



THE *Mount Calvary* MESSENGER

WORSHIP • GROW • SERVE • SHARE

JANUARY

2026



WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MESSENGER...

- ◆ Message from our Pastor
- ◆ January 2026 Theme & Scripture
- ◆ Church-Wide Announcements
- ◆ 2025 Year End Review



From The Pastor's Pen...



My Dearest Mt. Calvary Family, Grace and peace to you.

I am filled with excitement and anticipation as I share our theme and call to action for 2026. This is a divine directive for our church in this season.

A Mandate for the Moment: Rise and Build.

The Scriptural Foundation

Our mandate is rooted in the extraordinary story of Nehemiah. After months of prayer, Nehemiah stepped out in faith and journeyed to Jerusalem. He surveyed the devastation that had haunted the city for generations. He did not just see broken walls. He sensed God's greater purpose.

With clarity and courage, he called the people together and proclaimed the vision: "Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." (Nehemiah 2:17)

Nehemiah did not sugarcoat their situation. He acknowledged the distress, then ignited hope. And the people did not just listen. They responded with unified, determined faith. Scripture says they "strengthened their hands for the good work." And by God's favor, they rebuilt the wall in only 52 days.

Why This is Our Mandate for Today

In this hour, God is placing a burden to rebuild in our hearts. Our call to "Rise and Build" could not be more urgent for Mt. Calvary. We are called to build more than structures or programs. We are called to restore what matters most. People. Hearts. Homes. Hope. Faith. Joy. Purpose.

This mandate goes to the heart of who God has called us to be. A church where every person is empowered and transformed. Together, we will:

- ⇒ **Worship Fully**
- ⇒ **Grow Deeply**
- ⇒ **Serve Faithfully**
- ⇒ **Share Generously**

Can you imagine what our church will look like if every one of us carries a shared burden for the broken? If we allow the mandate of this moment to stir revival in our church, our homes, and our city. If we return our hearts fully to God and welcome the Holy Spirit to lead us as we rebuild every place that is hurting, including the places deep within us.

Mt. Calvary, we are not called to settle among the ruins. We are called to rise into God's vision for renewal. God is doing a new thing. And we get to be a part of it.

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

The Path Forward: How We Begin Together

This is a journey we will take together. Please mark these two next steps as we launch into this God-sized vision.

1) Our Churchwide Vision Meeting – Saturday, January 10th

We will gather to reveal the complete “Rise and Build” blueprint for 2026. Every member has a place on the wall. Do not miss this moment to step into what God is building.

2) Our Spiritual Preparation: RESET 2026

We cannot construct what God desires without God's power. We will begin the New Year with the **RESET 21-Day Devotional**, a focused time of prayer, fasting, and seeking God. It launches **Saturday, January 10th.**

Here is the digital devotional: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/kcmap/hdkk/#p=1>

We will also provide a hard copy.

I'm excited. I need you to get excited. And I want you to join in with your whole heart as we step into this season of faith, trusting God to do something extraordinary among us.

A Closing Prayer of Commitment

Let us pray. Almighty God in heaven, You see every place that is broken, and You call us not to retreat or despair, but to build with hope. Unite our hearts. Strengthen our hands. Fill us with the faith and courage of Nehemiah. May we rise as one, declaring together, “Let us rise and build!” Let Your Spirit empower us to restore what only You can renew. In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

With love and expectation,
Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby
Senior Pastor, Mt. Calvary AME Church



January 2026 Theme and Scripture

“Call to Worship”

“But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.”
(John 4:23 NLT)

CHURCH-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ On **Friday, January 9th**, at **6:30 pm** on [Zoom](#), start the New Year off with the **WOW Ministry** as they embark upon a book study focusing on the significance of taking care of ourselves. They walk through the book *Sacred Self-Care* by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes and come away with practical steps to implement into our daily lives. The book is available on Amazon if you would like to purchase now. Here is the link. <https://a.co/d/11O3eyV>.
- ◆ On **Saturday, January 10th Churchwide Vision Meeting** will be held at **10am** in the FLC. we will gather to reveal the complete “Rise and Build” blueprint for 2026. Every member has a place on the wall. Do not miss this moment to step into what God is building. **Our Spiritual Preparation: RESET 2026**. We cannot construct what God desires without God’s power. We will begin the New Year with the [RESET 21-Day Devotional](#), a focused time of prayer, fasting, and seeking God, which launches on the 10th.
- ◆ On **Thursday, January 15th**, we celebrate the birthday of an American icon, **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, *(learn more about him by observing this federal holiday that will be held on Jan. 19th this year and visiting the [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) webpage).*
- ◆ On **Sunday, January 25th**, we will celebrate **Annual HBCU/College Day**. Be sure to wear your HBCU swag.
- ◆ The **Lay Organization** is now recruiting members for 2026. Please join us as we participate in lay ministry, global leadership and service. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Please see Sister Lynn Newton for more information.
- ◆ 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.

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 and **8am** on **Saturdays** for the **WOW Ministry Prayer Call**.
 - **Church School - Sundays 9am - 9:45am** in the FLC and on the phone conference call line.
 - **Faith Forward Church-wide Bible Study - Wednesday's 7pm** on our [YouTube](#) channel.
- Phone Conference Call Line:**
725-735-9012 (No Passcode)
-

Happy Birthday to All January Born Babies



Special Birthday greetings goes out to all those celebrating a birthday in the month of **January**, from your CCU Leader
Sis. Elissa Ross
(rosselissa@gmail.com)

MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW 2025

Ministry continued at Mt. Calvary this year as we engaged in Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School, weekly Bible Study, Youth activities, church celebrations, annual days, auxiliary meetings and events, church meetings/quarterly conferences, Harvest Meals, and food pantry distributions. A few highlights of the year includes:

- We welcomed Rev. Sheleta Fomby, our new senior pastor, to our church family.
- 45 new members, including several families, joined our church this year, 23 members completed New Members' classes and was read into full membership, and four (4) adults were baptized.
- The **Steward Board** supported the church last year by organizing and assisted in running the day to day activities of the church as we awaited leading the congregation in celebrating several special occasions including welcoming Rev. Sheleta Fomby after Annual Conference, co-hosting with the Trustees our annual Churchwide Fellowship, 136th Church Anniversary, as well as the 28th Sanctuary Anniversary and 13th Family Life Center Anniversary, hosting the Baltimore District Conference of the 2nd Episcopal District.

MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW

2025

- The **Trustee Board** in addition to meeting the daily challenge of keeping the various mechanical systems, interior and exterior of the church's buildings and grounds clean, safe, and in working order, during 2025, the Trustees made equipment upgrades to the church's computer and sound room equipment, contributed over \$36,000 to the church's income through facility rentals, and reinstated armed security service during worship services and other selected events.
- The **Beads of Wisdom Ministry** received two (2) new members into the ministry, organized a support group for members undergoing replacement surgery, held technology training for members with the help of Sis. Aurisha Stanley and others, held a Meet & Greet luncheon with Pastor Fomby, introduced Rev. Dawn Wayman, the Minister of Church Life & Operations to members, presented a proposal to expand the Ann Lightner-Fuller Library, hosted a Garden Party for members ages 80 and over, celebrated their annual day and presented the church with a \$5,000 donation, and in collaboration with Baltimore County Department of Aging, hosted the No Senior Eat Alone.
- The **Christian Education Ministry** provided our monthly scripture and theme; organized and let the 6am Prayer Line; Adult and Children Sunday School and New Members classes.
- The **Congregational Care Unit** registered and contacted new members, welcomed visitors and provided them with visitors bags, hosted an All Members Christmas Celebration. The Unit also distributed left over blankets to the Harvest Meals for the Hungry 2025 Christmas Dinner in December, met monthly via Zoom, provided monthly and quarterly reports, contacted members, and produced the monthly Messenger.
- The **Crafty Hands Ministry** continued to bless the community in and out of Mt Calvary by donating completed bookmarks, pocket hugs, backpack trinkets, blankets, scarves and hats. The ministry currently meets twice a month via zoom.
- The **Digital Arts Ministry** filmed, produced, and streamed weekly Sunday morning Worship Services, Bible Study, and church events on Facebook and YouTube. In addition, produced all ads, managed the church's social media pages and website, designed graphics for ministries, and sent out email blasts messages.
- The **Emma Jane Gardner Missionary Society** has so much to be thankful for. The ministry receive food donations from the Maryland Food Bank and donations from members, friends and the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). They also collected can goods to prepared Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.
- The **Harvest Meals for the Hungry Ministry & Culinary Ministries** touched lives of seniors and homeless individuals in Towson by serving over 1200 hot meals in 2025. The ministry hosted Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner.

MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW

2025

- The **Health and Wellness Ministry** observed Red Dress Sunday by encouraging members to care for their bodies while supporting one another through knowledge, prevention, and love. After services they also distributed apples and educational health information to promote healthy living and spark meaningful conversations around cardiovascular wellness. The ministry also hosted a powerful and inspiring event led by a skilled painting instructor - *Breast Strokes: Painting with a Purpose* - in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness. The session centered around strength, healing, and unity. The proceeds will benefit one of our own members, allowing us to extend love and support within our church family.
- The **Lay Organization** worked to increase their membership throughout the year through participation in JAM Sunday and by providing informational material on Lay Witness Sunday. Members participated in the Baltimore Conference activities, Baltimore Annual Conference Lay night, and the Baltimore Conference Lay Institute, and also represented at the Lay Biennial on the Connectional level.
- The **Usher's Ministry** stood at the doors of Mt. Calvary each week, served at the Baltimore District, held its 9th Annual Prayer Breakfast and donated \$5,000 to the church on their Annual Day, gave gift bags to the ministerial staff during National Clergy Month, collected \$150 & donated paper goods, baby wipes along with gloves, scarves and hats to Zone for Kids, a Towson daycare center.
- The **WOW Ministry** embraced faith over fear and purpose over uncertainty. by proclaiming, "Here I am, Lord; save me and use me for Your glory." Through their 2nd Fridays Women's Sessions, creative expressions, & weekly Sacred Saturday prayer gatherings, The ministry's journey included powerful worship, uplifting prayer, and an inspiring Bible study led by Pastor Fomby, with over 55 women celebrating, "that we are worthy of clarity. We are worthy of joy. We are worthy of healing."
- The **Young People's Department** participated in several connectional church events; participated in Vacation Bible School; 2025 Graduation Celebration, the Back-2-School Backpack Give-Away, led Fab Fridays, and the Fall Festival Trunk or Treat.



January Prayer Requests

Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby
Bishop Harry L. Seawright &
Supervisor Sherita Seawright
Presiding Elder Johnny Calhoun
& Rev. Patricia Calhoun
Sis. Katherine Banks
Sis. Betty Billy
Sis. June Bryant
Mother Cleo Cole
Sis. Tina Fuller
Bro. Kermit Griffin
Mother Grace Hicks
Bro. Kevin Johnson



Sis. Joyce Powell
Sis. Lisa Robinson
Sis. Kathy Thrasher
Sis. Sylvia Twiggs
Sis. Candice Watkins
Bro. Derrick Watson
Sis. Cynthia Whye
Sis. Shelia Williams
Members
Ministries
Ministry Leaders
Ministerial Staff

Mount Calvary AME Church

WAYS TO GIVE



THROUGH PHONE



IN PERSON



ONLINE



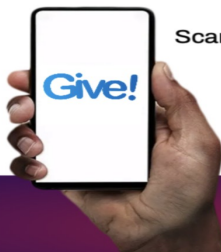
BY MAIL

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

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Rev. 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.