

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is..

inspiring us to act

Sunday Celebration — March 29, 2026

Worshipping God Together

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.

NEW TO CALVARY?

If you're new to Calvary, you're invited to visit the Welcome Areas to learn more about the church—pick up the monthly newsletter, and fill out a Get Connected card found in the pews. Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available upon request. Our monthly newsletter includes ministry updates, upcoming events, small group opportunities and a monthly calendar insert outlining all activities and gatherings.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Children are always welcome. A Family Area is available at the back left of the sanctuary, with rocking chairs and toys for your little ones.

RESTROOMS (FROM THE FRONT EXITS OF THE SANCTUARY)

- To the right, then to the immediate right, there is an accessible restroom and a baby changing table
- To the right then stay to the right, go to the back of the chapel, there are women's and men's restrooms
- There are men's and women's restrooms on the left then down the stairs on the right, or an elevator is available by exiting the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward the back of the building

PRAYER CONCERNS



IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Charles Moore
Judy Winston
The family of Bing Ewalt
Aleata Weis
Rick Stern
Rhonda Harrison
Barbara Wood - friend of Marirose
Bobby Buckner and his family

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Paul Brucker
Jeanne Dithomas
Kyle Giest
Terri Jagielski
Martha Helmreich
Judy Melvin
Sheila Molyneaux
Renee - friend of Mark Snyder
Marcia Webb - friend of Mark Snyder
Venus W.
Joyce Zimmerman - sister of Yvonne Hudson

SHARING PRAYER REQUESTS & JOYS

If you have a prayer request or a joy to share, you have a few options:

- Filling out a Prayer Request card (in the pews) and placing it in the offering plate
- Contacting the church office: 412-231-2007
- Submitting online: calvarypgh.com/contact.

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- **New Member Sunday** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **“Change Matters” Special Offering** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **Community Luncheon** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **Then Sings My Soul – A Free Community Concert** | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, MARCH 30

- **Sleeping Bag Ministry** | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 6:00-7:30 PM | Choir Loft
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **Hand Bell Rehearsal** | 7:30-8:30 PM | Music Office

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

- **Hey, Neighbors! Wednesday Dinner** | 6:00-8:00 PM | Chapel
- **Iron City Squares** | 7:00-9:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women’s Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor
- **Maundy Thursday** | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 – GOOD FRIDAY

- **Good Friday Service** | 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

- **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** | 7:00 AM | West End Overlook
- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 9:30-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Choir Loft
- **Easter Celebration Service** | 11:00 AM | Calvary UMC
- **Communion** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Chapel
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY CELEBRATION



WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE "Veni Creator Spiritus", arr. Robert Lau

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO CELEBRATION †★

Leader: Will you follow?

People: **Will you lay down your coat?**

Leader: Will you lay down something important?

People: **Will you shout "Hosanna"?**

Leader: Will you join the parade?

People: **Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?**

Leader: Will you cut down a palm branch?

People: **Will you wave it in the air?**

Leader: Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

People: **Will you let this good news inspire you to act?**

Leader: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.

People: **We will worship. We will follow. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE †★ "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" – #280 UMH

OPENING UNISON PRAYER †★

Holy One, if we've heard this story before, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, then help us to hear it again. And if we've never heard this story before, if we've never heard the story of Palm Sunday or the cries of "Hosanna," then give us the wisdom to follow along. Give us the wisdom to hear these words. Give us the wisdom to take them into our hearts. Give us the wisdom to act on their truth. We are listening. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME †

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

GATHERING SONG †★

 "Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less. Then Jesus, blood and righteousness. I dare not to trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus name. Christ, alone, cornerstone; Weak made strong in the Savior's love through the storm he is Lord. Lord of all.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN

PSALTER LESSON ★

 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 NRSV

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
- 29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

A TIME OF PRAYER

HYMN OF PRAYER * "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" – #278 UMH
You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal prayer.

CALL TO CONFESSION *
 The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of "Hosanna!" It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action. So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith. Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives. Let us begin with confession. Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *
Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You marched through the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your good news was not confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *
 Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you live out your faith, whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions, God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you. The Spirit will never stop listening to you. We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, good news. 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 Renewal Choir

GOSPEL LESSON †* Mark 11:1-11 NRSV
 1 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples
 2 and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.

- 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”
- 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,
- 5 some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?”
- 6 They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it.
- 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.
- 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.
- 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
- 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”
- 11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The good news is...Inspiring us to act" – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *

Leader: As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

Response: **I will.**

Leader: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Response: **I will.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY "My Jesus, I Love Thee", Stephen Aber

DOXOLOGY †*. "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" – #95 UMH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

THE PASSION OF JESUS

CLOSING HYMN †*. "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – #297 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE † "Be Thou My Vision", arr. Edward Broughton

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPECIAL EVENTS OR MEETINGS

THEN SINGS MY SOUL – A FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

Sunday, March 29 | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC

Join us for Then Sings My Soul, a free community celebration honoring Black composers and the powerful voices bringing their music to life. Featuring an outstanding lineup of vocalists and a special master class with acclaimed artist Susheel Bibbs, the weekend highlights genres from classical to gospel to jazz at Calvary United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh. Learn more and register here: pittsburghfestivalopera.org/2026-season/then-sings-my-soul/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE UPDATE

Please note that there will be no Sunday School or Bible Study on Easter Sunday.

SLEEPING BAG GROUP UPDATE

The Sleeping Bag Group is taking a short break and will return on April 13. We look forward to seeing everyone then!

NEW BIBLE STUDY – EXPLORING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Beginning the week after Easter, join us for an engaging study on Spiritual Gifts. Teens are also welcome to participate!

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOE DRIVE

Pittsburgh Public Schools is collecting donations for its annual shoe drive to support local communities and its partners, Homewood Children's Village and Community Schools. New or gently used shoes of all sizes—including sneakers, cleats, sandals, boots, and dress shoes—may be donated **between February 16 and April 16. A donation bin is available in the chapel at Calvary for convenient drop off.** This message is shared from **KidCelerate**, one of our partners, who notes that as a Pittsburgh King PK-8 Community Partner, they are working to collect as many pairs of shoes as possible. So far, King has collected 50 pairs of shoes toward its 200 pair goal. If everyone can donate just one pair of gently used or new shoes they no longer wear, we can help King reach its goal. The district's overall goal is to collect 100 bags of shoes per site.

LEARN TO KNIT & PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – ON HOLD

The Knitting Club will be suspended temporarily while Rhonda is away. We anticipate resuming meetings upon her return. Thank you for your understanding.

MEN'S TIES NEEDED

Men's ties are needed for the Sleeping Bag Group. Please place in the chapel in the appropriate mission bin.

COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED FOR DAILY BREAD

Help Daily Bread by baking cookies! We need 25 dozen each month. Label containers and place cookies in the freezer. Sign up or get info from Judy Flaherty at 412-913-8250.

You ARE GOD'S BELOVED.
You ARE WELCOME HERE.



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 971 Beech Ave, Northside, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone: 412-231-2007

Email: calvarypgh@gmail.com

Website: calvarypgh.com

SOCIAL MEDIA – BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. FOLLOW US!

Facebook: [Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh](#)

YouTube: [Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA](#)

Instagram: [calvaryumc_pittsburgh](#)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9:00 AM–Noon

Tuesday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

PASTOR

Rev. Beth L. Nelson (412-398-7894 / revbeth@calvarypgh.com)

CHURCH STAFF

Music Ministry: Brian Burns

Office Administrator: Mary Emili

Family Ministry & Education: Megan Bova

Communications: Karen Ferguson

Lay Leader: Ken Elliott

Treasurer: Georgia Brucker

Assistant Facilities Manager: Susan Derouin

Facilities Manager/Wedding Coordinator: Aleata Weis

Queer Ministry Coordinator: Tim Napieralski

Social Media Coordinator: Judith Melvin

Worship Tech Coordinator: Aiden Weis

Food Ministry Coordinator: Michael Schnitgen

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OUR MINISTRIES**

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to give. Thank you!

