



CALVARY CONNECTION

September 2026

Calvary United Methodist Church
205 Court Street Ripley, West Virginia

Office 372-3203

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Pastor's Ponderings

Here is what I have been pondering lately...how much I love y'all and how thankful I am for this church family! I want to briefly name a few examples and reasons for this love and thankfulness knowing that this is risky because I will fail to mention something or someone and they might be offended. If that is the case, please forgive me – it is completely unintentional, and this isn't intended to be an exhaustive list. I kind of feel like the author of the Gospel according to John, "if I were to write down everything, I suppose that the world itself could not contain all the books that would be written."

I love hearing stories of how someone in the church had a need and someone else was right there to provide! It happens more often than you might imagine. Or the connection so many of you have through the women's circles, UM Men, Bible study groups, choir, other committees, Sunday school classmates, etc. Those connections go WAY past the meeting time at church. When I hear one speaking of the other and there is so much love and appreciation and compassion and sincere bonding, it warms my heart knowing that you are not trying to live life by yourselves. Many of you are connected outside of the church through sports and scholastic events as well.

Your generosity and joy in giving to the church – tithes and offerings to the general fund that make so much of the ministry here possible, the dedicated funds that target a specific ministry, the fundraisers for those dedicated ministries, mission work, etc. We

are beyond blessed to have the means to care for the buildings (church and parsonage) with refurbished stained-glass windows, HVAC units as the old ones wear out, replacing appliances, correcting issues that might compromise the integrity of the structures, etc. When we found out about a serious need at the church in Nicaragua, the missions team chatted by text, agreed to send \$1,000, it was sent Western Union, they had the money in hand the next day, and immediately bought the material and began the work – that is part of YOUR ministry a world away.

Or when I was contacted by Louisa Smith at the Spring Heights Camp looking for a place for three of her staff members to be in ministry for one week when they had to cancel camp...three texts and an email later they were scheduled to work in flood relief in the coal fields – part of our UM Connection.

Or when Bill Hosaflook and I were heading to Nome, Alaska on a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip, and I found an envelope under my office door with cash to help cover expenses – after another person had given directly to the trip. THEN, when I was going to Anchorage, Alaska in July, finding another envelope of cash under my office door for that trip.

Realizing that some folks in the community might be burdened with the cost of doing laundry, so we started Loads of Love. Or knowing some families struggle to provide their kids with the means to purchase graduation supplies or go on class trips or even have a backpack or proper clothing or

hygiene items, you start Calvary in the Classroom. Or partnering with Troy Bain with the Quick Response Team to provide a small bag of food for our unhoused neighbors. Or providing a hot meal at BoMar each week. Or the coat drive. Or Adopt a family. Or the food pantry. Or utility assistance.

We have one of the highest average worship attendances of any UM church in the WV Conference. Probably THE highest Sunday school attendance. So many beautiful, intelligent, active, children!!!! Just gotta love seeing 20-25 kids go up front for the children's message. Families agreeing to help lead worship and often the kids are the ones reading scripture. Church is a family and that is well demonstrated when there is multi-generational participation. When I announce that we need new folks to step up into a leadership position, like for youth group or teaching a Sunday school class, and folks hear and answer the call to service! When we started working on Charge Conference material and the Nominations Committee was charged with discerning who would be the best person to fill each role, every single person we asked to serve on a board or committee said yes!

It is amazing how you bless me and each other with words of encouragement, support, and affirmation. Y'all are great cheerleaders! Positive reinforcement at so many levels.

Or all the offers of assistance I had when my basement flooded and then the AC went out right in this heat wave! Thanks for your help, and just the offer was a blessing. One other blessing out of that experience; my golf bag got wet and started to mold. A couple of days later, I came to the church and found a new golf bag at my office door with a note that said, "For Pastor Steve. Enjoy!"

So, thank you!!!!!! Your love is so palpable – which is what Christian love is supposed to be. Your giving spirit and

commitment to mission work and being the hands and feet of Jesus and meeting needs in the community and beyond in the name of Jesus – this is being the church! We do not go to church, we are the Church! The Calvary family is a wonderful expression of what the Church is supposed to look like. This is what I have been pondering!!!!!! What are some of your favorite things about being part of the Calvary family? I would love to know. Email me so I will have it in a format that I can print and save.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



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

BE PREPARED FOR WORSHIP

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

Sept 6 — Put on Christ – Rom 13:8-14-Holy Communion

Sept 13 – What About Them?-Rom 14:1-12

Sept 20 – It Just Isn't Fair!- Matt 20:1-16

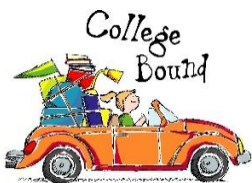
Sept 27 – Obey the Authority- Matt 21:23-32



September 1- Grief Share 6:30 pm
 September 7- Church Office Closed
 September 8- Grief Share
 September 10- Food Pantry 9-11am
 September 12- LKD UWF Fall Mtg. @
 Epworth UM Church
 September 14- UWF General Mtg 7pm
 September 15- Grief Share
 September 17- Blood Drive 12-6:00pm
 September 20- Teacher Appreciation
 September 22- Grief Share
 September 24- Food Pantry
 September 29- Grief Share



October 10- Centennial Open House
 October 11- Centennial Celebration
 October 11- Church Conference
 October 21 - November 4 - Rhine River
 Cruise



College Students Addresses

It's that wonderful time of the year with students beginning the fall semester of college. Please help us prepare an accurate list of our students and their correct mailing addresses so we can continue to connect with them. I am once again on a mission to get a complete and hopefully correct list for all. Please send me your students mailing address at vrothro@yahoo.com or text 304/532-5005. If I don't hear from you soon I will be contacting you.

Vanessa Rothrock



There is not enough words to express how our Family feels towards the kindness, sympathy , and outpouring of love. Thru the 18 months of Ralph's cancer journey, you were there and always ready to lend a hand. We knew what ever was needed, all we had to do was ask and many, many times someone was there taking care of the need in advance. Thru out all the years attending Calvary, we would always say how do people survive without a Church Family. Calvary is a very special Church Family, and many other church's do not have that bond, love and support. Many thanks to all who have donated to the Morley and Ralph Parsons Scholarship Fund, Food Pantry, Calvary's General Fund, and the donation of the children's books last Sunday in Ralph's memory. Ralph was very humble, and would do anything to help and assist where he could. Our church Family meant more to him than you will know. When I walked into the Sanctuary on Wed evening and saw some of the stain glass windows in place and the sun shining thru on his parents name, I knew he would have loved seeing that, and how happy he is in heaven. As Pastor Steve says, he is living his best life now. It is just so very hard for those of us who are left behind to accept. Thanks again for everything and for the blessings you have bestowed on our Family, and Ralph during his illness.

God Bless
 Jenny Parsons and Family



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will resume meetings on Monday, Sept. 14 @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please attend and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.



United Women in Faith

September 12 - Little Kanawha District meeting at 9am at Epworth UMC. Cheryl Miller will be the speaker. This will be our last meeting as LKD so mark your calendar and plan on attending!

September 14 -Calvary UWF General meeting at 7pm. Deborah/Miriam circle will be presenting the program and Mary Martha will be providing refreshments.

Looking Ahead:

October 23-24- UWF Annual meeting at Wayside Methodist Church in Vienna. The speaker will be Mollie James-Vickery from UWF National Office. Several of the Calvary women will be singing and Autumn Hopkins will be doing a session on Chair Yoga. Hope to see you there!

Local Circles:

The Deborah Miriam Circle will meet Sept 9 @ 10:00am in the church conference room with hostesses Diane Knopp and Patty Smith and program leader Betty French.



Blood Drive

The Deborah Miriam circle will host the **Blood Drive** **Sept 17 @ 12:30 pm-6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.**

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

This is a great way to meet our neighbors and to build rapport within the

community. Sitting at the canteen handing out snacks may not feel like a big deal, but it is ministry! You never know what opportunities God might put in front of you. So please come out and get involved!

Mary Martha Circle will meet Sept 13 @ 2:00pm @ Cheryl Miller Res.

Discovery Circle will meet Sept 27 @ 5:00pm



John 3:16 Fellowship

September is here and time for John 3:16 Fellowship to reunite. We will open the fall season on Tuesday,

September 15, 2026, at 3:16 p.m. in the church conference room. Please take this opportunity to come and visit with other friends of Christ.

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

I hope to see YOU there!

Vanessa Rothrock



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.

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.

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 304-377-1388.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to create beautiful prayer shawls for comfort and hope. Currently they are working on Prayer Scarves for our graduating seniors to remind them when they are away, their home church continues to pray for them. People knit/crochet shawls and lap robes for many reasons, to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. They may also be knit/crocheted to celebrate life and its milestones. If you can knit or crochet (or would like to learn) and are interested in this mission, please contact Faye Milhoan or call the church office at 304-372-3203. Get those needles creating.

!!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!



Youth Group Kicks Off



September 13!

Our youth leaders have been brainstorming and planning an exciting season filled with **fun, laughter, adventure, and learning** for Calvary Kids! Together, we'll build friendships, make memories, explore new adventures, and grow deeper in our faith as we strengthen our **Jesus hearts**.



We can't wait to kick off this amazing season on **September 13!** Come ready to laugh, learn, grow, and have a whole lot of fun!



Thanks,
Hannah

Contact information & Remind group info can be found below.

Elementary Youth:

Taran Welford – 304.532.2317

Hannah Bolyard – 304.532.6439

Remind: Text @efgfk86 to 81010

Middle School (M&M's):

Danielle Fish – 304.276.3624

Jessica Isner – 304.993.3616

High School:

Jimmy Groves – 304.532.7649

Youth Choir:

Hilary Groves – 304.532.7648

Quote of the Month

Polycarp is recognized as one of the early Church Fathers. He was a disciple of John the Apostle, who was one of Jesus's disciples. The only surviving written work of his is "The Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians." He was martyred for his faith in Christ, and as he was approaching his death, he said:

"Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved Me?....I bless Thee for deigning me worthy of this day and this hour that I may be among Thy martyrs and drink the cup of my Lord Jesus Christ."



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!

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.



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

MISSION MOMENT

Can you believe that summer is coming to an end? It has been a summer of extremes-100 degree days and rain that seems never to end. Your mission team has been busy, especially over this last month. Mission work doesn't pause due to weather or vacations or fairs.

We received a request from the Upshur Parish House in Buckhannon after the terrible flooding they encountered. They were in desperate need of hygiene items and underwear. The New Vision Depot in Beaver had hygiene kits that they offered if we came to get them. We traveled and picked up several cases of



kits. The only item that was not included was toothpaste. Because of the generosity of 2 dentists, we were able to get toothpaste for about 1/3 of the kits. We then went to Walmart and purchased the rest of the toothpaste needed. We felt we needed to supply feminine hygiene items also so those were purchased and bagged separately to provide women and teens those needed items. We also shopped for underwear for men, women and children. We had a great team that made quick work of shopping-Autumn Hopkins, Stacy Cummings along with her entourage of our newly named "Junior Mission Team" and myself. A big thanks to Gail Varney for traveling to the Depot with me and Taran Wolford for delivering the items to Buckhannon. Teamwork and your monetary donations made it possible for us to help just a little during the time of great need. Thank you all!! Your mission dollars at work.

Also, Karen Facemyer and her granddaughter, Kinsley, traveled to Buckhannon to serve meals and assist at the Upshur Parish House. Great to see our young people getting involved. Thanks Karen and Kinsley.

Winter is just around the corner and the weather preview for our area is not looking good. We have started taking applications for coats at the food pantry. We also will be receiving applications from Bomar and the health department. We will be taking applications again this week on the food pantry day. You will be hearing very soon how you can help so we can get coats for those who need them.

Our contact person from Nicaragua, Jackie, contacted us last week and shared a desperate need. The septic pit was at full capacity, and they were going to dig a new 9-foot pit next to the current one. The local municipal authorities informed them that due to regulations and permit requirements, they had to construct a proper septic tank instead. This would allow it to be pumped out periodically rather than having to dig a new hole each time. The total cost for materials came to \$1360. This included 400 concrete blocks, 20 bags of cement, 2.5 quintals (1 quintal = 100 lbs.) of rebar, sand, gravel, nails and other materials. The labor would be done by the men in the church. With other donations that they received, it left approximately \$1000. The need was immediate as they had already opened a hole and this was a real danger to the children at the church. The mission team agreed to send \$1000 to get the process started. The old septic pit had been in use for 17 years. Thank you for all that you as a congregation have continued to do to help us continue this important ministry.

The Mission Team felt that we needed to do more to help our food pantry recipients with items that cannot be purchased using SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. We decided to purchase toilet paper for this month's distribution. We will be handing out 9-packs of TP this Thursday. We are going to try to have an item monthly that will allow their dollars to go a little further.

We have provided hygiene kits from the New Vision Depot to the QRT (Quick Response Team) of Jackson County headed by Troy Bain. We also sent a donation of food for the QRT to keep on hand for those that needed immediate help. We appreciate being able to team with other organizations to meet the needs that we may not be aware.

"Calvary in the Classroom" is getting ready with the start of school. We have received some requests and are working to fill those requests. You will be hearing a report as we go further into the school year.

The annual Golf Tournament will probably be history by the time you read this newsletter (You DO read the newsletter, right?). The funds will be used for local missions. We would also like to encourage anyone that is interested in missions to let the team know what you are planning to do and allow us to help.

National Coffee Day will be observed on September 27th. Get that coffee change ready. Let's try to fill up our large coffee cup. The Mission Team will use the money to sponsor a "Morning Mingle" at the new Jackson County Family Resource Center. So we need your help. (And watch for one of our famous skits!)

Other items that are coming up before the end of the year are the Monster Bash sponsored by the county and our annual Adopt A Family. You will be hearing more about each of these items.

I know this has been a long report but we want you to all know where your time, energy and funds are used. Please

consider joining the Mission Team We cannot do this without the prayers and support of each one of you. Whether it is donating hours of your time, your shopping expertise, teaching our young people how important it is to help others, your coins in the coffee cup—all is so important in helping others as we are instructed to do. Faith is vital-but faith with no works is empty. (And if you don't believe me, just read the book of James!)

Thank you for all you do!!

Your Mission Team

Loads of Love-Laundry Ministry Evangelism Team Update

Hello from the Evangelism Team! In August, we celebrated six months of the Loads of Love ministry. After several months of the Tuesday morning time slot, we decided that was not a time that most people are coming in to wash clothes. Since our goal is to reach out to our neighbors, we moved the time to the 4th Saturday of each month from 9am – 12pm. The first day for the new schedule was August 22 and the number of participants showed this was the right move. We still need volunteers for the remainder of the Fall, so if you would like to volunteer, please click this link <https://volunteersignup.org/8PPBF> or reach out to Stephanie Casto at 304-266-8920.

The next outreach that is in development is a community based discussion for people who are not active in church but are curious about God or want a non-traditional setting for exploring a relationship with Jesus.

If you have an interest in Calvary's evangelism efforts, please contact Stephanie Casto.

Blessings,

The Evangelism Team

FOODPANTRY MINISTRY

Food Pick Up Schedule for September

4 th	Senior High Class
11 th	Patty Smith
18 th	Connie Waybright
25 th	Dallas Skeen

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.



Calvary Missions Golf Tournament 2026 Recap

Thank you to this year's hole sponsors:

Pam Braden
Camilla & Dale Ruben
Gloria & Keith Burdette
Sweet Springs Tree Farm (Gwen & Jim Wolford)
Joyce Groves
Mary & EJ Ulland
Pastor Steve Hamrick x 2
Greg, Butch, Ryan & Joey Varney
Chris & Terry Landis
Linda & Dick Waybright
Jenny Parsons
Taran & Jamion Wolford

Also, a huge thank you to all the golfers who came out and played! The following teams were victorious on the day:

1st Place: Higginbotham/Haskins,
2nd Place: Geyer
3rd Place: Varney





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

I am sure that most of you are aware that Calvary has a lot of ministries that are very specific in nature as they target an identified need. Sometimes, the need is very narrow in focus - such as the Loads of Love laundromat ministry. Others are more broadly defined - like "local missions."

Typically, these ministries begin when someone or some group becomes aware of a need and then they develop a passion for serving the people who are in need. The ministry provides a means of helping people with physical resources in demonstration of the love of Jesus in practical, tangible ways.

What you might not know is that Calvary is now managing a new ministry fund! A few years ago, a group of folks connected with Parchment Valley Baptist Church (including Gary and Debbie Higginbotham), identified an unmet need in the Jackson Co. area involving primarily women and children living in poverty. Sometimes, the need was most evident in migrant workers in the Ravenswood area. But they realized that the need went far beyond that population.

The group went to work to raise money to be able to offer assistance to this specific, targeted, group. Do you know how? They started making salsa! It was so good, they called it, "Out of this World Salsa." Evidently, it was very good because they sold a lot of salsa! As they began assisting women and children in poverty, they also began to accumulate funds for future needs.

For several reasons, this ministry matured and they sold the recipe for the salsa and quit making additional batches. However, with the previous funds raised and the proceeds from selling the recipe, they were able to create a fund that would be invested to allow the ministry to continue indefinitely into the future. The concept behind this approach is the same way we are handling the Morley and Ralph Parsons Scholarship Fund. We invest money into a fund that will have investment gains. We do not touch the principal amount invested, but after a time we are able to use the income produced by the fund for use in the targeted area of ministry. We try to add to the principal so that with the additional investment and the gain in value over time the fund becomes self-sustaining - it produces enough income each year to cover the ministry need and continues to grow, which in turn will produce even more income for the ministry.

Calvary is now blessed to help manage and disburse funds from the "Out of this World" mission fund which is being invested by the Community Foundation of Jackson County. It has not been invested long enough, and it does not yet have a sufficient principal balance to produce sufficient funds annually to allow us to draw from it to assist women and children in poverty. But it is getting there. Here is where you can help!

If you have a heart for women and children living in poverty, and you would like to help make a difference in their lives by being able to provide some resources that they are unable to provide for themselves, perhaps you might consider making a donation to the Out of this World mission fund.

If you would like to donate, there are two ways you can do that: you can mail a check to the Community Foundation of Jackson County, 108 Church St N., Ripley, WV 25271, or you can donate online at jccfinc.org.

In either case, please make sure to designate your gift to "Out of this World" mission.

Again, I will remind you that we do not expect you to give to every ministry or every mission fund we provide. But you should have certain passions or you see needs that pull on your heart strings - give to those! Perhaps this is one of those areas for some of you.

Check out our two new logos!

You will see this banner on the front of the church



This one will eventually be on a cookie!



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



1926
to
2026



100 Year Celebration

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be 40 days until the weekend of celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the sanctuary and the basement portion of our church building! The committee has been

working hard to make this a time of joy and celebration with an Open House planned for Oct. 10th and a special worship service the next morning. We have been blessed with a rich history and it's important to celebrate this milestone with our church family and the community.

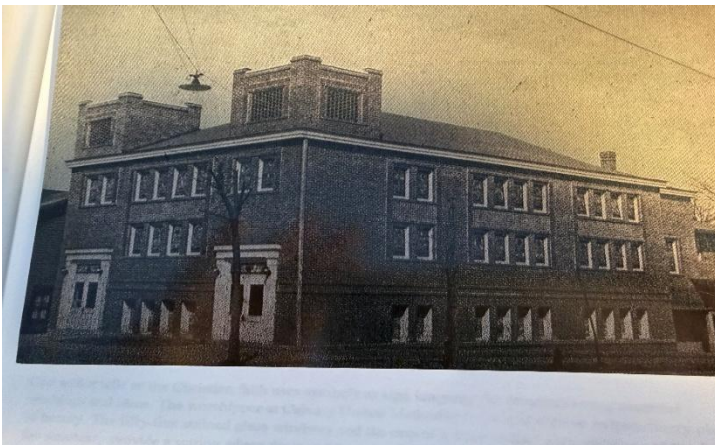
The Open House will include displays from various Sunday School classes as well as other groups in the church, a handmade quilt and a display of weddings and baptisms that took place in our sanctuary over the years and much more.

If you haven't sent your photos to Ashley Hosaflook at adickirson@hotmail.com, please get them to her no later than September 30th.

We have discovered some interesting facts about our church in the archives. Be sure to watch for these which will be shared through social media and bulletins in the coming weeks.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Oct. 11th and 12th and come share this milestone of the church.

Does anyone know when the second door was removed? Please let us know.



100 Years of Calvary Weddings and Baptisms



Deadline to send in wedding photos is September 15 in order to be included in the display!

100 Years of Calvary Weddings

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

To summarize:

-**email adickirson@hotmail.com** with photo of Bride and Groom married at Calvary United Methodist Church.

-Calvary weddings in the subject line

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

-contact info in case I have any questions

Thank you!

Ashley Hosaflook

Photos of Baptisms

Ashley Hosaflook has been receiving wedding photos for a display, but we would like to extend that to baptisms that took place in our church. **You can give to me or send them to: ldickirson@gmail.com with Baptisms in the subject line and include the name and date.**

It's going to be an exciting time in the life of our church!

Thank you, Linda Dickirson



The dove is one of the most common and recognizable religious symbols. A dove is mentioned in several places in the Bible and represents different aspects of our faith tradition. We have already discussed one of the other stained-glass windows with a dove. That window showed a descending dove from the clouds with what might be a flame above its head. That could represent both the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus when he was baptized, and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The dove pictured above is also in flight with olive leaves in its beak. This reminds us of the dove that Noah sent from the ark after the rain stopped. The first time Noah sent the dove out it came back without anything. Then, we read this in Genesis 6:10-11: “He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.” Not only does this image remind us of the great flood, but it also reminds us of God’s salvation in the midst of the flood.



Speaking of the ark... This, of course, is a reminder of the ark that God instructed Noah to build as a means of salvation. Creation had become so corrupt that God decided to wipe it out and start over with Noah and his family. Do you realize that Noah was building this ark before it started raining? I mean, perhaps before it had ever rained in history! Scripture indicates that the plants were watered from below and from dew, etc. What an act of obedient faith for Noah to build an ark! The ark contained 8 people and a bunch of animals (read the story for yourself in Genesis 6), and was the mode God used to preserve life during the great flood.

A boat or ship has additional significance. Several disciples were fishermen. We recall when the disciples were in the boat and Jesus calmed the storm. Later, the image of a ship represented the Church – a source of salvation for a world drowning in sin. The Latin word for ship is *navis*, which gave rise to the word nave – the main body of a church, thus preserving the metaphor.

2026 Church Conference

One of the actions taken at the 2026 Annual Conference was to reduce the number of districts in the conference from seven to six. The churches of the Little Kanawha District (our district) were distributed to other districts as the boundary lines were redrawn. The Little Kanawha District ceased to exist. As a result, Calvary is now part of the Nine Rivers District which includes the Charleston and Huntington areas.

As you might imagine, one result of re-districting is larger districts both geographically and in the number of churches included in the district. This in turn results in logistical issues and challenges in the scheduling of events.

Add to the mix the fact that I am taking a group of people on a cruise on the Rhine River from October 21 - November 3, and you have the making of a challenge to get our annual Church Conference scheduled. But the district office did manage to get us scheduled.

Our 2026 Church Conference will take place at Calvary on Sunday, October 11th, at 4:30pm. Yes, that is the day of our big 100-year anniversary celebration. And yes, that isn't optimal. However, it is that afternoon and will not disrupt our celebration that morning with Bishop Debra preaching. Perhaps more of you will be available to attend!

Church Conference is where we set the pastor's salary for the coming year, elect officers and leaders for the various committees, hear reports from various ministries in the church, celebrate what God is doing in and through Calvary, join in worship and "Christian Conferencing." Since it is my intention to call this as a "Church" conference as opposed to a "Charge" conference, every member of Calvary has voice and vote.

I will have more information available in the coming weeks, but I wanted you to add this to your calendar. If you normally write a

report for Church Conference, please get started ASAP and submit it to me via a Word Document by email. I will need to have everything completed by October 4th to get it to Rev. Lauren Godwin, our District Superintendent, at least one week prior to our conference.

LOCAL MISSION PROJECT

It has come to my attention that we have a neighbor (remember, according to Jesus everyone is our neighbor) in the Cottageville area who needs some help. She is a widow and her husband used to do all the lawncare. Currently, she needs someone(s) to do the weed eating and to trim some hedges. I am talking about a one-time help and not an ongoing weekly task.

If 2-3 of us with trimmers and hedge clippers could show up, I think we could knock it out in a short amount of time. If we had 2-3 others who could rake or pick up clippings and bag them for disposal, it would go much more smoothly and quickly as well. And remember, one of the goals of mission work is to build relationships. Therefore, it might end up that one person contributes to this project by just chatting with the neighbor.

I would like to tackle this project by the end of next week (September 12th), if possible. It may be a bit too hot to attempt it the next couple of days though. So, what do you say? Who all is willing to help? We can schedule the work for an evening or on the weekend or whatever depending upon the availability of those who are willing to work. Please let me know by texting or calling me 681-368-4040. Email also works, but maybe not as efficiently. stevecpa@hotmail.com

Joke of the Month

Two men are stranded on an island. One panics, while the other relaxes. "Aren't you afraid we'll die?" asks the first. "No," says the second, "I make \$100,000 a week and tithe faithfully. My pastor will find me!"

A man complains about everything after church. His son says, "Dad, you've got to admit it wasn't a bad show for just a dollar!"

After worship one Sunday, as the pastor was shaking hands, a little boy said, "Next week, I am going to give you some of my allowance money." The pastor said, "Why would you want to give your money to me?" The boy replied, "Because daddy said you are the poorest preacher we have ever had."



Have you wanted to serve during a disaster but thought you could not physically

manage the work? Perhaps this is a way you can serve.

Catholic Charities of WV is providing
Essentials for Disaster Case Managers
2-Day Training

Sept 28 & 29, 2026 9:00am-4:30pm

St. Marks United Methodist Church
Washington St E #900,
Charleston, WV 25301

Any questions:

lpierce@ccwva.org or idyer@ccwva.org

Pastor Steve can also help you with your questions.

2026 JACKSON CO Jr. FAIR KITCHEN SUMMARY

Here is a quick summary of our efforts at the fair kitchen. Hopefully, you will hear more details in the near future.

Total Cash Sales	\$21,550.00
Total sales to school-age kids at no cost to them	<u>\$51,260.50</u>
Total Sales	\$72,810.50

Expenses:

Food and drink	\$25,455.10
Fair Board Commission	<u>\$7,103.31</u>
Total Expenses	\$32,558.41

Net Profit	\$40,252.09
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(For the building fund)

Volume (just a sampling):

105 doz eggs! 1,260 eggs
avg 210/day

275 lbs of ground beef for hot dog
sauce and taCo meat
1,368 hot dogs

Community connection, working side by side with church members and friends, hearing the heartfelt thanks from parents and grandparents, watching the cooperative spirit – and all of this at the fair and in the church kitchen for food prep – all together make this an exceptional project. Thanks be to God!



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



205 N. Court Street, Ripley

Elementary, Middle, & High School Youth Groups
are starting back! Join us for food, games,
& fellowship. Come meet the leaders
and learn more about youth group!

Attendance for August 2026

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Aug	2	Worship	149	16	62
Aug	9	Worship	149	23	96
Aug	16	Worship	140	17	87
Aug	23	Worship	185	17	116
Aug	30	Worship	158	15	90

Tithes and Offerings

2026 Budget	\$310,924.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,979.31
Rec. Year-to-Date	\$221,120.41



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.

ONLINE GIVING

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



September 2026 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



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



Schedules For Our Church Volunteers September 2026

Worship Leader – Bolyard 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>
Sept 6	Anni Barnette & Lindsay Toler	Ava Bolyard & Wes Hicks	Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.
Sept 13	Alyssia Ruben & Cheyene Hicks	Cason Isner & Harper Banks	Megan Geyer	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.
Sept 20	Megan Geyer & Jenna Reed	Henley Patterson & Lilah Reed	Hannah Bolyard	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.
Sept 27	Ashley Wolfe & Scarlett Greathouse		Danielle Fish	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Bolyard Family 11:00 a.m.
	 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
Staci Cummings(304-532-4720)

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



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p Grief Share	2 1-3p Prayers&Squares 6:00p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	3	4 11:00a Youth Tai Chi	5 7:00 a Mens Devo
6 Communion Sunday 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Evans Eagles 4-H	7 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed 6:30p UMM	8 9:30a Tai Chi 11:30a-1:30p Cinda Francis – Hicks Hall 6:30p Grief Share	9 10:00a Deborah Miriam Circle 6:00p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	10 9-11:00a Food Pantry 6:00p Fair Camping	11 11a Tai Chi Youth	12 7:00 a Mens Devo LKD Fall Mtg UWF @ Epworth UMC
13 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Mary Martha Circle 7:00p Finance Committee	14 7:00p UWF Gen Mtg	15 9:30a Tai Chi 3:16p John 3:16 6:30p Grief Share	16 1-3:00p Prayers &Squares 6:00p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	17 12-6:00p Blood Drive 6:30p Horse Com.	18 11a Tai Chi Youth	19 7:00 a Mens Devo Baby Shower/All Day
20 Teacher Appreciation 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages	21	22 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p Grief Share	23 6:00p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	24 9-11:00a Food Pantry	25 11a Tai Chi Youth	26 7a Mens Devo
27 National Coffee Day 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages	28	29 9:30a Tai Chi 4:00p ADK Travelers Classroom 6:30p Grief Share	30 6:00p Bible Study 7:00p Choir			
Younger Youth and M&M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM Group Mtg. <u>Your Youth Group Leaders</u> Younger – Taran Wolford-304.532.2317 Hannah Bolyard-304.532.6439 Remind: Text @efgfk86 to81010 M&M's - Danielle Fish – 304.276.3624 Jessica Isner – 304.993.3616 High School – Jimmy Groves-304.372.6910 Youth Choir: Hilary Groves – 304.532.7648		Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon <u>Sunday Services</u> 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 Bolyard Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb