

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is...

protection & care for
the vulnerable

Sunday Celebration — March 15, 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.

NEW TO CALVARY?

If you're new to Calvary, you're invited to visit the Welcome Areas to learn more about the church—pick up the monthly newsletter, and fill out a Get Connected card found in the pews. Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available upon request. Our monthly newsletter includes ministry updates, upcoming events, small group opportunities and a monthly calendar insert outlining all activities and gatherings.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Children are always welcome. 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)

- To the right, then to the immediate right, there is an accessible restroom and a baby changing table
- To the right then stay to the right, go to the back of the chapel, there are women's and men's restrooms
- There are men's and women's restrooms on the left then down the stairs on the right, or an elevator is available by exiting the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward the back of the building

PRAYER CONCERNS



IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Henry "Bing" Ewalt who passed away March 5th

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)

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

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.

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Church | Fellowship Hall
- **Lunch & Learn: What is Drag?** | 12:15 PM | Chapel
- **Gathering with Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball** | 3:00-5:00 PM | Monroeville UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, MARCH 16

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 6:00-7:30 PM | Choir Loft
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **Hand Bell Rehearsal** | 7:30-8:30 PM | Music Office

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- **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
- **Specially Called Church Conference** | 6:30-6:45 PM | Chapel
- **Church Council** | 6:45-8:00 PM | Chapel

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

- **Northview Heights Food Distribution** | 9:00-10:30 AM | Northview Heights
- **Easter Egg Hunt** | 1:00-3:00 PM, Egg Hunt at 1:15 PM | Chapel & Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 9:30-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **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)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School (7th-12th)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Christian Education Office
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Choir Loft
- **Lent Play Practice** | 10:30-10:45 AM | Sanctuary
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Church | Fellowship Hall
- **Social Justice Committee Meeting** | 12:15 PM | Chapel
- **AHPS Tiffany Concert Series-Gretchen Van Hoesen, Harpist** | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY CELEBRATION



WORSHIPPING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE "There Is a Balm in Gilead" – arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO CELEBRATION †★

Leader: God loves the field mouse.

People: **God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

Leader: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

People: **God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

Leader: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

People: **God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

Leader: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

People: **God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**

Leader: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

People: **There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

Leader: So let us worship this good-news God!

HYMN OF PRAISE †★. "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" – #277 UMH

OPENING UNISON PRAYER †★

Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, 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.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON ★ Deuteronomy 24:17-22 NRSV

- 17 "You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge.
- 18 Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.
- 19 "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings.
- 20 When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

21 “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

22 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME OF PRAYER

HYMN OF PRAYER * “Children of the Heavenly Father” – #141 UMH
You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal prayer.

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God’s abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God’s love. Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change. So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Friends, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Leader: God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

People: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Leader: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

People: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

Leader: God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

People: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Leader: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

People: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.”

People: By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

Leader: May this good news change our lives!

People: Amen.

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.

Continued on following page.

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

ANTHEM Renewal Choir

GOSPEL LESSON †* Matthew 19:13-15 NRSV

13 Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them,

14 but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN

SERMON "Protection and Care for the Vulnerable" – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY "Ivory Palaces" – Lucy Ann Warriner

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 †* "Jesus Loves Me" – #191 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE † "Postlude in Early American Style" – Lani Smith

*† 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



SPECIAL EVENTS & MEETINGS

SPECIALLY CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE

Thursday, March 19 | 6:30-6:45 PM | Chapel

A specially called Church Conference will be held for the purpose of voting on Nathan Salamacha as a candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Nathan has received full approval from SPRC. A written, printed ballot will be used for voting at this meeting. The District Superintendent will be present. This conference will take place prior to the regularly scheduled Church Council meeting that evening.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, March 22 | 12:15 PM | Parlor

Calvary is forming a Social Justice Committee to help define and organize our Social Justice Ministry, one of our strategic goals for 2026. If you feel called and have a passion for Christ's world-transforming Gospel and the United Methodist Church's social principles.

THEN SINGS MY SOUL – A FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

Sunday, March 29 | 4:00 PM | Calvary UMC

Join us for Then Sings My Soul, a free community celebration honoring Black composers and the powerful voices bringing their music to life. Featuring an outstanding lineup of vocalists and a special master class with acclaimed artist Susheel Bibbs, the weekend highlights genres from classical to gospel to jazz at Calvary United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh. Learn more and register here: pittsburghfestivalopera.org/2026-season/then-sings-my-soul/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCING “LUNCH & LEARNS” – EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

We're excited to introduce a new name for our after-church educational gatherings: Lunch & Learns! These workshops offer an opportunity to share a meal, deepen our understanding and engage meaningful topics together in a welcoming and conversational setting. Everyone is invited to grab a snack in the fellowship hall, listen, learn and participate in these meaningful conversations as we continue growing together as a community of faith. We have two scheduled so far:

- Sunday, March 15 - “What is Drag?”
- Sunday, April 12 - “Neurodivergent Ministry”

MEN'S TIES NEEDED

Men's ties are needed for the Sleeping Bag Group. Please place in the chapel in the appropriate mission bin.

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.

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



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 971 Beech Ave, Northside, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone: 412-231-2007

Email: calvarypgh@gmail.com

Website: calvarypgh.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9:00 AM–Noon

Tuesday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

PASTOR

Rev. Beth L. Nelson (412-398-7894 / revbeth@calvarypgh.com)

CHURCH STAFF

Music Ministry: Brian Burns (724-388-3246 / bsburns77@aol.com)

Office Administrator: Mary Emili (412-231-2007 / calvarypgh@gmail.com)

Family Ministry & Education: Megan Bova (412-715-4946 / mbova@calvarypgh.com)

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Treasurer: Georgia Brucker (calvarypgh@gmail.com)

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Facilities Manager/Wedding Coordinator: Aleata Weis (calvarypgh@gmail.com)

Queer Ministry Coordinator: Tim Napieralski (sashanapieralski@outlook.com)

Social Media Coordinator: Judith Melvin (judi.melvin@gmail.com)

Worship Tech Coordinator: Aiden Weis (calvarypgh@gmail.com)

Food Ministry Coordinator: Michael Schnitgen (calvarypgh@gmail.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA – BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. FOLLOW US!

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