

CALVIN NOTES AND NEWS



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

Happy New Year!

January
2021

A note from Bruce, and a Calvin grad...

Sam Cummins is a "Calvin kid." Even though he not a kid anymore, like hundreds of others, he will always be a Calvin kid.

I met him in my choir classroom at Portersville Christian School back in the later 90's. He was the youngest of three brothers, all very active at the school and in the musical activities that I was leading there. Their growing friendship with me was a wonderful discovery and gift, because I had worked with both of their parents (Bob & Robin) on staff together at nearby Pine Valley Camp back when we were in high school and college.

Sam became very connected with the Calvin youth program in his high school years, and eventually became one of our numerous collegians who worked at least one entire summer on the staff of Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake in Michigan. And we were all blessed by his magnificent effortless tenor voice which contributed often to Calvin life. He became a certified medical technician, working locally until he moved to the Chicago area several years ago with his wife Claudia.



Continued on page 2...

Less than a year ago, baby Aria arrived, and as you may recall, she was almost immediately diagnosed with cancer. Since then, much progress has occurred, and much progress remains, but through the divine combination of God's grace, connected prayers, and medical expertise the family prevails, although COVID has added many complications.

You may or may not know much about the Covid safety practices at our neighbor churches, but we are amazingly blessed at Calvin to have so many medical professionals within our church, several of whom now advise us as the Calvin Covid Task Force (CCTF). They have been unwavering in their sharing of actual medical & research truth, which often flies in the face of much popular but grossly inaccurate opinion.

Last week, Sam and his wife had yet another medical appointment with baby Aria. And as Sam sat in his car, he wrote the following missive: Like a Biblical prophet, the words sting and lament, they implore and hope, and are Spirit-directed to teach us something.

As you continue to support this family - an integral part of Calvin's extended family - please read and consider Sam's social media post from last week:



SAM AS "FATHER" IN THE 2003 CYG PRODUCTION OF "CHILDREN OF EDEN"



SAM AS "THE BAKER" IN THE 2009 ALL-CHURCH PRODUCTION OF "INTO THE WOODS"

Sam Cummins

December 30, 2020 at 10:56 AM

Well everyone I hope you are happy. Every one of you who refuses to wear a mask and not social distance you are guilty. Each person that has allowed this virus to spread unchecked due to your personal selfishness is having an impact on others.

My daughter was born on March 31st 2020 in the middle of COVID lockdown starting.

Masks were mandatory. No family or friends were allowed at the birth or after. Just her Dad and Mom present from her beginning. She had low blood sugar her first night which resulted in a week stay in the NICU. Only one parent at a time could be with her that first week. She balanced everything out and appeared completely normal. We went home by ourselves with our new baby at the end of the first week.

A week later was the first pediatrician appointment and again only one parent permitted to attend.

At one month old she had her second pediatrician appointment and again only one parent permitted to attend.

At six weeks old my daughter had a decreased appetite, distended abdomen, and some vomiting. We took her to a children's hospital and yet again only one parent allowed in the emergency room. She was admitted and we received an exception to have us both with our daughter while she was in the hospital. We were together when a computer screen with an Oncologist on it was wheeled into the hospital room. We were told through a computer that our 6 week old daughter had cancer throughout her liver and chemo needed to be started as soon as possible.

We have been through 4 rounds of chemotherapy, picc line appointments, cat scans, ultrasounds, MIBG testing and many doctor visits. Feeding tubes, IM injections, picc line flushes, all with a tiny baby.

Her mother and I have done as much as we can of this together. We have both continued working our full time jobs with masks on and distancing as much as possible from others.

Today as we arrived at the hospital for a follow up. A hospital where we have always been able to be together for appointments. Staff stopped us at the lobby and said new policy states only one parent allowed for the appointment.

So to sum things up. I am not allowed to be with my daughter this morning while she gets blood drawn, an ultrasound, and meets with her doctor. I am not allowed to help comfort my daughter who only knows a handful of people while she has her procedures done. I am not allowed to be supportive of my wife while this all happens. I'm not even allowed to sit in the lobby and wait for them to come down stairs. Security directed me to return to my car and wait. Explaining well it's the hospitals policy and to blame COVID.

I am writing this in the car, sitting here waiting for news of the appointment and how it is going. Not being with my daughter and wife this morning I do not blame on COVID at all.

I blame each and every one of you who refuse to wear a mask in public. I blame each and every one of you who post about your liberties and freedoms. (Children of God are only guaranteed freedom from the consequences of sin) I blame each and every one of you who refuse to limit your gatherings.

I have worked in healthcare for almost 20 years now. I have seen a lot of suffering and loss. This past year has been difficult but not impossible to overcome. Please do your part and limit the spread of this disease. Others are counting on you so they can have hope, and time with those they love. Again I've witnessed many people die and suffer over the years. I implore you to stop contributing to the spread of this disease to others through your own selfishness and ignorance.

UPDATE ON ARIA ON JANUARY 5TH

Aria is doing well. Cancer seems to be being held at bay by her immune system right now so no chemo. Won't have another follow up till three months from now unless symptoms emerge. Claudia and I are tired but finding escape by still working as much as possible and taking turns with Aria. She is nine months old now and hitting every milestone so far even with everything else. That post was all about venting and frustration for me. I feel like I have so much to share about experiences and Gods Providence over the last couple years.

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

January Adult Education

Calvin is excited to share with you our partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair to bring you this exciting Seminar Series: *Disparities, Justice, and Loving All our Neighbors*, featuring our very own Ralph Lowe.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 — 10:45 a.m. via Zoom. The link to join will be posted in the bulletins and the weekly announcements. You can also download the flyer for additional information about the seminar series.

January 10 — Why Justice Is Essential for a Beloved Community

Ralph Lowe

January 17 — The Color of COVID-19

Fatima Cody Stanford, MD

January 24 — From Slavery to COVID-19: Understanding the Origins and Impact of Health Disparities

Jamy Ard, MD

January 31 — Let's Try Systemic Justice (For Once)

Tony Norman

Third Thursday Prayer Vigil

Our next online Prayer Vigil will be Thursday, January 14th from 6:00 — 8:00 p.m.

You can access the Prayer Vigil by going to our website at calvinchurchzelie.org. If you have a request, please send it to calvinprayerrequest@gmail.com.

Study Groups

The Tuesday Women's Devotional Group will continue discussing a chapter a week from the book *Make Me an instrument of Your Peace* which is the St. Francis prayer. The group meets via Zoom. If you are interested in joining please email Marie Campbell at marie.l.campbell@icloud.com for the Zoom invitation number.

A time of Centering Prayer? After the Tuesday Devotional Group there is an invitation to do 20 minutes of Centering Prayer for those who are interested. We start around 10:30 a.m. Contact Marie for the Zoom invitation number.

Pre-Sermon Bible Study group — The group that met for the study *ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE WHO WAITED* have "birthed" a new group for the month of January. The title of the Group is **Pre-Sermon Bible Study**. When: Saturday, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 10 - 11:00 a.m. What: The Bible verse that Pastor David will be preaching on that week

How to prepare: Email Marie.l.Campbell@icloud.com or rev.jimmy@icloud.com and you will be sent the invite. Read the scripture for that week. You will be sent it once you are on the group list.

Why: Hopefully you will find that you are more "warmed up and open" to the worship message that Sunday.

If you can't make it one week don't fret. We are trying this venue out to see how it goes via Zoom.



THE SYLVES AND PAUL GIRLS (AND OREO THE CAT) BUILD A SNOWMAN AT CALVIN.



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CALVIN CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE UPDATE

PRAYING, PREPARING, PREVENTING, PROMOTING

Last Updated: 1/8/21

Dear Calvin Family,

When I'm alone, which in this season of COVID is much too often for this extrovert, I avoid thinking of all the meaningful relationships I have not been able to make, because when I do, I break down and cry. Please don't worry, I'm doing well and getting the help I need. I'm mindful of my mindfulness, praying holes in jeans, drinking like a water buffalo, eating (well, let's skip eating), sleeping like a baby (how does that make sense?), exercising (barely enough), getting outside (as often as western PA weather allows), and I make sure I laugh, and smile and love each and every day. AND, I will be reaching out to each of you before Lent. I pray you too are doing what you need to do to be well.

It grieves my heart to share that due to the current severe outbreak (see COVID Risk Level above) Calvin's Session has determined that her worship will continue to be online and ministry will take all possible precautions to avoid exposure. Please be assured that we are persistently looking for opportunities to safely re-open and are in the process of forming a new Task Force for precisely that purpose. The bottom line is, right now it's just not safe.

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! If you have any questions or would like clarification regarding the above guidelines, please don't hesitate to contact me. Calvin will do her best to listen, respond and meet your needs.

Godspeed!



Rev. A. David Paul, M.S., M.Div.

COVID RISK LEVEL



Severe outbreak

Butler County is currently experiencing a severe outbreak. Take all possible precautions to avoid exposure.

Last Updated 1/8/2021

covidactnow.org

DAILY NEW CASES

● **75.1** PER 100K

Very dangerous number of new cases

INFECTION RATE

● **0.97**

COVID is still spreading, but slowly

POSITIVE TEST RATE

● **12.5%**

Indicates insufficient testing

Christmas Detour

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH



News You Can Use

Zelienople Preschool Registration

Registration is now open for the Zelienople Preschool 2021-2022 school year. This includes the 3-Year-Old, 4-Year-Old, and Pre-K Enrichment classes. Online pre-registration is required. Submitting this form will hold a spot for your child on our registration list. Once you have submitted the online form you will ALSO SUBMIT a paper registration form and the \$50 fee to finalize his/her registration.

Our enrollment has nearly been at full capacity the past few years, so if you are hoping to enroll your child, please do not wait. Feel free to call the school with any questions you may have at 724-452-7560 ext. 13.



Nominating Committee Update

The Calvin Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates to serve as Elders on Session for 2021 to 2023: Robin Fleming, Abbie Hoffman, and Ted Koontz. Also, the following candidates for the 2021 Nominating Committee: Karen Cramer, Kay Howard, and Beth Wilson. And thanks to this year's Nominating Committee: Kathy Efaw, Steve Fowler, Kelly Stefanacci, and Beth Wilson.

per capita

Each year the presbytery and the national church asks each member to contribute their "per capita," which is a contribution from each member to support the mission and work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination. By offering this contribution you are supporting the General Assembly, as well as the Synod of the Trinity and Beaver-Butler Presbytery. The contribution for 2021 is **\$40.82**. Our total church contribution is \$15092.30. The more contributions we receive, the more we are able to share church resources in other ministries and missions. Thank you for your contribution.



January Bulletins



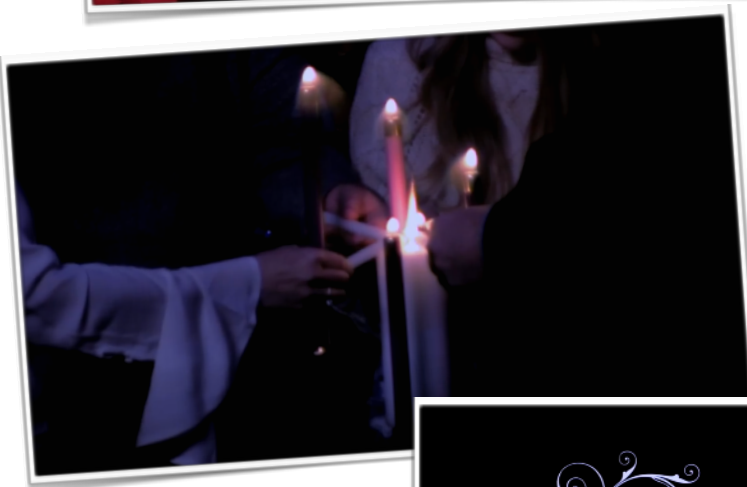
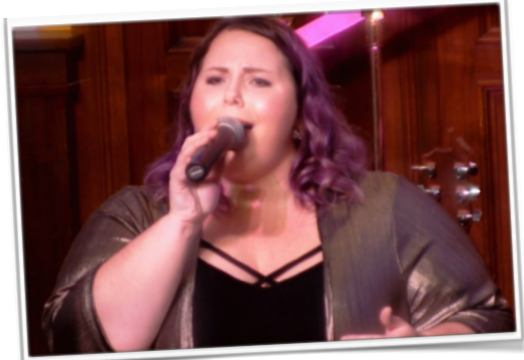
Check out the new special section on our website for children's bulletins, sermons, and other fun stuff for the kids!

January 3rd
January 10th
January 17th
January 24th
January 31st

January 3rd
January 10th
January 17th
January 24th
January 31st

Christmas Eve Service





Mission Matters

Agroforestry Program in northern Ghana

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) awarded this year to the Evangelical Presbyterian Development and Relief Agency in Ghana (EPDRA) another grant to extend the current agroforestry program to an additional three towns, and training for grafting fruit trees to two more schools. EPDRA also expects that matching funds for the agroforestry program will be renewed. Twelve towns and eight middle schools will now benefit from on-site learning. This agroforestry technique is expected to increase the yield of soybeans by 15%, and the yield of corn by 25%. Additionally, EPDRA plans to graft 80 mango trees and plant them near eight middle schools. The fruit harvested annually will benefit these schools in northern Ghana.

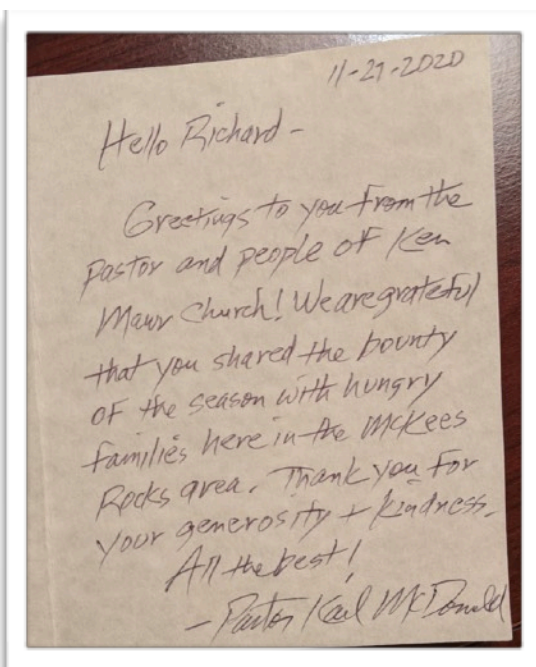


The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 32% of the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering taken every year during Lent for the support of PHP. You have been part of all this work through your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for helping to eliminate poverty in northern Ghana. and for your partnership in building up the body of Christ.

Mission Committee Helps McKees Rocks Food Cupboard

The Mission Committee raised money and received a corporate match from a group that asked to remain unknown. The total amount raised was \$888 for badly needed food at the McKees Rocks Food Cupboard that is out of the Ken Mawr Church.

While Rich Gigliotti was shopping for the food at Costco in Cranberry, random people were stopping him to give him money to help. What a wonderful experience!



Food Cupboard

The December distribution at the Food Cupboard is always the busiest of the year and COVID made it busier. One hundred forty four households were helped in December. The job was made easier with lights purchased by Calvin's Mission Committee. Zion has lights in the parking lot that light the center of the lot. Volunteers were pushing carts through dark areas to reach cars as they drove up for loading. The new lights made the job much safer for the volunteers. Thank you Calvin!





January 2021

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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	8	9
		5:00 p.m. Worship & Arts* 6:00 p.m. Membership* 7:00 p.m. Youth Formation*	7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds*			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 a.m. Adult Education - Westminster Seminar*		7:00 p.m. Personnel & Finance* Beth Moore Group	6:00 p.m. Mission* 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Nurture*	6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil (Online)		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 a.m. Adult Education - Westminster Seminar*						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 a.m. Adult Education - Westminster Seminar* 11:00 a.m. & Noon Congregational Meeting*		7:00 p.m. Session Beth Moore Group Open Circle				
31						
10:00 a.m. Adult Education - Westminster Seminar*						

* Meetings happening via Zoom

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Online Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour*
7:00 p.m. CYG — All Grades *

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. GraceFit Yoga
Devotional Prayer Group*
10:45 a.m. Centering Prayer Group*

Thursday

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

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Pre-Sermon Bible Study*



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www.calvinchurchzelie.org

Address Service Requested

Church Staff and Session Members

Church Staff

Rev. A. David Paul	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
Rev. Connie Frierson	<i>Parish Associate</i>
Bruce Smith	<i>Director of Music/Youth Director</i>
Toni Schlemmer	<i>Director of Fine Arts</i>
DeWayne Segafredo	<i>Technical Director/Accompanist</i>
Dahn Kilroy	<i>Office Administrator</i>
Karen Frank	<i>Treasurer</i>
Tom Reiber	<i>Worship Visuals</i>
Scott Caputy	<i>Worship Audio</i>
Maggie Danko	<i>Worship Musician</i>
Dr. David English	<i>Music Advisor (Volunteer)</i>

Session Members

Cathy Baker	<i>Clerk of Session</i>	Eric Stoltenberg	<i>Personnel & Finance Committee</i>
Kevin Trobaugh	<i>Building & Grounds Committee</i>	Steve Fowler	<i>Worship & Arts Committee</i>
	<i>Communications Committee</i>	Marilyn Evans	<i>Youth Formation & Ed. Committee</i>
Lisa Buechele	<i>Spiritual Nurture Committee</i>	Dence Stevenson	<i>Mission Committee</i>
Kelly Stefanacci	<i>Membership Committee</i>	Ashley Gigliotti	<i>Zelienople Nursery School Committee</i>

