

# THE CROSS ROAD

Newsletter of Calvary United Methodist Church



## Message from Our Pastor

BY REV. BETH L. NELSON



Dear friends!

I love jigsaw puzzles! I know it is extremely low-tech and even “old fashion” but I love building puzzles. I built them as a child with my family. We always had a puzzle on the coffee table during the winter months. A puzzle is under construction on a table in my house right now. I love puzzles because they remind me of life!

Psychologists say that building puzzles can improve your cognitive skills, memory, and concentration. That might be a bonus, but I build for fun!

A puzzle always starts out messy. There is a big bunch of pieces that need to be sorted. Good preparation makes the building of a puzzle so much easier. I usually put the border pieces together first for a framework and boundaries. There are different strategies for putting the puzzle together and I have no pattern. I start with a section that might catch my eye. At times, I can be frustrated that I cannot find a piece. If I walk away, I am usually amazed I can find it when I look again. Changing my perspective makes all the difference.

Sometimes, as a puzzle progresses, I am sure there are missing pieces. Other times, when building, I am certain that there are way too many pieces. Oh, how often do I misjudge a puzzle?

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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

Another thing I have learned from puzzles is how important that picture on the box really is! I cannot imagine putting a puzzle together without this vision.

Pieces fit together in random yet in the right order. Each piece has a purpose and a place in the bigger picture. If one piece is missing, the puzzle is incomplete. You can still see the picture, but it is not perfect without every piece. Every piece matters.

Well, you can see that there is a lot of energy in building a puzzle, just like building life. And building a puzzle reminds me of Calvary Church. We are individual people who find a way to connect together to form a beautiful picture. Pieces of the puzzle (people) do not always fit together easily, and it takes effort to make everyone feel welcome and engaged. We are committed to that! When a puzzle is complete, there is a sense of joy! And here at Calvary, I experience that joy every Sunday morning as we come together, fit together, and connect together in community. We may not be perfect, and we have some missing pieces, but we have joy that is present and real. And there is fun!

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 SEASON IN REFLECTION

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"Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it?"

ISAIAH 43:18





# Celebrating the Life of Reverend Thomas L. Funk

BY NANCY RICHARDS, HISTORY & ARCHIVES



The Reverend Thomas L. Funk, beloved retired pastor of Calvary, passed peacefully on October 3, 2024. His life of devotion to his Lord and service to the United Methodist Church was celebrated in our Sanctuary on October 9, 2024, with his family and colleagues in ministry and his many Calvary members and neighbors.

Tom was born in Munhall on November 27, 1940, and even as a young man, was drawn to the church and service, becoming an Eagle Scout in his youth. He graduated from Thiel College and went on to Drew University where he earned his Masters Degree in Theology. After ordination, he was appointed to the South-East Erie Ministries to be minister to the growing transient population of farm workers as well as being the pastor of the Henderson United Methodist Church. After many years of creative ministry there, Tom was returned to the Pittsburgh area, as pastor of the Crafton United Methodist Church, and then to First United Methodist Church in McKeesport.

His leadership as a pastor serving these churches led to the Bishop selecting Tom as Superintendent of the Erie-Meadville District and as a member of the Cabinet. As a part of this responsibility, he joined the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist House at Chautauqua. After serving the full term in Erie, the Bishop asked Tom to continue his work as a Superintendent by moving him to

become the Pittsburgh District's Superintendent for another few years. That Tom would seek to be appointed to Calvary rather than finishing his ministry at some flourishing suburban church, says a lot about his commitment to Christ and his desire to strengthen the churches in the city! He and Narda moved into the parsonage in June of 1999, and began making that huge house into a lovely home! He was able to get significant grants from the National Denomination to underwrite the work here, and became an active participant as an Ex-Officio member of the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, working side by side with them to secure funding for the much-needed restoration of our magnificent Tiffany windows! Many of us at Calvary remember the sanctuary filled with scaffolding as each window in turn was removed to be restored and then returned more magnificent than before!

The excitement and joy of Calvary's refurbishment and growth was diminished by the grief and sorrow upon the death of little Grace Elizabeth Ekis, the five-year-old daughter of Tammy and Brian Ekis and granddaughter of the Rev. Tom and Narda Funk. We watched and prayed as the inoperable brain tumor continued to grow, taking her life on Valentine's Day, 2008. With amazing courage, Tom led his own family and all of us in a beautiful and heartbreaking tribute to her.



Rev. Larry Homitsky, Rev. Thomas Funk, and Rev. Kellie Wild during a Christmas Eve Service in 2012 at Calvary UMC.



Rev. Thomas Funk delivers opening remarks at the 1st Annual Handel's Messiah Concert at Calvary UMC.

In June of 2008, Tom and Narda retired and moved, after decades of Parsonage living, into their own home in White Oak. While Tom continued to preach when asked, and took on some short-term supply work at the Irwin and Port Vue churches, they made First United Methodist Church their church home in retirement. They also actively joined their daughter's family in the work of raising funds through the annual "Race for Grace" with the *Reflections of Grace Foundation* whose purpose has always been to assist families whose children have been diagnosed with glioblastoma.

Our prayers go out to Narda; daughter Tamara and husband, Brian and children, Garrett, Colin, and Claire; son Tom and daughter-in-law, Laura; and the entire family as they mourn the passing of their "Pap!" Their shared memory of those wonderful beach vacations, baseball games, movies, and many humorous story-telling times as well as Tom's dedication to his God and our Church will continue to inspire us.



Rev. Thomas Funk and wife Narda.



Rev. Thomas Funk and granddaughter Grace Ekis.



Rev. Thomas Funk describing the Tiffany windows to visitors.

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

HEBREWS 13:7



# Reverend Myles Bradley Proclaimed Pastor Emeritus

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

On Sunday, December 22, 2024, Rev. Myles Bradley was named Pastor Emeritus of Calvary United Methodist Church in recognition of his years of dedicated service and leadership. His tenure at the church has been marked by a deep commitment to the congregation and the community, helping to guide Calvary through many significant moments in its history. The title of Pastor Emeritus honors Rev. Bradley's lasting impact, acknowledging his spiritual guidance and contributions to the church's growth.

As Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Bradley will continue to be cherished as an esteemed figure in the church, offering wisdom and support, while the church embraces new leadership. His legacy at Calvary will remain a cornerstone of the church's story, reflecting the faith and devotion that he has shared with so many over the years.





## Renny and Linda Clark Honored at Jumonville

Jumonville Camp and Retreat Center in Hopwood, PA, held its Annual Sponsors Dinner on Sunday, November 3, 2024, where Renny and Linda Clark were honored for their decades of service to this vital ministry. Heather Withrow, president of the organization, and Paul Burke, chair of its board, provided remarks on the many ways that the Clarks have contributed to the life and well-being of the camp and its thousands of campers through the years. The Clarks were presented gifts of flowers, photographs, and other mementos filled with great memories at the dinner.

Jumonville holds a very special place in Renny and Linda's hearts. It is there, as campers many years ago, that the couple met and began what grew into a loving commitment to each other. Their love and affection for each other has been expressed in their deep commitment to the place that nurtured them and fed their abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

Congratulations Renny and Linda! You provide us all as amazing examples of followers of Jesus Christ.

*Photos by [Kgtunney Photography](#)*





## Calvary UMC 2025 Leadership

Calvary is excited to announce the appointment of our new church leadership teams. With a heart for serving the community and a commitment to fostering spiritual growth, our new leaders bring a wealth of experience, vision, and dedication to the mission of Calvary. We look forward to the continued growth and impact of our church under their guidance. Please join us in welcoming them as they embark on this new chapter in the life of our church family.

### **WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN CALVARY'S LEADERSHIP?**

We would love for you to consider joining us to help shape the future of our church and share your gifts with our congregation. Please note there are a few vacant positions that need to be filled. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, or if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Lay Leadership team or contact the church office directly. Your involvement would mean so much to us!

### **CHAIRPERSONS & REPRESENTATIVES**

**Co-Chairs:** Kenny Elliott and Jan Meyers

**Secretaries:** Linda Ehrlich and David Grinnell

**Members-at-Large:** Through 2025 – Patty Bogdewic

Through 2026 – Linda McDonald, John Parroccini, and Linda Sustakoski

Through 2027 – Rev. Myles Bradley, Tom Flaherty, and Shirley Parroccini

**Lay Leaders:** Kenny Elliott and Aleata Weis

**Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair:** Renny Clark

**Finance Chair:** *Vacant*

**Trustees Chair:** Brian Burns

**Annual Conference Representative:** David Grinnell

**United Women in Faith (UWF) Representative:** Joan Bradley

**Allegheny Historic Preservation Society (AHPS) Representative:** Margee Bilyak

**Church Union Representative:** Chris Sweeney

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Beth L. Nelson

**Emeritus Clergy:** Rev. Myles Bradley, Rev. Jorinda Bullitt, and Rev. Larry Homitsky

**Music Ministry:** Brian Burns

**Family Ministry & Education:** Megan Bova and Brittany Bova-Mickens

**Communications:** Karen Ferguson

**Facilities Manager & Wedding Coordinator:** Aleata Weis

**Assistant Facilities Manager:** Susan Derouin

**Office Administrator:** Mary Emili

**Worship Tech Coordinator:** Aidan Weis

**Food Ministry Coordinator:** Mike Schnitgen

**Treasurer:** Georgia Brucker

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**Lay Leadership (Nominations):** Through 2025 – Nancy Richards  
Through 2026 – Linda Ehrlich and Judith Melvin  
Through 2027 – Brittany Bova-Mickens, Jan Meyers, and Dennis Panek  
Lay Leaders – Kenny Elliott and Aleata Weis  
Pastor (Chair) – Rev. Beth L. Nelson  
Annual Conference Representative – David Grinnell

**Trustees:** Through 2025 – Lorraine Malcolm and Jameson Rohrer  
Through 2026 – Brian Burns (Chair), Doug Lucas, Mark Neuherz, and Jane Skerl  
Through 2027 – Jesse Belfast  
Lay Leaders – Kenny Elliott and Aleata Weis  
Pastor – Rev. Beth L. Nelson  
Annual Conference Representative – David Grinnell

**SPRC:** Through 2025 – Judy Flaherty and David Rizzo  
Through 2026 – Renny Clark (Chair), Linda McDonald, and Dennis Panek  
Through 2027 – Nancy Richards, Shelly Rohrer, and Dave Tinker  
Lay Leaders – Kenny Elliott and Aleata Weis  
Pastor – Rev. Beth L. Nelson  
Annual Conference Representative – David Grinnell

**Finance:** Through 2025 – Al Meyers  
Through 2026 – Kim Butler and Rick Sustakoski  
Through 2027 – Henry “Bing” Ewalt, Joan Mialki, and Jo Ellen Parker  
Finance Chair – *Vacant*  
Finance Secretary – *Vacant*  
Lay Leaders – Kenny Elliott and Aleata Weis  
Pastor – Rev. Beth L. Nelson  
Annual Conference Representative – David Grinnell  
Church Council Co-Chairs – Kenny Elliott and Jan Meyers  
SPRC Chair – Renny Clark  
Trustees Chair – Brian Burns  
Church Treasurer – Georgia Brucker

## PROGRAM COMMITTEES

**Adult Fellowship:** Nancy Richards (Chair), Joanie Bova, David Grinnell, and Lorraine Malcolm

**Archives and History:** David Grinnell (Chair), Rev. Myles Bradley, Judy Flaherty, Charles Moore, and Nancy Richards

**Christian Education:** Megan Bova (Co-Chair), Brittany Bova-Mickens (Co-Chair), Chad Bogdewic, Joanie Bova, Rev. Myles Bradley, Linda McDonald, and Kathy Wagner

**Missions:** Patty Bogdewic (Chair), Joanie Bova, Rev. Myles Bradley, Anne Christianson, Linda Ehrlich, Lorraine Malcolm, Rev. Budd Wagner, and Kathy Wagner

**Worship:** Rev. Beth L. Nelson (Chair), Brian Burns, Karen Ferguson, Judy Flaherty, and Aleata Weis



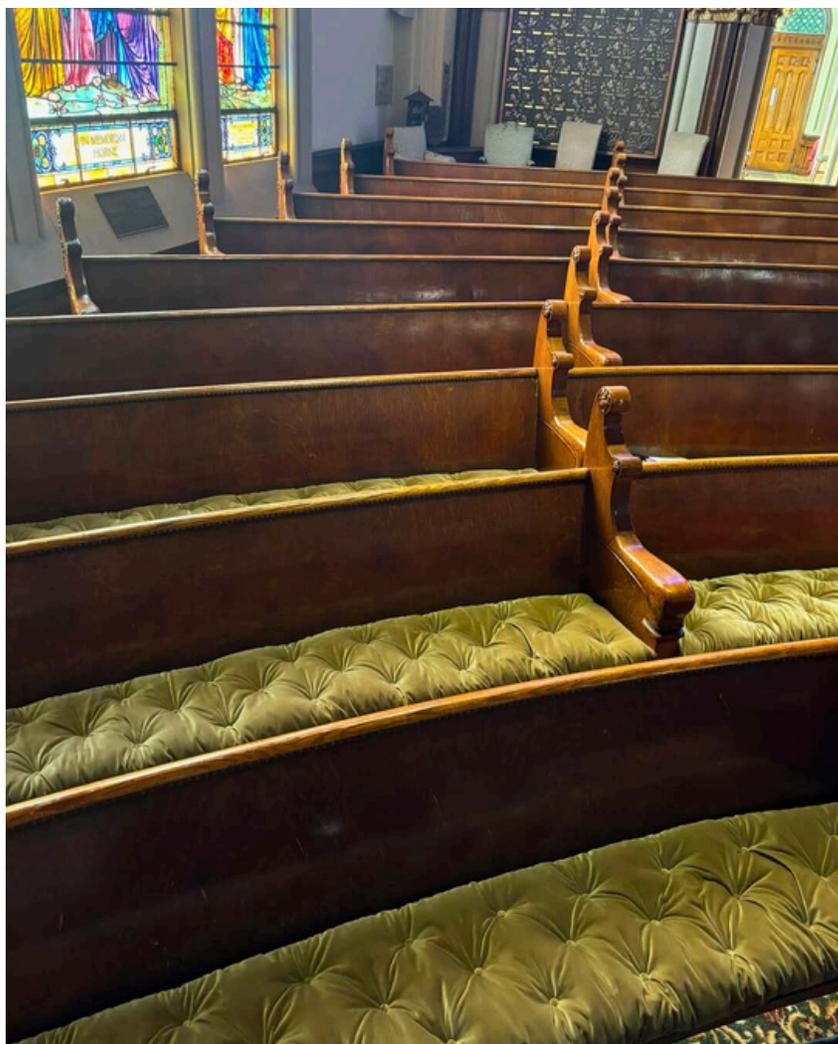
## Pew-tiful Progress: Cushion Update

Calvary United Methodist Church, celebrating over 132 years, is undergoing a major restoration project with help from the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society (AHPS). The first phase involved stabilizing and repairing the original pews, while the second phase focused on restoring the original pew cushions, donated by the Joseph Horne family. AHPS raised over \$10,000, and Calvary raised an additional \$17,100 to complete the project, ensuring the church's historic features are preserved for future generations.

### UPDATE

On Friday, December 13, 2024, the first set of pew cushions arrived just in time for two SOLD OUT performances of the Messiah concerts that weekend.

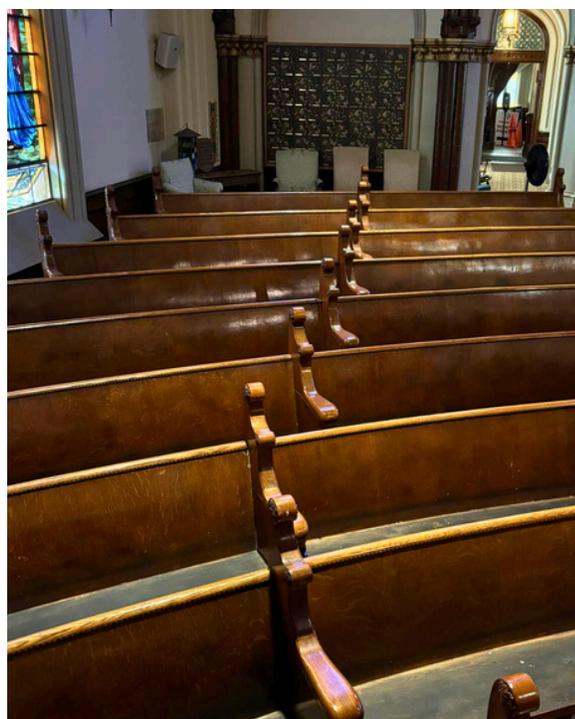
The next set of cushions to leave were for the alter rail and are expected back by Lent.



**RESTORED CUSHIONS!**



**EMPTY, SAD PEWS**





# All Saints' Day: A Day of Remembrance

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

On All Saints' Day, Calvary honors those who have passed. The service provides a time for reflection, where the congregation lights candles and offers prayers in memory of loved ones and church members who have impacted their lives and faith.

Through scripture, music, and prayer, the church celebrates their legacy while finding comfort in the promise of eternal life. All Saints' Day serves as a reminder of the connection between the living and the departed, offering peace and solace to all who gather.

 **ON THIS ALL SAINTS' DAY  
WE REMEMBERED ALL OF THOSE THAT  
HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST YEAR.** 

Charles Adamchuck  
Sara Belohavek  
Mary Callison  
Jacqueline Melvin Cannon  
Chris Ferringer  
Robert Frank  
Mary Frank  
Ronald Frank  
Adel Fougnes  
Rev. Thomas Funk  
Janet Gunter  
Jerry M. Haslett  
Gus Kalaris  
Steve Kerestes  
Greg Perkins  
Daniel Pultz  
Dan Souza  
Charles Thomas  
Kevin Wilson  
Reida Zappa





# A Fallen Giant: The Big Maple Comes Down

## THE END OF AN ERA: THE HISTORIC MAPLE TREE CUT DOWN

In November 2024, Calvary United Methodist Church marked the end of an era by removing the historic maple tree planted in 1886 next to the parsonage. Due to disease and declining health, the tree had become a safety concern, leading to the difficult decision to cut it down.

During the felling process, an unexpected discovery was made: a family of raccoons had taken up residence in the hollow trunk of the tree. While the tree is gone, the raccoons' story serves as a reminder of nature's resilience and ability to adapt.

In honor of its legacy, a portion of its wood was preserved to craft a meaningful piece for the church. Brian Burns will oversee the process of finding a special piece to create.







# Pawsitively Blessed: Blessing of the Animals

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

The Blessing of the Animals at Calvary United Methodist Church is a beloved tradition that brings together the community to celebrate the bond between humans and their animal companions. Held annually, the event invites congregants to bring their pets – cats, dogs, birds, and more – to receive a special blessing. The ceremony is a joyful occasion, where the pastor offers prayers for the health, happiness, and well-being of the animals, creating a heartwarming atmosphere on the church grounds.

This tradition serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of caring for God's creatures. It emphasizes that God's love extends to animals, who deserve compassion and protection. For the people of Calvary United Methodist Church, the Blessing of the Animals is a meaningful way to give thanks for the love and joy animals bring into their lives.





# Parents' Day Out: A Family Ministry Event

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024**

The Family Ministry Team at Calvary United Methodist Church, led by sisters Megan Bova and Brittany Bova-Mickens, hosted a joyful Christmas event featuring cookie decorating, crafts, games, and a shared dinner, offering parents time to complete holiday tasks while children enjoyed festive activities.

Special thanks to David Grinnell for picking Santa up from the North Pole! Parents' Day Out was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped!



**VISIT PAGE 28 FOR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES!!**





## Game Day Greetings

### CALVARY WELCOMES STEELER FANS

On home game days, Calvary welcomed Steelers fans by handing out free popcorn (and hand sanitizer) to those walking to the stadium and offering tours to visitors. The church created a warm, community-focused atmosphere, providing a break from the game day hustle while sharing its history with fans. This gesture of hospitality highlighted the spirit of unity and pride that connects both the church and the city.





# LENT 2025

## “EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN” — MEETING GOD IN THE MIDST OF EXTREMES

Our theme for Lent is “*Everything in Between*”. For Lent, we will look at familiar stories in the Gospel of Luke. So often, the stories we learned in Sunday School have deeper meanings. We read about the Good Samaritan and think we are just supposed to help others. But there is so much more. As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words but we still have so much to learn.



*“The story of Lent is a story of messy middles. Jesus is on the road, but he’s not there yet. Jesus is telling stories, but the crowds don’t understand. Jesus is leading a parade, but it’s not the one they expected. Jesus is risen, but the disciples can’t forget the cross. The story of Lent, the story of our faith, is a story of messy middles and nuanced surprises. So this Lent, we are remembering that faith is more complex than this or that, black or white, true or false storytelling. This Lent, we are wading into the middle of these sacred texts to find God and to stretch our own understanding beyond the binaries our world so often gives. And we hope you’ll join us. Welcome to an in-between Lent. This is the light before the dawn.” — Rev. Sarah Speed*

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

#### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

Tuesday, March 4 • 5:00 – 7:30 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall

#### **Ash Wednesday — Ashes to Go**

Wednesday, March 5 • 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM • Allegheny Avenue in front of Calvary UMC

#### **Traditional Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, March 5 • 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel

#### **Palm/Passion Sunday**

Sunday, April 13 • 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 17 • 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary

#### **Good Friday Service**

Friday, April 18 • 7:00 PM • Salem United Methodist Church, 350 Manor Road, Wexford, PA 15090

#### **Easter Sunrise Service**

Sunday, April 20 • 7:00 AM • West End Overlook, Marlow Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

#### **Easter Celebration Service**

Sunday, April 20 • 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary



# TIME CAPSULE CHRONICLES

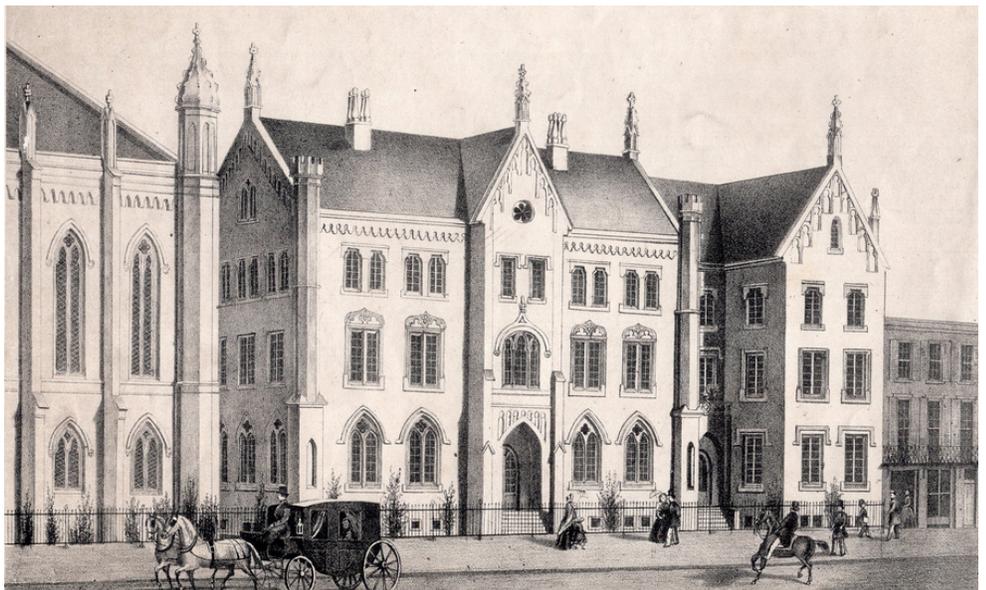
BY DAVID R. GRINNELL, ARCHIVIST FOR THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE, COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

## Pittsburgh Female College and Calvary Church

*"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." — Exodus 20:12 (KJV)*

Calvary Church has been the home of many strong and influential women. No doubt education played a major factor in shaping both their character and concern for their neighbors and community. Long before Calvary Church was founded in 1892, the influence of the faculty and teachings of The Pittsburgh Female College (PFC) was felt.

The Pittsburgh Female College (1854-1896) was the first institution of higher education for women in Pittsburgh and was founded along side of Calvary's mother church, Christ Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Pittsburgh. Christ Church faced Penn Street (now Avenue) at Eighth St. PFC was constructed directly behind the church, facing Eighth Street. At PFC, young women were provided with the option to study the Classics, English, Art, and Music in the Conservatory. When the disastrous fire destroyed old Christ Church, it also devastated the PFC. One newspaper account stated, "That portion of the building which escaped the flames is water-soaked and beyond repair. The furniture, pianos, grand organ and carpets, pictures, etc., are a total loss, the organ having been crushed by a mass of brick falling upon it." Yet, all was not lost and some of the structure was saved and eventually classes were able to resume in a much-reduced footprint of their building, with plans to rebuild. However, by 1894 a new temporary location was necessary, and the Fahnestock Mansion on Homewood Avenue in the East End became the school's temporary location. By 1896, the mansion proved inadequate, and PFC was not the only option for higher education for women in the region any longer. The Trustees voted to merge with Beaver College in Beaver, PA, which had also been founded under the stewardship of the Pittsburgh Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Beaver would continue in that location until 1925, about the time it severed its relationship with the denomination; when it removed to Jenkintown, Montgomery County, Pa. In 2001, it officially changed its name to Arcadia University.



*Time Capsule Chronicles continued on following page.*



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JOIN US FOR A **MID-WEEK BOOST** TO REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT!



# LENTEN **LIFT**



It's a perfect way to **recharge** during your lunch hour!  
We'd love to see you there for **fellowship** and **renewal**.

15 MINUTES  
OF UPLIFTING  
MUSIC

5 MINUTES OF  
INSPIRATIONAL  
THOUGHTS

LIGHT LUNCH OF  
SOUP & BREAD



**WEDNESDAYS**  
DURING LENT

**12 PM**

**CALVARY  
SANCTUARY**

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

# *James W. Iman*

A piano concert featuring the works of Claude Debussy

**Sunday, February 16 at 4 PM**

Calvary United Methodist Church

FREE ADMISSION - A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN



# Lenten Bible Study - God 101



A study of the idea of god and our understanding of the God of Abraham.

**Sundays - 10 AM - Calvary Chapel**

Led by  
Rev. Myles Bradley

SESSION 1  
The Science of god

SESSION 2  
The History of God

SESSION 3  
The Witness of God



SESSION 4  
The Appearance  
of God

SESSION 5  
The Battle for God

SESSION 6  
The Kindom of God



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



TAKEOUT  
AVAILABLE!

**MARCH 4 | 5:00-7:30PM**

**ADULTS-\$10 | KIDS-\$5**

**DONATION INCLUDES: PANCAKES OR  
WAFFLES, SAUSAGE, TOPPINGS, DRINKS**



## JOIN A FELLOWSHIP TEAM!



We are looking for teams of 2-3 people to help prepare easy, delicious meals for our fellowship time.



No culinary experience? No problem! We are also looking for people to help with clean-up.



It's a great opportunity to serve and connect with others in a meaningful way.

**INTERESTED? See Mike Schnitgen  
or contact the church office directly.**





# FAMILY CORNER

BY MEGAN BOVA, FAMILY MINISTRY & EDUCATION

A lot has been happening in the Family Ministry here at Calvary, and it's been such a vibrant season! From Family Movie Nights to Parents' Day Out, and everything in between, we've had plenty of fun ways for families to connect. One of the highlights was our families coming together to light the weekly Advent candles, a powerful way to reflect on the hope Advent brings and the new beginnings ahead.

Now that we've wrapped up our journey through the Christmas story, we're excited to dive deeper into the life of Jesus, exploring the significant events leading up to His Resurrection. There's so much to look forward to, so be sure to stay tuned for all the upcoming events. These opportunities are designed to help families build connections, grow in faith, and enjoy meaningful fellowship – whether it's on Sundays or at our other exciting gatherings throughout the season.

## FAMILY CORNER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

### PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Sat, Feb 8 • 6-9 pm

FREE CHILDCARE, dinner, snacks, movie, games, and crafts for kids of all ages!

### FAMILY BOARD GAME DAY

Sun, Mar 16 • After Church

All are invited to bring their favorite board games to share and play with others.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Sun, Apr 6 • After Church

Easter activities and egg hunt!

### DAILY BREAD PICNIC LUNCH

Date & Time TBD

Stay tuned for further details about this year's picnic-style lunch at Daily Bread.

**MORE INFO** Megan 412-715-4946 or Brittany 412-715-4947



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

### THE PITTSBURGH YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Sunday, February 2 • 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](http://ahps-pgh.org) for additional information about a subscription, tickets, and concerts.

## 1946 FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION PANEL

**Friday, February 7 • 7:00 PM • Community House Church, 120 Parkhurst Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

In the year 1946 the term “homosexual” was first mistranslated into the Bible. That one mistake has caused immense hurt for the LGBTQ+ community.

All are welcome at a film screening of “1946: The mistranslation that shifted culture” which will be followed by a discussion panel around religious trauma in the LGBTQ+ community. The screening is hosted by Community House Church in partnership with Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation.

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

**Saturday, February 8 • 6:00 – 9:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel**

Enjoy a worry-free night out while your kids are cared for with free babysitting and a meal at Calvary. Let them have fun and enjoy dinner, while you take some time to relax and unwind!

## JAMES W. IMAN — A PIANO CONCERT

### JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF MUSIC!

**Sunday, February 16 • 4:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary**

**Admission: Free – A free-will offering will be taken.**

Calvary is excited to present a piano concert featuring the extraordinary talents of James W. Iman, performing works that explore the impressionistic genius of Claude Debussy and beyond.

This evening's program will showcase pieces from James' highly anticipated second album, including Debussy's *Images I* and *Images II*, as well as Jenny Beck's evocative composition *Stand Still Here*.

Debussy's *Images* marks the beginning of his mature period, as he increasingly weaves intricate, vivid musical imagery into his compositions. The pieces are a rich tapestry of color and texture, exemplifying his distinct voice. Beck's *Stand Still Here*, inspired by Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, adds a contemporary touch to the evening, reflecting on the complexities of time, memory, and perception.

So sit back, relax, and let the music take you on a journey. Each note tells a story, and every chord paints a picture – inviting you to lose yourself in a world of sound. Enjoy the concert, and let the music speak.

*Upcoming Events continued on following page.*

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING

**Saturday, February 22 • 9:30 – 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC Parsonage**

United Women in Faith will hold its first meeting of the year on Saturday, February 22. Rev. Beth has kindly invited the women to the parsonage for this breakfast meeting. We will be working on the planning of 2025 and all ideas are welcome. Please come and share some time with us, we'd love to have you. In order for Rev. Beth to know how many to expect, please contact Joan Bradley (ogremtb@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

**Tuesday, March 4 • 5:00 – 7:30 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall**

It's our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner! You are invited to this all-you-can-eat extravaganza. Choose traditional pancakes (or waffles) with strawberry or blueberry topping, or go rogue and smother yours in whipped cream and chocolate chips! Dinner includes sausage links and drinks. Takeout is available. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under, toddlers are FREE. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We look forward to seeing you there!

## ASH WEDNESDAY — ASHES TO GO

**Wednesday, March 5 • 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM • Allegheny Avenue in front of Calvary UMC**

We are trying a modern take on an ancient Christian tradition! Calvary pastors will be outside our church during the lunch hour to offer the imposition of ashes to pedestrians and drivers. All are free to join us as we encourage our neighborhood to step into God's Season of Lent!

## TRADITIONAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**Wednesday, March 5 • 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Chapel**

We invite you to join us for a meaningful Ash Wednesday service, including the imposition of ashes for all who wish to receive them. You don't need to be a member of our church – or any church – to participate. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season dedicated to reflecting on our humanity, seeking forgiveness, and working toward healing and reconciliation. While many observe Lent through fasting or giving up certain things, others embrace new practices such as prayer, volunteering, or getting involved in ministries within the church or community. We welcome you to join us as we begin this season of reflection and growth together.

## FAMILY BOARD GAME DAY

**Sunday, March 16 • 12:30 PM (Following Church & Fellowship) • Calvary UMC Chapel**

Everyone is invited to bring their favorite board games to share and play with others. It creates a fun, community-centered atmosphere where participants can bond, try new games, and enjoy friendly competition. The event encourages social interaction, teamwork, and connection, offering a great opportunity for families to spend quality time together while engaging with others in the church community.

## AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES

**“GODDESSES AND WATERFALLS” FOR FLUTE, HARP, BASSOON AND PERCUSSION**

**Sunday, March 16 • 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

This concert features Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra principle harpist Gretchen Van Hoesen and other PSO musicians. Visit [ahps-pgh.org](http://ahps-pgh.org) for additional information about a subscription, tickets, and concerts.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**Sunday, April 6 • 12:30 PM (Following Church & Fellowship) • Calvary UMC Sanctuary & Chapel**

The Easter Egg Hunt, held in the sanctuary, offers a unique twist on the traditional egg hunt, with colorful Easter eggs hidden around the space for children to find. In addition to the egg hunt, there will be Easter games and fun activities for everyone. The event encourages community, fellowship, and celebration, making it a wonderful opportunity for families to gather, have fun, and focus on the significance of Easter at Calvary.

## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 13 • 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC**

We will begin with palms, celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and recalling the joy and anticipation that filled the city. From there, we will journey together through the events of Holy Week, leading up to Easter.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 17 • 7:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary**

Join us as we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus gathered with his disciples and gave them the command, "Love one another as I have loved you." This reflective service, which includes Holy Communion, is co-hosted by Salem United Methodist Church, Wexford. Communion is open to all – there's no need to be a member of our church or any church to participate.

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**Friday, April 18 • 7:00 PM • Salem United Methodist Church, 350 Manor Road, Wexford, PA 15090**

Join the congregation at Salem United Methodist Church as we unite with Calvary and Salem United Methodist Churches to reflect on Christ's crucifixion – the ultimate display of God's love and forgiveness, offering new life and a restored relationship with Him to all. The service will end with a quiet, reflective departure from the sanctuary.

## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

**Sunday, April 20 • 7:00 AM • West End Overlook, Marlow Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205**

A cherished community tradition, we welcome the dawn and celebrate Easter with one of the most stunning views of Pittsburgh at the West End Overlook! For many years, Emanuel United Methodist Church led this Easter celebration, and since our congregations united in 2017, we are thankful to carry on this meaningful and inspiring tradition together.

## EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

**Sunday, April 20 • 11:00 AM • Calvary UMC**

Join us in a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection! Enjoy special music during our traditional Easter service, featuring Calvary's Festival Choir, South Hills Brass, and other musical guests. Parking attendants will be on hand for your convenience. After a season of reflection during Lent, we proclaim, "Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!" and joyfully sing, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."

JOHN 3:16





# CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sundays

### SUNDAY MORNING CAFE

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

Please join us for coffee and sweet treats before worship.

### GOD 101 — A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. MYLES BRADLEY

**Weekly (During Lent beginning March 9 through April 13) • 10:00 – 10:45 AM • Calvary UMC Chapel**

A study of the idea of God and our understanding of the God of Abraham.

Session 1 – The Science of god

Session 2 – The History of God

Session 3 – The Witness of God

Session 4 – The Appearance of God

Session 5 – The Battle for God

Session 6 – The Kindom of God

### 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.

### A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

**Weekly • Following Worship • Calvary UMC Chapel**

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

### COMMUNION

**Monthly – 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

**AN EXTRAORDINARY TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,384 WAS COLLECTED IN 2024. THAT AMOUNT MORE THAN COVERED THE COST OF FOOD PURCHASED TO MAKE MEALS FOR DAILY BREAD.**

**Monthly – Last Sunday of Each Month • During Worship • Calvary UMC Sanctuary**

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.

# Sundays, Continued...

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

**Monthly – Last Sunday of Each Month • Following Worship • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall**

This is an expansion of our normally scheduled fellowship time.

## AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) — NORTH SIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

**Weekly • 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Fellowship Hall**

Designed to help you on your road to recovery – designed to help you get sober and remain sober.

# Mondays

## SLEEPING BAG GROUP

**Weekly • 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.

We are currently looking for blankets, sheets, pillow cases, and neckties as well as gathering personal items like small bottles of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, etc, and new men's socks. If you can help, please put your items in the bin in the chapel marked for the Sleeping Bag ministry or leave them downstairs by the old safe.

# Tuesdays

## EXERCISE CLASS

**Weekly • 9:00 – 10:00 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 (laehrlich927@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.

## HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

**Weekly • 7:00 – 8:00 PM • Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room**

No experience is necessary, and you don't need to know how to read music. Come ring in the joy with us! Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information. Rehearsals are on Thursdays during the months of September through December.

## 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.

*Church Calendar continued on following page.*

# Wednesdays

## LENTEN LIFT

**Weekly (During Lent beginning March 5 through April 16) • 12:00 – 1:00 PM • Calvary UMC Sanctuary**  
Join us for a mid-week boost on Wednesdays during Lent. There will be 15 minutes of music, 5 minutes of inspirational thoughts, and a light lunch of soup and bread. It's a perfect way to recharge during your lunch hour! We'd love to see you there for fellowship and renewal.

# Thursdays

## EXERCISE CLASS

**Weekly • 9:00 – 10:00 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 (laehrlich927@aol.com) for additional information.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Weekly • 10:00 – 11:30 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.

## DAILY BREAD — CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**Monthly – Second 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 (ogremtb@aol.com) 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

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

Contact the church office for additional information.

# Saturdays

## NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD (NVH) DISTRIBUTION

**Monthly – Once Per Month • Saturday, March 8; Saturday, April 26 • 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

**Northview Heights, 533 Mt Pleasant Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214**

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 (laehrlich927@aol.com) for additional information.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A New Website Is Coming Soon!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our new church website, set to go live within the next 3-4 months. This updated site will feature several exciting tools designed to make it easier for you to engage with the church and stay connected. Here's a preview of what's to come:

- **Up-to-Date Church Calendar:** Stay in the loop with our updated church calendar! You'll have access to the most current information about upcoming events, services, activities, and more. The calendar will be regularly updated so you never miss an important event, meeting, or gathering.
- **Password-Enabled Access to the Church Directory:** The new website will feature a password-protected area for members to access the church directory. This secure login will ensure that only authorized members can view contact information, helping to protect the privacy of our church community while making it easy to connect with one another.
- **Online Store:** Our new online store will offer a range of items featured in our Calvary Shoppe which is currently located in the chapel.

These exciting new features will make it easier for everyone to engage with and support Calvary. More details will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for updates.

## New Church Directory Coming Soon!

We're also excited to announce that our updated church directory will be available within the next 2-3 months! We're currently in the process of collecting everyone's most up-to-date contact information, so please be patient with us as we work to ensure accuracy.

Once the directory is complete, printed copies will be available for you to pick up at the church office. In addition, we will have a password-protected directory available on our new website for easy online access.

Moving forward, we plan to distribute updated printed copies of the directory once a year, and we'll aim to update the online directory every 3-6 months to ensure the information remains current.

Thank you for your patience, and stay tuned for further updates as we get closer to the directory's release!

## Messiah Breaks Attendance Records

This year's Messiah Sing-Along, celebrating its twelfth year, broke attendance records with its largest crowds yet. The event, known for its festive atmosphere and community spirit, continued its status as a highly anticipated tradition in the community.

The Calvary Festival Choir will be making its way back to Carnegie Hall in NYC this Thanksgiving. Stay tuned for updates and fundraising news!

*Announcements continued on following page.*

# Update from the Trustees

BY BRIAN BURNS, CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Your Trustees are always hard at work behind the scenes, taking care of projects large and small. We are responsible for everything from maintaining our landscape to maintaining our church and parsonage buildings. We currently have a large-scale project as well as several smaller projects.

If you've ever attended a large event at Calvary, you may have noticed a lack of restroom facilities. After several months of work with an architect and discussions with Calvary leadership, we have settled on a plan to renovate the current kitchenette on the first floor into restrooms. Essentially, we will rework the entire entry area from the parking lot door to the sanctuary entrance. The kitchenette will be moved to the first alcove, which currently has nursery space. New flooring will be added throughout the area, as well as paint and proper lighting. Zoned heat and air conditioning will be added to the restrooms, parlor, and two offices above this space. The scope of the project will help restore the exterior look of the building by removing window air conditioners and allow us to repair the damage done to the existing windows on Dounton Way. An approved drawing is available in the chapel for your viewing.

Additional projects include the following: Adding a hood and fire suppression to the kitchen range, exterior pointing and roofing (especially the leaking north façade), the addition of proper interior storm windows to the church office and pastor's office, zoning of our current heating system to adequately heat each side of the building, repairing of ramp railing, renovating the basement restrooms, and repair to parsonage windows.

Please remember that we have spent hours upon hours going over these plans to make sure our renovations will blend in as well as appear timeless in their execution. Our mission is to increase functionality, comfort, and energy efficiency, and to do so in a cost-effective manner. We are still gathering proposals to cover our potential wish list, but estimates are looking like around one million dollars. Yes... this is a lot of money. However, the time has come due on some of these projects. We can complete some of this work in phases, but some must be completed at the same time due to the location in the building. As soon as final numbers are available, we will begin to seek funding sources from both within and outside our congregation. For questions, please speak with any trustee or Brian Burns directly.

## Food Ministry/Fellowship Service Opportunities

A MESSAGE FROM LINDA EHRLICH

The times we gather for food at Calvary are very important for making CONNECTIONS and continuing the fellowship after the worship service. We talk, laugh, share, and nourish one another in body and spirit. To sustain these connections, we are asking for volunteers and/or sponsors.

Teams are being created to help with prep, service, and clean-up. A team will be responsible for the food/fellowship time one Sunday each month. If you are interested in serving on one of these teams, please speak to Mike Schnitgen, Food Ministry Coordinator.

Calvary's annual budget includes line items for income and expenses for weekly fellowship. A DONATIONS BOX will be provided each week and any donation amount will be appreciated. There are also opportunities for sponsorship – \$50 for after service and \$100 for the monthly luncheon. Please see Mike Schnitgen to sponsor a Sunday. The more we balance food income against food expenses, the more we will support a balanced budget for Calvary.





# GET INVOLVED

## SMALL GROUPS

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

Looking for a Bible study or a way to connect? We offer Sunday morning Bible studies, a Women's Bible Study, and an exercise group on weekdays, along with other groups meeting throughout the year.

## MUSIC

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

Music is a vital part of worship, enriching our experience. Whether you sing, play an instrument, or simply love music, there's a place for you in our Music Ministry.

## FAMILY & EDUCATION

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

**Brittany Bova-Mickens • 412-715-4947 • bbova@CalvaryPgh.com**

Calvary provides two Sunday School classes: one for ages 3-10 and another for ages 11-15, along with 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: Kenny 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**

Join us in serving others in our community by helping at Daily Bread and Northview Heights, providing meals, and making sleeping bags for the homeless, among other outreach efforts.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

**Main Contact: Mike Schnitgen • 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 reflects the life of our church. We hold spring and fall clean-up events, and we invite you to get involved in maintaining the lawn and gardens at Calvary.

## OTHER MINISTRIES

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

There are many other ministries to get involved in, such as leadership, communications, history and archives, and audio/visual. Contact the church office to learn how you can use your spiritual gifts.

# THE CROSS ROAD



## CONTACT US

### Church Staff



**Pastor:** Rev. Beth L. Nelson • 412-398-7894 • RevBeth@CalvaryPgh.com

**Emeritus Clergy:** Rev. Myles Bradley, Rev. Jorinda Bullitt, Rev. Larry Homitsky

**Music Ministry:** Brian Burns • 724-388-3246 • bsburns77@aol.com

**Family Ministry & Education:** Megan Bova • 412-715-4946 • mbova@CalvaryPgh.com  
Brittany Bova-Mickens • 412-715-4947 • bbova@CalvaryPgh.com

**Communications:** Karen Ferguson • 724-448-1429 • karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com

**Office Administrator:** Mary Emili • 412-231-2007 • CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

**Worship Tech Coordinator:** Aiden Weis

**Food Ministry Coordinator:** Michael Schnitgen

**Assistant Facilities Manager:** Susan Derouin

**Facilities Manager & Wedding Coordinator:** Aleata Weis

**Treasurer:** Georgia Brucker

## Calvary United Methodist Church

971 Beech Avenue, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

412-231-2007 • CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

**Website:** [CalvaryPgh.com](http://CalvaryPgh.com)

**Facebook:** [Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryUnitedMethodistChurchPittsburgh)

**YouTube:** [Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA](https://www.youtube.com/CalvaryUMCPittsburghPA)



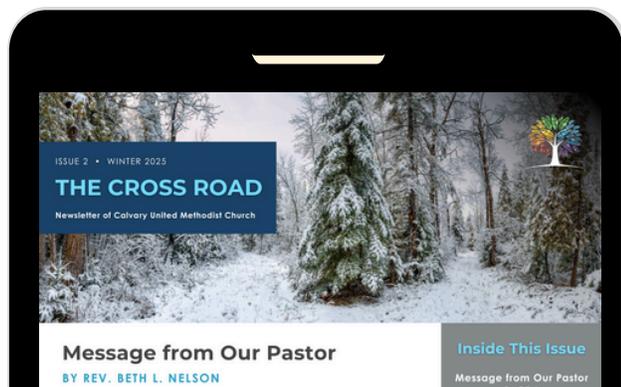
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