

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

*We acknowledge
our weariness*

DEC

3RD

2023

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

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The Family of Mary Callison (Mary passed away
on Monday, November 20th)

Marcia Webb (dear friend of Mark Snyder)

Charles Foreman (Claudia's husband)

Mayernik daughters & grandfather

Joyce & Ray Zimmerman (sister of Yvonne
Hudson)

Joan Sturtz

Judy Melvin

Brian (partner of David Grinnell)

Linda Trautman

Emma H. (Joan Sturtz's granddaughter)

Megan MacDonald

Cel Thomas, John Rosella, Darlene Lesure
(friends of Fred Ruddock)

Venus' family

Michelle (Venus' friend)

ONGOING CONCERNS

Sara Belohavek

Paul Brucker

Jacqueline Melvin-Cannon (Judy
Melvin's sister)

Rev. Tom Funk

Martha Helmreich

Tom Smith

Dan Souza

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



WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP †* Liturgist — Patricia Bogdewic

Leader: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

Leader: In God's house, we can be weary.

All: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

Leader: In God's house, we can be honest —

All: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

Leader: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

All: Let us worship our loving God.

HYMN OF PRAISE †* "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" — #196 UMH

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY †*

Leader: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We acknowledge our weariness.

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

All: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring. By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk. By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world.

All: We light the first candle of Advent, The Candle of Hope! Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

SONG OF PRAISE †* "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" — #204 UMH

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL OFFERING "Change Matters"

We are gathering change to support a monthly meal at Daily Bread. When the children come around, please give generously. When all of our "extra" change comes together, we can make a positive difference.

WORDS OF THE PROPHET * Isaiah 64:1-9 NRSV

- 1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
- 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
- 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- 7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
- 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
- 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Leader: Let us pray: Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

All: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

Leader: For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

All: Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

Leader: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

All: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

Leader: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

All: Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Order of Worship continued on following page.

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

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

All: **We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC Waynesburg University Lamplighters

GOSPEL LESSON †* Luke 1:1-23 NRSV

- 1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us,
- 2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,
- 3 I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus,
- 4 so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.
- 5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.
- 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord.
- 7 But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.
- 8 Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty,
- 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense.
- 10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.
- 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.
- 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him.
- 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.
- 14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,
- 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.
- 17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."
- 19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

- 20 But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."
- 21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary.
- 22 When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.
- 23 When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "A Promise of Good News!" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Waynesburg University Lamplighters

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

DOXOLOGY †* Tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God, all creatures here below.
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

OFFERING PRAYER †

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †*

We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world — a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit And so we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
DEC 3

COMMUNION

During Worship (Monthly) | Fellowship Hall

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY LAMPLIGHTERS TOUR & CONCERT CHOIR

During Worship | Sanctuary

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
DEC 5

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:00 – 7:30 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS)

7:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

MESSIAH FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

7:30 – 9:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

THURS
DEC 7

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 – 11:00 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

STEELERS NIGHT GAME OPEN HOUSE

6:00 – 8:00 PM | Calvary

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:00 – 7:30 PM (Weekly) | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

FRI
DEC 8

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR
5:00 – 8:00 PM | Calvary

SAT
DEC 9

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR
10:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Calvary

SUN
DEC 10

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

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

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP
Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

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



**FIRST TIME ATTENDING A MEETING,
GROUP, OR EVENT AT CALVARY?**

All those attending meetings, groups, or events during the week are to enter the building from the Dounton Way parking lot door.

**VIEW ENTIRE
CHURCH CALENDAR**





How does a weary world rejoice?

AS ADVENT COMES AGAIN TO A WEARY WORLD, WE ASK... “HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?”

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “*How does a weary world rejoice?*” From the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

Devotional Booklets for this series are available as well as Advent Calendars for both adults and children. Please visit the Welcome Tables over the coming weeks to pick up your materials.

OUR JOURNEY OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (12/3) – WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR WEARINESS

Luke 1:1-23 (Zechariah & Elizabeth are promised a child) & Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with a promise of good news, but Zechariah can't fully receive it. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, "how long?" and plead for restoration.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (12/10) – WE FIND JOY IN CONNECTION

Luke 1:24-45 (Gabriel visits Mary; Mary goes to Elizabeth) & Isaiah 40:1-11

In community, our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. That is what Elizabeth and Mary do for each other. The good news begins to take shape in Elizabeth's womb, but scripture tells us that she stays secluded, hiding her pregnancy from others—that is, until Mary arrives at her door, also pregnant. Perhaps Mary's arrival is the inbreaking that changes everything for Elizabeth, for in that moment, her child leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Spirit. She can't help but to rejoice. Her joy is contagious and wraps around Mary like a hug. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God speak tender words of comfort; this is the comfort we can give to and receive from each other during this season.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (12/17) – WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE AMAZED

Luke 1:57-66 (The birth of John) & Psalm 126

After Elizabeth gives birth, her neighbors and family celebrate with her. When it comes time to name the child, Zechariah affirms the name given by the angel and by Elizabeth. In that moment of affirming the promise, Zechariah's speech is restored. Everyone is filled with awe. How often do you allow yourself to be amazed? Wonder is all around us—can we recognize it? As we learn how to rejoice in a weary world, can we live in a way that allows amazement and wonder to surprise us often? In Psalm 126, those who expect to reap tears are granted a surprise: shouts of joy. Amazement is a balm for the weary.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (12/24) – WE SING STORIES OF HOPE

Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat) & Luke 1:67-80 (Zechariah's song)

As soon as Zechariah's voice returns, his first words are gratitude and blessing. He sings a story of praise for God's protection and promise, and then he showers a blessing on his newborn son. He sings a story of hope. After Elizabeth exclaims blessings upon Mary, Mary sings: "My soul magnifies God; my spirit rejoices in God." Mary sings about a God of liberation who pulls the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly. Mary sings a story of hope, one in which justice and joy are interwoven. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, may we also sing stories of hope, justice, and joy.

MUSIC MINISTRY



WEEKLY

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Sanctuary

Love Singing? Thinking About Joining The Choir?... Now is the perfect time to give it a try! No audition required! All are welcome! Please join us for singing, fellowship, and shenanigans!

MESSIAH FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays | 7:30 – 9:00 PM | Sanctuary

It's always a fun time, no auditions are required. See Music Director Brian Burns with questions.

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays | 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

No audition required and you do not have to be able to read music. All are welcome! Please reach out to Music Director Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) with questions.

EVENTS

WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY LAMPLIGHTERS: TOUR & CONCERT CHOIR

Sunday, December 3 | During Worship | Sanctuary

The Waynesburg Choir will be joining us during morning worship.

11TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17 | 4:00 PM | Sanctuary

Tickets: \$18 General Admission, \$12 Students & Seniors

Free Admission: Children 12 & under, Members/veterans of armed services, Firefighters, Police

Tickets are on sale now at CalvaryPgh.com.

Tickets can also be purchased on Sundays following morning worship. Karen Ferguson will be at the piano at the front of the sanctuary.

Hallelujah! Bask in Handel's inspiring Messiah while surrounded by candlelight and Calvary's magnificent Tiffany stained-glass masterpieces.

This will be our 11th year bringing this Calvary tradition to the Pittsburgh area. We will be performing the "Christmas" portion of Messiah. Calvary's Music Director Brian Burns conducts the event which includes popular regional soloists, a chamber orchestra comprised of some of the area's most accomplished instrumentalists, and the Festival Choir. The concert is followed by a cookie reception in the Victorian Chapel.

We also offer this concert in support of outreach ministries on Pittsburgh's Northside. This year, as in years past, we ask audience members to bring non-perishable food items and extra shopping tote bags for Northside Common Ministries Food Pantry.

It's a fantastic way to kick off the holiday season, and we invite everyone to join in and sing for the joy of it!



WEEKLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

Calvary offers two Sunday School classes — ages 3 to 10, and ages 11 to 15. Please meet in the chapel and everyone walks across the street together.

EVENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 19 | 6:30 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Come and enjoy popcorn and movie snacks! Bring your favorite stuffed animal, blanky, and wear your favorite PJs as we watch a family friendly movie!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 10 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Dinner, games, a movie, and crafts for kids of all ages! The best part about it is it's FREE!!

Christmas DINNER

Inviting all women of Calvary to gather and celebrate the holidays with a night of food and festivities hosted by the Calvary United Women in Faith.

Join the fun by bringing a wrapped item you want to regift for the “Regift Exchange” game. This is so much fun!

DATE	Thursday, December 14, 2023
LOCATION	Fabled Table, (no stairs) 1400 Buena Vista St, Pgh, PA 15212
TIME	6:00 – 8:30 PM
COST	\$30 per person, payable by check (make out to CUMW) or cash
PARKING	Limited, but there is a parking lot a block away. Several handicap spots available on site.
RSVP	By Sunday, December 10 to Kim Butler at 412-638-7773 or kimabutler4@gmail.com (inform her of dietary restrictions)

IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN NIGHT!



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.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEED TICKETS TO THE MESSIAH CONCERT?

Paper tickets can also be purchased on Sundays following morning worship. Karen Ferguson will be at the piano at the front of the sanctuary. Tickets are also on sale at CalvaryPgh.com.

CALVARY'S ENTIRE CHURCH CALENDAR IS NOW ON THE WEBSITE!

If you prefer to see a month at a time, or a week at a time, you now have the ability to do so on the Calvary website. You can go there directly at calvarypgh.com/news-and-events/calendar.php. Or, you can go to our main website — CalvaryPgh.com and select the Calendar icon in the middle banner. Finally, you can also scroll down on the main page and choose the calendar icon from the image buttons. Please enjoy this new feature!

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have an announcement that you would like to be placed in the bulletin, website, Facebook, etc., please email Karen Ferguson karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com. Announcements for the bulletin must be submitted by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin. Please include the following information:

- Title/subject of announcement
- Content
- How long it should be advertised
- Where you want it publicized

WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST CHOIR

A very warm welcome to our guests, the Waynesburg University Lamplighters: Tour & Concert Choir, under the direction of Melanie Catana. Thank you for participating with us today in worship. It is a pleasure to have you with us today!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



EVENTS

STEELERS NIGHT GAME OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, December 7 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Calvary

We will be opening our doors to the Steelers fans as they pass thru the North Side. We will be handing out hot chocolate or water depending on the outside temperature. Please join us in this community outreach.

OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

Friday, December 8 | 5:00 – 8:00 PM | Calvary

Saturday, December 9 | 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Calvary

WHAT IS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to help in kitchen, sell food, help with sales tables, handing out postcards for tours, setup and cleanup. We also need people to bake cookies prior to the House Tours. We also need people to bake cookies prior to the House Tour.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please see or contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) if you are able to assist in any way. Time slots are only two hours. You can also grab Brian as he is running around the church before or after worship on Sundays.

11TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17 | 4:00 PM | Sanctuary

WHAT IS NEEDED: The following is needed for EACH concert: 6 - Box Office, 4 - Parking Attendants, 6 - Ushers. We also need people to bake cookies prior to the concerts.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 / karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24 | Services at 4:30 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COOKIE MAKERS NEEDED

We will need cookies for the House Tours, Messiah Concerts, and Christmas Eve... **That's A LOT of cookies!** A sign-up sheet is posted at the announcement board in the chapel. You can also contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 / karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com).

WORSHIP SLIDES

We are looking for someone to take over the responsibility of the worship slides for Sunday mornings. A template would be provided for you and you would receive the Order of Worship and the lyrics to the music ahead of time. If you are familiar with Microsoft PowerPoint and are interested in learning more about this task, please contact the church office, Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 / karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com). Thank you so much!

LAY LEADERS AND LITURGISTS

Liturgists serve an important role in worship. They help lead the congregation in various parts of the worship service, including the Call to Worship and the reading of scripture. Please contact Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 / kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are interested.

TUTORS NEEDED

Want to make a difference? Join the fun and consider being a tutor at The Bridge Learning Hub (1500 Chicago St, Pittsburgh, PA 15214). One hour a week can help a child learn and grow. Interested? See Rev. Beth Nelson for more information.

READING MENTORS NEEDED

There is a need for reading mentors at Morrow Elementary School (1611 Davis Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212). We are looking for weekly volunteers. Please see Rev. Beth Nelson or contact the church office for further information.



A Time for Fellowship

PLEASE JOIN US AROUND THE TABLES
IN THE CHAPEL BEHIND THE
SANCTUARY FOLLOWING MORNING
WORSHIP FOR REFRESHMENTS.

SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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)

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 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 (laehrlich927@aol.com).

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | 10:00 – 11:00 AM | Parlor

Join us as we study "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" by Beth Moore. Beth Moore has an excitement and an exuberance for the Gospel and will involve you on an adventure into discovery and growth in the Spirit of the Lord. *John 14 tells us that God gives us the Holy Spirit to be in us – Christ in us, the hope of glory.*

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER INVITATION – A MESSAGE FROM CUWF

Thursday, December 14 | 6:00 – 8:30 PM | Fabled Table, 1400 Buena Vista St, Pgh, PA 15212

Cost: \$30 per person, payable by check (make out to CUMW) or cash

RSVP: By Sunday, December 10 to Kim Butler (412-638-7773 / kimabutler4@gmail.com)

Inviting all women of Calvary to gather and celebrate the holidays with a night of food and festivities hosted by the Calvary United Women in Faith. Join the fun by bringing a wrapped item you want to regift for the "Regift Exchange" game. This is so much fun! Please let Kim Butler know if you have any dietary restrictions. Parking: Is limited, but there is a parking lot a block away. Several handicap spots are available on site. It's going to be a fun night!

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



WEEKLY

OPEN SANCTUARY

Thursdays | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Calvary

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.

EVENTS

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, December 3 (1st Sunday 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 Women United in Faith purchase food for Daily Bread.

DAILY BREAD – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Thursday, December 14 (2nd Thursday each month) | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 616 W North Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The United Women in Faith (UWF) organizes the meal being prepared for the Daily Bread which serves meals three times a week to those without a home or who are under-employed. **They are currently in need of cookie makers.** See Joan Bradley if you would like to get involved.

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD (NVH) DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, February 3, 2024 & Saturday, March 9, 2024 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM | Northview Heights

All participants have found it to be a rewarding experience, and we would love to have some new volunteers as well. Six volunteers are needed for each date. There is a sign-up sheet in the chapel, and a written description of the work. Please feel free to contact Stacey Chervon (stc38@pitt.edu) or Linda Ehrlich (laehrich927@aol.com) for any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES CONTINUES TO NEED TOOTHPASTE

TOOTHPASTE continues to be a weekly need at the pantry. Jana Thompson, Director, 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. Thank you!



FAMILY CORNER

WINTER SCHEDULE

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, December 2

6:00 - 9:00 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.



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 19

6:30 - 9:00 PM

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 10

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Dinner and snacks will be provided.

MORE INFO

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



SPECIAL EVENTS



OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

Sunday, December 17 | 1:00 – 3:00 PM | Parsonage

This Advent Season, Rev. Beth Nelson will be opening up the doors of the parsonage and welcoming everyone to an Open House following worship prior to the Messiah concert that afternoon.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Child Friendly Service (Candlelight and Carols) | 4:00 PM | Calvary

Candlelight Service | 7:00 PM Music & 7:30 PM Service | Calvary

You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Christmas Eve at Calvary. 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. Refreshments to follow each service in the chapel behind the sanctuary.

GET CONNECTED



EVENTS

COMMUNION

Sunday, December 3 (First 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.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sunday, December 31 (Last Sunday of each month) | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall

This is an expansion on our normally scheduled Fellowship time following morning worship.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council Meetings will begin again in January 2024.

MESSIAH SPONSORSHIPS



Dear Friends,

We are once again planning our annual Handel's Messiah Sing-Along Concert Series. The concerts will be presented on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 4:00 PM and Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 4:00 PM at Calvary.

We ask that you please review the Sponsorship Opportunities we have available and consider how you can partner with us in offering this unique musical event. When you choose to sponsor this Community Christmas Concert, you are helping continue what has become a tradition in the Pittsburgh area and at Calvary.

Messiah Sponsorship Forms can be found on the Welcome Tables. Please fill out and include with your choice of sponsorship or donation. Forms can be placed in the offering plates, dropped off at the church office, or mailed directly to the church.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Underwrite the cost of sheet music — \$100
- ✓ Sponsor a Musician in the Chamber Orchestra — \$200
- ✓ Sponsor the Organist — \$250
- ✓ Sponsor a Soloist — \$250
- ✓ Sponsor cost of cookie reception following concert — \$300
- ✓ Sponsor the Brass section — \$400
- ✓ Donate one WQED underwriting spot — \$500
- ✓ Sponsor the program printing cost — \$550

DONATIONS

It is also perfectly wonderful if you would like to donate without sponsoring anything in particular. You also have the opportunity to dedicate your donation. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous, just indicate so on the form.

QUESTIONS

Please reach out to either Brian Burns (bsburns77@aol.com) or Karen Ferguson (karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

A HOLIDAY MUSIC TRADITION

Messiah

11th Annual Sing-Along Concert

Two Candlelit Performances Surrounded by Tiffany Masterworks
Presented by Calvary United Methodist Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 | **4PM**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Conducted by **Brian Burns**, Music Director, Calvary United Methodist Church
Featuring Festival Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and Internationally Acclaimed Soloists



Anna Singer
soprano



Kara Cornell
mezzo-soprano



Kirk Dougherty
tenor



Matthew Hunt
baritone

TICKETS — [CALVARYPGH.COM](https://www.calvarypgh.com)

Thru Nov 15 - Early Bird
After Nov 15
Free Admission

\$15 General | **\$10 Students, Seniors**
\$18 General | **\$12 Students, Seniors**
Children 12 & Under, Military, Veterans

GET TICKETS



FEATURED AT CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK CITY

The CALVARY FESTIVAL CHOIR will be fresh back from performing at Carnegie Hall in NYC in the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) Messiah concert over Thanksgiving weekend.

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. Thomas Funk

Rev. Jorinda Bullitt

Rev. Larry Homitsky

CHURCH STAFF

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ONLINE GIVING

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on Facebook



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