



# THE Mount Calvary MESSENGER

SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU, LARGE ENOUGH TO GROW YOU!

MARCH

2025

40 DAYS  
OF RENEWAL

**Lent**

Seek the Lord while you can find him.  
Call on him now while he is near. Isaiah 55:6

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

- ◆ From our New Pastor's Pen
- ◆ Order of Worship
- ◆ Church-Wide Announcements
- ◆ Women's History Month



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



### **Embracing Lent with Prayer and Fasting**

Dear Mt. Calvary AME Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As I write my first message to you as your new pastor, I am grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to me. Your kindness, generosity, and Christ-like love have made this transition a blessing, and I am honored to serve alongside you in this historic church community.

We enter the Lenten season of 2025 amidst what can only be described as tumultuous times. Our nation faces political divisions that threaten to negatively impact Black and Brown communities, as well as the most vulnerable among us. During such seasons, the Church has always been called to be both salt and light—preserving what is good and illuminating the path forward. Lent provides a sacred opportunity for us to draw closer to God through prayer and fasting. Fasting is not just about what we give up; it is also about what we gain: a deeper connection with God. Scripture teaches us that fasting can serve multiple purposes:

- **Inward Fasting:** Expressing repentance and turning our hearts fully toward God
- **Outward Fasting:** Grieving the tragedies and injustices in our world
- **Forward Fasting:** Seeking God's favor and guidance for the journey ahead

I invite each of you to join me in observing a season of prayer and fasting during these 40 days. Whether you choose to fast from a meal each week, abstain from certain foods or activities, or set aside special times for prayer, remember that the purpose is always "Godward"—expressing our deep need for God's presence, wisdom, and power in our lives and community.

Just as Esther called her people to fast before approaching the king, and as Nehemiah fasted and prayed before undertaking the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, we too can approach this Lenten season with purpose. Our fasting can serve as a powerful spiritual discipline that prepares us to be God's instruments of justice, healing, and reconciliation in our families, church, and society.

Let us remember the words from 2 Chronicles 20:12: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." In times of uncertainty, we fix our gaze on the One who holds all things together. I look forward to journeying with you through this sacred season and beyond. My door is always open, and I am here to pray with you, learn from you, and serve alongside you.

In Christ's love and service,  
Pastor Sheleta E. Fomby

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## Church-Wide Announcements

- ◆ Join us for **Communion Sunday** on **Sunday, March 2nd**, at **10 am**.
- ◆ On **Friday, March 5th**, our **Ash Wednesday** service will be held at **7pm** in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.
- ◆ On **Sunday, March 9th** we **Spring Forward** by setting our clocks at **2am** one (1) hour ahead to begin **Daylight Savings**.

In addition, during the Sunday morning 10 am service, the **Emma Jane Missionary Society Annual Day**. Their theme this year is: ***Do not Despair*** taken from the scripture *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*. Rev. Sherrie Johnson will be the guest preacher of the hour.

- ◆ The **Christian Education Ministry** is inviting everyone to participate in the **“Experiencing God: Knowing & Doing the Will of God” Bible Study** (small groups) during the **Lenten Season**. This **12-week Bible Study** by **Richard and Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King** begins during the week of **March 10th to June 2nd**. Please register by completing this [form](#) or in person in the Narthex after the 10 am worship service. For more information, please contact **Rev. Dawn** ([dwayman@gmail.com](mailto:dwayman@gmail.com)) or **Rev. Thomasine** ([adamstbomasine7@gmail.com](mailto:adamstbomasine7@gmail.com)).

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### LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL 2025...

- ◆ Join the **Baltimore Annual Conference** on **Tuesday - Thursday, April 1-4, 2025**, at **Bethel AME Church - Baltimore** (*1300 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore MD, 21217*).
- ◆ Join the **Beads of Wisdom Technology Class** on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, at **10:30 am**, in the Family Life Center. Please bring your electronic devices.



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## March 2025 Memory Theme & Scripture

**Theme:** ““Experiencing God”: “Prayer and Inner Presence enables one to seek God’s Will now while He is near.”

**Scripture:** “Seek the LORD while you  
Can find him. Call on him now while he is near.”  
Isaiah 55:6 NLT

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

- **The Jewel Cromwell Johnson Prayer Line**  
- **Morning Prayer:** Monday - Friday at 6am  
**Phone Conference Call Line:**  
725-735-9012 - **No Passcode**
- **Church School** - Sundays at 9 am adults in the Family Life Center.
- **Church-wide Bible Study** - Wednesdays at **7pm**,
- Join us every **Thursday** for **Thursday Treats** for the **Thirsty–Zooming in His Word** - **Paused** until further notice
- **YPD FAB Fourth Fridays** at 7 pm in the **FLC**.



**Happy Birthday** greetings to all those celebrating a birthday in the month of **March**. From your **Congregational Care Unit (CCU)** Leaders Sis. Tonya Cherry ([tcherry856@gmail.com](mailto:tcherry856@gmail.com)) & Sis. Valerie Johnson.



Lenten Season Message: - March 5 - April 17, 2025

*Experiencing God"*

Prayer and Inner Presence enables one  
to seek God's Will now, while He is near.

Lent is a season of the Christian Liturgical Calendar Year beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God by discerning God's Will for their lives. It is a time for recommitment to serve God in the newness of life; and to "Serve in the Spirit of Excellence." Lent is a sacred time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with "Knowing & Doing the Will of God." *Blackaby and King*. It's a 40-day spiritual journey in changing your lifestyle by *allowing God to change your heart*. "*The needed change within us is God's work, not ours.*" *Richard J. Foster*. Our theme for the Lenten Season is, "Experiencing God: Prayer and inner Presence enables one to seek God's will now, while He is near." Additionally, our guiding scripture is: "*Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call him now while he is near.*" Isaiah 55:6 NLT

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose, or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of life, relationships, family, and work, and sometimes ministry. Our lives are often filled with distractions and noise that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, social media, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities, or other irrelevant stuff. We were created as "human beings" and not human doers. When we become human doers, we tend to turn away from God. Embracing Lent draws us nearer to God's Will, purpose; and promises of peace and fulfillment for our lives.

During Lent, practicing the inward disciplines will be an excellent way to allow God's presence to saturate your inner being. The inward disciplines are meditation, prayer, fasting, and study. They help us to keep our eyes on God as we make sacrifices to draw closer to Him. Our hearts are being changed, and our lives are being transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. Practicing the inward disciplines during the Lenten Season invites God into your daily lives. They enable us to open our hearts to God who will do His work within us for change. It becomes an inward journey that manifests in an outward way of BEING; "Serving with a Spirit of Excellence" in our daily lives and ministry. "Serving is what we are to Him, not what we do for him. Oswald." *Chambers (6/19)* As we begin to practice the inward disciplines, we are able to live a simple life of Prayer, Discipline, Obedience, Stewardship, and Selflessness for the Kingdom of God. "Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call him now while he is near." *Isaiah 55:6*.

*Rev. Thomasine Adams  
Prayer and Spiritual  
Formation Ministry*

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## March is Women's History Month



The month of March is set aside as **Women's History Month**. This national commemoration began as "Women's History Week" in 1981 when Congress passed a bill (Pub. L. 97-28) which was authorized by President Ronald Regan. In 1987 the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to pass another bill ((Pub. L. 100-9) which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month.

In 1995, after Congress passed several resolutions to the 1987 bill, President Bill Clinton declared in the month of March of each year the nation will observe "Women's History Month." During the month the contributions and specific achievements women have made to the United States would be recognized over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Let us honor **Women's History Month 2025** by celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of extraordinary women who have left an indelible mark on history. As we set our sights on the future, let us take inspiration from the promises of God, who has consistently blessed women who dared to have faith in themselves and their abilities. By digging deeper and believing in ourselves, we can achieve greatness and create a legacy that will inspire future generations.

In addition to Women's Month, annually on **March 8th** we also celebrate **International Women's Day (IWD)** which is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

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Spring Forward - 3/9/2025

A purple banner with a white arrow pointing to the right, containing the text "SPRING FORWARD" in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 9, 2025



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## March Prayer List

Pastor Sheleta Fomby  
Bro. Andrew Adams  
Bro. Bruce Ashe  
Sis. June Bryant  
Mother Cleo Cole  
Bro. Carlton Epps  
Mother Grace Hicks  
Sis. Gerri Miles



Sis. Ursula Slade  
Sis. Candace Watkins  
Bro. Derrick Watson, Sr.  
Ministerial Staff  
Ministries/Leads  
Steward & Trustee Boards  
All Members

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## Opportunities to Give...

A purple and white graphic titled "5 Ways to Give" for Mount Calvary AME Church. It lists five methods of giving: Online (with a laptop icon), Phone (with a telephone handset icon), Mail-In (with an envelope icon), In-Person (with two people icons), and Smart Device (with a smartphone icon). Each method includes contact information. The graphic also features a quote from Malachi 3:10 and the church's logo.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.  
Malachi 3:10

**5 Ways to Give**

**Mount Calvary AME Church**

**ONLINE** [www.mtcalvaryame.org](http://www.mtcalvaryame.org)  
click the give tab.

**PHONE** 410-296-9474

**MAIL-IN** Mail your gift:  
Mount Calvary AME Church  
PO Box 20416 | Towson, MD 21286

**IN-PERSON**  
Drop off your gift at the church office: Mt. Calvary AME Church  
349 Eudowood Lane | Towson, MD 21286

**SMART DEVICE**  
Cash App Smcamec



**Mount Calvary AME Church**  
300 Eudowood Lane  
Towson, MD 21286  
410-296-9474 (phone) 410-296-8710 (fax)  
adminasst@mtcalvaryame.org • [www.mtcalvaryame.org](http://www.mtcalvaryame.org)  
Rev. Sheleta Fomby, Pastor

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*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: [mtcalvarymemessenger@gmail.com](mailto:mtcalvarymemessenger@gmail.com).*