

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



A MYSTERIOUS INVITATION



JUL

27TH

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're visiting us for the first time, thank you for joining us! We'd love to get to know you better – please stop by our Welcome Tables to learn more about who we are. 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 let one of our greeters know – we're happy to help!

FAMILIES WITH BABIES OR YOUNG CHILDREN

We welcome all of God's children into our worship services – including infants and toddlers. If you'd find it helpful, there's a Family Area located in the rear left of the sanctuary, equipped with rocking chairs and toys to help keep little ones comfortable.

RESTROOMS & ACCESSIBILITY

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 through the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward 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

IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Terry Jagielski

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Joan Bradley

Paul Brucker

Nathaniel Crum, friend of Judy Melvin

Jeanne Dithomas

Susan Gilliland

Martha Helmreich

Judy Melvin

Sheila Molyneaux

Marcia Webb, friend of Mark S.

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.

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



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP †★

Leader: Before we even knock,
People: Christ opens the doors and invites us in.
Leader: Before we even ask,
People: God knows our every need.
Leader: Come to seek; come to pray; come to worship,
People: for the Spirit has called us here.

HYMN OF PRAISE †★ "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us" – #100 UMH

OPENING PRAYER †★

Sustaining God, grant us our basic needs. Where there is hunger, give us bread. Where there is homelessness, give us shelter. Where there is loneliness, give us friendship. Where we have wronged another, guide us into reconciliation. And where we have been wronged, lead us on the journey of forgiveness. Save in times of trial, and lead us in the way of life. Amen.

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE †★ "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" – #334 UMH

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face
And I know that it's the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us filling us with your love.
And for all these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

PSALTER LESSON ★ Psalm 85 NRSV

- 1 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah
- 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- 8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

- 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

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

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER ★ "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" – #500 UMH
You are welcome to come forward to the altar for prayer.

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.

GOSPEL LESSON †★ Luke 11:1-13 NRSV

- 1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."
- 2 So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come.
- 3 Give us each day our daily bread.
- 4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."
- 5 And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
- 6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'
- 7 And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'
- 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.
- 9 "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
- 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

- 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?
- 12 Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?
- 13 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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 “A Mysterious Invitation” – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

HYMN OF PREPARATION ★ "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" – #611 UMH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Amelia Anne Kontos

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ’s Holy Church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s good gift, offered to us without price.

Today we present Amelia Anne Kontos, daughter of Emily and Christian Kontos. Amelia’s god parents are Amanda Clapper and Victoria Kontos.

HISTORIC QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sins?

People: **We do.**

Leader: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

People: **We do.**

Leader: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

People: **We do.**

Leader: Will you nurture Amelia in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

People: **We will.**

Leader: Family and friends, do you, as Christ’s body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **We do.**

Leader: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, and include this family now before you in your care?

People: **With God’s help, we will.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Leader: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the waters of the womb. He was baptized by John and by your Spirit. Jesus called the disciples and had them share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this water and on the one who receives it. May she be clothed in righteousness throughout her life until she shares in the final victory. In the name of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.

BAPTISM AND BLESSING

Leader: Amelia Anne, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit; you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ. Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love. Congregation please respond:

People: **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in service to others. We will pray for Amelia, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life. We give thanks for all that God has already given you, especially your parents, extended family, God-parents and friends. We welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES AND CHANGE MATTERS

*We are gathering change to support a monthly meal at Daily Bread.
When all of our "extra" change comes together, we can make a positive difference.*

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 †★ "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" – #702 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN

JUL 27

"CHANGE MATTERS" SPECIAL OFFERING

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES

JUL 29

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 - 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS) – MANCHESTER

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

THURS

JUL 31

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 - 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 - 11:30 AM (Weekly) | Parlor

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 - 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

SUN

AUG 3

CAREGIVING MINISTRY

10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

COMMUNION

During Worship (Monthly) | Sanctuary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING

Following Worship | Chapel

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

Following Worship (Monthly) | Parlor

PARABLES ON THE PORCH: VBS REIMAGINED!

4:00 - 6:30 PM | Calvary UMC

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS) – NORTHSIDE SUNDAY NIGHTERS

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall



Calvary UMC presents
heart-opening, award-winning folk/pop artist

BOBBY JO VALENTINE

"Bobby Jo has both the spirit and songs that bring us back to believing. Whatever our faith, he has the humor, compassion, words, and music to help us believe again." - Dar Williams

All proceeds benefit our Revive & Renew Capital Campaign

WED, SEPTEMBER 3
7 PM

TICKETS - \$25

TICKETS - CALVARYPGH.COM



Calvary United Methodist Church
971 Beech Avenue, Northside, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



MISSIONS & OUTREACH



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW CAREGIVING MINISTRY

Calvary has launched a new Caregiving Ministry, led by Denny Brown and Rev. Budd Wagner. Training sessions will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM to equip volunteers with the confidence and skills needed to support others through life's challenges. Caring for others is a meaningful way to live out our faith and make a real difference. If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, please speak with Denny Brown, Rev. Budd Wagner or Rev. Beth.

TOOTHPASTE & BAG COLLECTION CONTINUES

Northside Common Ministries has asked Calvary to continue collecting toothpaste - donations can be placed in the collection bin in the chapel. We're also still collecting cloth grocery bags

EVENTS

"CHANGE MATTERS" SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, July 27 (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, supporting those in need in our community. Thank you for your generosity! Every little bit helps!

CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – SERVING DAILY BREAD

Thursday, August 14 (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 preparation for Daily Bread, a ministry that provides meals three times a week to those who are unhoused or underemployed.

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, August 30 & Saturday, September 27 | 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 at laehrlich927@aol.com with any questions.

WEEKLY

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS



CALVARY WELCOMES BOBBY JO VALENTINE!

Wednesday, September 3 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

Tickets: \$25

Purchase Tickets: CalvaryPgh.com

Join us for a soul-stirring concert featuring the inspiring music of Bobby Jo Valentine – a genre-defying singer-songwriter known for his poetic storytelling, spiritual depth, and uplifting melodies. Whether you're moved by his heartfelt lyrics or simply love powerful, live music, this evening promises to be a night to remember. **This special performance will benefit our Revive & Renew Capital Campaign.** Come enjoy the music – and help support a cause that makes a tangible difference in our church community.

ABOUT BOBBY JO VALENTINE

Bobby Jo Valentine is a soulful and award-winning artist whose songs speak to everyday awakenings, inclusive faith, and a life open to transformation. Raised in a rigid Baptist setting, Bobby's journey has led him to embrace a more compassionate and inclusive spirituality – reflected in the authenticity of his lyrics and message. With multiple accolades from the West Coast Songwriter's Association and performances at national events like the Wild Goose Festival and the UCC's General Synod, Bobby brings a unique voice to stages across the country. His music bridges faith and humanity, inviting listeners into a deeper, kinder connection with the world. Learn more at bobbyjovalentine.com

YOU'RE INVITED!!

PARABLES ON THE PORCH



VBS REIMAGINED AT CALVARY UMC

Join us for 4 Sunday evenings of live-action parables, interactive storytelling & community fun!

Dinner included! All ages welcome!

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 4:00–6:30 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 4:00–6:30 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 4:00–6:30 PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 4:00–6:30 PM

412-231-2007



CALVARYPGH.COM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all Lay Liturgists, Welcome Team, Slide Projectionists, Children's Message Leaders and Communion Servers

Summer is here, and with many folks traveling, we need all hands on deck to keep worship running smoothly. Whether you love working with kids, greeting guests, speaking, or helping behind the scenes – there's a place for you! Please reply with the dates you're available to serve. Whether it's once or multiple times, your help makes a difference. Contact the church office to sign up – we can't do it without you!

EVENTS

COMMUNION

Sunday, August 3 (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.

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

Sunday, August 3 (1st Sunday of each month) | Following Worship | Parlor

We will gather in the parlor after enjoying some snacks. If you're interested, please inform Rev. Beth or Kenny, our Lay Leader. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, August 10 (2nd Sunday of each month) | During Worship | Sanctuary

New members will be welcomed during morning worship.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 21 (3rd Thursday of each month) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM | Chapel

There will not be meetings in either July or December.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sunday, August 31 (Last Sunday of each month) | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall

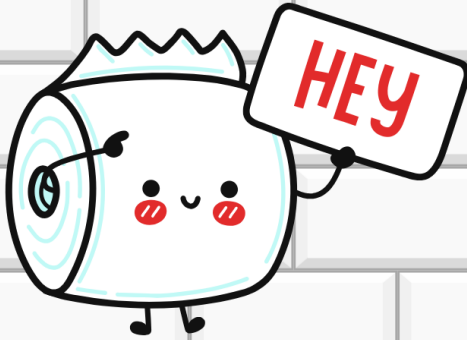
This is an expansion on our normally scheduled fellowship time following morning worship. Please join us in the fellowship hall located downstairs following morning worship.

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.



Don't like the
condition of our
restrooms?

Neither do we...
We have a plan!

Please help us to fully renovate
all of our restrooms by donating
to our CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.

REVIVE & RENEW A THREE-PHASE JOURNEY



- 1 This year, in 2025, we will complete the restroom installation and entryway project.
- 2 Complete the exterior restoration, including repointing, roofing, and final window repairs.
- 3 Updates to the fellowship hall, basement restrooms, and kitchen.

LEARN MORE AT
CALVARYPGH.COM



SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

CAREGIVING MINISTRY

Sundays | 10:00 AM | Chapel

Calvary has launched a new Caregiving Ministry, led by Denny Brown and Rev. Budd Wagner. Training sessions will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM to equip volunteers with the confidence and skills needed to support others through life's challenges. Caring for others is a meaningful way to live out our faith and make a real difference. If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, please speak with Denny Brown, Rev. Budd Wagner or Rev. Beth.

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: August 11

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.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | 10:00 – 11:30 AM | Parlor

This summer we will be reading and discussing a small booklet titled, "KEEP CALM, TRUST GOD". There will be a few of these booklets available for those who don't have one. Some of the topics that the authors touch on are: anxiety, worry, fear, depression, stress, and frustration, to name just a few. In this study, "you will find the promises of God and Hope that will provide encouragement, strength and inspiration to overcome whatever challenges you may be facing." (author, Jake Provance). ALL women are welcome as we gather in community around God's Word, in the church parlor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING – SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Sunday, August 3 | Following Worship | Chapel

Next Sunday, after church, there will be a meeting of the Education Committee and all those interested in Christian Education. Is God calling you to be a teacher? We are reorganizing our children and youth and need your help! Is there a class that you would like to take? Let us know! Grab your snack and come back up stair for a meeting in the chapel.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Warm congratulations to Jane and Charlie who married on May 31, 2025, and celebrated their union with their family and friends last weekend. Our best wishes for a very happy marriage with lots of extra blessings!

SHOUT-OUT TO BAILEY BURNS-ELLIOTT!

Special shout out to Bailey Burns-Elliott for attending *Youth for Mission*. As part of her work with other youth, Bailey helped to paint the Jumonville Cross. Thank you Bailey for putting your faith into action!

FAMILY MINISTRY



WEEKLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL – THIS GROUP IS ON BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER

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

EVENTS

PARABLES ON THE PORCH: VBS REIMAGINED!

Four Sundays – June 22, July 13, August 3, August 24 | 4:00 – 6:30 PM | Calvary UMC

Join us this summer for four Sunday evenings of interactive, live-action storytelling as we bring Jesus' parables to life! Enjoy creative reenactments, meaningful discussions, and community connection – all with a delicious meal. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and experience the wisdom of Jesus in a fresh, fun way. See you on the porch!

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. Myles Bradley

Rev. Jorinda Bullitt

Rev. Larry Homitsky

CHURCH STAFF

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412-231-2007 | CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

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724-448-1429 | 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

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