



THIS MONTH

March/April 2017



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • (734) 769-0869 • calvary1415@att.net • <http://a2calvary.org>

minister's message



“To everyone at Calvary Methodist, I love the blue-lights laden spruce in your front yard. Thank you for adding it to our neighborhood. It’s utterly beautiful. Happy New year.”



that’s why we find several admonitions to encourage one another in the new testament letters. Paul and other Christian writers often would conclude the letter with

On January 6th, one of our neighbors sent us a thank-you card. There’s a blue-jay on it, and the card can be seen in the administrative office.

The church had a sign that read, “One Human Family We support refugees and our Muslim Neighbors” dating back from last year. The sign had seen better days. Recently, a lady from an addictions group that meets at church asked me where we procured such a sign. The next morning, when I went to unlock the door, what did I find? A brand-new sign waiting to be put up.

Rarely do we get the opportunity to hear about how others are impacted by the things we do. However, we can admit it feels great to receive positive feedback or affirmation. I think

something similar to 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

I want to thank all of you for your dedicated work for the expansion of God’s kingdom, but I also ask that you share a word of encouragement with your fellow Christian brothers and sisters so that we may spur each other on in love.

In Christ,

Andy

spaghetti dinner outreach

It's great that our last spaghetti dinner on February 25 raised \$398 for Habitat for Humanity. But perhaps even better than that is the fact that Calvary offered free dinners for Miller Manor residents (three participated this time) and hosted a total of 19 diners who were not Calvary members! Over half of the dinner attendees were from the neighborhood or heard about the dinner from the Observer, Habitat for Humanity, or were invited by Calvary folks. Comments heard included rave reviews for the spaghetti and enjoyment of the opportunity for conversation and meeting new people. Many plan on coming back again, as do our regular spaghetti dinner attendees!

Is there someone you could invite who would enjoy our next spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 6? 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 May 6!



house by the side of the road

Thanks again for your important contributions of clothing and other items for House by the Side of the Road. Sandra Jameson recently donated nine bags of clothing and they continue to thank us. This time of the year might be good to check closets and storage areas for any more?



game night shenanigans

Enjoy some pictures from our March 1 game night! Join us at the next game night on April 5 at 7 pm.

before i die, i want to _____ : a lenten reflection

One day, not far from her home in New Orleans, artist Candy Chang noticed a large abandoned building.

“I thought about how I could make this a nicer space for my neighborhood,” she said during her TED Talk, “and I also thought about something that changed my life forever. In 2009, I lost someone I loved very much... Her death was sudden and unexpected. And I thought about death a lot, and this made me feel deep gratitude for the time I’ve had and brought clarity to the things that are meaningful to my life now. But I struggle to maintain this perspective in my daily life. I feel like it’s easy to get caught up in the day-to-day and forget what really matters to you.”

With permission from the town and her neighbors, Chang turned the eyesore into a work of art. She covered one side of the house with chalkboard paint. Then, she stenciled a few words on the wall approximately 80 times. The stencil read, “Before I die I want to _____.”

She put a bucket of chalk near the wall.

Before the wall was finished people were stopping by, asking if they could write on it. She reported on the TED Radio Hour that one of the first people to finish the sentence was dressed as a pirate, as people in New Orleans are wont to do. He finished the sentence, “Before I die I want to be tried for piracy.”

In her TED Talk, she reads some other things people wrote on the wall.

- Before I die, I want to straddle the International Date Line.
- Before I die, I want to sing for millions.
- Before I die, I want to plant a tree.
- Before I die, I want to hold her one more time.
- Before I die, I want to be completely myself.

After playing that clip from her TED Talk, host of the TED Radio Hour Guy Raz, explained, “The power of the ‘Before I die...’ wall is that it actually didn’t make people think about death so much as it made them think about life.”



When Chang posted a few photos of the wall online, she was surprised how quickly the idea spread. “My inbox blew up with messages from people around the world who wanted to

make a wall with their community.” Today there are more than 1,000 “Before I die...” walls in cities all over the world.

Asked about their death, people talked about life, real life, exciting things they would like to do with their lives. People focused on things of life that really matter.

In the interview Raz asks Chang what she has learned about death. “I think that contemplating it can lead to a lot of great things,” she says.

What a great image for reflection during Lent. Contemplating death can lead to a lot of great things.

Jesus taught this to his disciples as he contemplated his own death. Preparing his disciples for his glorification, Jesus says, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24 CEB).

Life, real life, abundant life, comes when we are willing to die to self.

Later in her interview with Guy Raz, Candy Chang expounds on the thought. “Contemplating death really clarifies my life and regularly contemplating death,” she continues, “has been a really powerful tool for me to restore perspective and remember the things that make my life meaningful to me.”

In a lot of ways, that is exactly what this season of Lent is all about. A time to restore perspective and remember the things that make life meaningful.

And so we fast. We give up chocolate or Starbucks or soda, not just to do it. Not to prove anything to anyone or to impress God. **We give it up to remind ourselves that those things don't really matter. Our life in Christ does.**

We worship on Ash Wednesday reflecting on our sin, asking forgiveness, and seeking to live a new life free from it. We don't do this for a front row ticket to heaven, but because we know we have short-changed life by living our own way rather than God's.

We receive ashes on the first day of Lent with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We remember our mortality, not to be morbid, but to remember to live for God now, because our life is a precious gift that we should live to the full.

Like Candy Chang, we struggle in daily life to maintain a perspective on what gives our lives meaning. "It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day and forget what really matters to you." Lent invites us to remember what gives our lives life.

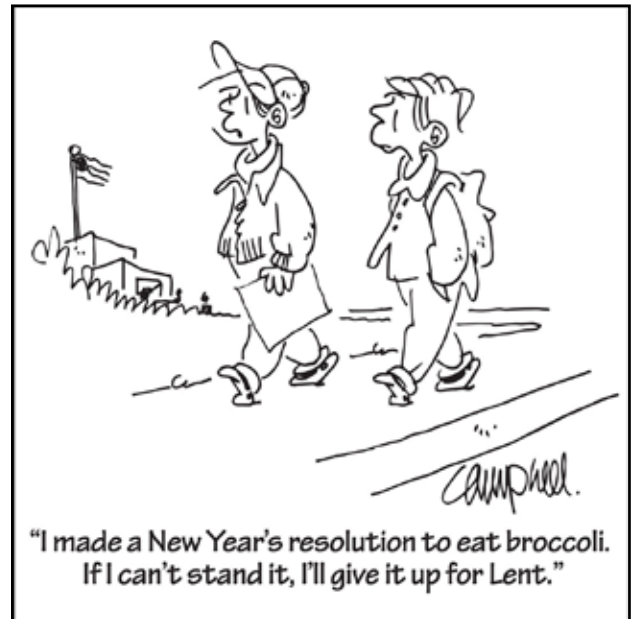
During these 40 days, how will you restore perspective and remember the gifts you've received from the Lord Jesus Christ that make life full and meaningful?

Then maybe you'll be ready to truly live.

Before I die, I want to _____.

Think about it.

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino



birthdays

march

- 1 Mark Roberts
- 3 J.R. Leonard & Chris Wallace
- 5 Keith Jameson
- 8 Amanda Lowe
- 14 George Bigelow
- 17 Abigail DeVee & Ryleigh Lowe
- 18 Hannah Wallace
- 24 Regina Noland



april

- 2 George Thompson
- 4 Allison Wier
- 5 Richard Fischer
- 7 Derek DeVee
- 8 Susan Johnson
- 10 Renee Griffin
- 13 Kathy Sanders
- 16 Steve Roberts
- 18 Jennie Viery
- 24 Dion Woolfolk
- 29 Brad Hamilton
- 30 Peggy Thompson

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY – Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, March 1, 7 pm
Monthly Calvary Community Game Night. Enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship!

BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday, March 8, 7 pm
Bible study on *Invitation to John*.

DONATION COLLECTION – March 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG – Thursday, March 16, 5:30 pm

TRUSTEE MTG – Tuesday, March 21, 6 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MTG – Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 pm

BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday, March 22, 7 pm
Bible study on *Invitation to John*.

TATOOS ON THE HEART BOOK GROUP – Sunday, March 26, 11:15 am
Discuss the final chapters of the inspiring book "Tatoos on the Heart" by Gregory Boyle after fellowship time.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, April 5, 7 pm
Enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship at our continuing monthly game night!

DONATION COLLECTION – April 9 (and every 2nd Sunday)

EASTER CELEBRATION – Sunday, April 16
Easter service followed by Easter Egg Hunt for kids!

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, May 3, 7 pm
Games, snacks, and fellowship at our monthly game night!

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER – Saturday, May 6, 5-7 pm
Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

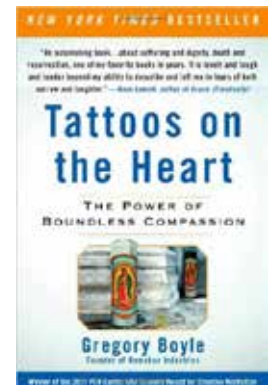
DONATION COLLECTION – May 13 (and every 2nd Sunday)

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, June 7, 7 pm
Games, snacks, and fellowship at our monthly game night!

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 and the first class is free!

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



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Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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Rev. Andy Lee, Pastor
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

(734) 769-0869
calvary1415@att.net
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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

Still want a printed newsletter?

Calvary has transitioned to a primarily digital newsletter. *If you would like to continue to receive a printed newsletter, let us know by calling or writing Calvary (see contact information above). Thanks!*

To make sure you get the digital newsletter, send your email address to Karen Woollams <woollams@umich.edu> or check out our website at <http://a2calvary.org/>