



SM
@CalvinChurchZella
where faith, compassion, and authenticity meet



ON THE WAY TO
BETHLEHEM
A PLACE OF HUMILITY, LOVE
ADVENT 4, DECEMBER 22, 2024

"Feast of the Holy Family" artist not found

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Quiet Meditation

"God blesses those who recognize their need to be blessed. God blesses those who understand their need for God is more important than wealth, success, or recognition."

- Rob Fuquay

SCAN ME



TO CHECK IN

Enter to Worship – Depart To Serve

*Gathering Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Hymnal #113

Welcome, Time of Quiet Prayer and Centering Breath

Opening Chant

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord*

Scripture

Romans 3:8-11 (NRSVUE)

March Frierson

P: Thanks be to God!

March Frierson

Prayer of Humility

L: Let us pray.

All: Holy and Living God,

we pray for hearts and minds

to open wide to your compassion.

We clench our fists in fear

that there will not be enough.

Give us the humility to make more room.

Call us to a "generosity of grace."

Call us to be generous

not to a fault, but to a future

where all have a place and a home

where all are deeply loved.

We pray this in the name of your Son,

Jesus, the Christ,

your Love Incarnate.

Hear us now as we offer you our silent confessions...

Prayer of Humility Response

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait;

Truly our hope is in you.

Assurance of God's Love

L. Friends: Believe the Good News of the Gospel

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Congregational Response (#606)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Children's Sermon

Lighting of Advent Wreath

The Cramers

Anthem

Sermon

"Bethlehem, A Place of Humility, Love"

Rev. A. David Paul

Musical Meditation

"The Holly And The Ivy"

~ arr. Chip Davis

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

8:30 a.m.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord our God.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Prayer

Communion Song:

Heal us, Lord. Heal us, Lord.

On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.

Come and heal our hearts, O Lord.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

***Presentation of Gifts**

Announcements, Minutes for Mission, Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

11:00 a.m.

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also with you

***Hymn**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Hymnal #128

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Response**

God be with you, God be with you,

God be with you 'til we meet again.

***Postlude**

Serving This Week and Next Week

- ❖ 8:30 a.m. Greeter this week: Lisa Buechele
- ❖ 11:00 a.m. Greeter this week: Shelly & John Free
- ❖ 10:00 a.m. Greeter next week: Herb & Becky Wright

Coffee Hour

Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

- ❖ Today's coffee is served by: Becky Wright
- ❖ Next Week: No Coffee Hour

Prayer Ministers

Every Sunday after worship service , prayer ministers are available to offer confidential prayers of healing for you or another through you. Upon conclusion of the service prayer ministers will move to the rear of the church to pray with you.

- ❖ 8:30 a.m. Prayer Minister: Nancy Marchese
- ❖ 11:00 a.m. Prayer Minister: Rosemary Shirley

Calvin Presbyterian Church
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CALVIN STAFF

Rev. A. David Paul – Senior Pastor
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Bruce Smith – Director of Music/Youth Director
Worship Piano, Keyboards, Conductor
brucesmith@zoominternet.net – Ext. 14

Toni Schlemmer – Fine Arts Director/Associate Director of Music
Worship Vocals
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DeWayne Segafredo – Technical Director
Worship Keyboards
dewayne@spectrumaudioproductions.com

Dahn Kilroy – Office Administrator
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Karen Frank – Treasurer
karenfrank@zoominternet.net – Ext. 15

Tom Baker – Custodian
bakertom1951@gmail.com

Tom Reiber – Audio/Visuals

March Frierson – Audio/Visuals

Jackson Hugus – Audio/Visuals

Roy Tilton – Audio/Visuals

Maggie Danko – Drums, Percussion

Jared Negley – Bass

Adam Corrigan – Bass

Peter Donovan – Guitar

Dr. David English – Vocals, Percussion

Rachel Neelley – Trumpet, Vocals

CALVIN CHURCH ELDERS

David Shidemantle – Building & Grounds (2024)

David English – Worship & Arts (2024)

Rachel Fagan – Youth Formation (2025)

Amy Alexander – Membership & Hospitality (2025)

Donna Galbraith – Spiritual Nurture (2025)

Tom Reiber – Personnel & Finance (2026)

March Frierson – Mission (2026)

Rachel Neelley – Communications (2026)

Sunday

FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning services, please sign your name on the form located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or email the office administrator at the church, at office.cpc@zoominternet.net.

SERVICE

A live broadcast of each worship service is offered each Sunday. You can watch the same service throughout the week. To get the broadcast, go to the homepage on the Calvin Church website at www.calvinchurchzelie.org.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

Hearing Assist Devices are now available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, please see DeWayne or one of our audio technicians before the services.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS

HOPE
S Q U A D



Calendar

Church Office Hours: CLOSED December 23rd – January 1st

Sunday, December 22nd

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Education
- Sunday school
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Holiday Swingtakular Concert

Monday, December 23rd

- 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Glen Eden

Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service



Samaritan Counseling is Here to Help: Calvin Church supports and hosts Samaritan Counseling as part of our ongoing mission to care for those in our community. Samaritan offers both in-person and virtual counseling both in their office at Calvin Church, and at their 10 satellites throughout Western Pennsylvania. They accept almost all insurance and also offer client aid. If you, or someone you know, is struggling and needs to speak to a therapist, please contact Samaritan at 412-741-7430 or through their website at www.samaritancounseling.net.

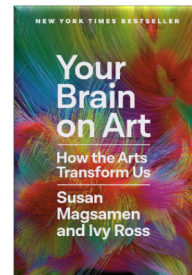
Announcements

MEN'S ROOM

The Men's Room is reading the book entitled *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross.



- 12/05/24 5. Amplifying Learning (p149)
- 12/12/24 playful, artful learning...
- 12/19/24 6. Flourishing (p182)
- 12/26/24 ***Christmas***
- 01/02/25 put yourself in enriched env....
- 01/09/25 7. Creating Community (p212)
- 01/16/25 connecting to culture again....
- 01/23/25 Conclusion: The Art of the Future



The group meets every Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the Marriott Cranberry North dining area.

You can also join via Zoom. A link is emailed out every week.

ADULT EDUCATION DURING ADVENT

Join us for Adult Education at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as we discuss Calvin's Advent theme On The Way To Bethlehem.



We are so often focused on the destination in our travels. "Where are you going?" is the most common question upon hearing that someone is heading out of town. While the destination is perhaps the impetus for deciding to "go," it is often the journey itself that offers the most memorable moments—frustrating or delightful. This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes "on the way."

Advent 4, December 22nd: Bethlehem, a place of Humility, Love

Announcements

THANK YOU

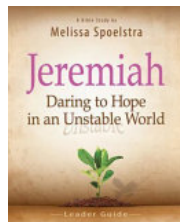
The Mission Team extends a grateful Thank You for the generosity of our congregation. More than \$400 in gift cards were donated to the youth at Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelenople. In addition, many of you fulfilled the gift wishes for children whose parents receive help from the Southwest Butler Food Pantry.

Thank you!

Members have also contributed to the PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering during Advent which provides support to church workers and future leaders studying at Presbyterian-related schools.

MOORE & MORE GROUP

The Moore & More Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Their next study begins on Wednesday, January 8th with the book *Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in an Unstable World* by Melissa Spoelstra.



Learn to surrender to God's will and rest your hope in Him alone. When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope—a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world.

If interested in joining please email Donna Galbraith at galb228@gmail.com by December 31st. The cost of the book is \$12.50.

HOLIDAY SWINGTACULAR CONCERT

Come and enjoy fun holiday music at Calvin today at 2:00 p.m. It's open to everyone so tell your friends and family! Admission is free, and donations will be accepted.



OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed beginning Monday, December 23rd and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd. Happy New Year!



CALVIN YOUTH GROUP

There is no Calvin Youth Group meeting this evening. Youth and families are encouraged to attend the Christmas "Swingtacular" concert this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. There will also be no meeting next Sunday, December 29th. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 6th.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 23rd

8:00 p.m. — Unplugged Candlelight Service @ Glen Eden (231 Dufford Road, Evans City)



Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. — Shorter service for families with small children with short attention spans
6:00 and 8:00 p.m. — Service featuring scripture, carols, and candle-lighting

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 29th.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected today.



Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's gift to us by supporting our church leaders who have guided us on our journey to seek the Lord. We honor and celebrate retired pastors, church workers and their families who have helped strengthen our faith but now find themselves facing challenges and are in critical financial need.

We also honor and celebrate emerging leaders. Supporting students of color as they pursue educational goals, develop leadership skills, and prepare to bring their gifts to serve the world insures the future of Presbyterian ministry.

Please give generously:

- Through the congregation
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999
- Give online — pcusa.org/christmasjoy

By contributing to the Christmas Joy Offering, we support the past, present and future.

Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday morning
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.



CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY

All children grades K-6.
Combined with Sunday school @ 10:00 a.m.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Check out the [special section](#) on our website for children's bulletins, sermons, and other fun stuff for the kids!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Room downstairs
Grades 7 – 12
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



ADULT EDUCATION

10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Ways to Give

ONLINE

<http://www.calvinchurchzeli.org> and click the Contribute Online link or scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone



CHECK/CASH

You can place your donation in the offering plate on the table at the back of the church before or after services. You can also mail your donations to the church at 415 E. Grandview Ave. Zelenople. Make checks payable to Calvin Presbyterian Church.

CHURCH APP

Download our Tithe.ly app and click on the Give link to make a one time donate or set up recurring giving.

Social Media



Follow us on Instagram @calvinchurchzeli



Like us on Facebook @calvinchurchzeli



Follow us on Twitter @CalvinPresZeli

Deadlines

- ◆ Bulletin and Sunday Service Inclusions – Wednesday @ 3pm
- ◆ Newsletter Submissions – 20th of every month
- ◆ Ministry Team Minutes – within 24 hours after meeting

Calvin's Average Worship Attendance Per Week

	In-Person (i)	Online (o)	Total	# States	# Countries
November 2024	118	108	226	13	5
		YTD-2024	222	14	3

Calvin's attendance went up each week this month, which, on average, is consistent with years past. Calvin's average # of States and Countries continues to be impressive. November's online numbers historically will continue to go up over the next month.

Today's Scriptures

Romans 13:8-11

Theme

Advent Week 4



Calvin 2Gether:

1. **FIND:** someone you don't know as well as others and introduce yourself, or discuss with your family around the dinner table.

2. **DISCUSS:** *This week, let us ask, "how will we show this kind of humble love to others?"*

3. **PRAYER COVENANT:** to pray for each other daily, by name until you meet again (the prayer to the right is offered as a suggestion).

The Serenity Prayer

"God, grant _____ and me the Serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the Courage to change the things we can, and the Wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world As it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right If I surrender to His Will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen."

Prayer Concerns

Please offer God prayers for the different ministries & activities of Calvin Church

Especially pray for

- * Calvin Church Staff
- * Caroline Baker, who graduated from seminary and is discerning next steps

Prayers for the World

- * For Calvin Church's partnership with Oti Presbytery – Ghana
- * For first responders and front line medical workers
- * The coronavirus pandemic, and those affected
- * Our congressmen, senators, governor and president
- * Josh Heikkila, our missionary in Ghana
- * For people across the world who are victims of terrorism
- * For Syria refugees and for the Syrian conflict
- * The people of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and their liaison, Ron Cotner
- * Ukraine, Palestine and Israel during this time of war
- * Ellen Smith, our mission co-worker based in the States, serving in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland
- * All those affected in the south by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

Please pray for these members of Calvin Church

- ~ Pat Strutt, whose daughter, Starr, recently passed away
- ~ Bob Van Ingen, who had heart surgery to replace a pacemaker
- ~ Vickie Baker, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 bone cancer
- ~ Mary Koepke, who is receiving Hospice care, and Bob and ChrisAnn Goossen as they also care for her.
- ~ Ken Weaver, for continued healing
- ~ Wayne Brinda, for continued healing

If you would like to include someone in these weekly prayers, please contact the church office at 724-452-7560, office.cpc@zoominternet.net or place a note in the offering plate.