

# CALVIN'S NEWS AND NOTES



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



October  
2019

## Doug's Notes

### Reinstating the Offering into Worship

"God acts with grace; we respond with gratitude...  
Christian life is an offering of one's self to God..."

Tithes and offerings are gathered as an act of thanksgiving to God."

~ *Book of Order "Directory for Worship"*

At its September meeting, the Session approved reinstating the Offering into worship. Three different groups made this recommendation—Financial Task Force, Membership Committee and Mission Committee. While all three offered separate rationales, the core of each recommendation contained an interest in making *gratitude* central to worship.

The Offering will be reintroduced sometime soon with no strict timetable in mind. Various committees will provide ideas for highlighting the spirituality of giving (of self and financial resources) in the worship

Continued on page 2...

service. The Session recognizes that some education will need to take place explaining why this action is being taken and how the Offering will take place in worship.

This church, like all others, does ministry and mission with the financial resources provided by its members and friends. Money makes this possible; your generosity is how we do what we do at Calvin church. The parking lot renovation, youth ministry, worship... all happen with your contributions.

But the Offering is more than receiving monetary contributions. At the heart of Presbyterian/Reformed worship is gratitude (see above). We worship not to feel good but to be motivated to do good. We worship to be reminded of God's love and are sent into the world sharing that love with all whom we encounter. The Offering, as an act of worship, centers us on God, God's gracious love, and acts of thanksgiving we can demonstrate to the world.

Many years ago, a colleague told a story about something that happened on Stewardship Sunday at his church. It was custom for everyone to come forward and place their financial pledge in the Offering plate that was placed at the front of the sanctuary for this service. The oldest member of the congregation was also one of the most generous givers, but on this particular Stewardship Sunday my colleague noticed that she didn't place a pledge in the Offering plate. Instead, she came forward, touched the plate, said a prayer, and slowly made her way back to her pew.

Following worship, my friend asked this woman if everything was alright. "I know you're one of our most generous givers," he said. "I couldn't help but notice that you didn't make a pledge this year." "Oh, I can't make a financial pledge this year—I have some unexpected expenses," she said. "So, I pledged my whole life to God."

However the Offering is reintroduced into worship, I hope you will take the opportunity EVERY SUNDAY to pledge your whole life to God... just like that woman did.



Doug Gebhard

## Peace and Global Witness Offering (World Communion Sunday)

Sunday, October 6th is World Communion Sunday, and the Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received. The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling of God's mission with those around the corner and around the world, as active peacemakers – at all times and in all ways.

25% of the offering remains at Calvin Church to support local peacemaking efforts. The Mission Committee will decide on how and who would receive this money and will the congregation know at a later date how much we received and how our share was used.

Inserts for the Peace & Global Witness Offering will be in the bulletins and envelopes will be in the pews.



# News You Can Use

## Doug Gebhard Away

Interim Pastor, Doug Gebhard, will be away October 9th –15th. His daughter Mairé is getting married in the mountains (near Brevard) of western North Carolina.

## October Worship

### October 6th

Reading: Luke 17:5-10

Theme: "World Communion Sunday" (Doug Gebhard)

### October 13th

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Theme: "Flourishing in a Strange Land" (Connie Frierson)

### October 20th

Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Theme: "Don't Lose Heart" (Doug Gebhard)

### October 27th

Reading: TBD

Theme: TBD  
(Michael Kelly Blanchard)

## Adult Education

Adult Education in October will focus on empathy and listening with Samaritan Counseling. The topic will be "What to say to someone when you don't know what to say" and will provide information and role play about listening and sharing advice with empathy. Adult Education will be Sunday, October 6th, October 13th, and October 21st at 10:00 a.m.

## Prayer Vigil

This month's Third Thursday Prayer Vigil will be October 17th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is a great time to pray - to center in God and put what matters back at the center. We provide all you need to pray. All we need now is you.

## Study Groups

The **Tuesday Women's Devotional Group** will begin discussing the book *To Bless the Space between Us* by John O'Donohue. This 8-week study will start on October 29th and end December 17th. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Calvin Conference room and ends at 10:30 a.m. If you want to order the book, contact Marie Campbell at MarieCampbell@zoominternet.net. If you are thinking of joining the group, contact Connie at mayapplefarm@gmail.com. She will be glad to answer your questions.

The **Tuesday Centering Prayer Group** follows the schedule of the Devotional Group so it will not meet on October 22nd, but will resume on October 29th at 10:45 a.m.

**Open Circle** will meet Tuesday, October 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Agnes Peebles. We will be studying Lesson 8 from the book *Who IS Jesus*.

The **Beth Moore** bible study group will begin meeting on October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. where they will be discussing the book *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place*. Explore the fascinating account of the building of the Old Testament tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today. In this 10-session in-depth Bible study you will be challenged to prepare your heart, like the holy of holies, to become a home for His love and glory – a dwelling place for the Most High God.

## Women's Association

The Women's Association will be having a **Soup Sale** two Sundays in October after each service. The soups for sale on October 13th are loaded baked potato, and stuffed pepper. The soups for sale on October 20th are chicken and wild rice, and beef vegetable. The cost is \$8.00 a quart and the soup is available on a first come, first serve basis. There will be no preorders.

**Ten Thousand Villages**, a Fair Trade retailer, will be back to our church this year on Sunday, October, 27th. They will be selling products made by women from many countries around the World. Artisans are paid up to 50% in cash advance and the rest after the article sells. This enables artisans to earn a fair compensation for their work. Recycled and natural materials are used when possible. There will be jewelry, Christmas items, wood products, food items, clothing, baskets, and many more wonderful things to check out and buy. Ten Thousand Villages accepts checks, cash, and credit cards. Come with your shopping list for Christmas, birthdays, and more. This is a great way to find something unique to give to someone or keep for yourself. The sale will take place between services and after second service.

# News You Can Use

## All Church Bonfire

**October 5th, 6:30 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.**

You are invited to a night of hayrides and hoorays, fun and fire, sparks and stars, at the Frierson Farm.

This annual Calvin event is open and welcoming to Calvin members and friends of all ages. This is a night of fun and conversation not to be missed. Dinner is a potluck, so bring a dish, and perhaps a beverage to share – responsible sharing of beer and wine are permitted. Don't miss this special Calvin Party. Come and make new friends and renew longtime bonds.

The address of the farm is 525 Brownsdale Rd. Renfrew, PA 16053 for Google Map directions. Also, copies of directions will be on the table outside the sanctuary.

A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the narthex, so we have some idea of how many to expect. It is really helpful in the planning process to be able to anticipate the number of people and what dishes are being brought. So please sign up! But if you don't sign up, you are still always welcome to come and join the fun.

If you have more questions, email the Rev. Frierson at [conniefrierson@icloud.com](mailto:conniefrierson@icloud.com).



## Family Game Night

The next game night is Saturday, October 19th 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](mailto:cathyab@zoominternet.net) or 724-971-5861.

## Preschool News

The Zelenople Preschool is selling Beatrice Pies again this year for the holidays. Order forms are available on the counter in Fellowship Hall. The orders and payment are due by October 10th. Delivery will be November 13th. Pies will be frozen, so they will need to be picked up on delivery day. If you are not able to pick up your pies on the 13th, they will be placed in the big freezer in the janitors closet downstairs until the following Sunday. You will be able to pick them up after each service.

The preschool is collecting 42 oz. round oatmeal containers (not the smaller sizes) and receipts from Chick-fil-A at the Cranberry and Wexford locations. You can leave the receipts in the Preschool mailbox by the church office. There will be a box under the Missions table in Fellowship Hall to put the oatmeal containers in. They will be collecting both throughout the entire school year.



## News You Can Use

### Calvin Church Youth Musical

**Godspell** is a musical composed by Stephen Schwartz with the book by John-Michael Tebelak. The show opened off-Broadway on May 17, 1971, and has since been produced by multiple touring companies and in many revivals. The 2011 revival played on Broadway from October 13, 2011 through June 24, 2012.

**Godspell** began as a project by the drama students at Carnegie Mellon University, then moved to the off-off-Broadway theater La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in the East Village of Manhattan. The show was then re-scored for an off-Broadway production, which became a long-running success.

The musical is structured as a series of parables, primarily based on the Gospel of Matthew. The parables are interspersed with music set primarily to lyrics from traditional hymns, with the passion of Christ appearing briefly near the end of the show. Even after the haunting crucifixion, Jesus' message of kindness, tolerance and love lives vibrantly on.



#### Performances

Friday, November 22 @ 7:30  
 Saturday, November 23 @ 2:00 and 7:30  
 Sunday, November 24 @ 2:00

#### Suggested donation

Adults \$10 / Students \$5



### Trunk or Treat at Calvin

Join us Saturday, October 26th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. for a spooktacular Trunk or Treat in the Calvin Church parking lot!

All are welcome to participate. There will be a contest for the best trunk and best costume. Come prepared to have fun!

If you would like more information please contact Kelly Stefanacci at [kellystefanacci962@gmail.com](mailto:kellystefanacci962@gmail.com)

### Michael Kelly Blanchard in Worship and in Concert October 27th Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Concert at 2:00 p.m.

Michael Kelly Blanchard is a singer/songwriter/storyteller who travels nationally. For more than twenty years Michael Kelly Blanchard has written songs (*Be Ye Glad*, *Danny's Downs*, *I Love You, I Do, You Bet*), which connect us to the merciful heart of God. As a solo performer on guitar and piano, Michael tells stories with a tender touch to help us laugh and cry at both the human condition and the renewing power of God's unconditional love.

Here is what others say about Michael:

"At last God's love expressed thoughtfully with both joy and tender concern. Michael Blanchard is a writer/singer/spokesman for the Christian faith in such a way that it conjures up an image of C.S. Lewis with a guitar and a virtuoso at that!"

Noel Paul Stookey,  
 Peter, Paul and Mary



# Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC is continuing to research several possible candidates and is in the process of traveling to hear them preach, calling references, and spending in-depth time with each of the candidates.

Please keep the committee in your prayers during this important time.

## Committee Members

David Sloat  
Jane Lavender  
Rich Gigliotti  
Caroline Baker  
Wils Cooley  
Judy Kercovich  
Alecia McKee  
Eric Stoltenberg

## PNC Process

- PNC works on MIF (in progress 1/2019)
- PNC submits completed MIF Session for review and approval
- MIF reviewed and approved by the MVC
- PNC given access to upload MIF to CLC
- MIF's and PIF's matched via CLC; candidates also submit PIF's without using CLC
- PNC interviews candidates
- Narrows to final 3-5 candidates
- Final candidate interviewed by MVC
- PNC extends call to candidate; Terms of Call negotiated
- Candidate preaches at church and congregation votes on candidate
- Pastor-Elect begins ministry
- Presbytery conducts ordination/installation service

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## September Session Highlights

### Interim Pastor Report

- ✓ Worship attendance has been stable in 2019
- ✓ (Video) giving trends in churches are down & not expected to change

### Building & Grounds

- ✓ Jim Willard to work with borough engineer on water runoff survey

### Membership

- ✓ "Trunk or Treat" to be held weekend before Halloween

### Mission

- ✓ Recommends Calvin become "Matthew 25" congregation

### Personnel & Finance

- ✓ Net Income Jan – Aug 2018 = -\$12,961.27; Jan – Aug 2019 = -\$24,768.71
- ✓ Capital Campaign: -\$50,000

### Misc.

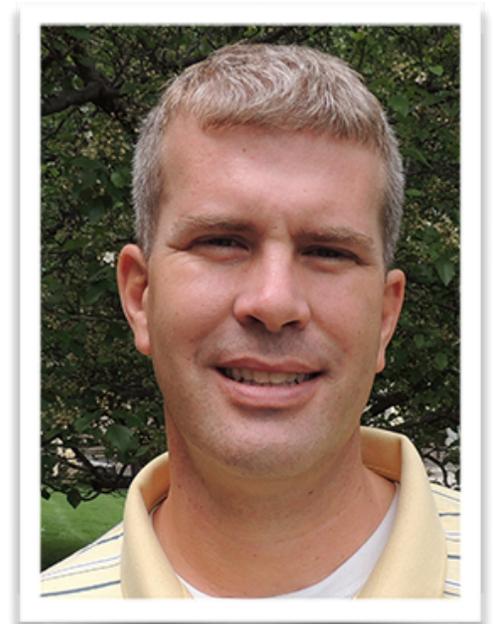
- ✓ Committee budgets should be determined at each committee's October meeting
- ✓ Approved reinstating the Offering to worship; ideas from Ruling Elders & committees (how to, ways to highlight stewardship) to be discussed in October; no strict timetable set
- ✓ "Gathering" attended by Calvin folks; Membership to add \$500 to 2020 budget for this event

# Mission Matters

## A Letter From Josh Heikkila

One of the mission workers that our church supports, both through prayer and monetary donations, is Josh Heikkila. He is the regional liaison for West Africa. He sent a letter to the Mission Committee and we wanted to share a little of what he had to tell us.

"I want to talk about visiting castles built by European powers along the Gold Coast of Africa to be used for trading goods such as gold, ivory and ultimately the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In total roughly 12 million Africans were captured, enslaved and brought to North and South America. The sad truth is that Slavery was a business, highly organized and lucrative for European buyers and African sellers alike. These complex business partnerships involved groups like the Asante, who captured neighboring peoples during inter-tribal warfare. They shackled and marched them to the coastal forts where the Fante people sold them to Europeans in exchange for manufactured goods. European traders then took the prisoners across the Atlantic and sold them into slavery. This lasted for two full centuries. It makes me wonder: What powerful business partnerships exist today that allow for the continued dehumanization and subjugation of people? What are the things that we are turning a blind eye to that require our attention and desperately need to be stopped? Will future generations look back with shame on us and think, how could they have been complicit in such atrocities?



Still today young women are being trafficked into prostitution and domestic servitude and young men hoping for a better life have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea looking for a promising future.

These castles should be a reminder of how quick people like us can be to deny the humanity to others, and turn our backs on others when our own personal interests are at stake. Across West Africa, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is supporting church partners to improve the lives of their members and communities. Programs in education, health, agriculture, and development in places like rural Ghana and Niger are making better the lives of men, women and children in the region. As well-being improves, individuals and communities are better prepared to address the societal forces that can degrade and dehumanize the people in their midst. Thank you Calvin Church for your prayers and your financial support that allows us to engage with our brothers and sisters in West Africa, as together we work towards life in abundance for all of us."

~ Josh

## Food Cupboard

Each month the Food Cupboard purchases fresh produce from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. In September, I helped at the produce table, distributing potatoes, onions, and tomatoes. Several people told me they were glad to have the potatoes. Excitement over potatoes? My dad thought every dinner needed meat and potatoes and his favorite were mashed. We had mashed potatoes, real potatoes, never from a box, on the table a minimum of 5 nights a week. The frequency made them common, and nothing I would be excited to receive. It is humbling to realize that potatoes are a treat in some households. Enjoy the fall harvest of potatoes and think of the blessing they are.

September needs include:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| * Canned vegetables | * Tuna          |
| * Peanut butter     | * Cereal        |
| * Canned vegetables | * Oatmeal       |
| * Canned fruit      | * Hygiene items |



Have a contribution or idea for the next newsletter? Send an email to our Office Administrator at [office.cpc@zoominternet.net](mailto:office.cpc@zoominternet.net) or call 724-452-7560



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415 E. Grandview Ave.  
Zelienople, PA 16063  
724-452-7560

[www.calvinchurchzelie.org](http://www.calvinchurchzelie.org)

*Address Service Requested*

## Church Staff and Session Members

### Church Staff

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

*Interim Senior Pastor*  
*Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Program*  
*Director of Music/Youth Director*  
*Director of Fine Arts*  
*Technical Director/Accompanist*  
*Office Administrator*  
*Treasurer*  
*Custodial Staff*  
*Custodial Staff*  
*Worship Visuals*  
*Worship Audio*  
*Worship Musician*  
*Music Advisor (Volunteer)*



### Session Members

Cathy Baker *Clerk of Session*  
Kevin Trobaugh *Building & Grounds Committee*  
Glenn Sanders *Communications Committee*  
Peter Sylves *Spiritual Nurture Committee*  
Kelly Stefanacci *Membership Committee*

Eric Stoltenberg  
Steve Fowler  
Marilyn Evans  
Ashley Gigliotti

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