



THIS MONTH

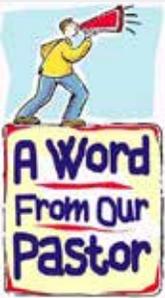
November/December 2017



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

minister's message



From Matthew 14:28-29:

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

We all know how this story ends. Peter briefly joins Jesus as he walks on water, but frightened by the wind, Peter sinks. Jesus saves his drowning disciple but not without urging Peter to have more faith. Before we fast-forward to the ending, let's stay within the presented story and solely reflect upon verses 28-29.

Clearly, the boat is the safest place to be. When faced with a decision to stay on the boat or to approach Jesus in the midst of the storm, conventional wisdom tells us to stay on the boat. Most of the disciples appear to be on the same page as 11 of the 12 make no movement toward the choppy waters.

Yet, Peter has a profound and simple insight. While the boat offers safety and comfort, it is missing Jesus. He is on the water. Peter wants to be where Jesus is. It is as simple as that. Granted, Peter sinks almost immediately after stepping onto the water, I applaud his single-minded focus and courage.

In the journey of faith, we will be repeatedly presented the opportunity to leave the safety of the boat to be with Jesus. The Christian life will constantly challenge us. Unfortunately, it has the power to make us uncomfortable. This is a given, but how will we respond?

For me, whenever I hear a radical challenge in the name of Christ, I know my first reaction is to ignore it, make excuses, and get defensive. This is natural. I don't want to change: I like me, I like the way I think, and I certainly don't want to get out of my comfort zone. Still, after all of that, I have to ask myself if I am genuinely pursuing Christ or if I am, instead, maintaining my own comfort and safety.

As your pastor, I want to tell you how much I love and appreciate you. In the last few years, we've tried a lot of different ideas, and you have given me your support. When I shared a thought or an idea that didn't quite jive with your existing beliefs, you've had the courage to share your convictions or the humility to thank me for challenging you. This is a tremendous credit to you, and it makes me want to be a better pastor. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

May we all continue to seek and follow Christ wherever he leads us.

In Christ,

Andy

small group grants available

How would \$300 help develop a new small group or ministry to reach unreached people in our community?

The New Church Team from the Michigan State Wesley Foundation is awarding 40 \$300 Micro Grants for the multiplication of disciples. The theme this year is small groups or life groups (which could include support or recovery groups, etc., be creative).

To apply for these grants, complete the questions below and return responses to winston@msuwesley.org, RE: #ncdtmicrogrant.

Talk to Pastor Andy about the grant and any questions about applying.

Can this be a great opportunity for Calvary?

New Church Reach Micro Grant

Contact Name:

Contact Email:

Church:

Contact Phone:

The vision for my group to reach and connect with people outside the church is...

When we get together my group will...

If there are kids in my group, we'll...

My group will meet in...

My group will begin on...and meet on this date and time...

My group won't be empty because I will be doing this...

I am going to own the continued growth of my group (including my growth in leading) through this development plan...

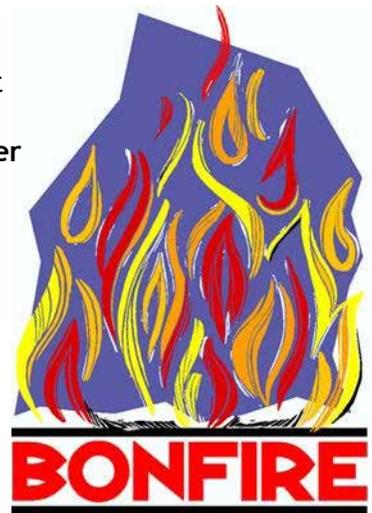
I need to follow up with my local church small group coordinator or pastor about...

Please follow up with the New Church Team grant representative after the group has been established for six to nine months to share your experience and what you have learned along the way.

I will follow up on (date)...

bonfire

Experience the first Calvary Bonfire on **Saturday, November 11 at 6:30 pm** at 2412 Georgetown Blvd (Steve and Carol Miller's place). Come hungry and enjoy hot dogs, roasting marshmallow and other food with us.



church breakfasts 2nd sunday



Calvary will continue our free breakfast on the second Sunday of each month on November 12 and December 10 from 9-9:45 am.

Join in this fabulous outreach and fellowship opportunity. Come enjoy a hot breakfast before church and help welcome special invited guests from Miller Manor and others throughout our neighborhood.

boy scout troop 5 happenings

Help out Troop 5 with a gift card deal with California Pizza Kitchen that starts 10/31 and goes through 11/14. You purchase a \$100 gift card at https://merchant.wgiftcard.com/chrome_mode/virtual/cpk_fundraising. In addition you will get a \$20 bonus card to use immediately and another \$10 card to use next year. Troop 5 gets 10% of your purchase!

Then beginning November 16-18 you can take your gift cards to the restaurant and pay with those and the troop will get 20% of your food bill. You will need a flyer to present to the server fund raiser at California pizza kitchen,

Look for flyers posted in at church to present at the restaurant November 16-18.

Enjoy a picture from the Troop 5 weekend Wilderness Camp-out with 20 in attendance. Scouts worked on merit badges for Wilderness, Survival, and Outdoor Camping.



"Whitacre house" dedication

We celebrated the 30th Good News home dedication on Sunday, October 29! Thanks to all at Calvary for your participation in helping this house become a reality for new homeowner, Lea Glaze and her son.

The dedication was even more meaningful since Lea's home is the "Whitacre House", with a new red bud tree planted in the front yard in memory of Bob Whitacre, who made our 30 homes possible by founding and organizing our group, raising funds and investing thousands of volunteer hours (and miles on his truck). Bob's wife Marge Whitacre gave a wonderful presentation of the history of Good News and Bob's involvement in Habitat for Humanity.

the secret to forgiveness: focus within

Forgiveness is hard.

United Methodists know we ought to be forgiving people. The Bible instructs us, "As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other," (Colossians 3:13), but that is often much easier said than done. Letting go of resentment can be difficult.

"Overcoming harm is not a comfortable process," Joshua Bynum, Clinical Director of the Methodist Counseling Center in Boise, Idaho acknowledges. "It's a painful one."

Grudges happen when we avoid that difficult process, and offer no movement toward healing. The hurt lingers.

"No matter what harm has happened in my life," Bynum continues, "resentment about it is never going to help me; not forgiving is never going to benefit me."

For those longing to come to a place of forgiveness, Bynum recommends two things. First, we should examine ourselves to identify the harm done to us. Then, we work to change that which we control.

What am I holding onto?

"The first step for me in anything that has to do with resentment or forgiving of others," Bynum shares, "is to recognize your own

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physical feeling of discomfort associated with that person or situation.”

He often asks clients to describe the physical sensations in their bodies when they think about the person or situation that harmed them, rather than talking about emotions.

“The words fear, anger, sadness, and others, are symbols that represent or symbolize a physical feeling,” he explains. “My face gets hot. My hands get tense. I get a lump in my throat and a hollow feeling in my stomach or a tightness in my chest. Then I call that combination anger.”

Those sensations are unpleasant, so we avoid stimuli that bring them on. We dodge the person who hurt us. We refuse to think about what happened. We pretend, and say everything is okay when it isn’t.

“People aren’t trying to hold on to their resentments,” Bynum explains. “They are trying to avoid thinking about the things that give them a physical feeling of discomfort.”

Forgiveness, however, requires entering those uncomfortable feelings to arrive at a place of healing on the other side.

What can I control?

“God created our brains in such a way that there is a process to doing this,” Bynum teaches. “There is an internal confrontation that needs to happen with ourselves.”

When one holds a grudge, “the focus is very much on that other person,” Bynum explains. We want them to apologize, to show remorse, to recognize that they hurt us. Then we will forgive them, we say.

“You can never guarantee that another person is going to offer you all of the things you want so that you’ll be able to forgive them,” Bynum soberly advises. “I can’t make somebody else be forgivable.”

Bynum instead encourages us to turn our focus inward because “the only person who has any

control over whether or not I let go of resentment, is me.”

This may sound like we are letting the other person off the hook. We’re not. Instead, we are choosing to turn our attention toward things we can change in ourselves and letting go of that which we cannot change in the other person.

“There are things I can do to forgive another person that include interacting with that other person,” Bynum explains. “I may be able to go and tell them why I have a resentment against them—what I feel they did wrong and what I’m trying to deal with—and maybe that would be helpful.”

Other times, however, that is not prudent or possible. The perpetrator may be a threat. A parent may no longer be living. The coworker may have moved on to another job.

None of this means we no longer have an opportunity to forgive. “You can have forgiveness without repairing a relationship,” Bynum states.

Forgiveness is about addressing the hurt within, and that work is not dependent upon anyone but us.



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

You are a beloved child of God

Forgiveness requires a difficult, inward journey, but as people of faith we know God travels with us.

“When we’re in community with God, when the Spirit is at work, there’s no other place to look but inward,” Bynum adds.

It also helps during this tough time, to remember that you are one of God’s beloved children, especially when the harm tempts you to think otherwise.

Letting go of resentment is not easy. The journey can be long and unpleasant. A counselor like Bynum can be a helpful guide along the way.

“It’s very difficult sometimes to do this work,” Bynum concludes. “That’s why it takes a little bit of time.”

Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications

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.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT — Wednesday, November 1, 7 pm
Monthly Calvary Community Game Night.

CALVARY BONFIRE — Saturday, November 11, 6:30 pm
2412 Georgetown Blvd (Steve and Carol Miller's place)
Come hungry and enjoy hot dogs and other food with us.

FREE COMMUNITY CALVARY BREAKFAST —
Sunday, November 12, 9-9:45 am
Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

DONATION COLLECTION — November 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG —
Thursday, November 16, 5:30 pm

HANGING OF THE GREENS AND POTLUCK—
Sunday, December 3
Decorate the Church for Advent after church then join your church family for a potluck.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT — Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm

FREE COMMUNITY CALVARY BREAKFAST —
Sunday, December 10, 9-9:45 am
Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING — Sunday, December 10, 11:15 am

DONATION COLLECTION — December 10 (and every 2nd Sunday)

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

CHRISTMAS — Monday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

UM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME OUTING — coming in January!

DONATION COLLECTION — January 14 (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 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, Michigan 48103

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

Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

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

Celebrating an Anniversary



december

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