

# CALVARY CROSS ROADS

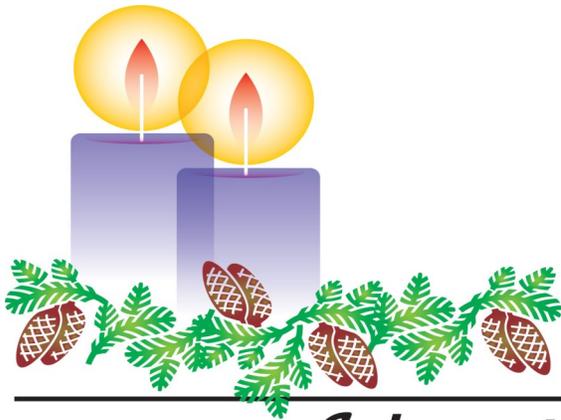
December 5, 2019

**Worship This Sunday, December 8, 2019**

**Rev. Sarah Schlieckert, Pastor**

**Sermon Series: Are We There Yet? (Second Sunday of Advent)**

**Sermon Title: Hope**



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*



**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

## PRAYERS LIST

Marion Schreiber	Martha Anderson
Gordan Christmas	Eddie Blanford
Bobby Vermillion	Sara Wilson
Bob Bushman	Linda Black
Flordeliza Azurin	Russ Greatwood
John Martin	Pati Jackson
Kathryn Brown	

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

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## Mark Your Calendar

December 6 - 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Friday Night Meal

December 7 - 9am UMM Meeting

December 8 - 9am Sunday School, 10am Worship Service (Second Sunday of Advent) 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Sunday Night Meal

December 9 - 10:30am Friendship Club - Dominoes 7pm Church Council Meeting

December 10 - 6:30pm AA Meeting

December 11 - 7pm 12-Step Program

December 13 - 5pm Our Place Waldorf Friday Night Meal

December 14 - 9am UMW Christmas Party

December 15 - 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Service (Third Sunday of Advent), Children's Christmas Program 11am Baby Shower for Jesus 5-7pm Our Place Waldorf Sunday Night Meal

December 16 - 12pm Friendship Club Meeting

December 17 - AA Christmas Party

**CUMC message board and  
upcoming events**



Please plan to join us for Pastor Sarah's Advent Sermon Series. Her Sermon title for December 8th is "Hope".

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The United Methodist Men will meet Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Church Council will meet Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Women will meet Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. for their Christmas Party "potluck" breakfast and white elephant gift exchange. Speak to Stacy Feldman for details.

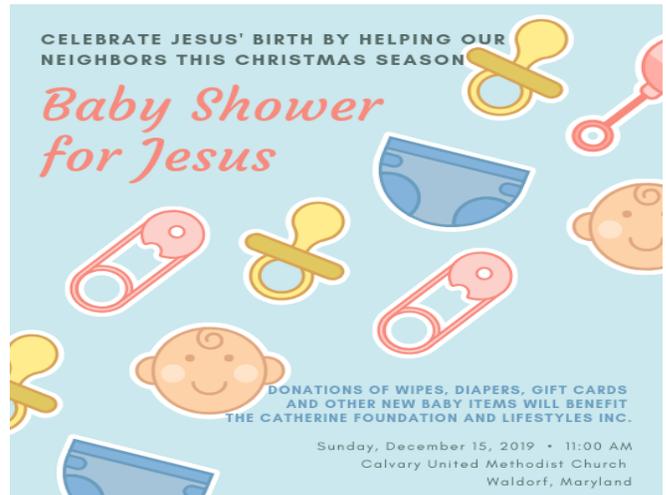
**CHRISTMAS CARDS**



**Christmas Card Mailboxes**

Once again this year, Myrtle and Everett Currie will be setting up the Christmas Card Mailboxes.

You can send your Calvary church family Christmas cards free by using the boxes on the table in the Fellowship Hall. At the same time check for cards sent to you. Please, only cards for our Calvary family, we cannot mail cards to those not attending church. Thank you.



**BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS**

We hope you are planning to join us on **Sunday, December 15th** following Worship Service for our **Baby Shower for Jesus**. 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, new baby items of any kind, as well as gift cards. Let's see how many little ones we can bless this year! *(Please do not wrap your gifts)* We will also 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.

*If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, please leave your gift in the baby crib setup in the Fellowship Hall.*



First Responders

Christmas Eve Dinner

For the past few years we have been preparing and delivering a holiday meal for the first responders who are at work on **Christmas Eve** in Waldorf.

*If you are interested in helping with this project please speak to Stacy Feldman or you can contact her via email [jfeld0928@md.metrocast.net](mailto:jfeld0928@md.metrocast.net).*

# Pastor Sarah's Reflection

My family and I spent a good deal of time driving over this past Thanksgiving holiday. We drove to visit family, trekked around to a couple farms to find a Christmas tree, ran errands, drove to the movies (had to see *Frozen 2*!) and, well, managed to feel like we spent a large chunk of our time in the car.

What's more, I am notoriously bad at anticipating how long such outings will take. Let's take the movie for example: We had reserve tickets for a morning showing. In my mind, though I knew we planned to grab lunch with family afterwards and then run one quick errand, I totally anticipated being home by early afternoon.

Instead, it was nearly dinnertime before we got home!

There is always something to slow things down. A store that doesn't have what you need so you decide to try another. A traffic jam to interrupt your well-timed commute. Even an unexpected emergency to stop you in your track.

We head through Advent and into Christmas like it is a journey we know well and can easily anticipate. Many even count down the days in fun ways, including Advent calendars (which, honestly, in most cases simply count down the days of December, not Advent). It can all feel like a well-oiled machine, and whether well-oiled or not, certainly a march along a steady pace.

But sometimes life interrupts our steady pace. Sometimes we get slowed down, or even sidetracked.

Christmas, you see, is about the birth of the Christ-child. It's hard to really grasp since we know the end of the story, but rather than a story about the well-oiled moving along of life, this incredible event marks quite the unexpected interruption.

Think about it!

Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men.

Each were interrupted. For all, the coming of the Christ-child brought chaos, probably even some anxiety.

God comes not only in unexpected but also in disruptive ways.

This is hard for us to take in, I think. We tend to see God and religion as a stabilizing force. Karl Marx once cynically said that religion is the "opiate of the masses." Many in Western culture reject Marx's teachings, but at the same time, many Western Christians casually, even unconsciously, accept and even celebrate his point about religion.

## Pastor Sarah's Reflection - Con't.

Our faith and discipleship are not a panacea to the problems of the world. God is not a fairy godmother, nor a somewhat more divine version of Santa. God is Lord of all, and certainly Lord of our lives. God's kingdom is both a present and future reality. The incarnation—God made flesh as we celebrate at Christmas—calls us to be part of the inbreaking of God's kingdom even now.

And that is terribly disruptive.

God's kingdom is one where the outcast and downtrodden are praised and lifted up. God's kingdom is one guided not by our will and desires but by God's will. God's kingdom is a kingdom of peace, love, joy and hope—not bitterness, cynicism, division, pride or self-righteousness.

Christmas often becomes a season when we as Christians become terribly sensitive to those who we feel curtail our open celebration of the holiday. If we do so because we believe Christmas celebrates all that is good and comfortable and which we desire life to be, we are being less than honest. Christmas shouldn't make us feel simply warm, loving, cozy and comfortable. Christmas *should* be terribly disruptive. It should convict us about our failure to more fully embody God's kingdom even now. Christmas should quite uncomfortably confront us with the reality that there probably isn't much that separates us from the Herods, Sadducees or Pharisees of Jesus' life—we too might go to any lengths to preserve our status, position and right-ness in the eyes of others.

But then here comes a baby. Without power. Yet God made flesh. Emmanuel. God with us. Inconvenient. Disruptive.

This Advent, may you be uncomfortable. May that discomfort challenge you to grow in your faithfulness to God's inbreaking kingdom. And may Christmas offer you not easy answers, but challenging questions as you seek to grow as a disciple of this Jesus Christ, born in ways that upended so many lives, that you and all and all people might have abundant and eternal life.

Grace and Peace.

Pastor Sarah

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



## NEW Office Hours

Beginning January 1, 2020  
The Church Office will be open  
on Tuesday's - 9am - 3pm

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)

## cUMC message board and upcoming events



### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SURVEY

In recent weeks, in conversation with various Calvary members, I've heard from some members who might prefer a Christmas Eve worship service earlier (than our usual 7 pm) in order to be able to attend the service but not have to drive in the dark, or to get children home before late.

While I'm generally hesitant to change our traditions around major holidays like Christmas and Easter, I also did not want to assume what folks' thoughts and preferences might be. We would be considering changing the service time to an earlier time (NOT offering more than one service--we don't have enough attendance on Christmas Eve to do so).

Therefore, I would ask you to complete the following BRIEF survey online or contact me directly with your thoughts. Please do so as soon as possible--and no later than this Friday (12/6). As you can imagine, if we were to make any changes, we would need to make that decision ASAP.

The link for the survey is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZBC7M6>

Thank you!  
Pastor Sarah

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### New Calvary Cross Roads Schedule

Beginning in January, Calvary Cross Roads will become a monthly publication. We will, however, send out a weekly meeting and event update.

To ensure information regarding your meetings and events are published in CCR, please submit any information for the January newsletter no later than December 20th.

Questions: contact the church office at [calvumc@calvumc.org](mailto:calvumc@calvumc.org).