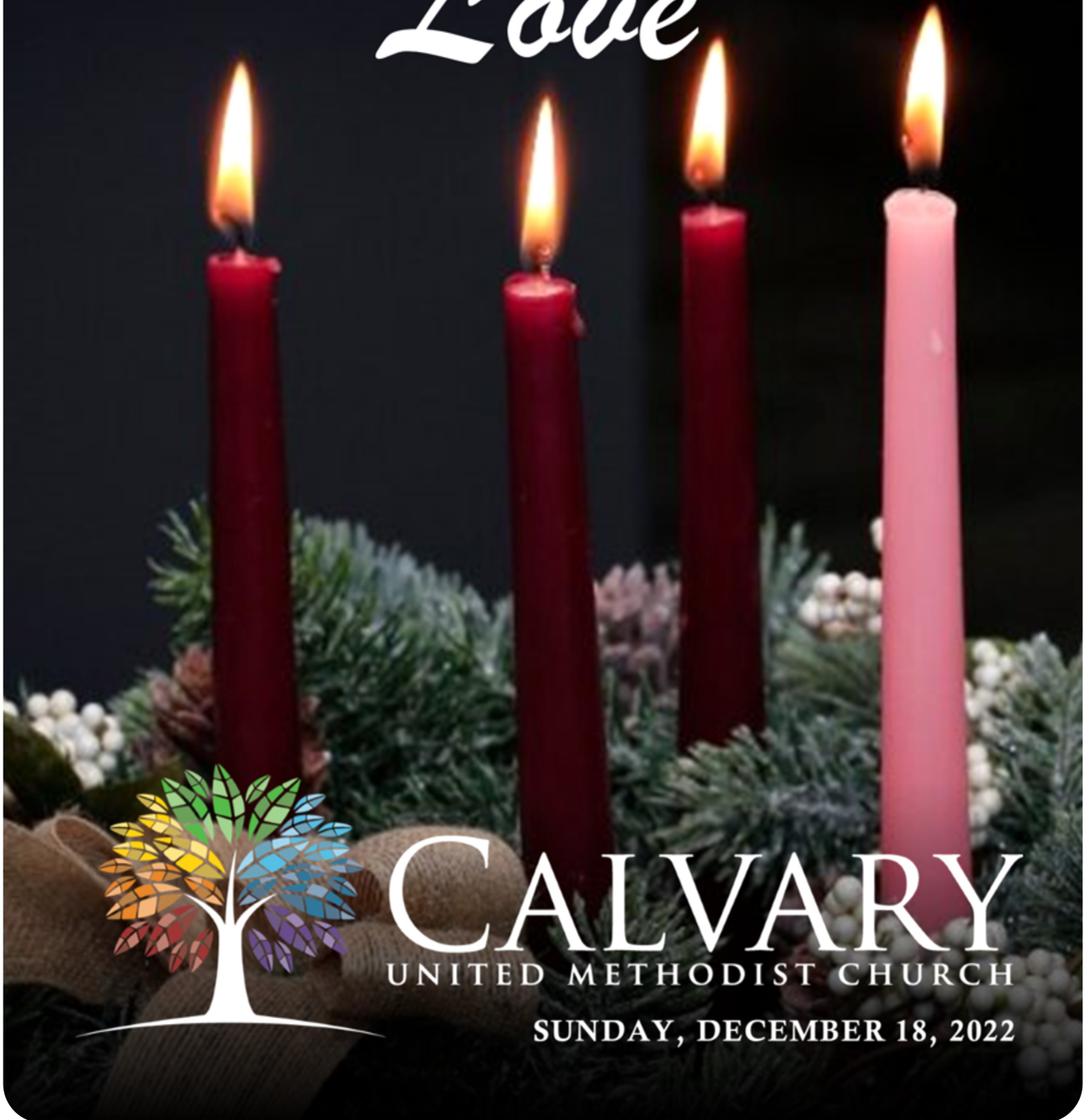


THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Love



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

WELCOME TO CALVARY

YOU ARE GOD'S
BELOVED,
AND YOU ARE
WELCOME HERE.

PASTOR
SHANE SICILIANO



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.***

Welcome to Calvary!

If you are a first time guest, thank you for visiting Calvary! We would invite you to check out our Welcome Tables for more information about who we are. We would also ask you to fill out a "GET CONNECTED" card in the back of the pews so we can get to know you. If you are in need of a large print bible or hymnal, please see any greeter for help.

Families with Babies or Young Children

Families with babies or young children? We have a family area in the sanctuary with rocking chairs and toys so your family can participate in the service.

How Do I Get Involved?

There are many ways you can become involved at Calvary United Methodist Church. If you have been promising yourself to join a small group experience for not just a continuing learning opportunity but also to meet new friends, please fill out a "Get Involved" card in the back of the pews. You can also email CalvaryPgh@gmail.com or visit our website at CalvaryPgh.com for information about the many ministries available. If you are ready to serve or just want to connect and grow, there are plenty of opportunities for you to use your gifts and talents.

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

Immediate Needs

Randy Davis
Tom (friend of Anne Christianson)
Chris Griffin
Jenalee Morris
Father of Liz Martinez
Tricia Magee (friend of Larry & Pam Hopkins)

Roy Ziegler (friend of Venus)
Lori McDonough (relative of Venus)
Friend of Mark Snyder
Joshua (Brian Burns' cousin's son)
Sheila Shimko (mother of Sheila Hill)
Chuck (Eliyana Bogdewic's great uncle)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Martha Helmreich
Christine Thomas
Paul Brucker
Joan Jessep

Joan Sturtz
Randy & Danny
Dan Souza
Tom Smith

How Can We Pray For You?

If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the "PRAYER REQUEST" card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007.

You can also complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvarypgh.com/contact/prayer-request.php. The information on this form goes directly to the clergy of Calvary UMC. We treat these concerns in a private and confidential manner (unless otherwise directed), respecting the privacy of individuals as the requestor directs us.

PLEASE NOTE—Prayer concerns will be published for 4 weeks unless otherwise instructed.



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

ADVENT 2022

“From Generation To Generation” — An Advent Message Series

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell the story of Christ’s birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What about this season will you pass on to the next generation?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won’t let you go.

Devotional Booklets can be found at each of the Welcome Tables. Please help yourselves to these Advent resources.



Blue Christmas

*A Service of
Prayer & Song*

**Thursday, Dec. 22nd
@7pm**

Whether you are grieving someone special, struggling with the pressure to be of good cheer or simply needing some quiet space, you are invited to Blue Christmas: A Service of Prayer and Song. This gentle service will offer music, prayer, and reflection in this holy holiday week.

**Hosted by
Calvary & Salem UM Churches
at Salem in Wexford**

350 manor Rd. Wexford PA 15090

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle of Love . . . James Mickens, Eli Sweeney, Charlie Sweeney, Linda Ehrlich

Opening Hymn †* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” — #211 UMH (Verses 1,5,6,7)

Prayer of Penitence †* Lay Leader—Linda Ehrlich

God of today and tomorrow, When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

Words of Hope †*

Leader: Friends, this is what I know—God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!” And in that moment, we are blessed. In that moment, we are forgiven. In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. Let us respond together, using the words from Mary’s song:

All: **“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.”**

Community Greetings †

Children’s Message

Prayer Hymn †* “What Child Is This” — #219 UMH

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.

Scripture * Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 NRSV

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

Choral Response (Choir & Congregation) †*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Gospel †* Luke 1:46-55 NRSV

46 And Marya said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Sermon “Blessed” — Pastor Shane Siciliano

Choral Anthem The Renewal Choir

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 †

Affirmation of Faith †*

We believe that creation is inextricably linked. We belong to one another in an undeniable way. We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust. We believe that God invites us to live into that truth — to love without abandon, to see the good in one another, to trust that all belong to God. We know that this life of connection is easier said than done, which is why we gather in this space, week after week, generation after generation, to be reminded: We see God in each other. This we believe. Amen.

Closing Hymn †*. “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” — #198 UMH

Benediction †

Postlude †

Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able

CALVARY'S FAMILY CORNER

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS 2023

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT **6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

Movie is to be determined, but we will encourage families and church members to wear pjs and bring pillows/blankets for a true movie night feel!

FRI
JAN
13

SAT
FEB
11

PARENTS NIGHT OUT **6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL **12 PM – 2 PM**

SUN
MAR
12

MORE INFO - MEGAN 412-715-4946 / BRITTANY 412-715-4947

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Invitation to Prayer—A Message from David Grinnell

Time / Location: 9:30am or Immediately following worship / Communion Rail

Description: Sundays during Advent. A time to pray for our world and each other as we eagerly await the celebration of the baby who would be the Savior of our world and the Prince of Peace.

Bible Study

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Cha

Description: *"Affirming the Scriptures of an Affirming God"* — How can we respond when people use verses of the Bible as a weapon? We can relearn the weaponized Scriptures in defense of love. We'll be looking at the Scriptures through the lens of welcoming, affirming, and accepting all people. Feel free to bring your Bible, but we also have more Bibles available.

Sunday School

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

Description: Calvary offers two Sunday School Classes: (1) Ages 3-10, (2) Ages 11-15. Please meet up in the chapel and everyone will walk across the street together.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Calvary Choir Loft

Fellowship Following Morning Worship

Time / Location: Following morning worship / Calvary Chapel

Description: Come to the chapel following morning worship for fellowship. A light array of foods and beverages will be served.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary Chapel

Description: There is an exercise class that meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am in the Calvary Chapel.

Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:00-7:30pm / Calvary Choir Loft

Description: Love Singing? Thinking About Joining The Choir?... Now is the perfect time to give it a try! No audition required! All are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24th at 4:30pm and 7:00pm

WHAT IS NEEDED: At least 8 volunteers to do the most meaningful and satisfying service to make sure everyone who comes to Calvary feels welcomed, loved, and experiences God's love: Help with the welcome team, pass out bulletins and candles, handicapped entrance, door openers, setting up the luminaria, floating around church to answer questions, point out bathrooms, collecting the offering, lighting the candles during Silent Night, and helping however we need.

WHO TO CONTACT/QUESTIONS: Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 or kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Wednesday Night at the Pastor's House — A Message from Pastor Shane

It has been decided that this meeting will be cancelled due to the holiday season being so busy. This will be rescheduled at a later date when things have slowed down.

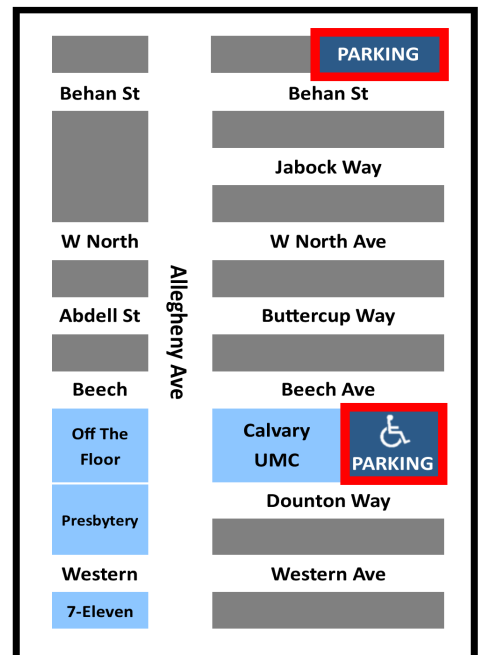
Read the Bible in Two Years — A Message from Pastor Shane

You are invited to join in a simple Bible reading plan that will help us read the whole Bible in two years! You can do it by reading approximately 15 minutes a day. In order to simplify and organize this process, I will be providing a bookmark for your reading time. This guide is designed to keep your place as you read through the Bible. By keeping this guide with your Bible and checking off each day's reading as you complete it, you will be able to follow a schedule that will enable you to read all the way through the Bible in two years. These bookmarks will be distributed every month over the next two years. The first bookmark can be found on the Welcome Tables.

Sunday 1:00pm Steeler Games

Greetings! Please see the map that lists directions to and where to park on Sundays when we do not have access to the lots next to and across from our church. Please be mindful that this lot is 5 blocks away from the church. Some of the sidewalks leading to and from this lot are red brick and are not flat. Please use caution when walking to and from this lot. If walking to and from this lot would be too difficult, park in the parking lot at the rear of the church which is also our handicap parking lot. Please note that you may get a parking ticket if you park on any street on Steeler Sundays. And, please do not pay to park in any of the parking lots charging money!

Special note about Handicap Parking: The map lists where the church's handicap parking is located in the lot behind the church. The church's handicap ramp is also located in this lot. We encourage people not to park in the rear parking lot to allow people with special needs to have those parking spaces.



COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

There are a multitude of ways to get your news to the members of Calvary and the wider community. Here are the guidelines for each:

- 1. Weekly Bulletin:** Announcements or events for the bulletin must be submitted by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin. For announcements that you wish to have run more than once, please include the dates you'd like to have it run.
- 2. Prayer List:** If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the "PRAYER REQUEST" card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007, or you can complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvarypgh.com/contact/prayer-request.php. The information on this form goes directly to the clergy of Calvary UMC. We treat these concerns in a private and confidential manner (unless otherwise directed), respecting the privacy of individuals as the requestor directs us. Prayer concerns will be published for 4 weeks unless otherwise instructed.
- 3. Church Calendar:** Please contact Kim Butler at the church office to check availability for the date and location of your meeting or event. Once the event is scheduled, she will inform Karen Ferguson to have it publicized on all requested medias.
- 4. Website:** Changes, additions, edits, announcements, etc... for the website can be submitted at any time. Website changes will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 7 days between submission and execution, so please provide info as early as possible.
- 5. Facebook:** Facebook posts can be submitted at any time. Posts or edits will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 24-48 hours between submission and execution, so please provide info as early as possible.
- 6. E-Blast (Email Blast):** If you have information that you would like to be emailed to our member distribution list, please send your request to Karen Ferguson. Announcements can be submitted at any time and will be made soon as possible, but there may be up to 24-48 hours between submission and distribution, so please provide info as early as possible. All submissions are subject to editing, and images are encouraged wherever appropriate. Around major church holidays, the deadlines may change. To make a submission for any of the above or if you have any questions, contact Karen Ferguson via phone at 724-448-1429, email at karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com, or in person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blue Christmas Service — A Service of Prayer and Song

Time / Location: Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm at Salem UMC

Description: Whether you are grieving someone special, struggling with the pressure to be of good cheer or simply needing some quiet space, you are invited to Blue Christmas: A Service of Prayer and Song. This gentle service will offer music, prayer, and reflection in this holy holiday week. This service is hosted by Calvary & Salem UMC Churches. Salem UMC is located at 350 Manor Rd, Wexford, PA 15090.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Time / Location: Saturday, December 24 at 4:30pm & 7:00pm

Description: This year we will be having two services on Christmas Eve. One will be held at 4:30pm without a musical prelude. The other will be our normal 7:30pm service with special music beginning at 7:00pm. You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Christmas at Calvary. Let the words of beloved carols and scriptures set the foundation. Stirring choral and organ music will set the scene. The peaceful illumination of Advent builds to an unforgettable Christmas Eve Service as both young and old remember the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help with the welcome team, pass out bulletins and candles, handicapped entrance, door openers, setting up the luminaria, floating around church to answer questions, point out bathrooms, collecting the offering, lighting the candles during Silent Night, and helping however we need. Please reach out to Kenny Elliott (724-531-4625 or kenelliott76@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Family Movie Night

Time / Location: Friday, January 13 from 6:30-9:30pm in the Chapel

Description: This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome! The movie is to be determined, but we will encourage families and church members to wear PJs and bring pillows/blankets for a true movie night feel!

Parents' Night Out

Time / Location: Saturday, February 11 from 6:30-9:30pm

Description: This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome! Calvary would love to serve our local community with a "Parents' Night Out." Children will enjoy an evening of fun activities, games, and crafts while their parents get a night to enjoy on their own. Thank you for this opportunity to get to know your child and provide you with a relaxing evening. We are honored to serve you and your family.

Ice Cream Social

Time / Location: Saturday, March 12 from 12:00-2:00pm

Description: This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome! What's more enjoyable than ice cream! Join your church family following morning worship. Bring a friend! Mingle and chat!