



# THIS MONTH

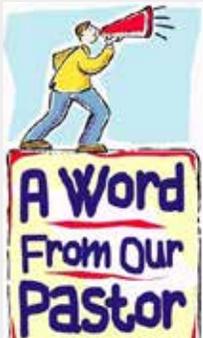
November/December 2016



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

## minister's message



As I type this, the Michigan football team currently enjoys a #2 ranking in the polls. Every Sunday, church members touch upon the most recent game. I believe these

conversations would still occur if the team were good, bad, or mediocre, but any rate, the football team is quite good this year. While the fans witness finished product on the field, the players know the wins are a result of preparation: practice, film study, and time in the weight room.

1 Samuel 17 recounts the battle between David and Goliath. The young warrior had tremendous courage that was rooted in the confidence of the Lord. Additionally, while the spectators from the Israelite and Philistine armies witnessed what they considered a tremendous upset, David's victory was, again, the result of preparation. We recall David spent his time out in the fields watching over his family's sheep as a shepherd. Without

much glory or fanfare, he killed lions, bears, and any other predator that would threaten the flock.

In much the same way, we should ask ourselves how God is preparing us to do work for kingdom. I cannot help but to be excited for 2017. The nominations committee had the challenge of adding new faces for various committees. They did an excellent job, which sets us up for greater success next year. Every Sunday, we take a few minutes to greet each other in Christian love. Through this ritual, we flex our hospitality muscles. Starting in January 2017, we hope to host monthly community board game nights and through interactions like this, tangibly display God's love to others through our hospitality and welcoming spirit.

God can use every experience for God's glory. Therefore, no matter the task, let us do it to the best of our ability and let us do it for the glory of God. Thank you for your service to Calvary. May God multiply our small acts of devotion and obedience.

In Christ,

*Andy*

## **carols, cocoa, cookies and christmas lights!**

Meet in front of the church by the lit tree at **5:30 on Sunday, December 11** for **Christmas caroling**.

Afterwards, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies inside. All are welcome as we enjoy our tree for the holidays.

This is a great event to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!



Christmas caroling 5:30 Sunday, Dec 11

## **light the tree**

The tree in front of Calvary will be lit again this year to attract attention and spread Christmas cheer. It has become a symbol for many neighbors and gets the attention of anyone who drives by, rides the bus, or is out for a run. It costs about \$1,100 to light the tree for Christmas and is done by private donations, not from the church general giving.

We need your help to Light the Tree, so please make a donation to the church and memo it, *Tree*.

## **calvary community game nights**

At 7 pm on **Wednesday, January 4**, Calvary will start hosting monthly game nights open to the community. It might seem like

a random idea, but I encourage you to come check it out. More than that, I challenge you to make a commitment to attend every single one. That's 12 Wednesday's for one year, and your only responsibility is to play games and have fun.

So, what's the point?

Well, there are two reasons for this idea. First, for the people of Calvary, I'd love to see our love for each other grow. Yes, I understand we worship together, pray for one another, and even make hospital visits. Still, on a lighter note, something special is gained when we just sit back, relax, and laugh over a good

game of cards. Board games are not so important, but the connection we gain from playing together is invaluable.

Second, as a church, we are always seeking to bring members of our community into contact with Christ. I have seen the spirit of God working all the time. When we offer hospitality, create memories, or have fun with our non-church going counterparts, we leave an impression upon their lives. It's my hope that a periodic event such as this has the capacity for real relationships to be formed. From there, the possibilities are endless.

At any rate, even if you don't buy into any of that, just come out. There's so little to be lost and much to be gained. See you there!

*Submitted by Pastor Andy*



## 12 ideas for the 12 days of christmas

After months of planning and anticipation, Christmas appears to be over all too quickly. On December 26, retailers tell us we are in the after-Christmas season of returns, exchanges, and more sales. The church calendar however, tells us it is still Christmas.

The twelve days we sing about in that crazy song, are a real season, sometimes called Christmastide or the days after Christmas. During this season, we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh who made his home among us (John 1:14 CEB).

To help celebrate the season, here are 12 creative, simple ideas that have nothing to do with partridges or lords-a-leaping.

### Have a silent night

One evening, turn off everything electronic and share Christmas memories. Go through old photos. Watch family movies (you might need to turn on the television for that). Ask others to tell of their favorite family Christmas tradition, and a joy-filled memory of a Christmas past. Spend a few moments talking about the Christmas story and the characters with whom you most relate.

### Sing the songs of Christmas

We sing many Christmas carols without thinking much about the words. Take some time to research the lyrics of songs as you sing them. Where is the author biblically accurate? Where did she or he take poetic license? This is a great way to learn the biblical accounts of the Christmas story and some of the symbolism used.

### Remember the refugees

One of the crises in our world this year is the number of refugees risking their lives to leave war-torn nations to find places of safety and peace. If a church or another organization in your area is sponsoring refugees, like this United Methodist congregation, find out how you can help. Offer your support and prayers.

Additionally, make efforts to be a person of radical hospitality by welcoming the stranger, giving food to the hungry, visiting church mem-

bers who do not get out, and opening your home to family and friends who are alone.

### Don't return—give

Rather than returning the ugly sweater you'll never wear or the kitchen gadget you'll never use, give it away! Many places and individuals will benefit from those unwanted items. The sweater will keep someone warm, and the gadget will be sold in a secondhand store to generate funds for a ministry.

### Pray through your un-decorating

As you put away the Christmas decorations, consider the symbols of the tree and evergreens, the nativity, the wreath, and more.

Pray that those these signs may get packed away for 11 months, the spirit of Christ will continue to be alive in you throughout the year ahead.



### Travel by a different route

The Christmas story contains several journeys—Mary visits Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph travel to be taxed, the Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem, and Jesus and his family move to Egypt when King Herod orders the slaughter of baby boys. Many of us go on special journeys over Christmas, in addition to the time we spend in the car every day.

Consider traveling by a different route. Maybe that means taking the back way home from work or stopping by that roadside attraction as you return from Grandmother's house. Let the new journey remind you that we are to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

### Have mealtime devotions

Each of the 12 days of Christmas, spend some time during a meal for family reflection. Ask questions. Share concerns. Tell stories. Give thanks. Sense the presence of Jesus among you.

### Pray for the persecuted

Those of us privileged to live in places where we are free to pursue our faith sometimes forget there are people in other places whose celebrations of Christmas could come at the cost of their freedom or lives. Read about

Christians being persecuted for their faith in places like Syria and Nigeria, a pastor recently imprisoned in North Korea, and others. Then take some special time to pray for them.

### Record aha moments

Christmas can be a time of important moments you do not want to forget. A quiet moment with a relative may remind you of the importance of family. A worship service may give you new insight into how to live as a follower of Jesus. A frustrating experience in a store may encourage you to be more patient. Write those insights some place you can return in the weeks and months ahead for a reminder.

### Plant a tree

At Christmas, we celebrate the gift of new, eternal life we have received in Christ. The evergreen trees we decorate are a symbol of everlasting life. Planting a tree or caring for the earth in another

way can serve as a wonderful reminder of our call to be people who celebrate life.

### Begin a faithful intention

Many people make New Year's Resolutions to lose weight or give up an unhealthy habit. Consider a faithful intention this year to help you grow in your spiritual life. Rather than waiting until January 1 to begin, start during the Christmas season.

### Be a person of peace

We may not be able to do much to promote world peace, but we have the power to make the world around us more peaceful. Spend the twelve days of Christmas practicing ways you can eliminate harsh words, anger, and other negative attitudes from your life.

*A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino*

## birthdays

### november

- 4 Ed Wier
- 6 Bonnie Andrews
- 13 Nickolas Griffin
- 18 Marilyn Woolfolk
- 29 Robyn Hughes



### december

- 8 Sarah Jameson
- 12 R. J. Schildhouse
- 18 David Thompson
- 22 Judy Wier
- 22 Susan Glysson
- 30 Penelope Schildhouse
- 31 Ghia Parow

## anniversaries

### november

- 1 Paula and Neil Gates
- 26 Suzanne and Corey Woolfolk
- 29 Dottie and Keith Jameson



### december

- 27 Mandi and Rolf Lowe
- 28 Bev and Chuck Sanders

## 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.

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER** – Friday, November 4, 5:30 pm  
Appetizers at Losse's, dinner at Jameson's and dessert at Woolfolk's.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS, POTLUCK and CHARGE CONFERENCE**—  
Sunday, November 20  
Decorate the Church for Advent after church then join your church family for a potluck – then stay for the annual all church meeting with the district superintendent at 1 pm.

**BIBLE STUDY** – Wednesday, November 30, 7 pm  
Bible study on Ruth 1, then feedback session to planning 2017 and beyond

**NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG** – Thursday, Dec 1, 5:30 pm

**DONATION COLLECTION** – December 11 (and every 2nd Sunday)

**CAROLS, COCOA, COOKIES AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** –  
Sunday, December 11, 5:30 pm  
Meet in front of the church by the lit tree for Christmas caroling then enjoy hot cocoa and cookies inside afterwards.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – Saturday, December 24, 5:30 pm  
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a candlelight service!

**CHRISTMAS** – Sunday, December 25  
Merry Christmas!

**COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT** – Wednesday, January 4, 7 pm  
First monthly Calvary Community Game Night. Enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship!

**DONATION COLLECTION** – January 10 (and every 2nd Sunday)

**MOVIE OUT NIGHT**— Saturday, January 21  
We'll pick a ~7 pm ish movie to go see together.

**COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT** – Wednesday, February 1, 7 pm  
Enjoy games, snacks, and fellowship!

**DONATION COLLECTION** – February 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

**CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER** – Saturday, February 25, 5-7 pm  
Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

### 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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1415 Miller  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

### The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

(734) 769-0869  
calvary1415@att.net  
<http://a2calvary.org>

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/>