

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 17, 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, restrooms are available to the right, including an accessible restroom with a baby changing table; additional men's and women's restrooms are located at the back of the chapel to the right, and downstairs to the left, with elevator access from the right side of the sanctuary.

PRAYER CONCERNS



IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Samantha - niece of Mary Ewalt
Al Meyers
Christine Siewers
Corrine Houser
George Janocsko
Niko
Judy Melvin
Charles Moore
Aleata Weis
Rick Stern
Barbara Wood - friend of Marirose

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Paul Brucker
Bobby Buckner and his family
Jeanne Dithomas
Terri Jagielski
Martha Helmreich
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

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

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, MAY 17

- **A Service of Celebration–Sunday Morning Worship** | 11:00AM | Calvary UMC
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **Celebrating Progress: Phase 1 & New Pew Cushions Dedication** | 12:15 PM | Calvary UMC
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **Kickoff to Summer Cookout** | 5:00-7:00 PM | Outside (Weather Depending)

MONDAY, MAY 18

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

TUESDAY, MAY 19

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00-10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 6:00-7:00 PM | Choir Loft
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

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

THURSDAY, MAY 21

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00-10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor
- **Plant Sale Pickup** | 1:00-6:00 PM | Calvary UMC Parking Lot
- **Open Sanctuary** | 6:00-8:00 PM | Sanctuary
- **Hand Bell Rehearsal** | 6:00-7:00 PM | Music Office

FRIDAY, MAY 22

- **Plant Sale Pickup** | 1:00-6:00 PM | Calvary UMC Parking Lot
- **Can We DRAG You to Church** | 5:00 PM Dinner & 7:00 PM Pageant | Calvary UMC

SUNDAY, MAY 24

- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 10:00-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Bible Study–Exploring Spiritual Gifts** | 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** | 10:00-10:45 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

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP † *

Leader: Look to the heavens, people of God.

People: **See the power of the Most High God.**

Leader: Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

People: **Shout to God with cries of joy.**

Leader: Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

People: **Sing praises to God, our king.**

OPENING HYMN † * "Crown Him with Many Crowns" – #327 UMH

OPENING PRAYER † *

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you. Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit, and open our lives to the fullness of your power, that we may be clothed with power on high. Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit, that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME †

COMMUNITY GREETINGS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE † * "Shine, Jesus Shine"

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

PSALTER LESSON * Psalm 47 NRSV

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- 2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
- 8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

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 * "Now the Green Blade Riseth" – #311 UMH
You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal 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.

ANTHEM

GOSPEL LESSON † * Luke 24:44-53 NRSV

- 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day
47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
48 You are witnesses of these things.
49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "His Power, His Promise and His Presence" – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

THE APOSTLES' CREED † * #881 UMH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

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 †

A TIME OF DEDICATION Our Pew Cushions

CLOSING HYMN † * "God is Here" – #660 UMH

We will gather in the chapel for the end of this worship celebration.

*† 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



CELEBRATING PROGRESS: PHASE 1 & NEW PEW CUSHIONS DEDICATION

Sunday, May 17 | 12:15 PM | Calvary UMC

Main Contact: Rev. Beth L. Nelson (412-398-7894 or revbeth@calvarypgh.com)

Phase 1 of our building improvements is complete, featuring a renovated first-floor bathroom and kitchenette. In addition, AHPS has led the replacement of our pew cushions. Join us as we celebrate our community and the progress we've made together.

CAN WE "DRAG" YOU TO CHURCH?

Friday, May 22 | Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:00 PM & Pageant 7:00 PM-? | Calvary UMC

Main Contact: Tim Napieralski (queerministry@calvarypgh.com)

Tickets: \$20 Dinner Only, \$15 Pageant Only, \$30 Dinner & Pageant Both

Purchase Tickets: <https://bit.ly/4vY64fN>

FREE: Ages 10 years & under

Interested in performing? Contact Tim Napieralski to get involved.

Get ready for a night of fun, flair and fabulousness! Calvary is thrilled to present "Can We DRAG You to Church?" – a fabulous fundraiser featuring a spaghetti dinner, silent auction and an unforgettable all-ages professional drag show. **You can join us for the dinner, the pageant or both!** The evening stars Guest MC and performer Pittsburgh's Comedy and Broadway Queen **Dixie Surewood** and Pittsburgh Drag Queen and Miss Gay Pennsylvania United States at Large **2025 Leia Way LeStat** (so far!), along with special performances by Calvary members and friends. This Calvary and **family-friendly** event celebrates, supports and uplifts the Trans and Drag Queen communities, with lively performances scored by a panel of celebrity judges and culminating in the crowning of **Miss or Mr. Calvary 2026!!**

HONORING BRIAN BURNS: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AND MUSIC

Sunday, May 31 | During Worship & Luncheon Following Worship | Calvary UMC

Main Contact: Karen Ferguson (kferguson@calvarypgh.com)

RSVP for Luncheon by Sunday, May 17 to Karen Ferguson (kferguson@calvarypgh.com)

Join us as we celebrate Brian Burns' 25 years of faithful service at Calvary UMC. A catered luncheon by Fabled Table will follow worship as we give thanks for his leadership in music, historic preservation and congregational life, along with his enduring commitment to hospitality, inclusion and community engagement on Pittsburgh's Northside. During his tenure, Brian has restored Calvary's historic sanctuary and chapel organs, revitalized the church bell and carillon and helped guide major building improvements that preserve Calvary as a landmark for future generations. He founded and directed the Messiah Sing Along, which has grown into a beloved regional tradition with national recognition, and he has supported more than 1,000 weddings, countless funerals and countless moments of worship, celebration and outreach. Through music, stewardship and compassionate presence, Brian's leadership has helped shape Calvary into a deeply welcoming and inclusive community rooted in beauty, service and connection to the wider Pittsburgh region.

PITTSBURGH PRIDE

Saturday, June 6 (Pride Events/Booth) & Sunday, June 7 (Parade) | TBA | Downtown

Main Contact: Tim Napieralski (queerministry@calvarypgh.com)

Calvary United Methodist Church is partnering with First Church and inviting other congregations from the United Methodist Church to join us in this year's Pride Parade. We will have a float with marchers, Calvary T-shirts and swag to share at our booth. We will also be singing simple praise music on the float and will have one rehearsal prior to the parade. If you are interested in singing on the float, please contact Brian Burns at 724-388-3246 or bsburns77@aol.com.

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



CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 971 Beech Ave, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Phone: 412-231-2007

Email: calvarypgh@gmail.com

Website: calvarypgh.com

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: 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

Family Ministry & Education: Megan Bova

Communications: 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**

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calvarypgh.com/give
to give. Thank you!

