

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

*We find joy in
connection*

DEC

10TH

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 Dan & Holly Pultz due to his sudden passing

The Family of Mary Callison (Mary passed away recently)

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

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 — Joanie Bova

Leader: Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. You are invited to look around the sanctuary as we repeat these words. Welcome to worship.

All: Welcome to worship.

Leader: I am glad you're here.

All: I am glad you're here.

Leader: Surely God is in this space.

All: Surely God is in this space.

Leader: I see God in your face.

All: I see God in your face.

Leader: Let us worship together.

All: Let us worship together.

HYMN OF PRAISE †* "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" — #203 UMH

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY †*

Leader: How does a weary world practice peace?

All: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

Leader: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

All: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

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

All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. We light the second candle of Advent, The Candle of Peace! Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

SONG OF PRAISE †* "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" — #204 UMH (Two Times)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORDS OF THE PROPHET * Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV

- 1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

- 3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
- 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
- 10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER * "My Soul Gives Glory to My God" — #198 UMH

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Leader: Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

All: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. 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: Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing — and it is holy. So trust this; believe this: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

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.

ANTHEM Calvary Renewal Choir

GOSPEL LESSON †* Luke 1:24-45 NRSV

- 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.
- 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."
- 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
- 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
- 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
- 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.
- 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
- 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
- 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."
- 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
- 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
- 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.
- 37 For no word from God will ever fail."
- 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.
- 39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,
- 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

- 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!
- 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
- 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "There is Joy in Connection" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

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 †* "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" — #206 UMH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †*

And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
DEC 10

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
DEC 12

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 14

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 – 11:00 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

DAILY BREAD (CUWF)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Monthly) | Trinity Lutheran, 616 W North Ave, Pgh, PA 15212

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER (CUWF)

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

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

FRI
DEC 15

MESSIAH DRESS REHEARSAL

6:30 – 8:30 PM | Sanctuary

SAT
DEC 16

11TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES
4:00 PM | Calvary

SUN
DEC 17

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

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE
1:00 – 3:00 PM | Parsonage

11TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT SERIES
4:00 PM | Calvary

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



EVENTS

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

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

We need ushers and people to work the box offices and take tickets. 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

Volunteers are needed 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, and floating around church to answer 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.



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 Banquet Center (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!



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

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!!



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

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.

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, January 7 (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.

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 (laehrlich927@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.

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT — CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PITTSBURGH

Sunday, February 11 | 3:00 PM | Calvary

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT — PITTSBURGH YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday, April 14 | 4:00 PM | Calvary

GET CONNECTED



EVENTS

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.

COMMUNION

Sunday, January 7 (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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council Meetings will begin again in January 2024. Date TBD.



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.



POINSETTIAS ARE ON SALE

Poinsettias will decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve Service and can be taken home after the service. Poinsettias are on sale for \$10 each. An order form was emailed last week and there is also one included with today's bulletin. The deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 13th. We apologize for the quick turn around needed for these orders and hope that you can get this information to us as quickly as possible. Thank you so much! Please include payment with your order form. Checks should be made out to "CUMC". Call the church office at 412-231-2007 with any questions.

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

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

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EMERITUS CLERGY

Rev. Thomas Funk

Rev. Jorinda Bullitt

Rev. Larry Homitsky

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