

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

WELCOME TO CALVARY

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



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.

CALVARY — A BRIEF HISTORY

Christ Methodist Episcopal Church was one of Pittsburgh's largest churches during the late 1800's. The church was located on Penn Avenue and Hancock Street (now 8th Street) in downtown Pittsburgh.

On May 5, 1891, tragedy struck when fire destroyed Christ Methodist Church and the adjacent Pittsburgh Female College were destroyed by fire. Following the disaster, the congregation used the Bijou Theater for Sunday services.

On May 28, 1891, three weeks after the fire, the Trustees decided to rebuild the church... but where? This quote from the minutes of that meeting set the wheels in motion, *"We refuse to rebuild in the midst of dirty, filthy Pittsburgh."* The congregation decided to split and move to the "suburbias". A fourth of the congregation built Calvary in Allegheny City, now Pittsburgh's North Side). The other members built our sister church, First United Methodist Church in Shadyside. The remaining, only 154 people, pulled together their resources and raised over \$245,000 (almost \$6.2 million in today's dollars) to build a church of their own. In 1891 they bought a duck pond and a skating rink in Allegheny City which is the very land that Calvary United Methodist Church is sitting on today.

Calvary's organizers were prominent in commercial and professional activities of Pittsburgh. The first Board of Trustees included Joseph Horne, CB Shea, the Jones family, and the Scaife family. Joseph Horne, founder of Horne's department stores, was the chair of the Trustees for Calvary. Sadly he passed away a year and a half before the sanctuary was opened. CB Shea, Horne's financial partner, gave a personal note in the amount of \$62,000 for Calvary's construction. The Jones family, of Jones & Laughlin Steel, was responsible for the building of the Hot Metal Bridge. The Scaife Family were heirs to the Mellon banking, oil, and aluminum fortune.

The Trustees hired architect Thomas B. Wolfe. Born and raised in nearby Sewickley, Wolfe had worked for the Heinz family. He was sent to France for inspiration and returned with drawings that contained designs of the 13th Century Gothic Cathedral at Chartres, France. He designed Calvary as a "Parlor" Cathedral. A "Parlor" Cathedral is patterned after European cathedrals but only 1/10th the size. In spring 1892, the Trustees also hired Louis Comfort Tiffany, a young, up-and-coming artist. They contracted him to create 189 windows for \$15,770 (almost \$400,000 in today's dollars.) This was Tiffany's largest and most expensive commission at the time. When the windows were installed in 1895, Calvary had three of the largest Tiffany windows in the world.

Bishop Fowler laid the cornerstones for both Calvary and its sister church in Shadyside on May 18, 1893. Although the first service at Calvary United Methodist Church was held on Christmas Eve 1893 in the chapel, the sanctuary would not be finished for another two years. The building was completed in June of 1895.



Poinsettia Dedications



Joanie Bova

In Memory of Rev. James and Betty DuBois

In Honor of my family, husband, children, and grandchildren

Megan Bova

In Memory of Rev. James and Betty DuBois, Sam and Theresa Bova, Peggy Funk, and Joseph Vacek

In Honor of Bronson Joseph Funk

Burns-Elliott Family

In Memory of Lucy Mae Elliott, Kenneth and Joan Elliott, and William "Keen" Miller

In Honor of Ethan and Peyton Rihn

Kim Butler

In Memory of my grandparents and my brother Rick

In Honor of our Savior Jesus Christ

Callie Buzard

In Memory of all my dear departed ones

Renny and Linda Clark

In Memory of Tom and Twila Walker, Gordon and Sara Clark, and Patricia Walker Mitchell

Bill Edsall

In Memory of Audrey Jean Edsall

Linda Ehrlich

In Memory of Florence and William Andrews

In Honor of Ellie Laws, and the Hardy and Ehrlich Families

Brian, Tamara, Colin, Garrett, and Claire Ekis

In Memory of Grace Elizabeth Ekis, and Henry and Adele Ekis

In Honor of Rev. Thomas and Narda Funk

Karen Ferguson

In Memory of Elizabeth and Ronald Ferguson

In Honor of my niece Johanna Mae McCrea, and my grandparents Ron and Mary Frank

*It came, a floweret bright, to show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior.*

Judy Flaherty

In Memory of Edward Kraft
In Honor of Jean Kraft

David Grinnell

In Memory of Ken and Betty Grinnell, and David and Iva Johnson

Hannah Hardy

In Honor of my mom, Linda Ehrlich, who does so much for Calvary

Martha S. Helmreich

In Memory of my parents, brother, and sister
In Honor of my children and my grandchildren

Rev. Larry and Ellen Homitsky

In Memory of Ellen's father, John Henderson; Larry's father and mother, Charles and Jean Homitsky; and Larry's brother, Jeff Homitsky
In Honor of our children Luke, Kelley, Joy, Mark, Sarah, Mike, Nathan, Via, Anna, and Tom; and our grandchildren Cecilla, Sebastien, Mathilde, Mackenzie, Penelope, Montgomery, Aurora, Owen, Emma, Abe, Henry, Jack, and J.J.; and Ellen's mom, Marge Henderson

Rebecca Lebeda

In Memory of Fred Lebeda

Judith Melvin

In Memory of Yahoo Melvin and Yasmine Melvin

Brittany and Aaron Mickens

In Memory of Richard Mickens, Greg, and Gloria and Sammy Perkins
In Honor of our children James, Haley, Courtney, and Chauncie

Beth Nelson

In Honor of the Calvary Staff and the Church Union Staff

Dennis W. Panek

In Memory of Genevieve and Walter Panek

Nancy Richards

In Memory of Rev. Bob Richards, and other family members
In Honor of our grandgirls, Audrey and Tatum Arbuckle, with love from "Nunnie"

Jane Skerl

In Memory of my parents, William, and Phyllis Lauster

Aleata and Wayne Weis

In Honor of our children Aiden Weis, and Aimee and Adrianna Weis-Carbonara

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Alyssa Pysola (*Flute*), David Bennett (*Cello*), David Bridge (*Piano*)
Calvary's Handbell Choir

Prophecy Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Processional Hymn “O Come All Ye Faithful” — #234

Welcome and Greetings

Responsive Litany

Leader: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—
People: to carry Christ into this world.

Leader: An ordinary carpenter was invited—
People: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

Leader: The shepherds were invited—
People: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

Leader: The Magi were invited—
People: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

Leader: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—
People: then we can trust that we too are invited.

Leader: This story is for us.
People: This love is for us.

Leader: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.
People: Amen.

Hymn “Once in Royal David’s City” — #250

Lighting of the Advent Candles *Zayvion, Bailey, and Xavier Burns-Elliott; Jeremiah Smith*

Zayvion: In God’s house, there is hope—for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

Candle Lighting — Candle of Hope James Mickens

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Bailey: In God’s house, there is peace—for all that separates us from God falls away.

Candle Lighting — Candle of Peace James Mickens

Jeremiah: In God’s house, there is joy—because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God’s fingerprints, then God’s house surely exudes joy.

Candle Lighting — Candle of Joy James Mickens

Xavier: In God’s house, there is love—because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

Candle Lighting — Candle of Love James Mickens

Advent Candle Song “Advent Song” — TFWS #2090 (*Verse 5*)

Light the Christmas candles, now: sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Zayvion: And in the center of our hope,

Bailey: in the center of our peace,

Jeremiah: in the center of our joy,

Xavier: in the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

Candle Lighting — Christ Candle James Mickens

Zayvion: So tonight we light the Christ candle,

Jeremiah: for God’s love just could not stay away.

Bailey: Welcome home.

Xavier: Amen.

Children’s Message

Anthem “O, Holy Night” — The Renewal Choir

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, you throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Family of faith, even when we fail to trust God’s love, and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door never closes. So hear and believe this good news:

People: God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem “Song of the Shepherds” — The Renewal Choir

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Holy God, we’ve heard this story a million times—Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We’ve heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it’s the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation. Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Scripture Luke 2:1-20 (NRSV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Hymn “What Child Is This” — #219

Christmas Meditation Rev. Larry Homitsky

Invitation to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem “Glory to God in the Highest” — The Renewal Choir

Hymn “Silent Night” — #239

Scripture John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Christmas Reflections Rev. Kelly Smith, Rev. Kornelius Neal, Rev. Larry Homitsky

Hymn “Joy to the World” — #246

Postlude

Traditional Cookie Reception

In lieu of our traditional cookie reception, members of our congregation will have pre-packaged homemade cookies for you to take home. We will have them in the narthex in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

A Message from Music Director Brian Burns

Thank you to all of our Renewal Choir members and our guest musicians for sharing their time and talents this evening, and also to everyone that supports the music program here at Calvary.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Children's 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.

Sunday Morning Worship

Description: Join us for worship every Sunday at 11AM whether in person or virtually!

Facebook — Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh

YouTube — Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: There is an exercise class that meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am in the Calvary Chapel. The group uses the program "Grow Young Fitness". The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. You can participate at your comfort level, and many exercises are done while sitting. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich (laehrlich927@aol.com), or come by some Tuesday or Thursday morning to join in the fun. As the exercise leader always tells us, remember to "keep it movin".

Bible Study Led By Rev. Larry Homitsky And Rev. Kornelius Neal

Time / Location: 6:30pm / New Destiny CMEC Church (Formerly Emanuel UMC)

Description: Please join us for our joint bible study with New Destiny. Afterwards it's also been our tradition to head to the Clark Bar for refreshments and further discussion. The address of New Destiny is 856 Crucible Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Renewal Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:30-7:30pm / Calvary UMC Sanctuary

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

Hand Bell Rehearsal

Time / Location: 7:30-8:30pm / Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room

Description: Interested in joining? We are seeking new and energetic people willing to learn and participate. Please consider adding your talents to our group. No experience is necessary to join and it is probably easier to do than you think! See Brian Burns for details.

THURSDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: There is an exercise class that meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am in the Calvary Chapel. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich via email at laehrlich927@aol.com, or come by some Tuesday or Thursday morning to join in the fun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Guidelines at Calvary

Masks or cloth face coverings are to be worn at all times inside the Church buildings. Mask or face covering must be covering both your mouth and nose. Every other pew is available for seating. Please space out seating to ensure individuals or families are at least 6 feet apart from anyone outside of their household.

Special Tax-Saving Ways to Give to Calvary

- 70½ years old or older - Tax Free IRA Gift
- Appreciated Stocks/Securities to Reduce Capital Gains Tax
- Donor Advised Fund Grant

Contact the Church Office at 412-231-2007 for information.

Items Needed for the Northside Food Pantry

The Northside Food Pantry has put a call out to their surrounding neighbors to help collect items they need. We here at Calvary have agreed to start a collection to help stock their shelves. They have specifically asked us to collect the following items: full-size toothpaste, boxes of baking soda, and brownie mix. We will have a collection container at church and we invite you to help us over the next three weeks. If you'd rather not go shopping, they do have an Amazon Wish List if you'd like to purchase and have it sent directly to them: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3EW9OQCVKZML1?ref_=abls_nvfly_yl

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, or you can complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvaryppgh.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.



Calvary United
Methodist Church,
Pittsburgh

CALVARY UMC
**STREAMS
LIVE**

**SUNDAYS @ 11AM
ON FACEBOOK**

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



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REV. LARRY HOMITSKY, PASTOR - REVLARRY@CHURCHUNION.ORG
REV. KELLY SMITH, ASSOCIATE PASTOR - KELLITA00@GMAIL.COM
BRIAN BURNS, MUSIC DIRECTOR - BSBURNS77@AOL.COM

971 BEECH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15233
412-231-2007 | CALVARYPGH@GMAIL.COM | CALVARYPGH.COM