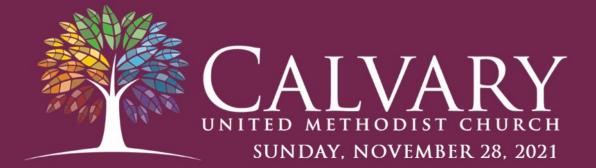
HOPE





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

Louis (friend of Anne Christianson) — sepsis, critical condition in ICU Brian (Debbie Neuherz's brother-in-law) — Covid, loss of his wife Kevin (Debbie's brother-in-law) and Brenda (sister) — both with Covid (Kevin in ICU) Anna Jane (Bova family) — cancer Tavarious Lee — violence Kathy (Christine's sister) — severe stroke Pat's grandson (friends of Christine) — Covid Kate (Christine's niece) — needs a kidney Gladley Family (friends of Christine) — loss of Theresa Charlee (Zeke's brother) — COPD

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 *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.



ADVENT 2021

"Close to Home" An Advent Message Series

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day — our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God's promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel's news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth's home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

"Close to Home" - Our Journey Over The Next Four Weeks





Luke 21:25-36 — As we begin Advent with the "Little Apocalypse" in Luke 21, we remember how far from home we are. The world is not as it should be. Many have lost their physical homes, many feel alone, and many are isolated. Many of us feel as if we are wandering with no clear way forward. This first week speaks to our deep longing—for our home to be made whole, made right, and made well. With deep longing, we watch for God. Thankfully, God enters a homesick world.



Second Sunday of Advent — Laying the Foundation (Peace)

Luke 1:57-80 — In the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, we see the foundation of what is to come. We see how interwoven his story is with Jesus' origin story. When Zechariah regains his voice, his imagination is also restored. He offers deep praise for God's tender mercy, and casts a hopeful vision for his own child. He sings blessings into John's being. This lays the foundation for John's life. In turn, John will go on to prepare the way for Jesus who will guide us all in the way of peace. In this week, we focus on making space—in our lives and our imaginations—for God's blessings to break through.



Third Sunday of Advent — A Home for All (Joy)

Luke 3:1-18 — John the Baptist's good news sounds harsh, but he preaches a home for all—where inequities are banished, valleys are lifted up, and all have the resources they need for collective flourishing. Ultimately, John's message is one of joy. We are called to collectively build and repair the structures of our society; we are called to be kin-dom builders. Wherever we build, God is there. What we build should be a place with a large table and room for all.



Fourth Sunday of Advent — Seeking Sanctuary (Love)

Luke 1: 39-55 — After receiving the angel's extraordinary news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth and Zechariah's home to digest her new calling. She seeks refuge—physical safety and emotional protection. She receives a safe haven, a home for her heart to soon sing praise. Sanctuary and safe space is so crucial for everyone, especially the mother of Christ while she prepares to become a home for God. Sanctuary is anywhere God's love dwells freely and abundantly.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT CALVARY

Calvary will be presenting an Open House on Saturday, December 18 from 1:00-7:00pm featuring tours of the church, live music with choir and organ, a vintage item sale, homemade soups for takeout, cookies and refreshments, a kid's area with crafts, and a Special Jolly Visitor! Beech Avenue will be open for a self-guided stroll down the historic festively decorated street, featuring carolers.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

1:00-7:00pm – Vintage sale, refreshments, soup takeout, kid's crafts
3:00-3:15pm – Music
3:15-4:00pm – Tour, questions, and fellowship
4:00-4:15pm – Music
4:15-5:00pm – Tour, questions, and fellowship
5:00pm – "Special Jolly Visitor" arrives
5:30-6:00pm – Final tour, questions, and fellowship
6:00-7:00pm – Final purchases
7:00pm – Church open for cleanup

(HRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - HELP NEEDED

Volunteers and Donations Needed

We are looking for donations for cookies and homemade soup. Volunteers are also needed for setup (12:00-1:00pm), cleanup (6:45-7:30pm), kid's crafts table, food sales (shifts of 2-3 people: 1:00-3:00pm, 3:00-5:00pm, 5:00-7:00pm), cookie and refreshment table (shifts of 2-3 people: 1:00-3:00pm, 3:00-5:00pm, 5:00-7:00pm), carolers, and question/answer time (2-3 people per shift, 3 shifts: 3:15-4:00pm, 4:15-5:00pm, 5:30-6:00pm) which is essentially tour help—be around to talk and fellowship after with visitors, essentially "plants" to be around to engage visitors, you will not be giving tours but just mill around to chat with visitors.

Contact Brian Burns at either 724-388-3246 or *bsburns77@aol.com* with any questions or if you would like to help out with a donation or volunteer. You may also fill out the below form, tear off then place in the offering plate. Brian will then reach out to you within the next few days.

Making Soup? Safe Soup Maker's Instructions

Cool your soup down from 165 degrees Fahrenheit to 41 degrees Fahrenheit within 4 hours of taking the soup off the stove by putting the soup in shallow bowls, no more than 3 inches in depth, then put the shallow bowls in the refrigerator to cool down. Take the temperature of the soup after being in the refrigerator for 4 hours to ensure it is 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below. The soup can then be combined from the bowls into a container for transport to the church.

Soup containers will be provided for you. Please see Brian Burns for containers following Sunday morning worship for containers. You can also stop into the church office during the week to pick them up as well. Please bring the soup to church a few days prior to the Open House so the containers can be placed in the refrigerators in the kitchen downstairs. Do not freeze. Also, do not write soup descriptions on the containers. Instead, please tape a piece of paper that can be removed from the container listing the type of soup. Labels for each soup description will be made at church to adhere to each of the containers.

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH THE OPEN HOUSE!

I would like to help out with: (please check all that apply)

Please contact me:

Make Soup	Bake Cookies	Name
Caroling	Crafts	
🖵 Setup	Cleanup	Phone
Food Sales (H	landling Money)	
Cookie/Refreshment Table		Email
Question/Answer (Tour Help)		
		Comments

ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship **†***

Leader: People:	Can one be homesick for something you've never known? We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.		
Leader: People:	Yes, we are homesick — for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.		
Leader: People:	We are homesick for the world God promises. We are homesick, but we are on our way.		
	God is here. God is still creating. Let us worship Holy God.		
Opening Hyr	nn †*		
Opening Pra	yer		
Community	Greetings		
Lighting of th	ne Advent Candle — First Sunday		

* Words are listed on screen.
† Please stand as you are able.
Order of Worship continued on following page.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Litany *

Leader: We hope for a world where all are fed. We hope for a world with more bridges than walls. We hope for a world with wide open doors. We hope for a world with contagious laughter. We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean. We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes. We hope for that world. We long for that world. We are homesick for that world. So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

Candle Lighting *

Leader: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it. We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

Light the Advent candle one Now the waiting has begun We have started on our way Time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle burning bright Shining in the cold winter night Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children's Message

"See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting" — Words to Follow See fig tree leaves now sprouting Soon summer comes again Creation groans in labor For God's reign to begin We wait with bated breath Homesick for God's true kingdom Age without hate or death. Sun, moon, and stars above us Speak of God's promised day To make space for out new home This world must pass away When we are filled with dread The words of Christ uphold us: * Words are listed on screen. "Arise and raise your head". *†* Please stand as you are able. Order of Worship continued on following page.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Prayer of Confession *

All: Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness *

Leader: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer
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.
Special Music
Scripture *

* Words are listed on screen.
† Please stand as you are able.
Order of Worship continued on following page.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." 19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Leader:	The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.
People:	Thanks be to God.

Reflection ...

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer **

All: Holy God, we are homesick. We long for the day that you spoke of when swords will be beaten into plowshares, the lion will lie down with the lamb, and justice will roll like waters. Until that holy day comes, take these gifts and use them to build that world here. We are hopeful. Amen.

Benediction *†*

Postlude †

* Words are listed on screen.† Please stand as you are able.

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.

Sleeping Bag Group

The Monday night Sleeping Bag Group will take a break the rest of November and all of December. They will meet again in the new year on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30pm. Contact Anne Christianson at *alchristian@yahoo.com* with any questions.

Special Tax-Saving Ways To Give To Calvary

If you are 70½ years old or older - Tax Free IRA Gift; Appreciated Stocks/Securities to Reduce Capital Gains Tax; or Donor Advised Fund Grant. Contact the Church Office at 412-231-2007 for information.

Poinsettia Order Form

Be on the lookout! In next Sunday's bulletin you will find the Poinsettia Order Form for Christmas Eve dedications.

The Sunday Bulletin Is Now On The Website

The bulletin for Sunday morning worship can now be found on Calvary's website. This way, if you are unable to physically make it to church on Sunday morning you can access the bulletin to follow along. Also, this will be useful if you are more comfortable looking at an electronic copy on your phone rather than a paper copy during morning worship. The bulletins are located here: *https://calvarypgh.com/worship-and-fellowship/bulletins.php*

Clean-Up Day And Decorating Day At Calvary

This year, instead of us taking several weeks to get all of the Christmas decorations up, we are going to do them in one day all at one time. This will simplify everything for everyone. The decorating will be Saturday, December 4 from 9:00am-1:00pm and lunch will be provided. In order to prepare to decorate the church, a cleanup day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30 from 9:00am-9:00pm. Come in any time during the day and you will find a list of activities that need to be completed. Simply pick a task or two (or more) and then cross it off the list once complete. If you are unable to make it to the church on Tuesday, you are welcome to stop into the church any day that week. Please contact Brian Burns at either *bsburns77@aol.com* (email) or 724-388-3246 (mobile) to let him know what day you would like to come in and he will make sure someone is at the church to let you in. Feel free to contact Brian with any questions.

Love Singing? Thinking About Joining The Choir?

Love Singing? Thinking About Joining the Choir? Now is the perfect time to give it a try! We are looking to bolster our ranks for the Advent season and beyond. No audition required! All are welcome! See Brian Burns if interested or if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT...

Memorial For Truddie Burke

A Memorial and Celebration of Life for Truddie Burke will be held today at 1:00pm with reception to follow. Everyone is welcome if you wish to attend. The family will also be celebrating Christine and Zeke's wedding anniversary during the reception.

The Hand Bell Choir Is Looking For Additional Ringers

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! We rehearse on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30pm after Renewal Choir rehearsal. See Brian Burns if interested or if you have any questions.

Bible Study—New Day And New Location

The Wednesday night Bible Study led by Rev. Larry Homitsky and Rev. Kornelius Neal has started up again only it is NOT on Wednesdays BUT ON Tuesday evenings instead. The location has also changed from Calvary UMC to the old Emanuel UMC Church which is now the site of the New Destiny CMEC Church led by Rev. Kornelius Neal. Bible study begins at 6:30pm on Tuesday evenings. Also, during the next few weeks thru the Tuesday before Christmas, we will be joined by Dr. Steven Tuell from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminar and studying *"Why Reading The Bible Is So Important Today"*.

AHPS Angel Cards

Another shipment of angel cards has arrived and if you would like a quantity of them for your holiday greetings, please let Nancy Richards know so she can save whatever you need. All the proceeds are going towards the replacement of the pew cushions, so Calvary benefits with each purchase. Volunteers will have them before and after church in the vestibule at the entrance on Allegheny Avenue. They are \$10.00 for 8 cards and envelopes. If you have any questions or would like to reserve cards, please contact Nancy Richards at *revrfr@yahoo.com*.



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.

MONDAYS

Virtual Bible Study Led By Rev. Ellie Laws

Time / Location: 7:00pm / Zoom

Description: "Old Testament Fast Track - Becoming Disciples" will be 12 weeks beginning Monday, September 27 at 7:00pm on Zoom. We will be studying creation, Israel as a nation, kings, prophets, and our savior. If you would like to join the bible study please reach out to Rev. Ellie Laws at 302-682-4860 or email her at *ellielou48@gmail.com*.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

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

Description: The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at *laehrlich927@aol.com*.

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

Time / Location: 6:30pm / New Destiny CMEC Church (old Emanuel UMC building) **Description:** During the next few weeks thru the Tuesday before Christmas, we will be joined by Dr. Steven Tuell from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminar and studying "Why Reading The Bible Is So Important Today".

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! We are looking to bolster our ranks for the Advent season and beyond. 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: The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at *laehrlich927@aol.com*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Sunday, November 28, 2021— Memorial For Truddie Burke

Time / Location: 1:00pm / Calvary UMC Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall **Description:** A Memorial and Celebration of Life for Truddie Burke will be held today with reception to follow. Everyone is welcome if you wish to attend. The family will also be celebrating Christine and Zeke's wedding anniversary during the reception.

Tuesday, November 30, 2021— Clean-Up Day

Time / Location: 9:00am-9:00pm / Calvary UMC

Description: Help us get ready for the holidays! This Cleaning Day is in preparation for decorating on December 4th. Come in any time during the day and you will find a list of activities that need to be completed. Simply pick a task or two (or more) and then cross it off the list once complete. If you are unable to make it to the church on Tuesday, you are welcome to stop into the church any day that week. Please contact Brian Burns with what day you would like to come in and he will make sure someone is at the church to let you in.

Saturday, December 4, 2021— Christmas Decorating Or "Hanging of the Greens"

Time / Location: 9:00am-1:00pm / Calvary UMC Chapel **Description:** This year, instead of us taking several weeks to get all of the Christmas decorations up, we are going to do them in one day all at one time. This will simplify everything for everyone. Lunch will be provided.

Thursday, December 16, 2021— Church Council Meeting

Time / Location: 6:30pm / Calvary UMC Chapel

Saturday, December 18 , 2021 — Christmas Open House At Calvary

Time / Location: 1:00-7:00pm / Calvary UMC

Description: Calvary will be presenting an Open House featuring tours of the church, live music with choir and organ, a vintage item sale, homemade soups for takeout, cookies and refreshments, a kid's area with crafts, and a Special Jolly Visitor! Beech Avenue will be open for a self-guided stroll down the historic festively decorated street, featuring carolers.

Monday, December 20, 2021 — Longest Night Service

Time / Location: 7:00pm / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: This creative worship service is designed to create a sacred space for the grief, longing, and heartache that feels close to home—especially during the holiday season.

Friday, December 24, 2021 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Time / Location: Music begins at 7:00pm, Service begins at 7:30pm / Calvary UMC **Description:** You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Advent and Christmas at Calvary. Let the words of beloved carols and scriptures set the foundation. Stirring choral and organ 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.

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



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Rev. Larry Homitsky, Pastor - Revlarry@churchunion.org Rev. Kelly Smith, Associate Pastor - Kellita00@gmail.com Brian Burns, Music Director - BSBURNS77@aol.com