



CALVARY CONNECTION

April 2026

Calvary United Methodist Church
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Pastor's Ponderings

Happy Easter! We celebrate Easter – the high point of the Christian year – April 5th this year! This is truly at the heart of the Christian faith and foundational to our understanding of God – Jesus Christ, the Son of God, willingly took the sins of the entire world upon His own sinless self on the Cross of Calvary. He died a death that was intended for me (and you). But death did not get the last word. Three days later, by the power of God's Spirit, Jesus was resurrected to eternal life never to die again. Jesus then ascended (40 days later) back to the throne of heaven from which he had come, to rule and reign for eternity. The Christian message is that our sins have been forgiven on the Cross and our death has been defeated in the empty tomb, the resurrection. Because of the work of Jesus Messiah, we are reconciled to God from whom we had been estranged because of our sin, and we can live eternally with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

But here is the kicker and what I have been pondering. Salvation in Jesus Christ and through His work on the Cross and in resurrection and ascension is not just about going to heaven when we die. That is a big "benefit" or "result" of faith in Jesus Messiah. But I am not so sure that it is the primary "effect" of salvation. (I keep using quote marks because the words I have chosen to use sound so pithy and almost reduce the miracle of salvation to a transactional level). Forgiveness of sin, being reconciled to God,

and eternal life is what God does for us – it is something we cannot do for ourselves.

However, the New Testament includes very little information about what life after the death of this body looks like. There are precious few verses that focus on heaven, and even fewer that indicate that heaven is a place "up there somewhere." The NT authors have a different focus.

Most of the NT is concerned more with what God does *IN* us and the effect of salvation in our earthly life. In other words, faith in Jesus and being "saved" is more about how you live now than pie in the sky get it when you die by and by!

What practical difference does faith in Jesus make in your life? The "goal" of the Christian life isn't so much going to heaven when you die, that was taken care of by Jesus 2,000 years ago. The goal is to allow God to transform you into the person you were created and purposed to be – someone made in the image of God to be in relationship with God which, in turn, affects every other relationship you have. The perfect example to which we strive is the example of Jesus. Jesus lived the perfect human life. In other words, Jesus showed us what it is like to live fully into our standing as a child of God. Jesus showed us not only what is possible, but what is natural and expected! That is how we were created. Our sin is what has distorted the perfect image of God in us, and our sin was not only forgiven in the Cross of Christ, but the power of sin was defeated! We do not HAVE to sin.

As we more fully submit every aspect of our life to the Spirit of God, we are transformed into the likeness of Christ. We can interact with other people and with the environment and all creation in the same way Jesus interacted. We can love! Since we do not have to worry about or try to earn eternal life, we are free to live as Christ has called us to live. Our daily life should reflect the teachings of Jesus – that is the primary effect of salvation. Or at least, that is the focus of the NT teaching. Eternal life begins the moment we devote ourselves to being a follower and disciple of Jesus, and we begin to see the effects of that each and every day. So, Christianity isn't so much about getting us into heaven as it is getting heaven into us! Remember the prayer that Jesus taught us, "THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN." Live your life in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to bring a piece of heaven to earth every day!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

BE PREPARED FOR WORSHIP

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

Apr 5 -- Jesus Is Alive-Matt 28:1-10 Holy Communion

Apr 12 – Peace- John 20: 19-31

Apr 19 – What Should We Do? -Acts 2:14a,36-41

Apr 26 -United Women in Faith Sunday

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP March 30-April 3 @ Epworth 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 - Peacher: 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.

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!



Mar 30-Apr 3 Ministerial Assoc.
Midday Holy Week services at
Epworth UM 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 12 UMM Baked Steak Dinner
Apr 17-18 Spiritual Growth UWF
Apr 26 UWF Sunday
Apr 26 Youth Song & Praise
May 3 Mother Daughter Banquet
May 17 Graduation Sunday
May 22-23 Stuff Sale



United Methodist Men

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

United Women in Faith



Calvary United Women in Faith General Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13 at 7pm.

Discovery will be presenting the program and Deborah/Miriam will be providing refreshments.

West Virginia Conference United Women in Faith 65th Spiritual Growth Retreat will be on April 17 and 18 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center. The Theme is "See God's Image in Everyone"

Ingathering: Each year the WV Conference United Women in Faith chooses one of the WV-based mission projects to receive a special ingathering offering to assist with their mission work. Ebenezer Community Outreach Center in Huntington provides children with a safe and nurturing learning environment. ECOC also empowers people to be in mission cooperatively, and locally to address the issues of literacy, racism, economic conditions and spiritual hopelessness as they relate to all who live within the service area.

Please provide these supplies for children at Ebenezer:

Glue sticks, crayons, dry erase markers, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, child toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, Board Games (Trouble, Chutes and Ladders, Candy Land, Operation, Monopoly, or trivial games.)

United Women in Faith Sunday will be held on April 26. A representative from Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries in South Charleston will be speaking.

The Mary Martha circle will meet Apr 12th @ 2:00 pm @ the Hall Res. Janet Hall is the hostess and has the program.

The Deborah Miriam circle will meet Apr 8th @ 10:00am in the Conference Room with hostesses Shirley Catalano & Faye Milhoan and Daisy Bennett has the program.

The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet Apr 12th @ 5:00 pm.

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:

In spite of a week of really strange weather we were blessed with clear skies and a beautiful day for the blood drive last month.

On Thursday, March 19th the Red Cross Bloodmobile visited the church and successfully collected 33 units of blood products. These life saving gifts will be distributed all over the country to meet the needs of people during some of their most critical and frightening moments.

Giving blood is a fairly quick process and you'll even get a snack afterwards! (You don't even have to get a finger stick anymore!) It is also a wonderful time of fellowship with the community. I've met so many new-to-me people volunteering over the years.

If you've never given blood or if it's been a long time since your last donation please consider signing up for the next drive, May 21st. Walk-ins are welcome but scheduling an appointment is quick and easy with the app!

Also, a special thank you to all the volunteers who give of their time and to the Deborah-Miriam circle for sponsoring the drive and providing food for the grateful Red Cross workers!

If you'd like to get involved or have any questions please see me, Autumn Hopkins. I'd love to talk to you about where you can jump in!

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.



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.



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 or Pastor Steve at 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.



John 3:16 Fellowship

March 17th may not have been a day with Spring-like weather as we hoped or as green with fresh snow on the ground, but our first gathering was afresh, full of friendship and fellowship.

Wearing the “green” for St. Paddy’s Day all shared a cup of potato soup or cabbage and cornbread or a slider topped off with various tasty green salads and desserts.

What a blessing to get to listen to the pastoral journey of Rev. Kevin Gillespie and his wife Terri as they related the steps that led him to become a pastor and directed them back to our community to serve and become a part of our church family.

Our next gathering will be April 21st. Please come join us - we will always have a place waiting just for you.

Vanessa Rothrock



!!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!

Youth groups kicked off March together with a March Madness theme where everyone wore their favorite jersey or team shirt with a lesson on keeping yourself focused and aiming for the greatest goal- Jesus! Several youth helped with the Missions Auction before Spring Break while last week the younger youth assisted with one of Calvary’s newest missions, Loads of Love, preparing bags with quarters, detergent and dryer sheets which will be shared at our local laundromat. This coming Sunday the Easter Egg hunt begins @ 5:30 (don’t be late!) with food and fellowship following. After Easter Sunday, our youth

groups plan on meeting on the 12th & 19th before the Youth Song and Praise Service on April 26! We hope everyone begins thinking about what talent they can share with the community and members of the congregation for a joyful, praise evening!

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

MISSION MOMENT

What a great evening we had at the mission auction on March 8th! Thank you is not enough to express the thanks from the mission team for all the wonderful donations and those that came out to bid. Also, a big thanks to our auctioneers and assistants! Thanks Autumn, Fred and Pastor Steve. You did great!. Our total for the evening was \$5,590! Wow-the new ministry-Calvary In The Classroom-is off to a great start. Thank you so much. As we can assist in the classrooms, we will keep you updated.

The Mission Team sent \$3,000 to Nicaragua to continue the work that the clinic there is doing. They continue to help many people, especially women and children, there

in the town of Sandino. Please keep that ministry in your prayers.

I don't know why I sometimes question God and how He acts, but I do. We had an urgent request for a wheelchair from Ripley Elementary. A student there has muscular dystrophy and it is getting to the point now that he will be in a wheelchair permanently. His family needed a wheelchair to push him up the hill to their home when he got off the bus. A quick email was sent out to the mission team asking for approval to purchase one but we very quickly had a donation of one. A team member went to pick it up and delivered it to the school. The principal then delivered to the home and the student had that need taken care of within a few hours. I am still amazed at how connections happen. Thank you, team, for your quick response.

I know that we have a mission team at Calvary to work in the many missions of the church. And they work so well together! But did you know that each of us has a mission? We all are working to build the kingdom of God whether it is on this committee or working at the food pantry or teaching our children, sending cards to our shut-ins or praying for the youth of our congregation. We all have a job to do!

If you would like to be a part of the ministry team, please join us! If you haven't found your mission, pray earnestly that God will show you what He needs you to do.

And be open to listen!

Thank you, congregation, for all you do!!



Food Pick Up Schedule for April

3rd Senior High Class
 10th Patty Smith
 17th Connie Waybright
 24th 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.



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

"Easter: the only time it's perfectly fine to put all your eggs in one basket — because that basket belongs to Jesus!"

"The bunny hops once a year. Jesus hopped out of the grave and never looked back."

"Jesus might have paid it all... but I still had to pay \$27 for this Easter ham."

What kind of music does the Easter Bunny like? Hip-hop!

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

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

Most of you probably know that the Hebrew Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) were originally written in Hebrew. You probably also know that the New Testament was written in Greek - Kione Greek, to be exact. Kione (pronounced coy-nay) meant common dialect, as this was the primary language of most of the known world from the 4th Century BCE through the Byzantine Empire around 1500 CE.

A few facts that you may not know: None of the original writings of the Old or New Testaments (called autographs) have survived. Occasionally, there are words or phrases used in the translations we read today that are footnoted with something like, "Other ancient manuscripts..." Perhaps it will state that other sources use a different word or phrase or include/omit a word or phrase. This is because all our translations are from other than original sources and must rely on comparing the oldest and most reliable copies available. Sometimes those sources do not exactly agree, and the translators must decide what they consider to be the most authentic way to present the passage. In fact, some

old manuscripts (like the Dead Sea Scrolls and others) have been found in the recent past and some of the newer translations have the benefit of the oldest known manuscripts as sources. This is still Holy Spirit inspired work.

A couple of other facts that you may not know: the oldest copies of the Old Testament that have survived are written in Greek. This version is called the Septuagint and is so old that it is the text the New Testament authors use when they quote scripture.

While the New Testament was written in Greek, Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic! So, translators had to translate the words of Jesus from Aramaic to Kione Greek and translators now have to translate Kione Greek into whatever language they are writing. You can understand how without the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it would be nearly impossible to retain accuracy and the phrase, "lost in translation" would be more evident than ever. There is still a lot of nuance that is lost in our modern translations.

One last tidbit. The "official" translation for the Roman Catholic Church is the Latin Vulgate. This version was primarily prepared by St. Jerome in the late 4th century and then revised in 1592. Jerome revised the *vetus Latina* and translated from Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.



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!

Goodness of God Story

Our mission committee has a text chat group where we can quickly and efficiently communicate about any upcoming activity or need. Recently, Joy Hicks (chair of the missions committee) sent a text about a child at Ripley Elementary who needed a wheelchair. Matt had told her that the boy has a very bad form of muscular dystrophy and will be getting an electric chair, but not until summer. Matt had already looked the wheelchair up online and we could purchase one for about \$200.

I mentioned that this would be good use for our Compassion Fund. But I had hardly got

that text typed when Karen Facemyer replied that she had a wheelchair in her basement the boy could have if it would work. Joy texted Matt, and he said it would. Then Amy Haskins chimed in that she was heading back from Ravenswood and could stop by Karen's to pick it up. She delivered it to Matt who in turn delivered it to the family.

From the time of the first text indicating a need to the time the boy had the wheelchair was less than 2 hours! AMAZING! We have a great team that is dedicated to loving our neighbors in very practical and tangible ways. And we have a God who loves each and every one of us, and sometimes works in mysterious ways – at other times, God works in obvious ways through God's people.

Please keep that family in your prayers; they are struggling. They have two children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The other child already has an electric wheelchair. They are struggling, but doing the best they can, and even without a car they manage to get the kids to every doctor appointment.



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



Evangelism Team Update

Calvary's Fresh Expression evangelism got started with a SPLASH on Tuesday, March 24! Joy Hicks and Stephanie Casto were the first pair of volunteers to visit with our neighbors at The Laundromat for Loads of Love.

People were happy to see us. We had good conversations with fellow Christians. Not everyone accepted the supplies. One lady requested that we keep them to "help a single Mom." She and I had a conversation about the help she was providing to her sister whose father-in-law is in ill health. She was there washing his clothes because he hadn't been able to for several months. Please pray for that family. Another lady is working two jobs to make ends meet and was surprised but thankful for the help.

Something that I have been reminded of as I prepared for this project is this: we take for granted the items we have in our home that provide us with convenience and help us keep costs relatively low. The range of costs for the washing machines is \$3.25-\$7.75.

In speaking with Donna Coleman at Bomar yesterday she asked if she could share about this ministry with the people they assist that are unhoused that need to be able to wash

blankets. Of course, the answer is "Yes!" and this will give us an opportunity to perhaps build a faith community within their community.

Our next Fresh Expression launches in April with "Flowing with Faith". Flowing with Faith will incorporate gentle movement with meditation, prayer, and reflection on scripture. Autumn Hopkins will be our leader for this ministry. Read about this new ministry below!



BRING QUARTERS SUNDAY

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we have a new ministry called "Loads of Love", and our first experience with this outreach ministry was on March 24th. We provide detergent and dryer sheets and enough quarters to do a couple of loads of laundry, wash and dry. As you might imagine, that will take a lot of quarters (have you been to the



laundromat lately?).

Here is how you can help – we have designated the first Sunday of each month as "bring quarters Sunday." We will have a receptacle available in the sanctuary for you to leave quarters to be used for Loads of Love. The first Sunday will be Easter, April 5th. So, save up your quarters all month and then bring them to the church on the first Sunday.

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 starting Thursday, April 23rd at 11am in the Fellowship Hall.

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.



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.

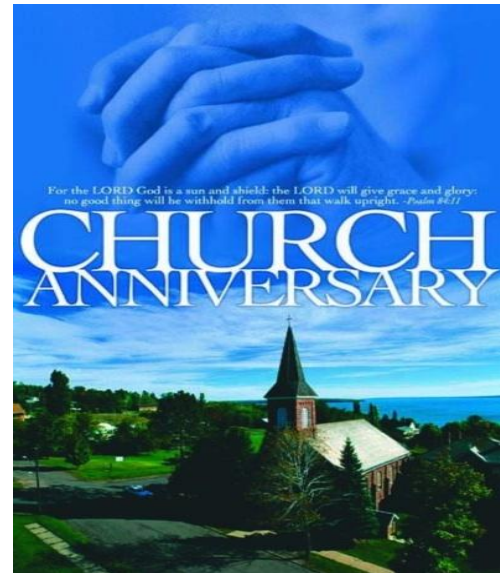
Ensure the volunteers have safe sanctuary training, volunteering at camp training, and have a background check completed by Louisa or the conference office.

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.



**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.

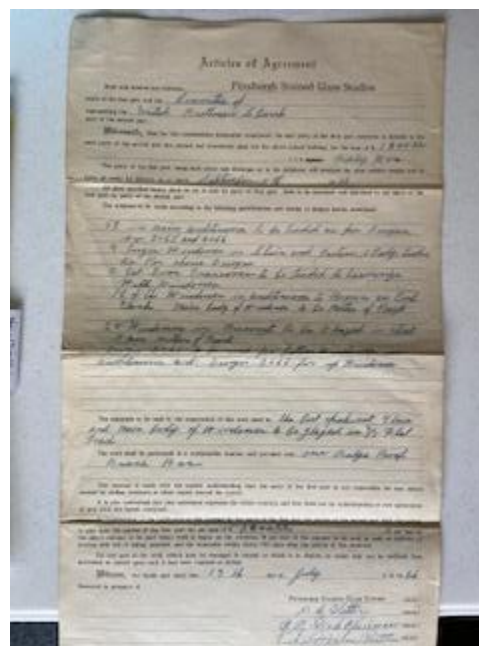
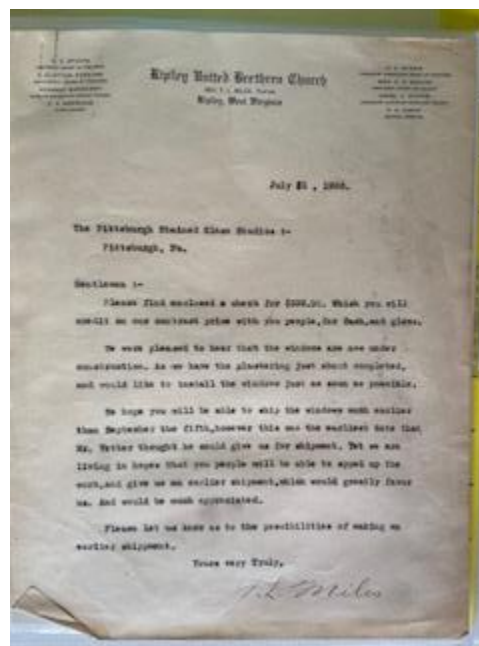
100 Years on Court Street

As of April 1st, we are less than 200 days from the 100-year anniversary of the dedication of the current sanctuary! The sanctuary was dedicated and the first service was held on October 12, 1926. We will celebrate on October 11, 2026. Between now and then, you will read a few tidbits of Calvary's history that dates back to the early-mid 1800's. The first church building of the congregation that is now known as Calvary United Methodist Church was built on what is now the parking lot of United Bank (between Calvary and BoMar) in 1888 for a cost of approximately \$1,500.

Do you have any pictures, newsletters, newspaper articles, bulletins, etc. from over the years at Calvary? Obviously, we are looking for old items since they are more difficult to acquire and help tell the history. However, even more recent highlights are welcome – things like baptisms, weddings, VBS programs, UM Men or UM Women events, dinners and receptions, quest speakers, the church building through the many additions and improvements, etc. Even pictures of this part of Ripley that might show how it has changed. We would love for you to either donate them to our archives for preservation or allow us to borrow them for display during our celebration in October. If you have anything to contribute, please make sure it is labeled as well as possible with the content as well as your information so it can be returned.

A Few Interesting Facts!

Take a look at these photos! You will probably need to zoom in to read them, but this is a letter about buying our stained-glass windows, and the contract to buy them in 1926. The total cost for all the stained glass, **PLUS** to glaze 28 lower-level windows was \$1,200. Can you believe that?!?!?!?!?



Quotes of the Month

"Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." Clarence W. Hall

"We live and die; Christ died and lived!"
Unknown

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair: We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song."
Pope John Paul II

"Christ has not only spoken to us by his life, but has also spoken for us by his death."
Soren Kierkegaard

"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."
1 Corinthians 15:14

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
Martin Luther

"Let him say not merely, 'Christ is risen,' but, 'I shall rise.'"
Phillips Brooks

"The great gift of Easter is hope. Christian hope, which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph."
Basil Hume

Time to ReNEW the Church

Calvary recently hosted a Little Kanawha District gathering of the Faith Communities ReNEWal movement of the UMC. This work has been developing in the WV Conference over the last several years, and it is intended to start new faith communities where people can meet Jesus.

One of the core beliefs of this movement is that many people who are hungering for a relationship with God will never enter a church building. This might be for any number of reasons such as a fear of being judged, a previously bad experience in a church, or just a misunderstanding. Since many folks won't come here to experience Jesus, we need to meet them where they are to share our story of the love of Jesus with them. This is where the Loads of Love ministry idea began – there are people who gather at the laundromat, and some of them probably do not go to church. So, why not gather with them, assist them with the cost of doing their laundry, and be available to pray with them if they want. This is relationship building and it may take several months.

I want to share just a few statistics with you:

Gen Z (born 1997-2012) leads in monthly worship attendance across the country!

In the Little Kanawha District, there are 97,600 people who are not involved in ANY faith community (that is 63% of the population).

Around 90-95% of church members report that they do not know anyone who isn't a Christian.

It seems like we need to find a few new friends.

Stained-Glass Restoration



There are several variations of multi-point stars in religious symbolism. This six-point star is sometimes called the Creator's Star, the Jewish Star, or the Shield of David. The six-point star is made of two intertwined equilateral triangles. The triangle is a reference to the Trinity - the Godhead in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and this star becomes a double reference to the Trinity.

The six points are said to represent the six attributes of God: power, wisdom, majesty, love, mercy, and justice.

There is one symbol on each stained-glass panel, but it is difficult to see in this photo. At the top of each is an arc. The arc represents God's covenant with humanity to never again destroy the earth by water. We often see it as the rainbow.

The two symbols on this panel of stained-glass are the intertwined first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - Alpha and Omega. In the book of the Revelation, three times (Rev 1:8, 21:6, 22:13) Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and Omega" - adding, "the first and the last", and "the beginning and the end."

This symbol and saying means that Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity, has existed throughout eternity and will continue to exist eternally.

There is another symbol included in this window (and included in all the windows). Do you notice it? It is the circle! The circle represents the eternal existence of God without beginning or end - it stands for completeness, perfection, and continuity.

Attendance for January 2026

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Mar	1	Worship	146	11	103
Mar	8	Worship	156	19	113
Mar	15	Worship	135	14	93
Mar	22	Worship	152	17	91
Mar	29	Worship			

Tithes and Offerings

2026 Budget	\$310,924.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,979.31
Rec. Year-to-Date	\$ 79,118.49



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.



April 2026

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1—Carolyn Wallen
- 2—Tori Nester
- 3—Lisa Boggess, Stephen Hopkins
- 4—Callan Banks
- 5—Dick Waybright
- 6—Shannon McGrew, Bryan Thompson
- 7—Phil Davis
- 8—Addison Howery
- 9—Eliza Reed
- 10—Les Facemyer
- 11—Pam Yearego
- 12—Patrick Francis, Jacob Starkey
- 13—Stan Elliott, Ridley Alan Ruben
- 14—
- 15—
- 16—
- 17—Maggie Landis, Fallow Groves
- 18—Sophie Lee
- 19—Nate Starkey
- 20—
- 21—
- 22—
- 23—
- 24—Ashton Brown, Mason Anderson, Connie Waybright
- 25—
- 26—Jimmy Groves
- 27—
- 28—
- 29—
- 30—Delaney Howery, Ryan Shockey, Gary Matheny



Anniversaries







- 6—Will & Ashley Hosaflook
- 8—Sean & Tammy Banks
- 10—Adam & Maralee Young
- 14—Brandon & Tara Lee
- Scott & Connie Easter



Schedules For Our Church Volunteers

April 2026

**Worship Leader – Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe 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>
Apr 5	Alyssia Ruben & Cheyenne Hicks	Harper Patterson & Ty Cummings	Megan Geyer	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 a.m. Pastor Steve	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 a.m.
Apr 12	Ashley Wolfe & Scarlett Greathouse	Ava Bolyard & Wes Hicks	Hannah Bolyard	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 a.m. Pastor Steve	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 am
Apr 19	Janet Hall & Adelyn Groves	Cason Isner & Harper Banks	Danielle Fish	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 a.m. Pastor Steve	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming– Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 am
Apr 26	Cinda Francis & Lilah Hosaflook	Henley Patterson & Lilah Reed	Kendra Hersman	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe Family 11:00 am
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes		 In Our Thoughts & Prayers	 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 Jeremy & Ashley Wolfe
Prayer Leaders: 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb
Children's Time: 9:00 am Keri Starcher
11:00 am



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1-3:00p Prayers & Squares 7:00p Choir	2 7:00p Holy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday Church Office Closed 7:00p Good Friday Service	4 7:00 a Mens Devo
5 EASTER SUNRISE 7:00a 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Evans Eagles	6 6:30pm UMM	7 9:30a Tai Chi 6-7:30p Scouts	8 10a Deborah Miriam 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	9 9-11:00 p Food Pantry	10 11a Tai Chi Youth	11 7:00 a Mens Devo
12 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 11:00a UMM Baked Steak 2:00p Mary Martha – Hicks Hall 6:00p Youth meetings	13 7:00p UWF General Meeting Pastor out of Office	14 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p Movin in May	15 1-3:00p Prayers & Squares 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	16 6:30p Horse Comm.	17 11a Tai Chi Youth Spiritual Growth UWF- Cedar Lakes	18 7:00 a Mens Devo All Day- Hicks Hall Booked-Patty Link Spiritual Growth UWF- Cedar Lakes
19 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages Youth Meetings	20 Pastor Vacation	21 9:30a Tai Chi 6-7:30p Scouts Pastor Vacation	22 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir Pastor Vacation	23 9-11:00 p Food Pantry Pastor Vacation	24 11a Tai Chi Youth Pastor Vacation	25 7a Mens Devo Pastor Vacation
26 UWF Sunday 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 7:00p Youth Song & Praise Pastor Vacation	27	28 9:30a Tai Chi	29 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	30		
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. Blended Service 11:00 a.m.				Worship Leaders: 9:00 am Wolfe 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	