



CALVARY CONNECTION

March 2026

Calvary United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

When we gathered in a combined worship service on February 15th, we celebrated one of the true joys in the life of the church – new life! We recognized the babies who were born into our church family in 2024 and 2025. That event is one of the most obvious examples of the church being a family. Christians are those who have entered a relationship with God through the saving grace of Jesus Christ which results in that person becoming part of the Church (the Church being all persons who follow Jesus in all places and throughout time).

However, Christians are also connected with each other in a local congregation. And when those congregations are healthy, they are a wonderful family. Calvary is a wonderful family!! We celebrate new babies, graduations, birthdays and anniversaries, scholastic accomplishments, excellence in sports, weddings, retirements, and many other life events. In our small groups we nurture deep friendships that often last a lifetime. We eat together, work together, study together, and worship together. As the saying goes, when one rejoices we all rejoice!

But there is another part of that saying as well – when one hurts, we all hurt. Lately, we have been hurting more than usual. Several people have faced surgeries that are aimed at bringing healing and relief, so we can celebrate them. But they are still surgeries.

Now there are so many members of our family fighting cancer. That *#@\$*& cancer. I HATE CANCER! While it is true that we

have some cancer survivors, and the medical field has made progress in treatment, it is still a scourge and a frightening diagnosis. And when it strikes you or someone in your family (nuclear family or church family), it is often a time of confusion and worry and the dread of facing the unknown future that can be the predominant emotion and state of mind. So, I know you are hurting (you – the ones with cancer, and you – the ones who love them). We are a family, so we hurt. For some, these are lifetime friendships!

But since we are a family, we do not have to hurt or face the future alone. Your support and encouragement and prayers and various expressions of love demonstrate how dear we are to each other. Sometimes it is just as critical to “be there” for the other caregivers or the ones hurting emotionally.

I have watched you do this as a church family. I have personal experience with it. I have watched you surround others as well. Not as an obligation or because it is just the right thing to do, but rather out of a deep love for a family member. That’s what a family does, right?

I want to be as clear as possible on this point – and this goes for those of you who are experiencing illness or family members of those who are ill, for those grieving the death of a loved one, or fighting loneliness or isolation, or really any condition that brings grief and stress and prevents you from being your best self: Hear me – your church family wants to help, but sometimes we do not know how or know what you need. YOU ARE NOT

A BURDEN! You are loved as a member of our family. Please let us demonstrate our love and care. Do not be afraid or hesitant to ask for what you specifically need most.

Church family, please be proactive in reaching out to folks (as I know you usually are). Instead of guessing about what might be helpful, ask! Then there is the common concern, "I don't know what to say." Then, don't say anything. Just be present. But if you want to say something, try "I love you." Or "I'm here for you."

I could write a novel about this subject, but I will wrap this article up with this...Calvary is a wonderful church, and one of the main reasons is because you are a wonderful church family. You treat each other like family. You all rejoice when one rejoices and you all grieve when one grieves. You are a great network of love and support and encouragement. And I celebrate that. But I also know that when this many family members are hurting, it can be a difficult season. Know that I am praying for you and walking with you on this journey.

We serve a resurrected and living Lord! We have a savior who has conquered sin and the grave. Jesus knows our pain and sorrow and experienced it himself. He grieves with us while reminding us of the eternal life we have in his name. There is coming a day when there will be no more cancer, no more sickness of any kind, no more broken relationship, no tear will dim the eye, and no more death. Until that day, we are to be the healing presence of Christ for each other. May it be so.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**March 30-April 3 @ Calvary
MIDDAY (12:00 noon) JCMA**

- Monday - Preacher: Kerry Bart
Epworth UM Church, Ripley
Soloist: Joy Hicks
- Tuesday - Preacher: Chris Skeens
JCMA President
Ravenswood Freewill Baptist
Church
Soloist: Kerry Bart
- Wed - Preacher: Kristopher Powell
Church of the Nazarene,
Ripley
Soloist: Louisa Smith
- Thursday - Preacher: Caitlin Ware
Sandyville UMC Charge
Soloist: Donna Richardson
- Friday - Preacher: Steven Hamrick
Calvary UMC Ripley
Soloist: Amy Haskins

Lunch Provided w/carryout option

The offering received at each service benefits the Ministry of the Jackson County Ministerial Association.

BE PREPARED FOR WORSHIP

Worship is supposed to be participatory with each person contributing to the worship of Almighty God. One way that you can participate more fully, is to come to Sunday worship prepared and expecting God's presence. To assist your preparation, read and reflect on these scriptures and themes the entire week before worship:

Mar 1 -- Nicodemus- John 3:1-17

Mar 8 – Living Water- John 4:5-42-Holy Communion

Mar 15 – Jesus-The Light of the World -Eph 5:8-14

Mar 22 -Life From Death-Rom 8:6-11

Mar 29-Palm Sunday Combined worship



Mar 8 Auction for Missions

Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time begins

Mar 19 Red Cross Bloodmobile

Mar 29 Palm Sunday combined worship

Mar 29 Egg hunt @ 5:30pm

Mar 30-Apr 3 Calvary will host the ministerial assoc. midday Holy Week services at 12:00noon each day

Apr 2 Holy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

Apr 3 Good Friday - Office Closed

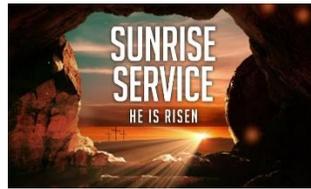
Apr 3 Good Friday service 7:00pm

Apr 5 Easter sunrise service - courthouse gazebo @ 7am

Apr 17-18 Spiritual Growth UWF

Apr 26 UWF Sunday

Apr 26 Youth Song & Praise



Easter Sunrise Service

The community sunrise service for

Easter Sunday will be held at the gazebo on the courthouse lawn at 7am on Sunday, April 5th. Bring a chair and join us for worship near the dawn of a new day as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet Mar 2nd @ 6:30 pm. Bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship.

United Women in Faith



World Day of Prayer

March 6 7:00 am- 7:00 pm

Please sign up for a time to pray. The sign up sheet is in the back of the church. You can pray at your convenience at home, work or wherever you wish. The Prayer Chapel at our church will be open from 7:00 am - 7:00 pm if you would like to say your prayers there.

Spiritual Growth Retreat April 17-18

“Seeing God’s Image in Everyone”

Speaker Rev. Nancy White

Registration forms beside the UWF Bulletin Board across from the office

Deadline for registration is March 30

The Mary Martha circle will meet Mar 8th @ 2:00 pm @ the Sturm Res. Lora Sturm is the hostess.

The Deborah Miriam circle will meet Mar 11th @ 10:00am in the Conference Room with hostesses Kathy Marlow & Gayle Thompson and Linda Waybright has the program.

The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet Mar 29th @ 4:00 pm for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Prayers and Squares Ministry

The Prayers and Squares group meets on 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.



Blood Drive

The Blood Drive will be held Mar 19th from 12-6:00pm. The Blood Drive now has a new organizer.

Many thanks to Autumn Hopkins for volunteering for this position. Thank you to Kathy Marlow & Diane Knopp for the many hours they worked in this position for the last 10 years. 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 Autumn Hopkins 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.



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.

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.

John 3:16 Fellowship



How wonderful that March is here! But better yet, it is time for our first meeting of 2026 - Tuesday, March 17th (St. Paddy's Day) at 3:16 p.m. in the conference room. If you haven't been able to attend previously, we cordially invite anyone who is retired, or just wishes they were to join us as we begin a new season of fellowship in Christ by sharing good food, devotions and words offered by a special guest speaker. Please bring a friend and give us a try. We would love to see you! Mark your calendar to be there!!

Vanessa Rothrock



!!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!

We continued to have some weather issues in early February that kept us from meeting, but it didn't keep us from celebrating love and doing some Valentine projects even after the holiday! A HUGE thank you to Felicia Shockey who joined us to help the kids make heart-shaped pillows which were delivered to Bomar and Valentines that were mailed to the shut-ins. The Youth Choir shared their talents with us as well in the combined service on February 15th.

We are kicking off March with a March Madness theme, and everyone is encouraged to support their favorite team(s) at youth on Sunday evening, March 1 by wearing any jersey or even your favorite team shirt! We will study a lesson called "Basketball ...Aiming for the Greatest Goal" (or basket), followed by a few, friendly games of Knock Out :o)

The Youth Choir will sing again for the congregation on March 8th. Please Note: After March 1st, Youth and Youth Choir will NOT be meeting for the remainder of March due to helping with the Missions Auction, spring break, egg hunt and then Easter Sunday. Youth Song and Praise is currently scheduled for April 26 so all youth are encouraged to begin thinking and planning what talents they would like to share with the Congregation. We hope to see everyone Sunday evening (with your game face on)!

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):

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

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Can you believe we are at the end of February and into March 2026? I am sure we are anxiously awaiting Spring after this winter that we have experienced. And with Spring comes many exciting things within the life of our church family. One is coming up very quickly!!!

Our Mission Auction will be held on March 8th. We will start the evening with dinner at 5 and then auction at 6 PM. Several Sunday School classes have been assigned to bring certain items for the dinner but if you are not in a class, just bring a covered dish (with something yummy inside of it). We also need items donated. If you do a craft or bake some wonderful item, bring it Sunday morning, March 8th or drop it off that week before in the church office. Wear Green-Bring Green is our ongoing theme. And if you have never attended, you don't know what you are missing. There are some hefty bidding wars that go on that night. And lots of laughter.

This year, we have started a new ministry. The funds will go to help our 2 middle schools and 2 high schools in Jackson County. We will be assisting students who need assistance to pay for things that maybe their family is unable to help or cannot raise the funds themselves. We want to make sure each child has items for graduation or class trips to make their school experience as enjoyable as possible. We will be working with the school

counselors to identify needs. The Mission Team has already assisted 2 students to be able to go to Disney with the band this year. An experience they may not have had if we didn't help just a little. Thank you in advance for contributing to the different mission projects that we have throughout the year.

As always, thank you for all that you do to allow your Mission Team to continue in ministry with families throughout our church and community. We have the best church and a church that has always had a heart for mission. So, from the Mission Team-a great big THANK YOU!!!!

MISISON AUCTION

MARCH 8, 2026 5:00PM

Our Mission Auction is quickly approaching. What a fun evening this has been in the past and I am looking forward to another great time with our church family.

This year, we are directing the funds to assist students who need just a little extra help in paying for items that maybe their family is unable to provide for them. Examples are graduation cap and gown, school trips such as the Washington DC trip, etc. We are calling it "Calvary In The Classroom."

Please let us know what you will be able to donate. We will then auction those items and watch the bidding wars begin! Thank you in advance for your assistance.

NAME _____

ITEM DONATED _____



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 Pastor Steve by either texting him at 681-368-4040, or emailing him at stevecpa@hotmail.com

Please, 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.



March 8, 2026



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.



Food Pick Up Schedule for March

6th Senior High Class
 13th Patty Smith
 20th Connie Waybright
 27th 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	Canned Items:
Beef Broth	Corn
Mac & Cheese	Green Beans
Soups	Meat
Corn Bread Mix	Chicken
Spaghetti Sauce	Spam
Spaghetti	Treet
Elbow Macaroni	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.

POSSIBLE TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND IN 2027

Friends, the tour company with which I am a tour host, Educational Opportunities (EO), has been taking groups to the Holy Land for the last several months without any safety issues at all. Therefore, I plan to schedule a group trip for the late summer or early fall of 2027 (August/September, most likely). The last time I scheduled a trip, I had 31 people registered!

It is my intention to organize and schedule the group trip this summer which will give you at least 12 months' advance notice. EO gives the largest discount if you register 11 months in advance. More info will be available in the coming days.



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!

Joke(s) of the Month

Why can't muggers catch Catholics during Lent? Because they fast!

I decided to give up complaining for Lent. It's awful! It stinks! Wow, it is hard!

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

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

Did you know that "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah" are typically omitted in worship during the season of Lent? We have this conversation in choir, and I was asked why and is it a "rule?" The practice of omitting alleluias during Lent has a long history in liturgical traditions. Some Christian traditions do not follow the Christian calendar and are not concerned with liturgy. Liturgy is literally, "the work of the people," and refers to structured communal worship and is often reflected in unison prayers, responsive readings, and following/recognizing the liturgical seasons, etc.

The word alleluia comes from the Hebrew hallelu yah, meaning "Praise the Lord." (Did you recognize part of the word is "yah?" As in Yahweh). It has been a central expression of joy and praise in the Church since early Christian times. In the Western Church, the practice of suspending it during Lent dates back at least to the fifth century.

Lent is a penitential season of 40 days of fasting, prayer, and reflection, modeled on Jesus' 40 days in the desert and the Israelites' 40 years in the

wilderness. The joyful, exuberant nature of alleluia contrasts with the season's focus on repentance, self-examination, and preparation for Easter. By withholding this word, the Church invites worshippers to dwell more deeply in repentance, mortality, and the need for God's mercy.

The absence of alleluia is not about dourness, but about spiritual focus. It sharpens attention to scripture, prayer, and the seriousness of the season. The return of alleluia at Easter becomes a triumphant proclamation of Christ's resurrection, making the contrast more powerful.

In many churches, the last use of alleluia before Lent is on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (the Transfiguration of Our Lord). Then, on Easter Sunday, a loud alleluia is sung or shouted to Praise the Lord who is risen from the dead! When alleluia is omitted in Lent it preserves the contrast between the season of waiting and the celebration of Easter!



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

QUOTES FOR LENT

St. Augustine of Hippo: "Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

St. John Chrysostom: "Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism for what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes but bite and devour our brothers."

Thomas Merton: "The goal of fasting is inner unity. This means hearing, but not with the ear; hearing, but not with the understanding; it is hearing with the spirit, with your whole being."

St. Josemaría Escrivá: "You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun."

St. Teresa of Calcutta: "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weaknesses. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

Ven. Fulton J. Sheen: "Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with the feast and ends with the headache."



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!





Evangelism Team Update

The outreach ministries that we are planning are referred to as “Fresh Expressions” of church.

The purpose of Fresh Expressions is to make disciples and faith communities outside of the traditional worship location/time.

There is a wealth of information about Fresh Expressions at this site:

<https://bit.ly/3ZEWdMI>

The team discussed several ideas, but have picked two to begin with:

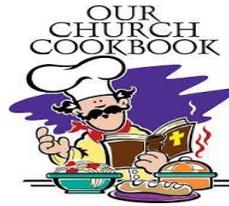
Loads of Love - This is an outreach at the laundromat where we’ll share some resources for doing laundry combined with devotions and prayer time. This will be a monthly outreach.

Flowing with Faith (Chair Yoga/Bible Study)

- This will be led by Autumn Hopkins and will be a 10-week series that will begin after Easter. Flowing with Faith will incorporate gentle movement with meditation, prayer, and reflection on scripture.

Other suggested Fresh Expressions center around hobbies, fitness groups, and “Dinner Church” which is a weekly Bible Study combined with a very simple dinner (think pizza or hot dogs).

If you would like to be involved in the Evangelism Team or have any questions, please call or text Stephanie Casto 304-266-8920.



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST 100TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Dear Friends,

Please submit 3-5 (or more if you choose) of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our cookbook. Many recipes from all members will ensure that our cookbook is a success. We are using Morris Press Cookbook’s web site to easily submit recipes online. If you do not have Internet access, our committee can enter them for you. Submit hardcopies of your recipes to Karen Facemyer or email to kfacemyer@me.com

Please submit your recipes online by **April 1st 2026, so we can meet our deadline.** We are aiming to have the books ready to sell by Sept./Oct. 2026 to coordinate with the celebration of our 100th anniversary. We will be asking later how many you would like to order and the price in order to prepare the amount to order. They will make wonderful family keepsakes and Christmas gifts for 2026.

Thank you!

To Submit Recipes Online:

- Go to www.typensave.com and click ‘Login.’
- Enter the User Name: **kfacemyer**
- Enter the password: **(spatula449)** and click ‘Submit.’
- Enter your name and click ‘Continue.’
- Click ‘Add Recipes’ to begin adding your recipes.

Recipe Writing Tips:

- When adding recipes, review the “Tips” and use standard abbreviations.
- Only enter 1 ingredient per ingredient line.
- List ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., (16-oz.) pkg., (24-oz.) can.

- Write directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., “Combine flour and sugar.” DO NOT use statements like, “Combine first three ingredients.”
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Additional comments about the recipe (history, nutritional data, suggested uses, etc.) are not allowed unless a “Recipe Note” field is visible. Enter extra recipe content in that field.



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 some very specific needs for this year's camping season.

1) 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.

2) Probably the most important need is for volunteer deans for each week of camp (just one week - but if you want to spend the entire month of July in Spencer, they would love to have you do that). This is a very important role with specific requirements, such as:

Recruit 4 - 6 volunteer counselors who are at least 18 years old, half male and half female.

Ensure the volunteers have safe sanctuary training, volunteering at camp training, and have a background check completed by Louisa or the conference office.

Manage and communicate with the counselors during the week. They can be one of the counselors, if they choose.

Big job, huh? Lot of work, right? Big commitment? You bet on all of those things. Huge rewards in watching the kids at camp draw closer to Jesus.....PRICELESS!

I realize that most folks cannot commit to a week at camp, especially with the duties of a dean. More folks might be able to spend

a week in the kitchen. But all of this requires personal sacrifice and commitment. But doesn't almost anything of value? This is an investment in the youth of today.

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.



Financial Statements

It is always a priority for the church to be as transparent as possible with our finances – after all, they are YOUR finances. Calvary's treasurer is David Rothrock, and he has served in that position for a number of years. He has a finance background and is well suited to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the treasurer. Steve Sisson is the current chair of the Finance Committee. Steve also has knowledge of financial procedures and is well suited for his role. Diane Knopp is our

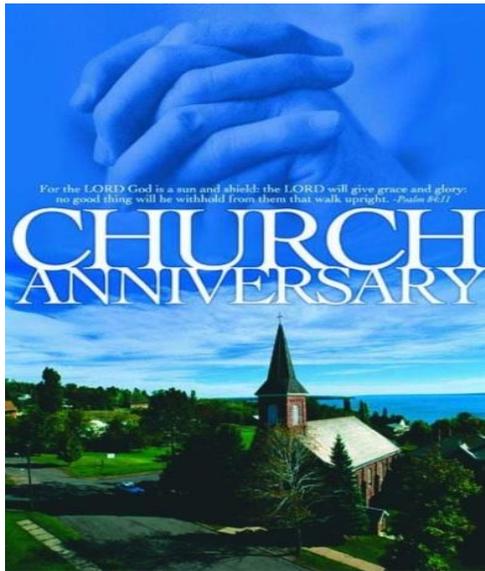
financial secretary and responsible for tracking the giving and processing your statement of donations each year. Diane knows well how to do her job.

They, together with the rest of the Finance Committee, work diligently to assure that the finances of the church are well cared for as well as accessible for the members of the church to make sure we are being good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us and the monies are spent according to the policies of the church and the desires of the donors.

We switched accounting software about 30 months ago and it was disastrous. The money was still being used correctly, but accounting for it became a nightmare. So, about 18 months ago we moved to the current software – Power Church Online. This has been a great program, and we are once again able to produce monthly financial statements with confidence of their accuracy. As a member of the church, you are always welcome to request financial information beyond what we provide each week in the bulletin – the one thing that is off limits is how much individuals give. That remains strictly confidential.

We will be returning to the procedure of placing a few copies of the monthly financial statements on the table outside of the church office. If this is interesting or important information for you, please take a copy! If we run out, just ask and we will print additional copies. You can look for the monthly statements around the middle of the following month.

If you see David, Steve, Diane, or other members of the finance committee (listed in your charge conference booklet), tell them how much you appreciate their work and say thank you!



A Few Interesting Facts!

Looking back at the rich history of what is now known as Calvary United Methodist Church, and the positive difference we make in Ripley and Jackson County, here are just a few of the highlights:

We began as a United Brethren congregation and the first preacher in Ripley was Moses Michael in 1833. He preached in the old Jackson County Courthouse. This was the first congregation that would become Calvary UMC.

The United Brethren and Evangelical Churches merged in 1946 to become the Evangelical United Brethren - E.U.B. Reverend Arthur Layman served Ripley during this merger (1944 – 1947).

In 1968, the E.U.B. and the Methodist Church merged to form the United Methodist Church (that is where we get the “United” in our name).

Rev. Roy McCoy served the Calvary E.U.B. congregation from 1965-1969 and through this transition.

Rev. William Eaton was the first pastor appointed to serve Calvary United Methodist Church, and he was Calvary’s pastor from 1969 – 1983.



100 YEARS OF CALVARY 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CURRENT SANCTUARY

We are preparing for a major celebration in October 2026! This is the 100-year anniversary of the current sanctuary. The administrative board named a small group to head up a planning committee and they request your help. If you have any historical information for Calvary – photos, bulletins, special celebrations, newsletters, directories, etc. – please contact Linda Dickirson. Linda has agreed to chair the planning committee and is trying to gather as much information as possible. Did you know that the first United Brethren pastor in Ripley began preaching in 1833! That is the foundational moment of what is now Calvary United Methodist Church. Please get anything of interest to Linda as soon as possible.

Stained-Glass Restoration

As you know, we will be having the stained-glass panels in the sanctuary restored this summer. They are original to the building, so they are 100 years old, which is about the upper end of the expected lifespan, and they are becoming distressed and collapsing. The Lynchburg Stained-glass Company will remove the windows the week of March 23rd and the plan is to have the restored windows reinstalled in September – just in time for our 100-year anniversary celebration.

The 16 windows that are on the lower level within the seating area of the sanctuary all have Christian symbols as a medallion near the top of the panel. For the next eight monthly newsletters, I plan to highlight two windows each month with a picture of the medallion and the symbolism.



The Lamp placed on the Bible:

Psalm 119:105 states: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

This medallion reminds us that God's Word, the bible is our guide for life.



Palm branches with a cross:

Palm trees were used as decorative carvings in Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 6: 29, 32):

29 He carved the walls of the house all around about with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms.

32 He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; he overlaid them with gold and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

Of course, with the cross included, this reminds us of the people who placed palm branches on the road in celebration as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday:

Matt. 21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Attendance for January 2026

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Feb	1	Worship	146	11	??
Feb	8	Worship	103	13	72
Feb	15	Worship	142	combined	73
Feb	22	Worship	166	18	109

Tithes and Offerings

2026 Budget	\$310,924.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,979.31
Rec. Year-to-Date	\$ 50,856.59



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.

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.



March 2026
Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



Anniversaries

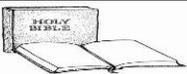
- 7—Benjamin & Megan Geyer
- 8—Vaughn & Tonya Anderson
- 14—Kevin & Laura Matheny
- 17—Ron & Connie Waybright
- 23—Steve & Debbie Sisson
- 26—Keith & Gloria Burdette



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers
March 2026**

**Worship Leader – Isner 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 & Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
Mar 1	Cinda Francis & Lilah Hosaflook	Cason Isner & Harper Banks	Kendra Hersman	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.
Mar 8	Hannah Bolyard & Alexi Fish	Henley Patterson & Lilah Reed	Staci Cummings	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am
Mar 15	Anni Barnette & Lindsay Toler	Katelyn Fish & Mary Fish	Taran Wolford	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am
Mar 22	Megan Geyer & Jenna Reed	Ashlyn Wolford & Sophia Wilford	Stephanie Dewees	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am
Mar 29	Staci Cummings & Bella Lee	Rhett Ruben & Ridley Ruben	Hannah Bolyard	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 a.m.
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes		<i>In Our Thoughts & Prayers</i> 	 MEDIA TEAM	

Reminder: The nursery is for ages 5 years and under. -
If you are unable to tend the Nursery as scheduled,
please switch with someone or call Cinda Francis (273-5264)

Pre-worship 9:00 am Isner Family
Prayer Leaders: 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb
Children's Time: 9:00 am Gloria Burdette
11:00 am



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Evans Eagles	2 6:30pm UMM	3 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p GriefShare	4 1-3:00p Prayers &Squares 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	5	6 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 11a Tai Chi Youth	7 7:00 a Mens Devo Decorate Hicks Hall for Auction
8 Spring Forward Daylight Savings Begins 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Mary Martha – Conf. Rm 5:00p Mission Auction	9	10 9:30a Tai Chi 6-7:30p Scouts 6:30p GriefShare	11 10a Deborah Miriam 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	12 9-11:00 p Food Pantry	13 11a Tai Chi Youth	14 7:00 a Mens Devo
15 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages No Youth Meetings	16 6:00p Call to Prayer	17 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p GriefShare	18 1-3:00p Prayers &Squares 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	19 12-6:00p Blood Drive	20 11a Tai Chi Youth	21 7:00 a Mens Devo All Day- Hicks Hall Booked
22 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages No Youth Meetings	23 Hicks Hall Booked	24 9:30a Tai Chi 6-7:30p Scouts 6:30p GriefShare	25 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	26 9-11:00 p Food Pantry	27 11a Tai Chi Youth	28 7a Mens Devo LKD Spring Mtg @ Stevenson UMC Parkersburg
29 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 5:30p Easter Egg Hunt	30 12:00 Holy Week Service & Lunch	31 9:30a Tai Chi 12:00 Holy Week Service & Lunch 6:30p Grief Share				
Younger Youth and M&M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM Your Youth Group Leaders Younger – Taran Wolford 532-2317 M&M's - Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 High School – Jimmy Groves 372-6910		Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon Sunday Services Traditional/Live Streaming Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.				Worship Leaders: 9:00 am Isner Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb

CALVARY UMC – STUDENT LIST

2025-2026

*** *Student is new to mailing list*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Adkins, Cayden	601A McLane Ave, Morgantown WV. 26505	
Brown, Chloe	36 N. McKinley Ave. Apt. 803 Athens, OH 45701	
Cox, Lindsay***	P.O. Box 232 Kenna, WV 25248	
Francis, Jacob	Room 1061 Ohio State ATI 1775 Universal Drive Wooster, OH 44691	
Harris, Avery	River Gate Apt 105-B 10 Rufus Street Athens, OH 45701	
Harris, Jaxon	1075 Granada Street Grundy, VA 24614	
Harvey, Camryn***	28 Real Quiet Dr. Evans, WV 25241	
Harvey, Jake	704 Cherry St. Ravenswood, WV 26164	jakeharvey597@gmail.com
Haskins, Aubrey	20 Squibb Wilson Boulevard Apt 204-E Fairmont, West Virginia 26554-6343	
Haskins, Brett	Waiting for P.O. Box	
Hosaflook, Ellie	1402 3rd Ave. Apt. 16 Huntington, WV 25703-9605	
Howery, Bailey	1014 Rawley Lane Lincoln Hall room 452 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Keller, Brody***	332 East Oakland Hall 438 Oakland St. Morgantown, WV 26505	
Lee, Sophia	6313 Diana 3009 Broadway New York, NY 10027-6909	

Matheny, Vivian (Grace)	80 Newton Dr. Apt. 205 Morgantown, WV 26505	
McCutcheon, Kallie***	Cub 1805 208 University Dr. West Liberty, WV 26074	
McCutcheon, Katie***	1718 6th Avenue Willis Hall Room WS-0308a2 Box 78 Huntington, WV 25703-14130	
Neil, Christopher	971 Valley View Ave. Apt. 806 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Neil, Ryan	971 Valley View Ave. Apt. 806 Morgantown, WV 26505	
Phillips, Anderson	346 Crown Drive Ripley, WV 25271	
Phillips, Garrison L.	1211 MacTavish Avenue 907T Richmond, VA 23230	GarrisonPhillips17@gmail.com
Purkey, Jacquelyn (Shae)	4312 University Commons Drive Morgantown, WV 26505	
Shockey, Emma	1032 Franklin Ct. Wooster, OH 44691	
Shockey, Regan***	20 Squibb Wilson Blvd. Room 1-205 Fairmont, WV 26554	
Shockey, Riley	1870 Quaker Way Pyle Center Box 934 Wilmington, OH 45177	
Shockey, Wren	1120 Pine St. Apt. 204 Klamath Falls, OR 97601	ers.wren@gmail.com
Simons, Kaci***	455 Charleston Dr. Apt A-8 Ripley, WV. 25271	
Starcher, Joe "Trey" (Please use Joe)	601A McLain Avenue Morgantown, WV 26505- 4755	Treystarcher3@gmail.com
Swisher, Kaitlyn	c/o Dave Clatworthy 3927 Mt. Union Rd. Huntington, WV 25701	