



# CALVARY CONNECTION

August 2025

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## Pastor's Ponderings

What do these stories have in common?

When our team of five disciples arrived in Alaska on a mission journey, three churches greeted us, each with a project list as long as my arm! Not to mention that our host church had two people developing independent lists for us. Did I mention that there were FIVE of us?!?! It was obvious that we would not be able to accomplish everything they needed done – not even close.

One ministry we helped with in Anchorage was a mobile food pantry. The church my friend Corey attends helps in this ministry every Friday. We gathered and bagged food that was delivered by the food bank and then handed out the bags to people driving through and those walking up. They expected to hand out 160 bags that day. Some of the folks who walked up or rode a bicycle, sat down in the grass right after getting the bag and rifled through it and started eating – they were hungry.

Our WV Disaster Response Ministry has sent one Early Response Team (ERT) to work in WV after the flash flooding in June. If you recall, the areas of Wheeling and Fairmont were hit with 4 inches of rain in 30 minutes and experienced widespread destruction with at least nine lives lost besides many homes and businesses destroyed. Our team went to the Fairmont area and worked three days (the maximum allowed in succession) and finished two jobs. There has been additional flash flooding since that initial episode.

Calvary is in the process of assembling UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) cleaning kits (a.k.a. flood buckets). I am not sure how many we will complete, but 20 buckets would be a pretty good accomplishment. The New Vision Depot warehouse has sent out maybe 300 buckets to be used in the regions in WV that were flooded in June.

While there are probably many different illustrations and things these real-life examples have in common, I want to highlight two. First, in each of these cases, and in so many other different areas of ministry, the scale of the need can be depressing. One of the reasons it can be depressing is because it is overwhelming when you try to make a difference. When you are handed a needs list of 40 projects to be completed and you can maybe finish 10 of them, it can lead to a feeling of failure. When hundreds of people are affected by flooding and you can help two of them, I mean what is that? They need 1,000 cleaning kits and we are going to provide 20?

Here is a quote and a story that speaks to this:

"I cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do." And this story:

A businessman was on "vacation" at the beach. I put quote marks around vacation because he was a workaholic and always continued to work when he traveled. He was a real mover and shaker and was used to spreadsheets and analysis and getting things done. He was walking along the beach one morning (while checking his email on his phone) and noticed that there

were thousands of starfish washed up on the beach. They were everywhere. And as the impending sun began to rise, it was certain that they would dry out and die – it must be a natural phenomenon, he surmised. What a shame. Then he saw a family walking toward him and the young boy, maybe 8 years old, would pick up a starfish and walk down to the ocean and throw it back in the water. He chuckled to himself at the naivety of the boy's work. The man said, "son there are thousands and thousands of starfish, what possible difference do you think you can make." The boy picked up another starfish, walked to the oceans edge and threw it in, and said, "I made a difference to that one."

The scripture we read on the first Sunday in July, said to not grow weary in doing good. When we are faced with great need, we can grow weary because we cannot possibly make a dent in the total need. But as the quote and story reminds us, we can make a difference to one! We aren't expected to fix the world, just our little part of the world. We will never share the love of Jesus with everyone who does not believe, but we can tell someONE about Jesus. We may not eradicate world hunger, but someONE in our neighborhood will have food because of us.

The second and related point to be made is that I am not the only one working for good in this world – it is a collaborative effort. The church where we stayed in Alaska (The United Methodist Church of Chugiak), hosted a work team the week before we arrived and they were going to host another work team beginning July 11th. I cannot accomplish everything, but just think of how much all of us can do together. One key is to DO YOUR PART! Make a difference to one. Contribute in the ways you can and according to your gifts, abilities, and resources. Please try not to be discouraged by the enormity of the need and yet at the same time be motivated because there is need. Let's all covenant together to make all the difference in the world that we can – one person, one task, one day at a time.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism said:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said:

"Give the world the best you have, and it may never be good enough; give the best anyway."

You might think your little contribution doesn't make a difference – but it makes all the difference in the world!



**Jackson County  
Junior Fair Kitchen**

**WE NEEDED YOU and YOU CAME THRU!!!!**

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

## BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

### 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:

Aug 3 – A Changed Life- Col 3:1-11- (Holy Communion)  
 Aug 10 –Faith (Part I) – Heb 11:1-16  
 Aug 17 –Faith (Part II)-Heb 11:29-12:2 – One Combined service at 10am for Move Up Sunday  
 Aug 24-Breaking One Law to Follow THE Law – Luke 13:10-17  
 Aug 31-Humility and Hospitality-Luke 14:1-14

### United Methodist Men

Thank You for supporting the Pancake Breakfast on July 4th! And thank you to all your friends and relatives for their support.



### 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](mailto:judithlieving@gmail.com) to be included on the email prayer chain.



### United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith circles are on break for the summer, **HOWEVER, the Blood Drive does not take a break.** The Blood Drive was held July 17<sup>th</sup>. **The Next Blood Drive will be September 18<sup>th</sup>.** 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.



### !!! ATTENTION ALL YOUTH !!!



Discovery Circle is hosting a **Back to School Party** on **August 24** from **5-7 pm**. Please bring your favorite snack and outdoor game.

Everyone is welcome to join us in the courtyard for fun, food, and fellowship! In the event of bad weather, we will move into the fellowship hall for Family Game Night.



### Elementary Youth (1st -5th grades)

is led by Taran Wolford (304.532.2317). If you have a child in this age bracket, please join her remind to receive information specific to that group by texting @efgfk86 to 81010 to receive information about meeting each week

or you are welcome to text her directly.

**Middle School Youth** is led by Ashley Hosaflook (304.786.0046). If you have a child in this age bracket, please join her remind by texting @fd9e to 81010 (if you are not already registered) to receive information about that youth group each week.

**High School Youth** is led by Jimmy Groves (304.532.7649). If you have a child in this age bracket, please text him your number to be added to the group text.



**Youth Meetings are 5:30 pm with choir and regular meetings at 6:00 pm each Sunday**

### Your Youth Group Leaders

Younger Youth –	Taran Wolford	532-2317
M&M's -	Ashley Hosaflook	786-0046
High School-	Jimmy Groves	532-7649
Youth Choir -	Hilary Groves	532-7648

### SPECIAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

### MOVE UP SUNDAY

Each year, we recognize the students who will be “moving up” from one

Sunday school class to the next level. This year, we are going to celebrate them together as a church during one combined Sunday morning service at 10am on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Of course, once again, Sunday school will be at 9:00 am that day with a combined Worship Service at 10:00 am. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend and recognize the students who are moving up a grade level.



## **BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER EVENT**

The JCMA will also be sponsoring the back-to-school prayer event once again this year. On Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm, there will be a pastor or other leader at every school in Jackson County to lead a time of prayer for the facility, the students, teachers, bus drivers, custodians, counselors, etc. We pray a hedge of protection around them, that it might be a safe place, and a great learning environment. Pastor Steve will be at Ripley Middle School once again this year. Please plan to join us and support our kids with prayer and the power of God.



## **Prayers and Squares Ministry**

The Prayers and Squares group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 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. 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.



## **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.



## **Looking Ahead**

August 12 - Nov. 10 New Series of Grief Share  
August 17 Move-up Sunday-combined worship 10am  
August 19 Back to school prayer event  
August 23 Golf Tournament  
August 24 Back to school party  
September Teacher Appreciation

## **Group Travel anyone????**

I plan to travel with Educational Opportunities (EO) once again in 2026 – destination to be determined, but I am looking at a Rhine River cruise in October 2026. EO offers MANY tours to nearly every area of the world. Be on the lookout over the next few months for details of the trip to see if it is something in which you would be interested. It is a blessed experience to travel with others from your church family.

## **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.



## **GriefShare**

The new series of the **GriefShare support group will begin meeting on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.** If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one I encourage you to attend these group sessions

intended to help you navigate this very difficult season of life.





## Food Pantry Ministry 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 Broth	Canned Corn
Mac & Cheese	Dried Beans
Soups	Canned Green Beans
Corn Bread Mix	Canned Meat
Spaghetti Sauce	Spam
Spaghetti	Treet
Elbow Macaroni	Tuna
	Chicken

### Food Pick Up Schedule for August

1 <sup>st</sup>	Senior High Class
8 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Smith
15 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Waybright
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Debbie Sisson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Dallas Skeen

### Food Pantry Ministry July

As noted below, our food box distribution numbers were down for the month of July. In previous years the number of households and individuals served drops off during the summer. Another reason the numbers were down is we changed our distribution dates to the first and third Thursday due to VBS and the Fair Kitchen and those we serve did not read the notices we put in their June food boxes. For the month we served 112 households or 325 individuals.

Month	Households	Individuals
January	95	267
February	178	496
March	150	430
April	177	524
May	131	385
June	128	353
July	112	325

.....Mike Wilt



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

## Goodness of God Story

THOUGHTS FROM JETHRO THE FRY COOK  
AKA GREG VARNEY

As many of you know, I became ill during the week of the fair. I have cooked eggs for about the last eight or nine years. On Monday I began feeling ill at the worst possible time. The line was backed up to the door, I had sausage cooking, and was about three egg orders behind when I got terribly sick and had to leave. The morning crew did not blink an eye. Susan Hosaflook, my guardian angel, immediately took over my station, which is no easy task. The rest of the group (Lora Sturm, Camryn Harvey, Emma and Regan Shockey) picked up all the open spots and performed beautifully. Our team leader, Felicia Shockey, sprang into action and directed the group to get through the rest of the shift. Lilah and Ellie Hosaflook also pitched in a big way along with Brooke Hosaflook, who had many good ideas to speed up our process during the other two days I became ill and had to cut my shift short. It is amazing how everyone stepped in and made it happen. I'm appreciative of the fair kitchen crews' comradery and the way we support each other.

This experience is just one example of why I am so proud to be a member of this church. We truly try to walk in the way that Jesus leads us and answer to the gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit that warms our heart. God asks us to do many things in our life's journey with the many blessings we receive. The reason I first joined the church was the many missions going on at Calvary. I'm most proud of our congregation because they truly do it, not for a pat on the back, but for the glory of God. Finally, again for the Glory of Our Savior, we can continue the many missions in the future and bring in the young talent ready to take our place when God calls us to our forever home.

## Charleston Distance Run

"It takes a village to raise a child." "There is no 'I' in team." A couple of quotes that we often hear in the greater society. In United Methodism, we have our "blessed connection." All these sayings relay the same information – we can accomplish much more together than we can individually. In this spirit, Pastor Stewart Cottrell, Pastor Steve Hamrick, and Pastor Nancy Henderson White will be tackling the Charleston Distance Run on August 30<sup>th</sup> as a relay team! Together they will cover the 15-mile course. They are using this opportunity to encourage you to "join our team" and sponsor us. The money we raise will be designated for the New Vision Depot and their cleaning kit (a.k.a. flood bucket) ministry. The cleaning kit ministry is yet another example of our blessed connection that combines the efforts of people across the conference to provide disaster relief resources when and where needed. Did I mention, our DS, Amy Shanholtzer and the Nine Rivers DS, Lauren Godwin, have agreed to be doused with water at some time after the race – get the mental image of a football coach on the sidelines after the team wins the championship – if we raise \$1,000! If you will sponsor us financially, please write a check to Calvary, and in the memo section write Charleston Distance Run – Depot. In order for us to know how much we have raised, we may also have an electronic way for you to indicate that you are going to sponsor us. Be looking for details soon.

## **Bet Ya Didn't Know. . . or Maybe You Did**

Have you ever thought about why we do what we do during worship on Sunday mornings? More specifically, have you ever thought about why we do what we do when we do it (not why it is on Sunday, but I am referring to the order of worship)? The elements of worship are not included in a haphazard order. There are theological reasons that guide our decisions.

The basic order of worship listed in the United Methodist Book of Worship includes:

### **ENTRANCE**

Gathering  
Greeting and Hymn  
Opening Prayer and Praise

### **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination  
Scripture  
Sermon  
Response to the Word  
May include a hymn, the Affirmation of Faith, installation of officers, etc.  
Concerns and Prayers  
Confession, Pardon, and Peace  
Offering

### **THANKSGIVING/HOLY COMMUNION**

The Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Taking the Bread and the Cup

### **SENDING FORTH**

Hymn or Song  
Dismissal with Blessing  
Going Forth

This is not a "set in stone, have to do it this way" command straight from Jesus. But it is the best work of a Holy Spirit inspired Church through the centuries to reflect our understanding of what corporate worship is intended to be or accomplish or facilitate. Sometimes we (most congregations) adjust the order of worship for specific circumstances to allow for a better flow if there are infrequent elements included - like the VBS celebration, etc.

As you can tell, we (Calvary) normally do a few things "out of order." For instance, the sermon should be much earlier in the service. And things like the offering and affirmation of faith are best considered a response to God and God's Word and should come later in the service. We might adjust our order of worship some in the near future to better reflect this more theologically sound order. However, I think God is

pleased when we gather and focus our attention and our heart on God in praise and worship, in most any form that it might take.



## **Calvary Cookbook**

\* Coming soon to a kitchen near you \*  
Karen Facemyer has graciously offered to head up a project to assemble a new Calvary UMC cookbook. It has been several years since the last cookbook was published, and I know you have acquired more recipes that you would

like included. And many of us were not around when the last cookbook was made available.

Be thinking about what recipes you will submit – what are you known for? What is it that everyone asks you to bring to a covered dish dinner? That is a good place to start. The proceeds from selling the cookbooks will go to the stained-glass window restoration. More information will be available in the next couple of months.

## **Out of the Mouths of Babes**

Since the death of her uncle Jonathan, Maci Cummings has had some very frank and open discussions with her family about death and heaven and the related topics. Recently, they drove by a cemetery and the conversation naturally came up again. With the wisdom of a child, Maci said, "Mom, I think Jesus is gonna have a lot of cookies!"

Me too, Maci, me too. If heaven ain't got cookies, I ain't goin'!

Similarly, another one of our wise children was in a conversation with her mom about the extremes that someone was going to with their health and appearance. The mom said, I guess she doesn't want to die. The child responded, "Why not?!? When I die, I am going to heaven and be with Jesus and not have to worry about being sick or anything!"

There is some sound theology!

## **Golf Tournament**



**Date: Saturday, 8/23/25**

**Start Time: 8:30am**

Individual Golfer Cost: \$60

Team Cost: \$240

Hole Sponsorship: \$100

Prizes for 1st and 2nd places, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin

**Make sure Jamion knows if you are planning to participate by 8/16/25**

Missions Team determining beneficiary of proceeds



Vision and mission are important. Indeed, much has been written across the years about both.

**Vision:** The Book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish . . .” (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). Similarly, agricultural scientist and inventor George Washington Carver is quoted as saying, “Where there is no vision, there is no hope.” Author and political activist Helen Keller made a statement about vision that was especially impactful because of her physical deafness and blindness. “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

**Mission:** American Psychologist Arnold H. Glasgow stated, “Make your life a mission - not an intermission.” German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, “Every person above the ordinary has a certain mission that they are called to fulfill.” Rick Warren wrote, “God has given you a mission in life, and only you can fulfill it.

I am thankful for The United Methodist Church’s vision statement which was released in mid- May, 2025 to complement our oft-quoted mission statement. **UMC Vision:** The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. **UMC Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our West Virginia Conference’s focus is in alignment with the General Church’s vision and mission. **West Virginia Conference Vision:** In the West Virginia Conference, we live into the worldwide United Methodist vision by transforming Appalachia through God’s love—growing disciples, healing communities, and casting a future of hope rooted in Christ. **West Virginia Conference Mission:** To Discover, Develop, and Deploy passionate spiritual leaders of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Central** to both West Virginia and the worldwide United Methodist Church **is the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ.** West Virginia adds an emphasis on developing leaders. Below are West Virginia’s definitions of a passionate spiritual disciple and a passionate spiritual leader.

**Spiritual Disciples:** A Passionate Spiritual Disciple (PSD) is a Christ-follower committed to imitating Jesus’ example. Filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit, PSDs demonstrate the fruit described in Galatians 5:22-23 as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. A PSD is in covenant with other Christ-followers to grow spiritually, missionally and relationally.

I will add that Passionate Spiritual Disciples and Leaders embody the characteristics of our new United Methodist Church vision of loving boldly, serving joyfully and leading courageously, both locally and around the world.

**Spiritual Leaders:** A Passionate Spiritual Leader (PSL) is a Passionate Spiritual Disciple leading other Passionate Spiritual Disciples. Though not all Christians are Passionate Spiritual Leaders, hopefully we are all Passionate Spiritual Disciples.

Yes, vision and mission are important. Without vision, we struggle to thrive, find hope and see clearly. Without a mission we do not have purpose.

How grateful I am that our United Methodist Church and the West Virginia Conference have clarity around vision and mission. My prayer for us is that we will become increasingly successful in moving toward them both as a denomination and conference.

As always, it is a joy to serve as your bishop.

Blessings,

Debbie

Debra Wallace-Padgett

Resident Bishop Holston and West Virginia Conferences

## Did you even know this was a problem?

In a recent national survey of public water systems, it was discovered that the three county water systems with the most violations in the US were:

1. McDowell County, WV
2. Boone County, WV
3. Mercer County, WV

Did you know that there are communities in the southern coalfield counties of McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming (primarily) that cannot use their tap water? But they are still required to pay a monthly fee! In some of those communities, the tap water is brown and if you try to shower with it, it burns the skin.

Does it surprise you that in the United States of America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are talking about the lack of the basic necessities of life?!?!?

If you would like a little more information about this problem and how we can help, click this link.

[Coalfield Water Crisis](#)

Or copy and paste this:

<https://www.wvumc.org/news-detail/18573021>

There are also folded brochures in the sanctuary that articulate the problem.

The United Methodist Church is responding. We have a water tank and another one on the way for those communities. Folks can go to the location of the tank (often a fire department building) and fill jugs with potable water. We even have a sanitizing solution and spray to make sure the jugs are clean. But there is still much work to be done – these are merely band aids on the symptoms. We need systemic change and new water systems in place. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.





## NEWS FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM

Summer is quickly winding down and the beauty and

coolness (thank goodness) of fall is right around the corner. Vacations will soon be just a memory and all that school shopping has started. This is my favorite time of year! The Mission Team will be meeting probably as you are receiving this newsletter. We have lots of exciting things getting ready to happen.

Let me give you some dates:

August 23-Golf Tournament-you will be hearing more about this in church.

Coat Drive-Applications will be taken on 08/28 & 9/11. We will give out coats on 09/25 & 10/09. We will also be filling requests throughout the winter months.

International Coffee Day-09/29 but we will observe on 09/28. Last year we collected money in our over-sized coffee cup. Stay tuned for further details.

Undie Sunday is observed in October.

Adopt A Family-we will try to have the Angel Tree up before Black Friday. Gifts will be needed at church by 12/14/25. Giveaway-12/20/25.

**NEW MISSION/MINISTRY- WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Ripley will have their first home football game of the season. We will be hosting a tailgate party on the parking lot of Ripley Elementary School. We are looking to have games and prizes, snacks and drinks. But we need you to help and be a presence. We want to show our support of the Ripley Football Team and the student body by having a little fun before the game. Wear your Calvary shirts (or sweatshirts, if needed.) We will have a sign-up sheet so we will know that we have enough help to do this well. You will be hearing more over the next couple of Sundays as plans are finalized.

Please remember-we are all to be in mission and ministry as we follow the teachings of Jesus. Find your passion and run with it. Any ideas you have are welcome-let us know what you are passionate about. We are all in this together!!



Women's Care Center, Parkersburg WV

## BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

Please bring in your baby bottles full of change, cash or check so I can get them returned to Parkersburg. Thank you for taking an interest and making donations to this cause.

## Quote(s) of the Month

This month's theologian in the spotlight is Martin Luther. b. 1483 – d. 1546

Luther was a German priest and THE seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation of the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. He was ordained into the priesthood 1507 but came to reject much of the teaching of the contemporary Roman Catholic Church, especially around indulgences and papal authority. When he published his "Ninety-five Theses" in 1517, the pope demanded that he renounce all his writings. When Luther refused, he was excommunicated and that was still in effect when he died.

Luther emphasized the theological position that justification is by grace alone and does not rely on human merit. However, good works were a necessary fruit of living faith.

Martin Luther as also a hymn writer and one of his hymns is still in our UM hymnal (number 110) and widely sung in worship services, "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

Here are a few quotes:

"The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people."

"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

"We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day."

"Pray like it all depends on God, then when you are done, go work like it all depends on you."

And one fun quote that shows his German heritage:

"Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!"



## 100 YEARS OF CALVARY

(4 new windows recognized)

The stained-glass windows are 100 years old too! Many of these have been noted as in memory or honor of people connected with this church building. Starting down the left side of the sanctuary are windows

dedicated in memory of Mr. & Mrs. A.F. Parsons by their children, in Honor of Mr. & Mrs. R.P. Shinn by their family, in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Elias Stone by their children and in Honor of Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Parsons by their children. I have not been able to find much information on these people except that Mr. R.P. Shinn (Ray) died in 1962 and was a member of this church and his wife's name was Audrey (Hall). Also Mr. L.M. Parsons passed away in 1940 and Mrs L.M. Parsons passed away in 1954. What little information I did find came from 3 very old membership record books for the E.U.B. church dating back to the early 20's. I just discovered these books and am looking forward to searching them some more. Anyone want to join me?



## Joke of the Month

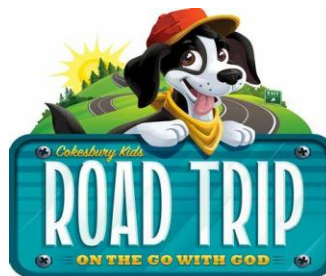
A priest, a minister, and a guru sat discussing the best position for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray", said the priest. "No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to heaven". "You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Community Ministry

A big thank you to all who helped BoMar serve free hot dogs to the community on July 4<sup>th</sup>. They needed our help and you responded to the request!

## Ministry at Spring Heights

The director of Spring Heights camp and retreat center contacted me to request help. Their last week of summer camp was scheduled to be July 27 – August 1<sup>st</sup>, and their cook was there alone without help for that week. I put out the request and nine people offered to go help in their kitchen this week! I am so thankful to serve a congregation that is generous with their time and resources and ready to help out and be in ministry wherever there is a need.



**We Hope To Share  
VBS Pictures With  
You Soon – Keep  
Watching**



**Check your calendars  
for  
a night at the ballpark.  
August 1**

Faith and Family Night



FREE Dirty Birds T-shirt  
Giveaway

sponsored by Marshall  
Health



## Attendance for July 2025

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
July	6	Worship	135	18	90
July	13	Worship	173	combined	70
July	20	Worship	123	20	76
July	27	Worship	122	21	76

### Tithes and Offerings

2025 Budget	\$314,721.00
Needed Each Week	\$6,147.17
Rec. Year-To-Date	<u>\$181,187.49</u>



## 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](https://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.



**August 2025  
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1
- 2 Rachel Eckel, Vinny Geyer, Camilla Ruben
- 3
- 4
- 5 Amy Haskins
- 6 Nancy Smith, Bill Manns
- 7 Tabatha Craddock
- 8
- 9
- 10 Larry Smith
- 11 Brett Haskins
- 12
- 13
- 14 Marsha Humphrey, Kevin Casto
- 15
- 16 Breann Thompson
- 17 Will Thompson
- 18
- 19
- 20 Paul Francis
- 21 Jacob Hall, Dallas Wallen, Cooper Merritt
- 22 Debbie Sisson
- 23 Tara Ellison, Bailey Howery
- 24 Megan Thompson
- 25 David Wallen
- 26
- 27 Maddox Anderson, Trey Longwell
- 28
- 29
- 30 Stephanie Thomas, Kendra Hersman, Felicia Shockey, Bill Longwell
- 31 Peyton Hicks








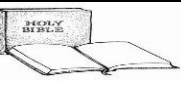
- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Marion & Sheila McCoy      | 12 Dallas & Carolyn Wallen |
| Nick & Cheryl Miller         | 15 George & Emily Lamb     |
| 2 Joel & Natalie Holcomb     | 21 Greg & Denise Thomas    |
| Gary & Cindy Matheny         | Tim & Naomi Fisher         |
| 8 Ritchie & Carlene Anderson | 22 Jim & Gerri Powers      |
| 9 Kevin & Shelly Harris      | 31 Trevor & Staci Cummings |
| 10 Russ & Nikki Hunter       |                            |



## Schedules For Our Church Volunteers August 2025

**Worship Leader – Ruben Family  
Natalie Holcomb**

**9:00 am  
11:00 am**

	<u><b>Nursery</b></u>	<u><b>Acolytes</b></u>	<u><b>Children's Church</b></u>	<u><b>Prayers of the People</b></u>	<u><b>Sound &amp; Streaming</b></u>	<u><b>Scripture Reader</b></u>
<b>Aug 3</b>	Alyssia Ruben & Lindsay Toler	Cohen Isner & Wes Hicks	Stephanie Deweese	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Varney Family
<b>Aug 10</b>	Megan Geyer & Adelyn Groves	Harper Banks & Ashlyn Wolford	Taran Wolford	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family
<b>Aug 17</b>	Taran Wolford & Mary Toler	Henley Patterson & Harper Patterson	Kendra Hersman	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family
<b>Aug 24</b>	Hannah Bolyard & Cheyene Hicks	Ava Bolyard & Katelyn Fish	Scott Greathouse	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family
<b>Aug 31</b>	Ashley Wolfe & Scarlett Greathouse		Gloria Burdette	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 am</b> Varney Family	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Russ Hunter	<b>9:00 am</b> Ruben Family <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Varney Family
	 <b>Nursery Ministry</b>	 <b>Acolytes</b>				

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  
Prayer Leaders:  
Children's Time:

9:00 am Ruben Family  
11:00 am Judy Lieving  
9:00 am  
11:00 am Heather Starkey





# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11a Tai Chi 5p Dirty Birds Game	2 7:00 a Gideons Fellowship Hall 1p-? DAR 10-12
3 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 UMM	5 9:30a Tai Chi	6 1-3 p Prayers/Squares	7 5:30 p RFL	8 11a Tai Chi	9 7:00 a Gideons
10 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 7:00 p Trustees meeting	11	12 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30 p GriefShare  Pastor with	13  Recycled Teenagers	14 9-11 Food Pantry  to Sight & Sound	15 11a Tai Chi	16 7:00 a Gideons Church & HicksHall Booked - Wedding
17 <b>MOVE UP SUNDAY</b> 9:00 a Sunday School All Ages 10:00 a Morning Worship-Combined Live Streaming Service	18 6p Back To School Co Event	19 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30 p GriefShare	20 1-3pPrayers/Squares	21	22 11a Tai Chi	23 7:00 a Gideons 9a Golf Tournament
24 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages Back to School Party	25	26 9:30a Tai Chi 6:30 p GriefShare	27	28 9-11 Food Pantry	29 11a Tai Chi	30 7:00 a Gideons
31 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages						
<b>Younger Youth and M&amp;M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM</b>  <b><u>Your Youth Group Leaders</u></b> <b>Younger –</b> Taran Wolford 532-2317 <b>M&amp;M's -</b> Ashley Hosaflook 373-7580 <b>High School –</b> Jimmy Groves 372-6910		<b>Church Office Open-</b> <b>Monday thru Friday-8:00 - Noon</b> <b><u>Sunday Services</u></b> <b>Traditional/Live Streaming Service</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Contemporary Service</b>				<b>Worship Leaders:</b> 9:00 am Ruben Family 11:00 am Natalie Holcomb
				9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.		