

The Parable of the Sower



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

WELCOME TO CALVARY

YOU ARE GOD'S
BELOVED,
AND YOU ARE
WELCOME HERE.



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.*

Welcome to Calvary!

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. If you are in need of a large print bible or hymnal, please see any greeter for help.

Location of Bathrooms

From the front exits of the Sanctuary outside the right doorway, a handicapped accessible restroom and baby changing table are available on this level. From the front exits of the Sanctuary outside the left side exit, restrooms are located down the stairs.

Families with Babies or Young Children

Families with babies or young children? We have a family area in the sanctuary with rocking chairs and toys so your family can participate in the service.

How Do I Get Involved?

There are many ways you can become involved at Calvary United Methodist Church. If you have been promising yourself to join a small group experience for not just a continuing learning opportunity but also to meet new friends, please fill out a "Get Involved" card in the back of the pews. You can also email CalvaryPgh@gmail.com or visit our website at CalvaryPgh.com for information about the many ministries available. If you are ready to serve or just want to connect and grow, there are plenty of opportunities for you to use your gifts and talents.

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

Immediate Needs

Family of Ronald Frank (Karen Ferguson's grandfather) -
Ronald joined his beloved wife and passed away
peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, July 9th
Cel Thomas, John Rosella, Darlene Lesure (friends of
Fred Ruddock)
Samara Smith-Hopkins (daughter of Larry and Pam
Hopkins)
Lori McDonough (Venus' sister in law)
Dennis Panek
Mary Emili
Steve (brother of Shirley Mehring)
George Stowell
Michael Dodson
Jacqueline Melvin Cannon (Judy Melvin's sister)
Friend of Mark Snyder

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Sara Belohavek
Rev. Tom Funk
Mary Callison
Martha Helmreich
Christine Thomas
Paul Brucker
Joan Sturtz
Randy & Danny
Dan Souza
Tom Smith

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 calvarypg.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.

PLEASE NOTE — Prayer concerns will be published for 4 weeks unless otherwise instructed.

NEW PASTOR APPOINTED FOR CALVARY UMC

New Pastor Appointed for Calvary United Methodist Church

On June 25, 2023, the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church announced the appointment of Rev. Beth L. Nelson to Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, PA. Rev. Nelson will serve half-time as the pastor at Calvary effective July 1, 2023. From all of us at Calvary, *WELCOME Rev. Beth!!*

Rev. Beth L. Nelson

Rev. Beth L. Nelson grew up in the Mon Valley in the little town of Fayette City. She graduated from Belle Vernon Area High School and then Otterbein College in Westerville Ohio. Her educational journey took her to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and it was there that she fell in love with the city and all its ministry possibilities. Her first appointment was to Erie and during her ministry there, she was one of the founding pastors of The Refuge, The Rainbow Connection and San Juan United Methodist Church.

Beth's next appointments were Mars, Carnegie, and Coraopolis. Beth was appointed as The Director of Training and Resources for the Annual Conference and spent many years as part of the Conference Program staff. In 2011, Beth was appointed to Salem United Methodist Church in Wexford until she retired in June of 2020, after 43 years of service. Since retirement, Beth has been working "part time" at the United Methodist Church Union. She is the president of the Common Roots Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and a Board member of The United Methodist House at Chautauqua. She also serves on the Mission Strategy Team of the Pittsburgh District and the District Committee on Ministry.

Weekly, Beth volunteers at the Olive Branch, a fair-trade gift store and mission center in Wexford. This is an outreach of Salem United Methodist Church and makes a positive difference throughout the world. Through sewing projects, knitting, and crocheting, women are changing history for those in need. In addition, the items sold in our store are helping women and children break the bonds of poverty and lead meaningful, healthy lives.

In her spare time, Beth is a dedicated Pittsburgh sports fan! She has been a Pirate season ticket holder for over 25 years. Beth enjoys live theater, at the Benedum, in small theater venues and on Broadway. She shares season tickets for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Pops. Beth has a passion for traveling the world and an even greater passion and love for the city of Pittsburgh!

To relax, Beth loves to build jigsaw puzzles. If she posts many puzzles in a row on Facebook, chances are she is stressed about something. But she is always happy to welcome others to her puzzle building therapy. Beth is known for having many "happy places" and Calvary United Methodist Church is her newest happy place!



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Rev. Beth L. Nelson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship †*

Leader: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits...

All: **So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root...**

Leader: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits...

All: **Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.**

Leader: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits...

All: **These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.**

Leader: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

All: **May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root.**

Opening Hymn †* "Come We that Love the Lord" — #732 UMH

Unison Prayer †*

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. Amen.

Community Greetings †

Song of Praise †* "Surely the Presence of the Lord" — #328 UMH (Sing Twice)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Children's Message

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Hymn of Prayer * "Wonderful Words of Life" — #600 UMH

Pastoral Prayer

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

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.

Gospel Lesson †* Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NRSV

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!"

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon. "Starters" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

Words of Community Life

Call to Give

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Order of Worship is continued on the following page.

*† Please stand as you are able / * Words are on the screen / Bold text is unison*

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

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 †* "Marching to Zion" — #733 UMH

Benediction †

Postlude †

*† Please stand as you are able / * Words are on the screen / Bold text is unison*



A Time for Fellowship

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TIME OF
FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE
TABLES IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Council Meeting — POSTPONED

The Thursday, July 20th from 6:30-8:00pm in the Calvary Chapel has been postponed.

A new date is being set. A notice will be sent out with new date and time.

Northview Heights Food Distribution

Saturday, August 26th at 8:45am at Northview Heights

Six volunteers are needed. if you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board in the chapel. Please see Stacey Chervon (*stc38@pitt.edu*) with any questions.

WEEKLY CALENDAR — WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

SUNDAY

Fellowship Following Morning Worship

Following Morning Worship in the Calvary Chapel

Come to the chapel following morning worship for fellowship. You can sign up to serve or clean up on the bulletin board in the chapel.

AA (Northside Sunday Nighters)

8:00pm in the Calvary Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY

Exercise Class For All Ages

9:00am in the Calvary Chapel

The group uses the program "Grow Young Fitness". The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at laehrlich927@aol.com.

THURSDAY

Exercise Class For All Ages

9:00am in the Calvary Chapel

The group uses the program "Grow Young Fitness". The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at laehrlich927@aol.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY SINCERE THANK YOU!!! - A Message from Nancy Richards

I'd like to extend the volunteers from Calvary for the Summer Solstice event a VERY SINCERE THANK YOU!!! We actually had more volunteers AND more food than was actually needed.....but it was a lovely evening and hundreds of visitors came to see the beautiful Tiffany windows we see every Sunday! Such a huge success....and nearly one thousand dollars was raised by selling our angel cards, memberships and others just wanted to donate to help us preserve this treasure of ours as well as out of gratitude for the event! David Grinnell did a super job with the publicity and I'm so very thankful for everyone's generosity! Now AHPS has enough money in the Pew Restoration account to order the 450 yards of velveteen that's needed to recover our pew cushions! The factory in Italy goes on vacation in August, so our fabric will probably be woven in the fall. That's only the first step, of course, because we still need to find persons to cut and sew all the cushions and others to stabilize the wobbly pews. But this is a wonderful and amazing achievement! We're at the beginning of another grand adventure! Bless you all, and thank you, everyone!

Calvary is Seeking Our Next Office Coordinator

The job description is posted on the website and Facebook. For people applying, they should send their application to the Chairperson of SPRC, Dave Tinker via email to tinker.calvaryumc@gmail.com and in the memo line please state "Office Coordinator" position.

Collection of Hygiene Kits

The United Women in Faith will be collecting Hygiene Kits from now until we go to the Mission Barn on Saturday, July 22nd. We would appreciate everyone's help. Hygiene Kits are used for people experiencing natural disasters around the United States. You can find the directions to assemble kits at <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>. If you have any questions please contact Joan Bradley (ogremtb@aol.com) or Kathy Wagner (kbwagner47@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your donations.

Calvary Garden Club and Grounds Crew — Volunteers Needed

Interested in getting a little dirt under your fingernails and helping make the exterior of Calvary Church pop with colorful flower blossoms and other plants during the growing season? Volunteers are needed to help the Calvary GARDEN CLUB and GROUNDS CREW. We are all set to start planting when the flats of annuals arrive at the United Women in Faith's plant sale and there is also mulch that has arrived. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Chapel.

Ministry Opportunities at Calvary UMC — A Message from Ken Elliott

Calvary is always in need of helpers for the Welcome Team to greet visitors and attendees, hand out bulletins, and collect the offering. Having a strong Welcome Team presence is important to provide a heartfelt and positive experience for everyone who enters our church. Also - we are in need of drivers who can pick up members who need transportation on Sunday mornings. Please let Ken Elliott know if you would like more information or are interested in helping with either of these requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT...

Northside Common Ministries Continues to Need Toothpaste — A Message from the Missions Committee

TOOTHPASTE continues to be a weekly need at the pantry. Jana, Dir., would like Calvary to continue to collect it as she can then have it on the weekly grocery list available to the patrons. We continue to have a wonderful response from the generous hearts of our Calvary family! There are 2 collection bins—one at the Allegheny entrance and the other in the Parlor/Chapel. Cloth grocery bags also continue to be collected.

Communications Update — A Message from Karen Ferguson

Moving forward we will no longer be using the Communications Form as a way to submit announcements, events, and information to the congregation. We have decided to change it up and move things back to the way they used to be. If you have an announcement that you would like to be placed in the bulletin, website, Facebook, etc... please email Karen Ferguson at karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com. More details will be given in the future about timelines and expectations, but for the time being, please include the following information with each request: 1) title of announcement, 2) how long it should be advertised, 3) where do you want the information to be publicized, and 4) content that you would like to be included. Thank you for your flexibility as we maneuver improving communications at Calvary!

CHANGE MATTERS!

There will be a special "change" offering the first Sunday of every month. During worship, our children will collect "change" because when there is lots of change together, we can make a difference. These gifts will be used to help the Women United in Faith to purchase food for Daily Bread.

Food costs have increased and the number of people needing food has also increased. So gather up that loose change and help support this ministry.

Paper money and checks work too.

Change matters!



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR
REV. BETH L. NELSON

EMERITUS CLERGY
REV. THOMAS FUNK, REV. JORINDA BULLITT, AND REV. LARRY HOMITSKY

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