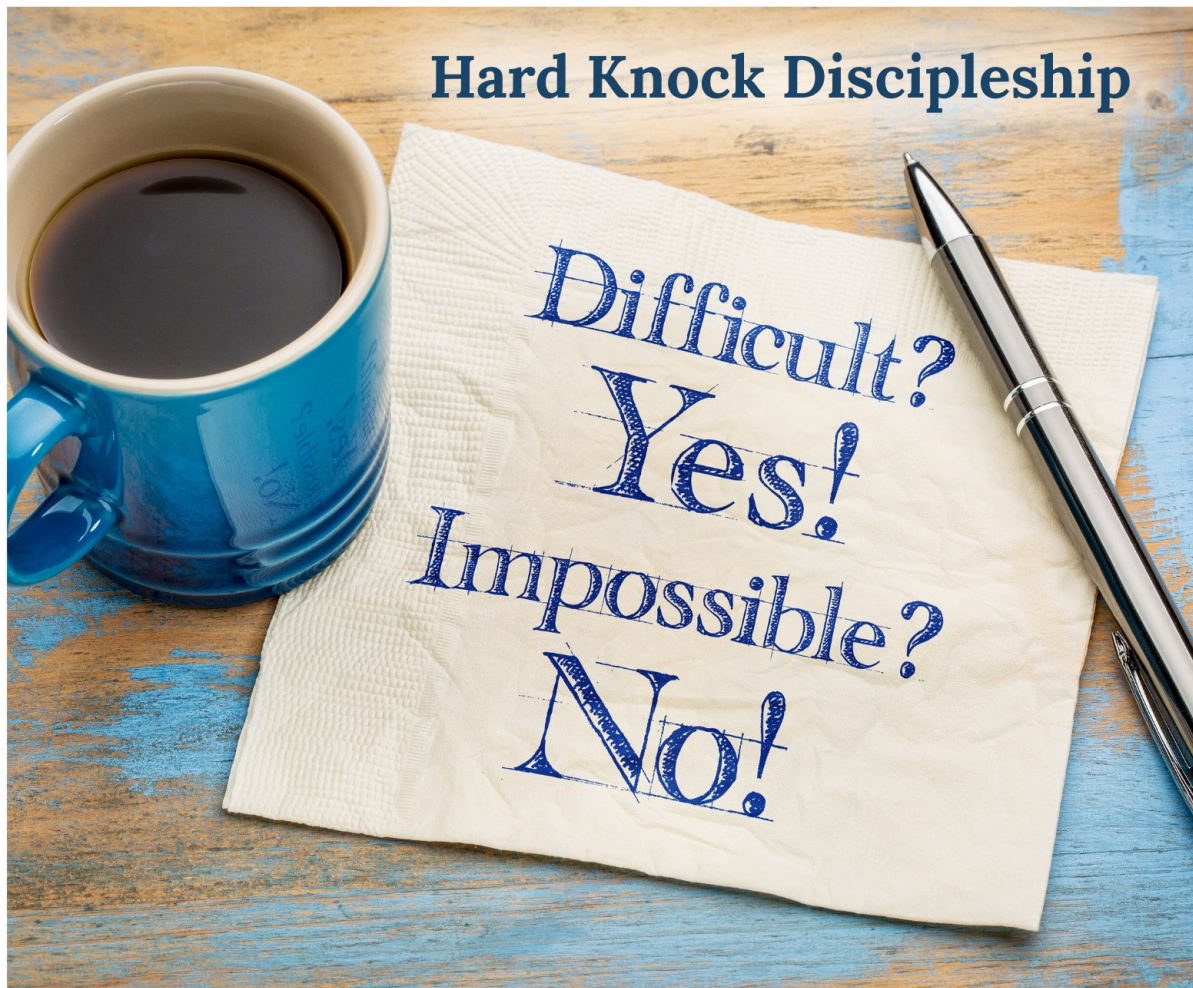


CALVARY

United Methodist Church



Hard Knock Discipleship



AUG

24TH

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

Nancy Richards

Jeffrey Marsico, who recently passed away, cousin of David Rizzo

Star Lawrance, friend of Bing's sister

CONTINUING CONCERNS

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: Give ear, God of all people.
People: Stir up your strength and deliver us!
Leader: Once you rescued your children from bondage.
People: Now, set your people free.
Leader: Look down from heaven, God of hosts.
People: Turn to us anew and see us in our need.
Leader: Restore us, God of Creation.
People: Let your face shine upon us.
Leader: May our suffering cease.
People: May all your children be saved.

HYMN OF PRAISE †★ "Christian People, Raise Your Song" — #636 UMH

OPENING PRAYER †★

We give thanks, Precious Lord, that your love casts out fear, that your life transcends death itself. You simply ask that we maintain a posture of faith, with eyes open to the future you will bring. Forgive us when we pre-judge where we will, or will not, see you. We decide too soon whom we will listen to and whom we will dismiss. Forgive us; awaken us; restore our faith in you, that we may find new faith in ourselves and in the neighbors we meet. 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.**

EPISTLE LESSON ★ Hebrews 11:29–12:2 NRSV

- 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient,
 because she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak,
 Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises,
 shut the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out
 of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to
 accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

36 Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword;
 they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and
 in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what
 was promised,

40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be
 made perfect.

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
 aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with
 perseverance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that
 was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his
 seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 ★ "Faith of Our Fathers" — #710 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.**

- 29 And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying.
- 30 For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.
- 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.
- 32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- 33 Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
- 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 35 “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;
- 36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.
- 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.
- 38 If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.
- 39 “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.
- 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
- 41 Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?”
- 42 And the Lord said, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time?
- 43 Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.
- 44 Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.
- 45 But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk,
- 46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.
- 47 That slave who knew what his master wanted but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted will receive a severe beating.
- 48 But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.
- 49 “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!
- 50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

- 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!
- 52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;
- 53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”
- 54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens.
- 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.
- 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?
- 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 “Hard Knock Discipleship” — Rev. Chenda Innis Lee

HYMN ★ “Seek the Lord” — #124 UMH

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 †★ “O Jesus, I Have Promised” — #396 UMH

BENEDICTION †

POSTLUDE †

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUN
AUG 17

AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS)

8:00 PM (Weekly) | Fellowship Hall

TUES
AUG 19

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
AUG 21

EXERCISE CLASS FOR ALL AGES

9:00 – 10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

10:00 – 11:30 AM (Weekly) | Parsonage

CALVARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH — SERVING DAILY BREAD

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Monthly) | Trinity Lutheran Church

OPEN SANCTUARY

6:00 – 8:00 PM (Weekly) | Sanctuary

SUN
AUG 24

CAREGIVING MINISTRY

10:00 AM (Weekly) | Chapel

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





EVENTS

CALVARY WELCOMES BOBBY JO VALENTINE!

MUSIC TO MOVE THE HEART AND SOUL

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

WEEKLY

CHOIR REHEARSAL — BEGINNING TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

Tuesdays | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

All singers are welcome – no matter your experience or ability to read music! Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or just love to sing, we'd love to have you as part of our supportive and uplifting group. No audition is required – just bring your love for music and a desire to be part of something special. Contact Brian Burns (bsburns77@aol.com) for more details.

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL — BEGINNING TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Tuesdays (January – May) | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

Thursdays (September – December) | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Music Office (Upstairs in the Chapel)

No audition or music-reading skills required! Whether you're a beginner or have prior experience, we welcome all who want to be part of this joyful and unique musical ministry. Come ring with us and share your love for music! Contact Brian Burns (bsburns77@aol.com) for more details.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended last week's Christian Education meeting! We're excited about what's coming this fall. Be on the lookout for more information about upcoming classes and a new format for Sunday School. We'll be launching the new season with a Kickoff Sunday on September 7 – the Sunday after Labor Day. Stay tuned for details!

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'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

FELLOWSHIP UPDATE FOR AUGUST

Fellowship will be on hold for the month of August due to ongoing construction. It will resume on the last Sunday of August, August 31, with our Community Luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 28 (3rd Thursday of each month) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM | Chapel

The August meeting was moved from August 21 because Rev. Beth Nelson will be out of town that week. There will not be a meeting in 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.

COMMUNION

Sunday, September 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 partake.

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

Sunday, September 7 (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.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

“CHANGE MATTERS” SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, August 31 (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, September 11 (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.

WEEKLY

CAREGIVING MINISTRY

Sundays | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Chapel

Calvary has launched a new Caregiving Ministry, led by Denny Brown and Rev. Budd Wagner. Training sessions are being held 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.

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.

SMALL GROUPS



WEEKLY

"UNCLOBBER" – OUR NEW FALL BIBLE STUDY & LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY LAUNCH

Sundays (Beginning September 7) | 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Parsonage

This fall, Calvary launches its new LGBTQIA+ ministry led by Tim Napieralski with a powerful two-part experience. We'll begin with a screening of *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture*, a groundbreaking documentary uncovering how a 1946 Bible mistranslation fueled anti-gay theology. Featuring newly discovered Yale archives, insights from scholars, and personal stories, the film challenges long-held assumptions and invites fresh understanding. Following the screening, we'll dive into *UnClobber* by Colby Martin. This thought-provoking study reexamines the six so-called "Clobber Passages" often used to exclude LGBTQIA+ people, revealing what Scripture truly says—and doesn't say—about homosexuality. Through open conversation, biblical exploration, and Martin's personal journey, we'll move from bad theology toward deeper faith, compassion, and welcome for all God's children. All are welcome!

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 | Parsonage

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 at the parsonage during the summer months.



JOIN US FOR



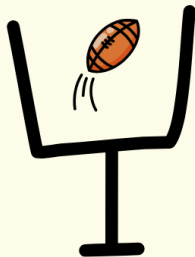
KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7

Calvary is kicking off the fall season with a fresh new format for Sunday School — designed for adults, children & families.

IT ALL BEGINS ON KICKOFF SUNDAY!

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE MORE
WITH YOU SOON!**



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

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

Brittany Bova-Mickens

412-715-4947 | bbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Communications – Karen Ferguson

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

Phone

412-231-2007

Email

CalvaryPgh@gmail.com

Website

CalvaryPgh.com

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Quick Links

