



THIS MONTH

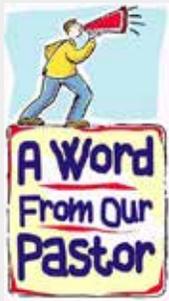
November/December 2018



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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minister's message



In the weeks to come, we will do quite a bit of sharing. First and foremost, we will share meals with friends and strangers alike. By the time, this newsletter is published we will have already hosted our first spaghetti dinner fundraiser. On the

first Sunday of November, the annual progressive dinner is set to take place. We must not forget we also partake in the Lord's Supper on every first Sunday of the month. The following week, Calvary Community Breakfast will host anyone who would like to join us for food and conversation.

It is a great blessing to share these meals together, but I recognize it's not always an easy task. Wouldn't it be great if food could just magically appear before our eyes? Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. Someone has to do the prep work: buy the food, prepare the ingredients, set the tables, and cook the food. Simply put, it can be hard work! I want to take the time to thank everyone who participates in the ministry of sharing meals. God is pleased, and God is glorified.

Beyond meals, I wonder if we could share one more thing with each other. It is my hope that we would encourage and build each other up. Ephesians 4:29 states, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." As the pastor here, I've never heard any-

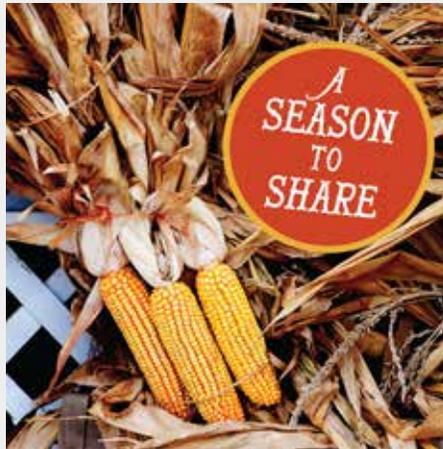
one say anything unwholesome, so Calvary gets an A+ in that regard. Very nice! Pat yourself on the back! However, there yet remains an opportunity to create an even more positive impact by sharing words of encouragement to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

With that, I'll end with these words of encouragement. Keep it up. You're

doing an amazing job on behalf of God's kingdom. We love you.

May God bless you always.

Your pastor,



Andy Lee

warm winter wear

We are now collecting Warm Winter Wear (W3): new or used hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and wool socks to be distributed to those in need in our community. W3 are available at our montly free community breakfasts too!



Baskets for your donations are available in the narthex and fellowship hall



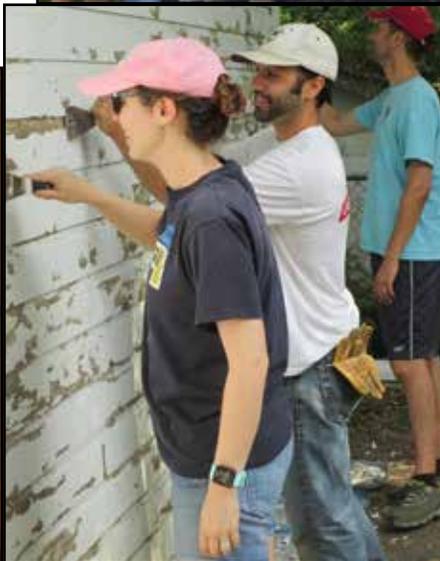
good news

Calvary participates in the Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Good News House Group. Calvary exceeded our fundraising goal this year, with the help of our spaghetti dinner fundraisers, and contributed \$1,200 towards the cost of this year's home renovations! We also provided volunteer hours and lunches to help complete the two houses on Calder Ave in Ypsilanti.



The Good News House Group has been working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley since 1997. So far, we have helped 29 families achieve their dream of home ownership-- and we are especially proud to say that 65 children have lived in Good News homes!

Thanks for your participation! Enjoy these photos of some of this year's Calvary volunteers.



charting a way forward

In February 2019, hundreds of delegates will converge on St. Louis, MO, for a Special Called Session of the General Conference. They will seek a way forward on the issues surrounding LGBTQ persons. At stake, may be the future of The United Methodist Church.

While this event may have a significant impact on the future of the global church, here in Michigan, we recently declared that we are "Better Together" in mission and ministry. We have just formed a new annual conference with a new and exciting structure for creating disciples of Jesus Christ. That is not to say our new conference is free of disagreement.

Bishop David Bard is holding Connectional Conversations about A Way Forward for the United Methodist Church. It is a time of listening, answering questions and sharing ~ **our local opportunity is at 7 pm on Thursday, November 29 at the First UMC of Ann Arbor.**

As Bishop David stated recently, "While most of us like to think of the opinions we hold as well-supported, well-considered and well-argued, we would also do well to acknowledge that in many of the most important things we think about, there is always room for growth and new learning. Often well-considered, well-supported and well-argued opinions become so through shared conversation and dialogue. We should, then, be people who are open to new ideas, to new ways of looking at our lives and our faith, open to conversation and dialogue." In that spirit, Bishop David invites you into a continuing dialog.

There are three plan options – 1) One Church Plan, 2) Traditional Plan, and 3) Connectional Conference Plan. You can find out more at <https://michiganumc.org/resources/a-way-forward-toolbox/>



The One Church Plan, preferred by a majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-gender weddings in UMC properties and ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.

The Connectional Conference Plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. All three would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.

The Traditional Plan, developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process, broadens the definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual"; puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.

Plan to attend the Connectional Conversation with Bishop David Bard and Michigan's delegates to the 2019 General Conference on Thursday, November 29 at First UMC of Ann Arbor to discuss the important decisions that lie ahead.

an open table

How United Methodists understand communion

During a Confirmation Class, the pastor asked a group of mostly 13- and 14-year-old students to name some things Christians—and specifically United Methodists—do that most other people do not. One of the girls raised her hand and said with a smile, "We dunk our bread in grape juice."

continued on page 4

An Open Table continued

Yes, that is different.

The sacrament of Holy Communion is such a common occurrence in the landscape of our worship that its uncommon richness sometimes gets lost.

One sacrament, several names

The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, and the Eucharist are all names for this sacrament celebrated by United Methodists. Each of these names highlights an aspect of this act of worship.

According to This Holy Mystery, The United Methodist Church's official document on communion, "The Lord's Supper reminds us that Jesus Christ is the host and that we participate at Christ's invitation." Jesus invites us to take part in the special meal he ate with his disciples the night before his crucifixion, and other meals he shared in homes and on hillsides.

"The term Holy Communion invites us to focus on the self-giving of the Holy God which makes the sacrament an occasion of grace, and on the holiness of our communion with God and one another," This Holy Mystery continues.

Finally, "Eucharist, from the Greek word for thanksgiving, reminds us that the sacrament is thanksgiving to God for the gifts of creation and salvation."

The Services of Word and Table in the front of The United Methodist Hymnal lead us in celebrating the fullness of the sacrament.

Invitation

Our communion liturgy begins with words spoken on Jesus' behalf inviting "all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another."

There are no conditions for church membership or completion of a class required.

The baptized present are all invited, even if they belong to a different church. Those not baptized are not barred from receiving, but

"should be counseled and nurtured toward baptism as soon as possible," This Holy Mystery advises.

In addition, there is no minimum age. Even baptized infants are invited. The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources with Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, explains, "To whatever degree they're able to participate in the Great Thanksgiving—even if that's simply being held in their mother's arms while they sleep—they are there. They are part of what we are all doing together, so they are welcome to receive."

Confession, Pardon, and Peace

During the next part of the service, we prepare ourselves to offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving by repenting of sin and seeking to live in peace with one another.

After praying a prayer of confession, we share words of pardon that remind us of the grace freely available to all who repent, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!"

The Peace then follows, where we offer one another signs of reconciliation and love, affirming our desire to live as a reconciled community in Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

During the next part of the service, the pastor leads the congregation in a prayer called The Great Thanksgiving.

"Our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving is The Great Thanksgiving," Burton-Edwards teaches. "That's why it's essential that the people participate actively in this."

We join in the ancient tradition of sacrifice by offering God our praise and thanksgiving for the wondrous gift of salvation (see Psalm 141).

We offer ourselves and our gifts of bread and wine to God with thanksgiving. Then we ask for the Holy Spirit to be poured upon us and these gifts, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ, nourishing us, who



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 – Sunday, November 4, 5 pm

Join a Calvary tradition with appetizers, dinner, and desserts at different homes.

ELECTION DAY – Tuesday, November 6 GO VOTE!!

FREE CALVARY BREAKFAST – Sunday, November 11, 9-9:45 am

Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

DONATION COLLECTION – November 11 (and every 2nd Sunday)

CHARGE CONFERENCE – Sunday, November 11, 2-4:30 pm at Ypsilanti First UMC

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG – Thursday, November 15, 5:30 pm

RELIGION IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY – after fellowship, November 18

Spanning from September to April, we will have a book based discussion on Religion in the Age of Technology. This Sunday's discussion based on Chapter 3: Cyberspace on Our Minds

A WAY FORWARD CONVERSATION – Thursday, November 29, 7 pm at First UMC AA

Be a part of a connectional conversation on a Way Forward with Bishop Bard.

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Sunday, December 2

Decorate the Church for Advent after church.

FREE CALVARY BREAKFAST – Sunday, December 9, 9-9:45 am

Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

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

RELIGION IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY – after fellowship, Dec 16

Book based discussion on Religion in the Age of Technology. This Sunday's discussion on Free Speech and the Internet--Democracy?

COOKIES AND CAROL SINGING – Sunday, December 23, fellowship time

We'll enjoy Christmas cookies together and sing our favorite Christmas carols during fellowship time after church.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Monday, December 24, 5:30 pm

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a candlelight service!

CHRISTMAS – Tuesday, December 25 --- Merry Christmas!

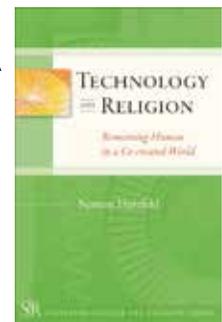
FREE CALVARY BREAKFAST – Sunday, January 13, 9-9:45 am

Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!

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

RELIGION IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY – after fellowship, January 20

Book based discussion on Religion in the Age of Technology. This Sunday's discussion based on Chapter 4: The New Alchemy.



An Open Table continued

have been redeemed by his blood, to be the body of Christ in the world.

We conclude praising the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—before uniting our voices in the Lord’s Prayer.

Then the bread is broken, and the body and blood of Christ are given to those who come to receive.

Prayer after receiving

Holy Communion brings together our worship and our work in the world.

“Communion is our meal,” Burton-Edwards explains, “It is our feeding. We need that sustenance and we need it regularly.”

In the prayer after receiving, we affirm this. We pray, “Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

All this is God’s gift to us.

Burton-Edwards continues, “We are fed with the body of Christ

by the Father and empowered by the Spirit to live as Christ’s body in the world.”

Dipping bread into juice may seem a little odd, but it is an important sign of our life as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Burton-Edwards summarizes, “What we’re doing in the Eucharist is a double thing. When we receive ‘the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood,’ we are remembering. At the same time, we are also re-membered, put back together again. We pray that we may be ‘one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.’ God’s work

of making us one and uniting us with Christ, with each other and in our witness and life in the world—is the ordinary way by which God feeds us, sustains us, and empowers us to live as Christians in the world.”



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!



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

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15