

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is...

great love for
God & neighbor

Sunday Celebration — March 1, 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.**

STAY CONNECTED WITH CALVARY

If you're visiting today, we're glad you're here! Stop by the **Welcome Areas** to learn more about our church family, pick up a **monthly newsletter**, and fill out a **Get Connected card** located in the pews. Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available—just ask a greeter.

Our newsletter features ministry updates, upcoming events and small group opportunities, along with a **monthly calendar insert** that provides a complete overview of activities and gatherings for that month.

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

From the front exits of the sanctuary: (1) to the right, you'll find an accessible restroom and a baby changing table on the same level; (2) to the right and to the back of the chapel, you will find women's and men's restrooms; (3) to the left, restrooms are located down the stairs, or an elevator is available by exiting the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward the back of the building.

PRAYER CONCERNS



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.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Bing Ewalt
Aleata Weis
Rick Stern
Rhonda Harrison
Barbara Wood – friend of Marirose
Wayne Younger – friend of John Engle
Bobby Buckner and his family
Chris Griffin – nephew of Lorraine
Beth – Chris' sister (caregiver)
Louise – sister of Lorraine (caregiver of Chris)
Charles Moore

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **NFL Draft Outreach Planning Meeting** | 12:15 PM | Parlor
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- **Sleeping Bag Ministry** | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **AHPS Meeting** | 6:30 PM | Chapel

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- **Exercise Class** | 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, MARCH 4

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- **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

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- **Strategic Planning Meeting** | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- **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
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **New Member Gathering** | 12:15 PM | Parlor
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

LENTEN WORSHIP

- **Palm/Passion Sunday** | Sunday, March 29 | 11:00 AM | Calvary UMC
- **Maundy Thursday** | Thursday, April 2 | 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **Good Friday** | Friday, April 3 | 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** | Sunday, April 5 | 7:00 AM | West End Overlook
- **Easter Sunday Celebration Service** | Sunday, April 5 | 11:00 AM | Calvary UMC

SUNDAY CELEBRATION



WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE "Variations on Southwell" — Alfred Fedak

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP †★

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

Leader: This is good news indeed!

People: Let us worship our compassionate God.

HYMN OF PRAISE †★ "How Can We Name a Love" — #111 UMH

OPENING UNISON PRAYER †★

Good news God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. 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 121 NRSV

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM Renewal Choir

GOSPEL LESSON †★ Luke 7:36-50 NRSV

- 36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table.
- 37 And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment.

- 38 She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.
- 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.”
- 40 Jesus spoke up and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Teacher,” he replied, “speak.”
- 41 “A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.
- 42 When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?”
- 43 Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.”
- 44 Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.
- 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet.
- 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.
- 47 Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”
- 48 Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
- 49 But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”
- 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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.... great love for God and neighbor” — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

A MESSAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN

HYMN OF PREPARATION * “Take Our Bread” — #640 UMH

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God’s back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

People: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Order of Worship continued on following page.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *

People: **God of mercy and justice, be with us. We lift our hearts to you, not because we have to, not because we are supposed to, but because it's how we respond to your unconditional love, because it feels good to know we are loved.**

Leader: As long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy.

People: **Of how you gave food to the poor, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the lost.**

Leader: And as long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy.

People: **Of how you gave freedom to the enslaved, opportunity to the outcast, and peace to the war-torn.**

Leader: You acted with both mercy and justice,

People: **rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, providing them with manna when they were hungry.**

Leader: And your people acted with both mercy and justice,

People: **Like the prophets who cried out to care for widow, orphan, and foreigner, and those who provided food, shelter, and community.**

Leader: You have shared your mercy and justice with us, not only as gifts to be received from you, but as gifts that we are to share with the world. We see this gift most clearly in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us what a life of mercy and justice looked like:

People: **In mercy, he gave food to the hungry. In justice, he broke social custom and shared tables with the powerful and the lowly at once. In mercy, he cared for the sick. In justice, he broke religious custom and healed on the Sabbath. In mercy, he had compassion for the poor. In justice, he spoke out against the Empire that held them in poverty. In mercy, he washed his disciples' feet. In justice, he died without protest to expose a corrupt system.**

Leader: On the night he was handed over to the unjust system that killed him, he protested by sharing a meal with his friends. There, he took bread, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his broken body every time they ate bread. After they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his spilled blood every time they drank wine.

People: **But that wasn't all. God's mercy and justice burst forth when Jesus died, and his resurrection gave hope to all those who hunger for mercy and thirst for justice. God will always equip those who seek to share mercy and justice. Even death cannot stop God's incredible grace.**

Leader: So, we ask God's Holy Spirit to be poured out on this meal, on these gifts of mercy: bread and juice, that we may remember Jesus' ministry of mercy and justice, that these gifts of mercy may become for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may show mercy and do justice, not just for ourselves, but for the transformation of the world. In confidence, we pray, as Jesus taught:

People: **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.**

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.

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY "Abide with Me" — John M. Rasley

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 †★ "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" — #295 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †. "Sei gegrusset Jesu gutig, Variation XI" — J.S. Bach

† 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



NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Calvary's bulletin has been updated to include only the schedule for the upcoming week, worship, prayer concerns and new announcements. Our newsletter has returned in a monthly format, featuring a calendar and highlights of Calvary programs—pick up a copy in the welcome areas. Questions or items to highlight? See March's newsletter for complete details.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Honor or remember loved ones this Easter with altar flowers. Flowers are \$10 each, will adorn the altar on Easter Sunday and may be taken home after worship. Order by Sunday, March 22, with payment due when you submit your form.

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.

SAME MISSION, NEW NAME: LGBTQIA+ TO QUEER MINISTRY

Calvary's LGBTQIA+ Ministry is now the Queer Ministry. The new name celebrates inclusion and belonging for all in our community.

CUWF ANNUAL PLANT SALE IS BACK!

Spring is here! Order plants through Friday, April 17; pickup is May 21–22. Proceeds support Calvary United Women in Faith charities. Order forms are at welcome areas, the chapel Ministry Board, online, or by contacting Linda Ehrlich at 412-512-7246 or laehrlich927@al.com.

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



CONTACT US

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Food Ministry Coordinator – Michael Schnitgen

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Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM – NOON

Tuesday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

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