

# CALVARY

United Methodist Church



*Easter Sunday — April 5, 2026*

Worshipping God Together

# WELCOME TO CALVARY

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## 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

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## IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Kyle Giest  
Judy Melvin  
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  
Terri Jagielski  
Martha Helmreich  
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](http://calvarypgh.com/contact).

# THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

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## SUNDAY, APRIL 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

- **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

## TUESDAY, APRIL 7

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

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- **Iron City Squares** | 7:00-9:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor
- **Serving Daily Break (CUWF)** | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Trinity Lutheran Church
- **Learn to Knit & Prayer Shawl Ministry** | 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Chapel
- **Open Sanctuary** | 6:00-8:00 PM | Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- **CUWF Meeting** | 9:00 AM Light Breakfast & 9:30 AM Meeting | Chapel

## SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 10:00-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Bible Study—Exploring Spiritual Gifts** | 10:00-10:45 AM | Chapel
- **Sunday School (K-3rd, 4th-6th)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School (7th-12th)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Christian Education Office
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:45 AM | Choir Loft
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Chapel
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

# SUNDAY CELEBRATION



**PRELUDE** . . . . . “Were You There”, African American Spiritual – South Hills Brass  
“Higher Ground”, Charles H. Gabriel  
“Lift High the Cross”, Nicholson

**INTROIT** . . . . . “On the Third Day”, Allen Pote

## **CALL TO WORSHIP + \***

**Leader:** On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

**People:** **On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.**

**Leader:** On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

**People:** **But today, we know the good news is alive and well.**

**Leader:** The good news is dancing!

**People:** **The good news is on the loose!**

**Leader:** The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

**People:** **Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!**

**Leader:** Let us worship our good-news Christ.

**OPENING HYMN + \*** . . . . . “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” – #302 UMH

## **OPENING PRAYER + \***

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

## **WORDS OF WELCOME +**

## **COMMUNITY GREETINGS +**

**GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE + \*** . . . . . “Alleluia” – #162 UMH

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**Spread the good news o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Savior.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**PSALTER LESSON \* . . . . . Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 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."
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
- 15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
- 16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."
- 17 I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.
- 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.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS**

**ANTHEM.** . . . . . "In the Name of the Father", Heather Sorenson

**GOSPEL LESSON † \*. . . . . Matthew 28:1-10 NRSV**

- 1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
- 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- 3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.
- 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
- 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
- 6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
- 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."
- 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.
- 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.
- 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON** . . . . . "The Good News is Alive in the World" – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** \* . . . . . "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Won" – #306 UMH

## CALL TO CONFESSION \*

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return. Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Friends, let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look. And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We have best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \*

**Leader:** Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

**People:** **Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Leader:** On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them." Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief. Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope. Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table. All are welcome here. For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid." Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for.

**People:** **We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning. We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave. We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.**

**Leader:** Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you. Thank you for showing the world what could be. Thank you for loving us with abandon. Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy. Thank you for the empty tomb. Thank you for morning birdsong. And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do. Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world. The grave couldn't hold you. Death couldn't keep you. The empire couldn't confine you. Instead, you are here and everywhere. You are risen. You are on the move in the world. Your love meets us at this Table and calls us out into the world. And that is good, good news. So on this Easter Sunday, this holiest of days, we ask for your help noticing you in our midst.

**People:** When our feet walk beside wildflowers, may we think of you. When the stars light up the sky, may we see you. When we break bread with our neighbors, may we feel you. When a stranger acts with kindness and love, may we recognize you. We know that you are out in the world, God, and we don't want to miss a minute of it.

**Leader:** And while we pray these prayers with gratitude and joy, we also pray for those who still find themselves at the foot of the cross. We pray for those stuck in the pain of Good Friday. We pray for our country, as our nation continues to break over gun violence and political differences. We pray for those in our own pews who are saddled with grief. We pray for our earth as creation continues to cry out...Holy One, so many days feel like Good Friday, but the promise of Easter is that Good Friday does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember alleluias came after the grave. As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray:

**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.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. The bread we share is gluten-free so that all may participate. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup of grape juice.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION \***

**Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray, amen.**

**WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE**

**CALL TO GIVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY. . . . . "Largo", Handel – South Hills Brass**

**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!**

**OFFERING PRAYER +**

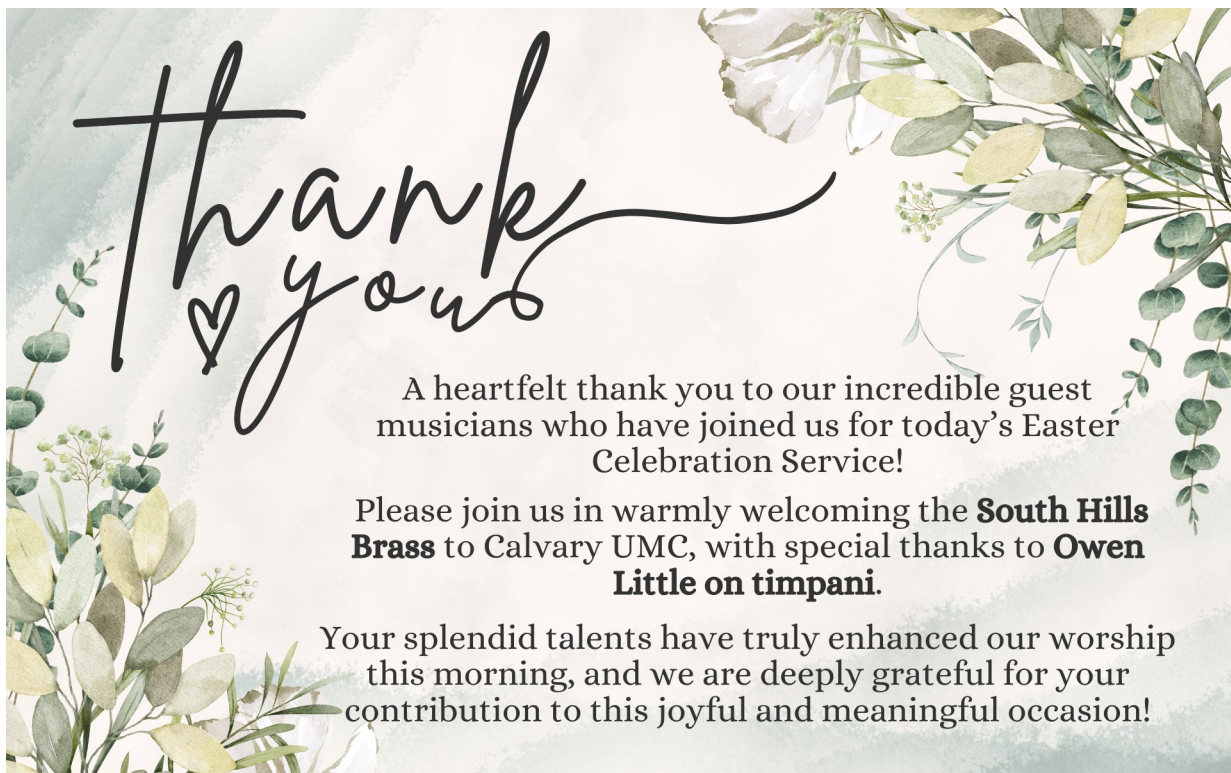
**CLOSING HYMN + \* . . . . .** "Thine Be the Glory" – #308 UMH

**BENEDICTION +**

**POSTLUDE + . . . . .** "Lift High the Cross", Sydney Hugo Nicholson – South Hills Brass

*+ Please stand as you are able | \* Words on screen | Bold text is unison.*

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP:** You're invited to the Chapel located behind the Sanctuary for a time of fellowship.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **NEW SUNDAY MORNING 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!

## **DISCOVERING THE GIFT OF GRACE – NEW WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Women’s Bible Study is excited to begin a new study titled *Grace... More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine* by Max Lucado. Together, we will explore the powerful message of God’s grace using the study guide located in the back of the book as a foundation for meaningful discussion and reflection. Books will be available for purchase for \$5. All women are welcome to join us as we grow in faith, fellowship, and a deeper understanding of God’s amazing grace.

## **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!

## **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.

## **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.



# Easter Flower Dedications

## **Joanie Bova**

In honor of my amazing grandchildren,  
Rev. Beth, Brittany and Aaron, Megan  
and Dan, and Phillip

## **Brittany and Aaron Bova Mickens**

In memory of Aaron's father, Richard  
Mickens

In honor of our children: Haley, James,  
Chauncie and Courtney

## **Myles and Joan Bradley**

In memory of John and Thelma Roberts,  
Carolyn Bradley, and Robert and  
Margaret Schmid

## **Callie Buzard**

In honor of Carol Buzard Reed

## **Linda and Renny Clark**

In memory of Tom and Twila Walker,  
Gordon and Sara Clark, Patricia  
Walker, David Clark, and Henry Ewalt

In honor of the Calvary Church staff

## **David Danenhower**

In memory of Robert O. Watson Jr, Isabel  
June Ogden Danenhower, Leonard  
Charles Danenhower, and Theresa  
Vivian Danenhower

## **Susan Derouin**

In honor of Charles Moore

## **Linda and Larry Ehrlich**

In memory of the Ehrlich and Hardy  
grandparents

In honor of the Ehrlich and Hardy  
grandchildren

## **David Eichelberger**

In memory of the Eichelberger and  
Dittmar families

## **Mary and Robert Emili Gumash**

In memory of our parents

In honor of our children

## **Karen Ferguson**

In memory of Ronald and Mary Frank,  
and Ronald and Betty Ferguson

In honor of my niece, Johanna

## **Judy and Tom Flaherty**

In memory of Jean Kraft and Mary  
Campbell

## **Suzanne Gilliland**

In memory of Dale and Betty Gilliland, Mr.  
and Mrs. Alexander Gilliland, and Mr.  
and Mrs. W. H. Douglas

To the glory of God

**David Grinnell**

In memory of Ken and Bitty Grinnell,  
David and Iva Johnson, Amos and  
Mable Grinnell, John Lyons, and Mary  
Callison

**Kate Kelley**

In memory of Beth and Pete Kelley,  
Michael Sean Kelley, Patrick Owen  
Kelley, Peter John Kelley, and John  
Matthew McCleary

**Lorraine Malcolm**

In honor of my Calvary family and Pastor  
Beth

**Charles Moore**

In memory of Walter Coleman

**Rev. Beth Nelson**

For the glory and honor of God

**Mark Neuherz****Dennis Panek**

In memory of Genevieve and Walter  
Panek

**Marirose Radelet**

In memory of Tom Armstrong, Barbara  
Burns, Bing Ewalt, Thaddeus Mosley,  
and Claire Floyd

In honor of Joan Kasone

**Nancy Richards**

In loving memory of Rev. Robert F.  
Richards

In honor of our children: Jennifer,  
Stephanie, and Todd

**Shelley Rohrer**

In memory of Celine Kahn and Mary  
Smith

**Fred Ruddock**

In memory of Charles E. Thomas and  
Kathryn R. Ruddock

**Anna Singer**

In memory of Karl and Olive Kortlandt,  
and Red, Patty, and Billy Singer

**George Stowell**

In memory of Venita and George Stowell

**Chris and Sara Sweeney**

In memory of John and Antoinelle Kocak,  
Virginia and Robert Beer, Dennis Beer,  
Gordon Sweeney Sr, and Deidere  
Sweeney

**David Tinker**

In honor of Sheila, Ellie, and Lily

**Chaton Turner**

In memory of Ronald Golden  
In honor of Cecilia Golden

**Kathy and Budd Wagner**

In memory of Eli and Skyler Wagner

**Aidan Weis**

In honor of Astro and my parents

**Aleata and Wayne Weis**

In honor of Aimee and Adriana, and Aidan  
and Astro

**Thomas Westfall**

In memory of Oscar and Elizabeth  
Westfall, and Mercy Vasquez

**Kathy Winne**

In memory of Frank and Agnes Winne,  
Steve and Helen Sturey, James  
Sturey, and Tooney Easterling



*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](mailto:calvarypgh@gmail.com)

**Website:** [calvarypgh.com](http://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](mailto: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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