



THE CALVARY CONNECTION

Unity. Liberty. Love. Serve.

JULY 2026

July Birthdays

1: Duane Cheek, Teri Conrad, Peter Oerter
2: Mary Hampton, Luke Pratt
6: Sven Milder
7: Roger Dunlap, Jack New, Cris Seippel
12: Samantha Cheek, Steven Nixa
13: John Berkenstock, Peyton Payne,
Lily Swing, Nicholas Swing
14: Turner Collins, Jeffrey McCarn,
Vickey Pitts, Bob Snyder

15: Philip Simpson
16: Ramona Prestwood, Richard Segal
20: Emily Johnson, Christine Phelps
22: Karen Dorsett, Michael Griffin
23: Ford Jackson
27: Doug Hall, Jack Johnson, Mary Lott
28: Adalyn Church, Cole Hastings,
Nancy McKoon, Heinz Milder
31: Jessica Hege

BRUNSON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It is time once again for our annual school supply collection for Brunson Elementary school. Below you will find a list of the most needed school supplies to donate. This year, we also have an Amazon wishlist where you can send supplies directly to Brunson, if you are unable to bring donations to church or live out of town. You can scan the QR code below to go to the wishlist. You can also donate money and we will purchase school supplies with the funds. Just put Brunson Elementary in the memo line of your check. The following is a list of supplies that they have requested. Every single donation is appreciated.



- Pencils
- Crayons-8 or 16 count
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- Glue sticks
- Elmer's bottle glue
- Dry erase markers (blue or black)
- Notebook paper
- 8.5x11 Copy Paper



Boxes are located outside the office and first floor stairwell. Our deadline for donations is July 26th. Thank you for your support of our partnership with Brunson!

LESSONS FROM THE ANCIENT CHURCH: REFLECTIONS FROM TÜRKIYE

This summer I had the privilege of traveling through western Turkey, visiting many of the ancient cities associated with the earliest centuries of Christianity. While I expected to learn about archaeology, history, and biblical contexts, I discovered something more profound: a deeper appreciation for the people who lived, worshiped, worked, and built communities in these places long before us.

Travel has a way of expanding our imagination. Before this journey, I could read about Ephesus, Miletus, or Laodicea in Scripture and history books, but standing in those places transformed them from names on a page into living communities. Walking ancient streets, entering homes and public spaces, and seeing the remains of churches and gathering places helped me envision the ordinary lives of the earliest Christians, as well as those who lived long before the Way. These were not abstract figures in history; they were neighbors, workers, families, and worshipers navigating the complexities of their own time.

We arrived in Istanbul and over the course of 13 days traveled down the Aegean Coast to Troy, Bergama, Ephesus, Miletus, Didyma, Sardis, Laodicea, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis (Pamukkale), Denizli, and back to Istanbul. We walked nearly 100 miles in that time, hiking and traipsing through ancient ruins and breathtaking structures like the Temple of Apollo, St. John's Church, the Temple of Artemis, the Terrace Houses of Ephesus, the Travertines of Pamukkale, the Byzantine Cistern, Blue Mosque, Ayasofia, Chora Church, Topkapi Palace, and the Hagia Eirene in Istanbul - to name only a few. Each location added to an overwhelming sense of humility as I encountered this incredible landscape and unparalleled history.

One of the most striking lessons came from the theaters that dominated many of these cities. As someone particularly interested in theater and acoustics, I was fascinated by these structures. In Ephesus, I stood before the immense Great Theater, a building capable of holding 25,000 people. Though restoration work prevented us from entering, its sheer scale testified to the remarkable engineering and creativity of the ancient world. Across the city, a smaller covered odeon revealed a different kind of gathering space—more intimate, sheltered, and communal.

At Miletus, I saw how a Greek theater had been adapted by the Romans, reflecting centuries of cultural change. The architecture itself became a reminder that communities are never static. Each generation inherits what came before, reshapes it, and passes it on to those who follow.

Perhaps the most moving experience occurred in Laodicea. Visiting on Pentecost, I found myself unexpectedly emotional as we walked through the city. The ancient streets seemed alive with the memory of countless lives lived there. Near the end of our visit, I was given the rare opportunity to sing in the Western Theater. The acoustics were unlike

anything I have ever experienced. The space was masterfully created to carry and sustain every note, creating a sense of resonance that was tangible - like a singing bowl.

What struck me most about these theaters was not simply their architectural brilliance but their role in community life. They were places where people gathered for civic discussions, artistic performances, celebrations, religious observances, and public events. They remind us that communities require spaces where people can come together, share stories, wrestle with important questions, and encounter one another. In many ways, that calling remains central to the Church today.

Throughout the trip, I was also reminded of the layers of history that shape every community. At the Temple of Artemis in Selçuk (modern day Ephesus), I was struck by how stones from one era were incorporated into structures built by later generations. Pagan, Christian, Islamic, and empirical histories were literally built upon one another. Rather than existing as isolated chapters, these traditions became interconnected through the people who inherited and repurposed what came before.

This insight extended beyond the archaeological sites themselves. Everywhere we traveled, I encountered remarkable hospitality and generosity. The beauty of Turkey's landscapes was matched by the warmth of its people. Many assumptions and stereotypes I had unconsciously carried were challenged by the kindness and openness we experienced. I was particularly moved by the daily call to prayer that echoed through towns and cities. Whatever one's religious tradition, it was impossible not to recognize the significance of a community publicly ordering its day around shared spiritual practice.

Perhaps that is the greatest gift this journey offered. It reminded me that faith has always been lived in communities composed of real people—people who gathered, worked, worshiped, argued, celebrated, and hoped together. The earliest Christians were shaped by the cities and cultures around them, just as we are shaped by our own.

As I continue reflecting on this pilgrimage, I find myself grateful not only for the ancient stones and monuments, the immense scholarship that was imparted by our guide and my professor, but also for the deeper perspective they provided. History is not merely about the past. It invites us to consider how we are building community in the present and what kind of legacy we will leave for those who come after us. The ancient cities of Turkey may now stand in ruins, Istanbul still carries the scars of empires built and fallen at the intersection of two continents, serving as a gateway from West to East, but they continue to bear witness to a truth that remains as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago: God meets people in community, and through those communities, God continues to shape the world.

Photos of Türkiye

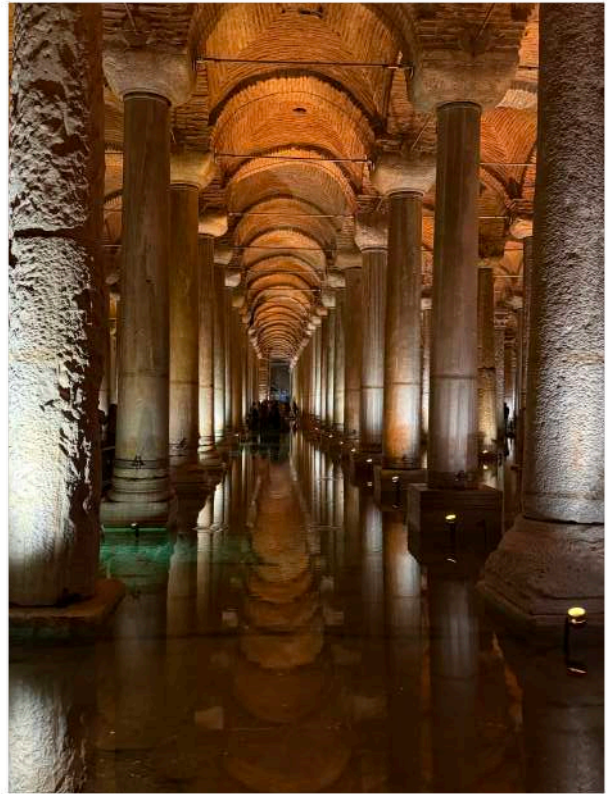
A sunset Bosphorus Cruise in Istanbul



Amanda and the Rev. Angelica Regalado-Cieza at Topkapi Palace, Istanbul



Sunset in Pamukkale



Ancient Byzantine Cisterns, Istanbul



Library of Celsus, Ephesus



Temple of Apollo, Didyma



Western Theater, Laodicea



Missions 2026

July

Brunson School Supplies Collection
Coffee Cake for Teachers

August 1st

Shepherd Center dinner

September

Overflow Shelter Supplies Collection

September 19th

Calvary Women's Day Mission Project

October 4th

The Longest Table Ecumenical Event

October & November

Thanksgiving Food Drive for Sunnyside

November & December

Angel Tree for Brunson & Shelter
Overflow Shelter

January


GreenNest Cleaning Buckets



Calvary Women's Day

Saturday, September 19th
9:30-2:30

Women, you are invited join us for a time of fellowship, devotions, lunch, and community service.



MEMORIALS

George Hege
Patricia Malaspina

Please note that this reflects tributes as of June 23rd, 2026. All tributes received after that date will be included in the next *Calvary Connections*.

A special thanks to Sabrina Maksi & Carol Middleton for these!

If you have any questions, please contact us by emailing our financial secretary, Sabrina, at sabrina@calvarymoravian.org.

THE CALVARY CONNECTION

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The Rev. Dr. Chaz Snider, *Pastor & Head of Staff*

The Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse,
Pastor of Congregational Care & Visitation

Amanda Schumpert,
Director of Music & Congregational Ministries

Jacob Patrick, *Office & Communications Manager*

Mary Louise Kapp Peeples, *Organist*

Sabrina Maksi, *Financial Secretary*

Brian C. Lott, *Band Director*



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Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8 AM-4 PM
Lunch Hour: 12:30-1:30 PM
Closed on Fridays

Worship - 11:00 a.m., in person & via live stream
www.calvarymoravian.org
Click on "Live Stream"

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