



CALVARY CONNECTION

January 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings

Happy New Year! Welcome to the year of our Lord, 2026. I heard someone say that they were having a conversation, and the other person said 30 years ago, and their mind went to the 1970's. When they realized the person was talking about the 1990's they had to sit down for a minute! Lol.

I started typing this article and decided to look back at what I wrote last year – you know, so I wouldn't duplicate. But when I read last year's entry, I thought it should be revisited. So, without apology, here is a copy of the 2025 article.

Therefore, be it resolved...

When we go to Annual Conference each year, there are various resolutions and proposed changes to our conference rules or policies and procedures. After a number of, "Whereas..." statements that are intended to lay the foundation, we get to the meat of the proposal – what is being resolved or the proposed change. But we only get to the what after hearing the why.

When we consider change in our life, I think the same process is necessary even if we do not go through the formalities. Take a New Year's resolution as an example. If I resolve to go on a diet, I have most likely gone through the process of, "whereas I am overweight, and whereas being overweight is unhealthy, and whereas I can correct this with a lifestyle change, therefore, be it resolved that I am going on a diet." While I do not have scientific data to support this hypothesis, I suspect that the stronger the "whereas" statements, the more I believe them to be true,

the more likely I am to want the resolved change – I am more likely to not only believe that the change is needed but I believe that the proposed change will accomplish the desired outcome or correct what I see as a deficiency.

This is the season of resolutions. As a society, we have the tradition of using the start of a new year as the "perfect" time to start something new in our life. The resolutions vary as much as the people making them and often not only include health habits but also spiritual concerns: I resolve to read my Bible every day, spend more time in prayer, go to church more regularly, forgive others, be more generous, start tithing to the church, volunteer more, etc.

I very much encourage you to make those kinds of resolutions and follow through with them! But I am afraid that resolutions of a spiritual nature are similar to other resolutions and have a shelf life of about 30 days! Many resolutions are already abandoned by Valentine's Day.

But if our "whereas" is the idea that these spiritual disciplines would help make us a better Christian, will help us be a better reflection of Jesus, are what Jesus expects of us, will deepen our relationship with Jesus, etc., why do they not "stick"? At least a few of the reasons might be that we do not truly believe they will accomplish what we have stated as the desired outcome, we do not want the stated outcome, or we are just too easily swayed by the culture around us to abandon a deep transformational change into the likeness of Christ in favor of a life that reflects the

values of the culture instead of Christian values.

Here is an example – if I truly believe that spending 30 minutes every morning in prayer will deepen my relationship with Jesus and help me to live a more faithful life the entire day, and I start on January 1st doing that, but by January 15th I find myself sleeping too late or I rush out to face the day or I fill that 30 minutes scrolling social media or whatever, I either don't believe that prayer time is essential or I have decided other things are more important to me than a deepened relationship with Jesus. Do I think Jesus doesn't really care? That Jesus will forgive me? That I have to face my friends every day, but I may not have to face Jesus for a long time?

Becoming a Christian is the easiest thing in the world – we confess to God that we are a sinner in need of grace, and we believe that we receive the grace we need through Jesus Christ! We are offered salvation as a free gift through Jesus, and we thankfully receive that gift by faith. This is what God does FOR us.

However, living the Christian life is a daily challenge. Being transformed into the person God intends for us to be is a lifelong process that God works IN us. And that takes effort on our part. As the old saying goes, it was a lot easier for God to get the children of Israel out of Egypt than it was to get Egypt out of the people! Is that why our spiritual resolutions tend to not last?

It is painfully obvious that none of us are perfect, and we still have traits and characteristics and habits and motivations and actions that are not Christ-like. And while the act of justification or salvation happens in an instant, the process of sanctification, or becoming holy and Christ-like, is a life-long process that takes intentional effort. This should be our greatest desire in life – to be like

Jesus or the person that God has purposed us to be.

Perhaps it would behoove us to focus on one particular area in our spiritual life that we want to strengthen. One spiritual practice that we have identified that God may use as a means to transform one (or more) area in our life to allow us to more fully submit to the Lordship of Jesus and reflect the love of Jesus in how we live day to day.

What will you choose? What area needs attention? What do you think is the most challenging or might be the most difficult? Are there relatively easy changes that might make a big difference? While it is commendable to make wholesale changes and live into a completely transformed life, even incremental changes that become part of our lifestyle show huge dividends over time. I recommend that any resolution be very specific – not just spend more time in prayer, but I will spend at least 15 minutes each morning and each night in a time of prayer; not just read my bible more, but I will read at least one chapter every day; not, I will go to church more regularly, but I will be in worship at least three Sundays each month.

Please know that I am not only cheering for you, but I am praying for you. As part of the Calvary faith family, you are not alone. We are here to encourage and support each other. Let me know if I can be an accountability partner for you. As we follow through with our spiritual resolutions, we will be more like Jesus at the end of 2025 than at the beginning. Isn't that what we should all be striving for?

Grace and peace,
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:

Jan 4 -- Gentiles, Too!- Ephes. 3:1-12- Holy Communion

Jan 11-Baptism-The Beginning, Matt 3:13-17

Jan 18 – Not Lacking – 1 Cor 1:1-9

Jan 25 – The Ministry of Christ Begins – Matt 4:12-23



Jan 1 New Years Day- Office Closed

Jan 2 Office Closed

Jan 6 New GriefShare Begins

Jan 8 Food Pantry

Jan 15 Blood Drive

Jan 18 UWF Officer Installation

Jan 19 Office Closed-Holiday

Jan 22 Food Pantry

Jan 25 Volunteer Recognition



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.



United Methodist Men

The UMM will meet January 5th at 6:30 pm with a covered dish meeting. All men of the church are welcome to attend and enjoy the fellowship.

United Women in Faith



The United Women of Faith Officer Installation will be held during the 9:00 am Worship Service on January 18.

The Mary Martha circle will meet Jan 11 @ 2pm.

The Deborah Miriam circle will meet Jan 14th @ 10:00am in the Travelers Classroom.

The Discovery circle is scheduled to meet Jan 25th @ 4:30 pm.



Blood Drive

The Blood Drive will be Jan 15th from 12-6:00pm.

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 Kathy Marlow or Lora Sturm 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.

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.

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.



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.



John 3:16 Fellowship

I just hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and has a Happy New Year. Please call and check in with each other during these cold and blustery Winter months. Stay warm, stay safe and we will see you again in March.

Vanessa Rothrock

Joke(s) of the Month

Why didn't Noah go fishing?

Because he only had two worms!

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was standing on the deck!

What kind of lights did Noah use on the Ark?

Well, floodlights, of course!



EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that Calvary has an email group for the “soul” purpose of intercessory prayer? When a church member (or person actively involved at Calvary) becomes aware of a specific prayer need, the information is communicated to Judy Lieving, our prayer coordinator, who then forwards the request via email. When we receive the email, we then enter into a time of prayer for the need listed. Do you feel called to a ministry of intercessory prayer? Would you be willing and available to join with us in intentional prayer? This is not intended to be a source of information—just to let you know there is a need. It is intended to be a form of communication to allow you to pray for a specific need. If you feel called to intercessory prayer for the needs that might be shared in this way, please contact Judy Lieving at judithlieving@gmail.com to be included on the email prayer chain.



!!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!

Our youth undoubtedly had a full December! On top of all the regular holiday activities, our older youth were busy preparing for their live nativity presentation while the younger youth spent time perfecting their program, Star Search. Both were a tremendous Christmas blessing to those in attendance. If you missed seeing it in person, don't forget, you can always go back and watch it on Facebook whenever is convenient for you!

It's hard to believe 2025 is now in our rear view and 2026 has arrived! All groups will kick off the new year with an indoor game night on Sunday, January 11th. Let's pray Mother Nature will be a bit kinder this winter than last. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7pm- Bring your favorite board or card game along with your favorite snack. We hope you make plans to join us as we begin the new year!

Contact information & Remind group info can be found below.

Elementary Youth: Taran Welford –

Cell: (304)532-2317 –

Remind: Text @efgfk86 to 81010

Middle School (M&M's):

Ashley Hosaflook – Cell: (304)786-0046 –

Remind: Text@fdfd9e to 81010

High School: Jimmy Groves –

Cell: (304) 532-7649

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



Food Pick Up Schedule for January

4 th	Senior High Class
11 th	Patty Smith
18 th	Connie Waybright
25 th	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 & Beef | Canned Corn |
| Broth | Dried Beans |
| Mac & Cheese | Canned Green Beans |
| Soups | Canned 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. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending. If you are not already signed up for this, check out the procedure on the financial page in this newsletter. We receive a check of about \$300.00 quarterly from this program. If you need help signing up for this program, check with the church office.

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

Merry Christmas! What? Do you think your pastor has lost time or isn't in touch with reality? Well, that might be true, but saying Merry Christmas in January is still appropriate! The Christmas season *begins* on December 25th and ends 12 days later on January 5th. You probably already knew that. But did you know that January 6th has a designation as well? Epiphany of the Lord! Here is some info about Epiphany:

- The word "**Epiphany**" comes from the Greek *epiphainein*, meaning "**appearance**" or "**manifestation.**" It signifies the moment when Jesus was revealed to the world as the Messiah.
- In **Western Christianity**, Epiphany primarily celebrates the **visit of the Magi (Wise Men)** to the infant Jesus, symbolizing Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles.
- In **Eastern Christianity**, the feast is known as **Theophany** and emphasizes the **Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River**, when God's voice declared him as His beloved Son.

✦ Biblical and Spiritual Significance

- The **Magi's journey** represents the nations of the world recognizing Jesus as King, showing

that salvation is for all people, not only Israel.

- The **Baptism of Jesus** highlights the revelation of the Trinity: the Father's voice, the Son being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove.
- Some traditions also recall the **Wedding at Cana**, where Jesus performed his first miracle, further revealing his divine nature.



When It Is Celebrated

- Epiphany is observed **12 days after Christmas**, on **January 6**. In some cultures, it is called **Three Kings' Day** and marks the end of the Christmas season.
- Customs vary worldwide: from house blessings and star singing in Europe, to festive parades in Latin America, to water blessings in Eastern Orthodox communities.



Why It Matters

Epiphany reminds Christians that **God's love and salvation are universal**. It celebrates the moment when Christ's identity was revealed not just to a chosen few, but to the entire world. The feast calls believers to recognize Jesus as the light shining into all nations and to live as witnesses of that revelation.

In short: Epiphany is the Christian celebration of Christ's manifestation—whether to the Magi, at his baptism, or

through his miracles—affirming that Jesus is the Savior for all humanity.

One other thing I bet ya didn't know...I composed this article with chatgpt - this is my first experience with this resource and I am hesitant, but this was a good experiment and gave accurate results.

Pastor at The Grind

Just a reminder that most weeks I am at The Grind coffee shop in Ripley on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am - 10:00am and Thursday from 7:30am - 8:30am. This is a great opportunity to sit a spell and chat. If you have something on your mind, or have a question about the church or theology, or have a great story to share with me, or just want to talk about the weather, (or talk about nothing in particular), The Grind is a great venue. If your concern is more of a private matter or confidential, we need to talk in my office.

I am more than willing to meet you at The Grind at other times that are more convenient for you. Just call or text me (681-368-4040) and we will set something up. I am typically in my office during church office hours: Monday through Thursday 8am - 12pm. Fridays are normally my day off. If you need to talk to me and your schedule does not permit you to be at the church during office hours, let me know and we will make other arrangements.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

We have just celebrated one of the most joyous days in the Christian Year—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that your time with family and friends was a joyous one. Even though we sometimes wonder how we will get through all the days of Christmas and try to make it perfect for all that we celebrate with, I hope we have not forgotten why we celebrate.

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who had a part in the winter coat drive and the Adopt A Family distribution. I have lost count of the number of coats we have given out but it is upward of 150 coats. We were able to provide Christmas for 27 Ripley families and 3 Ravenswood families. This included 83 children in total that had a Christmas that they may not have had if we didn't help a little. Thank you for all you did—those who adopted an Angel, those who provided and packed food for each family, those who shopped for the extra families, and those who wrapped each gift. If you were able to walk through the educational wing and view all the goodies, you most definitely received a blessing. Thank you to those who came out on distribution day to help. And what a great group of young people we have—they were such great help in

packing baskets and sharing with all the families that came through and received the gifts for their family.

I want to thank the Mission Committee for going above and beyond to make this a success each year. Many hands make light work!! Thank you for all your support and love for mission-I saw it many times. A big thank you to you who made donations of food and money to assist us in making sure each family received enough food and gifts for their own Christmas celebration. Also, if you are having a meal at the Yacht Club, please thank them for the donation of 27 turkeys for our families. They have helped us each year and I am sure they will appreciate your business. With the New Year upon us, 2026 will mean even more work from the Mission Committee and our congregation. It would be nice if we were able to say our work is done, but we know that there are still families that need help within our community. I know that you will be there to help as you are able.

Thank you again for all you do!! Happy 2026! Joy Hicks & Your Mission Committee

Quote(s) of the Month

This month, I want to introduce you to Julian of Norwich. If you haven't noticed, I use this column to introduce you to some of the prominent ancestors in our faith – some from many years in the past and some more contemporary.

Julian of Norwich (c. 1343– after 1416), also known as **Juliana of Norwich, the Lady Julian, Dame Julian** or **Mother Julian**, was an English anchoress of the Middle Ages. Her writings, now known as [*Revelations of Divine Love*](#), are the earliest surviving English-language works attributed to a woman. They are also the only surviving English-language works by an anchoress.

Julian lived in the English city of Norwich in Norfolk, an important center for commerce that also had a vibrant religious life. During her lifetime, the city suffered the devastating effects of the Black Death of 1348–1350, the Peasants' Revolt (which affected large parts of England in 1381), and the suppression of the Lollards. In 1373, aged 30 and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian received a series of visions or shewings of the Passion of Christ. She recovered from her illness and wrote two versions of her experiences, the earlier one being completed soon after her recovery—a much longer version, today known as the *Long Text*, was written many years later.

Consider these quotes from Julian:

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance"

"The fullness of joy is to behold God in all."

"Prayer is a new, gracious, lasting will of the soul united and fast-bound to the will of God by the precious and mysterious working of the Holy Ghost."

"True thanking is to enjoy God."



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST 100TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Dear Friends,

Our church is creating a custom cookbook featuring favorite recipes from our members. These cookbooks will be professionally published and are sure to be a treasured keepsake for us all. Money raised will be used for updating our stained-glass windows and missions.

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.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to receive training as an ERT – Early Response Training? There will be two or three opportunities to be trained early in 2026. The first training is in Morgantown on January 24th from 9am – 5pm (at Suncrest UMC) and the second is in Huntington on February 21st from 9am – 5pm (location to be determined). I need to recertify next year and plan to attend the training in Huntington in February. Additionally, there will a disaster response "academy" April 9-11, 2026 at Spring Heights retreat center and more courses and certifications will be offered, such as chainsaw certification, how to lead a team, Connecting Neighbors, and more. I should have registration information soon and I will make sure to get the word out in the weekly update as well as the next newsletter.



100 YEARS OF CALVARY Stained-Glass Restoration

On or about September 19, 2025, Calvary entered into a contract with Lynchburg Stained Glass to restore the windows in our sanctuary. This has been an interesting and challenging process for the trustees! The further we got into the process, the more we realized how little we knew! I think all of us are glad that this only happens about once every 100 years or so!

I want to commend the trustees for their diligent work with this project. Lynchburg was selected from four different contractors after much debate, revisions, the checking of references, etc.

The current anticipated schedule is that they will remove the windows with the sash **NEAR THE END OF MARCH 2026**. They anticipate this project to take 4 – 6 months to complete. So, if all goes well, the restored windows will be in place for our 100-year celebration in October 2026. There are 56 windows and 55 of them have been funded. We will still accept any donations you want to make for the remaining window.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The WV United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (WV UVMIM), is planning two different trips for 2026, and both are in Alaska.

There will be a one-week trip from Friday, May 29th through Friday, June 5th in Nome. They have requested a team to come and finish their garage, and it will primarily be adding a roof (maybe everything from setting trusses to sheathing to shingles). I plan to go on this trip. **THIS TEAM IS FULL AND REGISTRATION CLOSED**

The second trip is a two-week trip (but you can go for just one week, if you prefer) from July 24th through August 7th. That departure date is the Friday of the Junior County Fair but if I go, I will not leave here until Sunday, July 26th after the completion of the fair. This trip is to Anchorage, and the team will stay and work at Anchor Park UMC. At least some of the work will be using equipment to dig around the building to work on a water drainage issue. But there will be plenty of other projects to complete. I hope to go on this trip as well, but I am undecided.

As with almost every mission trip there will be work for everyone who goes – at every level of skill, ability, or giftedness. You do not have to know how to put on shingles. You do not even have to get on the roof! You don't need to know anything about "French drains" to contribute to the team effort. It does take a willingness to learn and to pitch in and help with any and everything the team is tackling.

There will be more information available soon, but I wanted to get the dates to you so you can be praying about going and getting it on your calendar.

Also, I am confident that there will be additional short-term (no more than three days at a time) disaster response teams deployed throughout the year. I will try to keep those opportunities before you for your consideration. **AND...our mission team intends to take teams to some of the WV Conference mission sites to learn about their ministry and volunteer for a day. Be praying about how you can contribute to this vital work of Christ in the world.**

Inclement Weather Policy



As we enter the winter season, I want to remind you that my policy has always been to have Sunday morning worship regardless of the weather, EXCEPT if there is a state of emergency and the roads are closed. However, please use your own discretion as to whether you think you can make it here safely. Also, there is a chance that the church parking lot and the sidewalks may not be cleared of snow or ice. I will make every attempt to post something on Facebook regarding the conditions at the church prior to service time. We will also try to stream the service, if possible, and you might want to join us online if you are unable to attend in person.

And, while Sunday morning worship will continue regardless of the weather, most of the other bible studies, administrative meetings, etc., will depend on the conditions. Again, every attempt will be made to contact you if there is a cancellation. If you are in doubt, call the church office during regular office hours (M-F, 8am-12pm), or call my cell phone 681-368-4040 before you head this way.

Pastor Steve



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?

Pastor Steve has a group affectionately known as the Lunch Bunch that is comprised of people in the community who share a lunchtime meal once a week - normally on Thursday at 12:30pm. We rotate to different restaurants and even have birthday cake once a month to celebrate everyone in the group who has a B-day that month. We have almost 25 people in the group, and we average around 16 each week. There are people from Calvary, but there are also folks from other churches and those with no church affiliation. Men and women. Some are widowed, some never married, and others who have been divorced or separated. A diverse group except in one way - we normally eat alone, and we find this time of food and fellowship life-giving. It is often the highlight of the week for many. There are a lot of smiles and conversations!

Everyone is welcome to join us. If you are fortunate enough not to have to eat alone, perhaps you know someone who would benefit from this group. Just let Pastor Steve know that you would like to participate, and he will make sure you get the invitation and information about the next gathering.



Goodness Of God

Do you ever wonder if God really cares about the small seemingly unimportant details of our lives?

For many years I was convinced that I should only present my big concerns to God because He was so busy and I didn't want to ask too much of him, as if I had been given an allotment for prayer requests. I'm now ashamed of that approach as I now see that I was assuming I knew what God needed and what His limits were. How presumptuous! And, how ridiculous!

I have since changed my way of thinking and find it is so freeing when I remember to trust God with ALL things.(and it's such an ongoing lesson to learn!)

My mind shift came as I started practicing more gratitude. I started noticing that the more I thanked Him for all the small things, the more opportunities I had to do so! And, it became such fun! I could see how my blessings were very specific and designed just for me! I do believe we find what we seek and I also believe God wants to reveal Himself to us!

A recent example of this involves one of our church Christmas trees. Months ago I decided what I wanted to use for our Christmas dinner decor. I started collecting items and setting them aside so that I would be ready when the time came. I also wanted to decorate the tree in the fellowship hall this year to match the tables. And then my plan started to seemingly unravel.

It was time for the Jackson County Community Foundation's annual Celebration of Decorations fundraising event for nonprofits. At the last minute, I realized I needed to do a tree to support the children's museum. I had simply not planned for it. And then I saw the pile of items for our church tree and reluctantly decided to just use what I had and try to come up with another plan later for the church.

The night of the auction arrived and as our tree sold, the woman who purchased it happened to be sitting close by and turned to me and said she really didn't need the tree, she just wanted to support the museum and would I want it back! I was thrilled! And as if that wasn't enough, the tree would be packaged and delivered to the church so I wouldn't have to struggle with it.

All I could think of was the scripture that says He gives us exceedingly abundantly even more than we know to ask for. (Ephesians 3:20) My original plan would still be possible!

I know this story may sound silly to some, but as I mentioned before, it was personal for my needs. I truly believe He also wants to bless you in ways that are personal to you as well. If He knows the number of hairs on our heads and can call each star by name, I'm convinced He cares about every detail of our lives.

I would love to hear some of your stories too! We are called to tell of the goodness of God so that others might know Him. We as believers have good news to share and so many folks are desperate to hear. Let's tell our stories!

Merry Christmas friends!
Cheryl Miller

Make note that Calvary is the place for January 10th activities



January 1st

New Years Day Pickleball Classic
"Dink in the New Year"
Greene Center w/ Kerynn Sovic
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm



ALL LEVELS
 (Beginners and Up)
 Equipment & Snacks Provided
 Please bring a donation
 for the food pantry or the
 Greene Center.

January 4th

New Years Kickoff Run/Walk
"Get off to a Fresh Start"
Cedar Lakes w/ Steve Sisson & Mike Smith
2:00 pm



January 10th

Hiking @ Major Kevin Clegg Trails
w/ Rod McDonald
9:00 am - 10:00 am

New Years Fun Fitness Day
"The First Step to the Best You"
Calvary United Methodist Church
(upstairs - please enter thru the back door)



11:30 - Noon	Registration
Noon - 12:30	Cardio Workout J-Fit w/ Jen Scritchfield
12:30 - 1:00	Zumba w/ Missy Wolfe
1:00 - 1:30	POUND w/ Crystal Wyer
1:30 - 2:00	Chair Yoga w/ Christine Coleman
2:00 - 2:30	Yoga w/ Jewels Whitley
2:30	Healthcare Presentation by WVU Medicine

Kick off the New Year by embracing a healthier version of yourself.

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

205 Court Street, Ripley, WV 25271 • (304) 372-3203



JACKSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Attendance for Nov 2025

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Dec	7	Worship	163	21	108
Dec	14	Worship	34	8	34
Dec	21	Worship	198 combined service		95
Dec	28	Worship	138	18	76

Tithes and Offerings

2025 Budget	\$314,721.00
Needed Each Week	\$6,147.17
Rec. Year-to-Date	\$323,471.56



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.



*January 2026
Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- 1—Naoma Fisher, Missy Wolfe
- 2—Anderson Phillips, Sidney Varney
- 3—Mike Keller, Mary Elizabeth Fish
- 4—
- 5—Shirley Catalano, Patricia Kent, Molleigh Chappel
- 6—Jerelyn Rothrock, Patty Smith, Drew Swisher
- 7—Max DeGregori
- 8—
- 9—
- 10—
- 11—Tom Elliott, Virginia Skeen, Ryan Varney
- 12—
- 13—Val Carnell, Steve Sisson
- 14—
- 15—Bill Hosaflook
- 16—
- 17—Trevor Cummings
- 18—
- 19—Greg Varney, Meleyah Mitchell, Debbie Showen
- 20—Chandra Gray, Derek Wallen
- 21—Tom Jenkins
- 22—Cohen Isner
- 23—Noah Landis
- 24—Skyy Leek
- 25—Chloe Brown, Kelly DeGregori, Terry Landis, Isaiah Adkins
- 26—Maggie Cox, Ellie Landis, Scott Greathouse
- 27—
- 28—Andrew Francis, Jason Groves, Sheila McCoy, Emery Thomas
- 29—Isabella Lee
- 30—Jake Harvey, Bea Lowe, Brynlee Banks
- 31—Cinda Francis, Benji Thompson



Anniversaries

- 1—Charles & Joy Hicks
Bryan & Gayle Thompson
- 7—Scott & Hannah Bolyard
- 16—Bill & Susan Hosaflook
- 20—Kim & Kay Carmean
- 26—John & Patricia Kent



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers
January 2026**

**Worship Leader – Toler 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>
Jan 4	Cinda Francis & Lilah Hosaflook	Ava Bolyard & Wes Hicks	Danielle Fish	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Steve Sisson Live Streaming– Russ Hunter	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 a.m. Connie Waybright
Jan 11	Staci Cummings & Bella Lee	Cason Isner & Harper Banks	Kendra Hersman	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Jeremy Rhodes Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Connie Waybright
Jan 18	Hannah Bolyard & Alexi Fish	Henley Patterson & Lilah Reed	Staci Cummings	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Nancy Smith Live Streaming– Jeremy Rhodes	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Connie Waybright
Jan 25	Anni Barnette & Lindsay Toler	Katelyn Fish & Mary Fish	Taran Wolford	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Betty French	Sound – Trevor Cummings Live Streaming– Stephanie DeWees	9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Connie Waybright
	 Nursery Ministry	 Acolytes				

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

Pre-worship 9:00 am Toler Family
Prayer Leaders: 11:00 am Heather Starkey
Children's Time: 9:00 am
11:00 am Natalie Holcomb



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Church Office Closed	2 11a Tai Chi Youth Church Office Closed	3 7:00 a Mens Devo
4 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00p Evans Eagles 4:00p PJH	5 6:30pm UMM	6 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30p GriefShare	7 11a Bible Study 1-3:00p Prayers &Squares 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	8 9-11:00 p Food Pantry	9 11a Tai Chi Youth	10 7:00 a Mens Devo Movin in the New Year
11 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 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	12	13 9:30a Tai Chi	14 10a Deborah Miriam 11a Bible Study 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	15 12-6p Blood Drive	16 11a Tai Chi Youth	17 7:00 a Mens Devo Hicks Hall Booked
18 UWF Officer Installation 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00p PJH 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	19 Holiday Church Office Closed	20 9:30a Tai Chi	21 11a Bible Study 1-3:00p Prayers &Squares 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	22 9-11:00 p Food Pantry	23 11a Tai Chi Youth	24 7a Mens Devo
25 Combined Service Volunteer Recognition Lunch Baby Recognition 9:00 a Sunday School All Ages 10:00a Morning Worship 10:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00p PJH 4:30p Discovery Circle 5:30p UMY choir practice 6:00p UMYF	26	27 9:30a Tai Chi	28 11a Bible Study 6p Bible Study 7:00p Choir	29	30 11a Tai Chi Youth	31 7a Mens Devo
<p>Younger Youth and M&M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM</p> <p><u>Your Youth Group Leaders</u></p> <p>Younger – Taran Wolford 532-2317</p> <p>M&M's - Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580</p> <p>High School – Jimmy Groves 372-6910</p>		<p>Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon</p> <p><u>Sunday Services</u></p> <p>Traditional/Live Streaming Service 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.</p>			<p>Worship Leaders: 9:00 am Toler Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb</p>	

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	