

ISSUE 1 • FALL 2024

THE CROSS ROAD

Newsletter of Calvary United Methodist Church



Message from Our Pastor

BY REV. BETH L. NELSON



Dear friends!

I have always loved Calvary Church. I loved it when I attended here while serving on Conference Staff. I loved it when I chose to be a part of this faith community when I retired. And now, I think I even love it more as I am honored to share this season of ministry as the pastor.

I can so easily jump into the emotional joy of a full church on Christmas Eve or Easter morning. Memories of these services make my heart smile. And even that year, when the pandemic moved us to broadcast only, Christmas and Easter were both glorious moments of worship and grace.

Many late afternoons, when I am leaving the office, if the sun is shining, I detour through the sanctuary. It is always a little different. In the quietness of that time of day and the streaming warmth of the sun, I am, more than often, overwhelmed by the outstanding beauty of the windows and it is easy to just sit and take it all in. I am so blessed! God is smiling on me! How did I get so lucky? These are the thoughts that flood my soul. And then after holy moments, I make my way home. But I get to repeat that again and again.

It is easy to brag about the inspirational, historic, and priceless windows in our church. It is a pleasure to share our history and place on the Northside. People are intrigued and most know who we are! It is rewarding to intentionally invite others to come and see Calvary. And, it is still fun to say "Yea... I am the pastor of that church!"

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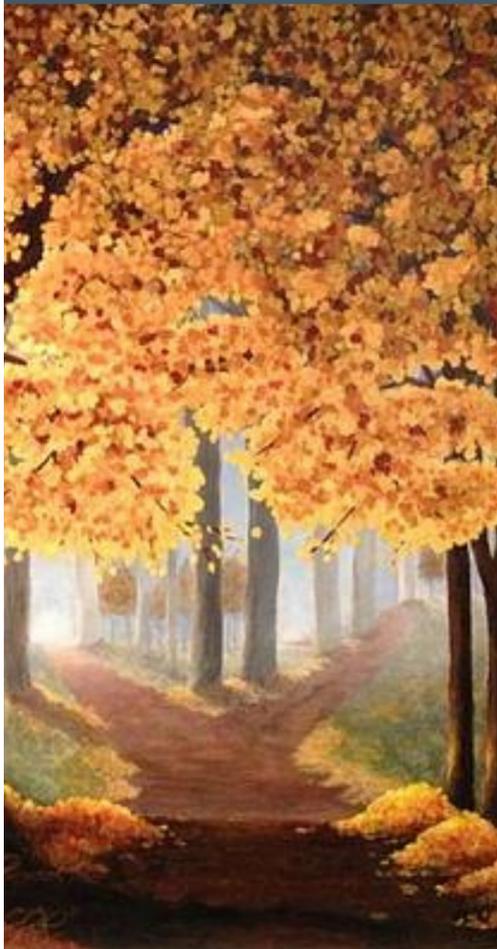
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“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

JEREMIAH 6:16



Lately, however, I have been discovering that Calvary is so much more than a beautiful, historic building. As much as the building's beauty is real, the people of Calvary are even more beautiful. Witnessing these people of faith in action is the best gift ever and the one that makes my belief in God stronger. I see God's Spirit moving in ways that I never imagined as people are reconnected, blessed, helped, restored, and as they find wholeness and purpose again.

The church is not a perfect place because we are not perfect people. But when babies and adults are baptized into our faith and couples make vows, or renew their vows in the midst of community, the love and support are genuine, and people feel it and know it. Our children know the specialness of bringing the light of Christ into the service and the eyes of all are on them as they serve. The church smiles with them when their task is complete. When the music begins and we lift our voices in praise, I see such joy in singing as our voices blend into one. And I absolutely love the fact that people listen to my sermons and challenge me!

We are so much more than a building! A beautiful place can offer a place of rest. Beautiful people offer a cup of water or coffee, conversation, connections, and even a gift card if you are hungry. Beautiful buildings celebrate the past. Beautiful people offer prayer, hope, and talk of the future. And as beautiful as a building might be, it does not ensure that all are welcome. Calvary's beautiful people believe that we are ALL God's beloved, that all are welcome, and that all really does mean all.

The church may be a grand building, but the church is the people. And I am most grateful for the people of Calvary!

Blessings!
Rev. Beth

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Calvary United Methodist Church believes that all means all. We open our hearts, our minds, and our doors to all our neighbors. We gladly invite into our shared life all persons who seek a community of support where they can grow in God's grace. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, relationship status, or background – **you are God's beloved, and you are welcome here.**



A YEAR IN REFLECTION

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"He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that He does, He prospers."

PSALM 1:3





The 411 on the 412 Organ Recital Series

IN FOCUS, SPRING 2024, WPAUMC MAGAZINE

There is something uniquely powerful about sitting in a church pew and allowing the dynamic sounds of a mighty pipe organ wrap around and flow through you like the ever-present spirit of God. It is a spiritual journey worth taking and sharing.

This (past) Lenten season, four Pittsburgh area United Methodist churches set out to deliver just such a journey. The brainchild of organists Benjamin Bugaile from Ingomar UMC and Mitchell Stecker from Mt. Lebanon UMC, the 412 Organ Recital Series was a unique concert series that promoted unity and a sense of connection and togetherness among United Methodists in the Western PA Conference.

"I called Ben up, and I said, 'Hey, I've got a crazy idea,'" recalled Mitchell Stecker. "Originally, I thought we could just do a 'home and away' series. And then I thought why stop there? Why not expand it a little bit? Let's find some ways to build some connections within the Conference." In addition to Bugaile and Stecker, the inaugural recital series also featured organists Franklin Mosley from Baldwin Community UMC and Brian Burns from Calvary UMC.

For four weeks, the organists traveled to their respective churches and played similar repertoire on four different organs, with a few surprises tossed into the mix each weekend. From traditional Lenten works by renown composers like Mendelssohn and J.S. Bach to unique interpretations of scripture by lesser known composers.

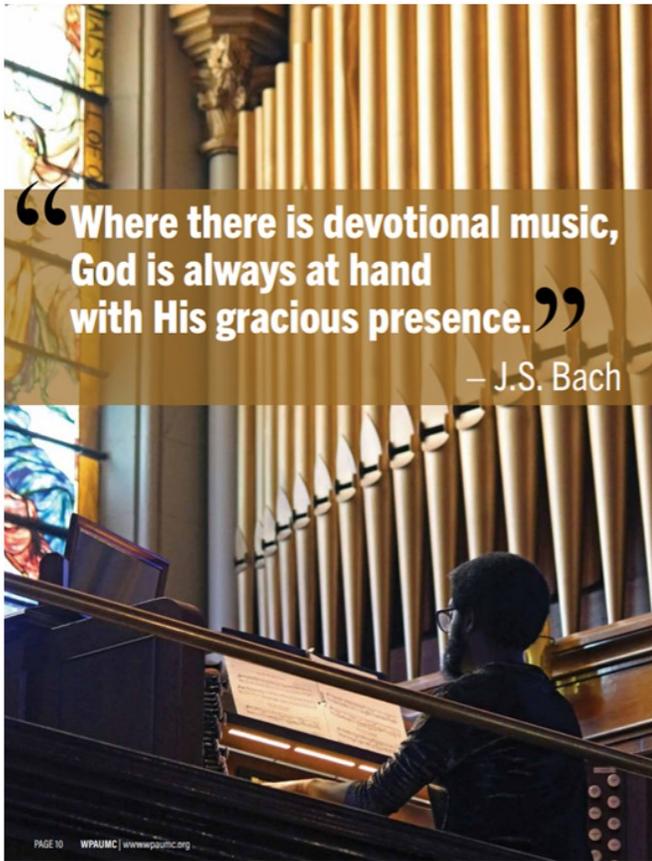
"Each of the spaces is so different and each of the organs is so different that it was a unique experience each week," Stecker said.

The organists all acknowledged that it's been an exciting experience to perform on such a variety of organs that are a variety of ages.

"This is 130 years old," said Calvary UMC organist Brian Burns of Calvary's organ. "It plays almost identically to the way it was built. It's very unique in its touch and its sound, and how it reacts. It's a unique child of God."

The group had been challenged to prepare for each week by adjusting to each different instrument. At Baldwin UMC, Mosley explained that the organ was not in a solid state condition, so the group had to negotiate settings.





“This organ was installed in 1977,” Mosley said of the Baldwin UMC sanctuary organ. “When the organ was inaugurated here, (the late) Marilyn Mason, concert organist and professor at the University of Michigan, came and gave one of the inaugural recitals.”

After this first recital series, the hope is to continue to grow the series and the connection in future years. “I think that we all have similar enough visions that what we will be able to produce going forward will be exciting not just for the United Methodist Church but also for the greater Pittsburgh music community,” said Bugaile.

“I hope that those who are looking to be nurtured are nurtured spiritually, and those who are looking for quality music find that. And I hope that other musicians might be inspired to do their own variation of this or join in the fun that we’re having,” Bugaile commented.

“I think this is something that the United Methodist Church needs, even if it doesn’t know that it needs it. I think all of us are in the boat together and rowing in the same direction. This is a good representation of what the church can and should be.”

412

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

4 ORGANS – 1 PURPOSE – 2 GOOD TO MISS

**412 IS NOT JUST OUR AREA CODE...
IT IS COMMUNITY MUSIC MINISTRY AT ITS FINEST.**

Join us as **4 churches** (each within the 412 area code) with **1 purpose** (to promote unity and the sense of togetherness) in a **unique concert series 2 incredible to be missed.**

RECITAL SERIES SCHEDULE

1	SUN, FEB 18 AT 4PM CALVARY UMC 971 BEECH AVE, PGH, 15233	<p>TICKETS ARE NOT REQUIRED A free-will offering will be accepted and appreciated.</p>
2	SAT, FEB 24 AT 2PM BALDWIN UMC 5001 BAPTIST RD, PGH, 15236	
3	SAT, MAR 2 AT 2PM MT LEBANON UMC 3319 W LIBERTY AVE, PGH, 15216	
4	SUN, MAR 10 AT 4 PM INGOMAR UMC 1501 W INGOMAR RD, PGH, 15237	

FEATURED ORGANISTS
 Brian Burns, Calvary UMC | Franklin Mosley, Baldwin UMC
 Mitchell Stecker, Mt Lebanon UMC | Benjamin Bugaile, Ingomar UMC

QUESTIONS? CalvaryPgh.com | 412-231-2007 | CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Calvary United Methodist Church



“Connection is the word that spawned all of this. That’s such an important part of our United Methodist character. Music is a good way to build bridges, and we’re hoping this is a way people can see our faces – from outside their own congregation – and build those organic bonds, which is so important in the Christian life.”
– Mitchell Stecker



Women's Retreat

A wonderful women's retreat was held at Calvary UMC on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Over 50 participated in "Rituals, Regimes, and Routines: Equipping the Self for Service!" which was presented by the Calvary United Women in Faith.

The retreat was led by Rev. Nettie Jorinda Bullitt who was recently featured by Inspiring Lives Magazine in January 2024.



RITUALS, REGIMES, AND ROUTINES: EQUIPPING THE SELF FOR SERVICE!

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Calvary United Methodist Church

The Calvary United Women in Faith are presenting a retreat for ALL women.

The retreat will be led by our very own Rev. Nettie Jorinda Bullitt, who was recently featured on in the December 2023 issue of *Inspiring Lives*.

RSVP by emailing Calvary UMC at CalvaryPgh@gmail.com.



Rev. Nettie Jorinda Bullitt

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS



Charles Cook
 Personal Trainer,
 Life Coach, and
 Owner of Freedom
 Fitness Facility



Lori Paul
 Certified Life/Health
 Coach (extensive
 experience with
 mental health)



Sally Power
 Founder/CEO
 Treasure House
 Fashions





ALL Really Does Mean ALL!

On Wednesday, May 1, 2024, the United Methodist Church General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina voted to repeal the church's 40-year ban on LGBTQ clergy. The vote was 692-51, with no debate.

With a 93% majority, the delegates not only removed the restrictive language concerning LGBTQ clergy but also voted to allow the officiation of same-gender weddings. The United Methodist Church now affirms the dignity of all people as image bearers for who they are. This removes language from the Book of Discipline that declared homosexuality to be "incompatible with Christian teaching."



Bishop Moore-Koikoi Discusses General Conference

During this General Conference, several historic actions have taken place. Bishop Moore-Koikoi highlights the passing of the gavel to Bishop Tracy Malone as the new president of the Council of Bishops, the approval of a full communion agreement with the Episcopal Church, and the removal of the restrictive language concerning LGBTQ clergy and the officiation of same-gender weddings.

Watch Here: facebook.com/wpaumc/videos/443458084895934



Love Wins on Sunday, August 11, 2024

After being denied the opportunity five years ago due to a then-restrictive United Methodist Church, Tammy Phillips and Susan Derouin renewed their vows on Sunday, August 11, 2024, at Calvary, IN the church in front of a congregation full of love! We are so thankful for their dedication to the church! Love wins!





Summer Solstice Open House & Art Show

TRIB LIVE, PATRICK VARINE, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

You'd be hard-pressed to find a time when a multi-story Tiffany stained-glass window doesn't look stunning. But toss the summer solstice into the mix – when the Earth's tilt toward the sun is at a maximum and we get the longest day of the year – and the view gets even better.

"Our windows are really large, some of the largest in the city, and they really showcase the ingenuity of what the Tiffany Company was trying to do in terms of glass manufacturing," said David Grinnell, a member of Calvary United Methodist Church on Pittsburgh's Northside, which offered free tours every 15 minutes during the June 20 summer solstice.



Louis C. Tiffany, son of Tiffany & Co. founder Charles Louis Tiffany, changed the way stained glass was made in the U.S. by re-creating medieval techniques and using solid stained glass to create designs, rather than painting details onto a pane of glass. Tiffany had traveled to Europe and taken note of the way scenes were largely painted onto stained glass in its churches.

"He had a notion it could be done better," Grinnell said. From twisting glass in order to achieve new colors, to unique techniques like tossing glass confetti onto a slab of molten glass and sandwiching up to five layers of glass together, Tiffany innovated and found new ways to create beauty out of the leaded glass.

Article continued on following page.



"Tiffany was very interested in how the light hit a window, and so one of the features he exploited was what he called 'gems' – he'd take a glass sphere and basically chop it up, creating a lot of new flat surfaces," Grinnell said. "And then in spots like the bottom of a window where the memorial panes are, he added a bunch of those 'gems' so that when the sun moved, it would hit them at a different angle and cause the prism to change. It's really wonderful when you get up close and see what's going on."

In the mid-'80s, with Calvary's congregation dwindling, church leaders formed a nonprofit in order to pursue grants for things like the restoration of the windows. It was a project undertaken by the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society and Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studio in the city's West End.

The church, itself, was built in the late 1890s. Grinnell said while he doesn't know for certain, it's highly likely that the architects and builders were considering how sunlight would strike the windows as they constructed the building.

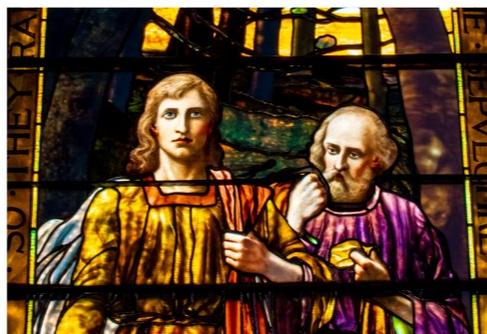
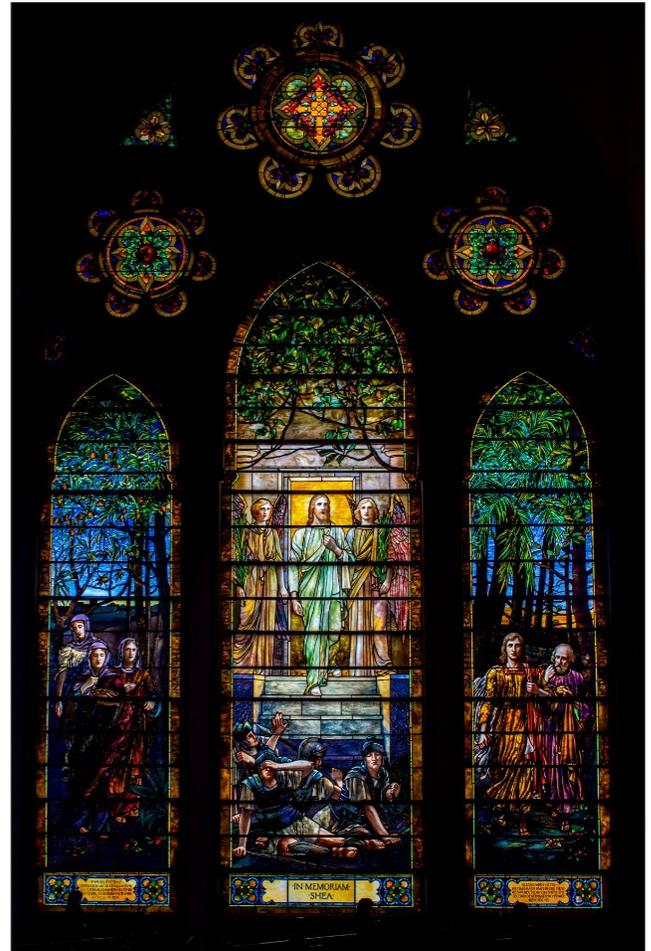
"I think that'd have to be part of the consideration," he said. "The orientation of Gothic churches in particular are very proscribed – the front door always faces west, for example." Grinnell said his favorite is the window behind the church's choir loft.

"It's just absolutely spectacular when the sun comes through," he said. And owing to some of the ways that Tiffany layered glass, the unique angles of sunlight during the solstice will reveal color details that can't always be seen.

Calvary Pastor Beth Nelson said the windows are so stunning, they can sometimes be distracting. "It's such a beautiful place, but that can also be a challenge," Nelson said. "You want to make worship meaningful and ensure the congregation can relate. That can be tough in a big Gothic church like this, but we make it happen."

Grinnell said the Calvary congregation counted several local glass company owners among its congregation back in the late 19th century.

"Glass manufacturing was extremely important in Pittsburgh," he said. "For those owners to say that Tiffany glass was the way to go speaks volumes."





Daily Bread Picnic

Thank you to everyone who donated, prepped, cooked, served, and ministered at our picnic for Daily Bread on Sunday, May 26, 2024. It was a great day of serving others!





Vacation Bible School 2024

Camp Firelight





Calvary United Women in Faith Visit The Mission Barn

On Saturday, July 20, 2024, the Calvary United Women in Faith visited the Mission Barn in New Castle, PA, where they assembled hygiene kits. Calvary UMCOR is often called upon to help build various kits for those who have been affected by disasters.

The Mission Barn

The Mission Barn, formerly known as The Eastbrook Mission Barn, is one of six UMCOR Relief Supply Network depots across the U.S. Since 2008 they have shipped over \$1 million worth of UMCOR kits.

In 2000, Eastbrook United Methodist Church acquired a former dairy barn as part of its purchase of a new parsonage. In 2008, the church began using the heated office space to store UMCOR cleaning buckets. During 2022, they outgrew their space, and in early 2023 they purchased a warehouse near New Castle to continue the ministries and help them grow.





Won't You Be My Neighbor

As a wrap-up to our Mister Rogers' Sermon Series, on Sunday, October 15, 2023, beautiful mums decorated the altar area of Calvary. They were given a blessing and then after worship, they were given to our wonderful neighbors in Pittsburgh's Northside along with the below postcard.

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood!



Mr. Rogers Sermon Series



WEEK 1 - SEPTEMBER 10
"Won't you be My Neighbor?"
1 John 4:7-21



WEEK 2 - SEPTEMBER 17
"It is you, I like!"
Psalm 139:6-16



WEEK 3 - SEPTEMBER 24
"There are many ways to say I love you!"
Luke 12:6-7, 22-24




Hello Neighbor

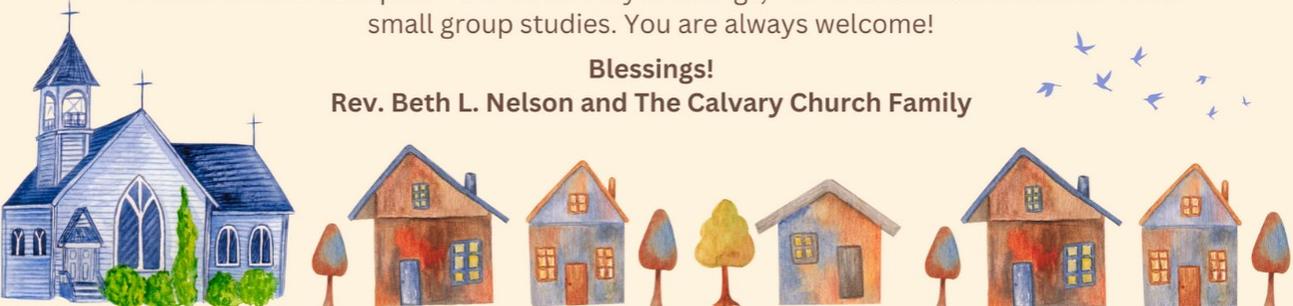


Dear Neighbor,

It is always a beautiful day in the neighborhood because of you. And we want to say thank you for being a great neighbor! This fall mum was on the altar Sunday morning at Calvary United Methodist Church. We prayed over the flowers, and we prayed for each of our neighbors. We also prayed for our neighborhood that we might be a safe place of community and blessing.

We are grateful for you! We want to be great neighbors too. Please do not hesitate to stop by or call. We have lots of special events and mission projects. We have a wonderful music program. In addition to worship at 11am on Sunday mornings, we have educational classes and small group studies. You are always welcome!

Blessings!
Rev. Beth L. Nelson and The Calvary Church Family



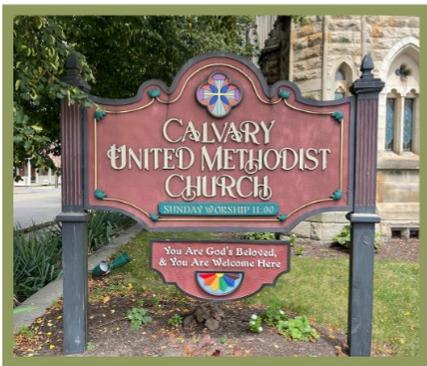



Calvary Gets a New Sign

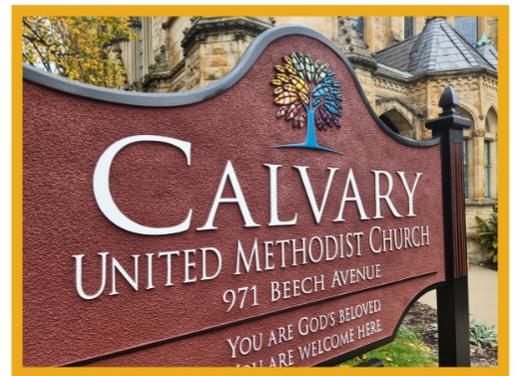
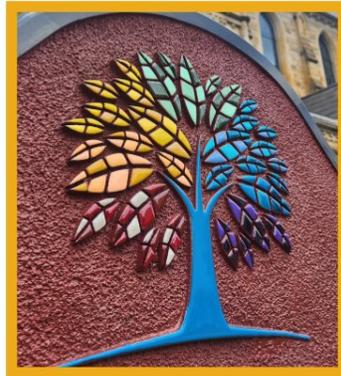
The sign outside Calvary was damaged last year in a storm when a tree fell on top of it. At that time it was decided to replace the sign with an updated one which reflects our new logo.

The new sign was installed at the beginning of November 2024. Needless to say, it is very impressive and the detail of the logo is breathtaking. The logo itself was made with over 20 colors of epoxy and looks like glass. The new sign was made by Blue Fire Signs in Gibsonia. If you haven't looked at it yet, take a walk outside and get ready to be impressed!

Old Sign →



← Beautiful New Sign →



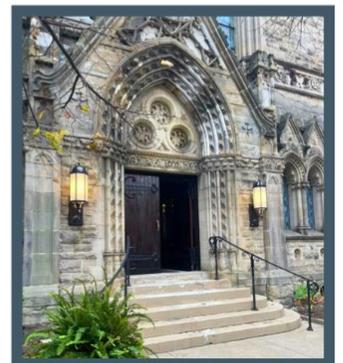
AND New Outdoor Light Fixtures

A few months ago, new light fixtures replaced the old ones on the Allegheny Avenue entrance with period-appropriate models. Thank you, Brian Burns (and his helpers), for completing this project, which was not easily done, and helping to light the way to Calvary for those who find themselves in places of darkness.

← Old Lights



← Beautiful New Lights →





Pew Cushion Project

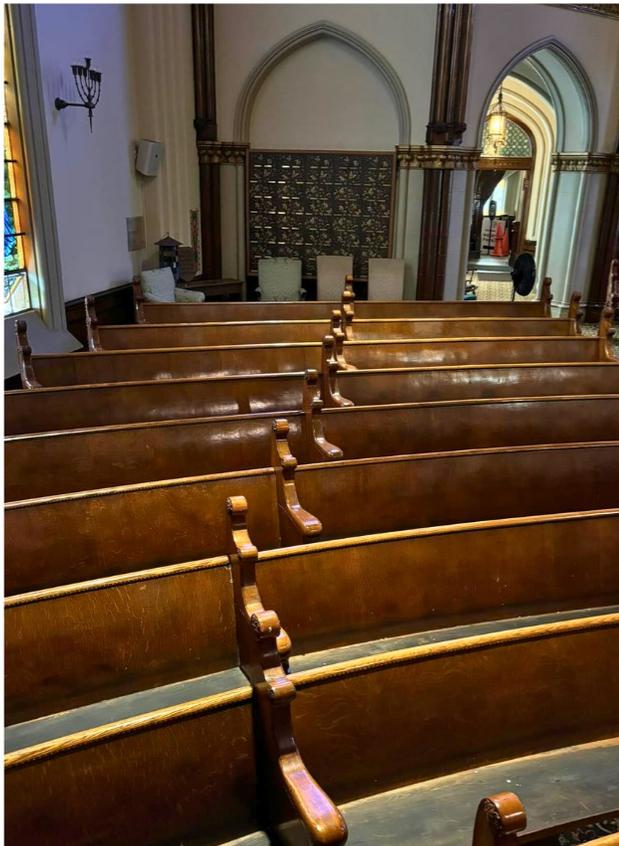
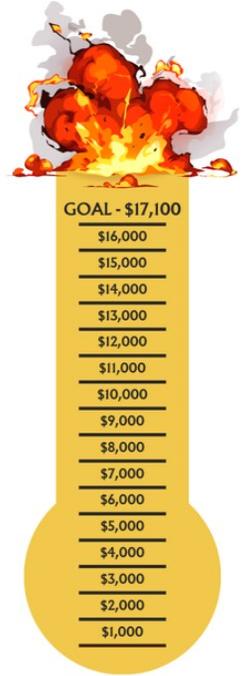
At over 131 years old, Calvary United Methodist Church is splendid in its glorious details. The 35-foot high Tiffany stained-glass windows are by far its most noted feature. But not to be overlooked are the spectacular wood carvings all over the building.

With the assistance of the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society (AHPS), Calvary has been able to undertake the colossal task of restoring the original pews and pew cushions.

Stabilizing the pews, repairing where needed, and finding and replacing some of the missing ornamentations was Phase One of the project.

Phase Two involves the pew cushions. The Joseph Horne family donated them and they are original. We aim to replace the cushions as close to the original historic fabric and design as possible.

AHPS raised more than \$10,000 toward this project thanks mainly to Nancy Richards and the sale of the "Angel Cards". Calvary then held a funding project to raise the remaining amount needed to complete the project which was an incredible \$17,100!



Fundraising began on Sunday, February 4, 2024. Several opportunities were available so that everyone could participate.

- **Pew-By-The-Foot:** Approximately 1,020' of pew cushions at \$15 per foot
- **Pew Patron:** 1 of 70 pews at \$225 per pew
- **Button Buddy:** 144 of 5,000 buttons at \$5 per 144
- **Clergy Seats:** 4 at \$250 each
- **Kneeler Pads:** 2 at \$400 each

Fundraising was completed on Sunday, April 21, 2024, and the fabric was ordered from overseas and arrived from Tuscany at the beginning of June. We then had a group of volunteers take on the immense task of putting the pew cushions back in order. Once this was done we were ready to send the cushions to Mercer County to an Amish family who will be completing the reupholstering. The first set of cushions left Calvary on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. We expect the first set of cushions to be completed and returned to Calvary within the next 6-8 weeks.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



TIME CAPSULE CHRONICLES

BY DAVID R. GRINNELL, ARCHIVIST FOR THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE, COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Calvary's 1895 Pulpit

Every Sunday as we gather for fellowship time in the chapel we are in clear view of the original pulpit that adorned the sanctuary from its 1895 dedication to the 1940s when the chancel was redesigned to feature a split pulpit and lectern and a high altar. During Advent of 2021, the original pulpit was returned to the sanctuary for the season. It is a strikingly ornate piece of craftsmanship and was made to coordinate with the communion table that continues to reside at the altar. But did you know that this beautiful piece of furniture is a memorial in the same way that our Tiffany windows are?

Here is a description from the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate following the Dedication of the New Sanctuary of what was then known as Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church of Allegheny:

"The pulpit, communion table, furniture and pews made after special designs by the architects, are very beautiful in form, color and carving. In a panel of the pulpit is inlaid a cross of marble, made from a bit of stone brought from Mount Calvary and presented by Mr. Lee S. Smith, to the memory of whose father, the Rev. Wesley Smith, the pulpit is devoted."

(Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, June 13, 1895)

Located at the base of the pulpit is a small silver plate with the following inscription:



BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE CALVARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 TO THE MEMORY OF THE
 REVEREND WESLEY SMITH

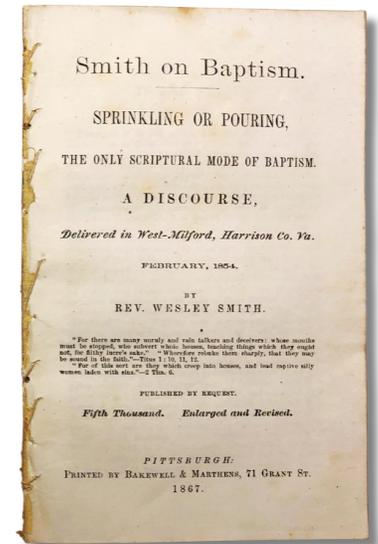
A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST, AN ABLE MINISTER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BY PRESENCE, BY KNOWLEDGE, BY SELF-SACRIFICING SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD THROUGH FIFTY-FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS. HE GAVE FULL... OF HIS MINISTRY AND AT THE END OF HIS DAYS PASSED TRIUMPHANTLY TO THE [?], AND ETERNAL REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL -- HIS WORKS DO FOLLOW HIM -- HE BEING DEAD YET SPAEKETH.

BORN IN 1805 DEPARTED IN 1888

So, who was Rev. Wesley Smith? He was a member of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was ordained an Elder in 1837 by Bishop Robert R. Roberts (the first Bishop coming from western Pennsylvania). During his lifetime, Rev. Smith served congregations in Birmingham (today's South Side), Uniontown, Cadiz (OH), Monongahela, Allegheny College, Pleasant Valley (Allegheny City now Pittsburgh), Manchester (Union Church which merged with Calvary in 1919), Sharpsburg, Pine Run (McKeesport area), Tarentum, and Mount Washington. During his ministry he became known as a great preacher, orator, and scholar, retiring to reside in Sharpsburg in 1874.

He was the author of at least five known pamphlets:

- **A DEFENSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, Against The Charges Of Having Obtained Her Form Of Government By Fraud, And Of Being Pro-Slavery: Together With An Appendix, Containing An Address To The Abolitionists In Said Church. (*Published in 1844 in Cadiz, Ohio.*)
- **SPRINKLING OR POURING: The Only Scriptural Mode Of Baptism: A Discourse**, Delivered in West-Milford, Harrison County, Va. Fairmont, Va. (*Published in 1855 and republished in 1867 in Pittsburgh.*)
- **A DEFENSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, Against The Charges Of Rev S. Kelly And Others Of The M.E. Church South. (*Published in 1855 in Fairmont VA (now WV).*)
- **LECTURES ON COURTSHIP, LOVE, AND MARRIAGE: An Infallible Guide To A Happy Home.** (*Published in 1874 in New York.*)
- **A DISCOURSE ON OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS**, Delivered On Fast Day, May 9th, 1861. (*Published in 1861 at Wheeling, VA (now WV).*)



Rev. Smith was born in May of 1805 in Armagh, Ireland. When he immigrated to the United States is not yet known, but he was licensed to preach as early as 1832 in the Pittsburgh Conference. He was twice married, first to Mary Elizabeth Ford (1818-1853) and second to Elizabeth Nancy Dickey (1821-1896). He died on October 28, 1888 at the age of 83 years in Sharpsburg and willed his "library" to be divided up amongst his children. Smith and his first spouse were the parents of six children:

- **Charles Wesley Smith (1840–1914)** – a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church (elected 1908) and former editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate (the Methodist newspaper).
- **Lee [Leonidas] Steward Smith (1844–1926)** – a Pittsburgh merchant in the dental supply industry, President of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, and an original Trustee of Calvary Church.
- **Dr. Homer J. Smith (1846–1929)** – an M.E. Pastor in the Pittsburgh area, Cleveland, Columbus, Zanesville, and later in the State of Delaware.
- **Olivia J. Smith Norcross (1844–1915)** – a teacher and Vice President of the Pittsburgh Female College, married to Dr. Allen H. Norcross, the President of the College.
- **Sarah E. Smith Lewis (1848–1932)** – spouse of Wenman A. Lewis, a Pittsburgh attorney.
- **Mary Virginia Smith Hollister (1851–1934)** – spouse of Jefferson J. Hollister, an attorney in Ohio and Iowa.

How fitting that Calvary Church continues to recognize and honor those who have come before us and influenced countless minds and hearts through their ministry and service to Christ and the world.





UPCOMING EVENTS

CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING

Saturday, September 7 • 9:30 AM Light Breakfast & 10:00 AM Meeting Begins • Calvary UMC Chapel

We hope that everyone has enjoyed a good summer, but now it is time to start planning for Fall. You are welcome to bring something to share for our light breakfast. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM as we have lots to discuss. Please invite your friends - all are welcome!

MISSION "FAIR" SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8 • Following Worship • Calvary UMC Chapel

After church, during fellowship time, you will have an opportunity to hear about our ministries, ask questions, and sign up to get involved! What are your spiritual gifts? What are you excited about?

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

THE ALLEGHENY CITY RAGTIME ORCHESTRA FEATURING COMPOSER AND JAZZ PIANIST TOM ROBERTS AND PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

Sunday, September 15 • 4:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary • Reception for Subscribers Only

Subscription Prices: \$80 General / \$60 Seniors

Subscription Prices for Concert AND Reception: \$90 General / \$70 Seniors

Single Ticket Prices: \$25 General / \$20 Seniors & Students / \$15 Groups of 10 or more

Wine, cheese, and mocktails with the musicians to follow at a historic Beech Avenue home. Visit ahps-pgh.org for additional information about a subscription, tickets, and concerts.

STEELERS NIGHT GAME OPEN HOUSE

October (Date TBD) • Time TBD • Calvary UMC

Please check out the Volunteer Opportunities section for how you can participate!

Please join us in this community outreach as we will open our doors to Steelers fans as they pass through the Northside. We will be handing out hot chocolate or water depending on the outside temperature. We are looking for a coordinator to organize this event as well as helpers. The date of the event depends on the availability of the coordinator. Possible dates are (1) Sunday, October 6, (2) Sunday, October 20, or (3) Monday, October 28.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 13 • Time TBD • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Join us for our Blessing of the Animals service. We invite all families to bring pets of all sizes, shapes, and sorts for this special service to call our fur-babies forward for blessings. Please have your pets on a leash or in a carrier for their safety. We haven't decided yet if this special service will take place during or after morning worship. Please watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

ZENTANGLE!

Saturday, October 19 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

The Calvary United Women in Faith will begin this FREE event with breakfast downstairs in the fellowship hall from 9:30 -10:00 AM. We will spend the next two hours with Sue, who has been with us before, to assist in creating your new item. All are welcome - you do not need to be a member to participate in this fun, artistic event.

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PITTSBURGH WITH THE PITTSBURGH CAMERATA

Saturday, October 19 • 7:30 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Subscription Prices: \$80 General / \$60 Seniors

Single Ticket Prices: \$25 General / \$20 Seniors & Students / \$15 Groups of 10 or more

Visit ahps-pgh.org for additional information about a subscription, tickets, and concerts.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 19 • 4:30 PM • First UMC, 5401 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Join us for Charge Conference with South Hills Partnership, Warren UMC, and First UMC.

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 26 • 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM • Calvary UMC

Join us as we celebrate the autumn season! There will be activities for children and adults. We will have pumpkin pancakes and other delicious items. There will also be a Yard Sale for people to sell gently used or homemade items. There is no cost if you bring your own table to display your items. If you are interested in renting a table Calvary, the cost is \$10, please contact the church office. We will be inside or outside depending on the weather. More details to come in the upcoming weeks!

HALLOWEEN — HANDING OUT CANDY TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS!

Thursday, October 31 • 5:00 – 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC

We will be handing out candy to the children of Allegheny West as they parade through the neighborhood in costumes.

NOVEMBER — A MONTH OF GRATITUDE

November at Calvary will be a month of gratitude with an emphasis on stewardship.

Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Sunday - We are grateful for a firm foundation of faith.

Sunday, November 10 – A stewardship testimony from a lay person.

Sunday, November 17 – A stewardship challenge from clergy and laity.

Sunday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Sunday and Commitment Sunday

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 3 • During Worship • Calvary UMC

Please let us know if you have a loved one who passed away since last November 1st and they will be remembered during the service. Forms will be available in the chapel beginning in October. Please include the person's name, date of death, and their relationship to you.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 30 • 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Calvary UMC

Please check out the Volunteer Opportunities section for how you can participate!

Please join us as we decorate Calvary for the Advent and Christmas season. There are jobs for everyone - we have a job that suits your particular abilities and talents.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, December 4 • Time TBD • Fabled Table, 1400 Buena Vista Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

We are inviting all women of Calvary to gather and celebrate the holidays with a night of food and festivities hosted by the Calvary United Women in Faith. Join the fun by bringing a wrapped item you want to regift for the "Regift Exchange" game. This is so much fun! If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Kim Butler (kimabutler4@gmail.com) know ahead of time. Parking is limited, but there is a parking lot only a block away. Several handicap spots are available on site. It's going to be a memorable evening of good food, fun, and fellowship.

Upcoming Events continued on following page.

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR & SHOPPE

Friday, December 6, 5:00 – 8:00 PM & Saturday, December 7, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC
Please check out the Volunteer Opportunities section for how you can participate!

MESSIAH — 12TH ANNUAL SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, December 14 & Sunday, December 15 • 4:00 PM • Calvary UMC

Please check out the Volunteer Opportunities section for how you can participate!

Bask in Handel's inspiring Messiah while surrounded by candlelight and Calvary's magnificent Tiffany stained-glass masterpieces. Sing in the choir or bring your family and friends to the concert. It is a fantastic way to kick off the holiday season!

PARENTS DAY OUT

Saturday, December 21 • 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel

There will be Christmas activities, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and lunch. This will give parents time to finish shopping and wrapping presents. We will also have a Christmas Shop for kids to shop for parents.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

Sunday, December 22 • Following Worship • Calvary UMC Parsonage

This Advent season, Rev. Beth L. Nelson will be opening up the doors of the parsonage and welcoming everyone to an Open House following worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24 • 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC

Please check out the Volunteer Opportunities section for how you can participate!

You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Christmas Eve at Calvary. The 4:00 PM service will be focused more on the children. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at each service. Our communion table is open to everyone. Refreshments to follow each service in the chapel behind the sanctuary.

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

AN OLD FASHIONED HYMN-FEST FEATURING BRIAN BURNS PLAYING ON THE HISTORIC FARRAND & VOTEY ORGAN AND ALSO FEATURING THE CALVARY FESTIVAL CHOIR

January 2025 (Date TBD) • Time TBD • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

This concert is free to all.

Bring your best voice and Join us for this interactive event! Reception to follow in Calvary's chapel.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 10, 2025 • 7:00 – 9:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel

Movie and snacks will be provided.

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

THE PITTSBURGH YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday, February 2, 2025 • 4:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Subscription Prices: \$80 General / \$60 Seniors

Single Ticket Prices: \$25 General / \$20 Seniors & Students / \$15 Groups of 10 or more

Join us as The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra returns to The Tiffany Concert Series for the fifth time! Visit ahps-pgh.org for additional information about a subscription, tickets, and concerts.



CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays

CALVARY SUNDAY MORNING CAFE

Weekly • 10:00 – 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC Chapel

Please join us for coffee and sweet treats before worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Weekly • 10:00 – 10:45 AM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

Calvary offers Sunday School classes for ages 3 to 10, and ages 11 to 15.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Weekly • 10:00 – 10:45 AM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Calvary's choir rehearses before morning worship on Sundays.

BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. CHAD BODGEWIC

Weekly (Beginning September 1) • 10:00 – 10:45 AM • Calvary UMC Parlor

The subject matter for this group will be announced soon. Follow the Sunday bulletin for updates.

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Weekly • Fellowship Worship • Calvary UMC Chapel

Please join us around the tables in the chapel behind the sanctuary for refreshments and fellowship.

COMMUNION

First Sunday of Each Month • During Worship • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

All are invited to the table of our Lord. You do not need to be a member of Calvary or any church to participate. The bread that we share is gluten-free so that all may partake.

"CHANGE MATTERS" SPECIAL OFFERING

Last Sunday of Each Month • During Worship • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

A remarkable \$1,057 has been collected between January 2024 to August 2024. This amount has more than covered the cost of the food purchased to make meals for Daily Bread during this time.

Our children collect change because when there is lots of "change" we can make a difference. These gifts are used to help the Calvary Women United in Faith purchase food for Daily Bread.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Last Sunday of Each Month • Fellowship Worship • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

This is an expansion of our normally scheduled fellowship time.

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) — NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

Weekly • 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

AA meetings are designed to help you on your road to recovery - designed to help you get sober and remain sober.

Church Calendar continued on following page.

Mondays

SLEEPING BAG GROUP

Weekly (Beginning September 9) • 6:30 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

The sleeping bags are made from recycled materials, packed with personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, hats, and gloves, and then distributed to nearby homeless shelters. There is plenty to do, and sewing experience is not necessary. Contact Terri Howell (412-482-2211 / trr_howell@yahoo.com) for additional information.

Tuesdays

EXERCISE CLASS

Weekly (Beginning Tuesday, September 10) • 9:00 AM • Calvary UMC Chapel

The group uses the "Grow Young Fitness" program which is targeted to older adults, but great for people of all ages. Contact Linda Ehrlich (laehrlch927@aol.com) for additional information.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Weekly • 6:00 – 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Love singing? Thinking about joining the choir?... Well, now is the perfect time to give it a try! Auditions are not required and all voice parts are needed, so join us for singing, fellowship, and shenanigans! The choir also rehearses Sunday mornings prior to worship. Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information.

MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL

Weekly (Beginning October 1) • 7:00 – 8:30 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Weekly (January – May) • 7:00 – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room

No audition is required and you do not have to be able to read music. Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information. During the months of September through December, rehearsals are on Thursdays.

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) — MANCHESTER

Weekly • 7:00 – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

Every addict in the world can experience their message, and find the opportunity for a new way of life.



**A small group
of thoughtful
people could
change the world.**

MARGARET MEAD



Thursdays

EXERCISE CLASS

Weekly (Beginning Tuesday, September 10) • 9:00 AM • Calvary UMC Chapel

The group uses the "Grow Young Fitness" program which is targeted to older adults, but great for people of all ages. Contact Linda Ehrlich (laehlich927@aol.com) for additional information.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Weekly (Beginning September 12) • 10:00 – 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC Parlor

We are exploring Beth Moore's study of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Galatians 5:22-23. A portion of our time is spent in prayer before delving into our study. This prayer and study time is open to all women. Contact Kathy Wagner (kbwagner47@gmail.com) for additional information.

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Weekly (September – December) • 6:00 – 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room

No audition is required and you do not have to be able to read music. Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information.

DAILY BREAD — CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Third Thursday of Each Month • 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 616 W North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The Calvary United Women in Faith organize the Thursday meal prepared for Daily Bread which serves meals three times a week to those without a home or who are under-employed. Contact Joan Bradley or the church office for additional information or if you would like to get involved.

OPEN SANCTUARY

Weekly • 6:00 – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

The sanctuary will be open for prayer or silence or meditation every Thursday evening. Feel free to pass through as our special guest, or return on Sunday to make us your home.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Third Thursday of Each Month • 6:30 – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel

Contact Church Council President David Grinnell (grinnell@pitt.edu) for additional information.

Saturdays

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD (NVH) DISTRIBUTION

Once Per Month - Dates TBD • 9:00 – 10:30 AM • Northview Heights

All participants have found it to be a rewarding experience, and we would love to have some new volunteers. Six volunteers are needed for each date. There is a sign-up sheet in the chapel. Contact Linda Ehrlich (laehlich927@aol.com) for additional information.

Transformation happens in
small groups. Each person can
speak and all listen.

GLORIA STEINEM





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We all know the next few months are the busiest at Calvary and a lot of help is needed to keep everything running smoothly. Here is a list of opportunities available over the upcoming months to serve our church and our community. There is something for everyone!

HALLOWEEN — HANDING OUT CANDY TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS!

Thursday, October 31 • 5:00 – 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: People to hand out candy to the children of Allegheny West as they parade through the neighborhood in costumes.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information or if you are able to help.

STEELERS NIGHT GAME OPEN HOUSE

October (Date TBD) • Time TBD • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: Please join us in this community outreach as we will open our doors to Steelers fans as they pass through the Northside. We will be handing out hot chocolate or water depending on the outside temperature. We are looking for a coordinator to organize this event as well as helpers. The date of the event depends on the availability of the coordinator. Possible dates are (1) Sunday, October 6, (2) Sunday, October 20, or (3) Monday, October 28.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please contact the church office if interested or with questions.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 30 • 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: Please join us as we decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Of course, we will have donuts, snacks, coffee, tea, etc., so come join us and have some fun getting our church ready for the holidays!

- **Strong, limber, looking for a physical challenge?** – You can help put up the massive trees at each side of the front of the church.
- **Strong but not willing to stand on a ladder and dangle?** – You can help put up the other trees that go in the chapel and at the entrances.
- **Not afraid of heights?** – You can help to hang the garland in the chapel.
- **Meticulous? Not able to stand for long periods of time?** – You can help to fluff the bows that go on all of the trees.
- **Creative and meticulous, not afraid to stand on a stepping stool or ladder?** – You can help to decorate the tall trees.
- **Creative, but afraid of heights?** – You can help to decorate the other trees in the chapel.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information or if you are able to help.

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR & SHOPPE

Friday, December 6, 5:00 – 8:00 PM & Saturday, December 7, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, sell food, help with sales tables, hand out postcards for tours, and setup and cleanup. We also need people to bake cookies prior to the event.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please contact the church office if you are able to assist in any way. Time slots are only two hours. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the chapel closer to the event.

MESSIAH — 12TH ANNUAL SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, December 14 & Sunday, December 15 • 4:00 PM • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: The following is needed for EACH concert:

- **Box Office** – We need 6 people to help take tickets and hand out scores.
- **Parking Attendants** – We need 4 people to help direct cars to the available parking lots.
- **Ushers** – We need 6 people to assist with handing out Kid's Activity Kits, helping people to their seats, and directing people to the bathrooms.
- **Cookies Makers** – We also need people to bake cookies prior to the concerts.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please contact Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 / karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) for additional information or if you are able to help.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24 • 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC

WHAT IS NEEDED: At least 8 volunteers for each service to make sure everyone who comes to Calvary feels welcomed, loved, and experiences God's love. We will need help with the welcome team to pass out bulletins and candles, assist at the accessible entrance, and door openers, set up the luminaria, float around the church to answer questions, point out bathrooms, collect the offering, light the candles during Silent Night, and helping however we need. We also need people to bake cookies prior to the services.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 / kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

COOKIE MAKERS

WHAT IS NEEDED: COOKIES!! ...AND LOTS OF THEM! During the month of December, Calvary typically has about 4,000 people come through our doors for various events. We will need several hundred dozen cookies for the Victorian House Tours, Messiah Concert receptions, and the Christmas Eve Service receptions. You can begin baking as early as November and we can place the cookies in the freezers in the kitchen.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: A sign-up sheet will be posted on the announcement board in the chapel. You can also contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 / karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com).



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10



FAMILY CORNER

FALL FESTIVAL

SAT, OCT 26
9 AM - 1 PM



Join us as we celebrate the autumn season with food and fun! There will be activities for both children and adults. We will have pumpkin pancakes and other delicious items. There will also be a yard sale in either the fellowship hall or outside depending on the weather.



PARENTS DAY OUT

SAT, DEC 21
11 AM - 2 PM

There will be Christmas activities, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and lunch. This will give parents time to finish shopping and wrapping presents. We will also have a Christmas Shop for kids to shop for parents.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRI, JAN 10
7 - 9 PM

Movie and snacks will be provided.




MORE INFO

MEGAN 412-715-4946 / BRITTANY 412-715-4947





GET INVOLVED

SMALL GROUPS

Main Contact: Church Office • 412-231-2007 • CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Are you looking for a bible study or a way to connect? We typically have at least two bible studies happening on Sunday mornings as well as a Women's Bible Study and an exercise group on other weekdays. Other groups meet throughout the year. Check out the Church Calendar for further details.

MUSIC

Main Contact: Brian Burns • 724-388-3246 • bsburns77@aol.com

Music is a powerful component of worship. It can awaken our senses and make our worship more meaningful. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or just have a fondness for music, there is a place for you in our Music Ministry. Please check out our Choir, Messiah Festival Choir, or Hand Bell Choir!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Main Contact: Megan Bova • 412-715-4946 • mbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Main Contact: Brittany Bova-Mickens • 412-715-4947 • bbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Calvary offers two Sunday School classes for ages 3-10 and 11-15 as well as a Children's Time during Sunday morning worship.

CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Main Contact: Joan Bradley • ogremtb@aol.com

We are a community of women who support the needs of women and children across the world through local and global initiatives.

WORSHIP / WELCOME TEAMS

Main Contact: Ken Elliott • 724-531-4625 • kenelliott76@gmail.com

There are many ways you can participate on Sunday mornings. We each can have a part in making Calvary the place where everyone has an opportunity to be present, and feel loved and valued.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Main Contact: Terri Howell • 412-482-2211 • trr_howell@yahoo.com

Help us build relationships with those outside our church. We serve food to those in need at Daily bread and Northview Heights as well as make sleeping bags for the homeless as a few examples.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Main Contact: Mike Schnitgen or Linda Ehrlich • calvarypgh@gmail.com

The times we gather for food at Calvary are very important to making CONNECTIONS and continuing fellowship. Volunteers and sponsors are needed to sustain these connections.

LAWN & GARDENS

Main Contact: David Grinnell • grinnell@pitt.edu

The landscaping outside should reflect the important happenings inside. We normally have a major spring and fall clean-up which is announced ahead of time. Please see how you can become involved with maintaining the lawn and gardens at Calvary.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Main Contact: Church Office • 412-231-2007 • CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

There are many other ministries that you can become involved in not listed above. Some of these are leadership, communications, history and archives, and audio/visual to name a few. Please reach out to the church office regarding how you can use your spiritual gifts at Calvary United Methodist Church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cross Road — Calvary's Quarterly Newsletter

We hope that you are enjoying reading everything that is happening at Calvary! Sometimes it's easy to forget that our church extends past Sunday morning worship. This updated newsletter will be distributed quarterly rather than monthly as it has in the past. If there is something that you would like highlighted in an upcoming issue, there are deadlines for content listed below. Contact Karen Ferguson (karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) with content.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that contributed in helping Calvary's new robust quarterly newsletter make its return. Many were involved in creating content, taking pictures, proofreading, and more.

Distribution

PDF copies of the newsletter will be emailed each quarter. Paper copies in booklet form will also be available at the welcome tables.

Links

Emailed PDF copies of the newsletter include interactive links that you will be able to click on. Anything that is underlined is a link and will take you to an article or further information on a highlighted subject.

2025 Upcoming Issues

Winter – Distribution end of January 2025
Spring – Distribution end of April 2025
Summer – Distribution end of July 2025
Fall – Distribution end of October 2025

2025 Deadlines for Content

Winter – Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Spring – Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Summer – Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Fall – Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Help Us Update the Calvary UMC Church Directory

Our goal is to distribute an updated Church Directory in January. This directory will be given only to members and regular attendees of Calvary. It will include the following for each household (where permitted): photo, address, phone numbers, emails, and birthdays (month and day only).

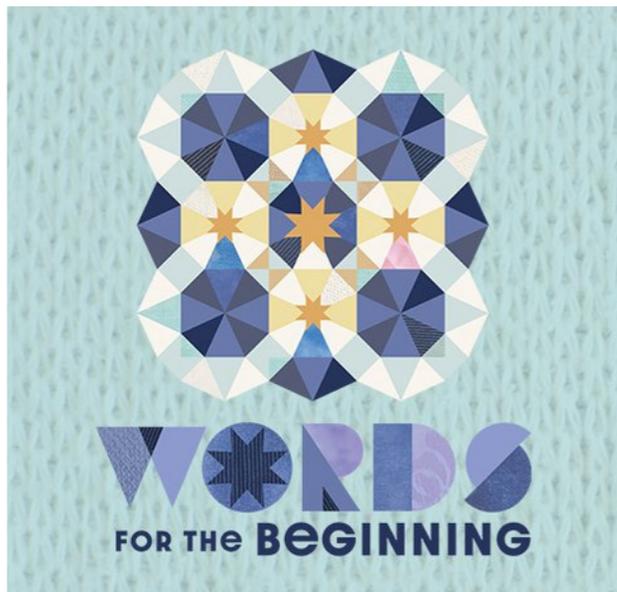
Over the years we have collected several lists which are now most certainly outdated, and we don't want anyone to be missed. That being said, we are in the process of collecting information for each household. **Even if you think we already have your information, we are asking that you submit it again to ensure that we have an accurate list.**

To make this process as easy as possible, we have created a Google form for each household to complete. **We have also placed paper forms at the Welcome Tables** for you to fill out and give to the church office if that is easier for you. You need only to complete one form per household (all persons that live at the same address). Thank you so much for your participation in this daunting project!

Calvary UMC Church Directory Google Form

Scan the QR code or go to: <https://forms.gle/pn64RUnttKHTprZp6>





2024 Advent Series — Words for the Beginning

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings – large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike - all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end.

When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings we need reminders.

We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown. This worship series is shaped around several reminders we all need from time to time:

You are a blessing. We can't go alone. Do the good that is yours to do. Hope is worth the risk. Love knows your name. Don't forget to laugh. The road isn't straight.

Bathroom Renovation Coming in 2025

BY BRIAN BURNS, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

After nearly 130 years of service, the restroom facilities at Calvary are ready for a long overdue makeover and expansion.

For the last 10 years or so, the idea of increasing restroom space has been kicked around and several plans were suggested, but for one reason or another, never completed. In January of 2024, Rev. Beth Nelson charged the trustees with the task of creating more restroom space, especially on the first floor. After a few discussions, the trustees engaged Ryan Croyle with Zero Commute Architecture, LLC to create a new space that creatively utilizes our unique building layout.

The basics of the new plan call for moving the existing kitchenette to the first alcove of the nursery, transforming the old kitchenette into a proper men's and ladies' room, remodeling the existing restroom into a fully accessible unit, and providing zoned airconditioning for the new space, as well as the parlor, music office, and Sunday School office.

While the engineer is in the building, we are also exploring the logistics of updating the basement restrooms, and the potential of upgrading our heating system to allow for more efficient control and comfort, as well as the possibility of air conditioning.

All of this work will be completed with several thoughts guiding the process: create a new efficiently designed space, increase energy efficiency and comfort, and choose products to blend and complement the existing space.

Please watch for the big plan reveal in November and ways YOU can get involved.

Announcements continued on following page.

12th Annual Handel's Messiah Concert Series

Call for Singers

Sing a choral masterpiece surrounded by Tiffany masterpieces! You don't have to be a member of Calvary to sing in the Messiah Choir. It's always a good time – shenanigans are encouraged. Please invite your friends and family to come sing with us too! It's a community event and we like to keep it low-stress and encourage anyone and everyone to get involved!

All voice parts are needed and no auditions are required! The Festival Choir uses the Watkins Shaw/Novello score. Scores will be provided for you if you do not have one.

Ready to sing? Just show up on a Tuesday night and join us. Rehearsals begin October 1st in the Calvary UMC Sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Please review the sponsorship opportunities at calvarypgh.com/music/messiah-choir.php on our website and consider how you can partner with us in offering this unique musical event. When you choose to sponsor this Community Christmas Concert, you are helping continue what has become a tradition in the Pittsburgh area.

Tickets – Pricing

- **\$20** – General Admission
- **\$15** – Students, Seniors (65 & over)
- **Free** – Children (12 & under), Military, Veterans
- **Messiah Scores \$15** – Sold in advance on Eventbrite in the same place as tickets.

Tickets – Purchasing

- Tickets go on sale beginning Tuesday, October 1, 2024.
- **PREFERRED METHOD** – Online at CalvaryPgh.com or Eventbrite. (These links go live on 10/1/2024.)
- Please also register “Free Admission” tickets online so we can keep track of the audience count.
- Printed tickets will be available at Messiah rehearsals for Festival Choir members to sell.
- On sale in the chapel at Calvary UMC after morning worship beginning Sunday, October 6, 2024.

A HOLIDAY MUSIC TRADITION

Messiah

12th Annual Sing-Along Concert
Two Candlelit Performances Surrounded by Tiffany Masterworks
Presented by Calvary United Methodist Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 4PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 4PM

Conducted by **Brian Burns**, Music Director, Calvary United Methodist Church
Featuring Festival Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and Internationally Acclaimed Soloists

Anna Singer
Soprano

Kara Cornell
Mezzo-Soprano

Kirk Dougherty
Tenor

Matthew Hunt
Bass/Tenore

TICKETS – CALVARYPGH.COM | BUY TICKETS

\$20 General Admission | \$15 Students, Seniors
Free Admission – Children 12 & Under, Military, Veterans

FEATURED AT CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK CITY
The CALVARY FESTIVAL CHOIR performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC in the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) Messiah concert in 2018 and 2023.

Sponsored by **GBU Life**

Calvary United Methodist Church
971 Beech Ave., Northside, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412.231.2007 | CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Yard Signs

For the first time, this year we have decided to try using yard signs to advertise the concert series. Please let us know if you are interested in placing one of these signs in your yard at your house or in your neighborhood.

Messiah

Annual Sing-Along Concert Series
Calvary United Methodist Church

DEC. 14 & 15 - 4PM

SCAN QR CODE FOR
TICKETS & MORE INFO

CalvaryPgh.com | 971 Beech Ave., Northside, Pgh

The Messiah Festival Choir Returns to NYC

In 2018 our Messiah Festival Choir caught the attention of DCINY (Distinguished Concerts International New York) and was invited to sing the Messiah at Carnegie Hall in New York City over Thanksgiving weekend. Last year, we were invited back again to perform over Thanksgiving weekend 2023!





THE CROSS ROAD

CONTACT US

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