

CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, September 20, 2026

Worshipping God Together

WELCOME TO CALVARY



WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

Whether you're joining us for the first time, returning after some time away or looking for a church home, you are welcome at Calvary. We believe that **all means all**, and we strive to be a place where everyone can encounter God's love, build meaningful relationships and grow in faith.

No matter your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, relationship status, life experience or background, **you are God's beloved, and you belong here.**

NEW HERE?

We'd love to meet you. Stop by a Welcome Area after worship, complete a Get Connected Card found in the pews, and pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter to learn more about worship, ministries, small groups, events and opportunities to serve.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- **Families with Young Children:** Children are always welcome in worship. A Family Area with rocking chairs and toys is available in the back left of the sanctuary.
- **Large-Print Resources:** Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available upon request.
- **Restrooms:** Accessible and family-friendly restrooms are located throughout the building. If you need assistance, please ask an usher or greeter.

SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

Your generosity helps Calvary continue its ministry of worship, discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and community service.

Every gift, large or small, supports the mission and ministries that make a difference in the lives of our congregation, our neighbors and our community.

Scan the QR code or visit CalvaryPGH.com/give to make a secure online gift.

Thank you for your faithful support and partnership in ministry.



THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **A Service of Celebration—Sunday Morning Worship** | 11:00AM | Calvary UMC
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **Back to Life NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00–8:00 PM | Chapel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00–10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 6:00–7:00 PM | Sanctuary
- **Hand Bell Rehearsal** | 7:00–8:00 PM | Music Office
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00–8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- **Iron City Squares** | 7:00–9:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00–10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00–11:30 AM | Parlor

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- **Sunday School Gathering Time** | 9:45–10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 10:00–11:00 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** | 10:00–10:45 AM | Choir Loft
- **A Service of Celebration—Sunday Morning Worship** | 11:00AM | Calvary UMC
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY CELEBRATION



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP + *

Leader: Family of God, we gather to join our voices with all creation:
People: Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!
Leader: God is our Creator who loves us and cares for us.
People: Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!
Leader: God is our Savior who redeems us and teaches us to boldly love one another as God loves us.
People: Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!
Leader: God is our Advocate who sustains us and empowers us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.
People: Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!
Leader: Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!
People: We come to worship God by boldly loving and joyfully serving, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE + * "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" — #75 UMH

UNISON PRAYER + *

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise—with words of praise and adoration spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person. You put new words in our mouths and new intentions in our hearts, especially a new understanding of power. Power shaped by love and righteousness, justice and mercy. We now know that power is not to be used to exploit or dominate, but to serve others as willingly as Jesus did. His life and death demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love. We gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts as we experience it in Jesus and through the enabling gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME +

COMMUNITY GREETINGS +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER LESSON * Psalm 100 NRSV

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
 - 2 Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
 - 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
 - 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.
 - 5 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.
- 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 * "Here I Am Lord" — #593 UMH
You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

People: **Loving God, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do so much more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick. We fail to recognize how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us, how our medical system denies healing to the poor, how poverty leaves children without coats, how legal obstacles keep the strangers at a distance. Open our hearts to recognize your presence in every person, and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Though we wander, God searches us out. God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer. Receive this good news: God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love And joyfully serve God and neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! 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.

ANTHEM Renewal Choir

GOSPEL LESSON † * John 15:1-11 NRSV

- 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
- 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
- 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- 7 If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.
- 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

- 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
- Leader: The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.
- All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Serve Joyfully" — Rev. Beth L. Nelson

HYMN OF PREPARATION * "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" — #611 UMH

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM * Waylon Brian Funk

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 Waylon Brian Funk, son of Megan and Dan, brother of Bronson, and Godson of Brett Bridges and Chris Scarnati.

HISTORIC QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS *

- 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?
- Parents: 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?
- Parents: 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?
- Parents: We do.**
- Leader: Will you nurture in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?
- Parents: We will**

HISTORIC QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION *

- 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 he be clothed in righteousness throughout his life until he shares in the final victory. In the name of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.

BAPTISM AND BLESSING *

Leader: Waylon, 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 brother in Christ. Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *

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 he may grow in service to others. We will pray for Waylon, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life. We give thanks for all that God has already given to Waylon, especially his parents, extended family, 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.**

BLESSING

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 + * "Rejoice, the Lord is King" — #715 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

*† 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DAILY BREAD COOKIE DONATIONS NEEDED ASAP

Daily Bread is asking for your help! Due to a recent freezer repair at Calvary, our supply of cookies was lost. We need **at least 25 dozen cookies for each monthly meal** and welcome donations throughout the month. If you enjoy baking, please consider supporting this important ministry by providing cookies for those we serve. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of Daily Bread!

SLEEPING BAG MINISTRY UPDATE

We are grateful for the incredible generosity and dedication of our congregation in supporting the Sleeping Bag Ministry. Because of the large number of sleeping bags that have already been completed and are ready for distribution, the ministry is currently taking a temporary break.

At this time, we are also not accepting donations of materials or personal care items. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we have an ample supply of donated items to support future efforts when the ministry resumes.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has volunteered, donated, prayed, and supported this ministry over the years. Your compassion has helped provide comfort, warmth, and dignity to our neighbors in need.

Please note that Terri Howell has relocated to Texas and is no longer serving as the ministry contact. If you have questions about the Sleeping Bag Ministry, please contact Anne Christianson, who is now serving as the ministry coordinator.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ through this meaningful outreach ministry. Updates will be shared with the congregation when the ministry is ready to resume.

STEELERS SUNDAY PARKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist with parking on Sundays when the Steelers have a 1:00 PM home game. Our usual parking lots are not available on those days, so we need a few people to help direct attendees to the Behan Lot and assist those who need accessible parking in front of the church or in the rear parking lot.

The commitment is from 9:15 AM until approximately 11:15 AM, allowing volunteers to join worship afterward. Even if you can serve for just one Sunday, your help would make a big difference, especially during cold or snowy weather.

Help is needed on the following Sundays:

- September 27
- October 11
- November 1
- December 20
- December 26 or 27 (date and time TBD)

To volunteer, please contact Kenny Elliott, Lay Leader, at 724-531-4625. Thank you for helping make worship accessible and welcoming for everyone!

UPCOMING EVENTS



HEARTS & PAWS — BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4 | 12:30–2:30 PM | Front of Calvary UMC along Allegheny Avenue

Join Calvary, GBU Life's North Side Neighborhood and the Humane Society for Hearts & Paws—a joyful community celebration of the animals we love and the neighbors we cherish! This special event features a Blessing of the Animals, pet-friendly swag, kid-friendly activities and meaningful ways to support local animal welfare. Whether you have a beloved companion, are considering adoption or simply love animals, all are welcome. Come celebrate compassion, connection and community—with wagging tails, open hearts and joyful spirits.

"KISSED BY GRACE" — UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, October 17 | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Chapel

Don't forget to register for "Kissed by Grace," the United Women in Faith Women's Retreat! All women are invited to join Rev. Jorinda Bullitt for a morning of faith, fellowship, and spiritual renewal in the Chapel. Through inspiring reflection and conversation, participants will explore how lipstick can serve as a symbol of wisdom, boldness, healing, and confidence in Christ. The cost is \$10 (cash or check payable to CUMW). This promises to be a meaningful and uplifting experience for women of all ages. The retreat is inspired by Proverbs 31:26: *"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."* Be sure to register soon and reserve your place for this special morning of grace, encouragement, and connection. To register, please call the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS



IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Georgia Brucker and family in the passing of
her husband Paul Brucker
Tyyawdi - hand surgery
Kerry Sturtz, daughter of Joan
Kaia Bachman & Tyler Hayden's baby-to-be
(due Jan 8th)
Nancy Westfall
Geradine Knight on the passing of her sister
Mariia Isaieva and family
Carol Piper
Cecilia Griffin Golden on the loss of her husband
Twin baby girls - Charlee & Cameron
Karen Hines. – Patty Bogdewic's mother

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Bobby Buckner and his family
Jeanne Dithomas
Terri Jagielski
Martha Helmreich
Judy Melvin
Al Meyers
Sheila Molyneaux
Tim Napieralski
Christine Siewers
Aleata Weis
Barbara Wood – friend of Marirose
Joyce Zimmerman – sister of Yvonne Hudson

SHARING PRAYER REQUESTS & JOYS

Share prayer requests or joys by filling out a pew card, calling the church office, or submitting the form online at calvarypgh.com/contact.



HEARTS & PAWS



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Calvary Lawn (Allegheny Avenue)



CELEBRATE PETS & COMMUNITY!

PHOTO OPS

SUPPORT LOCAL ANIMAL WELFARE

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!

REFRESHMENTS



In Partnership With

GBU Life



HUMANE ANIMAL RESCUE
of Pittsburgh

Bring a pet, explore adoption, or simply connect with neighbors!

Support Humane Animal Rescue — bring dog or cat treats!



Calvary United Methodist Church

971 Beech Ave, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

412-231-2007 • CalvaryPgh.com

KISSED BY GRACE

A Women's Retreat presented by
Calvary United Women in Faith

Led by Rev. Jorinda Bullitt



Theme Scripture

*"She opens her
mouth with wisdom,
and faithful instruction
is on her tongue."*

**Proverbs
31:26**

Saturday, October 17

9AM-12PM | Calvary UMC Chapel

All women are invited to join Rev. Jorinda Bullitt for a morning of faith, fellowship and spiritual renewal. Discover how lipstick can become a symbol of wisdom, boldness, healing and confidence in Christ.

REGISTER TODAY

Cost: \$10 Cash or check, payable to CUMW

Scan or visit bit.ly/4y5C1D8

Questions? Call 412-231-2007



Calvary United Methodist Church

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You ARE WELCOME HERE.



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

Facebook: [Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh](#)

YouTube: [Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA](#)

Instagram: [calvaryumc_pittsburgh](#)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

PASTOR

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

CHURCH STAFF

Office Administrator: Judith Melvin

Music Ministry: Brian Burns

Family Ministry & Education: Megan Bova

Communications Director: Karen Ferguson

Lay Leader: Ken Elliott

Treasurer: Georgia Brucker

Facilities Manager: Brianna Wolfe

Wedding Coordinator: Aleata Weis

Queer Ministry Coordinator: Tim Napieralski

Social Media Coordinator: Judith Melvin

Worship Tech Coordinator: Aiden Weis

Food Ministry Coordinator: Michael Schnitgen

**SUPPORT
OUR MINISTRIES**

Scan or visit
calvarypgh.com/give
to give. Thank you!

