

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – LOVE



FOR THE BEGINNING

— HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK —

DEC

22ND

2024

You are God's beloved. *You* are welcome here.



WELCOME TO CALVARY



OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

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.**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you are a first time guest, thank you for visiting Calvary! We would invite you to check out our Welcome Tables for more information about who we are. We would also ask you to fill out a GET CONNECTED card in the back of the pews so we can get to know you better. If you are in need of a large print bible or hymnal, please see any greeter for help.

FAMILIES WITH BABIES OR YOUNG CHILDREN

We welcome all of God's children into our worship services, including infants and toddlers. If you would like to use it, we have a Family Area in the rear left of the Sanctuary with rocking chairs and toys.

LOCATION OF BATHROOMS

From the front exits of the sanctuary outside the right doorway, an accessible restroom and baby changing table are available on this level. From the front exits of the sanctuary outside the left side, restrooms are located down the stairs. An elevator is located thru the sanctuary outside the right and to the back.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

PRAYER CONCERNS

Carol Piper (spouse of Rev. Jack Piper)
Liz Chervon
Stella (friend of Terry J.)
Susan and Tammy in the death of Susan's father
Barbara Wood and The Family of Daniel Radelet (friend and family of Marirose Radelet)
Carol M. (friend of Venus)
Hannah Hardy (daughter of Linda Ehrlich)
Narda Funk and Family
Chris Sweeney
Chad Bogdewic
The Robert's Family
Gina (friend of Judy Melvin)
Kaia Bachman and family
Venus Whisenhunt
Ed Warren
Marlene Burkhart
Chris Siewers

Wendy (friend of Mark & Debbie Neuherz)
Karen Hines (mother of Patty Bogdewic)
Rev. David Eichelberger
Rev. J. Howard Cherry
Roy (fiancé of Venus)
Sam (niece of Bing and Mary Ewalt)
Jennifer Ruchlin (friend of Judy Melvin)
Georgeann (friend of Anne Christianson)
Mayernik daughters & grandfather
Joyce & Ray Zimmerman (sister of Yvonne Hudson)
Donna Reinard (sister of Yvonne Hudson)
Chris (friend of Mike Schnitgen)
Paul Brucker
Colleen (daughter of Terri Jagielski)
Martha Helmreich
Judy Melvin
Tom Smith
Marcia Webb (dear friend of Mark Snyder)

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the PRAYER REQUEST card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007.

You can also complete the new "Prayer Request" form on the Calvary website at calvarypgh.com/contact/prayer-request.php. The information on this form goes directly to the clergy of Calvary UMC. We treat these concerns in a private and confidential manner (unless otherwise directed), respecting the privacy of individuals as the requestor directs us.

If you would like a card or email sent from the church to let people know we are praying for them, please give us an address or email.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" — Franklin Ashdown

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP †*

Leader: In this weary world, we sing of joy.

People: In this fragile world, we lift each other up.

Leader: In this beautiful world, we look for God.

People: In this tender world, we hold onto hope.

Leader: This is the invitation of faith.

People: So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God. With hope in our hearts, amen!

OPENING HYMN †* "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" — #213 UMH

UNISON PRAYER †*

Holy God, the stories of Advent are stories many of us have heard before. We've arranged the nativity scenes. We've read the children's books. We've seen the movies. We've sung the songs. But as we come to your scripture this morning, we pray: help us begin again. Clear the distractions from our minds. Center us in this space. Move through the protective barriers we surround ourselves with and speak to us here and now. We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

SONG OF PRAISE †* "Christ, Be Our Light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!
shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!
shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

WORDS OF THE PROPHET * Micah 5:2-5a NRSV

- 2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
- 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,
- 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Leader: The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE The Candle of Love

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER * "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" — #216 UMH
You are welcome to come forward to the altar for prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER * #895 UMH

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM Renewal Choir

HYMN * "Tell Out, My Soul" — #200 UMH

GOSPEL LESSON †* Luke 1:46-55 NRSV

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all
generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his
descendants forever."

Leader: The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON "Hope is worth the risk!" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER Marirose Radelet

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you with Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate in the ministries of the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

A VERY SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY "St. Helena" — David Lasky

DOXOLOGY †* "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" — #94 UMH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OFFERING PRAYER †

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †*

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

CLOSING HYMN †* "People, Look East" — #202 UMH

BENEDICTION †*

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one another. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again. So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

POSTLUDE † "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" — Wilbur Held

Please join us for a time of fellowship around the tables in the chapel.

*† Please stand as you are able | * Words on screen | Bold text is unison.*

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
DEC 22

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE

Following Worship (Weekly) | Parsonage

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
DEC 24

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 PM | Calvary UMC | Focused more on the children

7:00 PM — Music & 7:30 PM — Service | Calvary UMC

THURS
DEC 26

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 – 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

9:00 – 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:00 – 7:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

SUN
DEC 29

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Following Worship (Monthly) | Fellowship Hall

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOIN US SUNDAYS AS WE CELEBRATE ADVENT

10:00 AM — Sunday School

11:00 AM — Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4:00 PM — Child Friendly with Carols

7:00 PM — Music | 7:30 PM — Service

You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Advent and Christmas at Calvary.

Let the words of beloved carols and scriptures set the foundation. Stirring choral and organ music will set the scene. The peaceful illumination of Advent builds to an unforgettable Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as both young and old remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

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.



FAMILY CORNER

WINTER SCHEDULE

PARENTS DAY OUT

Saturday, December 21

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

We will do Christmas activities, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and dinner. This will give parents time to finish shopping and be able to wrap presents. We will also have a Christmas Shop for kids to shop for parents.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 10

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 8

6:00 - 9:00 PM

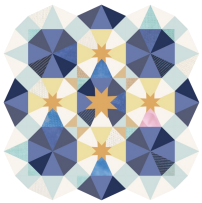
FREE
babysitting
and dinner.

MORE INFO

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



ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

ADVENT REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY



WEEKLY

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Sanctuary

Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | 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

Tuesdays (January – May) | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

Thursdays (September – December) | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES CONTINUES TO NEED TOOTHPASTE

NCM would like Calvary to continue to collect toothpaste. There is a collection bin in the chapel. Cloth grocery bags also continue to be collected. Thank you!

KIDCELERATE BRICK DRIVE

Please see the Brick Drive information in this week's bulletin and think about how you can contribute to this outreach.

EVENTS

"CHANGE MATTERS" SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, December 29 (Last Sunday of each month) | During Worship | Sanctuary

Our children collect "change" because when there is lots of change together, we can make a difference. These gifts are used to help purchase food for Daily Bread.

DAILY BREAD – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Thursday, January 9 (2nd 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 (CUWF) organizes the meal being prepared for the Daily Bread which serves meals three times a week to those without a home or who are underemployed. Cookies can be brought at any time and put in the freezer in the basement. Contact Joan Bradley or the church office for additional information.

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD (NVH) DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, February 1; Saturday, March 8; Saturday, April 26 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Northview Heights, 533 Mount Pleasant Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Six volunteers are needed for each date. There is a sign-up sheet in the chapel, and a written description of the work. Contact Linda Ehrlich (laehrlich927@aol.com) with any questions.

WEEKLY

SLEEPING BAG GROUP

THIS GROUP WILL RECONVENE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025.

Mondays | 6:30 PM | 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.

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.

OPEN SANCTUARY

Thursdays | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD/FELLOWSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The times we gather for food at Calvary are very important to 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 sponsors for our food/fellowship times. Volunteers can sign up to help with food preparation or service and clean-up. Sponsors can sign up by donating \$50 for food served in the chapel and \$100 for the monthly community luncheon. You are welcome to partner with someone else to sponsor. There are two sign-up sheets in the chapel along with envelopes for donations. Please give envelopes to Mike Schmitgen or place in the offering plate with date of sponsorship and names of donors. Please consider what you can do to help, and thanks very much.

EVENTS

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, December 22 | During Worship | Sanctuary

New Members will be received during morning worship.

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 22 | Following Fellowship Time | Parsonage

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sunday, December 29 (Last Sunday of each month) | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall

This is an expansion on our normally scheduled fellowship time following morning worship. Please join us in the fellowship hall located downstairs following morning worship.

COMMUNION

Sunday, January 5 (1st Sunday of each month) | During Worship | 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.

WEEKLY

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Sundays | Following Worship | Chapel

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



kidcelerate BRICK DRIVE



Help Kidcelerate's Learning Hub start their own "Brick Club" by donating your gently used bricks of any size (aka LEGO® bricks)!

Brick Collection Locations

Calvary United Methodist Church

971 Beech Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Monday - Thursday 10:00AM - 2:00PM;
Sundays 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Christ United Methodist Church

44 Highland Rd. Bethel Park, PA 15102
Door 2, Tues. - Thurs. 9:30AM - 3:30PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

1965 Ferguson Rd. Allison Park, PA 15101
Monday - Thursday AM 8:30AM - 4:00PM;
Sundays 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Or call/email to make other arrangements:

(412) 231-4900 ext. 105 | thehub@kidcelerate.org

SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

Sundays | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

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

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) - MANCHESTER

Tuesdays | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

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

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9:00 AM | Chapel

The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich (laehrlich927@aol.com).

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | 10:00 – 11:00 AM | 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. If you are interested and have questions, please email Kathy Wagner (kbwagner47@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24 | Services at 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM | Calvary

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, door openers, setting up the luminaria, floating around church to answer questions, point out bathrooms, collecting the offering, lighting 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.

You ARE GOD'S BELOVED.
You ARE WELCOME HERE.



CONTACT US

PASTOR

Rev. Beth L. Nelson

412-398-7894 | RevBeth@CalvaryPgh.com

EMERITUS CLERGY

Rev. Jorinda Bullitt

Rev. Larry Homitsky

CHURCH STAFF

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

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 UMC

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Facebook

Calvary United Methodist
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YouTube

Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

Instagram

[calvaryumc_pittsburgh](https://www.instagram.com/calvaryumc_pittsburgh)



ONLINE GIVING

Fast.
Simple.
Secure.

CALVARYPGH.COM

Sundays at 11AM
on Facebook

LIVE

STREAMING