



CALVARY CONNECTION

March 2022

Calvary United Methodist Church
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Office 372-3203

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We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of:

Jane Hull



Pastor's Ponderings

Paula and I recently bought a puppy for our daughter April. He is a Siberian Husky named Hopper. Paula went to the breeder's office in Ohio and picked the puppy up on a Thursday and April wasn't coming

in from Pittsburgh until late Friday night to get Hopper. April spent the weekend with us and came to church Sunday morning and then took Hopper back to Pittsburgh. While Hopper was with us, I got to experience the exuberance and energy and destructiveness of a puppy – he is just a baby (11 weeks old)!! He was into everything—curious and playful. And he isn't yet house broken. So, all of that together proved exhausting. Hopper didn't have any jobs or expectations—he just had to be a fun, happy, energetic puppy!

Contrast that with one of our cats, Paisley. Paisley is a bit older cat who lived out on the streets for some time. She is a "seasoned" veteran of the hood! Most of the time she just lies around the house or in a cardboard box. There are certainly times that our younger cat, Charlie, will chase her and want to play and sometimes Paisley will put up with that and even play along, for a short time. Then she stops, starts hissing and growling, and swats Charlie repeatedly with her front paws. When Paisley first encountered Hopper, she stood her ground, sniffed and stared, and then swatted the puppy a few times to let him know she did not want to play! She can be a grumpy old cat set in her ways who doesn't like to be bothered.

Similarly, nothing brings life to a church full of Paisleys than a few Hoppers! It is easy to get complacent and stuck in our ways or claim a feeling that we have "been there and done that" and now just let me be—I'm tired and want to rest; I have no energy; I have nothing to offer to the church; let the young folks do it! While I can understand that and often health issues prevent us from being as active as we once were or, at least, doing the same things we once did, I want to encourage you to keep the same excitement about your faith as when you first believed!

This is something we have to be intentional about because the wear and stress and challenges can rob us of the joy we have in Christ. Don't you just love it when someone comes to faith for the first time and they want to change the world? They want to get involved in every ministry and outreach because they know the feeling of forgiveness and wholeness and newness of life and the contrast to the old life is so drastic that they want everyone to experience what life in Christ can and should be. They tell everyone around them about Jesus and how Jesus saved them and how it makes them feel.

My prayer for you (and me) today, is that even with a "seasoned" faith where God has proven Godself faithful in the struggles of a difficult world, we can maintain a puppy-like faith that exhibits the joy of our salvation. A faith that is as excited now as when we first believed. But, if for some reason you cannot get back to that "Hopper" level, at least don't pull a "Paisley" and hiss and swat at the Hoppers in our midst! HAHHA!!!!!!!!!!!!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

BE LIKE HOPPER!



DON'T BE LIKE PAISLEY



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:

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd - Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
March 6th – How to Resist Temptation - Luke 4:1-13
March 13th – Heavenly Citizenship – Luke 13:31-35
March 20th – Those Terrible Sinners – Luke 13:1-9
March 21st – A Grace-filled, Loving Father –
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

We will be hosting a pancake supper from 5pm – 7pm on Tuesday, March 1st, in recognition of Shrove Tuesday. In popular culture, the day is known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. For Christians, this marks the day prior to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. Many people choose to fast for Lent, and this dinner is an attempt to eat up all of the bad stuff in your pantry before the fasting begins—you know, to remove temptation! Donations will be received and applied toward the purchase of the handbells.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and occurs on March 2nd this year. We plan to have a worship service in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. The service will focus on our penitence and mortality and will include the imposition of Ashes on your forehead in the shape of a cross. This is a more somber service and the atmosphere will be a bit darker. This is an important service for us as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus. I hope that you will plan to join us.

NEW MINISTRY PROGRAM COMING SOON

We are in the planning stages of a new fitness and exercise ministry/program. Be looking for more information in the next few weeks, but we hope to launch near the end of February. This will be a great opportunity to exercise your body and spirit, to get in shape physically and spiritually, and to maybe make some new friends.



LENT

Christianity has many rituals, symbols, and rites that are unique to our faith. These are celebrated at very specific

times during the cycle of life we call the Christian year. The season of Lent is one such traditional observance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and covers forty days (not counting Sundays) and concludes on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. Since the date for the celebration of Easter moves each year, the date for Ash Wednesday is different each year. For 2022, Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd.

While forty is a very symbolic number in scripture and often used to describe a long time in general, the forty days of Lent are intended to represent the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism. During those forty days, Jesus fasted and was tempted by Satan. When that time was complete and Jesus had successfully resisted all temptation, He began his public ministry.

Originally, the season of Lent was observed by those seeking baptism—it was their way to prepare for baptism and the public profession of faith on Easter Sunday. Later, Lent became the time for everyone in the church to prepare for the celebration of Easter. The way we observe Lent is intended to help us relate to Jesus—in his temptations (where he remained faithful and we often fail), in his suffering, and in his death on the cross. That is one reason that people often choose to fast during Lent; it connects us with Jesus' fasting in the wilderness and when combined with prayer, Bible study, giving to the poor, or service projects, often allows us to more fully connect with God.

Lent is our journey to the Cross of Christ and the celebration of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. It often takes on a more somber atmosphere and it is a time of repentance and penitence. It is important for us to remember the pain and suffering of the cross and not just celebrate the victory of Easter. The last two worship services that we will celebrate at the end of Lent and immediately before Easter, are Maundy Thursday and Good Friday—they are very important and I hope that you make plans now to join us.

One last bit of info: since every Sunday is a mini-celebration of Easter (why we worship on Sunday and not the 7th day—Saturday), we temper the somber mood of Lent with the jubilant celebration of resurrection. This is also why we do not count Sundays in the forty days of lent.

United Methodist Men

The UMM will meet on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The UMM Baked Steak Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, March 27 at CUMC Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 am service.



Chili, Soup, and Stew Cook-off

The UMM sponsored Chili, Soup and Stew Cook-off which was scheduled for February has been rescheduled for April. Watch closely for further information.

United Methodist Women

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 4 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. You can sign up online to be in prayer. Please sign up for a ½ hour interval. You can also come to the church to the Chapel Room or pray in your own personal space. Website signup <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054FA8AA23AAFF2-world!>

Calvary UM Women will be hosting the **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** joint meeting with Epworth UMW on March 14 @ 6:00 pm. All ladies of both churches are invited to attend a dinner followed by a program involving both UMW units. Our UMW Circles will be providing the food for the dinner as follows: Mary Marth – Main Dish and potatoes, Deborah Miriam – Vegetables and Salads, Discovery – Desserts. Thanks in advance to the UMW ladies for providing food for the dinner.

Circle Meetings

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha circle is scheduled to meet March 13 at 2 pm. at the Thompson residence.



Deborah/Miriam

Circle will meet March 9 at 10:00 am in the church conference room. The Blood Drive will be held March 17, 1:00 – 6:00 pm and we hope you will schedule an appointment since there is a shortage of blood at this time.



Discovery Circle will meet March 27, 3:30 pm @ the church.

Youth Choir will practice 5:30 pm on Sundays followed by the youth group meetings @ 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



Your Youth Group Leaders

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

I plan to start a confirmation class this winter/spring with the tentative start date toward the middle of March. The class is intended for youth around the ages of 10-15 years of age (usually 12-13) who may be exploring or contemplating claiming faith in Jesus for themselves. The class expounds upon the teachings of the church about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, what it means to be baptized, and what church membership is all about. The goal is that by the end of the class sessions (usually around 6 weeks), the youth will be ready to make a personal

decision to follow Jesus, be baptized if not previously baptized, and join the church as a full member. A few of you have already communicated with me about the desire to participate. If you, or your child/grandchild, are interested in participating, please let me or Kathy in the church office know before March 7th.

John 3:16 Fellowship

Tuesday, March 15th at 3:16 p.m. will be our first gathering of this spring and you are invited to break bread and enjoy a bowl of soup with other "Friends of Christ" in the conference room. If you haven't been able to attend before we ask anyone who is retired or just wishes they were to join us as we begin a new season of fellowship. Please come share refreshments, a devotion and visit with a special guest each month. Mark your calendar so you won't miss it! Vanessa Rothrock



FIRST AID FOR MENTAL HEALTH

There has been a stigma surrounding mental health issues for far too long. I remember as I was growing up, those issues were not talked about—but if they were, it was almost always in such a negative light. We have come a long way, but there is still work to be done. I want to invite you to participate in a webinar titled, "First Aid for Mental Health." This promises to be a very valuable training on what mental issues are, how to recognize your red spots, and what to do about it. Did you know that one in five Americans suffer some sort of mental illness each year? Let's talk about it! You can use this link to learn more and to register. (There are two one-hour sessions). The link will also be emailed to you <https://a18814.actonsoftware.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/18814/p/p-0007/t/page/fm/0#R1>

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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





Prayers and Squares Ministry

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

COMING SOON!

You have been hearing a little bit about a new online platform coming to Calvary. We have contracted with Subsplash and we are in the process of transitioning our entire online experience to their platform. We will have a different online giving link, we will have our own church app that you will be able to download from either the Apple App Store or Google Play, and we will have a new website. We will be able to livestream our worship services directly through the app and website, but we will simultaneously livestream on Facebook as well. Additionally, you will be receiving this newsletter electronically. We will have links and downloads, but it will also be only a click away. This change will save a lot of money and time and paper as well as allowing us to more easily share links to other electronic resources. I think that this will be a great mode of communication with the church family as well as a means of reaching out into the local community and across the globe with the good news of Jesus Christ and the ministries of Calvary.

- Chicken & Beef Broth Canned Corn
- Mac & Cheese Canned Green Beans
- Corn Bread Mix Canned Meat
- Spaghetti Sauce Spam
- Spaghetti Treet
- Elbow Macaroni Tuna
- Soups Chicken
- Dried Beans

Monetary donations are also needed ...it enables us to fill-in (buy) food when supplies are low in any area.

Food Pantry Ministry

Thank You Volunteers for helping with the Ripley Library Food pickup (Friday 4:30 pm or Saturday Morning).

March 2022 Food Pick Up Schedule

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

Tai Chi Time is Changing

The Tai Chi class is coming together on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 now. You can decrease your joint pain, lessen stiffness, improve balance, build strength, increase focus. Wayne Shaffer is the instructor. Come join the fun – beginners welcome.

15th of the month so the newsletter can be printed by the 25th.



Relay for Life June 10, 2022

Ravenswood's Washington River Front Park

Fund Raisers this year include:

- Relay for Life Bake Sale March 20 From 10:00 am – 10:40 am
- Relay for Life Easter Egg Project – April 3 – 24
- Sunday of Hope – June 5
- Relay for Life Live Event – June 10

I want to thank the church family for all the support you give to the Relay for Life mission. Last year we made \$2858.00 to help in the fight against Cancer. Our goal for the 2022 Relay event is \$8,500. We have raised \$90.00 (1%) of our goal of \$8,500 so far this year.

Our first Fundraiser is planned for March 20th and will be a bake sale. Anyone in the church that can bake can bring a baked good to sale. All items will be sold for \$15 each unless they are small packs of cookies, and we will sale those for \$2.50 each. All



**Food Pantry Ministry
Year-To-Date**

<u>Households</u>	<u>Month</u>	
	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Served</u>
January	154	436
February	86	239
March	171	509
April	132	375
May	155	412
June	141	399
July	153	443
August	124	371
September	144	432
October	164	517
November	212	668
December	222	713

The following items are needed on a daily basis to support the church food pantry:

proceeds go to the American Cancer Society and Toward our team goal. If you would like to donate more than the price of the bake goods, we would appreciate that. Again, as always if you write a check for this make it out to the American Cancer Society.

We are looking for team members to join us at Ravenswood's Washington River Front Park on June 10th . The team consists of the following members: Jeremy Rhodes.

We are also looking for donations. If you would like to give a generous donation to help in the fight against cancer you can donate online at the link provided on the church website, or you can bring it to Jeremy Rhodes or Leave it in the Church office with a note that it is for Relay for life. (Note: All donations made out in check must be made out to the American Cancer Society.)

I want to let you know what your donations are going to help with. Most everyone thinks that ACS is just for cancer research. This statement is true, but there is so much more that they help with. They provide rides to and from treatments for patients, they provide gas cards when funds allow for it, and also help with housing by putting them up in the numerous Hope Houses around the United States close to the treatment center for little to no cost to the patient and families. The money that we give through relay goes to fund all of these things and more. So please donate what you can so we can help fund all of these great services.

Thank You
Jeremy Rhodes

Luminaria Order Form

The Luminaria Ceremony is the soul of Relay for Life. At dusk, we quietly remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer. In the soft glow of the candlelight, we reflect on the courage and strength of all who are affected by cancer.

You can help fight cancer and honor loved ones who have had cancer, by joining our Service of Hope on June 15th, and the Luminaria Ceremony at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Jackson County. The Luminaria Ceremony will begin at dusk on Friday, June 10, 2022. During the luminaria ceremony, candles are placed in luminaria bags, which are dedicated in **Honor** of a cancer survivor or in **Memory** of a loved one lost from cancer. When, lit, hundreds of luminarias will brighten the way for Relay for Life walkers.

Whether you participate in person or in spirit, here's your chance to support the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Keep the fire of HOPE burning by donating a luminaria.

Donor Name: _____

I would like # _____ Luminaria (s) Minimum donation of \$5 each (you can donate more if you wish)

In Honor Of _____

In _____ Memory of: _____

Make Checks Payable to American Cancer Society and return with this form to Jeremy Rhodes or the Church Office by May 29th



TOM'S MISSIONS-SOUP FUNRAISER Sunday, March 13, 2022

We will be offering soup for sale on March 13, 2022 @ Calvary UMC. Please mark order form with name and number of soups wanted and submit to Debbie Templin or Sandy Goad. Prior placed orders will be filled first. Extra soup will be sold as "First-Come/First-Served".

Pick up pre-ordered soup at serving window in the fellowship hall. We will also bring orders to your vehicle if you will call and let us know you are in the parking lot for pickup. Available till 12:00. 304-531-6697 (Sandy) 304-532-9889 (Debbie)

32-ounce size easy seal container. \$10.00

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP _____

POTATO SOUP _____

CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP _____

BROCCOLI CHEESE SOUP _____

BEEF CABBAGE SOUP _____

CHILI _____

You must have an account with username and password to access the account through the barcode scanner

NAME: _____



HANDBELLS

As of the typing of this newsletter, we have received almost \$4,000 toward the purchase and refurbishing of the handbells! That is awesome! We are about halfway to our goal of \$8,000. If you would like to make a donation toward this project, please indicate "Handbells" in the memo of your check. We are purchasing the bells from First UMC in Ravenswood and will have the manufacturer, Malmark, refurbish them in April 2022. They are a great addition to our worship experience and I hope that you will support this ministry by giving toward acquiring the bells.

Directions for Online Giving

Go to <http://giving.ncsservices.org/calvarygiving>

Click on Online Giving. Under Donate type in the Church's Zip Code 25271

Click on Calvary United Methodist Church. It will ask you to register (create username, password). Once you do this you type in the amount you plan to give and either use your debit card or your bank account number. You can choose whether you want this to be a one-time transaction or set it up to do regular transactions. The information will be saved so the next time you will just have to log in, type in the amount you wish to give and you are finished.

Attendance for January 2022

		9:00	Facebook	11:00		
Jan. 2	Worship	118	229	34	Sunday School	81
Jan. 9	Worship	92	237	24	Sunday School	88
Jan. 16	Worship	53	276	14	Sunday School	43
Jan. 23	Worship	90	235	14	Sunday School	78
Jan. 30	Worship	108	203	24	Sunday School	93

Stewardship for Jan.2022

Offerings

		<u>Regular</u>	<u>Building</u>
Jan.	2	\$6,051.00	\$1,175.00
Jan.	9	\$6,027.00	\$310.00

Jan.	16	\$4,604.00	\$485.00
Jan.	23	\$5,846.10	\$1,410.00
Jan	30	<u>\$8,119.00</u>	<u>\$1,585.00</u>
Totals		\$30,647.10	\$4,965.00



Tithes and Offerings

2022 Budget	\$289,188.00
Needed Each Week	\$5,561.30
Rec. Year-To-Date	\$30,647.10

RENEW YOUR KROGER CARD

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

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

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

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

Amazon Smile

Help raise funds for our local mission projects. During their regular meeting on January 30, 2022, the Administrative Board approved a request to establish an account through the AmazonSmile program. This is very similar to the Kroger card program that many of you may already use. Once the church is established as a viable non-profit organization, all you need to do when you order from Amazon is **choose Calvary UMC as your charity of choice** and Amazon will send **0.5% of the purchase price to us and it will be designated for local missions through the "Tom Goad missions account."** We are in the process of getting established with AmazonSmile and we will let you know when that process is complete.



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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