

Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Joan Jessup's sister — passed away
Lorraine's great-grandbaby — lead poisoning
John Henderson (Ellen's brother) — leukemia
Joshua (Brian's cousin's son) — brain tumor
Shelly (Christine's daughter) — car accident
Christine Thomas — new treatment for leg
Gerald — hospital
Jane Wederich (Ellen's aunt) — heart problems
Danny (Bova's cousin) — ICU with respiratory issues
Lisa Ferguson — father in hospice
Lois (friend of Anne) — passed away
John Burke Dr (Truddee's husband) — UPMC Monroeville
Tea Sampson — ICU Presbyterian
Brian (Debbie Neuherz's brother in law) — Covid, loss of his wife
Brenda (Debbie's sister) — loss of husband Kevin to Covid
Anna Jane (Bova family) — cancer
Tavarious Lee — violence
Kathy (Christine's sister) — recovering from stroke
Kate (Christine's niece) — needs a kidney
Charlee (Zek's brother) — COPD
Pat (friend of Christine) — health struggles

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

Joan Sturtz — caring for Bill
Ron and Sally Westerman
Randy & Danny — bone marrow transplant
Dan Souza — cancer
Tom Smith — cancer
Rev. Edward Clarke (Emanuel UMC) — esophageal cancer
Paul Brucker — ongoing health struggles

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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Greetings

Call to Worship †*

Leader: Jesus said,
People: "This is my Father's house."
Leader: So come into this space
People: just as you are.
Leader: Come into this space.
People: speaking your truth.
Leader: Come into this space.
People: with your authentic self.
Leader: This is God's home.
People: This is our home.
Leader: Let us worship God.

Hymn †* "Away in a Manger" — #217 (Verses 1 & 2)

Hymn †* "O Little Town of Bethlehem" — #230 (Verses 1 & 2)

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Prayer Concerns

Prayer of Confession *

Leader: We could offer welcome,
People: but we often choose judgement.
Leader: We could choose action,
People: but we often choose silence.
Leader: We could choose advocacy,
People: but we often choose comfort.
Leader: We could choose truth,
People: but we often choose ignorance.
Leader: We could choose God,
People: but we often choose ourselves.
Leader: Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.
People: Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness *

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God's love. It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us. So may we accept God's grace, and use it as fuel for better days. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
People: No matter how many times we walk away, God always welcomes us home. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited. Thanks be to God, amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer * #895

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.

Hymn * "O Come, All Ye Faithful" — #234 (Verses 1 & 2)

Hymn * "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" — #240 (Verses 1 & 2)

Scripture * Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Reflection "Chosen Home" — Rev. Kelly Smith

Invitation to Offering

Doxology †* Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High" — #238

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Offering Prayer †*

Gracious God, your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. amen.

Hymn †* "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" — #251 (Verses 1 & 2)

Hymn †* "Joy to the World" — #246 (Verses 1 & 2)

Benediction †

Postlude †

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

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Calvary United
Methodist Church,
Pittsburgh

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**STREAMS
LIVE**

**SUNDAYS @ 11AM
ON FACEBOOK**

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giving

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AND YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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