rice Krispy Treats - these will be handed out by the folks on the Calvary float during the 4th of July Parade.**

**Our next VBS planning meeting will be Wednesday evening, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. Everyone is invited!!**



### **SPRING HEIGHTS**

As most of you probably know, the WV United Methodist Conference camp is Spring Heights which is located in Spencer - so, right in our backyard! The director of Spring Heights is a member of Calvary - Louisa Smith. Louisa works hard to utilize the camp all year and not just for the summer camping season.

However, summer camp for youth is probably the highlight of the year. The United Women in Faith sponsor youth from Calvary to be able to attend, and we normally have a few kids who take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to grow in their faith and meet new friends during a week at camp.

As you can probably imagine, the camp is run on a shoestring budget and requires a lot of volunteers to make it possible. Sometimes we send volunteer teams to the camp to do repairs and maintenance projects. But the camp season is when the camp is utilized 24/7 for 5 weeks and it takes an army of volunteers and paid staff to make it work and to be the spiritual and formative experience the youth need.

This year, the dates for camp are:

June 28 - July 3

July 5 - 10

July 12 - 17

July 19 - 24

July 26 - 31

While you are welcome to participate in a lot of ways, Louisa has communicated a very specific need for this year's camping season:

Volunteer in the kitchen. Members of Calvary volunteered for one week last year, and Louisa was very thankful. She said it worked out very well and she knows they will need help again this year. They will have a paid cook on staff, and the volunteers help with food prep, serving the food, and clean up at the end of the meal.

Please pray about this. If you know of someone else who might fit in perfectly, please share this request with them. While we don't need to know this week, we do need to know soon - camp will be here before you know it and the leadership has to be in place and trained well in advance. If you would consider either working in the kitchen or as a volunteer dean (or as a counselor), please let me know and I will relay the information to Louisa.



### Home Repair

Parchment Valley Conference Center will once again be hosting youth groups this summer in the "Brothers Keeper" program. During the week of June 21 – 26, several teenagers will be in Jackson County and their primary work project for the week is home repair and maintenance for folks in the community who may not be able to afford to hire the work completed and/or are not able to do the work themselves.

We have application forms in the church office if you know of someone who may benefit from this mission project.



The DaySpring mobile camp, a ministry of Spring Heights, will be coming to Jackson County! There will be more information forthcoming, but please mark your calendars for Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Calvary is pleased to sponsor this camp experience in collaboration with Epworth UMC and Sandyville UMC for all kids in the Jackson Co. area. Pre-registration will be required and there will be a cap of 30 campers permitted. The camp will take place at Cedar Lakes! We need volunteers to help at Cedar Lakes each day (8am – 2pm) as well as people who will help prepare meals and/or snacks. Watch your bulletin and weekly updates for more information.



## **DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS**

Do you struggle with knowing what to say to folks who are battling a severe or terminal illness? How about what to say to someone who has recently experienced the death of a loved one? What is helpful and what may not be as well received? Does it make you nervous or uncomfortable even being around folks in either of the two previously mentioned life situations?

This is an area in our culture that is very intimidating for folks. Overall, our society does not handle death and dying in healthy ways. And the ironic thing is that all of us will face some variation of these circumstances at some point – from both sides.

Deb Higginbotham and Pastor Steve will be leading a discussion on this topic, and we hope to include a panel discussion with some folks who have recently experienced loss. While every incident of loss and every person is different, some basic principles apply in most encounters.

We will probably offer this session on a Saturday morning so as many people as possible can attend. Look for the date in your bulletin, the weekly update, and hear it announced from the pulpit.

## **WV UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

This year, Annual Conference will be held from Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at WV Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. Your elected lay member to conference is Russ Hunter. Pam Braden will also be a voting member of conference because of her position as district lay leader. This year, the conference will be considering a proposal to reduce the number of districts from 7 to 6. In the realignment being proposed, the Little Kanawha District (our district) will cease to exist and the churches within the current LK area will be placed with the three surrounding districts. The Ripley area, and Calvary UMC, would become part of the current Nine Rivers District which includes Charleston and some of the coalfield counties. We would be the northernmost part of the district. Wood County (the churches in the Parkersburg area) would become the southernmost part of the current Northern District.

Additionally, we will be considering the conference budget for next year. While each year we must approve the budget as proposed or amended, this has become a significantly more ardent task. As the number of churches in our conference has decreased and many that remain face financial challenges, one result (of many) is that the conference is shrinking, and the budget will necessarily have to reflect that decrease.

But there is good news – since 2021, many congregations have experienced growth in membership and attendance. While challenges remain, there are many things for us to celebrate as a conference. Please pray for annual conference, each member of conference, our bishop as she leads, and each congregation within our conference.

## For Such a Time as This

The biblical book of Esther relays the story of how a woman named Esther became queen and is then faced with a daunting situation. She may be able to sway the opinion of the king and save her people. However, there is a chance that if she approaches the king without being summoned, she may be put to death. Mordecai tries to convince Esther of the absolute necessity of her taking this risk and said, *“Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”* Esther 4:14b.

Calvary is facing a time of need in the youth program. After several years of faithfully leading the middle school youth on Sunday evenings, Ashley Hosaflook has stepped down from that position. Additionally, Gail Varney has been sharing the responsibility of teaching the senior high Sunday school class with Ryan Ruben. Gail now needs to step away from that role. We need to fill both positions by the end of the summer. These are a minimum need. Preferably, we would have two adults leading the middle school youth, and we would have a second person helping Jimmy Groves with the high school Sunday evening group.

We talk about how Calvary is a family and we have so many kids and youth and they are important to us. Well, is this true? Are the youth important? Are we committed to discipling our young people as they grow in their faith? Can we provide a safe place for them to gather and fellowship and learn how to serve in the church and in the community?

Let me change the pronoun – are the youth important to you? Perhaps you have come to this point in life, in this congregation, in your own faith for such a time as this. This is your chance to make a difference, a lasting and essential difference. This is an investment in our youth and in the future. You don't have to be perfect or have all the answers (no one

does). You do need to be faithful to be present, committed to the youth, available, willing to learn as you go, be flexible, and love Jesus. You won't be alone and you will have resources and the entire congregation will be behind you. But we need leaders.

I know it is easy to say, “of course, the youth are important, I sure hope someone helps. We need people in those positions. But I can't do it.” If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Please do not wait to be asked, and don't volunteer someone else. However, if you recognize the gifts and graces in someone else, you might want to approach them and ask them to consider serving. So, if you have been asking God for a sign, THIS MIGHT JUST BE IT!!!!!!!

I am confident that God will provide the leaders we need. So, after you have prayed about this (and maybe fasted), when God has spoken to you and convinced you that you have come to this place in life for such a time as this, please let Pastor Steve know that you will be helping teach Sunday school or lead the youth program. Blessings, my friends



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Check out our two new logos!

You will see this banner on the front of the church soon



This one will eventually be on a cookie!



## 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CURRENT SANCTUARY 100 Years on Court Street



1926  
to  
2026



## 100 Years of Calvary Weddings



For the upcoming celebration of 100 years, we are compiling all the weddings held in the building. If you were married at Ripley United Brethren Church or Calvary United Methodist Church, please send a wedding photo with your names and date of wedding to [adickirson@hotmail.com](mailto:adickirson@hotmail.com) or text it to 304.786.0046. If you are unable to send the photo electronically, reach out to me and I will make arrangements to get an electronic copy of the photograph. We are collecting all the wedding photos from the past 100 years to be displayed at the October 10 & 11 event so if you know anyone else married at Ripley United Brethren Church or Calvary United Methodist Church, please share this information with them. I will be checking my spam email often, but if you don't receive an email back from me confirming receipt, please call or text. I don't want to miss anyone!

To summarize:

-email [adickirson@hotmail.com](mailto:adickirson@hotmail.com) with photo of Bride and Groom married at Ripley United Brethren Church or Calvary United Methodist Church.

-Calvary weddings in the subject line

-include names of bride and groom and the date of the wedding

-contact info in case I have any questions

Thank you!

Ashley Hosaflook



In Christianity, the nine-point star represents the nine elements of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** Occasionally, each of the points of the star will include the Latin initials for one of the elements of the fruit of the Spirit to make the symbolism clear.

I did need to specify that this is the meaning in Christian tradition, because the nine-point star is also part of the tradition of the Bahai faith. The Bahai faith was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Iran. One of their foundational beliefs is that all religions are serving the same God (the unity of religions). So, if a Muslim joins Bahai, they do not see that as a conversion.

When you see a nine-point star, let that be a reminder to you that all believers are supposed to possess all nine elements of the fruit of the Spirit (unlike the gifts of the Spirit. You have a gift, but not all the gifts.) Therefore, live with the power of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



The chalice, in its many depictions, is a symbol of the cup used for the celebration of Holy Communion, and therefore, represents the blood of Jesus. Holy Communion was instituted by Jesus on the night he was betrayed and arrested. It is a sacrament of the church – something Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to do. The other sacrament recognized in the Protestant tradition is baptism.

We see the standing chalice depicted by itself, in combination with grapes and/or wheat, and in this case, with a starburst behind it. I am not 100% sure of the significance of the starburst. However, I speculate that it is intended to remind us that it is the risen Christ who meets us in the elements of Holy Communion.

## Attendance for April 2026

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
May	3	Worship	169	24	90
May	10	Worship	155	18	87
May	17	Worship	186	Combined	73
May	24	Worship	141	16	88
May	31	Worship			

### Tithes and Offerings

<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>\$310,924.00</b>
<b>Needed Each Week</b>	<b>\$5,979.31</b>
<b>Rec. Year-to-Date</b>	<b>\$132,723.44</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.

**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.



*June 2026*  
*Birthdays and Anniversaries*



- 1— Will Hosaflook, Julia Hunter
- 2—Jeff Isner
- 3—Joyce Davis
- 4—Mary Toler, Betty French
- 5—Shelby Kole Hicks
- 6—Aubrey Haskins, Isaac Young, Emily Toler
- 7—Casey Bennett, Jaxon Harris
- 8—
- 9—
- 10—Randy Sovic
- 11—Rawson Hill, Kye Varney
- 12—Cheyene Hicks
- 13—
- 14—
- 15—John Kent
- 16—Nathan Anderson
- 17—Jeff DeWees, Karen Facemyer, Marci Toler
- 18—Kara Greathouse
- 19—Matt Hicks, Allen Fish
- 20—Grace Matheny
- 21—EJ Ulland, Adam Young
- 22—Lora Sturm
- 23—Chris Hunter
- 24—
- 25—Marian Haugh
- 26—Joy Hicks, Kristin Gerth, Alexi Fish
- 27—George Lamb
- 28—Tyler Geyer, Chuck Hicks II
- 29—Calista Boggess, Kayla Patterson, Graham Reed
- 30—

**Anniversaries**



- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1—Dick & Linda Waybright  | 19—Shawn & Tabatha Craddock |
| 2—Greg & Jenna Reed       | Matt & Cheyene Hicks        |
| 3—Tom & Becky Jenkins     | 20—Paul & Pat Shockey       |
| 5—Scott & Tara Ellison    | 21—Fred & Autumn Hopkins    |
| 9—Randy & Keryn Sovic     | 25—Dave & Linda Dickerson   |
| 15—Matt & Ashley Howery   | 30—John & Chandra Gray      |
| 18—Jamion & Taran Wolford |                             |



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers**

**June 2026**

**Worship Leader – Geyer 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>June 7</b>	Ashley Wolfe & Scarlett Greathouse	Cason Isner & Harper Banks	Hannah Bolyard	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie DeWees	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>June 14</b>	Janet Hall & Adelyn Groves	Henley Patterson & Lilah Reed	Danielle Fish	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>June 21</b>	Cinda Francis & Lilah Hosaflook	Katelyn Fish & Mary Fish	Kara Greathouse	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>June 28</b>	Hannah Bolyard & Alexi Fish	Ashlyn Wolford & Sophia Wolford	Kara Greathouse	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 am</b> Geyer Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
				<i>In Our Thoughts &amp; Prayers</i> 		

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  
Staci Cummings(304-532-4720)

Pre-worship 9:00 am Pastor Steve  
Prayer Leaders: 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb  
Children's Time: 9:00 am Jimmy Groves  
11:00 am Heather Starkey



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:00pm UMM <b>Church Picnic</b> ----- A ----- L -----	<b>2</b> 9:30a Tai Chi ----- A ----- S -----	<b>3</b> 1-3:00p Prayers & Squares ----- K ----- A -----	<b>4</b> 11:00p Flowing in the Spirit 6:30p Missions ----- T ----- R -----	<b>5</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth ----- I ----- P -----	<b>6</b> 7:00 a Mens Devo
<b>7 Communion Sunday</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Evans Eagles 4-H 5:30 p Safe Sanctuary	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30a Tai Chi	<b>10</b> 11:00p Deborah Miriam ----- A ----- N ----- N -----	<b>11</b> 9-11:00 p Food Pantry 11:00p Flowing in the Spirit ----- U ----- A ----- L -----	<b>12</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth --C--O--N--F--	<b>13</b> 7:00 a Mens Devo
<b>14</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 1:00p Mary Martha-Pool Party	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30a Tai Chi	<b>17</b> 1-3:00p Prayers & Squares 6p Bible Study	<b>18</b> 11:00p Flowing in the Spirit 6:30p Horse Comm.	<b>19 Juneteenth</b> Church Office Closed 11a Tai Chi Youth 3:00 p Fair Camping	<b>20</b> 7:00 a Mens Devo 3p-7p City 250 Celebration-Conf. Rm
<b>21 FATHERS DAY</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30a Tai Chi	<b>24</b> 6p Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9-11:00 p Food Pantry 11:00p Flowing in the Spirit – last mtg.	<b>26</b> 11a Tai Chi Youth	<b>27</b> 7a Mens Devo
<b>28</b> 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 7:00p Finance Committee	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30a Tai Chi				
<b>Younger Youth and M&amp;M's Youth            Groups Sunday Evening</b> 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM Group Mtg. <b>Your Youth Group Leaders</b> <b>Younger –</b> Taran Wolford 532-2317 <b>M&amp;M's -</b> <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>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Blended Service</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b>			<b>Worship Leaders:</b> 9:00 am Geyer Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb