

The Clarion
January
2022

Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshipping, growing, and service together



Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 23rd. Time TBD

Jouyssance Concert
January 9th, 4:00 pm, Sanctuary

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Courtney Anderson	1/1	Henry Chau	1/18
Margaret Lindstrom	1/1	Linda Yamauchi	1/20
Claire O'Malley	1/1	Sharon Garcia	1/26
♥Clifford & Janet Douglas	1/4	Edward Freeman	1/27
Grayson Kopperud	1/11	William Freeman	1/27
Bill Robertson	1/14	♥Richard & Susan Gutschow	1/28
Pat Martinez-Miller	1/15	Robert Nichols	1/29



Presbyterian Corner Our faith, our practice, and our roots.

Why is the church so full of “sinners”?

The church is full of sinners because the church is *for* sinners. The New Testament picture of the church does not “touch up the negatives” when it comes to portraying what the earliest Christian churches were like. When we read the letters of the apostle Paul to the “saints” (Eph. 1:1; Col 1:2) in all the various churches, we find that he is always addressing difficulties that have emerged. Sometimes these relate to the practices of the churches, sometimes to their beliefs, and sometimes to the personalities of people who were having squabbles or acting in unchristian ways (Phil. 4:2). Paul’s theological insights had to be brought to bear on the very real problems of churches, no the least of which was that church members were not believing or behaving as he believed Christians should. They were sinners.

This is not surprising if, as Presbyterians, we recognize that Christians are “forgiving sinners.” We are saved by God’s grace in Jesus Christ, not by human “works” (Eph. 2:8-9). But our salvation does not bring us perfection. We will not live a perfect Christian life. We will sin, even as Christians. Paul himself struggled with this in his own life. Hear his agony when he confessed to the church at Rome: “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do” (Rom. 7:19). Christians are saved by God’s grace on Christ, but we are still sinners. Yet now, as Christians, we seek and find forgiveness through Christ.

The Christian church is the community of sinners who are saved by God’s grace, and yet who stand in continuing need of God’s gracious forgiveness in Christ and of the loving forgiveness of others against whom we sin. Church quarrels, schisms, hypocrisy, and failures to be Christlike are marks of churches, as anyone who is a church member can testify. Yet it is precisely here where God’s grace can still abound. It is in the community of faith that sins can be confessed and forgiveness and reconciliation offered. There is a realism to our view of the church. We are church members, sinful though we be. But we are sinners who are saved by grace.

-from Donald K. McKim, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers

Mission Committee 2021 Report

Thanks to your generous financial support of Calvary Presbyterian Church the Mission Committee sent support to the following partners:

Local:

- Calvary Benevolence Fund; direct support to those who apply
- Crossroads-Reverse Advent boxes
- Union Station Family Center-Dinners and financial support
- Angel Interfaith Network- Christmas Boxes and financial support
- Refugee Children Center—Christmas Boxes
- Monte Vista Street Elementary School—backpacks and school supplies
- Door of Hope—Secret Santa families and financial support

Global:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haiti earthquake response
- Presbyterian Mission Agency for continued support of all PMA mission co-workers
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Ministry of Hope (Malawi, Africa)

Additionally, Priscilla is pursuing a Master's degree in counseling and hopes to ultimately finish a PhD at Fuller. She then plans on returning to Kenya to open a Christian Addiction Counseling center. With this second degree, she needs tuition assistance. The Mission Committee views Priscilla as a future mission co-worker, and we are supporting her education. A Mission budget line has also been created so that people can donate to Calvary directly for her education.

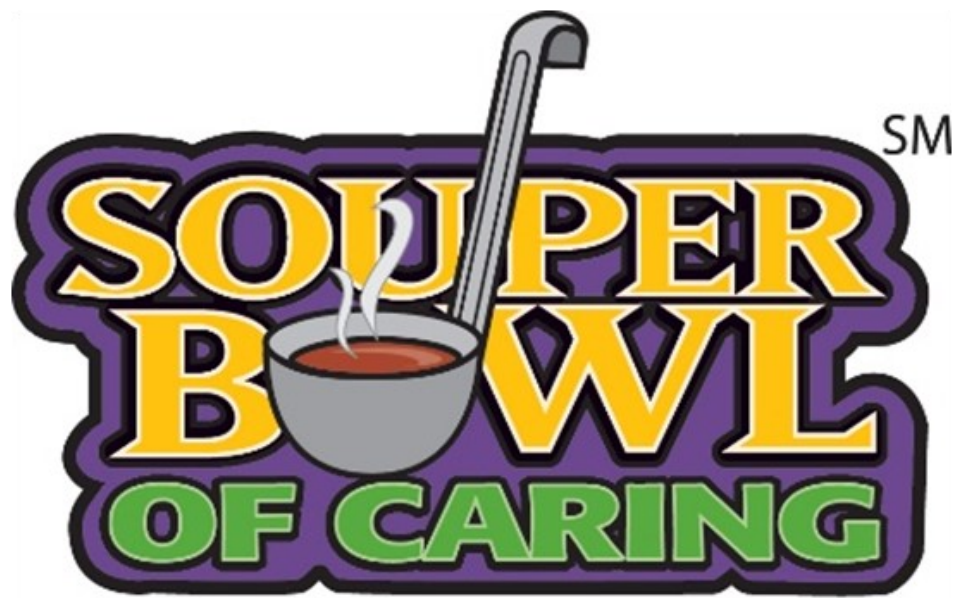


Dear **Friends at Calvary Presbyterian Church,**

Saturday morning, Door of Hope families were blessed with an extra special Christmas, and children awoke to "Santa" fulfilling their Christmas wishes. **Thank you for being a Secret Santa!** You went above and beyond our expectations and we are eternally grateful. Above all, families got the gift of knowing they are loved by God, their Door of Hope family, and supporters like you.

One mom shared her gratitude this way: "I am almost at a loss for words. As my kids open gifts this morning I couldn't help but cry. Not only were these quality gifts, but tailored to my kids and their likings... Thank you soooooo much. I don't know how I could ever repay or express thanks outside of my words, but you guys have impacted our lives in such a beautiful and fulfilling way".





tacklehunger.org

The Super Bowl is just around the corner. While we do not yet know who will be playing, one thing is certain; at Calvary we will be celebrating Souper Bowl. We will be collecting cans of soup and other nonperishable food items on Sunday February 13th. Bring your soup cans to church and place them in the available baskets. Food will be utilized in the Little Free Pantry and donated to St. James Food Bank.

**This is one way we live our mission
as a Hunger Care Congregation.**

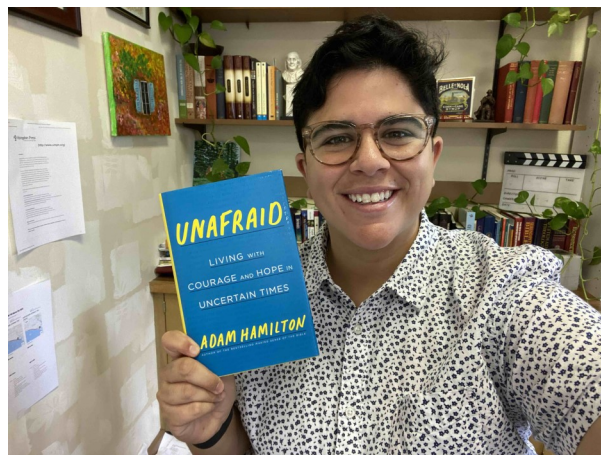
Ashley's Book Club

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

By Adam Hamilton

With the rise of the Omicron variant and the NHL postponing their season, it feels like the beginning of 2020 all over again. We are very much still living in a global pandemic. It is very easy to get overwhelmed and discouraged and to let go of hope in such a consistently difficult time.

To encourage your faith, I want to recommend to you "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton. For those who are unfamiliar with Hamilton, he is the senior pastor of [Church of the Resurrection](#) in Kansas City. The church has about 20,000 members and is the largest United Methodist Church in our country. He is a wonderful author and does a great job at making difficult (and hard to swallow) concepts easy to consider.



In his book "Unafraid," Hamilton sheds light on understanding fear and how the social issues of our day are contributing to that fear through the media. He also talks about how we can have faith in the midst of loneliness and life's disappointments. For anyone concerned about the financial market, Hamilton has a few chapters on unpacking our dystopian outlook. Hamilton also talks about the very human experience of aging and dying, encouraging readers to have faith in the sovereign care of our Creator.

Adam Hamilton's book, "Unafraid" is a good book for anyone needing encouragement or for anyone struggling to find hope. If these topics feel especially pressing to you, feel free to reach out to the church office or to speak with your deacon. We are all in this together and by God's grace, we will continue to rise above the stress and turmoil of our circumstances and walk with God by faith. If you'd like to discuss this book or any books you might be reading, you can reach out to me at any time at 626-799-7148 ext. 218 or at pastorhengst@gmail.com. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Calvary Children & Youth

Celebrating Christmas

By Ashley Lynn Hengst

This Advent season has been especially fun for Calvary Children and youth. In Sunday School, Mrs. Cathy continued our lessons through the Gospel of Mark and then finished up with a Sunday of decorating Christmas cookies. She read the Nativity story to our children and helped them to understand the meaning of Christmas. We are so grateful for Mrs. Cathy's enduring commitment to our children. Starting January 2nd, our Sunday School program will meet every Sunday morning during the church service. We hope you can join us!





Our youth have been celebrating the season with lots of Christmas cheer. We had an Ugly Sweater Christmas party and a Christmas movie night. Congratulations to Brandon for winning the contest for the silliest ugly Christmas sweater. Starting January 2nd, our youth will be going through the letter of James, unpacking the wisdom of the brother of Jesus.

We are so grateful for all the children and youth at Calvary. If you have any questions or would like to hear more about getting involved, you can reach out to me at any time at 626-799-7148 ext. 218 or at pastorhengst@gmail.com. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Even When God is Silent

By Ashley Lynn Hengst

In the gospel of John there is a famous story about two sisters named Mary and Martha, and their

brother Lazarus. You may remember Mary and Martha from when Jesus came to town. Martha hosted Jesus and the disciples in “her home.” Martha was “distracted by many tasks” – probably busy with food preparation, with clean up and with hosting – she felt like she had no actual time to sit and listen to Jesus. But her sister, Mary, more at peace with unfinished tasks, sat at Jesus’ feet, simply to hear his words.



Those two sisters had a brother named Lazarus and when Lazarus became sick, his sisters sent a message to Jesus, begging him to come. They told him that “he whom you love is ill.” *He’s sick. Lazarus is dying. Please come.*

Jesus replied, “this illness does not lead to death [but] rather it is for God’s glory.”

After two days, Jesus decided to travel to Bethany to meet with Mary, Martha and Lazarus but by the time he arrived, Lazarus was dead. Lazarus had been in the tomb for four whole days. When Martha heard about Jesus’ arrival, she went up to Jesus and in her grief and in her sadness and dare I say, in her ANGER, she said to Jesus, “IF YOU had been here, my brother

would not have died.” *IF YOU had been there...*

When her sister Mary found Jesus, she said the same thing: “*If you had been here, my brother would not have died.*” At the sight of their tears and grief and their overwhelming pain, Jesus wept. The text says Jesus was “greatly disturbed in spirit.” Jesus wept.

The son of God wept over the pain these two women held in their hearts. Jesus wept over the pain that comes from the indescribable loss we experience in the death of a loved one.

Some people said, “See how he loved him!” Others said, “Could NOT HE who opened the eyes

of the blind man HAVE KEPT this man from dying?”

How many of us have ever felt that way? *If Jesus was only there... if God had intervened... this NEVER would have happened.*

We sometimes think that pain and suffering means that God is gone. That God does not care.

That God has abdicated God's throne. In our grief and in our pain, we are tempted to believe that God somehow, abandoned us.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus wept at the sight of Mary and Martha's grief, demonstrating to them that *he was not* ambivalent to their searing loss. *He felt it too.* The Son of God felt their pain and the Son of God feels your pain too.

Maybe you are beginning 2022, struggling to endure a searing loss. Maybe it's the loss of a loved one or the loss of a job or a life you once had. Maybe you are dealing with physical ailments, a sickness that won't go away. No matter what you are going through, God is here with you, feeling your pain and your anguish too.

God is here, even when God is silent. God is at work, making all things work out together for good – even when God seems late.

The birth of Christ means that our suffering and our pain is never the end of the story. Because of Christ, there is redemption, resurrection, and everlasting hope.

In the case of Lazarus, Jesus raised him from the dead, bringing healing to a whole community. In our lives, redemption and healing look different and it looks different for all of us.

Through the prophet Joel, God gave Israel this promise. "I will restore the years the locusts of have eaten," Joel 2:25. In other words, God promises to restore the years that pain and suffering have eaten. We can count on this promise because of Jesus, because of the birth of our Messiah, because God has already fulfilled God's promise to redeem us through Christ.

SIP N STITCH NEWS

I am so happy to report that sip n stitch had 50 lap blankets for the county program of our presbytery...Happy that Ashley did the heavy lifting! See you Saturday hopefully then off for two weeks for Christmas and New Years and we will resume in January!

With the limited time we were able to meet this year I am very proud of our accomplishments! We have given out over 1200 blankets since 2009.....I ordered 300 more labels so we can start on this year!

-Marta Renna





*They say..... Love more! Serve more! Give more!
Just doing these three things alone will move us far along
the road to happiness and contentment in the new year
ahead.*



Greeting fellow Angels! Continued blessings during these last days of Christmas, the beginning of Kwanzaa and the New Year celebrations! We hope this January newsletter finds you and your family healthy and blessed. May our stories inspire you and remind you of the good we are all doing together. Angel Interfaith Network daily partnerships with LAC USC Medical Center Chaplains and Social Workers along with St. Camillus Center and Shelter Partnership allows your prayer and donations to multiply and serve even more patients in need as they leave our hospital.

We thank you for thinking of Angel Interfaith Network during Giving Tuesday and at the end of the year. We are truly grateful to partner with you!

Network Partners:



Thank you **Covenant Presbyterian Church, Westchester** for your continued support and donation of hygiene kits. These kits will be provided to individuals struggling to afford these necessary supplies.



We also appreciate **Deacon and Mrs. Norman Stump** for taking the time out to make this delivery.



To all the faithful donors of beautiful quilts that were received for the annual **Acts of Kindness** event at LAC+USC Medical Center. We thank you! Our Chaplains with the Spiritual Care Department helped to deliver these very special gifts to the patients. The patients were very grateful for all the love and support received.

Those We Serve: Sally is an expectant mother experiencing complications with her pregnancy. As a result, she has been unable to work and has fallen behind on her rent. Sally's husband has had his hours decreased at work due to

continued covid outbreaks at his workplace. Concerned about their housing and to alleviate Sally's added stress level, their social worker referred them to Angel Interfaith for rental assistance. Thanks to your continued financial support, the family received rental assistance and avoided being displaced.



Urgent Needs: Food Gift Cards & Sustaining Angels

As another year very quickly comes to a close and you review your list of year end tax deductible charitable donations, please consider a one time donation to Angel Interfaith Network OR you can also help us continue to give the Gift of Hope and Love all year long by signing up to become a Sustaining Angel. Sustaining Angels are recurring monthly sponsors ♥ No amount is too small and all amounts are tax deductible ♥ Without your generosity, our work would simply not be possible.

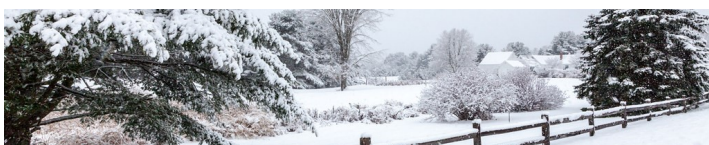
For donations, please visit: <http://angelinterfaith.net/wp/donate-now/> Donations can also be mailed to: AIN c/o St. Camillus Center: 1911 Zonal Ave. L A, CA 90033 Please make checks payable to St. Camillus, with **AIN** on the memo line.

Have a wonderful New Year and know that you are appreciated!

December Financials

December Budgeted Income \$16,066.67
December Actual Income \$6,762.00
December Budgeted Expense \$37,293.15
December Actual Expense \$47,919.19
December Food Bank Expenses: \$218.29

*These amounts reflect the operating budget only. Income numbers are purely from offerings. Investment and property numbers are not included. We received a first round of the Payroll Protection loan in May 2020 and received a second round in February 2021. We have submitted the paperwork to have the first round loan forgiven and are awaiting notice. We are also looking into other credits from the government to help with payroll costs.



Join your church
family online each
Sunday at 10:30 am here:
<http://calvarypres.online.church/>

To see more of Rev. Millason Dailey's
sermons check out on our [Messages page](#).

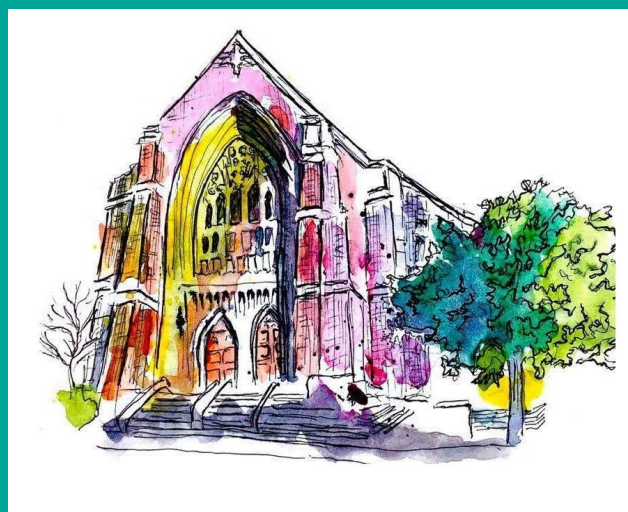
You can also subscribe to our
[YouTube page](#) for all of the latest
from our church.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

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Praise The LORD with us!

Join us for In-Person Worship
Sunday 10:30 am
in the Sanctuary



Calvary Presbyterian Church

*At Calvary Presbyterian Church, Christ meets community:
Welcomes Everyone, Deepens Faith, Sends All...to love and serve as Jesus did.*

STAFF

*The Reverend Millason Dailey, Pastor
Beau Wammack, Worship Leader
Luis Rivas, Sexton*

*Mike Wilson, Director of Music
Meredith Stoner, Bookkeeper
Maribel Valadez, Office Administrator
Reece Lemmon, Director of Spiritual Life & Service
Ashley L. Hengst, Director of Children & Youth
The Reverend Dr. P.A. Castellano, Pastor Emeritus*

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