

# CALVIN NOTES AND NEWS



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

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 JOHN 4:7-8

February  
2020

## New pastor makes home in Zeligople

### He's already helping with Jan. 24 concert

By Gabriella Canales  
Butler Eagle

When Toni Schlemmer searched for input, she found help.

After she sent an informative mass email to Calvin Presbyterian Church members about the concert she planned to create, the Rev. A. David Paul jumped onboard.

"David brings energy, enthusiasm, and he is very eager," said Schlemmer, Calvin Presbyterian Church's director of fine arts, about the church's new pastor. "He has a very positive energy and enthusiasm that is contagious."

Schlemmer said she looks forward to working with Paul to create narration in the form of written and spoken words between the music in the concert planned for Jan. 24, she said.

The concert is one example showing Paul, who spent the past decade in Nebraska, can give, grow and learn from the staff and congregation as the new pastor at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 415 E. Grandview Ave. He started in December.

"This isn't about what David wants ... this is about God's will," said Paul, 49. "What is God's longing desire for us individually and collectively?"

He and his wife of 22 years, Jen, have three children; Joshua, 19, Ana, 16, and Adelyn, 13.

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Paul, who grew up in the South Hills, received his undergraduate degree at Northeastern University in Boston where he played football for two years.

He earned his master's degree in counseling and psychology from Trinity University in Vermont. Next, he attended seminary at Princeton.

At the age of 9, he felt his first call to ministry when his parents brought their minister, the Rev. Hetz Marsh, and his family on vacation, Paul said.

On the 12-hour drive to South Carolina in the backseat of a wood-paneled station wagon, he and his brother kicked and screamed ahead of arrival because they knew they would have to be on their best behavior for the minister, Paul said.

On the return trip, he decided he wanted to be like Marsh when he grew up, Paul said, adding the experience was one of his family's best vacations and Marsh became his mentor.

Paul wanted to help people and decided to study psychology, where he hid his call to ministry.

When Paul questioned going to medical school, Marsh arranged for him to speak with professionals in the field who advised Paul not to enter the career if he wanted to make a difference, which is why he entered the seminary.

The two fields blend seamlessly, Paul said.

"We talk about Freud being the father of modern psychiatry and psychology," he said. "I'm sorry, God's been writing and talking about this stuff for thousands of years."

Omaha is "God's best-kept little secret," Paul said, adding it was a great place to raise his family.

The move to Zeligople was prompted by the death of Paul's father-in-law, George Fichter.

"That changed everything," he said. "I remember like it was yesterday."

His wife and Ana traveled to the funeral the same day Paul and Adelyn dropped off Josh at the airport for him to go to show choir nationals in the midst of the flooding in Nebraska in 2019. The two made it to Pittsburgh on time for the final viewing.

After the death, Paul and his wife talked about moving with their children, back to Pennsylvania, so Anne Fichter, Paul's mother-in-law, would not be alone, he said.

That is when he took the position at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Since then, he has gotten to know and develop an admiration for the staff as professionals and people of God, Paul said.

"Pinch me. Is this real?" he said. "I get to work with these people. I get to minister to this congregation."

One of the most difficult roles as pastor is connecting with the entire congregation, he said.

Paul's two bracelets, each with their own significance to his life, and the Doc Martens and jeans connect to the less formal younger generation, while the oxford, button-down shirt is a nod to an older generation that expects formal attire, he said.

The Calvin church has a legacy of ministers, he said, adding he is the third minister in 75 years.

He will not fill the same shoes, but different, new shoes, he said, which the congregation understands.

For the first time in 20 years of ministry, Paul said he does not have to focus on fixes or tweaks.

"We have a well-oiled machine here," he said. "It's really not about what I vision and what I feel we need to do for this church, it's about what we together discern to be God's will for this church."



# News You Can Use

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

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### February 2nd and 9th

#### Listening to the Language of the Bible

Led by Rev. Connie Frierson

The Bible speaks in words and phrases that come from a very different culture, place and time. Sometimes Hebrew ideas and imagery sound foreign to our ears. This class will help us understand the minds of the ancient authors, so that we can discover new depth and meaning in familiar old phrases. Hopefully recovering these rich words and images can help us to have new insights into how to love God and each other.

Based on the book Listening to the Language of the Bible, Hearing It Through Jesus Ears by Lois Tverberg and Bruce Okkema

### February 16th and 23rd

#### Fear of Others

Led by Ralph Lowe

What is it the hardest thing for people of faith to do? Love each "OTHER" without the need for them to become like us. Using scripture, we will practice listening, humility and understanding to form a faith that welcomes others without annihilating their differences. Please come and join Ralph Lowe as he helps us think through the barriers within us that stand in the way of our command to love.

Based on the book, Fear of Others by William Willimon.

## Third Thursday Prayer Vigil

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The Third Thursday Prayer Vigil will be February 20th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



## Prayer Groups

The **Tuesday Devotional Group** will resume meeting on Tuesday February 4th at 9:30 a.m. in the Calvin Conference room. The book which they will discuss is The Great Spiritual Migration by Brian D. McLaren. They plan to end this book by March 31st. If there is a Seneca Valley School delay or cancellation the group will not meet.

The **Centering Prayer Group** will resume meeting on Tuesday February 4th at 10:45 a.m. in the Calvin Conference room. This group follows the schedule of the Devotional Group and will not meet if there is a Seneca Valley School delay or cancellation.

The **GIFT** group will be starting a new book on February 13th. The book is yet to be determined. Any questions please contact Kelly Casey at [kncasey@gmail.com](mailto:kncasey@gmail.com).

Join the **Sunday Evening Prayer Group** to discuss current events, reflect on scripture, share stories and opinions, and pray for peace. All opinions are welcome, and they will exercise curiosity, friendship, concern, and good manners. The group meets February 16th, 23rd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. If you any questions please email Pete Sylves at [psylves13@gmail.com](mailto:psylves13@gmail.com).

**Open Circle** will meet February 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robin Fleming. Judy will host and Donna will teach Lesson 2 from our new book Cloud of Witnesses. If you need a ride, directions, a book, or have any questions, please contact Judy at 724-774-5746.

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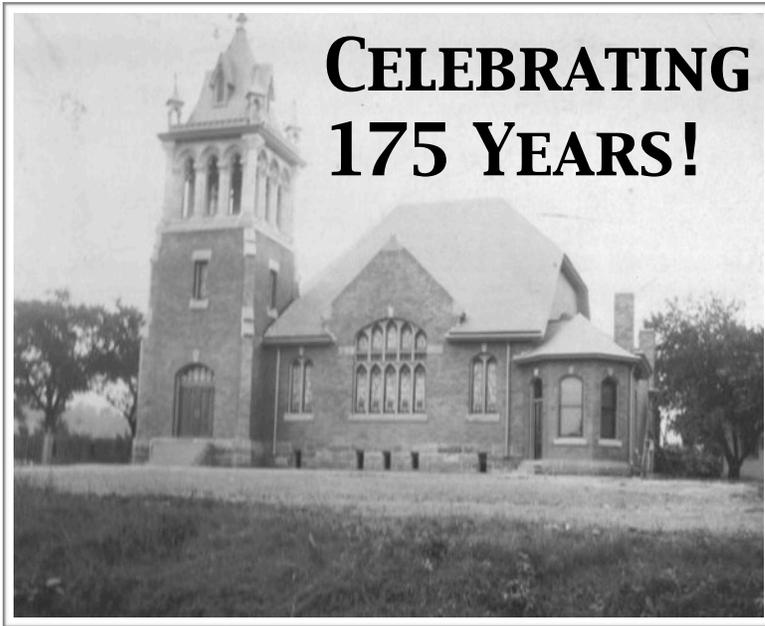
## Calvin Church Family Photo Directory

Lifetouch will be taking pictures for the new family photo directory. The February 5th date is now full.

If you were not able to get a time scheduled you can find another location by calling Lifetouch at 1.866.756.0281. Their customer service department will find a time and place that works best for you. Make sure you tell them you are scheduling for Calvin Church.

If your schedule does not allow you to attend another church session, please contact the church office or sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall. We may schedule another session here at Calvin if we can get enough interest.

## News You Can Use



### You're invited to the 175th anniversary celebration of Calvin Church!

One Sunday per month from March through August

Please join us as we celebrate 175 years of Calvin Church history and look forward to the future of the church.

Our first celebration event will be Sunday, March 1st. More details to follow.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the festivities, please contact Nicole Sylves at [sylves9@gmail.com](mailto:sylves9@gmail.com).

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### 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.

Anyone interested in being a part of the production should contact Toni Schlemmer at [tmschlemmer@yahoo.com](mailto:tmschlemmer@yahoo.com)

#### 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



## News You Can Use



### Calvin Game Night

The next game night is Saturday, February 15th 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.

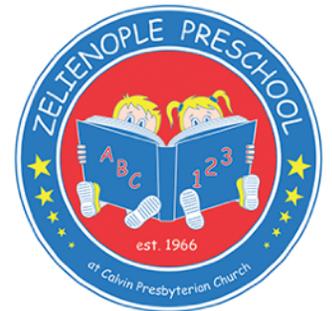
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### Zelienople Preschool Fundraiser

It's time to think Easter! Which means it's time for the fundraiser for Sarris Candies. The sale runs from Monday, January 27th until Thursday, February 13th.

Order forms are available on the back counter in Fellowship Hall.

Orders will be available for pick up on April 1st or at the worship services on April 5th.




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**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 2020 is **\$40.79**. 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.

# Agnes' 100th Birthday Celebration

January 5th, 2020



Thank you, Calvin Church family, for making my birthday such a memorable one! I love you all and am warmed by your words and your hugs.

Blessings,  
Agnes Peebles

# Ministry and Mission Matters

## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone that took a gift tag for a child at Glade Run or the Southwest Food Cupboard. Everyone of the tags were taken and a gift bought. 150 tags plus Food Cupboard tags. What a great response. We knew our church would accept the challenge and complete the task. Great Job!

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## Helping Hands Ministry

Sometimes life brings situations when you need a helping hand for a short time.

- \* Meals needed during difficult times such as surgery, hospitalization or illness
- \* Recovering from illness, accident or surgery and cannot drive to church or doctor
- \* Something else that we might be able to help you with

Text or call Denise at 412-848-8225 for more information.

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## Food Cupboard

From the Valentines children happily give to friends, to the diamonds and rubies in jeweler's ads, symbols of love are everywhere in February. Last month many Calvin members showed love to our neighbors by helping at the Food Cupboard. Thank you to all who worked. Another way we show love through the Food Cupboard is with donations of food. Thank you to all who have donated. As you share love with those closest to you, know that your love is felt by many in our community.

January needs include:

- |               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| * Soup        | * Canned Fruit and Vegetables |
| * Pancake Mix | * Peanut Butter               |
| * Syrup       | * Jelly                       |
| * Tuna        |                               |




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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



# Calvin Presbyterian Church

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

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Zelienople, PA 16063  
724-452-7560

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

*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  
Greg Zimmerman  
Sheldon Weiher  
Tom Reiber  
Scott Caputy  
Maggie Danko  
Dr. David English

*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*  
Mark Gorley *Communications Committee*  
Lisa Buechele *Spiritual Nurture Committee*  
Kelly Stefanacci *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*