

CALVIN NOTES AND NEWS



Calvin Presbyterian Church
Lovingly nurturing every journey with Christ in prayer, praise, and action



November
2020

How to Grow Pandemic Style

How did it make you feel this past week when Dr. Anthony Fauci said, “I think it will be easily by the end of 2021, and perhaps even into the next year, before we start having some semblances of normality?” That’s a long time and I’m concerned; I’m very, very, very concerned. I’m concerned that Calvin’s staff and I are losing touch with you. I’m concerned that you’re losing touch with each other. And I’m concerned that Calvin is losing touch with the Body of Christ that God has made her to be.

Now don’t get me wrong, I have all the confidence in the world that we could power through and just hold on and have some semblance of normalcy in 14 months. But I don’t think God made Calvin to be the *Divinely Different* church that it is by powering through. I’m pretty sure that God didn’t make Calvin to be the *Universally Unique* church that it is by just holding on. I know beyond any kind of reasonable doubt that God didn’t make Calvin to be the *Incessantly Inspired* church that it is by having some semblance of normalcy.

No! God made Calvin to be the *Divinely Different*, *Universally Unique*, *Incessantly Inspired* Body of Christ that she is through a lot of blood, sweat and tears working together to grow together closer to each other and closer to God. ‘Blood’ of Christ, that is. ‘Sweat’ equity of her members, that is. ‘Tears’ of holding and helping those in need, that is.


So, the question is, how do we, over the next 14 or more months, grow closer to each other and closer to God, in the midst of this pandemic? Any ideas? Seriously, we’d cherish any great ideas or magic wands that could time warp us to Spring or Summer 2022 and with us growing closer...!



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Listen, we get it. Throughout the Bible, God's people have been grumbling, saying they'd rather go back to being slaves in Egypt. We've also got to recall that throughout the Bible, God has provided for God's people on the road less traveled. So, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work following God's will!

What about the New Calvin Pictorial Directory? I know, it kind of hit me too! What would happen if Calvin rediscovered the lost art of letter writing? What if each of us committed to writing and reading and responding to an email a day from and to Calvin? You could write a word of encouragement, or ask how someone is doing, or tell someone how much you love and miss them. Oh, and let me assure you, the staff and I would enjoy it just as much as anyone. There is a syndrome in the ministry where everyone thinks the ministers are too busy to bother. And do you know what happens? Ministers become lonely, dreadfully, frighteningly, disparagingly lonely. It would be infinitely better to have to all of staff's boundaries pushed than for any of Calvin's staff be lonely. So, please, give us the pleasure having to be more disciplined with our time so we can return all your letters or emails. Force us to be increasingly connected with you in this time of disconnection.



What about joining a small group? Seriously, we've had 70 people this fall in 7 small groups working their way through a curriculum Ralph Lowe, Doug Tilton and I put together. What would happen if those 70 continued in their small groups and we had so many new people wanting to join them that we had to add 7 more small groups? I've got a lil secret to share, we actually have another 10 weeks outlined that we'd love to put together. I've also got access to a dozen or so Advent Studies for Small Groups through Thoughtful Christian (see below). Wouldn't it be one of the best pandemic problems for a church to possibly have if the existing small groups continued to meet and we have to put together a bunch of additional small groups?

And if you're not the book reading type, or you're not the spill your opinions and feelings all over the floor type, that's perfectly fine. Through "*Finding Myself...*" we discovered that we should have had a movie watching small group. And anyone and everyone in any of our small groups will tell you that it's perfectly fine if you just want to observe and not say much. It's perfectly fine if the small group doesn't even touch the curriculum because they were supporting each other. It's perfectly fine if you want to have a small group that's 100% about being in relationship with each other. It's perfectly fine if you want to have a small group title, "*Word and Wine.*" Seriously, some of the best small groups I've ever been a part of involved things you would not normally associate with church ranging from model trains to quilting. The point is, small groups are more about the relationships that are born, nurtured and grown than they are about the material or subject matter. It just so happens that when good people of faith get together with good people of faith, everyone grows closer to each other and closer to God!

Won't you please join us is growing closer to each other and closer to God with all of our blood, sweat and tears working together so that Calvin can continue to be the *Divinely Different, Universally Unique, Incessantly Inspired* Body of Christ that God made her to be in the midst of this pandemic?

Amen?!

Godspeed!



News You Can Use

Online Coffee Hour

Join us Sundays after worship at 10:30 a.m. for a virtual coffee hour where we will connect with one another and have a worship talkback with the staff.

Join Coffee Hour

Meeting ID: 896 5039 8384

Password: 056457

Third Thursday Prayer Vigil

There will be no Third Thursday Prayer Vigil in November. The next Third Thursday vigil will be December 3rd from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. If you do not want to attend in person, the vigil will also be [streaming online](#).

You must [register online](#) to attend the vigil.

Rules for the Prayer Vigil:

1. Wear a mask
2. Practice social distancing
3. Temperatures will be taken before entering the sanctuary

If you have a request, please send it to calvinprayerrequest@gmail.com.



Church Custodian Wanted

Calvin Church is seeking a [custodian](#) to provide general maintenance on the church once a week. If you are interested, or know anyone else that may be interested, please contact David at 724-452-7560 or adavidpaul@zoominternet.net.

Study Groups

The **Tuesday Women's Devotional Group** will be discussing the book *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace: Living in the Spirit of the Prayer of St Francis* by Kent Nerburn. The easiest place we found to order the book was on AbeBooks.com. Be sure to check that the book is being sent from a place in the USA. This group meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 -10:30 a.m. If you wish to join us please contact Marie Campbell at Marie.I.Campbell@icloud.com, her home phone at 724-282-4982, or text her at 724-602-7970 and she will send you the Zoom invitation.

The **Open Circle** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Masks are required and social distancing is practiced. Open Circle means that women of all ages are invited to join us in prayer and study in an open circle of fellowship. We have just started a new book, *Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. We look forward to welcoming new members to our group and we have extra books for those who might like to attend. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 24th and Agnes will be leading us in our study of Chapter 4. Come be part of our Bible Study.

Starting Tuesday, November 10th the **Beth Moore Group** will begin reading the book James Murphy *Triumphs*. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any New Testament book. Come along with Beth Moore on a journey to get to know both the man and the Book of James. You will never be the same again. This is a 9-session study. Topics include: Joy, Hardship, Faith, Reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, Wisdom, Gifts from above, Single-mindedness, Dangers of the tongue, Humility, and Prayer.



They will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Calvin Church in Fellowship Hall. They will be socially distanced. Masks are REQUIRED! Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, seating is limited. They can also offer the session live via Zoom.

The study requires a Member Workbook Guide which involves individual lesson work. This work is not required, but greatly enhances your experience and highly recommended. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a Beth Moore study, please join us for an inspiring, thought provoking and interactive Bible study time. Past participants are awed at the end of each session how Beth Moore intertwines the Old and New Testament and presents the material with a new understanding!

If you would like to attend or for more information, please contact Donna Galbraith at 724-766-7732 (Home) or 412-585-2780 (Cell) or galb228@zoominternet.net.

News You Can Use

Faith Concert by Calvin

This Concert is a continuation of the Concert series that began in January with "Hope". This one is "Faith" and we will finish up with a "Love" concert after the first of the year. This concert is meant to share with everyone and anyone. It is a part of the mission and outreach of Calvin Church. You can view the concert on the [Calvin website](#).

Participating in the concert series are:

Toni Schlemmer, Brad Townsend, Tom Roberts, Tina Grieg, Tom Perman, Krystal Miller, and Miriam Necastro

Pianists: Brent Alexander, D. Bruce Smith

Drums: Matt Stanton. Trumpet: Jim Cunningham

Technical director/recording: DeWayne Segafredo



Anyone wishing to make a contribution to Calvin Church may do so on the [Calvin Presbyterian Church](#) website and clicking on "Contribute Online".

Zelienople Preschool Fundraisers



The preschool will be selling Augustine's Pizzas and Calzones and Cooke Tavern Soups beginning October 19th thru November 6th. Pickup for all orders will be November 18th at the preschool. The pizzas and calzones will be frozen and must be picked up that day. More details about pick up times will be announced closer to the 18th.

Fundraiser information and order forms are available at the back door of the church in the blue tote. You can return the order forms back in the bin in the designated envelope. You can also download the order forms for the [pizzas and calzones](#), and the [soups](#) and either send them via email or you can bring them to the church and put them in the tote.

If you have any questions you can contact Jenna Rape at jweitzel30@gmail.com or 724-504-5682.



Ten Thousand Villages Sale

Every year the **Women's Association** holds a sale the end of October at the church in Fellowship Hall featuring items made by women from all over the World. The money raised goes to the women that made the items to support their families and 10% of the total profit comes back to us to support a project in our own community.

This year will be a little different. The catalog will be virtual and there will be some physical catalogs to give out to people that would like to look that way. The sale will run from October 25th thru November 15th. The items will **NOT** be shipped. Judy Kercovich will receive the purchased items and set up a time when people can come and pick up their orders. You will have everything before Thanksgiving.

This is the link to the online version of the catalogue:

<https://simplebooklet.com/holiday2020fundraisingcatalog>

This is the link to the online version of the store, where you can place orders:

<https://ten-thousand-villages-pittsburgh.square.site/>

You must enter the code FUNDZELI during checkout so TTV knows that the order is for the Women's Association fundraiser.

Please email Judy Kercovich at jkerovich@yahoo.com or contact the church office if you would like a catalog. Please support the women in these Third World countries that work so hard to support their families during this difficult time.



News You Can Use

World Communion Sunday in Ghana

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. The Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.

Our Ghana partners, members of Oti Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, sent this picture of their celebration of World Communion Sunday, October 4th in the town of Odomi. Most of the ministers in Ghana serve more than one church. Rev. Amenyo and an elder left Saturday evening and slept overnight near the church in Bontibor so they could start the first World Communion service at 6 am. Then they visited Ahundwo, Kpeve, Nkwanta and then finally Odomi. This is the rainy season in this part of Ghana so the rainfall added to the difficulty of visiting five churches in one day traveling on dirt roads.



Poinsettias For Christmas Eve Services

We will be having poinsettias this year for the Christmas Eve services. All poinsettias are \$8.00 each. Orders are due by November 25th.

You can place your order via the [Calvin website](#), then you can mail your payment (checks made payable to Calvin Presbyterian Church) or you can drop it off at the church. There will be an envelope in the blue bin at the back entrance where you can leave your payment.

Email or call the office at 724-452-7560 if you have any questions.



INTRODUCING AN IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Dear Calvin Family,

We'd like to introduce you to **CALVIN CHAPEL**! What do you think of when you think of a "Chapel Service"? Brief, yet meaningful. To the point, yet inspirational. Simple, yet profound. Well, that's precisely what we're aiming for. We believe we can safely have **CALVIN CHAPEL** for 30ish minutes in her sanctuary with 25 of her members on Sunday mornings at 11AM (starting Sunday, November 1st). It would typically include a musical piece, prayer, scripture and an abbreviated message.

General Guidelines for CALVIN CHAPEL, Please:

- Pre-register to be in the 'pool'!
- Get and register the COVID AlertPA app!
- Register for each Sunday you want to attend!
- Get the Flu Shot!
- Take and record your temperature at Calvin!
- Use hand sanitizer when you enter and exit Calvin!
- Sit in your assigned area!
- Enter and exit without bottle necking!
- Wear a mask at all times inside Calvin!
- Maintain physical distancing!
- Un-register ASAP if you can't attend!
- Wait to register if you attended the previous week!
- Understand that all of this is subject to change!
- Confirm Chapel is "on" 24 hours in advance!

As important as this new opportunity to safely connect is, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE know that Calvin is here for you! If you or your family have any needs at all; whether you are fatigued from all this, having trouble paying the bills, putting food on the table, are feeling overwhelmed, or need a listening ear or prayerful call, please contact us! All of this has changed our lives in many ways, but the love and care that the Calvin family shows for each other, our community and our world has not and will not change. Quite the contrary, we know that through this and with God, we will get stronger,

3 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, 4 and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. 5 In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit! – Romans 5:3-5 (MSG)

We would like to thank you for your passionate patience, diligence in prayer and attention to CDC, PA Dept of Health, and PC(USA) guidelines. Additional details are in the works. We will get them to you as soon as possible. If you have any questions or would like clarification regarding the above guidelines, please don't hesitate to contact us. Calvin will do her best to listen, respond and meet your needs.

Mission Matters

Christmas Angel Tree in the time of COVID

Last year Calvin Church was able to provide 150 gifts for the children of families served by Glade Run Lutheran Services. This year, the Mission Committee is offering members three different ways of participating.

1. You can still purchase a gift and deliver it yourself to the contactless drop off location (Glade Run Santa House)
2. Or you can shop the wish list located online at Amazon, Target or Walmart and have your gift shipped to Glade Run
3. If you prefer, you can mail a gift card, monetary donation, or use their secure website to donate to the Glade Run Foundation Christmas Angel Program.

These choices are detailed on the [information flyer](#) and [brochure](#). If you choose to participate, please provide Cheryl Martin, coordinator at Glade Run, with your name, address, and Calvin Church identified with the gift. The deadline to donate is the week of December 8th–12th.



Food Cupboard

Thank you to the many Calvin members who helped with the October Food Cupboard distribution.

The need for food support is increasing as the pandemic continues. In September, we helped 87 households. One hundred and three households received food in October. Please share information about the cupboard with anyone who is experiencing food insecurities.






November 2020

"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever."

Psalm 106:1

Events are subject to change depending on state or federal mandates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11:00 a.m. Calvin Chapel		6:00 p.m. Membership* 7:00 p.m. Youth Formation*	7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds*			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11:00 a.m. Calvin Chapel		6:00 p.m. Communications* 7:00 p.m. Personnel & Finance* Beth Moore Group	6:00 p.m. Mission* 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Nurture*			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
11:00 a.m. Calvin Chapel		7:00 p.m. Session*				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11:00 a.m. Calvin Chapel		7:00 p.m. Open Circle Beth Moore Group				
29	30					
11:00 a.m. Calvin Chapel						

* Meetings happening via Zoom

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Online Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour*
6:00 p.m. CYG3 grades 4-6
CYG2 grades 7-8
7:00 p.m. CYG grades 9-12

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. GraceFit Yoga
Devotional Prayer Group*

Thursday

7:00 a.m. Men's Room*
7:00 p.m. GIFT Group



Calvin Presbyterian Church

Lovingly nurturing every journey with Christ in prayer, praise, and action

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Address Service Requested

Church Staff and Session Members

Church Staff

Rev. A. David Paul
Rev. Connie Frierson
Bruce Smith
Toni Schlemmer
DeWayne Segafredo
Dahn Kilroy
Karen Frank
Sheldon Weiher
Tom Reiber
Scott Caputy
Maggie Danko
Dr. David English

Senior Pastor
Parish Associate
Director of Music/Youth Director
Director of Fine Arts
Technical Director/Accompanist
Office Administrator
Treasurer
Custodial Staff
Worship Visuals
Worship Audio
Worship Musician
Music Advisor (Volunteer)



Session Members

Cathy Baker
Kevin Trobaugh

Lisa Buechele
Kelly Stefanacci

Clerk of Session
Building & Grounds Committee
Communications Committee
Spiritual Nurture Committee
Membership Committee

Eric Stoltenberg
Steve Fowler
Marilyn Evans
Denee Stevenson
Ashley Gigliotti

Personnel & Finance Committee
Worship & Arts Committee
Youth Formation & Ed. Committee
Mission Committee
Zelienople Nursery School Committee