

# CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is...

all are invited

FEB

18<sup>TH</sup>

2026

*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're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Please stop by the Welcome Areas to learn more about our church family. You can also fill out a Get Connected card found in the pews. Large print Bibles and hymnals are available—just ask a greeter.

## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

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

## RESTROOMS

- Right from the front exit: Accessible restroom and baby changing table (same level).
- Right and toward the back: Women's and men's restrooms.
- Left: Additional restrooms downstairs; an elevator is available by exiting right and heading toward the back of the building.

# LENTEN SCHEDULE

---



## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- **Sunday, March 29 | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

- **Thursday, April 2 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary**

## GOOD FRIDAY

- **Friday, April 3 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary**

## EASTER SUNDAY

- **Sunrise Service | Sunday, April 5 | 7:00 AM | West End Overlook**
- **Celebration Service | Sunday, April 5 | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary**

# THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Change Matters Special Offering** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **Community Lunch** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **Gathering with Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball** | 3:00–5:00 PM | Trinity UMC Indiana
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Exercise Class** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00–8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

## SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- **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** | 10:00–10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School – 7th-12th** | 10:00–10:45 AM | Christian Education Office
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00–10:45 AM | Choir Loft
- **Communion** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

# ORDER OF WORSHIP



## PRELUDER

CHORAL INTROIT . . . . .      Renewal Choir

## CALL TO WORSHIP †\*

Leader: If God threw a party,  
People: all would be invited.  
Leader: If God hosted a dinner,  
People: there'd be a seat saved for each of us.  
Leader: If God prepared a banquet,  
People: a cheer would go up when you arrived.  
Leader: This is the good news:  
People: God is throwing a party. God is hosting a dinner. God is preparing a banquet, and all are invited.  
Leader: Let us worship this invitational God.

HYMN OF PRAISE †\* . . . . . "Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes" – #2138 TFWS

## WORDS FROM THE PROPHET \*

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.  
12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.  
14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?  
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;  
16 gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy.  
17 Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

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

All:      Thanks be to God.

## AN INVITATION TO BEGIN THE LENTEN JOURNEY

## PSALTER LESSON \*

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:1-17 NRSV

- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **UNISON PRAYER \***

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON †\*** ..... Luke 14:15-24 NRSV

- 15 One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”
- 16 Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many.
- 17 At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’
- 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’
- 19 Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’
- 20 Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’

*Order of Worship continued on following page.*

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

- 21 So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'
- 22 And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.'
- 23 Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'
- 24 For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner."

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... all are invited" – Rev. Beth L. Nelson**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION \* . . . . . "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee" – #623 UMH**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION \***

Gracious God, you invite all of us to your table: the faithful and the doubting, the restless and the hopeless, the addicted and the lonely, the lost and the confused. You invite all of us, regardless of who we are or where we've been, but we fail to do the same. When given the opportunity, we are guilty of casting judgment on our neighbors. We draw lines, assume the worst, create cliques, and accept exclusion. Forgive our harmful ways. This Lent, show us how to love others the way you love us. With hope we pray, amen.

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \***

People: We are forgiven, again and again. We are invited, again and again. We are loved, from beginning to end. Thanks be to God, our Inviter. Amen.

Leader: Come, as we embark on the dawn of this new season.

People: Come, as we reflect upon the dusk of our lives.

Leader: Come, as we set aside our distractions and the concerns of our minds.

People: Come, as we focus on the heart of the matter.

Leader: God of light and dust be with you,

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open wide our hearts:

People: We open them up to our God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our creator.

People: Even in the midst of the wilderness, we give God our praise.

**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.

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Kneel at the altar rail if you are able. You will be served the elements. The bread is gluten-free, and the cup is grape juice.*

## UNISON PRAYER \*

**Even as we come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also give God our thanks for this meal. We give our gratitude that we have come together as one Body of Christ. In these next 40 days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the Christ's servant-leadership to our world. Amen.**

## CALL TO GIVE

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

## OFFERTORY

## 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!**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

## CLOSING HYMN †\* . . . . . "Lord I Want to Be a Christian" – #402 UMH

## BENEDICTION †

## POSTLUDE †

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

*You* ARE GOD'S BELOVED.

*You* ARE WELCOME HERE.



## CONTACT US

### PASTOR

**Rev. Beth L. Nelson**

412-398-7894 | [RevBeth@CalvaryPgh.com](mailto:RevBeth@CalvaryPgh.com)

### CHURCH STAFF

**Music Ministry – Brian Burns**

724-388-3246 | [bsburns77@aol.com](mailto:bsburns77@aol.com)

**Office Administrator – Mary Emili**

412-231-2007 | [CalvaryPgh@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryPgh@gmail.com)

### Family Ministry & Education

**Megan Bova**

412-715-4946 | [mbova@CalvaryPgh.com](mailto:mbova@CalvaryPgh.com)

**Brittany Bova-Mickens**

412-715-4947 | [bbova@CalvaryPgh.com](mailto:bbova@CalvaryPgh.com)

**Communications – Karen Ferguson**

724-448-1429 | [karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com](mailto:karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com)

**Lay Leader – Ken Elliott**

724-513-4625 | [kenelliott76@gmail.com](mailto:kenelliott76@gmail.com)

**LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator** – Tim Napieralski

**Social Media Coordinator** – Judith Melvin

**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

### Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM – NOON

Tuesday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

### Phone

412-231-2007

### Email

[CalvaryPgh@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryPgh@gmail.com)

### Website

[CalvaryPgh.com](http://CalvaryPgh.com)

### Facebook

Calvary United Methodist  
Church, Pittsburgh

### YouTube

Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

### Instagram

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



### SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

Scan to give.  
Thank you!



### QUICK LINKS

Scan to learn more.  
about Calvary.

