

# CALVARY CROSS ROADS

November 7, 2019

Worship This Sunday: **November 10, 2019**

**Rev. Sarah Schlieckert, Pastor**



## PRAYERS *of the* CHURCH

*A Service of Prayer  
and Discernment*

We invite you to join us this Sunday, November 10th for our special service of Prayer and Discernment as Pastor Sarah leads us in song and prayer.

OUR CHILDREN  
Matthew 19:13-14

THE GROWTH OF GOD'S KINGDOM  
Matthew 28:16-20

OUR COMMUNITY AND WORLD  
Matthew 25:31-46

OUR CHURCH  
Acts 2:1-12

WE, OURSELVES  
Matthew 18:1-9

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### Mark Your Calendar

November 8 - 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Friday Night Meal

November 9 - 2pm Christ Foundation Youth Group, **UMW MEETING CANCELLED**

November 10 - 9am Sunday School, 10am Worship Service, - **SERVICE OF PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT** 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Sunday Night Meal

November 11 - **VETERANS DAY**, 10:30am Friendship Club Dominoes

November 12 - 6:30pm AA Meeting

November 13 - 7pm SPRC Meeting, 7pm 12-Step Program

November 15 - 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Friday Night Meal

November 17 - 9am Sunday School, 10am Worship Service, 11am **STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING**

5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Sunday Night Meal

**cUmC message board and  
upcoming events**

The SPRC will meet Wednesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

*State-Of-The-Church  
Meeting*



As we look ahead at the New Year and reflect on where we are now as a congregation and where God might be calling us to go, please mark your calendar for a State of The Church meeting on **Sunday, November 17th** immediately following Worship Service. All are invited to attend.

In the meantime, I invite you into a time of deep prayer and discernment for our life together as a congregation. Please devote time each day to praying for our congregation, seeking God's guidance for our work together, and asking for God's wisdom as we discern plans for the future. We will be sharing more information about where we are as we prepare for and at the State of the Church meeting.

**Friendship Club**



**Soup  
Luncheon**

*Sunday, December 1st*

Immediately following Worship Service on December 1st, the Friendship Club Ladies will be serving a variety of delicious homemade soups with all the trimmings, and, for dessert - cake and ice cream!

CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH BY HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

*Baby Shower  
for Jesus*



**BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS**

*Mark your calendar.* On Sunday, December 15th, we will have a **Baby Shower for Jesus** following worship. This will be a very special Sunday, since this is also the day we have scheduled our **children's pageant**. What is a Baby Shower for Jesus? Well, it's a fun way to donate baby items to families in need. We will be sending items to the Catherine Foundation as well as Lifestyles, who both help families in our area. Needed items include diapers and wipes, though we will also accept new baby items of any kind, as well as gift cards. You can start now by picking up a package of diapers or wipes with your groceries, or looking for special sales on these. Let's see how many little ones we can bless this year! *(Please do not wrap your items)* The Friendship Club will be coordinating the Baby Shower party, and will provide light refreshments and maybe a couple fun games! We will have special cards available for you to fill out to give to family or friends to note gifts given in their honor to the Baby Shower.



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful cards, phone calls and prayers for my family on the death of my nephew, Barry Todd.

Love, Rebecca Morris

# Pastor Sarah's Reflection

Dear Calvary UMC family,

This past Monday, our Church Council met to begin their discussions about our path forward as a congregation given both the immediate financial concerns we face as well as our long-term direction as a congregation given decades of continued decline. I want to briefly summarize these discussions and initial decisions for you, as well as invite you to contact me if you would like more information—including the detailed 7-page letter I sent Council members prior to the meeting sharing statistics, financial details and introducing potential paths forward. I will also share with you our plan for these discussions moving forward, including an invitation to you to not only join us in prayer, but also to take part in future discussion, discernment and decisions.

We have outlined three levels of decisions needing to be made:

- Issue #1: Financial solvency through the end of 2019
- Issue #2: Financial and operational stability through end of June 2020 (the point at which changes to pastoral leadership are normally implemented)
- Issue #3: Long-term planning, discernment of direction and future of the congregation

## ISSUE #1

Facing a pressing budget shortfall as well as cash flow issue, the Council approved a recommendation from our Finance Committee to take a \$15,000 loan from our educational scholarship endowment to cover operational expenses. We recognize this is a drastic and unsustainable financial plan for any length of time, but Finance and Council agreed it was necessary to pay our bills through the end of 2019 and enter 2020 with sufficient cash flow.

## ISSUE #2

Council offered general agreement to the Finance Committee's recommendation that changes be made to our operational expenses moving into 2020, including reducing staff (administrative assistant and custodian) to a third of their hours and salary. This will necessitate changes in how we function as a church, and the SPRC will work with me and the staff to adjust job descriptions and expectations accordingly. In addition, the Finance Committee will prepare the 2020 budget with an eye to any additional cuts which are possible. Even with these, as we look to offering our financial pledges for 2020 on November 17, I will be inviting you to consider increasing your weekly giving to the church to help provide for our shared ministry through the first half of the year, especially. When Council meets again, on December 9, we will review (and move to amend and/or approve) a budget including these changes.

## ISSUE #3

It is neither financially possible nor necessary to provide for the compensation of a fulltime pastor given our current situation and size. This has been the case for a number of years. Having spoken with our District Superintendent, Calvary needs to determine a path forward past June 30, regarding whether we will continue on our current path but receive a pastor at halftime (or less), or choose a more radical path, possibly including closing down and relaunching a new church. In the latter case, we may be able to tap outside resources to help provide for a fulltime pastor (which would be an important need for a new church start).

# Pastor Sarah's Reflection - con't.

As we discussed these options, at Council Monday we clearly had many questions about what each path would entail. I am working with our congregational leaders, district and conference staff, and outside experts to draft proposals for each of these options. I will be presenting the drafts as we have them at a State of the Church meeting following worship on Sunday, November 17. It is my hope that anyone who has an interest in which path we take will attend that session. There will also be discussions following after that. We have not yet determined when a formal decision about a path forward will be made, but the making of that decision will follow whatever relevant processes are required by the Book of Discipline. We do, however, need to determine by the end of December generally which path we will take, because the Cabinet and Bishop need to know by January whether to look to appoint a pastor full or part-time to Calvary, effective July 1. Please see below for our outline of our coming discussions—and please plan to take part.

Sun., 11/17                      Pledge Sunday, State of the Church Meeting following worship

Sun., 12/1-Sat., 12/7      Small Group discussions

Sun., 12/8                      State of the Church Update Meeting

Mon., 12/9                      Church Council meeting to finalize 2020 budget, addressing Issue #2, offer guidance to District Superintendent, and determine future steps/process

Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, or to schedule a time to sit down with me and talk further.

Finally, beginning with a special service of prayer and discernment this Sunday (during our 10 am worship), I invite you into a time of intentional prayer and discernment for our congregation during the months of November and December. Please make time each day to pray for our shared ministry, as well as to listen for God's guidance. As a help in these times of prayer and discernment, I invite you to consider the following questions:

Who will we never reach if the only thing we have to offer is church as we know it? Who will we never reach if the only thing we have to offer is church as we like it?

How much of the church are we willing to let go of in order to follow Jesus?

What path is God calling us as a congregation to take in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

What am I, individually, willing to do in order to be faithful to God's call?

Thank you for your continued support, both of me as your pastor, and of our entire congregation. Scripture repeatedly testifies that it is in times of urgency, even crisis, that God is able to bring new life and new hope. I walk with you through this season confident that there are so very many people in our area who are in need of a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ—and that God is calling us to be poured out and committed to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I hope you will join me on this journey.

Grace and Peace.

Pastor Sarah

# Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



A lot of people think it's "Veteran's Day" or "Veterans' Day," but they're wrong. The holiday is not a day that "belongs" to one veteran or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It's a day for honoring all veterans — so no apostrophe needed.

**Veterans Day is NOT the Same as Memorial Day.** A lot of Americans get this confused, and we'll be honest — it can be a little annoying to all of the living veterans out there. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it's largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.

**It was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I.** World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of "the war to end all wars" and dubbed Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the word "armistice" to "veterans" so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

Please remember to say "thank you" to our Veterans on this Veterans Day,  
Monday, November 11th



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*We seek to be a faithful congregation sharing Jesus Christ's love by feeding our neighbors physically, emotionally and spiritually.*



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We're on the Web...  
[www.calvumc.org](http://www.calvumc.org)

**Submit information to be included in the newsletter or suggestions to:**  
[calvumc@calvumc.org](mailto:calvumc@calvumc.org)



## CU MC message board and upcoming events



Keep those fall recipes coming - with Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, it would be nice to have some new things to try.

Here is one from Chris Lick, I'm sure you will love them. When the Friendship Club did bake sales, Chris' Cherry Date Bars were a popular item - they were one of the first items to sell out.

### CHERRY DATE BARS

- 2 c. flour
- 6 tbsp. confectioners sugar
- 1/2 lb. butter, softened
- 4 lg. eggs, room temperature, slightly beaten
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 10 oz. package of dates
- 1 c. chopped walnuts
- 1 c. chopped maraschino cherries
- 1/2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together flour, confectioners sugar and butter. Work into dough and press into a 9 x 13 inch baking dish which has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake about 25 minutes or until golden brown. Mix together remaining ingredients and spread over baked crust. Bake 40-45 minutes. Cool before cutting but cut while still warm.



Marion Schreiber	Martha Anderson
Gordan Christmas	Linda Muller
John Roberts	Tracy Steward
Bobby Vermillion	Sara Wilson
Bob Bushman	Linda Black
Flordeliza Azurin	Stacy Feldman
Calvin McMillion	

*To have names added to the prayer chain contact Pastor Sarah ([pastor@calvumc.org](mailto:pastor@calvumc.org)) or Kathie Auth ([calvumc@calvumc.org](mailto:calvumc@calvumc.org))*