



THIS MONTH

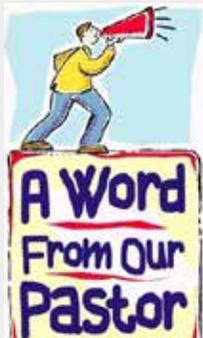
September/October 2017



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

minister's message



This Fall we have a few events on our calendar: Game Night, Spaghetti Dinner, Theology & Film, Calvary Breakfast, and Progressive Dinner.

In the past, we may have wondered if

it were possible for us to run a single event for our friends in the neighborhood. Yet, after we got a few events under our belt, we have grown in experience and knowledge. At this point, I would say we have become professionals. The process is second nature to us now.

With that said, I'd like us to take another step forward. Let us have invitations on our minds. May we be a people who invites our family, co-workers, friends, neighbors, plumber, etc. While this challenge has been offered in many forms before, it has yet to take hold on our lives in deep seeded ways. Perhaps, it is not natural for you to extend invitations so

freely, but practice makes perfect! In much the same way we have "practiced" running events and have grown from the experience, we can grow from inviting others until it becomes second nature to us.

Calvary has all the ingredients of an impactful, meaningful church. I know it and you know it. The only people who do not know this truth are those that have not yet received an invitation to come see for themselves.

Thanks for your acts of faithfulness and continued desire to grow.

In Christ,

Andy



theology and film series

Movies are more than mindless entertainment. They are modern day parables with the power to move us. Calvary UMC invites you to join us as we watch, eat snacks, and discuss three movies on Thursdays at 7 pm in September.



Sept 14: The Adjustment Bureau (PG-13)

Sept 21: Land of Mine (R)

Sept 28: *you help pick!*

Enjoy a movie, fellowship and interesting discussion on Thursday evenings this month and be sure to invite your neighbors, friends and family!



walk to fight hunger

Join the 43rd Annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor **CROP Hunger Walk** on Sunday afternoon, October 15, 2017, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Register from 1 pm; the 2k or 10k walks start with a send-off service at 2 pm.

This year walkers will collect all donations before the walk and turn them in the day of the walk.

We walk to raise funds for hunger and poverty relief here and around the world, through Church World Service and its partners (www.cwsglobal.org). The Walk is organized by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (germaine@icpj.org; 734-663-1870). In 2017, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Church

World Service are stressing the needs of refugees. Many small gifts make a big difference! 25% of the funds raised will benefit the following local organizations:

- Avalon House
- Community Action Network
- Emmanuel House
- Hope Clinic
- Growing Hope
- Packard Health
- SOS Community Services
- St. Andrew's Breakfast Program

To make a credit-card donation, collect funds online, or just find out more, you can "Walk on the Web". Visit the website <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi/Team/View/48363/Calvary-CROP-Walkers>

For more information, contact Karen Woollams.

Everyone can be involved! Calvary needs walkers and walkers need folks to make donations!



church breakfast on october 8

Calvary presents a free breakfast on Sunday, October 8 from 9-9:45 am as an 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.

soap n socks needs help

If you are willing and able, please consider purchasing an 8-pack Dial White Soap on your next grocery store trip.

Our soap basket needs to be replenished. Re-

member, your contribution helps to meet some of our homeless population's greatest needs: soap and socks.

the games people play

Game Night at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month continues to bring in many inside and outside

Calvary to have fun with games. The trial year ends soon--so be sure to come out

and enjoy a game night on September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6.

Someone is waiting to play a game with YOU!



ideas to grow your faith

Above all else, be intentional.

When it comes to personal spiritual formation, church members, lay and clergy alike, tend to agree that growing one's own faith means engaging in spiritual disciplines with intentionality.

Exactly what one should be purposeful about may need clarification. Within the church, there is a lot of dialogue about being a disciple. So, let's start there.

This includes connecting to God in a personal way and being intentional about seeking out those ways to connect on a regular basis.

The lifelong journey to know Christ, grow in Christ, serve Christ and share Christ can incorporate customary practices, including reading the Bible and praying, as well as take the path of unconventional activities, such as journaling and spending time at the ocean.

"I start every morning in quiet time which consists of reading "The Upper Room," which I started using in 1967 when I was in junior high school," says Kim Simpson, a member of more than 30 years at St. Barnabas United Methodist Church in Arlington, Texas.

"I also use another book and then I spend time in prayer. It can go from 15 minutes to one hour," Simpson says. "That's how I start my day."

Simpson weaves in additional prayer throughout her day when "I feel the Holy Spirit call me to pray for something," she adds, and spends each evening reading the Bible.

"At night, I don't try to read to study," Simpson notes, adding that she is involved in weekly gatherings for in-depth learning. "I just read to let God's Word bathe me. Then I go to sleep thinking about what I've read."

While many turn to the Scriptures or meet with study groups to grow one's faith, others seek less traditional endeavors.

Pat Rankin, a member at Trinity United Methodist Church in Eugene, Oregon, admits she has trouble being still, so her spiritual formation involves walking the labyrinth in her church's courtyard.

"I walk a lot and prayerfully walk. It's a time for being able to focus and center and kind of just be calm," she says. "It's following a path too, so there's a lot to be said for that, the structure of it. Many times I will go in with a question or a concern and sometimes God speaks and other times He doesn't. At least at that point, I've unburdened myself or put it out there."

If she misses walking the labyrinth or praying with prayer beads, the other spiritual practice in which she engages, Rankin believes her stress level goes up.

"Do those things that bring you joy," Rankin advises. "If it isn't bringing you joy, it isn't right. Really decide if it's right for you, then make it a priority, not just something for when you have time."

When it comes to his personal spiritual growth habits, the Rev. Junius Dotson likes to mix it up. As chief executive of Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, he leads the new #SeeAllThePeople movement, which offers a guide for congregations who want to develop discipleship systems.

"I'm one of those kinds of people who gets bored very easily," Dotson admits. "Whenever I

talk about spiritual disciplines and healthy habits, I always let people know to experiment, to try new things.”

Fasting is an important spiritual activity for Dotson, one in which he engages during certain times of the church year, such as Lent, as well as at times when he is working to discern answers for specific challenges.

Although Dotson regularly practices what he calls “healthy habits of a disciple” by being in the Word, praying, engaging in small groups, giving and fasting, the lifelong church member also finds spiritual growth opportunities in what might be considered more secular activities.

“There are some things that we wouldn’t consider to be a spiritual discipline but are very helpful in terms of helping us grow,” Dotson explains. “I’m a music person. I love all types and varieties. And I know in those moments when I may be feeling dry, going through a dry season in my life, I’ve always found that reconnecting to music, whether it’s going to a concert or hearing the music in a church I am visiting, is a way of jumpstarting my relationship with Christ.

“Find those things that inspire your desire to grow and to grow closer to God,” Dotson counsels. “But I do firmly believe there has to be some level of commitment in doing them.”

by Crystal Caviness, United Methodist Communications

birthdays

september

- 4 Sherri Givens
- 9 Janelle Gates
- 11 Jael Woolfolk
- 16 Karen Gates
Denise Leffler
- 23 Tom Jameson
- 28 Justin Gates



october

- 4 Rachel Miller
- 7 Chuck Sanders
- 8 Donna Hughes
- 15 Geoffrey Smith-Woollams
- 18 Rose Smith-Woollams
- 21 Daniel Roberts

anniversaries

september

- 3 Judy and Ed Wier
- 19 Ruth and George Thompson



october

- 11 Bob and Denise Leffler
- 30 Donna Reed and Michael Parow

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, September 6, 7 pm
Monthly Calvary Community Game Night.



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY and SUNDAE SUNDAY – Sunday, Sept 10
Come to Calvary for this special day and invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We'll enjoy Ice Cream Sundaes during fellowship time!

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

THEOLOGY & FILM SERIES – Thursdays, 7 pm Sept 14
Watch, eat snacks and discuss a movie: 9/14 The Adjustment Bureau.



BOOK GROUP: \$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America – Sunday, September 17, 11:30 am
Get together to discuss our next book group selection following fellowship time.

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG – Thursday, September 21, 5:30 pm

THEOLOGY & FILM SERIES – Thursdays, 7 pm Sept 21
Watch, eat snacks and discuss a movie: 9/21 Land of Mine



ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, Sept 27, 5:30 pm

THEOLOGY & FILM SERIES – Thursdays, 7 pm Sept 28
Watch, eat snacks and discuss a movie: 9/28 you help pick the movie!

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER – Saturday, Sept 30, 5-7 pm
Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, October 4, 7 pm

FREE CALVARY BREAKFAST – Sunday, October 8, 9-9:45 am
Join special invited guests and enjoy a hot breakfast before church!



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

CROP WALK – Sunday, October 15
The annual Washtenaw County CROP Hunger Walk is an interfaith response to local and world hunger. Funds raised support local, national and international organizations and efforts to end hunger.

CHARGE CONFERENCE – Thursday, October 19, 7 pm

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Friday, October 21, 5:30 pm
Look for more information and a sign-up soon for our annual progressive dinner.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, November 1, 7 pm

DONATION COLLECTION – November 12 (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!

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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

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15