



THIS MONTH

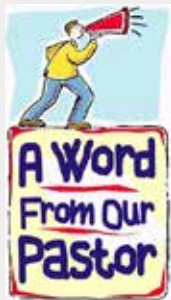
January/February 2018



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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minister's message



On January 9th, I expect to become a first-time father. Consequently, life will never be the same. From what I've heard, there will be diapers, bottles, crying, and a new-found appreciation for coffee. Throughout

the process, I am sure I'll grow and change. Although I am clueless today, I bet I will eventually be able to change diapers with one hand tied behind my back or maybe even hold a baby without great fear and trembling.

Digging deeper, how will this milestone change my character?

Those of you who are parents or grandparents or even great-grandparents probably already have answers for this question. You know first-hand how caring for another human may change your perspective and world-

view. For me, no matter what happens, I expect some part of me to change. I can only hope whatever change I do experience is for the best.

We all have a new, full year ahead of us. There are exciting challenges right around the corner that will catch us by surprise. It's my hope that whatever

comes our way God would use it to bring about a necessary but good change in our lives. In this way, I cannot help but be reminded of Isaiah 43:19,

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

May God bring use your everyday experiences to bring

forth something new and beautiful out of you.

In Christ,



Andy

women's basketball outing

Join the fun with an outing to the Saturday, January 20 University of Michigan Women's Basketball game against the University of Illinois at Crisler Arena. If 10 or more from Calvary attend, tickets will be only \$3 each! Sign-up in narthex.



pizza plus games feb 17

The next Calvary Community Game Night is at 5:30 pm on Saturday, February 17. Join us for Free Pizza, Fun, and Fellowship during this special Game Night. Bring along your neighbors, family and friends (and a favorite game if you want)!

sing with friends

Join the Calvary Singers from now to Easter and enjoy singing with friends during the Sunday service! Practice is generally at 9 am on Sundays to prepare for that day's service and preparation for a few weeks ahead.



new holy yoga teacher

Explore the transformative effects of yoga for your body, mind and spirit. The Calvary Holy Yoga class that meets on Tuesdays from 5:15-6:15 pm has a new teacher. Mary Seibert, BSN, RYT200 is a Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher with 12 years of teaching experience and is

a Holistic Nurse and Certified Healing Touch Practitioner as well.

At each class, you will be guided through a gentle series of breathing, stretching, poses, relaxation and meditation to enhance flexibility, strength, energy, balance and calm.

ALL levels are welcome. Bring a yoga mat if possible. The winter session is January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6. Then, the classes resume in spring. The 5 class session is \$65 or you can walk in for a single class for \$15.

Contact Mary for information and to register at mvs2mvs@gmail.com, # 734-323-2520, and <http://compassionateyoga.info>.

Come try it out! This is a fabulous opportunity to check off one of your New Year's resolutions and get together with Calvary friends too!

tree lighting donations

Do you enjoy the Christmas light display on the large tree in front of Calvary which is a beacon for Calvary members, the neighborhood, plus anyone who drives down Miller Ave? Donations are still being accepted for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Make sure to mark your check "Tree Lighting Fund".

Thanks!!!

spaghetti dinner coming

The next community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity will be Saturday, April 7 from 5-7 pm. Calvary continues to offer free dinners for Miller Manor residents.

Is there someone you could invite who would enjoy our next spaghetti dinner in April? This is also an opportunity for Calvary members to meet new and old friends who show up! Hope to see you and your friends and family on April 7!



welcome noelle!

Grace and Andy Lee are excited to announce their daughter Noelle Hajin Lee was born at 1:51 pm on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, weighing 6 lbs 8 oz. She is healthy and Grace is recovering nicely.

eat pizza to help boy scouts

You can help out Troop 5 by eating pizza at California Pizza Kitchen in Briarwood January 26-28! Look for flyers posted at church to present at California Pizza Kitchen and the troop will get 20% of your food bill (dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages).

Then, spend time with Troop 5 at Scout Sunday on February 25.

what's in a name?

As we transition into what was the Albion District and the Ann Arbor District we will be referred to as District 8. District 8 is not the name we will stay with and we're looking for some ideas of what the name of our district will be and are asking for your creative input. Take a look at the boundary lines, counties, the shape of the mitten (or hand) and offer a suggestion. Go to aadistrict.org and click on District Boundaries Report. Send suggestions to Dar McGee at aadisumc@sbcglobal.net.

2018 michigan annual conference is may 31—june 3

As the New Year approaches, it's time to look ahead to the 2018 Michigan Annual Conference, May 31 through June 3, 2018 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. The 2018 theme, "Ministry with*" will introduce a new model for mission for the Michigan Conference. TOM Talks (Transformational Outreach and Ministry) will demonstrate how to engage youth, schools, the poor, neighbors and even your church in mission during ten education sessions on Friday and Saturday. The nine new districts will be another significant focus for members' attention.

The Conference Program Committee listened carefully to feedback from those attending the 2017 Annual Conference. That input was overwhelmingly positive, however, adjustments have been made to reduce dinner costs, address more special dietary needs and reduced rates for hotel rooms.

Specifics will be announced in January to aid churches in planning for participation by their pastor(s) and lay member(s). Directions on how to submit legislation to the 2018 Michigan Annual Conference will be released in January. The deadline for submitting items for consideration is February 15, 2018. Registration will open mid-February, 2018. No room reservations may be made before that time. Members are asked to NOT contact Grand Traverse Resort to book a room.

spiritual decluttering: a fresh start for a new year

One of the wonderful things about each new year is that it brings with it a sense of a new beginning, 365 days of promise and possibility.

Some use this time to bring freshness to their lives. They may decide to declutter the junk drawer, attic, or garage. It may also mean removing many of the sugars, fats, and carbohydrates from our diets.

As a United Methodist church member, parting with some things for a season, may help declutter your spiritual life. Doing so helps make room for a new movement of the Holy Spirit in the months to come. What might you set aside in the next year?

Your pew: Pastors often know where each member of their congregation sits each Sunday. Some of us worship from the very same pew every week. More of us tend to gravitate toward the same general area, like somewhere in the last two rows on the right.

Choosing to worship from a new seat for a season will give you a new perspective—literally. You will see the service from a different point of view, but more than that, it may also change the people around you each Sunday, the usher with whom you interact, the mem-

bers of the choir or praise team you can see, and more. All of this can help you stay more focused on the worship service as you see things a little differently.

Time-wasters: John Wesley instructed his pastors to “Never trifle away time” (2012 Discipline 330.5.d.19.a). Instead, they were to be engaged in the practice of ministry or the development of their spiritual lives. While we may not want to get rid of all time-wasters since we need times of rest, there are diversions we could remove and replace with something more beneficial.

Consider finding ways to free up time to volunteer at a local food bank or other mission, to make regular calls to old friends and church members you no longer see, or join a class or small group at your church.

A version of the Bible: If you have been a Christian for some time, you probably know the Bible fairly well. There are verses you know by heart, and stories that are very familiar. Reading from a different version of the Bible can help bring new life to those passages. A translator’s decision to use one word over another may give you some new insight you hadn’t thought of before.

If you regularly read from a modern version like the Common English Bible, consider a more traditional translation like the New Revised Standard Version. If you gravitate toward the more traditional, try something more modern. Search the web for Bible reading sites and apps (there are many free ones) where you can access a new version of Scripture.

A devotional: Devotionals are helpful aids to lead us in Scripture reading and prayer every day, but we can become stuck in a rut with them as well. If you have been using the same book or website for more than a year, you may benefit from trying something different this year. A new devotional resource, like an unfamiliar Bible translation, can bring new life to your time with God.

There are many devotional helps available online and in physical and digital books. The Upper Room from Discipleship Ministries of

The United Methodist Church, is a very good source. Try something new.

A favorite author: Many readers have favorite authors. We like the way they turn a phrase, develop a story, or how they put into words what we have thought or felt for some time. Growth, though, often comes from thinking about things from a variety of perspectives. Reading a variety of authors can challenge us to do just that.

When looking for a book to read for spiritual enrichment, from Cokesbury or Abingdon Press, consider something new to you, which may be something old. You might want to read from a theologian whose work you have heard is important but you have never read, a person on the best-seller list whose views you think may be different from yours, or a recommendation from your pastor.

A class or group: Give yourself permission to take a break from that class or group you have been attending solely out of habit. It’s OK. Try a new class. Join a group that discusses things that interest you.

Be careful with this one though. Connections to other people of faith are vital,

so don’t pull away from all groups. If you take a break from one group, make sure you find other Christians with whom you can share and from whom you can learn.

Negativity: Although we do not like to admit it, there are seasons when many of us can fall into patterns of negativity. Discouraged by the news, the theology of others, policies of our denomination, and practices of our congregation can become sources of stress and fodder for complaining.

Removing negativity from our lives and choosing instead to find things to celebrate can lift your spirits and renew your passion for that which matters most. Find where you see the love of Jesus in the world and celebrate it.

Obligatory church-stuff: Some of us do things in the church that bring us no joy. We’re not really sure how we ever got the job. We don’t really want it. Yet, we are pretty sure that if

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the refrigerator page

(you know, to hang on the frig door, so you don't miss anything)
Check your bulletin for details and dates and times that may change.

DONATION COLLECTION — January 14 (and every 2nd Sunday)

UM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME OUTING — Saturday, January 20, 6 pm
Join the fun at the University of Michigan Women's Basketball game against the University of Illinois at Crisler Arena with Calvary friends.

FREE COMMUNITY CALVARY BREAKFAST — Sunday, February 11, 9-9:45 am
Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

DONATION COLLECTION — February 11 (and every 2nd Sunday)

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG — Thursday, February 15, 5:30 pm

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT — Saturday, February 17, 5:30 pm
Pizza dinner and fun at a Calvary Community Game Night.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING —
Wednesday, February 21, 5:30 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS — Sunday, March 11, 3 am

DONATION COLLECTION — March 11 (and every 2nd Sunday)

EASTER CELEBRATION — Sunday, April 1
Easter service followed by Easter Egg Hunt for kids!

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER — Saturday, April 7, 5-7 pm
Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

DONATION COLLECTION — April 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)

Weekly Activities:

HOLY YOGA — Tuesdays, 5:15 pm

Enjoy a weekly yoga class with scripture and praise music to heal the body and soul! Open to all—walk ins welcome at \$15/class or 5 classes for \$65: January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6. Then, the classes resume in spring.

Dial Soap Collection for the Delonis Shelter donations accepted in basket in the narthex!

Spiritual Decluttering continued from page 5

we don't do it, it won't get done. Those types of obligations often lead to church burnout.

After the New Year is underway, schedule a conversation with your pastor. Ask how you can step away from that obligation and into a new way of using your gifts to serve your church or community. That will be a blessing both to you and your congregation.

New possibilities: The New Year can be one of new experiences in your church and spiritual life. Make room in days ahead for the Holy Spirit to do a new work in you. Then see what happens.

Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications



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THIS MONTH

Calvary United Methodist Church
1415 Miller
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Bring *a* Friend

Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

(734) 769-0869
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<http://a2calvary.org>

Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

birthdays

january

- 4 Val Losse
- 11 Helen Staebler
- 13 Karen Woollams
- 14 Priscilla Woollams
- 15 Doug Smith
- 16 Ruth Thompson
- 20 Yvonne Gillies & Tyler Leonard
- 25 Emily Schildhouse
- 27 David Gates & Andy Lee
- 30 Roger Miller



february

- 2 Alyssa Miller & Corey Woolfolk
- 4 Betty Whiting
- 7 Steve Miller
- 23 Bob Leffler

anniversaries

january

- 2 Marilyn and Gerald Woolfolk
- 28 Kathy and Michael Sanders



february

- 24 Kim Kracman and Chris Skinner