

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE



DEC

24TH

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

Liz Chervon

Carol Piper (spouse of Rev. Jack Piper)

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 4 PM Service — Brian Burns, organ
7 PM Service — Jennifer Steele, flute
David Bennett, cello
Brian Burns, piano

WORDS OF THE PROPHET * Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV

- 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
- 3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP †*

Leader: In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child. The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

People: And the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to all whom God favors.”

Leader: Let us worship our with-us God.

People: Let us sing songs of praise!

PROCESSIONAL CAROL †* "O Come, All Ye Faithful" — #234 UMH

UNISON PRAYER †*

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace — We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a gloria. We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

SPECIAL TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

CAROL * "Away in the Manger" — #217 UMH

GOSPEL LESSON †* Luke 2:1-20 NRSV

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.
- 8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

- 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
- 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."
- 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.
- 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them,
- 18 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Love Knows Your Name" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

CAROL * "O Little Town of Bethlehem" — #230 UMH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Loving Christ, When the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that. Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE SHARING OF THE CUP

All are welcome at the table of our Lord. The bread that we share is gluten free, that all may participate. You may come forward to receive communion at the direction of our ushers. Please dip your bread into the cup and eat, immediately.

CAROL * "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" — #240 UMH

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "O Holy Night" — Renewal Choir

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!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES †

CAROL †* "Silent Night" — #239 UMH

PASTORAL PRAYER †

CAROL †* "Joy to the World" — #246 UMH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †*

We believe that on a night like this one, a baby was born and placed in a manger. We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh, who grew up to love the outcast and change the world. We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal that the world will never be the same. So despite the mystery of this holy night, we believe that a star shone, that the shepherds ran, that the angels sang, and that love was born. Yes, we believe it when the prophets say that unto you, unto us, a savior is born. Glory to God in the highest heaven! We believe.

BENEDICTION †*

POSTLUDE † "Hark the Glad Sound" — John Leauitt

Please join us for a time of fellowship at the cookie reception in the chapel.

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



Poinsettia Dedications

Jonathan and Richard Blair

In memory of our mother, Sara Belohlavek

Brittany Bova and Aaron Mickens

In memory of Aaron's father, Richard Mickens

In honor of our children Courtney, Chauncie, James, and Haley

Megan Bova and Dan Funk

In memory of our grandparents

In honor of Bronson Joseph Funk

Burns-Elliott Family

In memory of Lucy Mae Elliott, Kenneth and Joan Elliott, and William "Keen" Miller

In honor of Ethan and Peyton Rihn

Renny and Linda Clark

In memory of Thomas and Twila Walker, Patricia Walker, and Gordon and Sara Clark

In honor of Reverend Beth Nelson, Brian Burns and the Music Program, and Aleata Weis

Larry and Linda Ehrlich

In memory of Andrews & Ehrlich Parents, Adel Fougnes

In honor of Hardy and Ehrlich grandchildren

Charles Ekas

In memory of Kimberly Ekas, Sue Evans, and Tony and Rita Spena

Judy and Tom Flaherty

In memory of Virginia Kraft, and Mary Flaherty

David Grinnell

In memory of Ken and Betty Grinnell, and David and Iva Jahnsen

*It came, a floweret bright, to show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior.*

Terri Jagielski

In memory of J. Roger McKelvey and Madyline E McKelvey, and Jagielski and Powell families

Megan McDonald

In honor of McDonald Family and Barr Family

Rev. Beth L. Nelson

In memory of my parents and my brother

Dennis W. Panek

In memory of Genevieve and Walter Panek

Holly Pultz and Family

In memory of Dan Pultz

Nancy Richards

In memory of the Rev. Bob Richards
In honor of Audrey and Tatum Arbuckle

David Rizzo

In memory of members of the Rizzo Family no longer with us, and James S. Bacho, Jr.

Fred Ruddock

In memory of Charles E. Thomas and Kathryn Ruddock

Jane Skerl

In memory of William & Phyllis Lauster

George Stowell

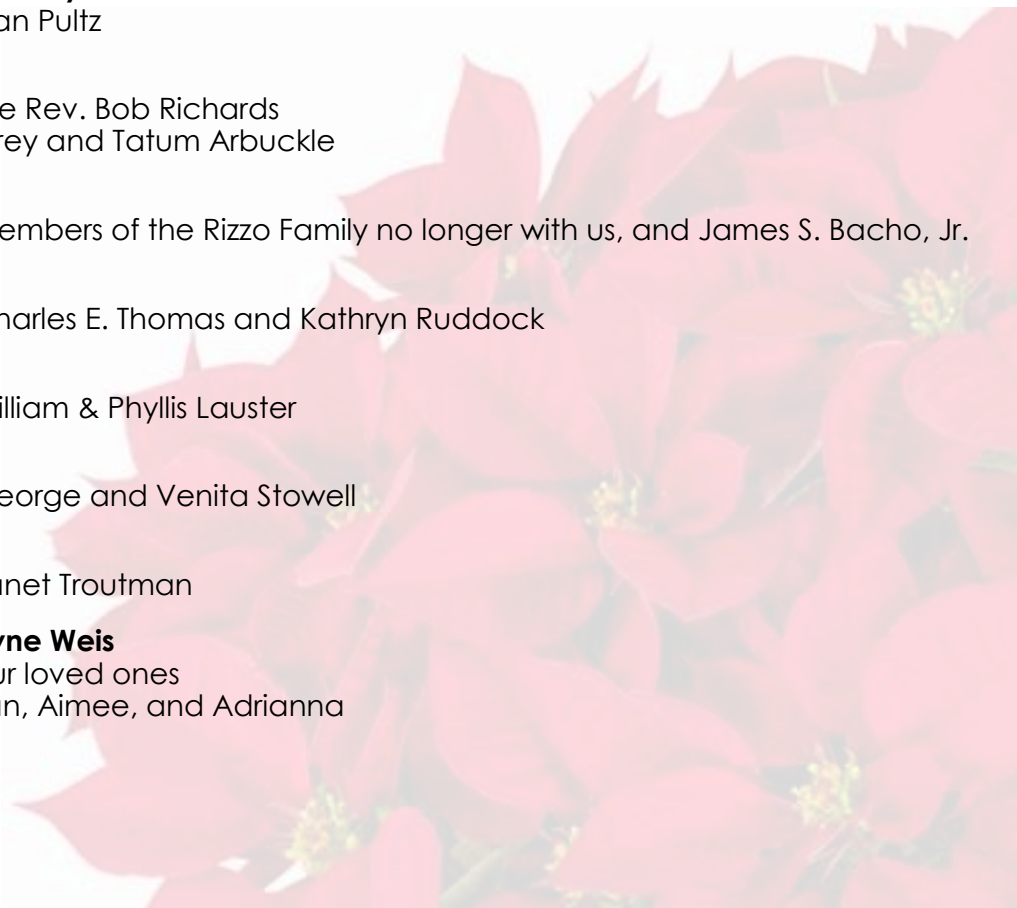
In memory of George and Venita Stowell

Linda Troutman

In memory of Janet Troutman

Aleata and Wayne Weis

In memory of our loved ones
In honor of Aidan, Aimee, and Adrianna



THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



THURS
DEC 26

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

TUES
DEC 31

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) - MANCHESTER
7:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

THURS
JAN 2

OPEN SANCTUARY
6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

SUN
JAN 5

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

COMMUNION
During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP
Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS
8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall



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

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



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.

GET CONNECTED



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 Schnitgen 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

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.

FAMILY MINISTRY



WEEKLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall

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

EVENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 10 | 7:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 8 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Free babysitting and dinner.

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.

SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

THIS GROUP IS CURRENTLY ON BREAK

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Parlor

This group is led by Rev. Chad Bodgewic. All are welcome!

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).

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

Rev. Myles Bradley

CHURCH STAFF

Music Ministry – Brian Burns

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Family Ministry & Education

Megan Bova

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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

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