



THE *Mount Calvary* MESSENGER

WORSHIP • GROW • SERVE • SHARE

SEPTEMBER

2026



WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MESSENGER...

- ♦ From the Pastor's Desk Message
- ♦ Monthly Theme & Scripture
- ♦ Church Announcements
- ♦ History of Mt. Calvary
- ♦ Weekly Power Cells



From the Pastor's Desk...



First Things First: Becoming a Worshiping Church

Dear Mt. Calvary Family,

September is a season of return. Summer rhythms begin to shift. Schools reopen. Calendars fill. Ministries resume their work. Life seems to gather speed again. Yet before we rush into everything demanding our attention, God is calling us to return to what deserves our first attention.

Worship.

This month, our worship emphasis is **“First Things First: Becoming a Worshiping Church.”** As we continue declaring, **“It’s Time to Rise and Build,”** we must remember that rebuilding does not begin with our hands. It begins with our hearts. Before Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, he wept, prayed, fasted, and sought the face of God. Before we ask God to bless the work of our hands, we must allow God to reorder the worship of our hearts.

Worship is more than what happens during a Sunday service. It is more than a song, a shout, or a sacred moment. Worship is the wholehearted offering of ourselves to God.

The Hebrew word *avodah* carries the intertwined meanings of worship, service, and work. In the biblical imagination, these things were never meant to be separated. The God we worship in the sanctuary is the God we serve in the community. The hands we lift in praise must become the hands we extend in compassion. Worship that does not shape how we live, love, and lead has not yet reached its deepest purpose.

That is why Paul writes, “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1). In other words, worship is not merely something we attend. Worship is the life we offer.

This is also why our service matters. Through **Calvary Cares and Jeans for Teens**, we are collecting jeans for young people in our community. Every pair given is more than clothing. It is a tangible declaration that our worship has walked out of the sanctuary and into someone’s life. We are showing our neighbors that the love of Jesus is not merely something we proclaim. It is something we practice. Mt. Calvary, God is forming us into a worshiping, growing, serving, and generous church. Our buildings may house the ministry, but our surrendered lives carry the mission. The walls we rebuild must hold a people whose hearts belong fully to God.

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)...

So, as September begins, I invite each of us to ask: What has been receiving the devotion that belongs to God? What needs to be reordered? What would change if worship became the center from which every part of our lives flowed?

Let us return to worship with renewed expectation. Let us bring God our presence, our prayers, our gifts, our service, and our whole selves. Let us rise and build, but let us begin where faithful building always begins.

On our knees.

With our hearts open.

With our eyes fixed on God.

Let us worship fully, enthusiastically, and expectantly at Mt. Calvary.

With love and expectation,

Dr. Sheleta Fomby

Senior Pastor

Mt. Calvary AME Church



September 2026 Theme & Scripture

Theme: “*Call To Worship*”

Scripture: “Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.” Psalm 145:3 NIV

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On **Sunday, September 6, 2026**, the **Calvary Cares Outreach Ministry** will launch “**Jeans for Teens**.” The ministry has a goal of collecting 250 pairs of jeans and is asking that members to donate lightly used or new jeans. The first ministry to donate 75 pair of jeans will receive a trophy.
- On **Thursday, September 10, 2026**, at **noon**, the **No Seniors Eats Alone Luncheon** will be held. All are welcomed for fun, food, & fellowship.
- On **Friday, September 11, 2026** at **7 pm**, a **Homecoming Bowling Night** will be held at *Lucky Strike Timonium, Timonium MD*. Registration is required and a \$36.00 charge is needed. See you there!
- On **Wednesday, September 9, 2026** at **6:30 pm**, join our Pastor, **Rev. Dr. Sheleta Fomby** at the **Union Bethel AME Church Three (3) Nights of Fire Revival** at *6810 Floral Park Road, Brandy Wine, MD 20613*, where she will be the guest preacher for the hour.
- On **Saturday, September 12, 2026**, at **8:30 am** volunteers of Mt. Calvary will participate in a ‘**Our Daily Bread**’ **Homecoming Outreach** in Baltimore, MD by preparing and serving meals for the homeless and those combatting food insecurity. Pray for them as they serve and share.
- On **Sunday, September 13, 2026** at **10 am**, we will celebrate our **137th Homecoming, 29th Sanctuary Anniversary and 14th Family Life Center Anniversary**. A sacrificial gift of **\$137.00** for adults and **\$13.00** for youth is being requested. Join us for our annual cook out immediately after service.
- On **Wednesday, September 16, 2026**, at **6:30 pm**, please join us for our **Church Conference & Trustee Elections** in the Family Life Center (FLC).

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

- On **Monday, September 21, 2026**, at **6 pm**, please join us for our **2nd Quarterly Conference** in the FLC.
- On **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, from **10 am - 2 pm**, join the **Beads of Wisdom Seniors Ministry** for a **Caribbean Heritage Luncheon**. All members with Caribbean heritage are ask to contact Sis. Marlene Corbett @ 443-723-1758.
- **The Grief Care Ministry** will be launched this month. If you are interested in joining, please contact **Sis. Shirley Stitt** at **443-552-3538**.

Save The Dates!!!

- We will celebrate Clergy Appreciation Month in October. Let's be sure to appreciate members of our Ministerial Staff all month.
- Please join the **Usher Board** on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, at **9:30 am**, in the FLC Great Room for their **10th Usher's Prayer Breakfast**. Registration is required. Tickets are \$36.00.
- The **Second Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention** will be held on **October 21-23, 2026**, in Wilmington, NC.

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

- **The Jewel Cromwell Johnson Prayer Line:**
 - **Morning Prayer:** Monday-Friday at 6 am.
 - **Phone Conference Call Line:** 725-735-9012 (No Passcode)
- **Church School - Sundays** at **9 am** adults and youth in the FLC.
- **Intercessory Prayer** on the Prayer line **Tuesdays** at **6 pm**.



Happy Birthday Greetings
to all those celebrating a birthday
in the month of September,
from your CCU Leader
Sis. Kristie Johnson
(kristyred@aol.com).

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

In 1840, the first black church, Saint James African United Methodist Protestant Church was formed. Afterward, Mount Olive Baptist Church was established. One year after the building of Mt. Olive Baptist Church the original edifice of Mt. Calvary was built.



The building of Mount Calvary began in 1855 when a group of Christians incorporated to plan a new place of worship. On February 12, 1889, our present-day site was purchased from the Relief Association of Baltimore County for \$50.00. The minister and trustees who signed the original deed were Rev. Hammond, pastor, James J. Smith, president and the trustees who were Isaac Robinson, Lewis Chaney, James H. Garrett, Benjamin Johnson, John Wesley Smith, Phillip W. Meyers, Henry Mack and Alfred Black. Other founders were Emma Smith and Aaron Stewart. At the formation of the church, we were known as the Mount Calvary Methodist Protestant Church of Baltimore County.

Although our church was originally a Protestant denominational church, the African Methodist Episcopal Conference was requested to provide preachers for our pulpit. A gentlemen's agreement was made between our church and the AME Conference. The AME Conference supplied preachers to Mt. Calvary with the stipulation that the church assumed all financial obligations for the church. In 1968, under the leadership of Rev. Reginald Boston, our original sanctuary was totally destroyed by fire. After the fire, Rev. Boston moved Mount Calvary's congregation to the First Lutheran Church on Burke Avenue in Towson. The former sanctuary was erected under Rev. Boston's leadership. In 1973 Rev. Reginald Boston was appointed to Grace AME Church, and Rev. William Gray III became pastor of Mount Calvary.

In 1986, Rev. Gray was sent to Saint Stephens A.M.E. Church. At that time, Mount Calvary received its first woman minister, Rev. Ann Farrar Lightner. In just five short years, Rev. Dr. Lightner-Fuller shared her vision to build a new Mount Calvary sanctuary and education building with the congregation in 1991. Our current sanctuary was completed in 1996, and we were able to completely pay off the mortgage five years later in 2001. In June 2012, the Mount Calvary family again completed a major construction project when we walked into our new Family Life Center to serve the community.

In, July 2017, Rev. Dr. Lightner-Fuller retired from 30 years of dedicated service to our church and during that same time, our church welcomed Rev. Bobby B. Cox, Jr., who was appointed as our pastor. In December 2024, after serving our church with passion and love for almost 7.5 years, Rev. Cox accepted a pastoral appointment at Bethel AME Church in Columbia, SC. In February 2025, Rev. Dr. Sheleta Fomby, our 2nd female pastor and a powerful woman of God, was appointed as our church's Senior Pastor. She is leading our great church with grace, power, and love under our four Kingdom commitments: Worship, Grow, Serve, and Share.

CELEBRATING OUR 137th
HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY



CELEBRATE

137th

MT. CALVARY A.M.E. CHURCH
— LIVE LOVE LEAD LIKE JESUS —

HOMECOMING EVENTS

Join us as we celebrate 137 years of faithful ministry, community, and Kingdom impact at Mt. Calvary.

SAT • AUG 29



Homecoming Crab Feast

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
\$90 per ticket

FRI • SEPT 11



Bowling Outing Fellowship

A night of fun, strikes, and fellowship for all ages!

SAT • SEPT 12



Our Daily Bread Outreach

Serve alongside the Our Daily Bread Organization as we meet practical needs in our community.

SUN • SEPT 13



Homecoming Sunday

Celebrate with us in worship!
Community Celebration following Worship

PURCHASE HOMECOMING T-SHIRT

ALL EVENT REGISTRATIONS VIA REALM
Visit the Realm App or our website to sign up today!

Rev. Dr. Sheleta E. Fomby
SENIOR PASTOR

MT. CALVARY A.M.E. CHURCH
300 Eudowood Lane | Towson, MD

This year we celebrate our 137th Homecoming with four events. If you missed the Homecoming Crab Feast, don't miss our upcoming Homecoming Bowling Fellowship on 9/11 and Worship Experience & Cookout Day on 9/12!! We hope to see you there!!

September 2026 Prayer List

Rev. Dr. Sheleta Fomby, Sr. Pastor
Bro. Andrew & Rev. Thomasine Adams
Bro. Bruce Ashe
Sis. Charlene Boatwright
Mother Cleo Cole
Sis. Vivian Fenton
Sis. Theo Hayes
Mother Grace Hicks
Rev. Marvin Higgs
Bro. Howard Johnson & Family



Sis. Cheron Jones & Family
Sis. Kathy Thrasher
Sis. Sylvia Twiggs
Bro. Warren Whitworth
Bro. Alfred Williams
Ministries & Ministry Leads
Ministerial Staff
Stewards & Trustees
One Another Always

MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH More Ways to Give:

TEXT "MTCALVARY" TO 73256

and then follow the link provided.



Scan Me:



ELECTRONIC GIVING

Rev. Dr. Sheleta E. Fomby, Senior Pastor



Mount Calvary AME Church
300 Eudowood Lane
Towson, MD 21286
410-296-9474 (phone) 410-296-8710 (fax)
adminasst@mtcalvaryame.org www.mtcalvaryame.org
Rev. Dr. Sheleta E. Fomby, Senior Pastor

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.
