



# Weekly Update

July 21, 2016

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

### A Word on Recent Events

We all were heartbroken to learn of yet another mass shooting. During a peaceful protest on the streets of Dallas, twelve people were wounded and five law enforcement officers killed by a man who used a gun to express his hatred of others. Each time such an incident takes place, we are outraged and appalled and full of sorrow, and yet nothing is done to reduce the chance that such events would happen again.

The problem is much bigger than the headline events like Orlando, Charleston and Sandy Hook. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that on an average day 91 Americans are killed with guns: 7 are children and teens. Nearly two-thirds of firearm deaths are suicides. In an average month, 51 women are shot to death by intimate partners. America's gun murder rate is more than 20 times the average of other developed countries. I know there are no simple answers to the problem of gun violence. However, I have come to the place where I know I need to do something. I find that I can't simply accept the way things currently are.

The first thing I am doing is becoming more informed about the facts. A good place to start is to look at items prepared by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society ([umc-gbcs.org](http://umc-gbcs.org)). In May, the United Methodist General Conference overwhelmingly voted to support [a resolution](#) that is calling on us to end gun violence, suggesting we advocate for universal background checks on all gun purchases and for a ban on large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds. You can find the full resolution at the Board of Church and Society website.

Second, I am committing myself to prayer. Prayer by itself will not be enough, but anything effort *without prayer* will surely fall short.

Third, I can express my concern and my desire to see meaningful change take place at the state and federal level. And in the meantime, I will make every effort to show concern and empathy towards others, especially those that are different from myself. Jesus calls us to show love, not just when it is easy, but also when it is difficult and costly and even when that love may not seem to make a difference.

I would be happy to know of others who would like to look in this matter more deeply and begin to work for some positive change.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Steve*

## Things to pray for this week:

- The two new United Methodist Bishops elected in the Northeast Jurisdiction: the Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi from the Baltimore Washington Conference and the Rev LaTrelle Miller Easterling from the New England Conference. The bishop that will be serving the Baltimore-Washington Conference beginning September 1 will be Bishop Easterling. You can learn more about our new bishop at <http://bwcumc.org/bishop-easterling-assigned-to-bwc/>
- Please keep our VIM team in your prayers as they travel to Vieques, Puerto Rico. They left at 4 a.m. this morning to travel. They will be doing construction projects at two churches.

## Sermon

Not able to attend church last Sunday? No worries. Click here to listen to the sermon:

<http://calvaryumc.org/resources/sermons/>

Next Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> we begin our sermon series:

### Getting to Know the God Who Loves You

July 24<sup>th</sup>

**God Offers Guidance- The Story of Joseph**

**Genesis 37:1-11**

In Joseph's story, we find that God has a plan for each of us and that God never gives up on accomplishing the best for us. God gives us dreams. God guides us forward to the fruition of those dreams. And God even works with us in nightmare situations to show that the dream still will come true.



July 31<sup>st</sup>

**God of the Second Chance- the Story of Samson**

**Judges 16:23-30**

*Samson's story helps us to see that God never gives up on us, no matter what others may believe about us or even what we believe about ourselves. God sets us free from all that holds us back and gives us a second chance.*

## The Week Ahead

**Monday, July 18**

7 p.m. - Education Ministry

**Tuesday, July 19**

12 p.m. - Staff Meeting

7 p.m. - VIM Meeting

**Wednesday, July 20**

5:30 p.m. - Youth at 2<sup>nd</sup> St. & Hope

6 p.m. - Community Meal at Centennial

7 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery

**Thursday, July 21**

4 a.m. - VIM to Vieques

**Friday, July 22**

**Saturday, July 23**

4 p.m. - Meal at Centennial Campus

5 p.m. - Saturday Worship at Centennial Campus

**Sunday, July 24**

9 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

9:50 a.m. - Hymn Sing

10 a.m. - Worship at Calvary Campus

10:30 a.m. - Worship at Centennial Campus

## GROW

**Bible Studies**

**Calvary Campus**

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

**Women's Bible Study:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 7 pm.

**Centennial Campus**

Women's Bible Study @6:30 pm in the parlor- contact Jen Diatz @240-620-3033

Men's Credo Meeting 6:30-9:00 in the Sanctuary. Jude Hoffman 304-279-0112

## LEAD

### Weekly:

Puppeteering	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Acolyte Coordinator	<a href="mailto:office@calvaryumc.org">office@calvaryumc.org</a>
Lay Reader	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Usher	<a href="mailto:office@calvaryumc.org">office@calvaryumc.org</a>
Greeter	<a href="mailto:office@calvaryumc.org">office@calvaryumc.org</a>
Office Volunteer	<a href="mailto:amyaguilar@calvaryumc.org">amyaguilar@calvaryumc.org</a>
Nursery Volunteer	<a href="mailto:cindywilson@calvaryumc.org">cindywilson@calvaryumc.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Adult at Sunday School	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Kids for Christ	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>

## SERVE

### Outreach Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Hope (1X per month on Wednesday) [CLICK HERE](#)
- Calvary at the Soup Kitchen (6 x per year)  
Next: **August 27<sup>th</sup>** – Sign up on Bulletin Board in Parish Hall
- **Rescue Mission Meal** (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month)
- **Wheelbarrow Sunday:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:office@calvaryumc.org) or 301-662-1464 to learn more about these great opportunities in the community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Blood Drive on Wednesday, July 27** from 1:30 to 7:30. Contact Eric Anderson to [make your appointment](#) to donate. 301-898-5241 .

**Calvary – Centennial T-shirts are in.** Click [HERE](#) to view the design. Click [HERE](#) to volunteer to sell t-shirts.

**School Supply Drive:** Follow this link for details <http://calvaryumc.org/publications/>

**Women's Retreat:** Reserve your space for the Sweet Life Café. September 16-18. [CLICK HERE](#) to register today!

**Altar Flower Sponsorship:** Dates available are August 7 and August 21. Email Amy at [CLICK HERE](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our church picnic will be on Saturday, August 20 in Baker Park from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up .

## Opportunities to GROW: Coming to Calvary This Fall



**New this fall! *Kids for Christ*** will be held on Sunday evenings (beginning on September 11th) from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Activities Room of the Education Building. *Kids for Christ* is for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children will enjoy fellowship, games, short video lessons, and other fun activities as they learn more about the AMAZING love of Jesus.

In order to be Safe Sanctuaries compliant, a second adult will need to be present during the hour. Please sign up at <http://goo.gl/R4EOWv> if you are willing to volunteer as the second adult. For more information, please contact Jen Pond ([jenpond@gmail.com](mailto:jenpond@gmail.com))

## COVENANT BIBLE STUDY



Join us for Calvary's first Covenant Bible Study. Covenant is an in-depth group Bible Study in which participants read and discuss the Bible and learn how to love God - and each other - better. It includes daily email readings or a mobile app, in addition to the traditional study guide. Spiritual formation meets Bible Study with a modern twist.

Separated into 3, 8-week segments, each class is 90-minutes long. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 7.

The first 8-week session will run through October 26. Choose from a morning session (9:30-11:00 am) OR an evening session (7:00-8:30 pm) Learn what the Bible says and how it applies to your life and relationships TODAY. For more information visit their website at [www.CovenantBiblestudy.com](http://www.CovenantBiblestudy.com) . To register click [HERE](#). For more information, contact the church office.