



December 2019
January-February
2020

CALVARY COMMENTS

FROM
THE
PASTOR



I recently spent time with the Avilla Christmas Charities Board going through applications for Christmas assistance. Going through these applications reminds me of how much need exists right here within our own community. Many families within our community are struggling to make ends meet on average weekly incomes that are well below the poverty line. Some struggle to care for children they are fostering for relatives who are in jail in addition to their own children while others face limited work opportunities due to disability, lack of education, or their status as a felon. One of the children I am reading with this year at Avilla Elementary has no home to call her own – she has a roof over her head every night, but she’s never certain which roof it will be or who will be under it with her. We sometimes think poverty is a problem that exists in other communities, but the reality is that the problems of poverty are right here in our own hometown. Every day, whether we know it or not, we encounter people who can’t afford to pay their electric bill, who are skipping meals so their children can eat, who are just a missed payment away from eviction and homelessness. We are often quick to judge such people, urging them to “pull themselves up by their own bootstraps” without taking the time to understand, to have compassion for the struggle they are in, to listen to their stories, and to acknowledge how difficult society makes it for people in such straights to find their own way out without help. During this time of year we often hear the cry: “Keep Christ in Christmas!” If you want to help keep Christ in Christmas this year, worry less about the words of greeting you hear at the cash register, and spend more time living and giving after the example Christ gave us through his life and his teachings. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Give water to the thirsty. Visit those who are sick or in prison. Fight for those who suffer injustice. Provide company to those who are lonely. Sit with those who grieve. Encourage those who are discouraged. There’s a fairly new Christmas song written by R. Frederick Crider, Jr. in 2007 that I have come to love. Here are some of the lyrics:

*When we give our gifts at Christmas do we ponder what is best?
Do we think that lavish splendor honors Christ, the infant guest?
Do we miss what Christmas means, lost in presents lights and greens?
Since the shepherds looked in wonder on God's gift, this little boy.
Other gifts, though good, are wanting, money, clothes, a tool or toy.
But, our love and selfless caring echo heaven's Christmas sharing.*

This holiday season, step back a bit from the lavish decorations and the presents no one really needs and focus your time and effort on giving where it really matters. Give of your time and your talents, not just your resources. Help those who aren’t able to help themselves. Volunteer your time. Instead of presents, give donations to charities in your loved ones’ honor. Keeping Christ in Christmas has less to do with saying “Merry Christmas” and a whole lot more to do with living our lives and using our resources in such a way that others can see Christ in us! May you have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Joyous Epiphany!

In Christ’s Service, Pastor Shalimar

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE
YOUR NEWSLETTER
ELECTRONICALLY**

Do to the increasing cost of postage, we will begin publishing “Calvary Comments” quarterly and offering the option of receiving the newsletter electronically as a PDF document. If you are able and willing to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter in place of a hard copy, please contact the church office to let us know and to ensure we have your updated e-mail address on file. We will continue providing hard copies to those who wish to receive them.

EVENTS IN December-January-February

- December 8 Shopping for Christmas Charities
Bake Sale Fundraiser for Project 218
- December 15 Wrapping/Delivering Presents
Bashor Children’s Home Gifts Due
Pastor Shalimar’s Open House
- December 17 Deliver of gifts to Bashor Children’s Home
- December 22 Christmas Caroling
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- January 8 Finance Meeting
- January 22 Staff Parish Meeting
- January 26 Hot Chocolate Bar Fundraiser for Project 218
- January 29 Administrative Council
- February 1 Staff/Parish Committee Training @ Sunrise UMC
- February 16 Project 216
- February 26 Ash Wednesday Service



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Worship

*"All the earth will worship You, and will sing praises to You;
They will sing praises to your name." Psalm 66:4*

Our focus in Advent will be "Are You There Yet?" as we anticipate the coming of Christ. Following our Christmas Celebrations, we will begin a series on 1 Corinthians before delving into the season of Lent. We look forward to seeing you in worship!!

December 1

1st Sunday in Advent
United Methodist Student Day Offering
Matthew 24:36-44
"Are We There Yet?"
We will celebrate communion this Sunday

December 8

2nd Sunday in Advent
Matthew 3:1-12
"Are We There Yet?"

December 15

3rd Sunday in Advent
Matthew 11:2-11
"Are We There Yet?"

December 22

4th Sunday in Advent
Matthew 1:18-25
"Are We There Yet?"

December 29

1st Sunday after Christmas Day
Matthew 2:13-23
*Wear your Crazy Christmas
Sweater Sunday*

January 5

Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
We will celebrate communion this Sunday

January 12

Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-9

January 19

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Human Relations Day
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 26

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

February 2

4th Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
We will celebrate communion this Sunday

February 9

5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Boy Scout Sunday
1 Corinthians 2:1-16

February 16

6th Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

February 23

Transfiguration of the Lord
Psalm 99

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

ADVENT

The word *advent* means "coming" or "arrival," and it is during the season of Advent that we focus our attention on the promise of Christ's second coming at the end of the age. Advent is our celebration of the promise that Christ will return to bring an end to all that is contrary to the ways of God. This season lasts four weeks, ending on Christmas Eve as we turn our signs toward the joy and blessing of Christ's first coming in Jerusalem. The color for Advent is purple, symbolizing royalty, or blue, symbolizing hope.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season, which lasts twelve days, begins at sunset on Christmas Eve and continues through the Day of Epiphany on January 6th. Christmas is our celebration of "The Great Exchange," when God exchanged his divinity for humanity in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ so that we might have the hope of redemption.

EPIPHANY & BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "appearance" and always falls on January 6th. On Epiphany we celebrate the arrival of the Magi who are the first to identify Jesus as the promised King of the Jews and whose gifts foreshadow his sacrifice. Baptism of the Lord falls on the Sunday following January 6th and commemorates Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River and the beginning of his public ministry. The season between Epiphany and Transfiguration of the Lord is called "The Season after the Epiphany."

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

On this, the final Sunday before Lent, we read about the transfiguration of the Lord when his divinity was revealed to Peter, James, and John.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The 40-day season of Lent kicks off with Ash Wednesday, the most somber day of the Christian year. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are sinful and mortal, that we will one day die, and that we must take care that our brief life on this earth is not wasted. Ashes are imposed on the forehead as a way of remembering that we are dust, and one day we will return to the dust from which we came.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24
7:00 p.m.

Traditional carols, candlelight, and communion will all be part of this Christmas Eve service. Make attendance with your family a part of your holiday tradition!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 26
6:30 p.m.

Get the season of Lent off to a solid start with attendance at our Ash Wednesday service. The service will include imposition of ashes, a time of silent confession, and a token to carry with you throughout the season of Lent.

"Worship is not to entertain those present, nor to offer religious education. Evangelism is not the focus of worship. Neither is worship a self-help session for those attending. Worship is the experience of God's people entering His presence for His benefit."

—Milfred Minatrea

MISSIONS

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." —1 John 3:17-18

Missions of the Month

All undesignated "missions" funds collected during that month will go toward that month's selected mission.

DECEMBER:

Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children

On December 1st, each family will receive a donation bag to take home with them for the Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children. Additional bags will be available in the Narthex. These bags will be collected during the Christmas Eve service on December 24th or you may return your bag anytime through the first week in January. This special offering supports children's institutions and ministries in Indiana, across our nation, and around the world.

JANUARY:

Ken Vance

Ken Vance is a missionary in Zambia whom we have supported for a number of years. He works with schools, churches, Pastor's schools, and agricultural efforts as he spreads the gospel among the people of Zambia while helping to train them to be self-sustainable. Each year our church contributes \$1400 to his mission. Please help us lend our continued support to Ken!

FEBRUARY:

Impact 2818 Camp Scholarships

Our Lenten Offering this year will support scholarships for children from our church and community who attend one of our Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries summer camps. A full week of camp costs in excess of \$400, and many families struggle to afford this cost, especially when they have multiple children. Church camp has a lasting impact on the lives of children, deepening their faith and commitment to Christ and their understanding of what it means to live as a Christian. Many children accept Christ into their lives for the first time while at camp, and many others discern a call to vocational ministry. To learn more about Impact 2818 Outdoor Ministries and the camping opportunities they offer go to www.impact2818.org

"Never underestimate the enormous impact a church can have, even if only a small percentage of its members offer themselves for front-line, risk-taking service. Even major projects begin by God calling only one or two people to do something bold." —Robert Schnase



AVILLA CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

SHOPPING

December 8th @ 10:30 a.m.

Following worship on December 8th we will head to Walmart in Kendallville where we will shop for the children we will be adopting through Avilla Christmas Charities!

Thanks to the growing number of individuals and businesses who wish to adopt families, the number of families we are adopting this year will be pretty low!

Please join us!

WRAPPING/DELIVERING

December 15th @ 10:30 a.m.

Following Worship on December 15th we will finishing up wrapping and delivering the gifts for our Avilla Christmas Charities families. Come on up and be part of the fun!



Adopt-a-Cottage for Christmas

In addition to praying for the children of Bashor Children's Home throughout the Advent Season, this year our church is adopting the 13 boys in HOPE Cottage at Bashor Children's Home. We will be providing each of these young youth (age 9-13) with Christmas gifts (about 5 gifts each). If you would like to adopt one of these children, please choose a child off of the board in the Narthex, sign up so that we know which child you have adopted, and bring the gifts (un-wrapped) to the church no later than Sunday, December 15th.

ADOPT A TEACHER

This year we have adopted 6 teachers at Avilla Elementary who are new to Avilla this year. In addition to keeping these teachers and their students in prayer, in mid-November we put out their wish lists for their classrooms. If you would like to help provide these teachers with some of what they need for their classrooms, please check out the "Adopt a Teacher" wish-lists and bring the items (or money for the items) to the church. The six teachers we have adopted this year are:



- Sarah Chesebrough (Art)
- Lauren Clark (1st Grade)
- Melinda Delashmit (Gym)
- Ethan Hood (2nd Grade)
- Katherine Matthews (Music)
- Bethany Swary (Functional Living Skills)

The Bishop's
CHRISTMAS OFFERING
of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church



This year we will once again be collecting the Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children during Advent. Advent collection bags will be distributed during worship on December 1st and will be collected during the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. You are welcome to return your bag anytime on or before January 5th. Funds from this offering will be divided and distributed to the following causes:

- Impact2818 Outdoor Ministries (Indiana UM Camping Ministry)
- The three Indiana UM-related children/youth homes
- Local outreach projects
- United Methodist Advance Projects (national and global)
- Bishop's fund for emergency children's projects

For more information and a video message from our bishop, go to:

<https://www.inumc.org/about/giving-information/christmas-offering/>

STAMPS & SODAS

CANCELED POSTAGE STAMPS
Are sent to Marian Mission Storehouse

POP CAN TABS
Are sent to Ronald McDonald House. For more information go to www.rmhc.org

Special Sunday Offerings

To learn more go to <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/special-sundays>.

December 1:
United Methodist Student Day

January 19:
Human Relations Day

PROJECT 2:16

"FIGHT HUNGER: GIVE HOPE"

Volunteer Day
Tentatively Scheduled for
Sunday, February 16th
(awaiting conformation from organization)

Project 216 is a local non-profit humanitarian food aid organization based out of Fort Wayne with the mission to show God's love by empowering our community to provide highly nutritious food to people suffering from hunger around the world. Volunteers raise money (about \$50/volunteer) then spend roughly two hours packing food in the warehouse in Fort Wayne.

Our youth have developed a passion for this project and invite the church to come alongside them as they raise money for the packing event and then serve God and God's people in this way. We need a minimum of 12 volunteers to join us at the warehouse on the packing day, so please consider joining us!!!

We also appreciate your support in raising the funds to pay for the food we will be packing!

If you'd like to learn more about this organization, go to:

<https://project-216.org/>

Fundraising Events
for our Packing Day:

BAKE SALE
Sunday, December 8
(Baked goods donations accepted)

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR
Sunday, January 26

Discipleship

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.
—Philippians 1:27

6-Week Lenten Bible Study: “Growing to Be Like Christ”

Tuesdays, March 3-April 7
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Study Book Cost: \$10
Sign up by February 16th

From the back of the study book: “Spiritual maturity doesn’t happen by accident. The six sessions in this study equip you for the basic habits of spiritual growth: relying on the Holy Spirit, cultivating time in the Bible and prayer, seeing life’s obstacles as opportunities for growth, and partnering with Christians who are committed to supporting your growth. Here is a realistic, practical path to growing strong in faith and Christian Character.”

Sacred Heart Bible Study



Wednesdays at 11:00
a.m.

@Presence Sacred Heart
Nursing Home

November 6-January 8
“Faith”

January 22-March 18
“Following Jesus”

“Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. His followers grew in their understanding of God and matured in their awareness of God’s will for their lives as they listened to Jesus’ stories, instructions, and lessons while gathering around dinner tables, on hillsides, and at the Temple. Jesus taught us to learn our faith this way.”

Robert Schnase

JEOPARDY!

Sunday, December 29
10:15 a.m.

People of all ages are invited to stick around after church for a rousing game of Jeopardy! We’ll divide the participants into three teams and answer questions from categories such as:

“The Third Verse”
“Beginner’s Bible”
And
“Christmas Movies”

It’s sure to be a blast! Join us on the Sunday after Christmas during the Sunday School hour as we pool our knowledge and compete for a special Christmas treat!

Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, & Witness

When you join the church you pledge to support it with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Supporting the church in this way not only helps the church to thrive and God’s Kingdom to grow, it also helps you grow in your own walk with Christ! No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, we always have room to grow! We challenge you to increase your commitment to Christ and the church this year by growing in your commitment in one or more of the following ways:

- ✦ Spend time in prayer every day
- ✦ Begin or end every day with a Scripture or devotional reading
- ✦ Attend worship more frequently
- ✦ Increase your financial giving
- ✦ Volunteer your service to the church as opportunities arise—bake cookies for Cookie Sunday, take part in various Christmas charity efforts, send cards to homebound members, serve and an Usher or Greeter, teach a Bible Study, etc.
- ✦ Be intentional about sharing your faith with others in your family, at your place of work, or wherever you socialize with other people
- ✦ Invite someone to come to church with you

THE UPPER ROOM

The *Upper Room* devotional is published every other month and is available in the narthex free of charge! Pick up your copy today! Find additional devotional resources at www.upperroom.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

1 Star Fetter	15 Christopher Smurr
4 Diana Zimmerman	17 Melissa Sarrazine
7 Gene Cogan	26 Larry Corbin
7 Audrey Huelsenbeck	27 Lisa Kemerly
7 Samuel Huelsenbeck	28 Todd Hile
9 Sarah Hilton	29 Gabe Weaver
12 Dorothy McKinley	31 Jane Bartholomew
12 Kevin Becker	

January

1 McClain Moriarity	14 Nathaneal Crawford
2 Renee Rodenbeck	15 Earl Eulitt
5 Judy Burkhart	20 Liz Richmond
6 Max Franklin	21 Aryanna Rodenbeck
6 Evan Hart	26 Brad Igney
13 Jim Rodenbeck	

February

2 Lori Smurr	25 Rebecca Caskey
4 Kathy Hile	26 Paul Shull
5 Gwen Swogger	26 Cady Smith
7 Doris Smurr	26 Heidi Hart
7 Jim Kemerly	27 Tom Patrick
9 Rachel Becker	28 Stan Whonsetler
15 Dan Fritz	
18 Kent Harman	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



DECEMBER

- 6 Ed & Gailanna Ransom
- 16 Kevin & Julie Becker
- 17 Rob & Sue Gienger

JANUARY

- 2 Jim & Vicki Kemerly

FEBRUARY

NONE

Our
Deepest
Condolences



We lift up the families of the following saints-in-glory as they mourn the passing of their loved ones:

- Cleo Mark (Oct. 13, 2019)
- Max Robart (Oct. 16, 2019)



VISITS AND CARDS

Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers and drop them a card over the next three months to brighten the winter days!

LaVerna Terrace: Pat Meyer
Chapman Place: Margaret Ross

Lutheran Life Villages: Sharon Shisler
At Home: Nicole Harding
Gailanna Ransom

Orchard Point: Joy Sneary
Dianna Zimmerman
Presence Sacred Heart: Gene Cogan
Wilma Mueller

Sally Sibert
Allan Simon
Ann VanZile



This year on All Saints Sunday (November 3) we remembered the following saints-in-glory who have gone to be with our Lord in the past year: Roger Crawford, Mindy Earnhart, Wendell Beck, Mildred Stoll, Harold "Jack" Mullett, Rachel Schenher, Helen Parks, Harry Draper, Anne Windle, Cleo Mark, and Max Robart.

SEEKING POSTAGE STAMP DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated postage stamps these past three months! Keep them coming in. Every stamp helps. THANK YOU!!

Christmas Caroling

December 22
10:30 a.m.

We will be traveling to area nursing homes and visiting our homebound members as we spread the joy of the season while delivering fruit baskets and singing carols! People of all ages are welcome!

PRAYER CHAIN

During the month of December we will be updating our "Prayer Chain." New prayer chain lists will go out the first of January. Members of the Prayer Chain are responsible for praying for the concerns that come through the chain for three days or as the situation requires. They may also be responsible for passing the word on to others on the prayer chain. A prayer chain can be started by calling the church office during office hours (M-R 9am-12pm), contacting Pastor Shalimar, or contacting Amy Barker. If you are willing to pray for the concerns that arise throughout the year and would like to be included in the prayer chain, please sign up in the narthex OR fill out this form and turn it into the office by Sunday, December 29th.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please check your preferred Method of Contact for the Prayer Chain:

Phone Call

E-mail

Text Message



MEETINGS in Dec/Jan/Feb

Trustees: December 4 & February 5 @ 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee: January 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

Staff/Parish Committee: January 22 @ 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Council: January 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Wednesday & Thursday Dec. 25-26—
Christmas
Wednesday, January 1—New Years Day

Harbinger Mouse will be roaming around the church Dec. 1-Jan. 5 with his special message and his pail of candy! Keep an eye out for him each week!

PASTOR SHALIMAR'S ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 15
2:00-5:00 p.m.

@ 304 W. Walnut Street

Food & Fellowship. Free hand-made ornament for every household. Special room with activities for kids. Everyone is welcome!

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

Once again, Avilla Calvary will be participating in the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest downtown. Take a walk downtown this December and vote for our tree Dec. 14-20 at chamberofavilla.org.

Help Decorate the Tree:
Thursday, December 5 @ 1 p.m.
Help remove the decorations:
Friday, December 27 @ 1 p.m.



Kendallville Christmas Greeting Drive-Thru

Nov. 28-Dec. 25

Our youth and their leaders have worked diligently designing and painting a "Christmas Card" for the Kendallville Christmas Greeting Drive-Thru. Check out their work when you drive through Bixler Park in December!

Pray for our Leaders and Committee Members in 2020!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chair/Lay Leader/Lay Member to AC	Dave Dolezal
Recording Secretary	Dianna Danalds
Alternate Lay Member to AC	Lana Whonsetler
Church Treasurer	Janice Parks
Church Financial Secretary	Lee Ann Dolezal/Liz Richmond
Staff Parish Chair	Dorothy McKinley
Trustees Chair	Jim Felger
Finance Chair	Steve Smurr (2 nd Term)
Worship Committee	Shalimar Holderly
Membership Care	Dianna Danalds
Missions Committee	
UMW President	Rheta Igney
Members at Large	Chris Slusher, Larry Corbin & Anna Becker

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Steve Smurr (Class of 2021 2 nd Term)
Ad Council Chair/Lay Leader/Lay Member	Dave Dolezal
Church Treasurer	Janice Parks
Church Financial Secretary	Liz Richmond/Lee Ann Dolezal
Trustee Chair	Jim Felger
Class of 2021	Brad Igney
Class of 2022	Stan Whonsetler & Chris Slusher

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Chairperson	Dorothy McKinley (Class of 2020)
Lay Leader/Lay Member to AC	Dave Dolezal
Pastor	Shalimar Holderly
Class of 2021	Angie Smith & Kevin Becker
Class of 2022	Sandy Igney & Dianna Danalds (2 nd Term)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Jim Felger (Class of 2021)
Vice Chairperson	Dale Richmond
Custodians	Rob & Tony Gienger
Class of 2020	Kent Garman
Class of 2021	Dale Richmond
Class of 2022	Kathy Hile & Gary McKinley (2 nd Term)

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Chairperson	Shalimar Holderly
Lay Leader	Dave Dolezal
Class of 2020	Jim Felger
Class of 2021	Susie Corbin & Bill Fetter
Class of 2022	Mary Felger & Larry Corbin

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Convener: Shalimar Holderly. Members: Doyle Igney, Doris Smurr, Mary Felger, Jerry Becker, Mary Whonsetler, & Larry Corbin

MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE

Convener: Dianna Danalds. Members: Janice Parks, Angie Moriarity, Dorothy McKinley, & Gail Rodenbeck

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Convener: Shalimar Holderly. Members: Sandy Igney, Steve Smurr, Dianna Danalds, Julie Becker, & Angie Smith

THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Gen. Offering for Sept/Oct/Nov	6407.50
Expenses for Sept/Oct/Nov	9075.47
Year to date offerings:	96,410.88
Year to date expenses:	113,038.38

Other Jun/Jul/Aug Offerings	
Missions—Noble House	\$287
Missions—Trinity Daycare	\$53
Missions—Camp Lakewood	\$165
Missions—Camp Scholarships	\$500
Missions—UMCOR	\$450
Missions—Restore Avilla	\$308
Missions—Costa Rica Trip	\$75
Memorial	\$305
Building fund	\$1400
Trustees	\$600
College Kids	\$60
Avilla Teachers	\$10
Avilla School Lunch Fund	\$75
World Communion Sunday	\$15

Average attendance for Sept:	59
Average attendance for Oct.:	49
Average attendance for Nov.:	58
Total # of attendees in Sept/Oct/Nov	105

PLEASE NOTE: Income and expenses vary throughout the year. At the end of the year, any deficit is able to be covered by funds raised at the Apple Festival. The Finance Committee chooses to wait until the end of the year to rectify the account due to the fact that income often increases toward the end of the year to make up some of the deficit. While we would ideally like to see all our expenses met by our General Offering income each month, thanks to all our hard work at the Apple Festival every year we are able to continue to meet our bills during those times when our expenses exceed our income. Your financial contributions make a real difference, and we thank you for helping to ensure that our church is staffed, our building maintained, and our ministry to the church and community supported!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL
ATTENDANCE
AND FOR YOUR GIFTS!!!**

The notion that stewardship rightly focuses on the Christian's need to give rather than the church's need to receive is not simply a money-raising strategy but a spiritually powerful truth. The practice of tithing blesses and benefits the giver as much as it strengthens the mission and ministry of the church.
—Robert Schnase



Dear Avilla Calvary, Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 received from Impact 2818—Camp Lakewood. Your generosity, gift, and support are greatly appreciated. Every gift is an important part in making the ministry and experience of camps and retreats come together to make disciples for Jesus Christ. We will be great stewards with your sacrifice. —Ryan Gernand, Sr. Manager of Advancement

Greetings, on behalf of the UM Mountain Mission, I would like to extend our greatest gratitude and appreciation for your donation of \$59. We are deeply grateful for your support and generosity. Without God's Blessing and your congregation, we would not be able to operate and do all God has planned for us here in the mountains. Thank you for your donations and your continued prayers. —Karen Bunn, Executive Director

Dear Friends, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank you! Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR response to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms—sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need. Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors. —Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary & Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who helped out with and attended the Community Bonfire! —Membership Care Committee

Thank you to everyone who blessed me with cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month in October! I am blessed to serve this congregation and I love each and every one of you! —Pastor Shalimar Holderly

Thank you to Larry Corbin and the Youth for covering worship leadership for me while I was on vacation. You are appreciated! —Pastor Shalimar Holderly

Thank you to the following people who are ending their 3-year terms on committees this year: Doyle Igney, Diana Danalds, Gary McKinley, Kathy Hile, Lee Ann Dolezal, & Sandy Igney. Your service over the past three years has been deeply appreciated! Thank you, also, to those who have accepted three year terms beginning in 2020: Stan Whonsetler, Chris Slusher, Sandy Igney, Diana Danalds, Kathy Hile, Gary McKinley, Mary Felger, & Larry Corbin.



NEWS FROM OUR SCOUTS

Cub Pack 3115

Hello from the cubs and leaders. We have had an interesting fall roundup for cubs. We have recruited several and we still have families inquiring if they could still join. At the end of October we had four new scouts join. Unfortunately we did not have any new female cubs join this year. We hope to change that. We will have two girls graduating to Scouts BSA and we have asked one of the mothers to start a Scouts BSA girl's troop. We hope this will happen.

In mid-October we attended the Fall Camporee at Camp Chief Little Turtle. The theme was Paul Bunyan and we participated in many things that Paul would have done. We even had a big Blue Ox on display at the parade field. It was a lot of fun. Some of us camped Friday night and it got down to 34 degrees. It was cold.

We are having a lock-in at the beginning of November. We plan on doing a service project on the Saturday morning after the lock in. Look out leaves here come the cubs. Hopefully we can get them raked up to the street for pick-up.

We will have a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st. Our Christmas party will be December 19th.

Klondike Derby will be in mid-January at Camp Chief Little Turtle. It will be fun. Hopefully we will have snow like last year.

Thank you for being our Charter Partner.

Boy Scout Troop 115

Hello from the scouts and leaders of the troop. Brian Cass asked us to invite our friends to join the troop. IT WORKED. We have gone from 5 scouts to 12 scouts. Todd, our Scoutmaster, said help!!! The scouts are learning and growing in scout knowledge.

We attended the Fall Camporee for Pokagon District at Camp Chief Little Turtle. Friday night was cold but the scouts stayed warm. We were prepared. The theme was Paul Bunyan and scouts from the Pokagon District helped organize the events and lead us in them. One of the events was to make a pancake then toss it to a fellow scout to catch it in a skillet. The troop got 3rd place with Landon catching the pancake at 127 feet. Good job. Another was to flip a pancake in a skillet as many times as you could in two minutes. Landon did a great job with 70 some flips in that time. The best was a scout from Auburn with 127 flips in two minutes. We had a lot of fun and there was a big blue ox on the parade field.

We are learning the basic skills for our ranks. As a lot of the scouts are new they have to be Scout rank. After that they will work on Tenderfoot, Second Class then First Class. We have a couple of older scouts that are at First Class and Star rank.

We are looking forward to the Klondike Derby in mid-January. This year it will feature a plane that went down in Alaska with 6 crew members. One of the men survived and lived in the wilderness for a couple of months. We will simulate what he did to survive. Sounds like a fun cold experience.

We are happy that you want to sponsor our troop and be our Chartered Partner. Thank You

THE THIRD VERSE

Can you match the third verse of each of these familiar Christmas carols with the title of the carol?

- ____ 1. Be Near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.
- ____ 2. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.
- ____ 3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.
- ____ 4. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
- ____ 5. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star.
- ____ 6. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
- ____ 7. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- ____ 8. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
- ____ 9. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- ____ 10. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

- A. Angels from the Realms of Glory
- B. Away in a Manger
- C. Go, Tell it On the Mountain
- D. In the Bleak Midwinter
- E. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- F. Joy to the World
- G. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
- H. O Come, All Ye Faithful
- I. O Little Town of Bethlehem
- J. What Child is This

Answers: 1.B, 2.G, 3.E, 4.J, 5.A, 6.D, 7.I, 8.H, 9.F, 10.C

Singing our Faith

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

UMH #240

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!” was written by Charles Wesley, an English Methodist leader and hymn writer, in 1734. Wesley’s goal in writing hymns (he wrote over 6000) was to teach the poor and illiterate sound doctrine. Some have noted that Methodism was born in song and Charles was the chief songwriter.

Wesley, inspired by the sounds of London church bells while walking to church on Christmas Day, wrote the “Hark” poem about a year after his conversion. The poem first appeared in Hymns and Sacred Poems in 1739 with the opening line of “Hark, how the welkin (heaven) rings.” In 1753, George Whitefield, a student and eventual colleague of Wesley’s, adapted the poem into the song we now know today. It was Whitefield who penned the phrase “newborn King.”

The first stanza describes the good news of the savior’s birth. God has sent the One who will reconcile the sinner back to Himself. Therefore, all the nations should rise and sing and proclaim the good news, which is Christ the King! The next stanza speaks to the mysticism of Christ’s coming and the good news in it. The final stanza tells of the accomplishment of Christ and the power that it brings.

(Adapted from <https://jamesriver.church/blog/story-behind-hark-herald-angels-sing>)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays is glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 9am Worship 10am SS</p> <p><i>United Methodist Student Day Offering</i></p>	2	<p>3 9-11:30 a.m. Food Pantry</p>	<p>4 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5 1pm Decorate Christmas Tree for Contest Downtown</p> <p>6:30pm Scout Leader's Roundtable</p>	6	<p>7 12pm Slusher Fellowship Hall Rental</p> <p>5pm Santa Christmas Tree Lighting @ Herit- age Park</p>
<p>8 9am Worship 10am SS 10am Bake Sale for Project 216 10:15am Shopping for Avilla Christmas Charities 11am Cray Fellow- ship Hall Rental</p>	9	<p>10 9-11:30 a.m. Food Pantry</p>	<p>11 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12 6:30pm Scouts</p>	13	14
<p>15 9am Worship 10am SS 11am Delivering Christmas Presents 11am Gifts for Bashor Children Due 2-5pm Pastor Shalimar's Advent Open House 5pm Smith Fellowship Hall Rental</p>	16	<p>17 9-11:30 a.m. Food Pantry</p> <p>1-3pm Bashor Children's Home Gift Delivery</p>	<p>18 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>19 6:30 p.m. Scout Christmas Party</p>	20	<p>21 12pm Patrick Fellowship Hall Rental</p>
<p>22 9am Worship 10am SS 10:15 a.m. Christ- mas Caroling</p>	23	<p>24 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED</p> <p>7pm Christmas</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27 1pm Take down Downtown Christmas Tree</p>	<p>28 1pm Shull Fellow- ship Hall Rental</p>
<p>29 9am Worship 10am Jeopardy Competition</p> <p><i>Wear Your Ugly Christmas Sweater to Church Day</i></p>	30	<p>31 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED</p>				

January 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Office Closed New Year's Day NO CHOIR	2 6:30pm Scout Leaders Roundtable	3	4
5 9am Worship 10am SS/Un-decorate Church Epiphany Sunday	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 9-11:30am Food Pantry	8 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Finance	9 6:30pm Scouts	10	11
12 9am Worship 10am SS Baptism of the Lord	13	14 9-11:30am Food Pantry	15 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm Choir Practice	16 6:30pm Scouts	17	18 Scouts Klondike Derby
19 9am Worship 10am SS <i>Human Relations Day Offering</i>	20	21 9-11:30am Food Pantry	22 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm SPRC	23 6:30pm Scouts	24	25 11am Desper Fellowship Hall Rental
26 9am Worship 10am SS 10am Hot Chocolate Bar Fund-raiser for Project 216	27	28 9-11:30am Food Pantry	29 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council NO CHOIR PRACTICE	30 6:30pm Scouts	31	

February 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 9am-12:30pm SPRC Training @ Sonrise UMC
2 9am Worship 10am SS	3	4 9-11:30am Food Pantry	5 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 6:30pm Scouts Leaders Roundtable	7	8
9 9am Worship 10am SS	10 Mar-Apr-May Newsletter Deadline	11 9-11:30am Food Pantry	12 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 6:30pm Scouts	14	15
16 9am Worship 10am SS TBA Project 216	17	18 9-11:30am Food Pantry	19 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 6:30pm Scouts	21	22 Scouts Pinewood Derby
23 9am Worship 10am SS Transfigura- tion Sunday	24	25 9-11:30am Food Pantry	26 11am Bible Study @ Sacred Heart Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Ser- vice	27 6:30pm Scouts	28	29

Calvary Comments

Avilla Calvary United Methodist Church
101 S Cherry St
Avilla, IN 46710

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DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- Prayer Chain Updates
- Avilla Christmas Charities Shopping
- Bashor Children's Home Adopt-a-Cottage
- Avilla Elementary Adopt-a-Teacher
- Pastor Shalimar's Advent Open House
- Christmas Caroling
- Project 216 Fundraisers & Mission Day
- Ash Wednesday Service



Mar.-Apr.-May **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

MONDAY, February 10
Leave your articles in the
office, or e-mail your news to
avillacalvaryumc@embarqmail.com

Calvary Comments

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School
all ages
10:10 AM

*"Caring for our
Community by
Sharing God's Love"*

Calvary United Methodist Church



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STAFF

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 Organist.....Mary Whonsetler
 Custodians.....Tony & Robert Gienger
 Prayer Chain.....Amy Barker
 Food Pantry.....Don & Karen Crawford
 Sound Technicians.....Brad Igney &
Gary McKinley
 Media Technician.....Julie Becker & Jackie
Wakeman