

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



WORDS

FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —

DEC

| 29TH

| 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

CALL TO WORSHIP †*

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

People: God is in our joy.

Leader: God is in this room.

People: We have reason to celebrate.

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

People: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

OPENING HYMN †* "Joy to the World" — #246 UMH

UNISON PRAYER †*

God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we know that you speak to us in the quiet. We know that when we bow our heads and fall to our knees, you are there, hovering close, calling our names. However, we also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when we dance and clap with joy, when we skip and sing with gratitude, that even there, you are speaking. So on this Sunday morning we pray: open our ears and hearts to hear what it is that you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we pray. We laugh. We listen. We pray. Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN OF PRAYER * "What Child Is This?" — #219 UMH
You are welcome to come forward to the altar for prayer.

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Friends, one of the most inherently joyful and beautiful moments in worship comes through the moment of confession. For when we are honest with God in the prayer of confession, we open ourselves up to receive God's grace and mercy. And that gift—that grace—is full to the brim with good news! So join me in this prayer of confession, not out of shame or guilt, but because there is a joy on the other side of this prayer that will take your breath away. Let us pray together; let us choose joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Leader: Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

People: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

Leader: In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

People: this often seems easier said than done.

Leader: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

People: Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

Leader: We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

People: Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

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.

CAROL * "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" — #224 UMH

LISTEN FOR JOY

CAROL * "Angels We Have Heard on High" — #238 UMH

SING FOR JOY

CAROL * "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" — #251 UMH

PRACTICE JOY

CAROL * "In the Bleak Midwinter" — #221 UMH

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

SPECIAL OFFERING "Change Matters"

We are gathering change to support a monthly meal at Daily Bread. When all of our "extra" change comes together, we can make a positive difference.

OFFERTORY

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 †

CLOSING HYMN †* "There's a Song in the Air" — #249 UMH

BENEDICTION †*

Family of faith, in a hurting and lonely world, in a battered and bruised society, there is good news: Jesus Christ is born! So as you leave this place, may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope. May you look for reasons to be grateful. May you not hesitate to join in the dance, or join in the song. May you extend a hand to your neighbor, and find God in every moment of joy. For unto you a child is born. That is good news! So go in peace trusting in that promise. Go in peace, and go with joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE †

Please join us for our monthly community lunch around the tables in the fellowship hall.

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship. This is an expansion on our normally scheduled fellowship time.

The Fellowship Hall is located downstairs. You can use the stairs or take the elevator.



THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
DEC 29

“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

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).

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! 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.

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.



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

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 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or Sundays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Door 2, Tuesday – Thursday from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1965 Ferguson Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101

Monday – Thursday from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM or Sundays from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Or call/email to make other arrangements at 412-251-4900 ext 305 or thehub@kidcelerate.org.

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 (laehrich927@aol.com) with any questions. to make us your home.

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.

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.

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

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

971 Beech Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone

412-231-2007

Email

CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Website

CalvaryPgh.com

Facebook

Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh

YouTube

Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

Instagram

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

