

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMAS TIDE



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

*We root ourselves
in ritual*

DEC

31 ST

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

Mary Ewalt
Colleen (daughter of Terri J.)
Emma H. (Joan Sturtz's granddaughter)
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)
Linda Trautman
Megan MacDonald
Cel Thomas, John Rosella, Darlene Lesure (friends of Fred Ruddock)
Venus' family
Michelle (Venus' friend)

ONGOING CONCERNS

Joan Sturtz
Judy Melvin
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



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP †* Liturgist — Megan McDonald

Leader: Every year we celebrate Christmas.

All: Every month we break bread.

Leader: Every week we gather for worship.

All: Every day we count our blessings.

Leader: Every minute God is near.

All: Yes, every minute God is near.

Leader: These are the rituals of our faith.

All: Let us worship our holy God.

HYMN OF PRAISE †* “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” — #240 UMH

OPENING PRAYER †*

All: Gracious God, When our world turns upside down or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual. We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at the table. We pour water. We greet one another as family. And we listen to your Word. Today we pray—meet us in this moment. Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope. We are drawing near. We are seeking you. 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

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER * “What Child Is This” — #219 UMH

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Leader: Church family, our faith is decorated with rituals and rhythms that help tie us to God. Confession is one of those rituals. Every week we gather in this space and tell the truth about our lives. And every week God hears our prayers and offers us grace. This holy dance of confession and mercy is one of the many rituals I could not live without. So let us embrace this holy tradition together. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

All: **God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray,**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace. So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known.

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.

GOSPEL LESSON †* Luke 2:21-38 NRSV

- 21 When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.
- 22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
- 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),
- 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."
- 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
- 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law,
- 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
- 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,
- 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”
33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.
34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”
36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
38 At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Small Acts that Keep Us Together” — 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 †* “Angels We Have Heard on High” — #238 UMH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †*

All: We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

COMMUNITY LUNCH

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

CALVARY UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL



Calvary hosts a Community Lunch the last Sunday of each month. This is an expansion on our normally scheduled fellowship time which follows morning worship. The luncheons are held in the fellowship hall rather than the chapel. Please join us in this monthly tradition of fellowship and welcoming our neighbors!

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
DEC 31

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Following Worship (Monthly) | Fellowship Hall

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
JAN 2

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS)

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

THURS
JAN 4

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

SUN
JAN 7

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

COMMUNION

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall



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



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY



WEEKLY

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Sanctuary

THERE WILL BE NO REHEARSAL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 OR TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

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!

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

THERE WILL BE NO REHEARSAL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

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.

FAMILY MINISTRY



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!!

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.*

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



WEEKLY

SLEEPING BAG GROUP

Mondays | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

The Sleeping Bag group is taking a break for the holidays.

They will begin meeting again in the new year on January 8th, 2024.

The sleeping bags are made from recycled materials, packed with personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, hats, and gloves then distributed to nearby homeless shelters. There is plenty to do. No sewing experience needed. Questions? Please contact Terri Howell (412-482-2211 / tr_howell@yahoo.com) with any questions.

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, 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.

DAILY BREAD — UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Thursday, January 11 (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 (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!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



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



SPECIAL EVENTS



AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT — CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PITTSBURGH

Sunday, February 11 | 3:00 PM | Calvary

AHPS TIFFANY CONCERT — PITTSBURGH YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday, April 21 | 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.

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

Music Ministry – Brian Burns

724-388-3246 | bsburns77@aol.com

Family Ministry & Education

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Communications – Karen Ferguson

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