

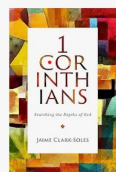
## Christmas is Coming!

Save the Date: September 17th

You are invited to join us as we are excited to begin our rehearsals preparing for our Christmas Cantata! We will be sharing Joel Raney's "*A Thrill of Hope*" on Sunday, December 21st and will feature our Choir and Bells of Calvary. Our rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 17th at 7 PM in the Choir Room. We will rehearse each Wednesday from 7—7:45 PM leading up to the Cantata (not on 11/26).

## Monday Evening Bible Study

This fall, the Monday Evening Calvary Book Study Group will be reading and discussing *1 Corinthians -- Searching the Depths of God* by Jaime Clark-Soles. The group will meet for six weeks beginning on September 29th, with classes running from 6:30—8 PM. Suggested donation for books is \$15. Sign up sheets are available in The Square. Please contact John Packer with questions at [jwpackercpa@comcast.net](mailto:jwpackercpa@comcast.net) or 717-576-5984.



## Women's Retreat: Where is God?

**When:** September 26-28, 2025

**Where:** Kenbrook Bible Camp Lebanon, PA (Mountain View Lodge)

This year's women's retreat dares to ask the question, "Where is God?" The topic came from vulnerable conversations revealing that there are many times in life we ask this question, but don't talk about it. Pastor Deb will lead sessions including: Where we find God, Finding God in difficult times, and Finding God in times of loss. There will be times of small group discussion, good food, worship, opportunities to be in nature, games, crafts, and fellowship. Come for the whole weekend, or join us for Saturday only as a day retreat. Don't miss this opportunity for spiritual growth, renewal, and relationship building. More information can be found in the Square or on the website.



Calvary United Methodist Church

Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr., Lead Pastor

Rev. Doug Compton, Visitation Pastor      Deb Port, Associate in Pastoral Ministry

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Calvary's Wi-Fi access—User Name: CalvaryUMC\_Guest; Password: PraiseH1m



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~ *Gathering in Word and Spirit* ~

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *Rise Up and Praise Him* Baloché/Sadler  
Deb Wartell, Corvé Ransom, Ron Beatty, Rob Hollenbach; Quartet

**\*HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* #139 UMH

**\*PRAYER of PRAISE** Pastor Deborah Port

**\*PASSING of the PEACE** #393 UMH  
*Please be mindful of people's boundaries as you share God's love.*  
*Please be seated as we sing "Spirit of the Living God"*

*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*  
*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*  
*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*  
*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION** Linda Hoffman

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 95 (NIV)

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.  
For the LORD is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;  
for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care.  
Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,  
as you did that day at Massah in the desert,  
where your fathers tested and tried me,  
though they had seen what I did.  
For forty years I was angry with that generation;  
I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,  
and they have not known my ways."  
So I declared on oath in my anger,  
"They shall never enter my rest."*

**SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 24,  
2025**

**THE ELEVENTH  
SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Pastor Deborah Port  
Please join in singing, "*Jesus Loves Me.*" as the children come forward.

**A BLESSING for BACK-to-SCHOOL** Insert

**ANTHEM** *I Worship You, Almighty God* McDonald  
Deb Wartell, Corvé Ransom, Ron Beatty, Rob Hollenbach; Quartet

**SERMON** "*Psalms: Celebrate!*"  
Series: Voices of the Hebrew Scriptures  
Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

**A CELEBRATION of SERVICE** **Honoring Jennifer Koontz**  
**25 Years of Service to Calvary Kids & Calvary United Methodist Church**  
Presented by Judy Franklin, *Chairperson*  
Calvary Kids Board

~ *Celebrating at the Table* ~

**PRESENTATION OF OUR LIVES, TITHES, and OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** *What An Awesome God* Wickham  
A Visual Celebration for Calvary Kids 25th Anniversary

**\*DOXOLOGY** #94 UMH

**\*PRAYER of DEDICATION** Pastor Deborah Port

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

~ *Going Forth in Mission* ~

**\*HYMN** *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* #605 UMH

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Shalom to You* #666 UMH

**\*POSTLUDE** *Praise!* Martin

\*Please stand as you are able.

UMH=UM Hymnal (red) TFWS=The Faith We Sing (black)

**The Altar Flowers are presented:** In Celebration of the Ministry of Calvary  
Kids Childcare Center for 25 Years.



*The prayer of faith will save the sick. The Lord will raise them up. Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.*  
James 5:15-16

## Calvary's Prayer Ministry

**In Mourning:** The Family of Shirley Holtzer on her passing.

**Calvary LAMS (Limited Activity Members):** Dona Hoover, Jean Murphy, Rosalla Hollenbach, Arlene Little, Lois Hartman, Marcia Oster, Dottie Gilloway, Ruth Schaadt, Laura Goodhart, Jan Crouse, Bill & Vi Stiffler, Joann Rohland, Carol Bettinger, Paul & Dottie Danko, Bill Morris, Harold McNaughton, Pat Rowe, Pat Hartranft, Bill & Liz Payne, Marilyn Archibald, Barbara Fritz, Priscilla Secord, Sandra Beck, Bob Santos, Glenn Reed, Maxine Swink, Janice Wragg, Mary Louise Keiper

**Prayer Concerns:** Bryce Leidich, Lorraine Brosius, Scott & Tracy Wagner, Joanne Paladino, Ginny Coy, Kimberly Myhre, Charlotte Cornelius, John Oster, Brandon & Kelly Mehaffie, Rebecca Jacobs & Family, Roger Cooper, John Ewell, Mary Wagner, Charley Cover, Dave & Carol Mehaffie, Henry Reinsborough, Deanne & Keith Armstrong, Cole Sullivan, Kimberly Moyer, Tom Stypola, Gene Baldwin, Tom Worthington, Charlie Sullivan, Christopher Castellani, Brad Wolfe, Patty McConnell, Lee Griffiths, Nancy Paine, Wendy Rose, Dan Sheehan, Tom Fealtman, Amy Stoner, Donna Pope, Phil Womer, Mary Dietrich, Sandra Frantz, Sarah Colding, David & Pat Ster, R.S. Garner, Susie Grubb, Kathy Herring, DeeDee Sakson, Jack & Vivian Bowers, Jill Walker, Ron Beatty, Justin Oster, Cindy Wertz, Larry Wright, Cindy Evans, Ronin Trimmer, Shirley Dinini, Anthony Myers, Carl "Marty" Pattison, Luke Wagner, Alyssa Winston, Alyce Tran, Mark Andrews & Family, Richard Martin, Pat Gingerich, Anthony Myers, Julie Andrews, Winifred Sersch, Jean McClure, Sharon Etter, Sophia Rodriguez, Spencer Griggs, Brandi Vinck, Douglas Walt, David Walt, Thomas Kough, Tavian Plonski, Matthew Beam & Family, Patricia Ritchie, Kathy Oberdorff, Larry Solt, Judi Kochik, Don Ott, Janice Scheid, Eric Scheid, Mary Albright, Lance Leidich, Fay Shiffert, Norman Goff, Vaughn Shutt, Cody Leisey, Ron Wenrich\*, Tony Myers\*, Marty Brightbill\*, Shirley Baddorf\*

**Serving in Armed Forces:** Andrew Hoffman, Jake Smuda, Aaron Lytle, Anthony Oswandel, Patrick McCarthy, James Simmons, Clay Burnette, Holly Dively, James Forsyth, Steven Novosel, Curtis Fetterhoff, Jackson Robinette, Joseph Swift, Zachary Curtis, Ian Turner, Haden Wagner

*\* indicates a prayer concern added or changed this week. Prayer cards can be found in the pew racks. Please complete a card and place in the offering plate. You may also email prayer concerns to [office@calvaryunitedmethodist.org](mailto:office@calvaryunitedmethodist.org) or call 717-545-0021. A new list is compiled at the beginning of each month.*

# CALVARY CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 24th

Celebrating 25 Years of Calvary  
Kids Childcare Center  
Backpack Blessing  
Scholarship Committee Mum Sale  
Fellowship After Worship  
10:00 AM ..... Worship Service

### Monday, August 25th

6:30 PM ..... Men's Pick Up  
..... Basketball (age 25 & up)

### Tuesday, August 26th

9:00 AM ..... Threads of Love  
6:00 PM ..... Amateur Pickleball

### Wednesday, August 27th

10:00 AM ..... Quilters  
11:30 AM ..... Prayer & Devotions

### Thursday, August 28th

4:00 PM ..... Food Pantry

### Sunday, August 31st

10:00 AM ..... Worship Service

### Monday, September 1st

Church Office Closed  
Calvary Kids Closed



### Tuesday, September 2nd

9:00 AM ..... Threads of Love  
6:00 PM ..... Amateur Pickleball

### Wednesday, September 3rd

11:30 AM ..... Prayer & Devotions  
7:00 PM ..... Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 4th

6:00 PM ..... Calvary Kids Board  
..... Meeting



## *Last Week in Offering*

### Offering 08/17/2025

General Fund Needed: \$18,615  
Received: \$10,336  
Building Fund Needed: \$962  
Received: \$1,013

### Attendance 08/17/2025

10:00 AM: 210  
Online Worship: 112

## GriefShare

*Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.*

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13 week group, you will receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

A GriefShare support group is a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Pastor Doug Compton will begin Calvary's 13 week GriefShare class on Thursday, September 11th at 6:30 PM. The class will conclude on Thursday, December 18th (no class on Thanksgiving).

Please contact Pastor Doug directly with any questions at 717-599-6246 or [dchdj@yaho.com](mailto:dchdj@yaho.com). If you wish to sign up for the class, please contact the church office or sign up in The Square.

## Fall Worship and Sunday School

Beginning on September 7th, Worship returns to 8:30 and 11 AM with Sunday School for Preschool through Adults at 9:45 AM. Nursery Care will also be provided during Worship and Sunday School. Join us!

## LAMs Ministry

At Calvary, we have love and care for our LAMs (Limited Activity Members). Our LAMs volunteers are assigned a LAM and visit at least once a month. They also send cards and touch base with phone calls. Contact Pastor Deb to serve in this important Ministry.

## Livestreaming of Worship

In case you did not know, we are Livestreaming Worship. Please note that we reserve the right to record, videotape, and photograph our services. Your image may be used in print, broadcast, and/or on the internet. By attending our services, you agree to waive any rights or interest to control the use of your likeness in whichever media we may use. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Caring Cupboard for Calvary's Youth Group and Youth Sunday School

We are asking for your support in providing meals for the Youth Group (10—12 people) on Wednesday evenings. Meals can either be prepared by you or frozen items such as chicken tenders, fries, ravioli, soup, tacos, salads, and dessert. Drinks do not need to be provided. Drop off times are by 3:30 PM for frozen items needing preparation and heating by staff and 5:15 PM for meals ready to eat. Sign up in the hallway outside The Square. If you are unable to provide a meal, monetary donations are also accepted to help cover the cost of drinks, etc.

We are also looking for donations of pre-packaged individual serving size breakfast pastries and cookies for Sunday School (Little Bites Muffins, Granola Bars, Cookies, etc.). Items can be placed in the Drop Zone. Contact Kelley in the office with any questions. Thank you for your support!

## ***"Psalms: Celebrate!"***

**Series: Voices of the Hebrew Scriptures**

Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

August 24, 2025

**Background:** Nearly one-third of the Old Testament is written as poetry, including *Job*, *Psalms*, *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, *Song of Songs*, and many passages in the *Prophets*. Ancient Hebrew poetry differs from Western poetry in that it emphasizes brevity and parallelism rather than meter or rhyme, often using couplets that reinforce or contrast ideas (see Psalm 23).

**The Book of Psalms** serves as the prayer book and hymnal of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Psalms express a wide range of emotions, including but certainly not limited to praise, thanksgiving, sorrow, guilt, lament, anger, petition, wisdom, trust, and awe. According to John Wesley, "The Psalms are a divinely inspired manual of prayer and praise, suited to every condition of the soul."

Psalms is Divided into Five Books: Book I (Psalms 1–41), mostly Davidic and using YHWH predominantly; Book II (42–72), largely Davidic with contributions from Asaph and the sons of Korah, using Elohim more frequently; Book III (73–89), a short collection by Asaph, Ethan, the sons of Korah, and David; Book IV (90–106), mostly untitled psalms praising YHWH as king and deliverer; and Book V (107–150), including Davidic psalms, psalms of praise for Passover, psalms of ascent, and Hallelujah psalms. **Psalm 95** is a part of Book IV, and while the author may be anonymous, the New Testament letter to the Hebrews affirms David as its composer (Hebrews 4:7).

**Sermon Idea:** Psalm 95 invites us to worship the Maker and Sustainer of the universe by practicing holy self-awareness. The psalmist reminds us that worship begins when we recognize God's grace at work in our lives, honestly name and challenge attitudes that harden our hearts (like entitlement that can lead to bitterness), and intentionally express our worship through embodied response. In other words, this psalm calls us to attend to what is happening within us so that we can worship God with our whole selves. The practice of celebration helps us hold the "both/and" of life—acknowledging God's goodness and life's difficulties—so that our hearts remain soft and responsive to God's voice.