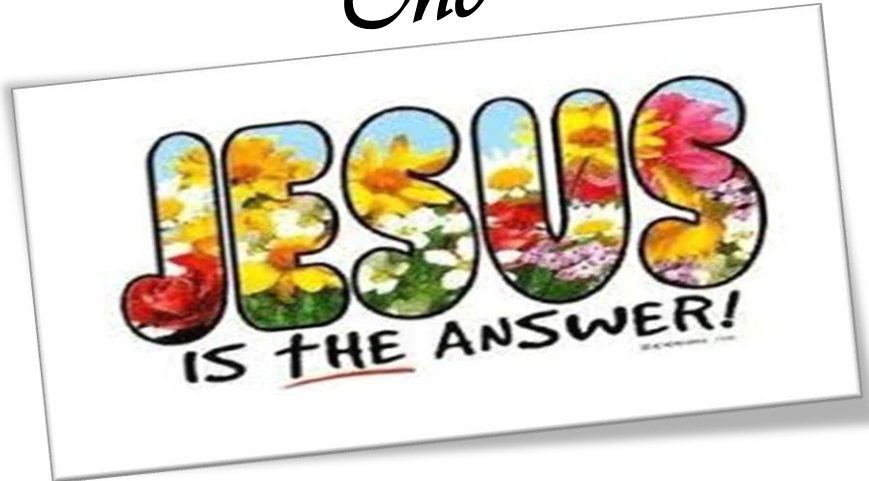


April 2026 *The Vine*



Contact Info

Calvary Church, Inc.

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302.422.3360 Fax
www.calvarychurchmilford.com
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[@calvarychurchde](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychurchde)

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

Pastor

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609.207.9092 cell
pastorwalters@calvarychurchmilford.com

Pastoral Assistant

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Elders

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Bob Shinholt
Richard Stoops

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Notary Services Available

Custodial

Valerie Benton
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Happy Easter! Please know that Judy, the Elders, and I continue to pray for you and your family daily. Be assured God is with us, and He promises never to leave us, especially during times of gladness or trouble. Let us rejoice knowing Jesus has risen from the grave! During this time of uncertainty, let us hold onto the loving hand of God. Continue to be "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12). During this Easter season, we can discover a new and deeper meaning of the Easter message.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). We must remember that Jesus died to save us from the evil of this world. It is Jesus who said "I have come to give you life and life everlasting." He also told us, "I will not leave you as orphans, but I must go so that my father can send you a Helper. He will guide you in all that you must do. The Helper, Jesus spoke about is the Holy Spirit. This Easter, let us celebrate this magnificent gift from God-The Holy Spirit. He is the one that Jesus sent to lead us through these tumultuous times. He is the one that seals us with the promise of eternal life. Paul tells us, "Do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We must not give up our faith in Christ, but take this opportunity to trust Him even

more. We need to be confident in the Lord during these times and remember, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6 NIV) Let's remain united together and care for the needs of others as well. More importantly, let us continue to pray for one another. As I reflect on the past winter, I am filled with gratitude for the numerous blessings in my life and in the life of our Calvary Church. Together, we accomplished many things — launching new ministries, welcoming people to our community, embracing new members, and even received a new commercial stove for our kitchen and much more! This past year has also had its challenges — especially as the world around us faces a middle east war, failing health, pain and suffering. Knowing that our Lord is always walking with us — and working through us — brings me comfort and helps me face difficulties with more strength. While we are not immune from our own challenges and difficulties that test our faith, we cannot forget that He is with us always on this journey, continually calling us to holiness. This means that every believer plays a significant role in the Church. Jesus gave all of us the responsibility to carry out the mission of the Church by living a life in Christ. It also means that the future of our Church doesn't just sit on the shoulders of the pastor, but with all people who are called by Jesus to serve.

The focus of these first months of 2026, was really to take time to serve amidst a tough and seemingly long winter. There is no need to rush — especially because we seek the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit, which requires discernment that is grounded in prayer and consultation.

We are witnessing a great move of God here at Calvary. Over two dozen people coming into membership, a baptism, a few weddings, the usual large number of funerals to officiate, and the launch of "Walking with Will," have all been because Calvary Church is keeping the cross of Christ at the forefront of who we are as believers. I always say, if you are not growing spiritually here at Calvary, the reason may be you are not participating in what God is calling you to do! Feel free to meet with me to seek out how God wants to use you.

My prayer is that Calvary will find a new love and commitment for corporate prayer as believers. Jesus highlights that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is present (Matt 18:19–20), promising answered prayer in that agreement. When you read the Old Testament, you find great gatherings of the people of God and Jehoshaphat, Solomon, and David praying. Ezra prays these long, wonderful prayers while the people listen and



April 12th 7:30am
Men's Breakfast Meeting

April 14th,
Elders Mtg. 6:30pm
Council Mtg. 7:00pm
Trustees Meeting

April 21st 11am
Calvary Christian Women's
Group Meeting

Isaiah Bible Study - 10am in
Benson Hall Meeting Room

April 7 No Bible Study
April 14 Chapter 56
April 21 Chapter 57
April 28 Chapter 58

May 12th Spring Banquet
6-8pm



no doubt say, "Yes, yes, yes!" about the history of Israel, the power of God, and the future of God's word. Then you move right on through the book of Acts, and they're praying corporately again and again. A number of times in Scripture the people pray corporately. Corporate prayer is ordained by God.

"And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." (Psalm 50:15.) This simply means that God gets glory when He's given the opportunity to answer prayers. "Call on Me in the day of trouble. I'll do the delivering, and then you will respond and glorify me, which is what I'm after in the world. So if you all do that together, how much more will my glory resound?" Your number one burden in prayer should be that God gets glory. We exist to bring glory to God while we have the breath and life to do so, no matter what we are facing. Corporate prayer intensifies camaraderie in spiritual warfare, which we are all engaged in on some level.

I look forward to going into the spring and summer of 2026 alongside you all as not only brothers and sisters, but in arms as soldiers for God's glory. May we awake tomorrow with the mindset that no mountain is too big and no weight is too heavy for us to lift or live through! We have arrived for such a time as this, He has prepared us, He has equipped us, and He has guided us ... now it's up to us, and I see no giant that we can't take down. Let's arise and take the promised land (Milford) He has set before us and promised us victory in!

Love to and loved by our Calvary church family,

Pastor Will and Judy

Offering Envelopes

We still have plenty of 2026 envelopes available. Please note, Offering Envelopes are used to keep track of your contributions/offerings throughout the year.

<i>Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:21</i>	My Offering
	Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Amount: _____

If you would like to receive an end of the year statement for tax purposes, please give the office a call to pick up a book for 2026.



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.

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 June 21st to be included in the next issue. Thank you.

Calvary Christian Women – *Dona Sapp, President*

Greetings Calvary Church Family

Wow, it is hard to believe we are now in the second quarter of 2026!

I would like to extend an invitation to the ladies to plan and attend our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month. Please join us for lunch, enjoy some fellowship and the opportunity to praise God for His many blessings. Our meetings are also utilized to make plans for upcoming events and your thoughts and ideas are welcome! Just bring a sandwich. Beverages and a dessert are provided. Please join us and invite a friend or neighbor.

Please mark your calendars for the Calvary Christian Women Spring Banquet. The banquet will be held on Tuesday evening May 12th at 6:00pm. Additional information concerning the banquet will be forth coming in the Sunday worship bulletins! We hope you will join us in the wonderful night of fellowship!

Officers for 2026: Dona Sapp, President; Lois Bradley, Vice President; Katherine Roberts and Betty Jane Dittoe Treasurer.

Sending love and prayers to you and yours for a joyful Easter and springtime.

Calvary Christian Men – *Derek Sapp, President*

Greetings from the Calvary Christian Men.

The Calvary Ladies Spring Banquet is coming up quickly on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. We would like to ask for volunteers to help serve and clean up that evening. Please let us know if you are available to help that night.

Our next CCM breakfast meeting will be on Sunday, April 12th at 7:30 a.m.

Evangelism – *Bonnie Watford*

Meal & Movie Nights

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

Friday, April 24th Friday, May 29th Friday, June 26th

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.



In Remembrance

A Donation has been made to the Glory of God and Calvary Church, in memory of P.F.C. Wayne C. Jester, 101st Airborne Division, 19 years old, taken home to be with Jesus, on April 10, 1968, in Vietnam.

A donation has been made to the Glory of God and Calvary Church, in memory of Dorothy L. Stubbs, Gold Star Mother of Delaware, taken home to be with Jesus, April 8, 2014.



"You both left us such beautiful memories,
Your love is still our Guide, and although we cannot see you,
You both are always by our Side."

"When we walked through Heaven's gates,
we felt so much at home,
for God looked down, smiled at us,
and told us, "Welcome Home."

IN LOVING
Memory

We all miss you both so much.

Love always, Jane, Cindy, Lois, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren, and Friends.

Baby Bottle Campaign



Psalm 127.3 "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward."

It's almost time to begin the Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit the Sussex Pregnancy Care Center. There will be a choice of filling a baby bottle **OR** taking a card and envelope to send directly to the Pregnancy Care Center. On your card, please write Calvary Church, Inc., since there is also a Calvary Baptist Church who participates.

Did you know, your donation provides free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds? Many clients' hearts are changed to choose LIFE for their babies when they see the sonogram picture of the baby moving inside them! A picture is worth a thousand words!

Baby bottles and envelopes will be available for pickup on Mother's Day, May 10th and run through Father's Day, June 21st.

Mother's Day / Father's Day

We will once again be honoring our loved ones in our upcoming Mother's and Father's Day bulletins. Forms will be available in the April 26th and May 3rd bulletins for Mother's Day, and the June 7th and 14th bulletins for Father's Day if you wish to participate. Call the office with any questions.

Calvary held Celebration Sunday on February 22, 2026, followed by a reception for baptisms and new members.



Bug & Bud Festival

Calvary will be participating in Milford's Bug & Bud Festival on April 25. Volunteers are welcome to join us as we share the Good News with Milford families. See the hallway bulletin board to sign up. There are shifts still available.

thank you

We would like to thank everyone for the food, cards, calls and visits these past few weeks. We certainly appreciate our church family and do not know what we would do without them. What a blessing Calvary has been to us. Thank you all so much. And a special thank you to Pastor Will for his prayers and visit.

We are forever grateful, Richard & Suzanne King

perspectives

by Danny Cooper,
Pastoral Counselor

"Yard Work"

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? ²My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121: 1-4

While I may be an ardent fan of cold weather, and someone who loves the on-again, off-again chance of snow that hovers around the winter months, I currently find myself in the rather large boat with those who are more than ready for the warmth of spring to settle in for good. The surprising temperature spike that has brought eighty-degree weather to Delmarva was all the push I needed to begin the annual spring cleaning yard work.

I can only speak for myself, but it's no easy task to have the lawn and flower beds in proper condition so that the new grass, flowers, shrubs, etc. can break the surface unencumbered. The yard, especially by the wood line and near the field, is littered with branches and twigs that need to be picked up and thrown into the fire pit. Ironically, as I write these words, having just been in the yard earlier in the day, the wind is blowing steadily as a front quickly approaches, depositing yet another layer of tree debris for pick-up. Cleaning up the yard is not a one-time event! And it's not merely the sticks that need tending to, but the early arriving weeds that have laid claim to some of the finest real estate in the flower beds. Then there are the trees that have withstood all types of wintry challenges, this year especially, with not only heavy snow, but ice for extended periods of time, as well as severe wind, creating a very stressful couple of months for our stately friends.

While puttering about outside this morning, filling up the wheelbarrow over and over again with fire pit fodder, it was during this time of cleaning up that I thought about the similarity that exists between this springtime yard work and how our relationship with God might appear. In our humanness, we can have winter like seasons of dormancy in our connection to God, time that goes by in a state of quiet, like the hibernation of one of nature's amazing creatures, only to wake up one day, feeling the sun's warmth, and ultimately recognizing that much time has gone by and a desire to be active and engaged has returned.

Unfortunately, it's after these slumber periods when we realize that the fragments of life, over time, have piled up around us, making it hard to freely move about in one's own yard. Things can get pretty messy when not tended to. Yet in spite of the sticks that lie about the yard's surface, the grass will increasingly transform itself from the dull winter brown to the customary vibrant green, and the flowers will bravely force their way to the surface, regardless of the obnoxious weeds that have elbowed their way in, and the scraggly trees and shrubs will still produce their buds, even though a healthy pruning would certainly help. God is still present, still pushing for life in its rightful season, notwithstanding our inattention and lack of upkeep.

The moral of this landscaping story of course is this... while we may have slumbered at times in our relationship to God, allowing all manner of rubbish and impediments to clutter the connection we have with our Creator, we can rest assured that God has never wavered in his attentiveness to us, his continual availability, and his never ending opportunities, such as the return of spring's sunshine, to renew and restrengthen his connection with his special children... you and me. This is a reminder for us, as many of us need in life, that our relationship to God is just that, a relationship. Relationships are active, engaging, consistent and valued if we truly want a deep and growing bond to exist. Taking three months off, as I do with my yard over the winter, sadly does not equate to a nurturing, loving union.

A healthy, steadfast role as steward of my yard would be demonstrated by making stick collection a regular task, as well as weed pulling in the beds and consistent maintenance of the various trees and shrubs, especially those that bear fruit. How can I expect fruit, which is what God created my blackberry bush to produce, if I don't fulfill my role by actively pruning and providing general up-keep. Again, it's a relationship we have with God, conveniently portrayed, for instance, in how we care for our yard.

This evaluation of yard work hopefully provides us a slightly different angle by which to look more closely at our own individual relationship we have with our God. Are we actively engaged in the most precious connection in life we'll ever have? Are we consistent in the time we spend with God, whether it is in prayer, in purposeful quiet, or in a scheduled walk through the woods? As a counselor, I was reminded of this easily overlooked point when working with married couples. On so many occasions, there would be a couple sitting across from me in obvious distress, for some a distress that's lasted years, yet when the topic of time together surfaced, it was clear that the two were veritable strangers under one marital roof. How can we remain connected in our relationship, much less grow in our relational story, if we don't make dependable time for one another? We tend to spend time with or on that which we most highly value. Where does God fit into this formula? If I value my yard, I'll keep it clean, I'll remove the

weeds, and I'll create opportunities for maximum growth for the trees and shrubs. If I value my relationship with God above all things in this life, I will protect the time I spend with him and I will make that time meaningful, so that our connection can deepen and our journey together can be the adventure that he would prefer for you and me. And like the lessons learned from the weeds, I will be vigilant about the many trappings in this world that have the power, if allowed, to both pull attention away and distort one's affections.

God loves us with a completeness and dedication that we cannot fathom in our mere humanness. But the Word is clear about the depth of his love, and that is a promise we can depend on. The only question that hangs in the balance is the love we each have for God. It is our part of the relationship where uncertainty rests. Unlike the marriage counseling clients I alluded to, let us each want the most possible from the relationship we have with our loving God. Let us be diligent keepers of our yard, so to speak, spending our time purposefully in the relationship that brings out our very best, which in turn becomes a blessing for all those we come into contact with along life's pathway. When our relationship with God is our top priority, when we live out the first and greatest commandment that Jesus spoke of in Matthew's Gospel, we are offered the perfect peace of Christ as we travel through this imperfect world toward that heavenly homecoming at our journey's end.

Let's keep God our primary focus in this life, and may his peace bring us comfort along the way ...Amen.



Birth^{day} Blessings

APRIL

3 Roy Anderson
 13 Pat Darlin
 14 Pat Visioli
 15 Rick Armstrong
 19 Jeremy Ellingsworth
 19 Joyce Vincent
 29 Peggy Powell
 30 Al Darlin
 30 Alyce Kirby

MAY

3 Jennifer Hayden
 6 Helen Wilkins
 7 Edwina Sloane
 9 Jackie Stoops
 9 Will Walters
 13 Mark Hogan
 15 Dafne Carnright
 15 Tommy Moore
 15 Carol Morris
 18 Bryan Rice
 19 Sam Mackert
 26 Dylan Carnright
 31 Bob Shinholt

JUNE

02 Sandi Hollenbeck
 04 Christopher Miller
 04 Carson Rios
 08 Katherine Roberts
 10 Pat Timblin
 20 Laura Mitchell
 24 Derek Sapp
 27 Steve Ellingsworth
 28 Kathy Schmidt
 29 Betty Jane Dittoe

APRIL

3 Dean & Annette Miller
 24 Jeff & Dafne Carnright

MAY

08 Mark & Cindy Hogan
 20 Pete & Bonnie Watford
 20 John & Susanne Webb
 26 Remy & Jennifer Gooch



JUNE

01 Steve & Sandi Hollenbeck
 02 Richard & Suzanne King
 02 Horace & Ginger Pierson
 08 Buzzy & Jana Hood
 14 Al & Pat Darlin
 19 Dewey & Dona Sapp
 28 Eric & Patty Bodenweiser

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PALM Sunday 29					GOOD FRIDAY Service 7pm	
	H O L Y W E E K					
	30	31	1	2	3	4
EASTER Sunday Breakfast Communion 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Men's Breakfast Sunday Service 12	Benson Hall in use 5:30pm 13	B Study 10am Meal 4p Elders 6:30p Council 7p Trustees 14	Bible Study 7:00pm 15	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 16	17	18
Sunday Service 19	20	Bible Study 10am CCW Group Mtg. 11am Community Meal 4p 21	Bible Study 7:00pm 22	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 23	Meal & Movie Night 5:45pm 24	Bug & Bud Festival 9am-4pm 25
Sunday Service 26	27	Bible Study 10am Community Meal 4p 28	Bible Study 7:00pm 29	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 30		

April 2026

HIGHLIGHTS:

								1	2					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	April 5 th EASTER/Communion
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	April 12 th Men's Breakfast
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	April 25 th Bug & Bud Festival
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
29	30	31												
March 2026						May 2026								



Where Faith Grows, Love Shows

Calvary Leadership

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Each of Us

Pastor: Will Walters

Pastoral Assistant: Bryan Rice

Elders: Bryan Rice, Bob Shinholt, Richard Stoops

Administrative Assistant: Pat Darlin

Council Chair: Bob Shinholt

Council Vice-Chair: Richard Stoops

Trustee Chair:

Worship: Jana Hood

Church Treasurer: Pat Darlin

Financial Secretary: Karen Bell

Recording Secretary: Susanne Webb

Membership: Pat Darlin

Evangelism: Bonnie Watford

Calvary Christian Women: Dona Sapp

Calvary Christian Men: Derek Sapp

Prayer Team:

Calvary Church
301 SE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

The Vine – April 2026