



CALVIN NOTES AND NEWS



March
2020

Is it Dessert or Desert?

Do you remember learning the difference between spelling “desert” and “dessert”? Everybody wants to have two desserts (with two “S’s”), to which my consistent weight battle attests. To this day, it’s the only way I remember how to spell the difference.

At Calvin we highlight that truth by celebrating Fat Tuesday. Before entering the desert of Lent, we party up and eat all the dessert we can.

When I refer to the “desert of Lent” I’m not just referring to the hot, lonely and seemingly lifeless landscapes; I’m referring to the interior deserts as well. Interior deserts, like sickness, self-sufficiency, age, loneliness, greed, shame, unworthiness, loss, regret, broken relationships, addiction, fear, revenge, guilt... are difficult to escape. These deserts seize our attention, especially during the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy or Silent Saturday, the day before Easter.

We start Lent by taking the initiative ourselves, by coming forward and marking our foreheads with the sign of the cross. On Ash Wednesday when we wear the ashes, our repentance and belief become unmistakable. This was the initiation of our Lenten forty-day journey in the desert.



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On the first Sunday in Lent Jesus enters the desert landscape (Matthew 4:1-11). Why? Because he had to show us that all darkness, sin, evil and fear is not lost in the blowing sands, the hot sky, the open terrain and the tortuous sun of the desert. Quite the contrary, his life, his love, his message springs forth from the desert.

In fact, "Lent" means springtime! It is a time of inner renewal. Lent is a time when we are encouraged to face again and again the heat of our brokenness or division from each other and God. It is a forty-day experience of prayer, fasting and giving so that we can renew our baptismal covenant with Christ at Easter. Lent is a time when we need to restore our relationships. Today, as much as ever, we need conversation, change and hope. You can't fight the desert, it either kills you or changes you. And so we cling to Christ during Lent praying for a changed heart blooming with hope and joy and love.

So, here is something to consider doing each during these forty days of Lent:

Monday – Pray for people who may be seeking Christ.

Tuesday – Pray for Calvin, Beaver-Butler Presbytery, the PC(USA), and the Church throughout the world.

Wednesday – Journal about your spiritual insights, the questions of your heart and how God is both loving you and calling you deeper into Christ's healing love.

Thursday – Examine your relationships and be honest about whom you need to forgive and who needs to forgive you and pray for them.

Friday – Practice greater spiritual honesty about your life and talk to a trusted someone (e.g., spouse, child, sibling, parent, BFF) about it.

Saturday – Learn about things you usually avoid such as racism, mental illness or the reality of human trafficking.

Sunday – Prayerfully read Sunday's lectionary scriptures (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>) before you come to church and behold what God does.



*Lae,
David*

News You Can Use

Adult Education For March 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

Lead by Jim Campbell

What does Paul's First Century letter to the Christians in Rome mean to us? An interactive experience with Paul's letter.

No Sunday School during Lent

Starting March 1st there will be a Sunday school "fast" for Lent. This means no children's Sunday school during Lent or on Easter Sunday. But please join us today for a family-friendly Lenten craft in Fellowship Hall. We will also be doing palm crosses on Palm Sunday (April 5th) in Fellowship Hall, and will use them to decorate in front of the church for Easter.

On Sunday, March 8th, we invite all parents with children in the preschool and elementary school age range to join us downstairs in the Youth room at 10:00 a.m. We would like to get your input and talk about the Sunday school program. Bring the kids and enjoy a snack while we talk about what Calvin children's education might look like in the future.

Third Thursday Prayer Vigil

Prayer changes lives. It changes outcomes for those who need and receive prayer and it changes the health, welfare and peace of those who pray. So make prayer a priority by following through with concrete action. Come to the church. Sit in prayer. Add your prayer to the prayers of others for those requesting prayer. We are spiritual beings in a physical body. So bring your spirit and your body to the Prayer Vigil. The next Prayer Vigil will be Thursday, March 19th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m..



Prayer Groups

There is a new group called **Christian Life and Current Events** on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is a roundtable discussion of current events, relevant scripture discussion, and closing with prayer for peace and healing in the world. All opinions are welcome. If you any questions please email Pete Sylves at psylves13@gmail.com.

The **Open Circle** meeting for March has been moved to a different night. Our meeting will be Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kathy Efaw. Agnes Peebles will lead Lesson 3 from the book Cloud of Witnesses. Come and join us.

Women's Association

The Women's Association of Calvin Church would like to thank everyone that donated to the Blanket Sunday offering. We raised \$906.00 which will go towards buying blankets for people in crisis in the United States and around the world. The program also purchases tents, food, and other supplies in the wake of a disaster. We thank you for your support.

2019 Report

Thank you to Calvin members and friends for supporting the Women's Association in 2019. Because of your generous donations we were able to accomplish a lot last year.

- ✓ Continued our yearly pledge to PW of Beaver Butler Presbytery
- ✓ Supported PW Synod of the Trinity international project called Dominican- American Community Outreach \$200.00
- ✓ Purchased 5 six foot tables, 3 folding tables, and 20 new chairs for Fellowship Hall
- ✓ The stove in the kitchen was replaced with funds from the Helen Bodkin Memorial
- ✓ May Birthday Offering collected \$837.00
- ✓ Least Coin collected was \$17.58
- ✓ Support was given to 4 families via funeral luncheons
- ✓ Ten Thousand Villages sale of \$2449.76 helped women throughout the world

Thank you again!

Judy Kercovich Moderator/Kathy Efaw Co-Moderator

News You Can Use

Calvin Church Drama Ministry Spring Musical

Cotton Patch Gospel is a musical by Tom Key and Russell Treyz with music and lyrics written by Harry Chapin and produced by Philip M. Getter just after Chapin's death in 1981. It ran off-Broadway at the Lamb's Theatre for 193 performances beginning in October 21, 1981. Calvin Drama last performed the musical in spring 2003.

Based on the book The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John by Clarence Jordan, the story retells the life of Jesus as if in modern day, rural Georgia. Though the setting and the styling of the language greatly differs from the original telling of the Gospels the plot structure and the message of the story stays true to the historical recording in The Gospel of Matthew.

The story begins with the story of a young couple.

Mary is engaged to Joe Davidson ("David's Son" referring to the lineage of Christ coming through the line of David). Even though she is a virgin, she is found to be with child before they are married. This child is conceived of the Holy Spirit. Joe considers not going through with the marriage, but is visited by an angel who tells him that it is the will of God that is occurring and not foul play, so he marries his girl. Due to an income tax audit, they must then travel to Gainesville; on the way, Mary suddenly goes into labor. There's no room for them at the Dixie Delight Motor Lodge, but the manager helps Joe break into an abandoned trailer out back, where the baby, Jesus, is born: "They wrapped him in a comforter and laid him in an apple crate". Jesus grows up like no other child in Georgia with his neighbors befuddled and his parents often at a loss as to what to do. Jesus then is baptized by a wild preacher named John the Baptizer, and begins to teach the people and convince the disciples. He shares with them the love and peace he offers, and miraculously heals and feeds many. During this time Jesus gathers a band of constant followers (known as the Apostles in the Bible.) This group eventually heads off to Atlanta with a mixed air of excitement and foreboding.



Performances

Friday, April 17th at 7:30pm

Saturday, April 18th at 7:30pm

Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 (matinee)

Suggested donation: \$10 adults / \$7 students

Calvin Game Night

The next game night is Saturday, March 21st from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Please consider joining us for an evening of fun and getting to know one another better. Bring a favorite game or two, along with a snack or drink to share. If you aren't a game player, just come for the fellowship. We would love to make this a monthly event, so please come and show your interest. Any questions, contact Cathy Baker at cathyab@zoominternet.net or 724-971-5861.



News You Can Use

Celebrate 175 years!

March 1-Installation of Rev. A. David Paul

May 3-New Beginnings Service, 10am

June 7-Celebrate Calvin's Graduates

July 24-Celebrate Calvin's Children

August 23-Calvin at the Park, 10am

Save the Dates

SM



Welcome New Members

Mike and Dahn Kilroy live in Butler and have been married for almost 12 years. Dahn is the Office Administrator at Calvin, and is a member of the Communications committee. She is also a web designer for her freelance company Thinkdolphin Web Design. Mike works as a sports writer at the Butler Eagle, and has also published his own novels on Amazon. They adopted their precious baby, Emma, back in October.

News You Can Use

Passavant Seeking Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for fellowship and friendship at Passavant Retirement Community. This could be a one time visit or a continual commitment.

Here are ways you can help:

- * Helping to wheel residents to chapel on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. during the month of March
- * Reading to residents
- * Coloring with residents for their Coloring Ministry
- * Donation of bingo prizes. They like big chocolate bars!
- * Being a care friend – visit residents who are lonely, discouraged or have no family

If you are interested please contact Kelly Stefanacci at kellystefanacci962@gmail.com.



Children's Daffodil Party and Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all Calvin Kids of all Ages – The Annual Daffodil Party will be held at Mayapple Farm (525 Brownsdale Road, Renfrew) on Saturday, April 11th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is a party for both children and adults. Parents bring your cameras because the kids and flowers are so beautiful. We will be picking bouquets, playing together, sharing a lunch, and making new friends. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt at 3:00 p.m. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or email Rev. Frierson at mayapplefarm@gmail.com.



Help With Daffodil Fun

If you have ever attended the Daffodil Party you know what a wonderful time of beauty and sharing it is. Because of the proximity of Easter to prime daffodil season we are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt as well. Any contribution of plastic Easter eggs or small non-tree nut candy to put in them would be appreciated. Please drop off contributions in Daffodil Central, the Youth Formation Room off of Fellowship Hall by March 28th. Thanks and see you at the party!

Comedy Night at Glade Run

The Zelienople Public Library is presenting a comedy night at Glade Run Lutheran Services featuring Gene Collier and Sean Collier on March 7th. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and showtime is at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25 that include food available to purchase, cash bar and general seating. VIP tickets are \$50 which include food and non-alcoholic drinks, 1 drink ticket and reserved table seating. Tickets are available at the Zelienople Public Library or online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Tables can be purchased for \$400 which include 8 VIP tickets. This could be a fun outing for Calvin so if anyone is interested please contact Rich Gigliotti at rgigliotti87@gmail.com.



Mission Matters

Farming in Ghana

In this part of the world, farming is especially difficult work. Most fields are tended by simple tools still forged by hand. Due to the lack of irrigation, crops grow at the mercy of regular rainfall. It is estimated for 50% of the population of Ghana that agriculture is their main source of income. In the crowded capital city of Accra, people keep goats and chickens in their yard (and sometimes even cows!)

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is beginning an agroforestry project in northern Ghana, which will teach the interplanting of trees and crops to improve soil quality, and therefore, crop yields. Plans are being worked on in Ghana to teach agricultural skills to women who have been accused of witchcraft, and who have fled their homes and farms. They often end up in places where soil is of very poor quality, and they struggle to eke out a living from the land.

In the months ahead, please keep Ghanian partners in your prayers as they begin working on these agricultural projects and also the Rev. Joshua Heikkila, Regional Liaison for West Africa based in Ghana. He receives financial support from Calvin Church which enables him to partner with our brothers and sisters in West Africa as they strive for a better life.

Offering of Letters

In 2018, across the U.S. and the world, more than 820 million people were hungry. Many of the world's children suffer from malnutrition, 49 million of those under the age of five. In the U. S., one in seven children lives in a food-insecure home. How do we live out Jesus' command to feed the hungry, when it is such a massive problem? One way is through the legislative process.

On March 15th and 22nd, following each service, the Mission Committee is offering an opportunity to write letters to our members of Congress, urging them to support and enact legislation that provides nutrition for mothers and children, here and abroad. Several tables in Fellowship Hall will have stationery, pens and stamps for you to write letters, expressing your concern and urging action. Additional information and several sample letters will be available to help you get started. Until then, practice your handwriting. Handwritten letters seem to get more attention!

Food Cupboard

A new client visited the Food Cupboard last month. He was amazed at the generosity of our community when he saw the food he would be taking home. He was grateful for meat, fresh produce and canned items. Thank you from this neighbor. If you know of anyone who needs food support, please share information about the Food Cupboard with them.

March needs include:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| * Pancake Mix | * Tuna |
| * Syrup | * Cake/Cookie Mix |
| * Broth | |





Calvin Presbyterian Church

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

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