

# CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is...

rooted in justice, mercy,  
& faithfulness

*Sunday Celebration — March 22, 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 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](http://calvarypgh.com/contact).

# THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- **DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS**
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Church | Fellowship Hall
- **Social Justice Committee Meeting** | 12:15 PM | Chapel
- **AHPS Tiffany Concert Series – Gretchen Van Hoesen, Harpist** | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

## MONDAY, MARCH 23

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

## TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- **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, MARCH 25

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

## THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor
- **Learn to Knit & Prayer Shawl Ministry** | 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Chapel
- **Open Sanctuary** | 6:00-8:00 PM | Sanctuary

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 9:30-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Opening Gathering** | 9:45-10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Lenten Bible Study Led by Rev. Chenda Lee** | 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** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Choir Loft
- **Lent Play Practice** | 10:30-10:45 AM | Sanctuary
- **"Change Matters" Special Offering** | During Church | Sanctuary
- **Community Luncheon** | Following Church | Fellowship Hall
- **Then Sings My Soul – A Free Community Concert** | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

# SUNDAY CELEBRATION



## WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER

**PRELUDE** . . . . . "The Cross of Christ", Dan R. Edwards

### CHORAL INTROIT

#### CALL TO CELEBRATION †★

**Leader:** Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**People:** **Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

**Leader:** Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**People:** **Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

**Leader:** Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**People:** **Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

**Leader:** Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

**People:** **This is God's house.**

**Leader:** You can make yourself at home here.

**People:** **Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

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

#### OPENING UNISON PRAYER †★

**Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. 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.**

**PSALTER LESSON** ★ . . . . . Psalm 130 NRSV

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
- 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
- 5 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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** \* . . . . . "Now the Green Blade Riseth" – #311 UMH  
*You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal prayer.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION \*

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \*

Leader: Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:  
People: **Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. 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** †\* . . . . . John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23 NRSV

- 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them.
- 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them,
- 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.
- 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"
- 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

- 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."  
 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.  
 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.  
 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"  
 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."  
 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN

**SERMON** . . . "The good news is rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness" – Rev. Chenda Innis Lee

## WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

### CALL TO GIVE

**OFFERTORY** . . . . . "Were You There", arr. Jason W. Krug – Calvary Handbell Choir

**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 †

**CLOSING HYMN** †\* . . . . . "O Young and Fearless Prophet" – #444 UMH

### BENEDICTION †

**POSTLUDE** † . . . . . "Toccata in E Minor", Johann Pachelbel

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

**POSTLUDE TRADITION:** At Calvary, we stand and listen to the postlude, many turning toward the choir loft to watch our organist play. This tradition began after our once silent organ was restored, renewing our gratitude for its beautiful sound and our strong music ministry. We invite you to join us in this meaningful moment.

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP:** You're invited to the Fellowship Hall after worship for a time of good company, along with a light meal and beverages. The Fellowship Hall is located down the stairs, or you may use the elevator at the back of the chapel.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SPECIAL EVENTS OR MEETINGS

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Sunday, March 22 | 12:15 PM | Parlor**

Calvary is forming a Social Justice Committee to help define and organize our Social Justice Ministry, one of our strategic goals for 2026. If you feel called and have a passion for Christ's world-transforming Gospel and the United Methodist Church's social principles.

### **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/](https://pittsburghfestivalopera.org/2026-season/then-sings-my-soul/)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **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 SUNDAY SCHEDULE UPDATE**

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

### **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](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

