

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

JAN

5TH

2025

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Liz Chervon
Carol Piper (spouse of Rev. Jack Piper)
Stella (friend of Terry J.)
Susan and Tammy in the death of Susan's father
Barbara Wood and The Family of Daniel Radelet (friend and family of Marirose Radelet)
Carol M. (friend of Venus)
Hannah Hardy (daughter of Linda Ehrlich)
Narda Funk and Family
Chris Sweeney
Chad Bogdewic
The Robert's Family
Gina (friend of Judy Melvin)
Kaia Bachman and family
Venus Whisenhunt
Ed Warren
Marlene Burkhart
Chris Siewers

Wendy (friend of Mark & Debbie Neuherz)
Karen Hines (mother of Patty Bogdewic)
Rev. David Eichelberger
Rev. J. Howard Cherry
Roy (fiancé of Venus)
Sam (niece of Bing and Mary Ewalt)
Jennifer Ruchlin (friend of Judy Melvin)
Georgeann (friend of Anne Christianson)
Mayernik daughters & grandfather
Joyce & Ray Zimmerman (sister of Yvonne Hudson)
Donna Reinard (sister of Yvonne Hudson)
Chris (friend of Mike Schnitgen)
Paul Brucker
Colleen (daughter of Terri Jagielski)
Martha Helmreich
Judy Melvin
Tom Smith
Marcia Webb (dear friend of Mark Snyder)

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 †*

Leader: We gather here because we believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through every bump and turn.

People: **And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot always see: a path home by another way.**

Leader: Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we lace up our shoes. We look for God's fingerprints in the world.

People: **And like the Magi, we dare to follow and worship.**

OPENING HYMN †* "Angels from the Realms of Glory" — #220 UMH

UNISON PRAYER †*

God of starlight, we long to follow you. Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction. Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star. Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here. Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here. So just as you guided the Magi, guide us. Draw our attention to your Word. Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you. With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

SONG OF PRAISE †* "Christ, Be Our Light"

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.

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.

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.

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.

Many the gifts, 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.

WORDS OF THE PROPHET * Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV

- 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- 2 For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- 3 Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN * "We Three Kings" — #254 UMH

GOSPEL LESSON †* Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV

- 1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,
- 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."
- 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,
- 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "
- 7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
- 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
- 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 Road Isn't Straight" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

STARWORDS

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

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!

OFFERING PRAYER †

CLOSING HYMN †* "The First Noel" — #245 UMH

POSTLUDE †

Please join us for a time of fellowship around the tables in the chapel.

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
JAN 5

COMMUNION

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

MON
JAN 6

SLEEPING BAG GROUP

6:30 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
JAN 7

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 – 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:00 – 7:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

7:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) - MANCHESTER

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

THURS
JAN 9

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 – 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 – 11:30 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

DAILY BREAD – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Monthly) | Northview Heights

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

FRI
JAN 10

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

7:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

SUN
JAN 12

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

CHOIR REHEARSAL

10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Following Worship (Weekly) | Chapel

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

THIS GROUP IS CURRENTLY ON BREAK

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) - MANCHESTER

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 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 – 11:30 AM | Parlor

We are exploring Beth Moore's study of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Galatians 5:22-23. A portion of our time is spent in prayer before delving into our study. This prayer and study time is open to all women. If you are interested and have questions, please email Kathy Wagner (kbwagner47@gmail.com).

MUSIC MINISTRY



WEEKLY

CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

Love singing? Thinking about joining the choir?... Well, now is the perfect time to give it a try! Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information.

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays (January – May) | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

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

No audition is required, and you do not have to be able to read music. Contact Brian Burns (724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com) for additional information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD/FELLOWSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The times we gather for food at Calvary are very important to making CONNECTIONS and continuing the fellowship after the worship service. We talk, laugh, share, and nourish one another in body and spirit. To sustain these connections, we are asking for volunteers and sponsors for our food/fellowship times. Volunteers can sign up to help with food preparation or service and clean-up. Sponsors can sign up by donating \$50 for food served in the chapel and \$100 for the monthly community luncheon. You are welcome to partner with someone else to sponsor. There are two sign-up sheets in the chapel along with envelopes for donations. Please give envelopes to Mike Schnitgen or place in the offering plate with date of sponsorship and names of donors. Please consider what you can do to help, and thanks very much.

EVENTS

COMMUNION

Sunday, January 5 (1st 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.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sunday, January 26 (Last Sunday of each month) | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall

This is an expansion on our normally scheduled fellowship time following morning worship. Please join us in the fellowship hall located downstairs following morning worship.

WEEKLY

A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP

Sundays | Following Worship | Chapel

Please join us around the tables in the chapel behind the sanctuary following morning worship for refreshments and fellowship.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES CONTINUES TO NEED TOOTHPASTE

NCM would like Calvary to continue to collect toothpaste. There is a collection bin in the chapel. Cloth grocery bags also continue to be collected. Thank you!

KIDCELERATE BRICK DRIVE

Help Kidcelerate's Learning Hub start their own "Brick Club" by donating your gently used bricks of any size (aka LEGO bricks)!

BRICK COLLECTION LOCATIONS

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or Sundays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Door 2, Tuesday – Thursday from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1965 Ferguson Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101

Monday – Thursday from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM or Sundays from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Or call/email to make other arrangements at 412-251-4900 ext 305 or thehub@kidcelerate.org.

EVENTS

DAILY BREAD – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

Thursday, January 9 (2nd Thursday of each month) | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 616 W North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The Calvary United Women in Faith (CUWF) organizes the meal being prepared for the Daily Bread which serves meals three times a week to those without a home or who are underemployed. Cookies can be brought at any time and put in the freezer in the basement. Contact Joan Bradley or the church office for additional information.

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, January 26 (Last Sunday of 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 purchase food for Daily Bread.

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD (NVH) DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, February 1; Saturday, March 8; Saturday, April 26 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Northview Heights, 533 Mount Pleasant Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Six volunteers are needed for each date. There is a sign-up sheet in the chapel, and a written description of the work. Contact Linda Ehrlich (laehrich927@aol.com) with any questions. to make us your home.

WEEKLY

SLEEPING BAG GROUP

THIS GROUP WILL RECONVENE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025.

Mondays | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

The sleeping bags are made from recycled materials, packed with personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, hats, and gloves, and then distributed to nearby homeless shelters.

We are currently looking for blankets, sheets, pillow cases, and neckties as well as gathering personal items like small bottles of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, etc, and new men's socks. If you can help, please put your items in the bin in the chapel marked for the Sleeping Bag ministry or leave them downstairs by the old safe.

OPEN SANCTUARY

Thursdays | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Sanctuary

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.

FAMILY MINISTRY



WEEKLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall

Calvary offers two Sunday School classes — ages 3 to 10, and ages 11 to 15.

EVENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 10 | 7:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 8 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | Chapel

Free babysitting and dinner.

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. Jorinda Bullitt

Rev. Larry Homitsky

Rev. Myles Bradley

CHURCH STAFF

Music Ministry – Brian Burns

724-388-3246 | bsburns77@aol.com

Family Ministry & Education

Megan Bova

412-715-4946 | mbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Brittany Bova-Mickens

412-715-4947 | bbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Communications – Karen Ferguson

724-448-1429 | karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com

Worship Tech Coordinator – Aiden Weis

Food Ministry Coordinator – Michael Schnitgen

Assistant Facilities Manager – Susan Derouin

Facilities Manager & Wedding Coordinator – Aleata Weis

Treasurer – Georgia Brucker

CALVARY UMC

971 Beech Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone

412-231-2007

Email

CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Website

CalvaryPgh.com

Facebook

Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh

YouTube

Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

Instagram

[calvaryumc_pittsburgh](https://www.instagram.com/calvaryumc_pittsburgh)



ONLINE GIVING

Fast.
Simple.
Secure.

CALVARYPGH.COM

Sundays at 11AM
on Facebook

LIVE

STREAMING