



# CALVARY CONNECTION

February 2024

Calvary United Methodist Church  
205 Court Street Ripley, West Virginia  
Office 372-3203

Email – [calvaryumc316@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryumc316@gmail.com)

Web Page – [www.calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://www.calvaryunitedmethodistchurch.com)

## Pastor's Ponderings

I decided that I should find something to help pass the time this winter. I stay pretty busy, but with the short days and long nights of winter, there are times that I do get lonely—and bored. So, I decided to get a jigsaw puzzle. I haven't worked on a puzzle in years, but my dad liked to work on them and several people I know find it to be a great pastime.

When I went to Walmart to see what I could find, they had several to choose from. I thought I needed one large enough to be a challenge and take a fair amount of time. I may have overdone it! I bought a 2,000-piece puzzle! It is huge! When completed (if I ever get there), it will be over three feet long and over two feet tall. I have a six-foot table and it would not hold the outline of the puzzle and all the pieces—I had to put a lot of the puzzle pieces on another table. It is definitely a way to pass the time and I am enjoying it so far, but I have mostly been working on the easiest parts. If the other sections become so difficult that I cannot make progress, I might get frustrated, and this will become a chore or task instead of entertainment and enjoyment.

But let me ask you a question, how is it that I can look for a particular piece and not find it and then maybe the next day look down and it is right there? Or there might be a very distinctive piece that should be easy to spot, but I have overlooked it numerous times. And one other thing, I thought I had all of the border put together but I had another edge piece left! I found where I had put the wrong pieces together—they were almost an exact match, but not quite. The border looked perfect, but it wasn't.

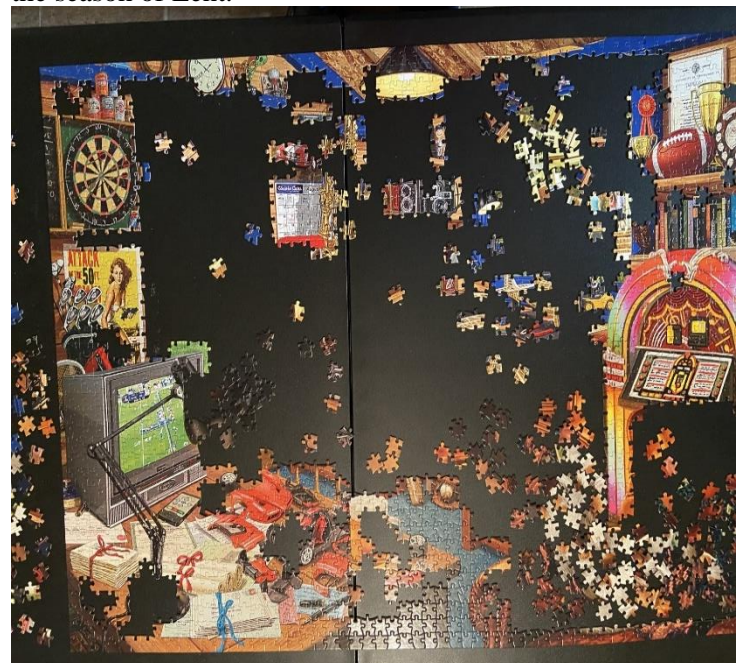
There are many life analogies to be drawn from a jigsaw puzzle. Are there things/people/signs that you are searching for to make your life more complete? If so, are they right in front of you but something has blinded you to their presence? Are you focused on something else? Are you distracted by all the options and choices? Sometimes it might be easier for someone else to see it—be open to the suggestions and advice of others (I may get some of you to come to the parsonage and look for a piece or two on this puzzle!).

But I want you to consider something else. Are there areas in your life where you do not have the right puzzle piece? Oh, it may look good, or it may appear to be all lined out, but it just isn't quite right. Or is something missing? In my puzzle, if I had not found the last edge piece, I would not have known I was missing a piece. The

border looked good! And I may not have found out until I was trying to get the other pieces in that area placed.

For way too many people, they appear to have their life together, but they are missing a key piece—the presence of Christ. They may not even realize it until some other pieces don't fit right. Like how do I deal with disappointment, why can't I find peace, what is my purpose, where is the joy in living, what do I have to look forward to, or where does this life ultimately lead? Perhaps you have tried to piece together your life without this most important piece.

The jigsaw puzzle box included a picture of what the completed puzzle should look like. We have something similar for our lives—the life of Jesus as presented in the Gospels. When we look at the life of Jesus, we see what God has intended for humanity. Below is a picture of what my puzzle currently looks like. I have made some progress, but there are holes to be filled in—some small one-piece holes in the middle of a completed section and some big gaping holes. I am afraid that my life is the same. When I measure it against the life of Jesus, I see where I have some holes. The good news is that God and I are still working on this puzzle called Steve's life. There aren't as many holes as there were a few years ago. I am moving closer to the picture of what God has intended for my life. But I am a work in progress. So are you. Maybe we should all ponder on this a bit, especially during the season of Lent.



## **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:

Feb 4 – Proclamation – Mark 1:29-39

Feb 11 – A Thin Place – Mark 9:2-9

Feb 18 – The Journey Begins – Mark 1:9-15

Feb 25 – The Cost of Discipleship – Mark 8:31-38

## **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

So, what is Ash Wednesday and why do we have a worship service on that day? Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent – a 40-day journey (not counting Sundays) that takes us to the Cross of Calvary and the crucifixion of Jesus. Forty days was chosen to correspond to the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by the evil one after Jesus' baptism and before he started his public ministry.

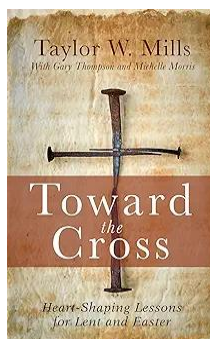
An Ash Wednesday service is normally somber with muted colors and offers a time of reflection and introspection. We think about our mortality and realize that all of us will die at some point. A physical representation of this reality is the imposition of ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead of the worship participants. You will normally hear the phrase, remember that you are dust and to dust you will return. Or, alternatively, repent and believe the gospel. But our themes of sin and death and repentance are always held against the light of redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

This year, we will have our Ash Wednesday service on February 14<sup>th</sup> (yes, that is also Valentine's Day), at 6:30pm. The service usually lasts about 45 minutes. This can be a very meaningful service and I hope that you will plan to join us.

## **GRIEFSHARE GROUP**

Our GriefShare support group will begin on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, @ 5:30 pm. If you, or anyone you know, is grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider joining us as we learn how to navigate life and gain some tools to continue our journey and support one another in Christian love. It is suggested that you go through all 13 sessions at least twice as you will learn things you missed the first time.

## **MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**



We will be starting our **Lenten Bible study on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will once again have two sessions from which to choose – **join us at 11am or 6pm**. We will be using the book, **Toward the Cross**, by Taylor Mills. I already have several copies of the book available, and I encourage you to pick one up in my office at your convenience. The daily readings begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. **This study will conclude on April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

## **CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY WORKSHOP**

If you were in worship last Sunday (January 28<sup>th</sup>), you saw a video from our District Superintendent, Rev Loretta Isaiah, advertising an upcoming workshop focused on congregational vitality. Ken Willard is the director of the Congregational Vitality (CV) ministry team in the WV Conference, and he will be leading our time at this workshop which will be on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at Wayside UMC in Vienna. The goal of the CV team is to help congregations reach their maximum vitality! They provide finances, trainings, on-site visits, and other resources to support the work of the local congregation in reaching people in their community with the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ. I hope that at least 5 of us from Calvary will attend and learn from others around the conference to help us better minister to the people in Jackson County.



**The Youth Groups have returned to their Sunday evening meetings. Meetings are 5:30 pm with choir and regular meetings at 6:00 pm**

## **Your Youth Group Leaders**

Younger Youth –	Taran Wolford	532-2317
M&M's -	Ashley Hosaflook	786-0046
High School-	Jimmy Groves	372-8768

## **United Methodist Men**



The February meeting of the UMM will be the Sweetheart Dinner which is scheduled for Feb 9 at Cedar Lakes. Please make plans to attend with your sweetheart.

**United Methodist Women –  
Women in Faith**



The UWF General meeting is February 12 @ 7:00 pm. The program will be presented by the Deborah Miriam circle and the Mary Martha circle will have the refreshments.



The **Deborah Miriam Circle** will meet February 14 at 10:00 am in the church Conference Room. Kathy Marlow will have the program and hostesses are Linda Waybright and Betty French.

The Blood Drive was held Jan 18 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The next one is March 21. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the drive, please let Kathy Marlow or Lora Sturm know.

The **Mary Martha Circle** will meet Feb 11 at 2pm. at the home of Pam Braden.

The **Discovery Circle** will be meeting Feb 25 @ 4:30 pm. with hostess Felicia Shockey and program leader Kara Greathouse.

If you are not already a member of a women's circle, you are welcome to join one of these.

**The UWF CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL  
Church Fellowship Hall.**

**10:00 am February 11, 2024**

**Immediately following the 9:00 am service**

**Be sure to check out the goodies  
and get your SPECIAL VALENTINE  
some chocolate.**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**



The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to create beautiful prayer shawls for comfort and hope.

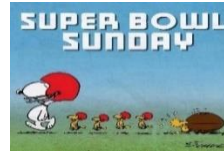
Currently they are working on Prayer Scarves for our graduating seniors to remind them when they are away their home church continues to pray for them. People knit/crochet shawls and lap robes for many reasons, to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. 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.

**Prayers and Squares Ministry**

The Prayers and Squares group meets 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.



**Super Bowl Sunday  
Watch Gathering**



The Voyager Sunday School class invites our church family to a Super Bowl Gathering/maybe watch for some, on Sunday, February 11, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a finger food to share. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

**CUMC MISSION TEAM  
MISSION MOMENT**

Wear green and bring green!!!

Mission Auction has been rescheduled to March 17th !! We are looking for items to auction. My first item donated has been a stained glass item (you will find out from whom later but I was delighted!!). Items we are looking for-craft items of any kind, food items (these always go well), products that maybe you use in your business (hair products, office products basket, etc.-just giving ideas.) Maybe your SS class would like to do a gift basket of some kind-(movie basket, spa basket, recipe basket with items to make that item, etc). Please let any member of the Mission Team know. If you can write it down with your name attached it would help us to get them listed in the bulletin. We were able to make a \$2,000 donation to the Nicaragua Clinic in the past couple of weeks. They need a little extra due to the increased cost of medicines and equipment. I will try to have a short video soon to show at church of what is going on there. Please keep them in your prayers. We do have some other things coming up that we will let you know about soon.

Please feel free to join in on any of those that you have a passion for. Thank you, Calvary, for all that you do.

Your Mission Team

**COAT DRIVE**

Yes, you read that right! Just a thought...we plan to have our coat drive and giveaway again this fall – probably in October. However, if you keep your eyes open the stores will be having some very good sales on winter coats over the next month or two. This would be a great time to buy a coat or three and store them in a closet somewhere and bring them in the fall.



### Food Pantry Ministry Annual Statistics

	2020	2021	2022
# HH	2,987	1,858	1,878
# Individuals	9,179	5,514	5,673
Total lbs.	124,344	71,195	63,069

#### 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
Corn Bread Mix	Canned Meat
Spaghetti Sauce	Spam
Spaghetti	Treet
Elbow Macaroni	Tuna
Soups	Chicken

#### Food Pick Up Schedule for February

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Senior High Class
9 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Smith
16 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Waybright
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dallas Skeen

#### Food Pantry Ministry January

During January we worked clearing out some of our inventory. We almost had more food in inventory than we had room for. This was from an abundance of donations over the Christmas season and over buying for Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions.

Still, we brought in 4,206 pounds, 3,350 lbs. were donated and 856 lbs. were purchased. The donated pounds included 1,792 lbs. from USDA, 828 lbs. Walmart, and 489 lbs. Kroger. The 856 lbs. purchased was from Mountaineer Food Bank to purchase primarily shelf stable milk. We like to provide shelf stable milk in each food box at every distribution.

For the month we served 172 households or 456 individuals.

Month	Households	Individuals
June	146	396
July	127	320
August	174	496
September	189	535
October	216	628
November	275	841
December	251	661
January	172	456

.....Mike Wilt

### FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

On Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we recognized the people who serve in our food pantry ministry. In the church we often do not say “thank you” often enough. This group of folks work diligently to make the food pantry ministry a rousing success and we wanted to make sure we said thank you. Here is a list of those who served in some capacity in 2023 and some of the statistics of that ministry.

#### FOR 2023

Served 2,076 households – the average was 173 households per month

Served 6,023 individuals – the average was 502 per month

We purchased 62,536 pounds of food – about 5,211 pounds per month

The food we distribute comes from various sources.

In 2023, our food came from:

Donations from Facing Hunger (USDA Commodities)	27%
Purchased from Mountaineer Foodbank	25%
Purchased from Kroger and Walmart	22%
Donations from Kroger and Walmart	18%
Other donations – Churches, community, drives, etc.	8%

As you can see, about 53% of the food we distribute comes from donated food and we purchase 47% of the food to distribute.

#### *Food Pantry Staff:*

<i>Kay Carmean</i>	<i>Bob Poole</i>
<i>Shirley Catalano</i>	<i>Patty Rogers</i>
<i>Pattie Davis</i>	<i>Steve Sisson</i>
<i>Clarita Fisher</i>	<i>Debbie Sisson</i>
<i>Paul Francis</i>	<i>Dallas Skeen</i>
<i>Patrick Francis</i>	<i>Patty Smith</i>
<i>Andrew Francis</i>	<i>Jim Templin</i>
<i>Jacob Francis</i>	<i>Bryan Thompson</i>
<i>Scott Greathouse</i>	<i>Gayle Thompson</i>
<i>Kara Greathouse</i>	<i>E J Ulland</i>
<i>Keller Greathouse</i>	<i>Greg Varney</i>
<i>Victor Greathouse</i>	<i>Dallas Wallen</i>
<i>Scarlett Greathouse</i>	<i>Derek Wallen</i>
<i>Gary Higginbotham</i>	<i>Connie Waybright</i>
<i>Bill Hosaflook</i>	<i>Mike Wilt</i>
<i>Susan Hosaflook</i>	<i>Sharon Wilt</i>
<i>Mike Keller</i>	
<i>Diane Knopp</i>	
<i>Terry Landis</i>	
<i>Kathy Marlow</i>	
<i>Middle School Youth</i>	
<i>Faye Milhoan</i>	
<i>Betty Nuzum</i>	
<i>Ralph Parsons</i>	

## Wee Read & Feed



We have been very blessed. Thank you so much to the anonymous person or persons making the wonderful donation to our mission.

We greatly appreciate you and your donation.

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

## MEETING WITH THE WV CONFERENCE DELEGATION TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

As you are probably aware, the United Methodist General Conference will convene on April 23, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. Each Annual Conference and members of the Central Conference sends a representative number of people as voting delegates and as a body they make decisions that affect the entire denomination. The WV Conference delegation will make themselves available at regional gatherings that will include a time of prayer, reflection, information regarding legislation, and a time to talk with one another. They will be at Bridgeport UMC on March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm. They will also gather in Beckley at 10am on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Charleston at 2pm on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the location to be determined.

### 2\*1\*1

Do you ever encounter someone in need? Like, in need of help to pay a utility bill, need food, need to talk to someone about substance abuse, someone looking for a job, etc., really most any need? Almost all of us do at some point and usually we struggle with knowing what to do, where to send them, or how to help. The United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley has worked in partnership with 211 to make a “one call” resource available. If a person calls 211, or visits 211 ORG, or texts their zip code to 898-211, the operator will get information about their specific need and be able to connect them with local programs that address that need. They are friendly and non-judgmental – they just want to get the person in need connected to someone who may be able to help. I will have some handouts available soon, but if you encounter a person in need, and you cannot help them yourself, please make sure they know about this resource.



## WINTER WEATHER WORSHIP

As we are heading into the winter season, I wanted to remind you of my inclement weather worship policy. In the event that our area is affected by inclement winter weather on a Sunday morning (and it seems like for some reason it happens on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings!), I will still be at the church and the church will be open and we will worship with whoever shows up! If Jeremy or a couple of others make it on those days, we will still livestream the service. The only time that worship in the sanctuary will be cancelled is if the governor (or other official) has declared a state of emergency and/or closed the roads.

However, with that said, just because we have the church open does not mean that you should attempt to join us in person. Each of you will have to decide if you can safely make it to the church and back home. I cannot even guarantee that the parking lot or sidewalks will have the snow/ice removed. Please do not take unnecessary risks; I am sure the Lord understands.

I will try to post on Facebook and send emails with any up-to-the-minute details so you can make an informed decision.

Grace and peace, Pastor Steve

## DINNER CLUB

We have a group of folks who share a meal about once a week because we don't like eating alone or trying to cook for one person. If that applies to you, please consider joining us! Just contact Pastor Steve.



Meet me at The Grind – it isn't just about the coffee! If you have the opportunity, stop in and say hi and chat over a cup of your favorite coffee or any of their many options (and maybe a cookie or scone as well). If the hours I am normally there do not fit in your schedule, just send me a text at 681-368-4040 with a time that better suits you and I will see what I can do to accommodate your schedule. I am usually there on Tuesday mornings from 7:30am – 8:30am, Thursday mornings 9:00am – 10:00am, and often on Saturdays as well. But watch for my weekly updates via email or Facebook to get the days and times for that specific week.

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

Why does Easter fall on a different day each year and how is it determined? Let's start with the easiest part to answer - Easter is always on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the spring equinox. Therefore, this year, the spring equinox (the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere) is on March 19<sup>th</sup> (usually March 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>). The next full moon is March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thus, Easter is on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. For 2025, Easter will fall on April 20<sup>th</sup>! The earliest it can be is March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the latest is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

But why this calculation? Scholars, theologians, and officials knew that the resurrection occurred on a Sunday during Passover. But the dates for the 7-day Passover celebration change each year, as well. The dates for Passover are calculated with the help of the Hebrew calendar and are also based on the lunar cycle. Passover is the Jewish observance of the freeing of the Israelites from captivity in Egypt - remember Moses and the plagues? When God spared the

Hebrew people from the last plague, the killing of the first-born males, it is said that God "passed over" their homes. Passover always begins in the middle of the month of Nisan when the moon is full. So, Passover and Easter are often very near each other. However, with leap years and other variables, they can be farther apart as they are in 2024; Passover begins on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Then, those early officials had to decide what was most important for the date of Easter - a fixed date or that it be celebrated on a Sunday. By the fourth century, it was decided that it should always be on a Sunday, so the first Sunday after the first full moon.

### **Habits of the Household**

#### **5 Session Study**



**On Sunday, February 4,** the Voyager Sunday School class will begin a 5 session study on Habits of the Household by Justin

Early. If the following is of interest to you, please join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Voyager Sunday School Class located in the fellowship hall.

We all want to share meaningful, God-honoring moments with our families, but our hectic lives make that difficult! In this practical 5-session study, award-winning author Justin Earley shows how you can create daily habits around everyday routines-from mealtimes to bedtimes-and change your family's spiritual rhythms to release a sense of peace and purpose in your home.

Each participant is encouraged to purchase the book and have it available for notes, etc. Each session includes the viewing of a DVD and following a lesson plan taken from the Study Guide.



**The UMM Annual Sweetheart Dinner will be held at Cedar Lakes on February 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm.**

**The cost is \$20.00 per person. See Dallas Wallen for tickets. Widows are considered guests of the UMM and if you need a ride, please let Dallas Wallen know. Child care at the church can be provided if needed. Get your tickets now.**



Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is trying to make arrangements to clean the church if the custodian is unable to do so (recently, our custodian was ill and

unable to be at the church after Thursday - fortunately, she had the church in good shape from working earlier in the week). But that situation made us realize that she may need a week of vacation, or she could get ill or have a family emergency or whatever and be unable to clean for an entire week. If that happens, we need to be ready to take care of at least the basic needs like cleaning and stocking the bathrooms, cleaning the sanctuary, and the hallways, taking out trash, etc. Would you be willing to be part of a group of people on a list who could be called - maybe last minute - to come and help clean the church in the event of an emergency? If we have several people to help it will not be much of a burden nor will it take very long. But we need to get that organized now, before the need arises. If you are willing to help, please let Linda Dickirson (chair of the SPRC) know, or let Kathy know in the church office. I thank you in advance.

**DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?**  
In the words of Pope Francis



- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

**2025 TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND**

As I have mentioned, and stating the obvious, the trip I had planned to the Holy Land that was to depart on January 30, 2024, has been postponed. I do have a new trip organized with the departure date of January 28, 2025. In many ways, the Middle East area is getting even more volatile instead of less so. We should be in constant prayer for all involved. No one can know with any certainty what the next 12 months will look like for that region (well, anywhere for that matter). However, if it is safe to travel, I will be taking a group in 2025, and it is the same itinerary that we had scheduled for 2024. You can access my new brochure by clicking on this link: [HL25\\_012825B\\_50243\\_Hamrick FINAL.pdf \(travelwithus.com\)](https://travelwithus.com/HL25_012825B_50243_Hamrick_FINAL.pdf).

You can also access my new website by clicking here: [Educational Opportunities Tours / Tours · Journey Through the Bible with Rev. Steve Hamrick | Jan. 28, 2025 \(travelwithus.com\)](https://travelwithus.com/Educational-Opportunities-Tours-Tours-Journey-Through-the-Bible-with-Rev.-Steve-Hamrick-Jan.-28.-2025).

I will provide more information over the next several months. You can register now or wait a few months to see what transpires (there are graduated discounts for earlier registration). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

**Church Conference booklet**



Don't forget to get a copy of our 2023 Church Conference booklet. There is a lot of good information in here including ministry reports, the 2024 church budget, the officers on each committee, the pastor's salary, and more. There are copies at each entrance to the sanctuary and in the church office. We will make more if needed!

## STATISTICAL REPORT

One of the many roles and duties of a pastor in the UM Church, and one of the areas of my ordination, is to Order—order the life of the church. This area includes administrative obligations. Of course, the annual Charge Conference is a big responsibility each year. But one thing that you may not have even known about is that we must file a statistical report each year. The stats report includes everything from changes in membership to the number of baptisms to worship attendance and financial information about giving and spending. This report is used by the conference statistician (Jamion Wolford) to compile information from across the conference to help the UM Church in WV evaluate our progress in ministry as a whole and it is used to calculate our Fair Share apportionments. It is also an opportunity for the local church to recognize strengths and weaknesses and identify trends and respond in appropriate ways. That can often get lost when we are necessarily focused on our immediate day to day ministry opportunities and obligations. I want to share with you a few highlights from the 2023 stats report.

- We celebrated 11 baptisms in 2023 (zero in 2022).
- Seven young people completed confirmation classes.
- We received 12 new members through profession of faith and 4 new members by transfer. Two members withdrew and we celebrated the life of 3 saints who passed away.
- Our total membership increased from 532 to 544.
- Our average weekly worship attendance increased from 154 per week in 2022 to 168 per week in 2023.
- The average weekly Sunday school attendance increased from 97 to 102.
- We offer 12 Sunday school classes and 10 other small group opportunities.
- We have 11 different active community outreach ministries and served at least 7,900 people.
- We paid down our mortgage from \$399,997 at the end of 2022 to \$288,144 at the end of 2023..
- While the total amount of giving did decrease almost 10%, we still received more in donations that we had in expenses – including spending over \$20,000 on a new HVAC unit.

We remain very strong financially and very blessed because of your faithfulness in giving.

As you can see, it was a very good year of ministry at Calvary. We have much to be thankful for and we are reaching the community with the love of Jesus. Obviously, there have been challenges and we did see a number of people decide that they no longer wanted to remain United Methodist and have since found a new church family. We wish them well and trust that they will continue to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

So, what is in store for Calvary in 2024? Only God knows for sure. But let us all commit to loving God and loving our neighbors, to remain a faithful disciple of Jesus, to be in ministry in the church and in the community, to be diligent in seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, and fulfill the vow we took when we became a member of the church to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.



## Attendance for January 2024

			9:00	11:00	Sunday School
Jan	7	Worship	134	16	94
Jan	14	Worship	86	32	86
Jan	21	Worship	92	10	88
Jan	28	Worship	152	23	98

### Tithes and Offerings

<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>\$319,653.00</b>
<b>Needed Each Week</b>	<b>\$6,147.17</b>
<b>Rec. Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$ 15,814.59</b>



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

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

### ONLINE GIVING

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



**February 2024  
Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1— Robbie Boggess, Arin Shatto, Kerynn Sovic
- 2—Bennett Phillips
- 3—Kay Carmean, Rex Geyer
- 4—Stan Nuzum
- 5—Susan Groves Albright, Peter Sisson, Ezra Sisson
- 6—Mason Isaiah Hill
- 7—Jenny Parsons
- 8—
- 9—Everlee Waybright
- 10—
- 11—Tressie Sturm, Alexandra McGrew
- 12—Nicholas Ellison, Trevor Tucker, Timothy Reed
- 13—Fred Hopkins
- 14—Adelyn Groves
- 15—Samantha Hatcher
- 16—
- 17—
- 18—
- 19—Kim Carmean
- 20—Dwayne Merritt
- 21—Alisa Bryant, Brandon Lee
- 22—Scarlett & Victor Greathouse
- 23—
- 24—Dorsel Ray Adkins II, Morgan Chappel
- 25—Ashley Hosaflook, Kasey Waybright, Russell Shockey
- 26—Carter Bryant
- 27—Vince Toler, Jada Mae Crosier
- 28—



**Anniversaries**


- 5—Casey & Jamisa Bennett
- 14---Kenny & Beth Swisher
- 22—Doug & Shannon McGrew
- 27—Jeff & Shelly Cox



**Schedules For Our Church Volunteers  
February 2024**

**Worship Leader – Jeff Isner  
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 &amp; Streaming</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
<b>Feb 4</b>	Megan Geyer & Riley Shockey	Korie Hersman & Katelyn Fish		<b>9:00 am</b> Autumn Hopkins <b>11:00 am</b> Jessie Thompson	<b>Sound –</b> Steve Sisson <b>Live Streaming–</b> Matt Hicks	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Linda Dickirson <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Natalie or Joel Holcomb
<b>Feb 11</b>	Carla Brown & Adelyn Groves	Cohen Isner & Ryan Shockey		<b>9:00 am</b> Autumn Hopkins <b>11:00 am</b> Bev Hopkins	<b>Sound –</b> Jeremy Rhodes <b>Live Streaming–</b> Jeremy Rhodes	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Linda Dickirson <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Natalie or Joel Holcomb
<b>Feb 18</b>	Cinda Francis & Ellie Hosaflook (Ashley Hosaflook)	Alaina Hicks & Harper Patterson		<b>9:00 am</b> Autumn Hopkins <b>11:00 am</b> Jessie Thompson	<b>Sound –</b> Nancy Smith <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Linda Dickirson <b>11:00 am</b> Natalie or Joel Holcomb
<b>Feb 25</b>	Janet Hall & Sophie Lee	Eliza Reed & Ashlyn Wolford		<b>9:00 am</b> Autumn Hopkins <b>11:00 am</b> Bev Hopkins	<b>Sound –</b> Trevor Cummings <b>Live Streaming–</b> Stephanie Dewees	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Linda Dickirson <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Natalie or Joel Holcomb
						

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: 9:00 am Autumn Hopkins  
11:00 am Natalie Holcomb



**FEBRUARY**

**2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 	3 7:00 a Gideons Hicks Hall Booked all day
4 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Evans Eagles 4-H 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Meetings	5 	6 9:30 a Tai Chi 5:30 p Grief Share 6-8:00 p Scouts	7 1-3:00 p Prayers & Squares 7:00 p Choir Practice	8 9-11:00 a Food Pantry	9 6:30 p Sweetheart Dinner – Cedar Lakes 	10 7:00 a Gideons
11 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship Baby Recognition & Chocolate Fest 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 2:00 p Mary Martha 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p No Youth Choir 6:00 p No Youth Meetings 6:00 p Voyagers Super Bowl Watch	12 7:00 p UWF General Meeting	13 9:30 a Tai Chi 5:30 p Grief Share Shrove Tuesday	14 Valentines Day 10:00 a Deborah Miriam 6:30 p Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p Choir Practice 	15 5:30- 6 p RFL Conf Rm 6:30 p Horse Conf Rm	16 	17 7:00 a Gideons 2-4:00 p Hicks Hall Booked
18 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 5:30 p Youth Choir 6:00 p Youth Meetings	19 Presidents Day 	20 9:30 a Tai Chi 5:30 p Grief Share 6-8:00 p Scouts	21 1-3:00 p Prayers & Squares 11:00 a & 6:00 p Bible Study-Lent 7:00 p Choir Practice	22 9-11:00 a Food Pantry	23 	24 7:00 a Gideons All Day Hicks Hall Booked
25 9:00&11:00 a Morning Worship 9:00 a Live Streaming Service Chili/Soup/ Stew Cook Off 10:00 a Sunday School All Ages 4:00 p Bell Choir Practice 4:30 p Discovery Circle 6:00 p Youth Song & Praise	26 	27 9:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 p Grief Share	28 11:00 a Bible Study 6:00 p Bible Study 7:00 p Choir Practice	29 		
<p><b>Younger Youth and M&amp;M's Youth Groups Sunday Evening at 5:30 PM choir 6:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>Your Youth Group Leaders</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</p>		<p><b>Church Office Open- Monday thru Friday-9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Sunday Services</b>  <b>Traditional/Live Streaming Service 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Sunday School 10:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Contemporary Service 11:00 a.m.</b></p>				<p><b>Worship Leaders:</b>            9:00 am Jeff Isner            11:00 am Natalie Holcomb</p>