

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

BETHLEHEM

PERSIA, A PLACE OF RETURN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

Cody Miller.com

"Three Magi" by Cody Miller

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Quiet Meditation

“What are we seeking? Where is our attention focused? What new stars may be calling to us? Will we just go back into routines of life or will we take this moment to understand more deeply how we can ‘return anew?’”

SCAN ME



TO CHECK IN

Enter to Worship – Depart To Serve

*Gathering Hymn

“Early On One Christmas Morn”

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

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)

David English

P: Thanks be to God!

David English

Prayer of Humility

L: Let us pray.

All: Holy and Living God,

we pray for all who seek.

We often seek things that do not satisfy.

Give us wisdom to pursue

what really matters

as this new year approaches.

Call us to a “turning”,

a following of your Star of Wonder.

Call us to “re-turn”

toward your purposes for us.

Remind us that our longing and our waiting

are wrapped in your care.

Draw us to a simple and humble life

defined by hope, peace, joy, and love.

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

Anthem

Rachel Noah & Jason Earle, vocal duet

Sermon

“Persia, A Place of Return”

Rev. A. David Paul

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

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

***Hymn**

"One Small Child"

***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

❖ Greeters this week: Herb & Becky Wright

❖ 8:30 a.m. Greeters next week: Jane & Wils Cooley

❖ 11:00 a.m. Greeters next week: Jennifer & Tim Richart

Coffee Hour

Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

❖ Next Week: Kay Tilton

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.

❖ Prayer Minister: Rosemary Shirley

Calvin Presbyterian Church
415 E. Grandview Ave.
Zelienople, Pennsylvania 16063
724-452-7560
www.calvinchurchzelie.org

CALVIN STAFF

Rev. A. David Paul — Senior Pastor
adavidpaul@zoominternet.net — Ext. 12

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
tmschlemmer@yahoo.com - Ext. 11

DeWayne Segafredo — Technical Director
Worship Keyboards
dewayne@spectrumaudioproductions.com

Dahn Kilroy — Office Administrator
office.cpc@zoominternet.net — Ext. 10

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
SQUAD®



Calendar

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

Sunday, December 29th

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Thursday, January 2nd

7:00 a.m. Men's Room

4:00 p.m. Worship & Arts Ministry Team
Youth Formation Ministry Team

7:00 p.m. GIFT Group

Saturday, January 4th

10:00 a.m. Pre-Sermon Small Study Group



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.

Weekly Groups

Visit our website for more information about our groups

www.calvinchurchzelie.org

TUESDAYS

Devotional Prayer Group — 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room or via Zoom

This is a group for those seeking to go deeper in their faith journey. It prayerfully studies and discusses classics of the Christian spiritual life. Contact Marie Campbell at marie.l.campbell@icloud.com for more information.

WEDNESDAYS

Beth Moore — 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room

Meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, this group's focus is to guide women into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with Jesus. They use Beth Moore Bible Studies and others to learn more about the Bible.

THURSDAYS

Men's Room — 7:00 a.m.

Marriott North (dining area), Cranberry Twp. or via Zoom

This spiritual growth group for men explores ways to connect faith practically in work, family, and other areas of life.

GIFT — 7:00 p.m.

Conference Room

GIFT is a women's book group that meets every Thursday evening. All women are welcome. Contact Kelly Casey at kncasey@gmail.com for more information.

SUNDAYS

World Events Through a Christian Lens — 6:00 p.m.

This group allows all participants to celebrate, lament, discuss, and share thoughts on current events, history, culture, and trends in a safe place, where we can respectfully share, agree, or disagree, in a supportive mutual spirit of Christian witness.

They meet the last Sunday of each month. All are welcome! Contact Herb Wright at 412.443.7098 with any questions.

Announcements

OFFICE CLOSED

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



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)

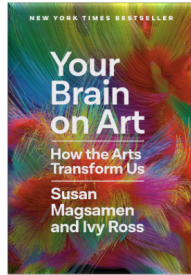
12/26/24 ***Christmas***

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.

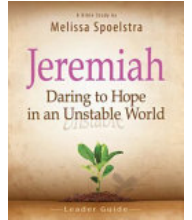
CALVIN YOUTH GROUP

There is no Calvin Youth Group meeting this evening. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m.



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



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

Matthew 2:1-12

Theme

1st Sunday after Christmas



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, "What are we seeking? Where is our attention focused? What new stars may be calling to us? Will we just go back into routines of life or will we take this moment to understand more deeply how we can 'return anew?'"*

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.