

CALVARY

United Methodist Church



the good news is..

so good, it catches
us by surprise

FEB

22ND

2026

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 today, we're glad you're here! Please stop by the Welcome Areas to learn more about our church family. You can also fill out a Get Connected card found in the pews. Large print Bibles and hymnals are available—just ask a greeter.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Children are always welcome in worship. A Family Area is available at the back left of the sanctuary, with rocking chairs and toys for your little ones.

RESTROOMS

- Right from the front exit: Accessible restroom and baby changing table (same level).
- Right and toward the back: Women's and men's restrooms.
- Left: Additional restrooms downstairs; an elevator is available by exiting right and heading toward the back of the building.

LENTEN SCHEDULE



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- **Sunday, March 29** | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- **Thursday, April 2** | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY

- **Friday, April 3** | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

- **Sunrise Service** | **Sunday, April 5** | 7:00 AM | West End Overlook
- **Celebration Service** | **Sunday, April 5** | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Change Matters Special Offering** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **Community Lunch** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **Gathering with Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball** | 3:00-5:00 PM | Trinity UMC Indiana
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Exercise Class** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor
- **Learn to Knit & Fiber Arts Fellowship** | 11:30 AM-12:30 PM | Chapel
- **Open Sanctuary** | 6:00-8:00 PM | Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- **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** | 10:00-10:45 AM | Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School - 7th-12th** | 10:00-10:45 AM | Christian Education Office
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:45 AM | Choir Loft
- **Communion** | During Worship | Sanctuary
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Worship | Fellowship Hall
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP †*

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

People: **mana in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

People: **release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

Leader: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

People: **Let us worship this good-news God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE †* "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" – #150 UMH

OPENING PRAYER †*

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good drink and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. 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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN

PSALTER LESSON * Psalm 32 NRSV

- 1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah
- 6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

- 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
- 10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
- 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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 * "It Is Well with my Soul" – #377 UMH
You are invited to come and kneel at the altar rail for personal prayer.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. May we grow in faith like that mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS †*

Leader: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

People: of course, of course, of course.

Leader: This is the good news of the gospel.

People: Thanks be 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 2:1-11 & Matthew 13:31-32 NRSV

- 1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

- 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.”
- 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”
- 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it.
- 9 When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom
- 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”
- 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
- 31 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
- 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON . . . “The Good News is so good...it catches us by surprise” – Rev. Beth L. Nelson

WORDS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

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 †* “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” – #384 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS



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.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS

Chris Griffin – nephew of Lorraine
Beth – Chris' Sister (caregiver)
Louise – Sister of Lorraine (caregiver of
Chris)
Charles Moore
Silvia María Nolivos Vasquez
Karen Hines – mother of Patty B.
Aleata Weis
Joe Grzybowski – friend of Judy Melvin
George Stowell

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SLEEPING BAG GROUP NEEDS SUPPLIES

Our Sleeping Bag Group needs mattress pads and blankets (gently used and washed, including bedspreads). Please bring donations to the church—they will be used to make sleeping bags for neighbors experiencing homelessness. Questions? Contact Terri Howell or the church office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE FORMING

Calvary is launching a Social Justice Committee as part of our 2026 ministry goals. If you feel called to this work, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/3MFK4V3>

NFL DRAFT WEEKEND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

With 500,000-700,000 visitors expected for NFL Draft Weekend, we're planning an open house and neighborhood engagement event on Saturday, April 25. Want to help? Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3MFK4V3>

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



CONTACT US

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

Brittany Bova-Mickens

412-715-4947 | bbova@CalvaryPgh.com

Communications – Karen Ferguson

724-448-1429 | karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com

Lay Leader – Ken Elliott

724-513-4625 | kenelliott76@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

Facebook

Calvary United Methodist
Church, Pittsburgh

YouTube

Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

Instagram

[calvaryumc_pittsburgh](https://www.instagram.com/calvaryumc_pittsburgh)



SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES

Scan to give.
Thank you!



QUICK LINKS

Scan to learn more.
about Calvary.

