

The Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY UMC

JANUARY OF 2023

The Grace of Baptism in Our United Methodist Connection

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." – 1 Cor. 3:6

My father and mother moved to Greeneville, TN in January of 1976. My father had accepted the position of Director of Music and Youth at Asbury United Methodist Church. My mother was VERY pregnant with me at the time, and a few weeks later, on February 15, 1976 (a date that will live in infamy) I was born. Not long after that – perhaps March or April – I was baptized into the Church. Unable to speak for myself, my parents and the people of Asbury Church made a covenant with God: they agreed to raise me to know the grace and love of Jesus Christ until I was able to profess faith for myself. My parents moved from Greenville to Johnson City, TN two years later. My father had accepted another job opportunity at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church as Minister of Music. Munsey Church continued the covenant that Asbury Church took on the day of my baptism. A year or so later, my mother would become the organist at Colonial Heights United Methodist Church. Colonial Heights Church also joined in continuing my baptismal covenant (y'all – it takes a village to raise a pastor).

I have been blessed over the course of my life to be connected to multiple congregations. Each one has loved me into discipleship as I learned to walk with Jesus (and I'm still learning to walk with Jesus). I can remember every sanctuary, and I can name at least one person from



every congregation that made a difference in my life. However, there is one congregation about which I remember nothing: Asbury Church.

I don't remember the day I was baptized. I don't remember the sanctuary of Asbury Church, nor do I remember a single parishioner. Yet, it was Asbury Church and no other that surrounded my parents with love and first loved me, stating on my behalf:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Randy with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Asbury Church loved me and baptized me into the faith. They poured themselves into me that I might become a disciple of Jesus Christ...never knowing if I would.

Asbury Church is a wonderful example of the grace of baptism in our United Methodist Connection: they planted, others watered, and God did the growing. Asbury Church was never able to see me grow up. They didn't witness my profession of faith. They didn't see me stumble, fall away, and come back. Nor did they watch me get married, have children, or take my ordination vows. The seed planted in me by one United Methodist Church in the mountain south, has now pastored United Methodist congregations throughout central Pennsylvania, including my

Table of Contents

Pastor Continues	2
Worship Information	2
Calvary Notes	3
United Women in Faith	4
Giant Gift Cards.....	4
Finance News	4
Offering Envelopes	4
New Member Class	5
Youth Group	5
Young at Heart.....	6
Sewing For A Need	6
From the Office.....	6
Easter Candy	6
Prayer List.....	7

PASTOR CONTINUES

current appointment in the state Capital. I'm certain that the people of Northeastern Tennessee and Central Pennsylvania did not see this outcome. They simply practiced their faith, planting and watering, and God did the rest.

As I close this article, I want to thank all the congregations who have planted and watered me along the way. I would invite you to do the same for those in your prayer life. I give thanks to God for the following congregations: **Asbury UMC – Greeneville, Munsey UMC – Johnson City, Colonial Heights UMC – Kingsport, Gravelly Baptist Church (Mamaw's Church – Kingsport), St. John's Episcopal – Johnson City, Guaranda Drive Baptist – Johnson City, First UMC – Johnson City, The Wesley Foundation – ETSU, Fairview UMC – Jonesborough, Rogersville UMC – Rogersville, Lake Junaluska Singers – Lake Junaluska, Erwin Presbyterian Church – Erwin, Zion UMC – York, Trinity UMC – New Freedom, Paxtonville UMC – Paxtonville, Christ Community UMC – Selingsgrove, and Calvary UMC – Harrisburg.**

Thank-you for surrounding me with a community of love and forgiveness. I am alive in Christ because of your ministry and the grace of God.

With a Heart Strangely Warmed,
Pastor Randy

Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr., *Lead Pastor*
pastor@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Worship At-a-Glance

January 1, 2023
Sacrament of Holy Communion

January 8, 2023
Baptismal Renewal Service

February 5, 2023
Scout Sunday/Holy Communion

February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday

CHURCH NURSERY

Our Church Nursery returned last fall. Nursery care is provided at both the 8:30 AM and 11 AM Worship Services as well as during the Sunday School Hour (9:45-10:45 AM). The Church Nursery is for children birth through Age 4.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS

Bulletins for Children can be found outside the Sanctuary. The bulletins correspond with the Scripture being used in Worship that Week.

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL SERVICE

Sunday, January 8th
Worship at 8:30 and 11 AM

We will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th, by remembering our baptisms. Many of us cannot remember the day we were baptized into the faith. The Reaffirmation of The Baptismal Covenant allows us to remember our baptism with water and thanksgiving.

Additionally, we will take time in worship to bless our church leaders for the 2023 year. We look forward to sharing this meaningful worship experience with you.

WEDNESDAY MORNING DEVOTIONS & PRAYER

A dedicated group of individuals continues to grow in numbers as we pray for the Calvary Church family each week. Anyone who has a heart for lifting others in prayer is welcome to join us as your schedule permits. Weekly at 11:30 AM to 12:00 noon we gather in the church chapel. If you are unable to join us but have a specific prayer request, please contact Dennis Helsel or Linda Hoffman.

CALVARY NOTES

Thank you very much for my care package. It's very nice to be thought of while away at college.

Riley Mansure

Thank you for your turkey donations for our Thanksgiving Food Distribution. We are also now accepting empty egg cartons.

The Cupboard at Calvary

Thanks to everyone at Calvary for your prayers, cards, and phone calls following my recent surgery. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful church family—you are the greatest!

Dyan Yingst

I would like to thank the members of Calvary who sent me beautiful cards for my 95th birthday. It was greatly appreciated.

Jean Thomson

Thank you to all who returned gifts for the Angel Trees. Your loving kindness helped to fill specific needs at our mission sites. Once again, Calvary has shown their generosity in gratitude for God's many blessings.

The Missions Committee

Thank you to all who donated items, decorated, shopped, volunteered, and purchased items at Christmas at Calvary. A total of \$7,869 was the profit for the Calvary General Fund.

Betty Albright

The fall sub sale was very successful. Total profits were just over \$600. Thank you very much for your continued support of our college scholarship fundraising program. Our winter sub sale will begin on Sunday, January 22nd with sub delivery scheduled for Sunday, February 19th.

Laurie Doyle

I wanted to write and thank you all so much for the care package. I really appreciate that you all thought of me. I am so grateful for all the food, candy, and hot drinks that you provided. My favorite so far has been the

hot chocolate, which is getting me in the Christmas Spirit. I hope all is well and I miss the church so much. I am loving Penn State so far and have been exceling in my studies. Thank you so much for everything!

Love, Olivia Byrnes

Thank you to all the "Calvary Chocolatiers" who came out to help make our delectable confections for the Candy Shoppe. Also thanks to everyone who donated goods for preparation. The responses to the call for assistance has, again, been overwhelming. Calvary is truly blessed to have such commitment.

Karen Miller

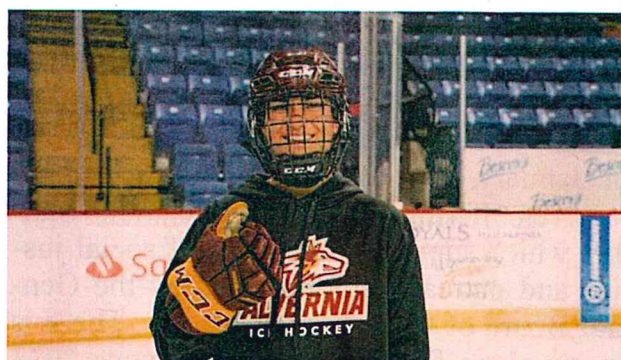
Thank you so much for the care package full of snacks and studying materials. It was truly a lifesaver once I got into my last couple weeks of the semester. I really appreciate your constant support while I am at college.

Julia Franklin

I want to reach out and thank the members of the Scholarship Committee for granting me a scholarship this year. I am currently a biology major and a member of the Alvernia Women's Ice Hockey Team. After college, I am looking to pursue a career in the medical field. The community of Calvary has made all my goals achievable and without all of you, I would not be able to pursue my academic and athletic career in college. Thank you for your support in all my endeavors.

With love,

Julia Franklin



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Thursday, January 19th at 6 PM

The UWF is starting the new year with a **Pot Luck Dinner** on January 19th at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite salad, entree, or dessert for an evening of fellowship, reminiscing, and a presentation of future UWF programs. Mary Alice Dumbauld will introduce a new UWF book club, and Sheila Noss will describe how our organization can participate in community action. Use the sign up sheet near The Square to reserve a seat in Fellowship Hall.

Please fill in the UWF Membership Renewal Application included in the bulletin or found near The Square to make sure your membership information is current and to share your particular interests. Place the forms in the UWF basket.

If you have questions, please contact Sue Weikert at s_weikert@yahoo.com or 717-315-5441.

GIANT GIFT CARDS

Do you shop at Giant for groceries? Consider purchasing a Giant Gift Card for your future purchases. Calvary receives 5% of sales which is applied directly to the Building Fund to pay towards the principal on our mortgage. Gift cards are available for purchase on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month after each worship service. The Finance Committee needs volunteers to assist with sales. Please contact Bill Shook at 717-315-7154 or the Calvary office to help.

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

In January, the United Methodist Church receives offerings for Human Relations Sunday which supports ministries of social justice and outreach administered by the General Board of Church and Society. There is an envelope for this offering in your 2023 envelope box.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Finance Committee reports the following financial information as of November 30, 2022:

Actual YTD as of 11.30.2022

Operating Revenues	\$801,919
Operating Expenses	\$794,476
Net Surplus (Loss)	\$ 7,443

Expected YTD per our budget and historical patterns

Operating Revenues	\$750,806
Operating Expenses	\$786,013
Net Surplus (Loss)	(\$ 35,207)

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Flint, Finance Manager, in the office at finance@calvaryunitedmethodist.org or 717-545-0021 (Monday—Thursday from 8 AM until 3 PM) or Bill Shook, Finance Committee Chairperson at 717-315-7154.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2023 offering envelope boxes are available for pick up in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall through the end of January. After that, please call Nancy Flint in the church office to arrange pick up. Because it is cost-prohibitive, we do not normally mail church offering envelopes.

Please verify your envelope number – by making sure that the envelope number on the label matches the number on the envelopes. If it does not, please contact Nancy in the church office immediately.

We appreciate those who want to deliver another's envelope box to them, but please be sure to notify the person and/or the church office if you are doing so.

Thank you for your assistance which helps us maintain accurate giving records.

THANKS YOUTH GROUP!

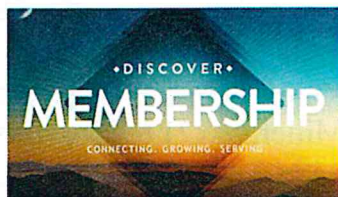
Thank you to the Youth Group and their college friends for the outdoor Advent Candle display. Work on this project began in October. The candles were especially beautiful at night and were seen by many folks to bear witness to the True Meaning of Christmas.

Thank you also to "their technical assistants." Calvary and all those who drove by the church at night were blessed by your work!



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Have you been attending worship at Calvary Church and are considering joining our congregation? Do you have questions about how our congregation operates, our relationship with the United Methodist denomination, and how you can become involved? Would you like to connect with others and form relationships? Pastor Randy will be teaching a 3-week Membership Interest Class starting on Wednesday, January 11th at 6 PM. This class will initially meet in The Square (think coffee makers), and then move to a classroom. The dates for the class are January 11th, 18th, and 25th. If you and/or your family are interested, please call or email the church office to sign up.



YOUTH GROUP

Calvary UMC Youth (Grades 7-12)

For more information or to sign up, contact Kelley Price at 717-545-0021 or youthatcalvaryumc@yahoo.com

Wednesday Night Weekly Youth Group—

Youth Group returns on Wednesday, January 11th from 5:30-7 PM. Meet at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for a free dinner. Then we will head to the Youth Room.



Weather Note: Wednesday Night Youth Group **will not be held** on February 22nd or if the Central Dauphin School District is closed or closes early due to inclement weather.

Cooks Needed: There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway by The Square if you are willing to provide dinner on a Wednesday Night for a group of 7-10 teens and adults.

Friday, March 24th—Sunday, March 26th—Save the date for our 2023 Wesley Forest Retreat.

Week of June 11th—Wesley Forest Mission Trip. We will spend some time at Wesley Forest helping them prepare for Summer Camp as well as have some fun! Details and exact dates will be provided in early 2023. Save the week now!

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

Thank you to the December Newsletter Assembly Crew: Pat Shomper, Becki Porsch, Sue Kaveney, Nancy Shindle, Darlene Yoder, Teri Mathias, Betty Albright, and Gina Albright.



YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

The Young at Heart Club will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 12:30 PM. Dessert will be served followed by a program by Nancy Eshelman. We all remember her wonderful column in The Patriot News. New faces are always welcome! Contact Jackie Wass at 717-230-8034 with any questions.



SEWING FOR A NEED

2022 was another blessed year for "Sewing for a Need." Completed and delivered in 2022:

550 Quilts
23 Afghans
887 Hats, gloves and scarves
114 Dresses
324 Prayer squares
299 Tote bags
78 Prayer shawls/lap robes

A special thank you to Sue Helsel, Diane Cintron, and Becki Porsch for their consistent commitment to see this ministry succeed, thus helping so many.

A few of the groups receiving the above items are: Scott Elementary, Morning Star, Red Bird Mission, Comfort Sewers, Nutri-packs, Middletown Nursing Home, Camp Curtin School, UPMC, Spring Creek Nursing Home, Bethesda Women's Shelter, Evergreen Women's Shelter, Dream Center of Capital Area, and the Latino-Hispanic Center.

If you would like to help this ministry, your donation of material, yarn, elastic, lace, sheets, and pillow cases are welcomed. Items can be placed in the basket located in Calvary's drop zone. If you would like to become active in this process and how you can help "Sewing for a Need," please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you to all who have supported "Sewing for a Need."

~Susan Kaveney

FROM THE OFFICE

The deadline for the January Newsletter is Tuesday, January 10th at 10 AM. Please submit all items to the church office by this date. Items for publishing in multiple months need to be re-submitted to the church office each month. Newsletter items are published in the Bulletin as space permits.

Please make sure all meetings and events are on the master church calendar by emailing the dates and times to the church office. It is also a good idea to check dates with the church office before you schedule your meeting or event. **Even if you have a key, your meeting or event needs to be scheduled on the master church calendar.** Calvary is a busy place! Remember to also provide a copy of all committee minutes to the church office.

Also, please notify the church office if you have moved, updated your phone number, eliminated a land phone line, or changed your email. Thank you!

EASTER CANDY PRODUCTION

Easter Candy production will officially start Thursday, January 5th from 9 AM—1 PM and continue each Thursday, Friday and Saturday through Good Friday. We had overwhelming response to our tasty confections last year and expect this will continue this Easter season. Which means, we need YOUR help! Also, your generosity in donating JIF Peanut Butter is appreciated. We are well on our way to being prepared to meet demand. This project supports the Missions Committee budget.

Any questions, contact Karen Minsker Miller, 717-439-0852.



CALVARY STAFF

Church Office

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Phone (717) 545-0021

Fax (717) 545-0392

Parsonage

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Phone (717) 857-6143

Lead Pastor

Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

Email: pastor@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Associate Pastor

Pastor Deb Port

Email: dport@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Doug Compton

Office Staff

Kelley Price,

Administrative Assistant

Email: office@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Nancy Flint, Finance Manager

Email: finance@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Music Staff

Deb Benedict, Director of Music

Email: db@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Calvary Kids Childcare Center

Ann Stuart, Director

Jennifer Koontz, Assistant Director

Email: daycare@calvaryunitedmethodist.org

Youth Staff

Kelley Price,

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Email: youthatcalvaryumc@yahoo.com

Librarian

Judy Martin

Email: JANDF302@yahoo.com

Custodial Staff

Rick Miller, Building Manager

Regis Doyle, Oscar Sherrick

Calvary's Prayer Ministry

In Mourning

Marti & Dane Derr, Susie Grubb & Family, Becki Porsch & Family, Sue Helsel & Family, Family of Shirley Longnaker, Marsha Paul, Kathy Herring & Family

Calvary LAMS (Limited Activity Members)

George Miller, Richard Taylor, Barbara Jamison, Gloria Wingert, Dona Hoover, Shirley Miller, Betty Krahn, Jean Murphy, Rosalla Hollenbach, Marianne Bacon, Carl & Eileen Page, Dorothy Dell, Betty Fisher, Arlene Little, Lois Hartman, Joyce Haskins, Marcia Oster, Dottie Gilloway, Patti Lightner, Ruth Schaadt, Madelyn Smith, Laura Goodhart, Jean Thomson, Jan Crouse, Bill & Vi Stiffler, Nancy Mateer

Prayer Concerns

Boyd Knouse, Dee Dare, Steven McNaughton, Henry Reinsborrow, Phil Womer, Megan Masoero, Bryce Leidich, Lorraine Brosius, Scott & Tracy Wagner, Shirley Holtzer, Joanne Paladino, Ginny Coy, Peg Reichley, Lance Leidich, Kimberly Myhre, Heidi Matter, Carol Bettinger, Jody Edmondson, Denise Deaven, Charlotte Cornelius, Jean Bittle, Joanne Salsgiver, John Oster, Nancy Mateer, Margie Conley, Lew Cordner, Ronald Sheaffer, Chuck Miller, Dave Mehaffie, Harold McNaughton, Jane Taylor, Nan Heberle, Robyn Wagner, Chris Hilt, Nancy Rohrabough, Marge Popp, Todd Ruch, Jeanean Freeland, Nick & Sandie Bartholomeo, Marilyn Archibald, Brandon & Kelly Mehaffie, Linda Lotz, John Ewell, Ashley Martin, Art Schwarz, Rebecca Jacobs & Family, Jeffrey Jacobs, Dottie Bowman, Jane Schwartz, Deb Leidich, Pam Matthews, Carl & Renee Howard, Donna Ehrhart, Paul Motter, Susanne Thompson, Harvey Huth, Thelma Milliken, Skip Rohabough, Barb Floyd, Dennis Solt, Casey Fonner Family, Shelly Coulson, Edward Walsh, Kim Marie, Jill Jennings' Family, Mary Albright, Lew Lee, Joan Keller, Dave Drayer, Douglas Walt, Pastor Eugene Williams, Dodd Favale, Jill Richardson, Ayden Alevoder, Horace Flynn, Dennis Tobash, Lu & John Harding, Laura Wright, Kristina Ney, Cayden Holland, Denise Bates, Pete & Cindy Molenda, Jackie Wass, Soni Miller, Jason Lawrence, Ethan Gomez, Rich Kochik, Grace Cott, Roger Cooper

Serving in Armed Forces

Amber Pfarr, Andrew Hoffman, Jake Smuda, Aaron Lytle, Anthony Oswandel, Patrick McCarthy, James Simmons, Clay Burnette, Holly Dively, James Forsyth, Steven Novosel, Curtis Fetterhoff, Chase Tillman, Jackson Robinette, Joseph Swift, Cole Schiffhauer, Jake Schiffhauer, Zachary Curtis, Ian Turner



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[Calvary4700](https://www.youtube.com/Calvary4700)

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Calvary United Methodist Church
4700 Locust Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-0021
www.calvaryunitedmethodist.org

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Worship Opportunities in January

Sunday, January 1st

8:30 and 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
8:30 AM Livestream Worship
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Scripture: John 4:5-26
9:45 AM Sunday School

Sunday, January 8th

8:30 and 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
8:30 AM Livestream Worship
Baptismal Remembrance Service
Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17
9:45 AM Sunday School

Sunday, January 15th

8:30 and 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
8:30 AM Livestream Worship
Scripture: John 2:1-11
9:45 AM Sunday School

Sunday, January 22nd

8:30 and 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
8:30 AM Livestream Worship
Scripture: Matthew 8:28-34
9:45 AM Sunday School

Sunday, January 29th

8:30 and 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
8:30 AM Livestream Worship
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41
9:45 AM Sunday School

Wednesday Morning

Devotions & Prayer

11:30 AM—12 Noon in the Chapel