

# January 2026



## Contact Info

### **Calvary Church, Inc.**

301 SE Front Street  
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[www.calvarychurchmilford.com](http://www.calvarychurchmilford.com)  
Follow us on Facebook  
[@calvarychurchde](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychurchde)

**Office Hours:** 9am – 1pm  
Tuesday through Thursday  
Mon & Friday by appointment

### **Pastor**

Will Walters  
609.207.9092 Cell  
[pastorwalters@calvarychurchmilford.com](mailto:pastorwalters@calvarychurchmilford.com)

### **Pastoral Assistant**

Bryan Rice  
Cell: 302.841.3891  
[pastorbryan@calvarychurchmilford.com](mailto:pastorbryan@calvarychurchmilford.com)

### **Administrative Assistant**

Pat Darlin  
[pat.darlin@calvarychurchmilford.com](mailto:pat.darlin@calvarychurchmilford.com)  
Notary Services Available

### **Custodial**

Valerie Benton  
302.270.3207



Dear Calvary Family:

The presents have been opened, hearty meals have been shared, and we have met with family and friends to celebrate Christmas. I trust your Christmas was a merry one, and you were blessed with Jesus' presence. We are indeed blessed to have Jesus as our Savior and live in a time of such wealth.

I am blessed to be your shepherd and experience firsthand the growth and generosity of our Calvary family. Sharing warmth this winter goes beyond the giving of tangible items but also includes sharing the warmth of Jesus with a lost world. We have an activity every day of the week for us to grow here at Calvary and help share that warmth.

*"If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" – 1 John 3:17*

Christmas provides a unique opportunity each year for us all to re-focus. Not only are we reminded of the awe-inspiring, world-changing, life-altering gift that is Jesus; but we are also reminded of our need for Jesus to heal us in our brokenness. That is indeed why He came, wasn't it? To bring peace between God and man. This is why the angels declared

triumphantly “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” (Luke 2:14).

As a new year approaches, I want to challenge us, the church, to impact this world for good. People are in great need, and more than ever, we need to come alive to meet that need! We need to be people of prayer, faith, righteousness, and compassion. We need to love each other and love God above all else. Will you commit in 2026 to live more fully for Jesus Christ?

The problem is we are too busy for this kind of life. J.I. Packer once said, “Live slowly enough to think deeply about God.” The world wants to deprive us of our quiet time with God to discern how we should live and spend our energy. Each of us has a ministry-at home, work, or in retirement. Chuck Swindoll, one of my favorite ministers says, “this ministry isn’t about maintaining a public image or performing before the congregation. It’s about the ‘unseen work-the early morning prayers, the late-night wrestling with Scripture, the tears shed in God’s presence, the moments where we remind ourselves that victory belongs to Him alone.’ Our private devotion often determines our public victory! The giants each of us face today must bow before the God we seek in secret.” Will you commit to a deeper walk with me as we face new giants in 2026?

What an exciting year it has been for Judy and me! The last eighteen months with you at Calvary have been a privilege, and we are looking forward to years to come. 2025 has shown itself to be busier than I ever anticipated it to be as your shepherd. As I write, God has used Calvary to minister to many people this year, and I pray we will see more opportunities and fruit for the Kingdom of God next year. Judy and I both love you all very much. Please remember that. We are all working together for one cause – to bring people to Jesus! Your kindness, generosity, and hospitality to us has been a big encouragement. Please continue to pray for us as we grow together as a living and thriving community of believers.



**January 11<sup>th</sup>** 7:30am  
Men's Breakfast Mtg.

**January 13<sup>th</sup>** 7pm  
Administrative Council Mtg.  
Trustees Follow

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 am  
Men's Breakfast Mtg.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** 7pm  
Administrative Council Mtg  
Trustees Follow

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 am  
Men's Breakfast Mtg.

**March 10** 7pm  
Administrative Council Mtg.

**March 17** 11am  
Calvary Christian Women's  
Group Mtg.

I want to close with a benediction I read recently:

*May you be filled with the wisdom of Zechariah, the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and forever.*

Happy New Year to you all.

Pastor Will and Judy



The Apgar and the Webb family would like to thank all the Calvary Church prayer warriors who kept Carol lifted in prayer during and after her surgery. It was indeed a very life-threatening time for Carol, and we know that she would not have made it through without all of your prayers for her recovery and we praise Jesus and give

Him all the glory. She is at home and continues to recuperate with the help of home health care and physical therapy. We can't thank you enough.

God Bless you all. Terry and Dianne Webb

### **Calvary Christian Women**

Dear Calvary Church Family and Friends,

Happy New Year!

Our next meeting will be March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars to join us and invite someone to come and enjoy the fellowship.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the meals recently handled for the following families:

The Alan Mills Family  
The Dave Wiley Family  
The Donald Mills Family

A special thank you to Mary Sue Smith, Judy Walters, and Sue & Mike Warrington for helping with the Wiley meal.

Many hands made light work, and your assistance did not go unnoticed. The families were very appreciative.

Sending many blessings and prayers to the Mills' families and the Wiley Family.



### **Office Bytes**

**Please give all dates & times for meetings and/or events to the office who will coordinate them for accuracy and proper calendar management. The staff must receive approval prior to confirming calendar requests.**

### **Volunteers Welcome**

Call 422-8884 if you are interested.

### **Notary Services Available** **Tuesday-Thursday**



Please submit info for the Newsletter to the Church Office no later than March 22<sup>nd</sup> to be included in the next issue. Thank you.

To the Salvation Army bell ringers and the Christmas Carolers, we thank you for your time and dedication. It was fun and a blessing to serve others and bring smiles to their faces.

God bless each of you and may this New Year be a blessed one.

Blessings, Dona Sapp, Calvary Christian Women

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### **Calvary Christian Men**

Greetings from the Calvary Christian Men, our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am. We wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

Blessings, Derek Sapp, President

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### **Evangelism – Bonnie Watford**

#### **Meal & Movie Nights**

The Evangelism Team will be hosting a Meal & Movie Night on the following Fridays:

**Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

We will have a meal and fellowship at 5:45pm and an inspirational movie to be shown at 6:30pm. Please plan on joining us in Christian Fellowship. Bring your family and friends.

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IN LOVING  
*Memory*

*A donation has been made to the Glory of God and to Calvary Church, in loving memory of Robert (Bobby) Sparklin, brother of Bonnie Watford (Pete) and Ray Sparklin (Cindy).*

*Sending Love & Prayers,  
Derek, Dafne, Dona and Dewey Sapp*



### 2026 Administrative Council (Officers)

Chairman: Robert Shinholt / Vice Chair: Richard Stoops  
Secretary: Susanne Webb / Treasurer: Pat Darlin

### Calvary Trustees:

Term ends 2026: Jana Hood; Lee Vincent; Terry Webb  
Term ends 2027: Roy Anderson; Derek Sapp  
Officers (TBD)



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## Offering Envelopes

Our 2026 offering envelopes are available. If you do not currently utilize envelopes and would like to, please give the office a call. Envelopes are needed if you would like to receive a year end statement for tax purposes.

*Where your  
treasure is,  
there will  
your heart  
be also.  
Matt. 6:21*

## My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_



Our **Isaiah Bible Study** will resume January 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11am in Benson Hall.

Please consider joining us.

Contact Dona Sapp with any questions.

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**Wednesday Night Bible Study** – 7:00pm  
The book of **Revelation**: Escape the Coming Night: The Church through the Ages with Dr. David Jeremiah. Contact Dianne Webb for more information.

**Please join us!**



# perspectives

By Danny Cooper,  
Pastoral Counselor

## **A Second Look**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*  
John 1:1

Like many, I'm a creature of habit. Whether it's what I have for breakfast in the morning, or what time I go to bed, or what radio station I have on in the car, I enjoy the certainty and familiarity that routine habits bring. Come to think of it, I even have a routine when it comes to cutting the grass. I first fill up the gas tank, check the oil, and put air in the chronically flat front right tire. I then grab the wheelbarrow and take my customary walk to pick up sticks that have fallen during the previous week. You see, there are trees that line two sides of our property... the edge of our backyard, which is a short segment, and along the lengthy south side of our yard, creating an "L" shape if looking from above. Given our yard is next to a corn field, there is a split rail fence that runs along the side, effectively keeping the tractors from paying us an unexpected visit.

And so, with wheelbarrow in tow, my typical path for stick duty is to begin in our backyard, along the wood line, and then slowly make the turn and move up the side yard, ultimately turning at the end of the fence, and then walking along the field side of the fence, back toward the wood line, where a small grassy gap allows me just enough room to slip into our back yard where the journey began. In one "L" shaped loop, my wheelbarrow is usually flush with sticks, and inches me one step closer to tackling the grass. I know....pretty exciting, huh? It was at some point in June of this past summer, as I was absentmindedly walking along with my trusty wheelbarrow, that my tried-and-true routine was interrupted. It was while walking along the field side of the fence, increasingly close to completing the task of stick pick up, that I came to the familiar grassy gap that I typically sneak through to reenter our backyard. Magically, it would seem, this area had become overgrown with vines and brush to the point that the wheelbarrow could no longer fit through as before. I stood at that spot for probably half a minute in disbelief, sadly unsure how best to proceed. I was befuddled. I was in shock. How am I to complete the task now? This was new territory. Reluctantly, I eventually embraced the obvious and only possibility, which was to retrace my steps, returning to home base by the same route I had just traveled. Not a big deal, I know. But when you've done a task a particular way for so long, a simple change like this can seem as if Mt. Everest has just appeared in your path.

Displeasure aside, I halfheartedly started making the return journey, bemused by the circumstances and thinking what a waste of time this was going to be (only a five-minute walk, in truth!) Yet something surprising occurred as I doubled back and began the return trip.... I saw a rogue stick laying right in my path. I remember thinking, "How did you get there. I must have stepped right over you!". And so, the stray stick was thrown onto the pile and away I went, and wouldn't you know, another stick came into view, and then another, and as I

plodded along, I discovered numerous sizable sticks strewn about the pathway I had already covered but obviously overlooked. I was amazed at this unforeseen spectacle (I'm easily impressed!), and without exception, every subsequent return walk up the side yard, for the small gap stayed overgrown until mid-fall, yielded innumerable extra sticks destined for the fire pit, which were easily missed on the first pass through.

And so why so much tedious detail about my curious grass cutting routine? Well, when musing about this phenomenon as I made my numerous return trips through the side yard these past few months, I couldn't help but think about the similarity there is to Scripture reading. I believe for many, Scripture reading is like my initial route through the yard, purposefully looking for sticks to throw on the fire, not unlike hearing a good message at church on Sunday morning, and wanting to read further about the verse the Pastor was preaching from, or the soothing verses we may want to read that always help to calm those anxious feelings that occasionally surface, or the verses we're searching for to complete the next Sunday School lesson for the teen class, or any number of such examples.

The return trip through the yard, however, is not so purposeful. It's just a walk back to the starting point with no true expectations or goals in sight. And it's on these more relaxed, open-ended journeys where, to my surprise, so many sticks are seen lying about. It's become like an Easter egg hunt... there's even a level of anticipation now, after so many of these return journeys, as to what exactly I'll find along the way. And this too is like Scripture reading, but reading not for purpose or as a task, but for the joy and anticipation of what God may illuminate as we travel through the pages of his holy Word. When this is our approach to Scripture reading, like my return trips through the yard, there is treasure awaiting us... guaranteed!

My pastor, during my young adult years, held his Bible aloft from the pulpit one Sunday during the sermon, and it was clear to me, even from where we sat toward the middle of the sanctuary, that his Bible was certainly well read. It was almost in tatters but held with a reverence and humility that was inspiring to see. As he spoke that memorable morning on the power of the Word, he gently fanned through the pages, and amidst the sea of black and red text, it was easy to spot highlighted words and passages, handwritten notes in the margins, and various bent corners to mark a whole page. He reminded us that the Word is alive and applicable, always, to our life experience, and we are never to stop reading, for there will always be new insights to be gleaned which have the power to cast light on our path ahead. He said that he keeps his pen and highlighters handy when he reads because he wants to be ready to find the next treasures waiting to be discovered.

I'm thankful, now, that my routine was interrupted back in early summer. Our God is in the small details of our lives, and he knew that he could get my attention by throwing me a curve ball when it came to my normal, auto-pilot tasks in the yard. The King of the universe, the Creator of all things, cares that much about me.... He cares that much about you, too.

*Lord, thank you for your unending love and the many ways you surround us with your presence, even in the small, ordinary aspects of life. We especially thank you for the gift of your Word, and the rewards that await us when we choose to read. Help us, Lord, to have a spirit of anticipation when we read the Scriptures; a readiness to hear your voice, a desire to grow in your wisdom, and an openness to be renewed through your perfect love. Amen*

# Birth<sup>day</sup> Blessings

## JANUARY

4 Diane Davis  
 4 Gary Miller  
 7 Barbara Parker  
 9 Don Lanspery  
 10 Kevin Pase  
 14 Beth Waishes-Tull  
 18 Hazel Shinholt  
 20 Janet McFarland  
 29 Brian Kresse  
 31 Norma Jean Robbins  
 31 Renee Anderson

## FEBRUARY

3 Gary Ellingsworth  
 4 Richard King  
 6 Dennis Garbrick  
 8 Melva Howard  
 15 Daniel Rogers  
 17 Joyce Paquette  
 18 Pete Watford  
 21 Mary Dalious  
 27 Jeff Carnright  
 28 Taylor Hogan

## MARCH

2 Dianne Webb  
 4 Nancy Lehman  
 Brandon Smith  
 Lee Vincent  
 5 Mark Roberts  
 6 Cathy Rios  
 7 Glenn Hoyer  
 10 Dawn Coverdale  
 Dana Hoyer  
 12 Phillip Lane  
 16 Stephen Hollenbeck  
 Kylie Nelson  
 17 Hali Sapp Carlisle  
 22 Justin Nichols  
 27 Pat Greenly



## JANUARY

26 Ed & Kathy Schmidt  
 29 Brian & Debbie Kresse

## FEBRUARY

06 Harlan & Kelly Nelson  
 10 Dennis & Denise Dean

## MARCH

3 Lee & Joyce Vincent  
 20 Ron & Norma Robbins  
 29 Bob & Hazel Shinholt  
 30 Todd & Diane Davis  
 Dan & Priscilla Rogers

*Have we missed your Birthday or Anniversary? Contact the church office with dates if you would like it added to the newsletter. We don't want to leave anyone out!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Happy New Year 1	2	3
Sunday Service Communion 4	5	Community Meal 4-6pm 6	Bible Study 7:00pm 7	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 8	9	10
Sunday Service Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 11	12	Bible Study 10am C. Meal 4-6 Admin Council 7:00pm Trustees 13	Bible Study 7:00pm 14	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 15	Movie Crew 16	17
Sunday Service 10AM Movie Crew 12:15 PM 18	19	Bible Study 10am Community Meal 4-6pm 20	Bible Study 7:00pm 21	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 22	23	24
Sunday Service 25	26	Bible Study 10am Community Meal 4-6pm 27	Bible Study 7:00pm 28	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 29	Meal & Movie Night 5:45pm 30	31

# January 2026

## HIGHLIGHTS:

1	2	3	4	5	6	Jan. 1 – New Year's Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Jan. 4 – Communion				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
<b>December 2025</b>				<b>February 2026</b>							



*Where Faith Grows, Love Shows*

## Calvary Leadership

**Head of the Church:** Jesus Christ

**Ministers:** Each of Us

**Pastor:** William Walters

**Pastoral Assistant:** Bryan Rice

**Administrative Assistant:** Pat Darlin

**Council Chair:** Bob Shinholt

**Council Vice-Chair:** Richard Stoops

**Trustee Chair:** TBD

**Worship:** Jana Hood

**Communications Coord.:** Judy Walters

**Church Treasurer:** Pat Darlin

**Financial Secretary:** Karen Bell

**Recording Secretary:** Susanne Webb

**Membership:** Pat Darlin

**Evangelism:** Bonnie Watford

**Calvary Christian Women:**

**Calvary Christian Men:** Derek Sapp

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***The Vine – January 2026***