



PEACE



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

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.

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

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Lisa Ferguson — father in hospice

Louis (friend of Anne Christianson) — sepsis, critical condition in ICU

Linda Ehrlich — recovering from knee surgery

John Burke Dr (Truddee's husband) — UPMC Monroeville

Tea Sampson — ICU Presbyterian

Brian (Debbie Neuherz's brother-in-law) — Covid, loss of his wife

Kevin (Debbie's brother-in-law) and Brenda (sister) — both with Covid (Kevin in ICU)

Anna Jane (Bova family) — cancer

Tavarious Lee — violence

Kathy (Christine's sister) — severe stroke

Pat's grandson (friends of Christine) — Covid

Kate (Christine's niece) — needs a kidney

Gladley Family (friends of Christine) — loss of Theresa

Charlee (Zeke's brother) — COPD

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

Joan Sturtz — caring for Bill

Ron and Sally Westerman

Randy & Danny — bone marrow transplant

Dan Souza — cancer

Tom Smith — cancer

Rev. Edward Clarke (Emanuel UMC) — esophageal cancer

Paul Brucker — ongoing health struggles

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, or you can complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvaryppgh.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.



ADVENT 2021

“Close to Home” An Advent Message Series

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

“Close to Home” - Our Advent Journey



First Sunday of Advent — Homesick (Hope)

Luke 21:25-36 — As we begin Advent with the “Little Apocalypse” in Luke 21, we remember how far from home we are. The world is not as it should be. Many have lost their physical homes, many feel alone, and many are isolated. Many of us feel as if we are wandering with no clear way forward. This first week speaks to our deep longing—for our home to be made whole, made right, and made well. With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a homesick world.



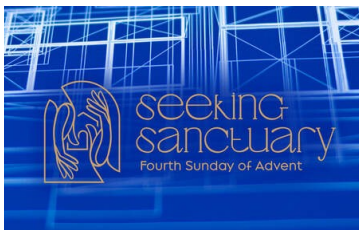
Second Sunday of Advent — Laying the Foundation (Peace)

Luke 1:57-80 — In the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, we see the foundation of what is to come. We see how interwoven his story is with Jesus’ origin story. When Zechariah regains his voice, his imagination is also restored. He offers deep praise for God’s tender mercy, and casts a hopeful vision for his own child. He sings blessings into John’s being. This lays the foundation for John’s life. In turn, John will go on to prepare the way for Jesus who will guide us all in the way of peace. In this week, we focus on making space—in our lives and our imaginations—for God’s blessings to break through.



Third Sunday of Advent — A Home for All (Joy)

Luke 3:1-18 — John the Baptist’s good news sounds harsh, but he preaches a home for all—where inequities are banished, valleys are lifted up, and all have the resources they need for collective flourishing. Ultimately, John’s message is one of joy. We are called to collectively build and repair the structures of our society; we are called to be kin-dom builders. Wherever we build, God is there. What we build should be a place with a large table and room for all.



Fourth Sunday of Advent — Seeking Sanctuary (Love)

Luke 1:39-55 — After receiving the angel’s extraordinary news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth and Zechariah’s home to digest her new calling. She seeks refuge—physical safety and emotional protection. She receives a safe haven, a home for her heart to soon sing praise. Sanctuary and safe space is so crucial for everyone, especially the mother of Christ while she prepares to become a home for God. Sanctuary is anywhere God’s love dwells freely and abundantly.



CALVARY IS HAVING A

Christmas

OPEN
HOUSE

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday, December 18
1-7pm



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT CALVARY

Calvary will be presenting an Open House on Saturday, December 18 from 1:00-7:00pm featuring tours of the church, live music with choir and organ, a vintage item sale, homemade soups for takeout, cookies and refreshments, a kid's area with crafts, and a Special Jolly Visitor! Beech Avenue will be open for a self-guided stroll down the historic festively decorated street, featuring carolers.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

1:00-7:00pm – Vintage sale, refreshments, soup takeout, kid's crafts

3:00-3:15pm – Music

3:15-4:00pm – Tour, questions, and fellowship

4:00-4:15pm – Music

4:15-5:00pm – Tour, questions, and fellowship

5:00pm – "Special Jolly Visitor" arrives

5:30-6:00pm – Final tour, questions, and fellowship

6:00-7:00pm – Final purchases

7:00pm – Church open for cleanup

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – HELP NEEDED

Volunteers and Donations Needed

We are looking for donations for cookies and homemade soup. Volunteers are also needed for setup (12:00-1:00pm), cleanup (6:45-7:30pm), kid's crafts table, food sales (shifts of 2-3 people: 1:00-3:00pm, 3:00-5:00pm, 5:00-7:00pm), cookie and refreshment table (shifts of 2-3 people: 1:00-3:00pm, 3:00-5:00pm, 5:00-7:00pm), carolers, and question/answer time (2-3 people per shift, 3 shifts: 3:15-4:00pm, 4:15-5:00pm, 5:30-6:00pm) which is essentially tour help—be around to talk and fellowship after with visitors, essentially "plants" to be around to engage visitors, you will not be giving tours but just mill around to chat with visitors.

Contact Brian Burns at either 724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com with any questions or if you would like to help out with a donation or volunteer. You may also fill out the below form, tear off then place in the offering plate. Brian will then reach out to you within the next few days.

Making Soup? Safe Soup Maker's Instructions

Cool your soup down from 165 degrees Fahrenheit to 41 degrees Fahrenheit within 4 hours of taking the soup off the stove by putting the soup in shallow bowls, no more than 3 inches in depth, then put the shallow bowls in the refrigerator to cool down. Take the temperature of the soup after being in the refrigerator for 4 hours to ensure it is 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The soup can then be combined from the bowls into a container for transport to the church.

Soup containers will be provided for you. Please see Brian Burns for containers following Sunday morning worship for containers. You can also stop into the church office during the week to pick them up as well. Please bring the soup to church a few days prior to the Open House so the containers can be placed in the refrigerators in the kitchen downstairs. Do not freeze. Also, do not write soup descriptions on the containers. Instead, please tape a piece of paper that can be removed from the container listing the type of soup. Labels for each soup description will be made at church to adhere to each of the containers.

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH THE OPEN HOUSE!

I would like to help out with:
(please check all that apply)

- Make Soup
- Bake Cookies
- Caroling
- Crafts
- Setup
- Cleanup
- Food Sales (Handling Money)
- Cookie/Refreshment Table
- Question/Answer (Tour Help)

Please contact me:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Comments _____

ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship †* Liturgist — Mary Emili

Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray—

People: May love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone. May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in, and may hope be the walls—holding us together.

Leader: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

People: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Leader: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Hymn †* “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” — #206

Opening Prayer Liturgist — Mary Emili

Community Greetings

Lighting of the Advent Candle — Second Sunday

Litany * Zayvion Burns-Elliott and Jeremiah Smith

Zayvion: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

Jeremiah: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Zayvion: Peace that rests between us and our grief,
Jeremiah: Peace around our anxiety,
Zayvion: Peace between us and our self-criticism,
Jeremiah: Peace amidst our relationships,
Zayvion: Peace at the core of our being,
Jeremiah: Peace hovering through and in our world.
Zayvion: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

Candle Lighting *

Jeremiah: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.
Zayvion: Let it be so. Amen.

Advent Candle Song * “Advent Song” — TFWS #2090 (*Verse 2*)

Light the Advent candle, two:
Think of humble shepherds,
Who filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child of Christmas night.

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children’s Message

Hymn * “Zechariah’s Lullaby” — Words to Follow

When old Zechariah held his baby son
He blessed him and dreamed of what he would become.
As baby John rocked in the temple that morn
This song Zechariah sang for his newborn.

And you child will be called a prophet of Christ
To bring hope to hearts and to shadows the light.
For God has sent visions of what you will do,
A dream to proclaim and a world to renew.

We lay a foundation for what is to be
Not knowing yet praying for what we can't see.
We trust in God's imagination to build from blueprints
And hope for a dream yet fulfilled.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Prayer Concerns *Refer to inside front cover*

Prayer of Confession *

All: Holy God, when John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness *

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

People: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer #895

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.

Special Music Renewal Choir

Scripture * Luke 1:57-80 (NRSV)

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60 But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” 61 They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. 67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection “Laying the Foundation”, Rev. Kelly Smith

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Offering

Doxology †* Refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High” — #238
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Offering Prayer †*

All: Holy God, you are our home. You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Closing Hymn †* “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” — #203

Benediction †

Postlude †

* Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Guidelines at Calvary

Masks or cloth face coverings are to be worn at all times inside the Church buildings. Mask or face covering must be covering both your mouth and nose. Every other pew is available for seating. Please space out seating to ensure individuals or families are at least 6 feet apart from anyone outside of their household.

Volunteers Needed for Northside Pantry Food Distribution

The Northside Food Pantry is coordinating a food distribution with the food bank near Heinz Field on Thursday, December 23. Volunteers are needed to distribute food and/or donate food. Please contact Linda Ehrlich or the church office with questions or to sign up to help.

“Close to Home” Resources — A Message from Rev. Kelly Smith

Sunday began our Advent journey. When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Our Advent series, CLOSE TO HOME, acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us. We have some wonderful resources to help you along your journey including an Advent Devotional and an Advent calendar to help you each day. We have hard copies at the church and I can mail them out if you'd like me to, but they are also attached to this email. We hope you use these to ground yourselves into the Spirit's presence throughout this season. This Advent, may be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

Special Tax-Saving Ways to Give to Calvary

- 70½ years old or older - Tax Free IRA Gift
- Appreciated Stocks/Securities to Reduce Capital Gains Tax
- Donor Advised Fund Grant

Contact the Church Office at 412-231-2007 for information.

Lay Leaders and Liturgists

Liturgists serve and important role in worship. Liturgists help lead the congregation in various parts of the worship service, including the recitation of the Call to Worship and the reading of scripture. This valuable service allows the congregation to take an active part in the worship service and it allows participants in worship to hear multiple voices speak from the pulpit. If you are interested in being a Lay Leader or a Liturgist for an upcoming Sunday worship service, please contact the church office or see Rev. Kelly Smith.

The Sunday Bulletin Is Now On the Website

The bulletin for Sunday morning worship can now be found on Calvary's website. This way, if you are unable to physically make it to church on Sunday morning you can access the bulletin to follow along. Also, this will be useful if you are more comfortable looking at an electronic copy on your phone rather than a paper copy during morning worship. The bulletins are located here: <https://calvarypgh.com/worship-and-fellowship/bulletins.php>

Poinsettia Order Form



Calvary UMC Christmas Poinsettia Sale — \$9.00

Poinsettias will decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve Service and can be taken home after the service. Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 12th. Please include payment with your order form. Call the church office at 412-231-2007 with any questions.

Name _____

Phone _____ Total Quantity _____ Total Amount Due _____

In Memory or Honor of... *(Please circle choice)*

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Children's Sunday School

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

Description: Calvary offers two Sunday School Classes: (1) Ages 3-10, (2) Ages 11-15.

MONDAYS

Virtual Bible Study Led By Rev. Ellie Laws

Time / Location: 7:00pm / Zoom

Description: "Old Testament Fast Track - Becoming Disciples" will be 12 weeks beginning Monday, September 27 at 7:00pm on Zoom. We will be studying creation, Israel as a nation, kings, prophets, and our savior. If you would like to join the bible study please reach out to Rev. Ellie Laws at 302-682-4860 or email her at ellielou48@gmail.com.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at laehrllich927@aol.com.

Bible Study Led By Rev. Larry Homitsky And Rev. Kornelius

Time / Location: 6:30pm / New Destiny CMEC Church (old Emanuel UMC building)

Description: During the next few weeks thru the Tuesday before Christmas, we will be joined by Dr. Steven Tuell from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminar and studying "Why Reading The Bible Is So Important Today".

Renewal Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:30-7:30pm / Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Description: Love Singing? Thinking About Joining the Choir? Now is the perfect time to give it a try! We are looking to bolster our ranks for the Advent season and beyond. No audition required! All are welcome! See Brian Burns for details.

Hand Bell Rehearsal

Time / Location: 7:30-8:30pm / Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room

Description: Interested in joining? We are seeking new and energetic people willing to learn and participate. Please consider adding your talents to our group. No experience is necessary to join and it is probably easier to do than you think! See Brian Burns for details.

THURSDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at laehrllich927@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 16, 2021— Church Council Meeting

Time / Location: 6:30pm / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: Calvary has many ministry teams and committees that serve the church and community in a variety of ways. All individuals are welcome and encouraged to join a team or committee that interests them. Chairpersons invite you to contact them directly if you have questions or would like to join their team or committee. You may also contact the church office directly.

Saturday, December 18, 2021 — Christmas Open House At Calvary

Time / Location: 1:00-7:00pm / Calvary UMC

Description: Calvary will be presenting an Open House featuring tours of the church, live music with choir and organ, a vintage item sale, homemade soups for takeout, cookies and refreshments, a kid's area with crafts, and a Special Jolly Visitor! Beech Avenue will be open for a self-guided stroll down the historic festively decorated street, featuring carolers.

Monday, December 20, 2021— Longest Night Service

Time / Location: 7:00pm / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: This creative worship service is designed to create a sacred space for the grief, longing, and heartache that feels close to home—especially during the holiday season.

Friday, December 24, 2021— Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Time / Location: Music begins at 7:00pm, Service begins at 7:30pm / Calvary UMC

Description: 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 will set the scene. The peaceful illumination of Advent builds to an unforgettable Christmas Eve service as both young and old remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior.



Calvary United
Methodist Church,
Pittsburgh

CALVARY UMC
STREAMS
LIVE

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ON FACEBOOK

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



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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