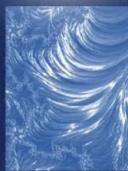


# CALVARY

United Methodist Church



## Second Sunday of Advent



# PEACE

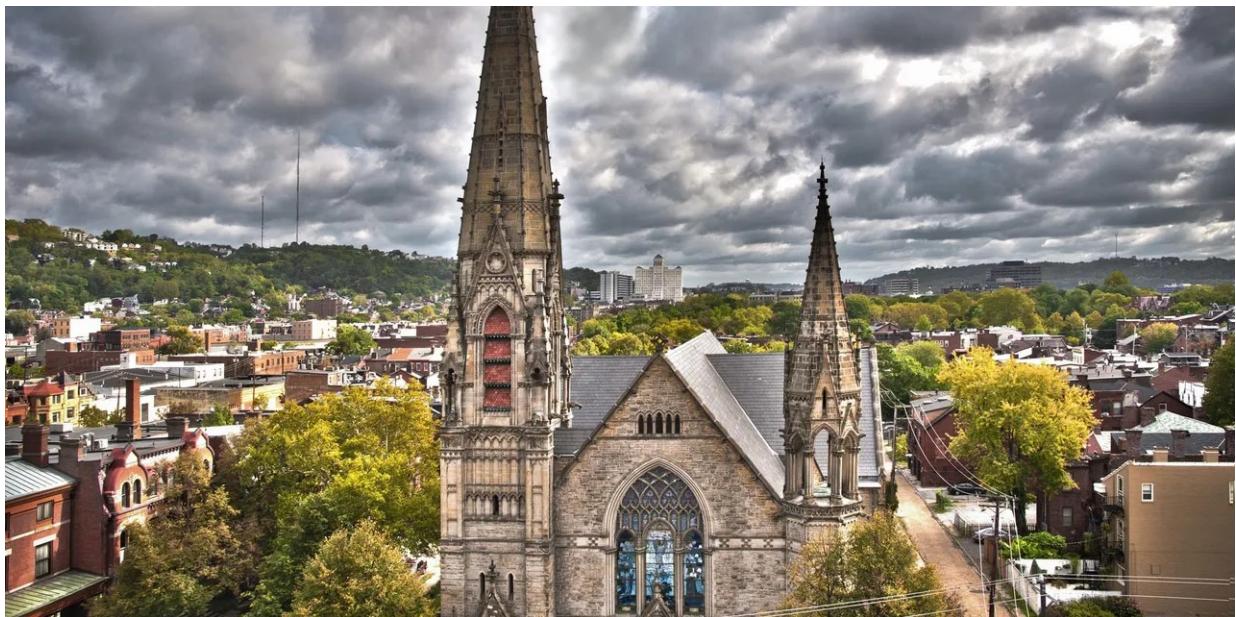


**DEC**

**7<sup>TH</sup>**

**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 this is your first time with us, welcome! We're so glad you're here. We'd love to get to know you better, so please stop by the Welcome Areas to learn more about our church family. You'll also find a Get Connected card in the back of the pews – feel free to fill one out so we can stay in touch. If you need a large-print Bible or hymnal, just ask one of our friendly greeters – we're happy to help.

## FAMILIES WITH BABIES OR YOUNG CHILDREN

We welcome all of God's children to join us in worship – including our littlest ones! If it would be helpful, there's a Family Area at the back left of the sanctuary, complete with rocking chairs and toys to keep little ones comfortable and engaged.

## LOCATION OF 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 left, restrooms are located down the stairs, and (3) an elevator is available by exiting the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward the back of the building.

# 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

### IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Aleata Weis  
Tim Napieralski  
Joe Grzybowski – friend of Judy Melvin

### CONTINUING CONCERNS

Renee – friend of Mark Snyder  
Paul Brucker  
Jeanne Dithomas  
Kyle Giest  
Susan Cilliland  
Terri Jagielski  
Martha Helmreich  
Judy Melvin  
Sheila Molyneaux  
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:

- Fill out a Prayer Request card located in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.
- Contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007.
- Submit a request online at [calvarypgh.com/contact](http://calvarypgh.com/contact).

We treat all prayer concerns confidentially, unless you indicate otherwise.

Prayer concerns remain on our list for four weeks. Each week, the oldest requests are removed as others move up.

If you'd like us to send a card or email to let someone know we're praying for them, please include their mailing address or email.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP



## PRELUDER

## CHORAL INTROIT

### CALL TO WORSHIP †\*

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating,

Leader: redeeming and dreaming,

People: calling and sending,

Leader: listening and loving.

People: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

People: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

### HYMN OF PRAISE †\* . . . . . "Come, Thy Long Expected Jesus" – #196 UMH

### OPENING PRAYER †\*

Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we need your Word and a reason to hope. So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. For we need bread and we need laughter, but most of all, we need you. Amen.

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

### GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE †\* . . . . . "Emmanuel" – #204 UMH

Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON \* . . . . . Isaiah 43:19-21 NRSV

- 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- 20 The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
- 21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

### LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE . . . . . The Candle of Peace

### SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## ANTHEM

## Renewal Choir

### ***Special Guest Musician: David Bennett, Cello***

Matthew 11:1-11 NRSV

- 1 Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.
- 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”
- 4 Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”
- 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- 10 This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’
- 11 “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**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** "When we're running out of hope, God is at work!" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** †\* . . . . . "Now the Silence" – #619 Now the Silence

# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

## CALL TO CONFESSION

*Order of Worship continued on following page.*

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

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION \*

**People:** Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \*

**Leader:** With-us God, We live in a fearful world. If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues. We come to this Table carrying our anxiety. We come to this Table asking for guidance. We come to this Table with all of life's "what-ifs." But you do not disregard our fear. You do not brush it under the rug or call us foolish. You do not ignore the realities in front of us. You do not dish out hurtful platitudes, telling us to "toughen up" or "power through." Instead, you meet us here. You listen to our fears. You remind us that we are not alone. You surround us with people who love us. You show us where we are strong. You walk beside us. And you give us a new song to sing. So today we pray, gracious God: replace the fear on our tongues with words of hope and songs of joy. As we come to this Table, pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are on the move. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are here, inviting us to the Table, nourishing our spirits, reminding us that we belong, calling us by name. Instill that good news in us, for this is a joyful feast. Fear is not the loudest voice today. What a gift that is. Now with hope for a better tomorrow, we join our voices together to pray the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying...

**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.

**Leader:** Loving God, pour out your Spirit on this Table. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary juice. For the thing we fear the most is distance from you, so draw near to us here. Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love.

*Please come to the table at the direction of the ushers. The bread that we share is gluten-free. Use the center aisle and return on the sides. Take a piece of bread and dip in the cup of juice.*

## 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** †\* . . . . . "Blessed Be the God of Israel" – #209 UMH

**BENEDICTION** †

Leader: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** †

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

## A Time for Fellowship

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

See announcement in the GET CONNECTED section on how you can get involved in our fellowship time at Calvary!



# THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



<b>SUN</b>	<b>COMMUNION</b> During Worship (Monthly)   Sanctuary
<b>DEC 7</b>	<b>COMMUNITY LUNCH</b> Following Worship (Monthly)   Fellowship Hall
	<b>AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS</b> 8:00 PM (Weekly)   Fellowship Hall
<b>MON</b>	<b>SLEEPING BAG MINISTRY</b> 6:00 PM (Weekly)   Fellowship Hall
<b>DEC 8</b>	<b>GA (GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS)</b> 6:30 PM (2nd Monday every other month)   Chapel
<b>TUES</b>	<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> 6:00 – 7:15 PM (Weekly)   Choir Loft
<b>DEC 9</b>	<b>NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) – MANCHESTER</b> 7:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly)   Fellowship Hall
	<b>MESSIAH FESTIVAL CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> 7:30 – 9:00 PM (Weekly)   Sanctuary
<b>WEDS</b>	<b>IRON CITY SQUARES – LGBTQIA+ SQUARE DANCE CLUB</b> 7:00 – 9:15 PM (Weekly)   Fellowship Hall
<b>DEC 10</b>	
<b>THURS</b>	<b>CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SERVING DAILY BREAD</b> 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Monthly)   Fellowship Hall
<b>DEC 11</b>	
<b>FRI</b>	<b>MESSIAH FESTIVAL CHOIR DRESS REHEARSAL</b> 6:30 – 8:30 PM   Calvary UMC
<b>DEC 12</b>	<b>RING PITTSBURGH PRESENTS: CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD</b> 7:30 PM   Millvale Community Center

**SAT**  
**DEC 13**

**13TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT**  
4:00 PM | Calvary UMC

**SUN**  
**DEC 14**

**OPENING GATHERING**  
9:45 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

**JESUS 101 – BIBLE STUDY LED BY REV. MYLES BRADLEY**  
10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – K-3RD, 4TH-6TH**  
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Presbytery

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – 7TH-12TH**  
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Christian Education Office (Upstairs in Chapel)

**CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
10:00 – 10:45 AM (Weekly) | Choir Loft

**A TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP**  
Following Worship (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

**13TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT**  
4:00 PM | Calvary UMC

**AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS**  
8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

## JOIN A FELLOWSHIP TEAM!



We are looking for teams of 2-3 people to help prepare easy, delicious meals for our fellowship time.



No culinary experience? No problem! We are also looking for people to help with clean-up.



It's a great opportunity to serve and connect with others in a meaningful way.



**INTERESTED? See Mike Schnitgen or contact the church office directly.**



**CALVARY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**JOIN US SUNDAYS  
AS WE CELEBRATE ADVENT**

**10:00 AM — Sunday School**

**11:00 AM — Worship**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

**4:00 PM — Child Friendly with Carols**

**7:00 PM — Music | 7:30 PM — Service**

You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Advent and Christmas at Calvary.

Let the words of beloved carols and scriptures set the foundation. Stirring choral and organ music will set the scene. The peaceful illumination of Advent builds to an unforgettable Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as both young and old remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at each service. Our communion table is open to everyone.

Refreshments to follow each service in the chapel.

# SMALL GROUPS



## WEEKLY

### **JESUS 101 – NEW BIBLE STUDY LED BY REV. MYLES BRADLEY**

**Sundays (Beginning December 7) | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Chapel**

Join Rev. Myles Bradley for Jesus 101, an engaging study exploring the life and teachings of Jesus. The class will meet on December 7 and 14, and resume after the holidays on January 4, 11, and 18. All are welcome!

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>December 7</b>	<b>Put Christ Back in Christmas</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>December 14</b>	<b>Jesus Is the Reason for the Season</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus</b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>Twenty Centuries of Jesus</b>
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>Beyond Belief</b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>January 25</b>	<b>Jesus Christ Superstar</b>

### **AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS**

**Sundays | 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.

### **GA (GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS)**

**Mondays (2nd Monday every other month) | 6:30 PM | Chapel**

**Next Meeting: December 8**

Through shared experiences, participants work toward recovery in a confidential and non-judgmental space.

### **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.

### **IRON CITY SQUARES – LGBTQIA+ SQUARE DANCE CLUB**

**Wednesdays | 7:00 – 9:15 PM | Fellowship Hall**

Iron City Squares invites you to join us for Modern Western Square Dancing. No partner or special clothing needed – everyone is welcome!

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays | 10:00 – 11:30 AM | Chapel**

Join us for our new study: *Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus* by Lois Tverberg. This engaging book brings the Bible to life by exploring the cultural context of Jesus' teachings. Together, we'll discover practical ways to live as His disciples and deepen our faith as we draw closer to God. Books are available. ALL women are welcome as we gather in community around God's Word.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



## EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Sunday, December 24 | Services at 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC**

**WHAT IS NEEDED:** At least 8 volunteers for each service to make sure everyone who comes to Calvary feels welcomed, loved and experiences God's love. We will need help with the welcome team to pass out bulletins and candles, assist at the accessible entrance, door openers, setting up the luminaria, floating around church to answer questions, point out bathrooms, collecting the offering, lighting the candles during Silent Night and helping however we need. **Sign-up sheets are located in the chapel at the Volunteer Table.**

**WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS:** Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 / [kenelliott76@gmail.com](mailto:kenelliott76@gmail.com)) if you are able to help.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP COORDINATOR (LAY MINISTRY VOLUNTEER ROLE)

The Worship Coordinator is a lay volunteer role that helps make worship services welcoming, organized, and Spirit-filled by supporting the Pastor, Lay Leader, and ministry teams. Responsibilities include recruiting and encouraging volunteers, creating and sharing schedules, serving as the main contact for swaps or openings, and assisting on Sundays and special services. Ideal candidates are people-oriented, adaptable, and enjoy helping things run smoothly while fostering inclusion. The role requires about 3-5 hours per week, mostly on Sunday mornings, and is essential for helping the congregation experience God's presence during worship.

## WORSHIP LEADER ASSIGNMENTS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Lay Liturgist:** Shelley Rohrer

**Welcome Team:** Doug Lucas, Fred Ruddock, David Rizzo

**Acolytes:** James Mickens, Destin Cobb, Zay Burns Elliott

**Slide Projectionist:** Kenny Elliott

**Children's Message:** Linda McDonald

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Lay Liturgist:** Brittany Bova-Mickens

**Welcome Team:** JoEllen Parker, Fred Ruddock, Carl Traud

**Acolytes:** Gwen Cobb, Zay Burns/Elliott, James Mickens

**Slide Projectionist:** Patty Bogdewic

**Children's Message:** Shelley Rohrer

# Hooray!!!

## THE NEW BATHROOMS ARE FINISHED!

Calvary UMC is excited to announce that our **first-floor bathrooms** are completed, created in the space that used to be the old kitchen!

Come see the **fresh, clean and modern facilities** — designed with **comfort and accessibility** in mind.

Thank you for your patience as **we improved our space for all our members and visitors.**

**Take a moment to see the transformation — you'll love the new look!**



## UNFOLDING THREE CHAPTERS

# REVIVE & RENEW

## \$1M CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**Phase 1:** First floor restrooms and efficiency updates



**Phase 2:** Waterproofing and exterior pointing



**Phase 3:** Fellowship Hall and downstairs bathroom updates



**Purpose:** Create inviting spaces for worship, fellowship, and community that foster growth and lasting impact.

## BE PART OF CALVARY'S NEXT CHAPTER — AND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S STORY.

We're **reviving** & **renewing** our space to better serve our community.

Over the next few years, upgrades will create a more **welcoming**, **functional**, and **inspiring** place to gather, grow and connect.

Each page forward is shaped by **friends and neighbors like you**, whose generosity and care bring our shared story to life.

**Help write the next chapter — be part of the story.**



Ready to give? Want to learn more?  
Scan or visit:

**CALVARYPGH.COM**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU! – GUEST MUSICIAN

We are delighted to have David Bennett, cello, as our Special Guest Musician today. David is now in his 13th year performing in our Messiah concert, plays with us every Christmas Eve, and joins us throughout the year to share his incredible talent. Thank you, David, for being such an important part of our musical family and helping make today's worship truly memorable!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

## WEDNESDAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias are \$10 each and will adorn the altar for the Christmas Eve Service; you may take yours home afterward. **The deadline to place orders is Wednesday, December 10th.** Please include payment with your order form, and make checks payable to "CUMC." If you have any questions, please call the church office at 412-231-2007.

# MUSIC MINISTRY



## EVENTS

### 13TH ANNUAL HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT

**Saturday, December 13 & Sunday, December 14 | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC**

**Tickets – CalvaryPgh.com: \$20 General Admission, \$15 Students, Seniors**

**Free for Military, Veterans, Firefighters, Police and Children 10 years & under**

Now in its 13th year, this beloved Calvary tradition is a family-friendly, interactive concert that draws audiences from across the region.

## WEEKLY

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

**Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:15 PM | Sanctuary**

No experience or audition needed! Come share your love of music!

### MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL

**Tuesdays | 7:30 – 9:00 PM | Sanctuary**

### HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

**Thursdays (Oct- Dec) | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in Chapel)**

**Tuesdays (Jan – May, Sep) | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in Chapel)**

All are welcome to join our hand bell choir – no experience or audition needed!

13TH ANNUAL SING-ALONG CONCERT

Handel's

# MESSIAH

*Sing-Along*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**4PM**

## **YOU'RE INVITED!**

### **MESSIAH BY CANDLELIGHT**

Lift your voice and be part of this joyful holiday tradition, sharing the magic of music this season!

#### **AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING AWAITS**

- Special Guest World-Class Soloists
- Featuring Festival Choir & Orchestra
- Sing Along with Your Favorite Choruses
- Cookie Reception Following Concert

*We can't wait to see you there!*

## **RESERVE YOUR SEATS TODAY!**

**TICKETS \$0-20**



**SCAN OR VISIT**  
**CALVARYPGH.COM**



**Calvary United Methodist Church**  
971 Beech Ave, Northside, Pgh, PA 15233  
412-231-2007 • [CalvaryPgh@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryPgh@gmail.com)

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# FAMILY MINISTRY



## EVENTS

### PARENTS' DAY OUT

**Sunday, December 21 | 1:00 – 4:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

We will do Christmas activities, cookie decorating, crafts, games and dinner. This will give parents time to finish shopping and be able to wrap presents. We will also have a Christmas Shop for kids to shop.

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, January 16 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM | Fellowship Hall**

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

### PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

**Saturday, February 7 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

FREE babysitting and dinner.

## WEEKLY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL – K-3RD, 4TH-6TH

**Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Presbytery**

Our Sunday School is divided into K-3rd, 4th-6th and 7th-12th grades for age-appropriate learning, using Cokesbury's FaithWeaver NOW series.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL – 7TH-12TH

**Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Christian Education Office (Upstairs in Chapel)**

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### MISSION PROJECT: 25 GIFTS FOR KIDS AT KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We're excited to share that Calvary will be providing Christmas gifts for 25 students at King Elementary School. **Stay tuned for details**, including how to participate. All gifts may be purchased directly through our curated Amazon lists for easy ordering and delivery. Thank you for helping us share joy with our neighbors this Christmas!

### WINTER CARE COLLECTIONS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Calvary is currently collecting several needed items to support our community partners this season. We are gathering **gloves and hand warmers for Daily Bread**, as well as toothpaste and cloth grocery bags for Northside Common Ministries. All donations may be placed in the collection bin in the chapel. Thank you for helping us share warmth and care with our neighbors this winter!

## EVENTS

### CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SERVING DAILY BREAD

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

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

Calvary United Women in Faith organizes the meal preparation for Daily Bread, a ministry that provides meals three times a week to those who are unhoused or underemployed.

### “CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

**Sunday, December 28 (Last Sunday of each month) | During Worship | Sanctuary**

Our children are collecting “change” – because when we all give a little, it adds up to make a big difference! These gifts help purchase food for Daily Bread.

## WEEKLY

### SLEEPING BAG MINISTRY

**Mondays | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

This group makes sleeping bags from recycled materials, filled with personal care items, and delivers them to local homeless shelters. No sewing experience is required! We especially need sheets, curtains, coverlets and tablecloths. Contact Terri Howell (412-482-2211 / [trr\\_howell@yahoo.com](mailto:trr_howell@yahoo.com)) for further details.

### 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.

# FOOD COLLECTION CONTINUES

Although Thanksgiving has passed, Calvary continues our food drive to support families in need this season. Your contributions will help provide meals and show our community the love and generosity of Christ. Donations can be dropped off in the designated bins at the church entrance.

Food bank recipients often lack seasonings that enhance the flavor of meals. Basic ingredients like salt, pepper, sugar, cooking oil, spices, and condiments can transform simple meals into comforting, nutritious dishes. Calvary is collecting shelf-stable, non-perishable food donations, which will be shared with local food banks and kept at the church to help families in need.

## What's Most Needed

- **Boxed milk** – a treasure, especially for kids
- Cans with pop tops – **soups, veggies, tuna, or chicken**
- **Cooking oil, salt, pepper, and spices** – turn basic food into comforting meals
- **Sugar, flour, and baking mixes** – for homemade treats or birthday cakes
- **Tea bags and coffee** – small comforts that mean a lot
- **Dishwashing detergent and feminine hygiene products** – always appreciated and often overlooked

## A Few Tips

- Everyone donates pasta and sauce—there's plenty already.
- Kraft Mac & Cheese often goes unused since it requires milk and butter.
- Consider adding a **can opener** if you donate traditional canned goods.

# Join Our Food Drive!

Help us support families this Thanksgiving by donating shelf-stable food items & cooking essentials.

**Every contribution makes a difference.**



# GET CONNECTED



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERVE, SHARE, AND CONNECT THROUGH FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Sharing food together is an important way we build connections and continue fellowship after worship at Calvary. To keep this ministry going, we're seeking volunteers and sponsors for our food and fellowship times. Teams are forming to assist with preparation, serving and clean-up – each team will take responsibility for one Sunday a month. If you're interested in joining a team, please speak to Mike Schnitgen, our Food Ministry Coordinator.

To support this ministry financially, a donations box will be available each week – any amount is appreciated. There are also opportunities to sponsor: \$50 helps cover after-service refreshments, and \$100 supports our monthly luncheon. Please see Mike if you'd like to sponsor a Sunday. Balancing food income with expenses helps support a healthy budget for Calvary. Thank you for being part of this vital ministry!

## EVENTS

### COMMUNION

**Sunday, December 7 (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 share.

### COMMUNITY LUNCH

**Sunday, December 28 (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 | Fellowship Hall**

Please join us around the tables in the fellowship hall following morning worship for refreshments and fellowship. Please use the stairs on the Beech Avenue side or the elevator in the back of the chapel.



# FAMILY CORNER

## WINTER SCHEDULE

### PARENTS DAY OUT

**Sunday, December 21**

**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

We will do Christmas activities, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and dinner.

This will give parents time to finish shopping and be able to wrap presents.

We will also have a Christmas Shop for kids to shop for parents.

### MORE INFO

MEGAN 412-715-4946  
BRITTANY 412-715-4947



### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, January 16**

**6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Movie and movie snacks will be provided.

### PARENTS NIGHT OUT

**Saturday, February 7**

**6:00 - 9:00 PM**

FREE babysitting and dinner.



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## RING PITTSBURGH PRESENTS: CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

**Friday, December 12 | 7:30 PM**

**Millvale Community Center, 501 Lincoln Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15209 UMC**

Celebrate the season with Ring Pittsburgh in a joyful handbell concert featuring Christmas favorites from around the globe, including White Christmas, Frosty the Snowman, and heartfelt spirituals. Founded in 2016 by Jim Rossetti, Ring Pittsburgh brings a fresh, modern twist to handbell music, from pop and rock to traditional hymns. Come share in the sparkle, spirit, and joy of Christmas!

## FOOTBALL FAN HOSPITALITY AT CALVARY

**Monday, December 15 | Time TBD, Game Begins at 8:15pm | Calvary UMC**

As fans make their way to the stadium for Monday Night Football, Calvary will be open to welcome our neighbors and visitors. We'll be greeting people as they pass by—likely beginning around 5:00 PM and wrapping up around 7:00–7:30 PM—and offering warm drinks, popcorn, and a friendly place to stop in. (Exact start time will be announced closer to the date.) Come help us share Calvary's hospitality and brighten the evening for those headed to the game!

## PARSONAGE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, December 21 | Immediately After Worship | Calvary UMC Parsonage**

All are warmly invited to stop by the parsonage for a festive Christmas Open House following the service. Come enjoy holiday treats, warm fellowship, and the joy of the season together. We hope to see you there!

## THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – A SERVICE OF COMFORT & HOPE

**Sunday, December 21 | 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC**

This gentle, reflective service – often known as a “Blue Christmas” service – is especially designed for those who find the holiday season difficult or heavy. Held on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, this worship time acknowledges the personal losses and quiet struggles that can surface during Advent. Together, we will create a safe and compassionate space for those experiencing heartbreak, loneliness or weariness, while also offering a movement toward healing and hope. Rev. Karen Slusser, a mental health counselor and United Methodist pastor, will be our guest preacher, and Calvary’s Care Team will be present to support the service. All are welcome.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

**Wednesday, December 24 | 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM | Calvary UMC**

You are warmly invited to celebrate a meaningful and joy-filled Christmas Eve at Calvary. Our 4:00 PM child-friendly service with carols offers a welcoming space for families, and our 7:30 PM Candlelight Service is preceded by beautiful choral and organ music beginning at 7:00 PM. Come let beloved carols, sacred scripture, and the gentle glow of candlelight prepare your heart as we remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services, and our communion table is open to everyone. Following each service, we hope you'll stay for warm refreshments in the chapel as we continue the celebration together.

## GENDER DIVERSITY & PRONOUNS WORKSHOP

**January (Date TBD) | Time TBD | Calvary UMC**

Calvary is pleased to partner with Hugh Lane for an insightful workshop on gender diversity and the use of pronouns. This session will provide education, awareness, and practical guidance to foster understanding and inclusivity within our community. Stay tuned for the exact date and time!

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY

**Sunday, January 4 | 11:00 AM | Calvary UMC**

All are warmly invited to worship with us on Epiphany Sunday! This day celebrates Christ's revelation to all nations, marked by the arrival of the Magi and their gifts. It reminds us of God's love revealed to the world and the journey of all who seek hope and light.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – ASSEMBLY 2026: DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! DO IT!

**May 15-17, 2026 | Indianapolis, Indiana**

There's never been a more important time for women of faith to gather and grow. Assembly 2026 is a transformative weekend to strengthen your spirit, deepen your faith, and connect with an empowering sisterhood. Join us for this uplifting experience!

**Registration is now open!** Early Bird Pricing available through November 30, 2025. For more information or to register, visit [uわfaith.org/assembly](http://uわfaith.org/assembly).

# THE LONGEST NIGHT

*A Service of Comfort & Hope*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 7 PM | CALVARY UMC**

This "Blue Christmas" service offers **comfort and care** on the Winter Solstice, the longest night. We'll honor the grief and quiet struggles that can appear in Advent.

Together we'll create a safe place for those facing heartbreak, loneliness, or fatigue - and take a gentle step toward **healing and hope**.

Message by Rev. Karen Slusser, mental health counselor and United Methodist pastor, with support from Calvary's Care Team.

**All are welcome.**

*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)

### EMERITUS CLERGY

**Rev. Myles Bradley**

**Rev. Jorinda Bullitt**

**Rev. Larry Homitsky**

### 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**

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**Communications – Karen Ferguson**

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

### Quick Links

