



Lighting of the Advent Wreath photo by John Mitchell

Weekly Preview

December 5, 2016

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Christmas Is an Inviting Time

The weeks in December are a wonderful time to invite friends, neighbors, coworkers and family to come and visit the church. The building is decorated in a festive way, the music is particularly special, there is a sense of anticipation and excitement among the people here—everything makes this a wonderful time for guests to see us at our best. Even more important, this is the time when we hear the news that God is coming into our world not just as a baby many years ago, but into our lives today.

Research shows that most people are willing to consider coming to a worship service if they are invited by someone they know. You could be that someone. Seems to me we have something wonderful to offer every Sunday morning. There is no reason to keep it to ourselves.

In addition to the regular Sunday morning worship services, there are also the services on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24.

December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Service

Worship oriented to families with young children. Carols, Scripture and a story for the children. Story- "Michael Mouse". We will enjoy special music from the children's choirs, Genesis and Sunshine Choirs

7:00 p.m. A Christmas Service of Scripture and Song

A service based around the carol: "What Child Is This?" and ending in Candlelight. Music from youth choir, Voices of Praise

9:00 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight and Communion Service

Sermon: Christmas Presence. Worship ending in Candlelight. Gospel and Cathedral Choirs

December 25 One Service at Calvary UMC at 11:00 AM

Creche Service with the Rev. Harry C. Cole

Here is a prayer you might use as we move through this season of Advent:

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spend and the day is at and. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Church of Scotland as found in The United Methodist Book of Worship, 1992)

See you in church,

Rev. Steve

Sermon

Not able to attend church last Sunday? No worries. Click here to listen to the sermon: [SERMON December 4](#)

Sermon Series: Great Expectations

Christmas and the weeks leading up to it comes with lots of expectations. There are so many we do, both willingly and not so willingly, to get ready for yet another December 25th. How might we find a way for God to speak a message of hope and be born in us today?

December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 1:18-25

"Are We There Yet?"

Rev. Steve Larsen is preaching

We desire that perfect Christmas, when everyone is happy (enough) and well cared for. But try as we might, each year we seem to come up short. The story of Jesus and the disciples of John the Baptist calls us to focus on God and the "one who is to come".

GROW

Current Bible Studies

Calvary Campus

Pastor's Bible Study- Tuesday at 10:00 in the Library

Joyce Dixon's Bible Study—1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

Centennial Campus

Deacon Julie's Bible Study Saturday's at 2:30 p.m.

LEAD

Weekly:

Puppeteering

[CLICK HERE](#)

Acolyte Coordinator office@calvaryumc.org

Acolyte (NEW) [CLICK HERE](#)

Lay Reader [CLICK HERE](#)

Usher office@calvaryumc.org

Greeter office@calvaryumc.org

Office Volunteer amyaguilar@calvaryumc.org

Nursery Volunteer cindywilson@calvaryumc.org

2nd Adult at Children's Church [CLICK HERE](#)

2nd Adult at VOP [CLICK HERE](#)

Children's Sermon [CLICK HERE](#)

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 5

7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership

Tuesday, December 6

9:30 a.m. Joyce Dixon's Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

12:30 p.m. UMW Executive Meeting

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Joyful Noise

2nd Street and Hope Board

7:30 p.m. Gospel Choir

Wednesday, December 7

1:30-7:30pm **BLOOD DRIVE**

5:00 p.m. Community Meal at Centennial

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thursday, December 8

6:30 p.m. Guitar Ensemble

7:15 p.m. Cathedral Choir

Friday, December 9

5:30 p.m. Kris Kringle Procession

Saturday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Bake a Batch

10:00 a.m. Church and Society

4:00 p.m. Community Meal at Centennial

5:15 p.m. Contemporary Service at Centennial

Next Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant

10:30 a.m. Worship at Centennial

11:00 a.m. Worship at Calvary

12:30 p.m. Bells for Jesus

Genesis Choir

1:00 p.m. Sonshine Choir

4:30 p.m. Voices of Praise

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

SERVE

Outreach Opportunities

- 2nd Street and Hope (1X per month on Wednesday) [CLICK HERE](#)
- Calvary at the Soup Kitchen (6 x per year) **Rescue Mission Meal** (1st Monday of Month)
- **Wheelbarrow Sunday**: 1st Sunday of the month bring your canned food items
- **The Lord's Laundry** [CLICK HERE to email](#)

Contact the Church Office at office@calvaryumc.org or 301-662-1464 to learn more about these great opportunities at church and in the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tour of Churches Help Needed! We need volunteers to make soup from 8 am to 12pm and then to serve and make cookies from 4 pm to 9 pm on December 26th. Additionally, we need greeters from 4-9 pm. Sign up in 1 hour increments or volunteer for more time if you wish. This is a great opportunity to showcase our church and our amazing congregation! Sign-up sheet is located at the welcome center or speak to Kay Jacobs for more information.

Advent by Candlelight- December 17th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Consider hoisting a table and inviting your friends, family co-workers or neighbors to see the Gift that lasts for eternity. Sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall. *Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. Beautiful decorations and fellowship provide a delightful atmosphere for the ladies to enjoy music, a worship service and devotions by candlelight*

Kris Kringle Procession www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4FAAA72FA75-kris

We invite all families and church members to join us at 5:30 p.m. for the pageant line-up near Everedy Square in Frederick. (Exact location will be shared about week prior) Our theme will be "The First Christmas". We will be pulling a giant Nativity Scene on wheels and singing Christmas Carols! Holiday singers and choir members are especially needed, along with children and their families to complete our nativity scene! Costumes for children will be provided when you arrive at the parade line-up. As the procession finishes up at Baker Park, you are invited back to the Parish Hall for refreshments. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa72fa75-kris>

Gale House Toiletries Needed [Last week to Drop off Gale House Toiletries](#)

As part of the United Methodist Women's ministry to the Gale House, we provide shower caddies filled with toiletries to each lady as they become a resident of the house. These caddies are filled with toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, lotion, combs, brushes, body wash, cologne, nail kits, and other assorted toiletries and personal care items. Donations of any of these items can be placed in the gold box located near the Angel Tree. The travel size bottles you collect from hotels during vacation and work trips are always welcomed as well.

Blood Drive! The American Red Cross is holding its annual **Holiday Blood Drive** at Calvary UMC on Wednesday, December 7th from 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall.

At this time of year, it's a free gift that takes 1-2 hours of your time, can help save up to 3 people, and also helps replenish an extremely low blood supply! If you're 16 or older and in good health, you're likely eligible to donate. Why not consider giving, or inviting a friend to donate? To sign up, call or text Eric Anderson before the event at 240.506.5759, or connect via email at eanderson@asbury.org

Calvary Prints and Ornaments: Once again, Family Life is making Calvary ornaments and prints available for purchase. These make great Christmas gifts. There is a table set up in the Parish Hall with all of these items. Your free will donation will benefit the scholarship fund. For an additional \$35, Jim Mackley, the artist of the pen and ink drawing, will colorize it for you.

Advent Mural Project: Coloring posters for our Advent Mural Project are here and can be found in Parish Hall during coffee time and Sunday school. If your group wishes to take one of the five posters to complete and add to the finished mural on 12/17, please let Christy Mossburg know.

Parenting Christian Kids: Have you checked out the ARTICLE section on our webpage? We just uploaded a new edition of the Parenting Christian Kids newsletter. Click [HERE](#) to read it!

Breakfast with Saint Nick December 17, 8am—11am Calvary Youth are hosting this great event for Calvary families and friends. There is no cost, but free will offerings will be received. After eating breakfast, there will be a Secret Santa Shop where your child will be escorted by one of our youth helpers to pick out special gifts for the special people in their life! The youth will then wrap and tag the gifts for the children so they are ready to place under the tree. The children love to shop for their family members and surprise them with gifts they pick out on their own.

Opportunities to GROW:

Pastor's Bible Study Led by Pastor Steve on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Library. They are studying 2 Corinthians. All are welcome!

Joyce Dixon's Bible Study This bible study meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. They are studying the Overview of the New Testament. All are welcome to attend.

BAKE A BATCH Attention All Bakers!!!!

It is almost that wonderful time of the year!



We need cookies for the annual Bake-a-Batch fundraiser for Jen Esler. Jen is a Calvary member and served as the Nursery Director before being diagnosed with a brain tumor years ago. Following surgery, she has had extensive rehabilitation to improve her quality of life. Proceeds from bake a batch serve to help Jen in her rehab and to remind her that she is not forgotten by her Calvary family.

All cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen on Friday, December 9th or on Saturday, December 10th **BY 9:30 a.m.!!** Pageant rehearsal is this same morning, so why not bake a batch of cookies and bring them along as you bring your children for rehearsal??

Trays will be assembled Saturday morning in the Education Building. Activity room and available for sale on Sunday, December 11th before and after the 8:30 a.m. service. Baking cookies is a great activity to do with your children or grandchildren and for a great cause!!! Any questions, please contact Julie Schwarzenberg at 301-631-8088

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal All Ages

Saturday, December 10: – 5th Grade, 10:00 a.m. – Noon Your Sunday School teachers will meet your children in their regular Sunday School classrooms to put on costumes at 10:00. We will walk over to the Parish Hall to practice our pageant, and return to classrooms at noon for parent pick-up. Preschoolers – 1st graders will only need to stay from 10:00 – 11:00.

Children's Christmas Pageant , Sunday, December 11: , 10:00 – 10:40 a.m. in the Parish Hall

We are excited to share in the joy of the season with our Calvary Families! Merry Christmas!

Emergency Family Shelter: Once again our Parish will welcome families over the season of Christmas. The families will be staying in our Education building and will move in on Christmas Eve and stay through Epiphany (January 6th). I am thankful that we are able to provide hospitality which is better than a stable and a manger where a certain other family we talk about at this time of year had to stay! As always, the Religious Coalition will send out invitations to registered volunteers to sign up to help. If you are not already a volunteer but you are interested in helping these families have a merrier Christmas than they would otherwise be able to have, please speak with Deacon Julie so you can fill out the application and be trained as a volunteer. This is a busy time of year for everyone, so extra hands are always welcome.

And even if you don't have time to volunteer in the evenings, you can still help us welcome the families. Perhaps you and your children or grandchildren can write a Christmas card to the families or you can bring a special snack or craft for the families.

In this season of giving, thank you for thinking of these families who currently have no home.