

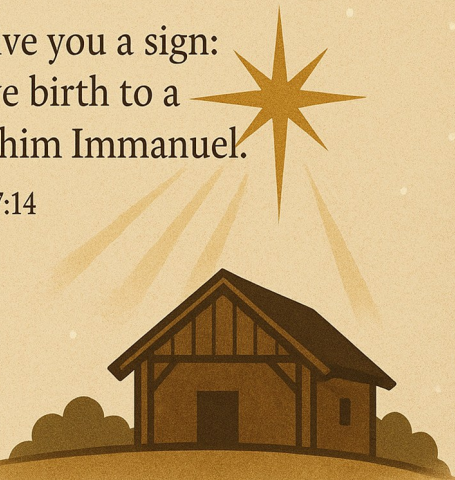


# THE *Mount Calvary* MESSENGER

**WORSHIP • GROW • SERVE • SHARE**  
**DECEMBER 2025**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:  
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a  
and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



## ADVENT

Make room in our hearts for Jesus. God with us.

### WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MESSENGER...

- ◆ Message from our Pastor
- ◆ December 2025 Theme & Advent Scripture
- ◆ Church-Wide Announcements
- ◆ Advent Message



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# *From The Pastor 's Pen...*



## **December Focus: SHARE Generously**

Beloved Mt. Calvary family,

December is the season of good news and generous giving.

At the heart of Christmas is a God who refused to keep His love to Himself. God shared His presence in a manger. His promise through the prophets. His power through the Holy Spirit. Above all, God shared His very self in Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son” (John 3:16).

“I bring you good news of great joy for all people” (Luke 2:10).

Heaven announced it. Now we are called to share it.

### **The Fruit of Sharing**

True sharing is more than being nice. It is what happens when love becomes visible. When we share Christ, we share hope that outlasts hardship. When we share our resources, we become part of God’s answer to someone’s prayer. When we share our stories, we remind one another that God is still moving in real lives, in real time.

This month we center on SHARE Generously. We commit to open hearts, open hands, and open mouths.

- We will share Christ with our words.
- We will share kindness through our presence.
- We will share resources that meet real needs.

We will share invitations that draw people into worship, community, and Christ. I remain committed to honoring our past, serving in the present, and preparing for our future. With God’s help and your partnership, we will be a church that does not hoard the blessing. We will pass it on.

Church, may December be the month our witness becomes bolder, our generosity grows deeper, and our joy in Jesus overflows to everyone around us.

### **A Prayer**

Father, You shared Your best gift with us in Jesus. Form in us a spirit of holy generosity. Teach us to share our faith, our resources, and our lives with courage and compassion. Make Mt. Calvary a place where no one is invisible and no need goes unnoticed. Let our sharing reflect Your heart and point people back to Christ.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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## *From The Pastor 's Pen (continued)...*

### **Bring Jesus a Christmas Gift**

Beloved Mt. Calvary family,

When we read the Christmas story, we see givers everywhere.

The Father gave His Son.

Mary gave her “yes.”

The shepherds gave their witness.

The wise men opened their treasures and laid them before Jesus.

Christmas is not only about what we receive. It is also about what we bring.

As we close this year, I want to invite each of us to prayerfully **Bring Jesus a Christmas Gift**. Not to the mall. Not to a registry. But to the Lord, through the ministry of His church.

Your year-end financial gift is more than a donation. It is an act of worship. It is a way of saying:

“Jesus, You have been faithful to me this year. I trust You with my future. I want Mt. Calvary to be strong, stable, and ready for what You are calling us to do next.” Your giving helps us:

- Strengthen worship and discipleship.
- Serve our neighbors with compassion.
- Sustain our ministries and meet our obligations.
- Step into the new year prepared, not pressured.

I know this season can bring financial pressures and complex emotions. There is no shame, only invitation. I simply ask that you talk to God about a special, sacrificial, joyful gift you can bring before this year ends. Then obey what the Holy Spirit places on your heart.

Church, imagine what God can do through a congregation that decides, together, “We will not come to the manger empty-handed.”

#### **A Prayer**

Lord Jesus, You are the greatest gift we will ever receive. Thank You for sustaining us through this year. As we prepare to bring You a Christmas gift, quiet our fears and stir our faith. Show each of us what to give, and help us to give it with joy. Use our offerings to strengthen Mt. Calvary, bless our community, and advance Your kingdom.

In Your powerful name we pray. Amen.



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## December 2025 Theme and Advent Scripture

**Advent Season: Make room in our hearts for Jesus. God with us.**

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

(Isaiah 7:14 NIV)

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### **CHURCH-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ♦ **December 12th** - Join **WOW Women's Game Night** at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. Come and experience a powerful and intimate evening of dialogue, fellowship, and food with women from all walks of life.
  - ♦ **December 14th** - Join us for **Ugly Sweater Sunday** and our **Annual Christmas Fellowship** sponsored by the Congregational Care Unit (CCU). Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and food following the 10 am Worship service as we ring in the Christmas season. Please register for the event by clicking on this [link](#), wear your ugliest, funniest, or most festive sweater to service, and bring a wrapped gift of \$5 - \$10 for our first church-wide gift exchange.
  - ♦ **December 16th** - Join the **Harvest Meals for the Hungry Ministry** for their **Annual Christmas Dinner** in the FLC at 6 pm. To volunteer to serve or make a donation for food items, please contact *Rev. Thomasine (410-967-6788)*.
  - ♦ **December 23rd** - **3rd Quarterly Conference** will be held at **6 pm** in the sanctuary.
  - ♦ **December 28th** - **Arts & Worship Sunday Service** at **10 am**. Please wear your Mt. Calvary AME swag.
  - ♦ **December 31st** - **Watch Night Service** at **6pm** in the Sanctuary.
  - ♦ The **2025 Giving Statements** will be available in January. To obtain your statement, click on this [link](#) and complete & submit the Member Contact Update and Giving Statement Request form.
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Jesus

*The Reason for the Season*



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## Please join us in our weekly **POWER CELLS!**

- Join us on the **6am Jewel Cromwell Johnson Prayer Line on Monday-Friday** for Prayer and Devotion.

**Phone Conference Call Line:**  
725-735-9012 (No Passcode)

- **Church School** - Sundays 9 am - 9:45 am in the FLC.
- Faith Forward Church-wide Bible Study - Wednesday's 7 pm on YouTube.

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## Happy Birthday to All December Born Babies



Special Birthday greetings goes out to all those celebrating a birthday in the month of **December**, from your CCU Leader Sis. Leslie Green & Sis. Delores Felton (mtcalvarydecemberclass1@gmail.com)



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## ***CELEBRATING THE ADVENT SEASON***

**November 30 - December 24, 2025**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**Always Growing**



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5 (NIV) This Advent, God invites us to make room to grow. Recently, I started a vegetable garden. Maybe some of you have done the same. I've loved seeing peppers, tomatoes, and herbs ripen under my care. I water them regularly because growth doesn't happen by accident; it happens through continual nourishment. And spiritually, we are no different. Our hearts require regular tending through prayer, Scripture, and worship so that faith can take root and flourish.

I've also noticed something fascinating: plants grow differently depending on the light. During the day, they stretch toward the sun, capturing its energy and transforming it into nourishment. They lean toward what gives them life. Yet growth also happens at night. In the dark, plants often grow upward, sometimes even faster, because the day's energy is freed for development rather than photosynthesis.

In the same way, our spiritual growth doesn't happen only in the bright, joyful seasons where everything feels clear, and God's presence seems obvious. Yes, we reach toward the light of God's love, and it shapes us. But there is also deep, quiet growth that happens in the dark during seasons of waiting, uncertainty, or stillness. Those are often the moments God strengthens our roots and prepares us for what comes next.

Advent is both light and dark. It is a season of holy waiting, where God invites us to open new space within ourselves, space to be nourished, space to stretch, space to grow in ways we may not yet see.

Like the plants in the garden, we thrive when we turn toward the Light. And we are still growing, even when we cannot see it happening.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me make room to grow this, Advent. Teach me to turn toward Your light and trust You in the dark. Nourish my heart with Your presence, stretch my faith in this season of waiting, and help me grow in the ways You have prepared for me.

Amen.

Rev. Natalie Watson

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## Opportunities To Give



As we close out the old year and ringing in the new one, we ask that you **Bring Jesus a Christmas Gift**. This gift is a sacrificial end-of-year offering to thank God for being faithful toward us individually and collectively as an act of worship.

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In this season of Thanksgiving, we are not oblivious to the significant needs that exist around us. There are significant needs in our community, and we have an opportunity to share our witness by feeding those who are hungry. For the foreseeable future, bins will be in the narthex where you can place nonperishable items for distribution to our community through our food pantry.

Please give generously!

## December Prayer Requests

Bishop Reginald Jackson's Family  
Presiding Elder Johnny/  
Rev. Patricia Calhoun  
Rev. Sheleta Fomby  
Sis. June Bryant  
Sis. Katherine Banks  
Mother Cleo Cole  
Bro. Kermit & Sis. LaShon Griffin  
Mother Grace Hicks  
Bro. Kevin Johnson  
Sis. Kristie Johnson  
Sis. Elissa Ross



Sis. Ursula Slade  
Sis. Kathy Thrasher  
Bro. Sidney & Sis. Sylvia Twigg  
Bro. Derrick Watson  
Sis. Norma Wharton  
Bro. Warren Whitworth  
Sis. Cynthia Whye  
Sis. Sheila Williams  
Ministerial Staff  
Ministries & Ministry Leaders  
All Members

Mount Calvary AME Church

# WAYS TO GIVE



THROUGH PHONE



IN PERSON



ONLINE



BY MAIL

300 Eudowood Ln  
PO Box 20416  
Towson MD 21286

**TEXT "MTCALVARY" TO 73256**

and then follow the link provided.

Scan Me:



Givelify



E-giving



PayPal

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

**Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby, Senior Pastor**



**MT. CALVARY**  
AME CHURCH

**Mount Calvary AME Church**

**300 Eudowood Lane**

**Towson, MD 21286**

**410-296-9474 (phone) 410-296-8710 (fax)**

**adminasst@mtcalvaryame.org www.mtcalvaryame.org**

Items for the Messenger must be submitted by the 2nd Friday of each month. Leaders, please add the following address to your email contacts to receive a reminder: [mtcalvaryamemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:mtcalvaryamemessenger@gmail.com).