



THIS MONTH

May/June 2018



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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minister's message



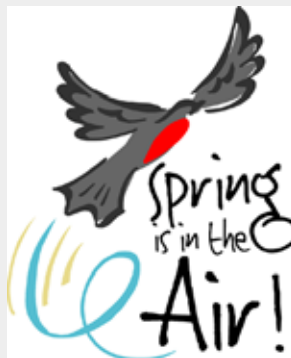
In April, one can normally expect a rainy month. Hence, the phrase, "April showers bring May flowers." This year instead of rain we've received snow. Typical Michigan. However, the weather has eventually warmed.

Coinciding with the warmer weather, we witness the spring-time rituals commence: joggers running in shorts, parents pushing baby strollers (hey, that's me!), neighbors working in their yards, and last but not least, spring cleaning!

For spring cleaning, we must decide what stays and what goes. Each year, people are shocked at just how much junk they have hoarded in their basements or around the homes. To get philosophical for a moment, what constitutes as junk? That is a difficult question. In homes everywhere, spouses and roommates may disagree on the answer.

At the parsonage, we have agreed on an evaluation process. We seek to answer a few questions to assess if an item is or is not junk: Does this item bring me joy? Have I used it in the last year? Will I use it next year? If the answer

to any of those questions is no, then the item is certified junk. Next step is deciding whether it is donated or thrown away. Although I would not consider spring cleaning a fun activity, the results are always gratifying. The house looks bigger, cleaner, and even newer. Yay, for spring cleaning!



I wonder what it would be like to do some spring cleaning for our hearts. If you're anything like the people in the bible, there's plenty of junk that needs to be sorted. Do you hold on to grudges, covet your neighbor's belongings, lust, worship false gods, or refuse to trust in God's goodness?

If so, then I invite you today to lift up the words found in the 51st Psalm as you walk with our everlasting and faithful God.

"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

Happy spring and happy spring cleaning! God loves you and I love you!

Your pastor,

Andy Lee

may is habitat month!

Welcome to Spring at last! Now it is time to start thinking about Calvary's participation in the Good News House of Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley! We will work with the Good News group of churches to renovate houses at 679 and 830 Calder Ave in Ypsilanti.

Work on the two houses begins May 19 and goes through August. We need your participation for **Calvary's work days on Saturdays, June 9 and July 14 and Friday, July 20.**

Tasks may include installing siding, trim, cabinets, shelving, fixtures, lighting, windows and doors, painting, landscaping and other interior or exterior work and we also need help with lunch for the volunteers. A sign up is in the Narthex to participate and also please offer your prayers for this summer's workers and the families who will move into the two houses that the Good News group will renovate.

Calvary has pledged to raise \$1,00 to support the project. We have a head start with funds raised at the Calvary Cooks Spaghetti Dinners! **Each Sunday in May**, we will receive our "Clatter Collection" to support the Good News Habitat House. You can make your "major" donation to support the Good News House at

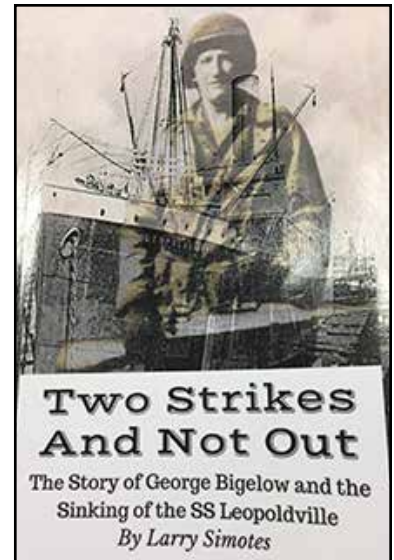
Habitat Sunday on May 27 or at on any Sunday in May in the Clatter Collection. Make checks out to Calvary and write "Habitat" in the note section. More information about the Good News House group, the families etc. is available at <http://goodnewshouse.org/>

Following the Habitat Sunday service on **May 27** we'll enjoy a **potluck brunch** together.

two strikes and not out

The next Calvary Book Group discussion will be *Two Strikes And Not Out* by Larry Simotes on **June 10 during fellowship time.**

This book is about our dear friend, WWII vet, and former Calvary member, George Bigelow, and the sinking of the SS Leopoldville. By Larry Simotes



Join us on June 10 in the fellowship hall after church whether or not you've read the book to talk about George and his harrowing and fascinating experiences.

2018 Homes BEFORE:



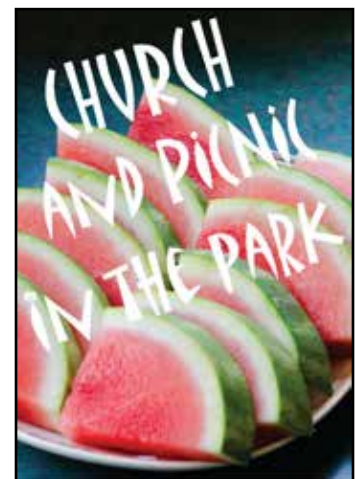
830 Calder Ave.



679 Calder Ave.

worship in the park + church picnic

Join us for the Calvary Church Service and Picnic at Island Park on Sunday, June 24. **We'll worship at the park starting at 10:30 am.** A potluck picnic will follow--all are invited!



Come out and enjoy a day of worship and fellowship at the beautiful, riverside Island Park! We'll be at the first shelter, right next to the parking lot.

Calvary has the shelter reserved all day til 10 pm. If you are interested in using the shelter in the afternoon or evening on June 24, contact Peggy Leonard.

remembering our christian sisters and brother

Calvary United Methodist Church (CUMC) mourns the loss of three individuals who died earlier this year.

Joann Huff January 30, 2018

George Bigelow January 31, 2018

Helen Staebler February 3, 2018

Each is remembered for their spiritual journey, unique contributions and overall influence on others while attending CUMC. Their participation in many phases of the life of our church, whether as part of the song ministry - the Living Circle or Choir- or part of the service ministry through committee work and teaching/attending Sunday School- displayed their faith and caring nature. All were nonagenarian- "someone in his or her nineties"! What a blessing to others. They led full lives and though they have moved on to their heavenly home, their footprint is firmly embedded in the fabric of CUMC. When able, the time, talent and resources they collectively devoted to CUMC was exemplary and impactful. Additionally, George, was a decorated veteran and war hero who received 2 Purple Heart Medals. Calvary United Methodist Church hosted a book signing event last summer where he and the author (Larry Simotes) of *Two Strikes And Not Out* promoted the book. It details George's life, military experience and his survival of the sinking of the S.S. Leopoldville in World War II.

Our brother and sisters in Christ, George, Joann, and Helen, are gone from our midst, but their spirit lingers in our hearts as they rest from all their labor.

*Submitted with fond memories,
Marilyn Woolfolk.*

graduation congratulations

Contulations to Hannah Wallace upon her graduation on April 21 from Alma College with a BA in Health Sciences with a minor in Spanish. Good luck with all your future plans!

palm crosses

In preparation for Palm Sunday service on March 25, Calvary friends enjoyed dessert at Ed and Judy Wier's house while making palm crosses out of real palm leaves. Here's a peak at the fun!



50 years old

Amid tumult of 1968, the United Methodist Church came together.

The year 1968 convulsed with assassinations, riots, war in Vietnam and student protests against that war. The Troubles revved up in Northern Ireland, and Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia.

At a time when it seemed much of the world was violently splitting apart, a group of Wesleyan Christians peacefully and joyfully were coming together.

On April 23, 1968, two bishops followed by two children, two youths, two adults, six ordained ministers, two church officers and finally all 10,000 people present joined hands and repeated in unison:

"Lord of the church, we are united in thee, in thy church, and now in The United Methodist Church. Amen."

With those words in a Dallas auditorium, the 750,000- member Evangelical United Brethren Church and the 10.3 million-member Methodist Church became one church. The merger also brought people together in another way: marking

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UMC 50th Anniv continued

the official dissolution of the Methodist Church's racially segregated Central Jurisdiction.

Amid a tumultuous year — just weeks after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — a new United Methodist Church was born.

"It felt like the restoration of the Methodist movement," said the Rev. Joseph Evers, a Methodist delegate to the 1968 Uniting Conference. He is now 91 and lives in Quincy, Illinois.

Reaching unity required years of effort and a commitment to address racism that remains a work in progress.

The Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell, newly named as a district superintendent at the time, was among the demonstrators at the doorway to the Uniting Conference promoting integration. They held signs silently reminding delegates the church still had work to do. Caldwell's sign quoted the title of King's final book: "Where Do We Go from Here... Chaos or Community?"

"We knew even though we eliminated the Central Jurisdiction, issues of race and racism were still there," he said.

As The United Methodist Church celebrates its 50th birthday, church historians see lessons for a denomination facing questions of unity anew.

Blessed be the ties

The early leaders of what would become The United Methodist Church had close ties. They just took more than a century to bind.

Philip Otterbein, the German-born co-founder of the United Brethren in Christ, was friends with Francis Asbury, Methodism's pioneering bishop. In fact, Otterbein participated in Asbury's ordination at the 1784 Christmas Conference, the event that marked the founding of the Methodist church in America.

Jacob Albright, founder of what became known as the Evangelical Association, came to Methodism through a class meeting and began preaching and forming classes of his own among fellow German-speaking Americans. However, a lack of cooperation from English-speaking Methodists led both Otterbein's and Albright's followers to organize their own denominations.

Language differences weren't the only source of division. U.S. Methodism during its first century saw a structural split about once every decade,

wrote noted church historian, the Rev. Russell E. Richey. Most dramatically, northern and southern Methodists ruptured over slavery in 1844.

By the early 20th century, John Wesley's spiritual descendants had gone from breaking up to making up — but at great cost.

In 1939, three Methodist denominations reunited to form what was then the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. But to make that union possible, Methodist Protestant clergywomen had to surrender their clergy rights.

Most notoriously, the Methodist Episcopal Church South required the creation of the Central Jurisdiction, which enshrined the segregation (and attendant second-class treatment) of African-Americans in the new *denomination's constitution*.

The merger of the United Brethren and Evangelical Church in 1946 featured its own setback. While the United Brethren approved full clergy rights for women in 1889, the Evangelicals wanted to halt the ordination of women altogether. While never an official ban, women's ordination slowed greatly in the resulting union.

Let's get together

Nonetheless, members of both denominations continued to push for a church more in keeping with Jesus' prayer in John 17:21 that believers "will be one."

Efforts to end the Central Jurisdiction date from its inception. Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren also began making movements toward union just months after the EUB formed.

"The mid-20th century marked a broad movement toward church unity," said the Rev. Thomas E. Frank, a historian of Methodism at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

At the same time the Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren were talking, other denominations embarked on similar dialogues that would lead to the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957, the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1983, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1988.

The path to The United Methodist Church wasn't without roadblocks. Bishops from both denominations in 1957 identified possible impediments to union, said the Rev. Ted Campbell, church history professor at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.



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.

HABITAT CLATTER COLLECTION – Sunday, May 6

First Sunday for Clatter Collection benefiting the Good News House continues in all the Sundays in May. Bring your change to make a noisy contribution.

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY – Saturday, May 12, 9 am-12 noon

Join Calvary friends to clean and tidy inside and out. Be There or Be Square!

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

HABITAT SUNDAY – Sunday, May 27

Learn all about and then help fund the Good News House project of Habitat for Humanity. Potluck brunch following church.

HABITAT VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS –

Saturdays, June 9 and July 14 + Friday, July 20

Help out at the Good News Habitat for Humanity houses!

BOOK GROUP: Two Strikes And Not Out – Sunday, June 10, fellowship hour

Join us whether or not you've read the book to talk about George Bigelow and his harrowing and fascinating experiences, especially the sinking of the SS Leopoldville.

DONATION COLLECTION – June 10 (and every 2nd Sunday)

WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC – Sunday, June 24 at Island Park, 10:30 am

Worship at the park at 10:30 am with potluck lunch to follow. Come out and enjoy a day of worship and fellowship at the beautiful riverside location!

DONATION COLLECTION – July 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)

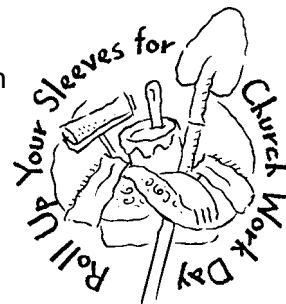
NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG – Thursday, July 26, 5:30 pm

Weekly Activities:

HOLY YOGA – Tuesdays, 5:15 pm

Bottle/can drive by Aaron VonBargen for his Eagle Scout Project to build cabinets on the stage of the basement: **use the bin in the basement of the church to donate.**

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



UMC 50th Anniv continued

One issue was that the Methodist Church gave bishops life tenure while the Evangelical United Brethren had term limits. The list also included the size difference between the two churches, the manner of selecting district superintendents, overlapping church agencies, and finding a name that would honor the heritage of both denominations.

To make the union happen, the two denominations made compromises. United Methodists in the U.S. adopted the Methodist practice of life tenure

for bishops. The Evangelical United Brethren's Council on Ministries structure was adopted, and is still used to coordinate ministries at the local church and other levels of the denomination. The word United also became part of the new church's name.

Forming a more perfect union

The Central Jurisdiction was not on the initial list of trouble spots, Campbell pointed out, but that came later.

UMC 50th Anniv continued

The Evangelical United Brethren — following petitions from the church's Illinois Conference — ultimately made abolishing the segregated institution a condition for union, said the Rev. J. Steven O'Malley. He was an ordained EUB pastor at the time of the merger and now a professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky.

"This move reflects longstanding EUB opposition to segregation and, before that, slavery," he said.

Four years before the union, Methodist conferences within the Central Jurisdiction began transferring to geographical jurisdictions.

"By 1964, there were just so many of us who thought segregation was wrong and that the Central Jurisdiction was an anomaly in the Methodist Church because our theology didn't support segregation," said Evers, the Methodist delegate. "But it lasted too long."

In a reversal of what happened in prior mergers, the 1968 union also assured women the right to be ordained and have full clergy rights, said the Rev. Patricia Thompson. She is the author of "Courageous Past — Bold Future: The Journey Toward Full Clergy Rights for Women in The United Methodist Church."

However, the church sometimes struggled to live up to its teachings.

Retired Bishop Susan W. Hassinger, who came out of the EUB tradition, was ordained in 1968. She waited two years for her first appointment, which was only part-time.

Lessons from union

Hassinger and other church leaders say the denomination can learn from its union. Those lessons seem especially relevant as the church prepares for a special General Conference in 2019 where delegates will face questions of whether attitudes toward homosexuality should be church-dividing.

"People had to listen to each other across differences and learn how to value the other," said Hassinger, now bishop-in-residence at United Methodist Boston University School of Theology.

O'Malley thinks the church can benefit from its Evangelical United Brethren heritage by taking a more "irenic" approach to conferencing, church order and social principles — that is, an approach aimed at reconciliation and peace.

The Rev. Ian Straker, a former Howard University School of Divinity professor who has researched both the church split over slavery and the Central Jurisdiction, has yet another lesson in mind.

While uniting a church is hard, he said, breaking up is even harder. The split in 1844 was not as simple as the amicable declaration made at that year's General Conference.

"Stuff was tied up in litigation for decades," he said. "It made a bunch of lawyers happy, but it was not neat and easy."

Heather Hahn, United Methodist News Service



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Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Bring
a
Friend**

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

(734) 769-0869
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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15