



CALVARY CONNECTION

December 2022

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

Email – calvaryumc316@gmail.com

Web Page – www.calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.com



Mark Your Calendar

- December 11th** – Church Christmas Dinner 5:30pm
- December 18th** – Choir Cantata combined worship service @ 10am. Sunday school at 9am
- December 18th** – Children's Christmas Program 6 pm.
- December 24th** – Christmas Eve service at 7pm
- December 25th** – One morning service at 10am and Sunday school at 9am.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

How many of you can remember something that your parents taught you that sounded odd when you were a child, but as you got older you realized the wisdom in their words? As children, we often think our parents are out of touch and old fashioned. It is funny how as teenager we thought our parents knew nothing and we were so much smarter, but when we get a bit older, we realize how wise they were and that we were the ones in need of wisdom.

The same can be said of the Bible. Sometimes, especially as newer Christians, we read things in the Bible that seem out-of-touch or implausible or just plain wrong. But as we mature in our faith, the Holy Spirit living within us begins to open our eyes to the truth and wisdom of the teachings.

This is often the case around Christmas. The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Tell that to a child during the month of December!!! The cultural significance of Christmas is very heavily focused on gift giving and gift receiving. For younger children, it is a wonderful time to GET. Have you been naughty or nice? Will you get what you want? Look at all of the presents under the tree! Which ones have MY name on them? Let me shake them and

guess what it is – it has to be something on my list!!! Yay! I am so excited!

As we get older, we truly do realize it is better to give than receive. When we give, we are the source of all of that excitement and joy in the little ones. It is fun to surprise others by giving them something they never expected, and yet something they truly love. Usually, the older we get the fewer gifts we receive, but the more important they are (or as some people say, the older we are the more expensive our toys!).

Normally, you would expect me to urge you to focus on the giving side of Christmas. It is very important to be a giver and be generous and it does bring great joy. But I actually want to encourage you to be a great recipient – a great receiver. At one level, it is important to be a good receiver of a gift given by someone else. They give from their heart, they often put much thought and effort into the gift, and they sacrifice, at least to some degree, in an attempt to make you happy, to bring joy to your life. We should be grateful and thankful and express that to the giver.

It should be the same with the greatest gift we have ever been given by the greatest and most generous giver ever known! As we approach the Christmas season, I want to encourage you to spend some time contemplating the gift that is Jesus Christ. God the Father has given a gift to every person who has ever drawn a breath. Every. Single. Person. Is created in the image of God and out of God's great love, God sent Jesus into the world to redeem our life and restore our relationship with God. God has provided for the greatest need we have – the need to be in relationship with the God who created us.

And God chose to do that by entering into our situation – moving into the neighborhood and becoming flesh. Jesus gave everything. He gave up his place in the eternal, heavenly presence of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit to become human. One person said he became

like us so we could become like him. Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice so that we might live. The song says, "He gave his life, what more could he give? Oh, how he loves you, Oh, how he loves me, oh how he loves you and me."

Part of our response is to give ourselves to God and others! God so loved the world that he gave... If we love, we give, too. But a very important part is to receive! Are you a grateful recipient of God's offer of grace? It is your greatest and deepest need and want, even if you do not realize it yet. Do you have a sense that there is something missing or your life isn't fulfilling or you are unsatisfied and you keep searching to find the one thing that will make you happy and content? That one thing may be a relationship with God. One of the early church fathers said that we each have a God shaped hole in us and nothing can fill that or satisfy that outside of God. The good news is that that relationship is available and made possible by a wonderful gift from God!!! All we have to do is to accept the gift and then live into our new relationship with God. So, are you a good recipient of gifts? I pray that you will excitedly receive and live into the gift of eternal life, the gift of grace, the gift of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Merry Christmas!

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:

Dec 4 – REPENT – Matt 3:1-12

Dec 11 – How Do We Know It is Jesus – Matt 11:2-11

Dec 18 – Choir Cantata

Dec 25 – Moved Into The Neighborhood – John 1:1-14

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

As you know, there is a lot of talk these days (last three years) about the United Methodist denomination splitting. There is also a lot of information floating around and as is often the case, the "slant" on the story depends greatly upon the source. While it goes much deeper (into the interpretation of scripture), the presenting issue is our understanding of human sexuality. Obviously, since there is talk of a split, there are people on both sides of this issue. Some people, some pastors, and some congregations are

thrilled with the direction the denomination appears to be headed and others are discouraged. To this end, there will be an informational meeting for anyone interested on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 10:00am in the church sanctuary. **THERE WILL NOT BE ANY KIND OF VOTE AT THIS MEETING.** The intention is to have a time to talk and listen and come to a better understanding of the issue and the options available. Future meetings will most likely be planned at the conclusion of this session. I encourage your attendance.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

I am soooooooooo excited!!!! Felicia Shockey has agreed to be the coordinator for our upcoming confirmation class. This confirmation process is based on a model of mentorship where each confirmand is paired with a mentor throughout the process. There will also be some group meetings and other events. The confirmation sessions will begin in early January, but now is the time to commit to being part of this exciting opportunity. Most confirmands are between the ages of 10 and 15 years old, with the most common ages being 12 – 13. If you know of anyone who would like to participate, we need to get their information by December 5, 2022. The purpose of confirmation is to confirm the promises made at their baptism and to encourage the youth to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to join the church as a member (although they will not be pressured to do either). If the confirmand has not yet been baptized, they can be baptized at the conclusion of the confirmation process (probably in May) and join the church. We will be recruiting mentors during November and December as well. Our goal is to have all confirmands registered and all mentors recruited by the middle of December. The mentors will be trained and the process with the confirmands will begin in January 2023. If you have a confirmand to sign up, or if you would like to serve as a mentor, please contact the church office at 304-372-3203 or Felicia Shockey at 304-532-9896.

Invite Someone to Worship!

Take a look at this article from the Lewis Center: Who might you invite to worship? Simple invitation without any shaming or guilt trips!

[One Invitation Away from Returning - Lewis Center for Church Leadership](#)

United Methodist Men

Calvary UM Men will be meeting on Monday, December 5th at 6:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish and join in the fellowship.

United Methodist Women

Deborah/Miriam Circle will meet December 14th at 11:30 am at Bob Evans Restaurant for their Christmas lunch. The Blood Drive was held November 17th, 1-6:00 pm. Number of units received was 23. Please continue to make and keep your appointments. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the drive, please let Kathy Marlow in the church office know.



The **Mary Martha Circle** will be meeting on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 pm at the Burdette residence. Gloria Burdette is the hostess and will present the program.

The **Discovery Circle** will meet December 11th for the Christmas Dinner.



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

Your Youth Group Leaders

Younger Youth – Hilary Groves	532-7648
M&M's - Ashley Hosaflook	786-0046
High School-Jimmy Groves	372-8768
Tina Cunningham	372-3852



Mission Updates:

MATTHEW 25:40 Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters you did for me.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR coming up Dec. 3, 2022 8 am-2:00 pm. Donations needed for crafts and baked goods.

Rent a table space for \$20.00 to sell your items. Call the church office 304-372-3203 to rent a table.



John 3:16 Fellowship met November 15th at 3:16 pm. We had a wonderful program presented by a disabled veteran. We will not meet again until March 2023. Have a safe and very happy holiday season. Looking forward to March.

Prayers and Squares Ministry

The Prayers and Squares group meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. And, on as needed times if they have special projects. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please call Joyce Davis at 372-4555.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been knitting shawls at home during this pandemic. People knit/crochet shawls and lap robes for many reasons, to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. They may also be knit/crocheted to celebrate life and its milestones. The reasons to knit/crochet a shawl or lap robe are as numerous as the people who knit/crochet them. If you can knit or crochet (or would like to learn) and are interested in this mission, please contact Faye Milhoan or call the church office at 304-372-3203. Get those needles creating.



The angels are due back to the church by Dec. 18. We need

volunteers to do this! **We would like a volunteer from each SS class to help with this project-If you are willing to help, please contact the church office.**

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Food Pantry Ministry Annual Statistics

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

YTD Monthly

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

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 Pantry Ministry November Report

We had a busy Thanksgiving distribution on Thursday, November 17. We distributed a 35-40 lbs. food box and a turkey breast to 138 families. Two additional families arrived after 11 so they were provided with a food box since we had distributed all the turkey breasts we had purchased.

The 140 families are 58 more than our November 3, distribution. We are expecting our Christmas distributions on December 22, to be high as well. We plan to pack for 150 families. We continue to be blessed with financial support in November from our congregation as well as Grass Lick Baptist, Flatwoods United Methodist, Fairplain Union, and Resource Connection Outreach Center. Also, Ripley Library, Walmart, Kroger, Grace Community

Church, and KVC Jackson Staff for their food donations during November.

During November we brought in 7,163 lbs. of food. 2,949 lbs. were donated and 4,214 lbs. were purchased.

Food donations included 1,212 lbs. from USDA, 382 lbs. from Kroger, 410 lbs. from Grace Community, 169 lbs. from KVC, and 654 lbs. from Walmart.

We purchased \$2,017 of food from Kroger, \$1,687 from Walmart and \$1552 of food from Mountaineer Food Bank.

We served 220 households or 699 individuals. Dec 2022



Food Pick Up Schedule

2 nd	Senior High Class
9 th	Patty Smith
16 th	Connie Waybright
23 rd	Debbie Sisson
30 th	Dallas Skeen



Wee Read and Feed Calvary's Book Mission

"Wee Read and Feed" is flourishing now with many new books to give to children of the Food Pantry families.

Friends and family of Mrs. Eileen Kerwood donated funds to honor her memory with her passing May 31 of this year.

Four boxes of Scholastic books were also donated in memory of Mrs. Kerwood. Two boxes were given to children who came to the Jackson County Fair kitchen and two boxes were given to the children of our Food Pantry families as requested by the donor. The donor wishes to remain anonymous.

We were able to give 77 books to children during the Food Pantry September 22. We have many babies and toddlers and we want to support the children as they recover from time lost in the classroom.

We thank God for all these blessings.



Crossroads UM Camp Poinsettia Sale

BOB'S Market and
Greenhouses Inc

6" pot for \$8 8" pot for \$17 10" pot for \$22

Color Choice is made at time of pickup

Make Checks payable to:
CROSSROADS UM CAMP

Orders are due Dec. 5th
Redeem your coupons at Bob's Market
Dec. 6th thru Dec. 20th



The United
Methodist
Foundation is
sponsoring a
performance
of *Gloria!* by
Antoni Vivaldi,
featuring the

West Virginia Symphony and the West Virginia
Symphony Chorus, at the Clay Center on
December 17 at 7:30 pm.

We invite you to be our guest at no cost to
you. We have a limited number of seats
available. You may register as individuals or
register a group from your church. Registrations
must be completed **by December 2nd, 2022.**

Register here ([United Methodist Foundation
West Virginia | Gloria with the West Virginia
Symphony Orchestra \(umfwv.org\)](https://www.umfwv.org)) or call us at
304-342-2113. It is important that we have
names and contact information for all attendees
because tickets are not provided. Rather, we will
provide a list of attendees to the West Virginia
Symphony, and they will have a table set up at
the Clay Center at the event to admit our invitees.

Please contact us with any questions at
304-342-2113 or info@umfwv.org
Virginia Symphony, and they will have a table set
up at the Clay Center at the event to admit our
invitees.

We have print packets available for
churches that contain several posters and
bulletin inserts; let us know if you would like us to
provide you with a packet.

Please contact us with any questions at 304-
342-2113 or info@umfwv.org

This is a district fundraiser to help with repairs
and upgrades to the Crossroads UM Camp.
Please order some poinsettias if you can!



The 2022 Advent
Devotional written by laity
of the WV Conference is
ready for the upcoming
Advent and Christmas seasons, going from
November 27 to January 6!

To access the daily devotionals or to print the
full booklet, go to:

[https://www.wvumc.org/2022-advent-laity-
devotions/](https://www.wvumc.org/2022-advent-laity-devotions/)

To sign up to receive the devotions via email
each morning, go to:

[https://www.wvumc.org/conference-email-
subscription/](https://www.wvumc.org/conference-email-subscription/)

The devotions will also be available on social
media including an audio version provided by
Cheryl Phillips.

I am grateful to each lay person who shared
their gift of writing, and I look forward to the
journey of "Preparing for New Life" as we walk
together through Advent and Christmas.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season,
~Kristi

Attendance for October 2022

		9:00	Facebook	11:00		
Oct	2	Worship	127	29	Sunday School	90
Oct	9	Worship	104	112	Sunday School	104
Oct	16	Worship	115	112	Sunday School	96
Oct	23	Worship	169	42	Sunday School	126
Oct	30	Worship	112	42	Sunday School	118



Tithes and Offerings

2022 Budget	\$289,188.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,561.30
Rec. Year-To-Date	\$276,653.28

RENEW YOUR KROGER CARD

Time to renew Calvary UMC Food Pantry as your selection for Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you are supporting the Calvary UMC Food Pantry by connecting your Kroger Rewards Card to the Food Pantry on Kroger Community Rewards Program, then it is time for you to renew that connection for the coming year. To renew, please do the following:

1. Go online at KrogercommunityRewards.com and click on Sign-In/Register.
2. Use your email address and password to sign in.
3. Once you are signed in, click on View Your Rewards Details.
4. Scroll to the bottom of your Account Summary to view your Community Rewards selection.
5. Select Calvary UMC Food Pantry by either typing it in or using our NPO Number which is 83824.
6. Make sure you get the Calvary UMC in Ripley (83824) because there are three Calvary UMC's listed.

If you have been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program but do not have access to a computer or do not have an email account, please contact Melanie Purkey at 304-372-6910 (H) or 304-377-6339 (C). If you have not participated in the program but would like to, follow the enrollment directions in each week's church bulletin.

Amazon Smile

Help raise funds for our local mission projects. During their regular meeting on January 30, 2022, the Administrative Board approved a request to establish **an account through the AmazonSmile program.** This is very similar to the Kroger card program that many of you may already use. When you order from Amazon use **Amazon Smile instead of simply Amazon and under your profile select Calvary United Methodist Church, Ripley, WV (make sure it is our church; there are several Calvary United Methodist churches on the list)** and Amazon will send **0.5% of the purchase price to us and it will be designated for local missions through the "Tom Goad missions account."**

ONLINE GIVING

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



**December 2022
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1—Greg Thomas
- 2—Alex Hall, John Hopkins
- 3—
- 4—
- 5—Justin Landis
- 6—Carlene Anderson, Dave Dickirson
- 7—Dallas Skeen
- 8—Rhett Ruben
- 9—
- 10—Jo Phillips, Gerri Powers
- 11—Matt Hill
- 12—
- 13—
- 14—
- 15—Tara Barnette
- 16—Lilah Hosaflook, Shelly Cox
- 17—
- 18—Jillian Izold
- 19—Michael Hunter, Heather Starkey
- 20—Jeremy Rhodes
- 21—Alyssa Barnette
- 22—
- 23—Jeff Haskins, Owen Cunningham
- 24—
- 25—
- 26—Carisa Adkins, Hannah Bolyard
- 27—
- 28—
- 29—Mark Martin, Zaiden Cochran
- 30—Kathy Marlow
- 31—Sophia Brown









Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3—Joe & Rachel Shockey | 27—Tim & Debbie Showen |
| 14—Bryan & Amy Wallen | 28—Patrick & Leslie Boggess |
| 20—Jared & Onaisa Landis | 31—Dean & Joyce Fisher |
| 27—Bob & Sherry Poole | |



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers
December 2022**




**Worship Leader – Isner Family 9:00 am
Natalie Holcomb 11:00 am**

	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Prayers of the People</u>	<u>Sound & Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
Dec 4	Carla Brown & Adelyn Groves	Katelyn Fish & Korie Hersman	Stephanie Dewees	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming – Matt Hicks	9:00 a.m. Isner Family 11:00 a.m. Connie Waybright
Dec 11	Cinda Francis & Staci Cummings	Isaac Young & Cohen Isner	Taran Wolford	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming – Russ Hunter	9:00 a.m. Isner Family 11:00 a.m. Connie Waybright
Dec 18	Hilary Groves & Chloe Brown	Alaina Hicks & Eliza Reed	Cantata	10:00 am Isner Family	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming – Russ Hunter	10:00 a.m. Isner Family
Dec 25	Taran Wolford & Janet Hall		Kendra Hersman	10:00 am Betty French	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming – Jeremy Rhodes	10:00 a.m. Connie Waybright
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes				

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 Isner Family
11:00 am Betty French

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Younger Youth and M&M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM</p> <p>Your Youth Group Leaders</p> <p>Younger – Hilary Groves 532-7648 M&M's Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 High School – Jimmy Groves 372-6910 Tina Cunningham 372-3852</p>				1	2 Christmas Bazaar set up	3 7:00 a Gideons 8-2pm Christmas Bazaar 4-9 pm Main St Conf Rm
<p>49:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p 4-H Evans Eagles 2:00 p Mary Martha – Burdettes Res 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Group</p>	<p>5 11:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p UMM 6:30 p Bible Study</p>	<p>6 9:30 am Tai Chi</p>	<p>7 1:00 – 3:00 pm Prayers & Squares 10:00 a Deborah/Miriam 6:30 p Choir</p>	<p>8 9-11:00 a Food Pantry</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:00 a Gideons All Day- Hicks Hall – birthday party-Alyssa Ruben</p>
<p>11 9:00&11:00 am Morning Worship 9:00 am Live Streaming Service 10:00 am Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Hand Bell Choir 5:30 p Discovery Circle 5:30 p Christmas Dinner</p>	<p>12 11:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Bible Study</p>	<p>13 9:30 am Tai Chi</p>	<p>14 11:30 a Deborah/Miriam 6:30 p Choir</p>	<p>15 5:30 p RFL Conf Rm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:00 a Gideons Hicks Hall – Groves Family Dinner</p>
<p>18 10:00 am Cantata 10:00 am Live Streaming Service 11:00 am Sunday School All Ages 6:00 p Christmas Program</p>	<p>19 11:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Bible Study</p>	<p>20 9:30 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm Children's Choir</p>	<p>21 1:00 – 3:00 pm Prayers & Squares 6:30 p Choir</p>	<p>22 9-11:00 a Food Pantry</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7:00 a Gideons Communion/Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 10:00 am Combined Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday School All Ages</p>	<p>26 11:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Bible Study</p>	<p>27 9:30 am Tai Chi</p>	<p>28 7:00 p Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7:00 a Gideons</p>
	<p>Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-9:00 - Noon</p> <p>Sunday Services</p> <p>Traditional Service 9:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Seeker Service 11:00 a.m.</p>					<p>Worship Leaders: 9:00 am 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb</p>

