

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Joy



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

WELCOME TO CALVARY

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

PASTOR
SHANE SICILIANO



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



*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

Tom (friend of Anne Christianson)
Chris Griffin
Jenalee Morris
Father of Liz Martinez
Tricia Magee (friend of Larry & Pam Hopkins)
Roy Ziegler (friend of Venus)

Lori McDonough (relative of Venus)
Friend of Mark Snyder
Joshua (Brian Burns' cousin's son)
Sheila Shimko (mother of Sheila Hill)
Chuck (Eliyana Bogdewic's great uncle)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Martha Helmreich
Christine Thomas
Paul Brucker
Joan Jessep

Joan Sturtz
Randy & Danny
Dan Souza
Tom Smith

How Can We Pray For You?

If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the "PRAYER REQUEST" card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007.

You can also complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at 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.

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



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

ADVENT 2022

“From Generation To Generation” — An Advent Message Series

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell the story of Christ’s birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What about this season will you pass on to the next generation?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won’t let you go.

Devotional Booklets can be found at each of the Welcome Tables. Please help yourselves to these Advent resources.





HELP NEEDED DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Hello everyone! There is **A LOT** happening at Calvary during December and along with that is a tremendous need for **A LOT** of help. Please read thru the below and let us know how you are able to help. The Christmas season at Calvary is always busy, fun, exhausting, memorable, and meaningful. Please help us to continue the events that have become traditions for not only our Calvary family, but the Northside Community.

COOKIE MAKERS

- **WHAT IS NEEDED:** Thank you to everyone that dropped off cookies this week for the House Tours! However, we still need cookies for the Messiah Concerts, and Christmas Eve.
- **WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS:** Please contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 or karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com). There will also be a spreadsheet floating around church for you to sign up on as well.

MESSIAH CONCERTS

Saturday, December 17th at 4:00pm & Sunday, December 18th at 4:00pm

- **WHAT IS NEEDED:** The following is needed for **EACH** concert: Box Office Lead (3), Box Office Assistant (3), Parking (4), Ushers (6)
- **WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS:** Please contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 or karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24th at 4:30pm and 7:00pm

- **WHAT IS NEEDED:** At least 8 volunteers to do the most meaningful and satisfying service to make sure everyone who comes to Calvary feels welcomed, loved, and experiences God's love: Help with the welcome team, pass out bulletins and candles, handicapped 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.
- **WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS:** Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 or kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Annual Messiah Sing-Along Concert

Saturday, December 17 at 4:00pm & Sunday, December 18 at 4:00pm

Bask in Handel's inspiring Messiah while surrounded by candlelight and Calvary's magnificent Tiffany stained-glass masterpieces. Tickets are now available for purchase. Please see today's announcements for Sponsorship options.

Volunteer Opportunities: The following is needed for EACH concert: Box Office Lead (3), Box Office Assistant (3), Parking (4), Ushers (6). Please contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246) or Karen Ferguson (724-448-1429 or karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Blue Christmas Service — A Service of Prayer and Song

Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm at Salem UMC (350 Manor Rd, Wexford, PA 15090)

Whether you are grieving someone special, struggling with the pressure to be of good cheer or simply needing some quiet space, you are invited to Blue Christmas: A Service of Prayer and Song. This gentle service will offer music, prayer, and reflection in this holy holiday week. This service is hosted by Calvary & Salem UM Churches.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 at 4:30pm & 7:00pm

This year we will be having two services on Christmas Eve. One will be held at 4:30pm without a musical prelude. The other will be our normal 7:30pm service with special music beginning at 7:00pm. You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating 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 Service as both young and old remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help with the welcome team, pass out bulletins and candles, handicapped 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. Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 or kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Family Movie Night

Friday, January 13 from 6:30-9:30pm in the Chapel

This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome! The movie is to be determined, but we will encourage families and church members to wear PJs and bring pillows/blankets for a true movie night feel!

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, February 11 from 6:30-9:30pm

This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome! Calvary would love to serve our local community with a "Parents' Night Out." Children will enjoy an evening of fun activities, games, and crafts while their parents get a night to enjoy on their own. Thank you for this opportunity to get to know your child and provide you with a relaxing evening. We are honored to serve you and your family.

Blue Christmas

*A Service of
Prayer & Song*

**Thursday, Dec. 22nd
@7pm**

Whether you are grieving someone special, struggling with the pressure to be of good cheer or simply needing some quiet space, you are invited to Blue Christmas: A Service of Prayer and Song. This gentle service will offer music, prayer, and reflection in this holy holiday week.

**Hosted by
Calvary & Salem UM Churches
at Salem in Wexford**

350 manor Rd. Wexford PA 15090

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle of Joy Megan Bova-Funk, Bronson Funk, Lila Tinker, Mary Callison

Opening Hymn †* “People Look East” — #202 UMH

Prayer of Penitence †* Lay Leader—Margee Bilyak

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

Words of Hope †

Community Greetings †

Children's Message

Social Justice Moment

Prayer Hymn †* “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” — #196 UMH

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.

Scripture * Isaiah 35:1-10 NRSV

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Choral Response *(Choir & Congregation)* †*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Gospel †* Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon "Dream On" — Pastor Matt Dean

Choral Anthem The Renewal Choir

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Doxology †* "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" — #94 UMH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Order of Worship is continued on the following page.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Offering Prayer †

Affirmation of Faith †*

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us — believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

Closing Hymn †* “Christ, Be Our Light!” — Words to Follow

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people Light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others Walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

5. Many the gift, many the people many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another making Your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

Benediction †

Postlude †

CALVARY'S FAMILY CORNER

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS 2023

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT **6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

Movie is to be determined, but we will encourage families and church members to wear pjs and bring pillows/blankets for a true movie night feel!

FRI
JAN
13

SAT
FEB
11

PARENTS NIGHT OUT **6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL **12 PM – 2 PM**

SUN
MAR
12

MORE INFO - MEGAN 412-715-4946 / BRITTANY 412-715-4947

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT

Invitation to Prayer

Time: 9:30am or Immediately following worship

Location: Communion Rail

Description: A time to pray for our world and each other as we eagerly await the celebration of the baby who would be the Savior of our world and the Prince of Peace.

The hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, one of America's great Methodist hymn writers, goes like this:

*"When the storms of life are raging, stand by me,
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me,
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the Sea,
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me."*

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we feel a bit overwhelmed and tossed in this rough and tumble world that we live. Even in the midst of our great church, things can seem rather chaotic at times and we struggle to hang on to the foundations of our faith. So what can we do? I'm sure everyone has a uniquely personal answer and they would all be great ideas.

I am inviting you to join me during the Advent Season in silent prayer at the communion rail in the Sanctuary at Calvary each Sunday. – The world, our community, our church, our pastor, and each of us are in the need of prayer. If you are able, please join me at 9:30 am on Sundays or immediately following the 11 am worship service and the communion rail. Let set aside this time to pray for our world and each other as we eagerly await the celebration of the baby who would be the Savior of our world and the Prince of Peace.

Please extend this invitation to any of your pew partners too!

With many thanks, praise, and blessings,

David Grinnell



WEEKLY CALENDAR, CONT...

SUNDAYS

Bible Study

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Chapel

Description: *"Affirming the Scriptures of an Affirming God"* — How can we respond when people use verses of the Bible as a weapon? We can relearn the weaponized Scriptures in defense of love. We'll be looking at the Scriptures through the lens of welcoming, affirming, and accepting all people. Feel free to bring your Bible, but we also have more Bibles available.

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. Please meet up in the chapel and everyone will walk across the street together.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Choir Loft

Fellowship Following Morning Worship

Time / Location: Following morning worship / Calvary Chapel

Description: Come to the chapel following morning worship for fellowship. A light array of foods and beverages will be served.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary Chapel

Description: There is an exercise class that meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am in the Calvary Chapel.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:00-7:30pm / Calvary Choir Loft

Description: Love Singing? Thinking About Joining The Choir?... Now is the perfect time to give it a try! No audition required! All are welcome!

Messiah Festival Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 7:30-9:00pm / Calvary Sanctuary

Description: Bask in Handel's inspiring Messiah while surrounded by candlelight and Calvary's magnificent Tiffany stained-glass masterpieces. All are welcome! No audition required!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Poinsettia Sale

Poinsettias will decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve Service and can be taken home after the service. **The Order Form can be found on the back cover of today's bulletin as well as over the next few weeks. The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 11th.** Please include payment with your order form. Call the church office at 412-231-2007 with any questions.

Read the Bible in Two Years — A Message from Pastor Shane

You are invited to join in a simple Bible reading plan that will help us read the whole Bible in two years! You can do it by reading approximately 15 minutes a day. In order to simplify and organize this process, I will be providing a bookmark for your reading time. This guide is designed to keep your place as you read through the Bible. By keeping this guide with your Bible and checking off each day's reading as you complete it, you will be able to follow a schedule that will enable you to read all the way through the Bible in two years. These bookmarks will be distributed every month over the next two years. The first bookmark can be found on the Welcome Tables.

Messiah Sponsorships

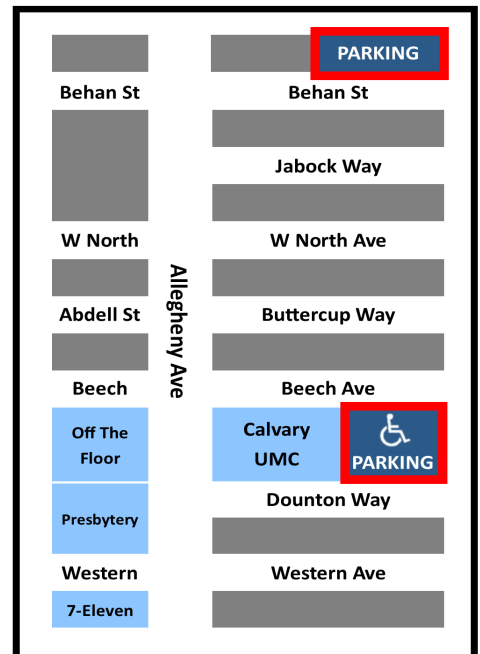
Today is the last Sunday to submit a sponsorship for the Messiah concerts. Please review the Sponsorship Packages listed on the Welcome Tables as well as the additional opportunities we have available and consider how you can partner with us in offering this unique musical event. No sponsorship or donation is too small (and none is too big 😊). We hope that you will consider reaching out to a local business for an ad or creating a booster listing for the choir. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brian Burns (bsburns77@aol.com or 724-388-3246) or Karen Ferguson (karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com or 724-448-1429).

Messiah Tickets Are On Sale!

Purchasing tickets in advance is recommended to avoid the crunch at the door. Tickets can be purchase in a couple ways. Paper tickets will be for sale every Sunday during fellowship in the chapel following morning. Please see Karen Ferguson in the chapel to purchase. You can also purchase tickets on Eventbrite by going to CalvaryPGH.com and clicking on the "PURCHASE TICKETS" link in the banner at the top. Ticket prices are as follows: General Admission—\$18, Students & Seniors (65 & over)-\$12, Free Admission—Children 12 & under, Members/veterans of the armed services, Firefighters, Police

Sunday 1:00pm Steeler Games

Greetings! Please see the map that lists directions to and where to park on Sundays when we do not have access to the lots next to and across from our church. Please note that you may get a parking ticket if you park on any street on Steeler Sundays.



COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

There are a multitude of ways to get your news to the members of Calvary and the wider community. Here are the guidelines for each:

- 1. Weekly Bulletin:** Announcements or events for the bulletin must be submitted by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin. For announcements that you wish to have run more than once, please include the dates you'd like to have it run.
- 2. Prayer List:** 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 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. Prayer concerns will be published for 4 weeks unless otherwise instructed.
- 3. Church Calendar:** Please contact Kim Butler at the church office to check availability for the date and location of your meeting or event. Once the event is scheduled, she will inform Karen Ferguson to have it publicized on all requested medias.
- 4. Website:** Changes, additions, edits, announcements, etc... for the website can be submitted at any time. Website changes will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 7 days between submission and execution, so please provide info as early as possible.
- 5. Facebook:** Facebook posts can be submitted at any time. Posts or edits will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 24-48 hours between submission and execution, so please provide info as early as possible.
- 6. E-Blast (Email Blast):** If you have information that you would like to be emailed to our member distribution list, please send your request to Karen Ferguson. Announcements can be submitted at any time and will be made soon as possible, but there may be up to 24-48 hours between submission and distribution, so please provide info as early as possible. All submissions are subject to editing, and images are encouraged wherever appropriate. Around major church holidays, the deadlines may change. To make a submission for any of the above or if you have any questions, contact Karen Ferguson via phone at 724-448-1429, email at karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com, or in person.

Poinsettia Order Form



Calvary UMC Christmas Poinsettia Sale — \$10.00

Poinsettias will decorate the altar for the Christmas Eve Service and can be taken home after the service. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 11th.** 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.

Name _____

Phone _____ Quantity _____

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

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____

Memory | Honor _____