The Clarion
June
2021

# Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshiping, growing, and service together



# **Upcoming Events**

In-Person Worship 10:30am at the Rose Garden

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

•	Andrew & Linda Kopperud	6/6
	Sue Norton	6/8
	Cathy Riley	6/9
	Ferne Nichols	6/11
	Patrick Perry	6/12
	Kayla Riley	6/12
-	Fon & Ruth Leong	6/12
	Janis Chew	6/15
V	Bill Robertson & Peggy Tutor	6/15
_	Walter Smith	6/17
v	Todd & Sharon Lyall	6/18
	Zachary Freeman	6/21
<b>—</b> •	<b>Heather &amp; Louie Cisneros</b>	6/21
	Cora Freeman	6/23
	Bennett Kopperud	6/27
<b>Y</b>	Orville & Carolyn Houg	6/28
¥	Forrest & Clare Baird	6/28
*	Pat & Marie Castellano	6/29
	David Riley	6/30

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



### What does it mean to be "saved"?

To be "saved" is to experience Christian salvation. The Bible clearly indicates that God has been at work to undo the damage done by sin in the human family (Gen. 3). Sin has fractured and disrupted the love, trust, and obedience God intended for humans to experience in our relationship with our creator and our fellow humans. Our lives are marked by seeking our own agendas, glory, and power, instead of God's.

God has been at work to overcome the destructive powers of sin. God called the people of Israel into existence and into a covenant relationship to be God's people, and promised Abraham that through his offspring "all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves" (Gen. 22:18). God established other covenants with persons such as David, on drawing Israel into a place of privilege and responsibility. God Promised a Messiah. Jeremiah the prophet anticipated a "new covenant" in coming days, when God will "forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more" (Jer. 31:31-34).

We Presbyterian Christians believe sin is forgiven and a restored relationship with God is established through the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is the Messiah. Through his life, death, and resurrection, we have been given the gift of salvation. Salvation is expressed in the new Testament through a number of different images, such as peace with God, reconciliation, redemption, justification, and other terms. All point to a new relationship with God as being established through Jesus Christ. Sin and its power are overcome. God and humanity are brought together as God originally intended. Through faith in Jesus Christ we experience the presence of God, a union with Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Those who are saved are called together in the Christian church, where God is worshiped and served. The love, trust, and the obedience God desires is now made possible. We have "eternal life" through God's gift in Jesus Christ. This is the "gospel," the good news of our salvation (Eph. 1:13). Our lives are transformed. we live to serve Christ, and we carry out God's will in mission and ministry to the world. All this, plus the hope laid for us in heaven that comes to us in the gospel of salvation (Col. 1:5).

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

### Reflections With Reece

In last month's reflection, I shared about my struggles with a theology of scarcity rather than a theology of plenty in regards to the Community Sharing Table I have made. My concern was that I would run out of supplies to share and constantly have to resupply the table myself. I decided that I would go to the store and buy enough supplies to stock it up again and would continue to buy whatever was needed.

After restocking the table, it was quickly emptied, but within an hour, two families stopped by and restocked it again! It does fluctuate with how much there is to share ant any time, but I have been struck by the care of several community members who stop by and drop off goods throughout the week. The most beautiful and inspiring part is that it is often mothers with their children who bring supplies and arrange them carefully for those who need them. It is such a beautiful example of generosity and love that these mothers are teaching their children. (Note: I still have supplies to share that are from the last time I went to resupply the table a month ago! They are ready to fill in any time when the table does not have enough to share.)



I have been blessed through this whole experience to also learn that what my community needs most is household supplies and toiletries. We might often assume that people need food, but in my neighborhood the most popular items are toilet paper, diapers, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and feminine hygiene products. The least popular items are canned vegetables and random food items that were obviously taken from the back of a donor's pantry. This is something I would like us all to keep in mind when we are thinking of donating goods to those in need. It is also my hope that you might consider doing something similar in your own neighborhood so that the act of sharing can continue to spread and bless both those who give and those who receive.

Remember, "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord..." Proverbs 19:17

Keep Shining, Reece



Join us this summer for our free Vacation Bible School on the powerful story of Esther. VBS is open to anyone in grades k-5th grade and each participant will receive a VBS packet with snacks, arts and crafts and a t-shirt.

VBS will take place on Zoom from 12-1:30 pm during July 12-16th and will be donation based. Please reach out to Ashley if you have any questions.

pastorhengst@gmail.com

You can register today at: <a href="https://vbspro.events/p/events/esthervbs">https://vbspro.events/p/events/esthervbs</a>



With school out and summer vacation on the horizon, Calvary teens will be reading through Shane Claiborne's classic book "The Irresistible Revolution: Living As An Ordinary Radical." Each week, we will be reading through one chapter and then meeting on Zoom Sundays from 4-5pm to discuss it. Teens, be on the lookout for your summer reading kit coming to your door step the first week in June. If your teen would like to join Calvary's Youth Group, please reach out to Ashley at pastorhengst@gmail.com

#### BIBLE READING PLAN

# Reading Through Acts and The Epistles of Paul

# Summer 2021 THE HOPE FOUND IN PAUL'S STORY

by Ashley Lynn Hengst

I hope you are having a good summer and that you are enjoying your journey through the book of Acts and Paul's Epistles. One of my favorite parts of the entire Bible is reading Paul's conversion. We know from Scripture that Paul was a notorious persecutor of Christians. He was often found "breathing threats and murder" for anyone who followed *the Way* or Christianity, as it was called during the early church era. Paul "was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, [and] he committed them to prison." (Acts 8:3). Then came's Paul's conversion in Acts and by the grace and mercy of God, "he believed because he experienced Jesus as a blinding light, as the risen Christ, as healer of his own broken soul." - Diana Butler Bass in *Freeing Jesus*.

Pauls's conversion reminds me of a man named Alam Chambers. His name is well known in the gay Christian community because Chambers once led an organization called "Exodus International." Funded by many protestant and evangelical churches, Exodus International provided conversion therapy to LGBT people who wanted to be "cured" from their homosexuality. Conversion therapy or "reparative therapy," still goes on today. Chambers testified before Congress on behalf of anti-gay marriage legislation and was a leader in anti-gay legislation as he promoted conversion therapy.

Then, in June 2013, Alan closed Exodus International and renounced the practice of conversion therapy. He said, "For quite some time now, we've been imprisoned by a world view that's neither honoring toward our fellow human beings nor biblical." Chambers then promised to do all that he could to create "safe, welcoming and mutually transforming communities." His 180-degree conversion reminds me of the miracle of Paul.

Just like Paul, Chambers was not received with open arms by the LGBT Christian community when his heart changed. Many people were terrified of him and many of his former patients could not bear to even be in the same room with him. I remember being huddled in a fellowship hall a few years ago talking with other people in an LGBT Christian bible study where they spoke of the anxiety in seeing Chambers stand up to speak at the Gay Christian annual conference. Many of his former patients were there. In tears, they explained how difficult it was to see Chambers and it also how it gave them hope. Just like Paul, Chambers was "now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." Galatians 1:23

As you continue to read through Acts and Paul's epistles, may God remind you afresh of the transformative power of God's love. And this summer, may your experience of Jesus deepen as you learn from the faith and sacrifice of the early church. If you would like to read more about Alan Chambers check out his book "My Exodus: Leaving the Slavery of Religion and Loving the Image of God in Everyone" (2015). And if you'd like to discuss this article or talk with me about your bible reading, you can reach out to me anytime at pastorhengst@gmail.com.

"Whatever God is urging you to clear away cannot begin to be compared to what He ultimately wants to bring you."

- Beth Moore

#### May 30-June 5th

1 Thessalonians 3-5
2 Thessalonians 1-2
2 Thessalonians 3
Acts 19
Galatians 1-3

### June 6-12th

Galatians 4-6
Acts 20
1 Corinthians 1-3
1 Corinthians 4-6
1 Corinthians 7-9

### June 20-26th

1 Corinthians 10-121 Corinthians 13-62 Corinthians 1-32 Corinthians 4-62 Corinthians 7-9

### June 27-July 3rd

2 Corinthians 10-13 Romans 1-3 Romans 4-6 Romans 7-9

Romans 10-12

## July 4-10th

Romans 13-16 Acts 21:1-36 Acts 21:37-22:29 Acts 22:30-23:35 Acts 24

## July 11-17th

Philemon Colossians 1-2 Colossians 3-4 Ephesians 1-2 Ephesians 3-4

### July 18-24th

Ephesians 5-6 Acts 25-26 Acts 26-8 Philippians 1-2 Philippians 3-4

## 66

"THERE MUST BE
ALWAYS REMAINING
IN EVERY LIFE, SOME
PLACE FOR THE
SINGING OF ANGELS,
SOME PLACE FOR
THAT WHICH IN
ITSELF IS
BREATHLESS AND
BEAUTIFUL."
- HOWARD THURMAN

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Alan Chambers

# Addressing Asian Discrimination

By Ashley Lynn Hengst

It is very difficult to imagine how anyone could blame a whole other country for the spread of a deadly virus in the United States when we as Americans, are resistant to wearing masks and staying socially distant. Our political differences make no room for discrimination. As Americans, we believe that everyone deserves to live in safety. We have fought and sacrificed for the safety of the people in our country. Part of living in a free society is living in a safe society. Is it not Our Christian faith makes no room for blame shifting and racial hatred. Christ calls us to love others as we love ourselves therefore, we ought to ensure everyone in our community lives safely. Knowing our moral responsibility as citizens and as Christians, how do we respond to the racial discrimination so many of our Asian siblings are facing?

We speak up and stand in solidarity. Whether you find yourself in a heated discussion at a bar or tensing up in front of your plate of casserole around the dinner table – we are called to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable of society. In Matthew 25, Jesus spoke to His disciples about what will happen in the future. He explained that "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick, and you took care of me, I was in prison, and you visited me.' Jesus then said that in that future conversation, the righteous will ask "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?" Jesus' answer will be: 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Friends, every time you stand up for the vulnerable and protect those who are hurting, you are doing it to Christ. And in a time like this, we need to do all that we can to stand up and speak up on behalf of Asian Americans.

**We educate ourselves.** As a white Cuban American woman, there is so much I do not know about the Asian American experience. The very term, "Asian" is so misleading because there are wonderful differences between people of different "Asian" countries. Each country and their people are distinct, with their own customs, culture and national pride. I especially appreciate Pastor Millason's emphasis on learning from other religions in her sermon series "Holy Envy." Each Sunday, she has been shepherding us towards a greater understanding of ourselves through a thorough study of other faiths. As we educate ourselves about the Asian American experience, we are in turn, learning about ourselves and how our actions contribute to the larger society.

**We must invite people of Asian descent to lead us.** A common myth of white supremacy is the colonial mindset – that we are experts on other people's culture. Friends, no matter how many academic degrees we have or how many Asian friends we know and no matter how many books or podcasts we read, we will never be an expert in anyone else's culture but our own. Therefore, we must develop the humility required to respect other people enough to allow them to teach us the way forward.

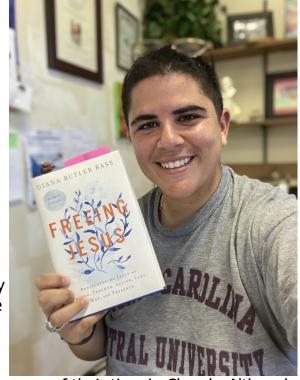
This summer, our church is offering a free online Vacation Bible School around helping youth and children develop a theological understanding for racial equity. Our common humanity in the presence of a loving God is something we have to actively teach our young people if they are going to reject the racial discrimination so prevalent today. And as our youth grow, let us model for them what it means to live in a free and safe society and do all that we can to love our neighbor as ourselves. If you'd like to discuss this issue, feel free to contact me at <a href="mailto:pastorhengst@gmail.com">pastorhengst@gmail.com</a>. I'd love to hear from you.

# Ashley's Book Club

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence.

By Diana Butler Bass

Although I love the Church and am devoting my life to serving the Church, I am fully aware of how the Church as a whole has caused a lot of harm. From condemning the LGBT community, to keeping women out of ministry to preaching and teaching the purity



culture, many people suffer from "religious trauma" because of their time in Church. Although religious trauma is not in the Presbyterian (USA) or United Methodist Church, it is prevalent in other Christian communities and it is prevalent enough that many people today no longer want to be called "Christian."

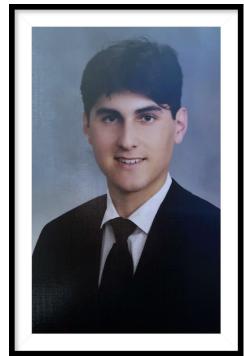
In her new book "Freeing Jesus," Diana Butler Bass wrote: "One of the most consistent things I hear from those who have left, those doubting their faith, and those just hanging on is that church or Christianity has failed them, wounded them, betrayed them, or maybe just bored them – and they do not want to have much to do with it any longer." (pg. XV.) Whether you agree with Bass or not, her book is a great look into how we can rediscover Jesus for ourselves. "Freeing Jesus" will undoubtedly refresh your soul as you take it with you on your travels this summer.

"Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence" is a perfection companion to Pastor Millason's current sermon series on developing a holy envy. Bass challenges the reader to reject the idea that the spiritual life is about passing an exam. She challenges readers to grow their *experience* of Jesus as friend, teacher, savior, Lord, way and presence. Bass' book goes into greater depth about her own experience with Jesus in these six roles and encourages us to experience Christ for ourselves.

Bass believes that "We live in a time of disruptions, deconstruction, and dislocations, of political chaos, climate crisis, and global pandemic. Yet we are still called to go on journeys to unexpected places, get lost, get found and continue farther down the road" (XXVI). What a great way to describe the spiritual life!

This summer Reece and I will be leading two small groups through a reading of Bass's book and we hope that you will join us! If you would like a copy, please reach out to Maribel for her to order you one. Small groups will begin in the middle of June.

# We Celebrate Our Graduates!



**Pablo Guerrero** is graduating from South Pasadena High School this spring and will be attending Sonoma State University in the fall as a Kinesiology with an Exercise Science focus.

**Megan Lemmon** is graduating from UC Santa Barbara with honors this spring with her Bachelor of Arts in Communications and English.



# **School Supply Collection** For Monte Vista Street Elementary School

Monte Vista Street Elementary School basic supplies

- Pencils
- Pens: Blue, Black, Red
- Erasers
- Spiral notebooks
- colored pencils
- pencil case
- highlighters

NO crayons Please We have so many left over from last year!!!

- chap stick
- pencil sharpener
- facial tissues (individual packs) child safe scissors

### **AND Backpacks!**

Please NO sharpies



We do not know what school will 'look like' for fall 2021. Many things are up in the air. But we would like to support students whose families may have been impacted by the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Please bring items to church throughout the summer or use this link to send directly from Amazon to Liz's home:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1AOQ4V0F2NEZW?ref\_=wl fv le

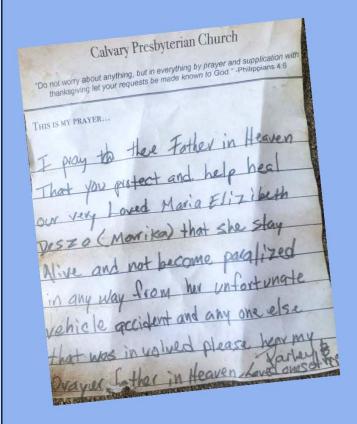
Calvary has a Prayer Wall. We invite members on the community to leave prayer requests, or to come pray for those requests that have been left.

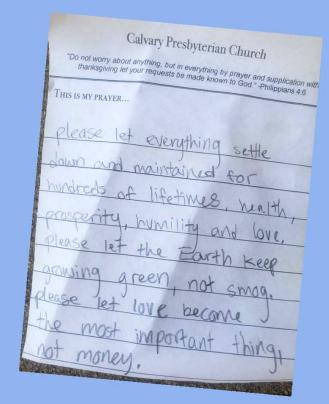


Here is a sample of the prayers that were left for us.

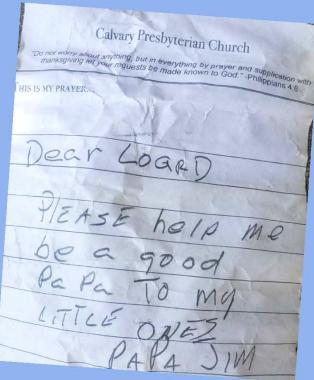
Calvary Presbyterian Church  To not worry about enrithing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with manksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippans 4.6.		
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Calvary Presbyterian Church  'Oo not wony about anything, but in everything by prayer any supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God Temporas 4.9	Calvary Presbyterian Church  -po not worly shoul anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thinking large to your requests be made known to God Philippains 4-5.
Please help	THIS IS MY PRAYER  DEIL NAMES RY SERVER  CHISCH MAY 2.5
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Calvary Presbyt	erian Church
"Do not worry about anything, but in ever thanksgiving let your requests be made	ything by prayer and supplication with the known to God."-Philippians 4:6
HIS IS MY PRAYER	
I pray to God of	mighty that you
I pray to God all understand how ? Now and forgive me	- Live my life
now and forgive me	of all my sins.



Please consider visiting the prayer wall and reading some of our other prayer requests. Or leave a request of your own.

# Calvary Presbyterian Church Community Prayer Wall

Write a prayer

**Request Church Contact** 

Locate Prayer
 Wall Supply Box.
 (Right pillar)



1. Locate the Contact Request Card. (Lower portion of supply box)



2. Open box to find forms and pencils.



2. Write your contact information and check the boxes that apply.



3. Choose prayer wall insert.



3. Locate opening on lock box. (Beneath supply box.)



4. Write your prayer.



4. Insert Contact Request Card into lock box.



5. Roll up your prayer request and place in the metal grate.



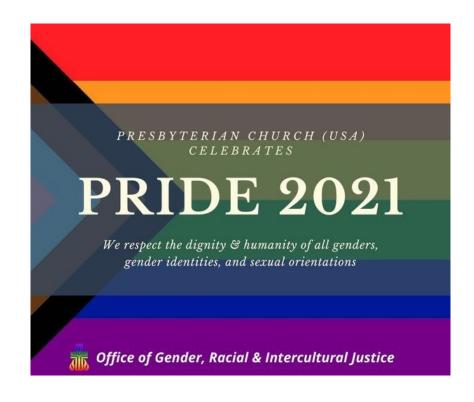
5. Feel free to read other prayers and lift a prayer for your neighbor.





Immigration | Root Causes | Justice

On **Wednesday, June 9**, **12:00** Pacific Time **Immigration Detention**. This webinar will cover U.S. reliance on immigration detention, as well as a new video series highlighting the harsh realities inside these detention centers. Learn from firsthand accounts of inhumane treatment, and Presbyterians and interfaith coalitions who advocate to end immigration detention even as they seek to minister to individuals who are detained. (<a href="mailto:pre-registration required">pre-registration required</a>)



# **COMING SOON**

This summer Reece and Ashley will be leading small discussion groups through Diana Butler Bass' new book "Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence." The small groups will begin the second week in June. Stay tuned to our weekly updates for more information.



Please let us know if you plan to join, so we can reserve a copy of the book for you.



# And now a word from Angel Interfaith Network Board Member, Susan Brown:

Angel Interfaith Network is about extraordinary people doing things to support other people that they will never meet. For all of our history, AIN has provided resources, worked with chaplains and social workers, and helped to meet the urgent needs of the patients and families of LAC+USC Medical Center. The way we do that has evolved over the years; what has not changed is the heart of it all, represented currently by the people now doing the behind-the-scenes work. I asked Maria Salazar and Laura Paniagua to share a little about themselves and to respond to this question: What has most moved or touched you as you've come to understand and be about the day-to-day work of Angel Interfaith Network?

Maria Salazar, Administrative Assistant: Being a part of Angel Interfaith Network since July 2020 has allowed me to help extend that respect in a broader way and inspires me to be grateful for all the little things in life. This organization provides assistance to those that often find themselves in situations beyond their control or have nowhere to turn. One story that touched my heart was that of a 70-year-old female, alone with no family and undergoing cancer treatment. Her only source of income was recycling bottles and cans that she collected throughout her community. As a result of her health and the COVID-19 quarantine, she had been unable to go out to do her daily recycling. Ineligible for government assistance, she was referred to Angel Interfaith and received rental assistance, food gift cards and hygiene supplies. Her story and those of the many that we serve remind me of the words of evangelical preacher John Bradford: "There but for the Grace of God go I." The ability to serve those in need is a great reminder to be thankful and always stay humble.

Laura Paniagua, Outreach Coordinator: I joined AIN in October 2020 at the height of pandemic surges. I had never worked for a nonprofit before or had any experience around hospitals/patients. But after a few tough years of caretaking for my mother, I was up for the challenge and felt a connection to helping those in need. The work we do is often unseen, but deeply rewarding. I feel touched by the requests we fulfill on a daily basis. These requests represent real people and real families who use our help to bring safety and stability to their lives-even if it's just for a moment. Knowing that we contribute to that sense of relief when there's food in the fridge and rent or utilities bills are finally paid is really what keeps me grounded and grateful. My job as Outreach Coordinator gives me the opportunity to help grow AIN and broaden our base of support, which translates directly into being able to give that greater ease to more and more people. I feel personally invested in that.

## **Urgent Needs:**

**PLEASE HELP** Angel Interfaith Network raise the general operating funds that will see us through the year. Remember, your donation supports Maria, Laura, and everyone involved in making life better for the patients and families of LAC/USC.

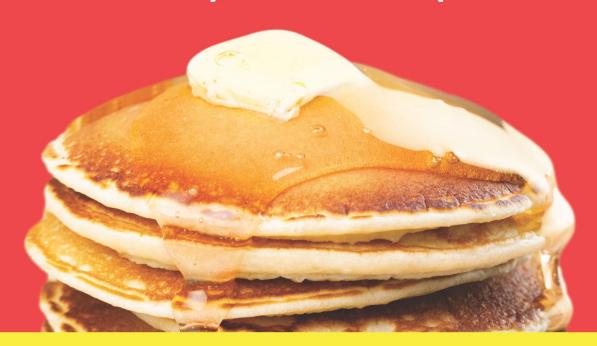


#### Please Donate Today

# **Calvary Summer Kick-Off**

# CHURCH PANCAKE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, June 6th 12:00 pm



Remember when we used to gather down in Fellowship
Hall and eat breakfast together as part of our Summer
Sermon Series? Join us in the church parking lot, stay in
your cars, and enjoy a pancake breakfast and some really
good music too!

# May Financials

May Budgeted Income \$16,066.67

May Actual Income \$8,104.17

May Budgeted Expense \$37,293.15

May Actual Expense \$36,677.41

May Food Bank Expenses: \$50.00

\*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:
<a href="http://calvarypres.online.church/">http://calvarypres.online.church/</a>

To see more of Rev. Millason Dailey's sermons check out on our Messages page.

You can also subscribe to our

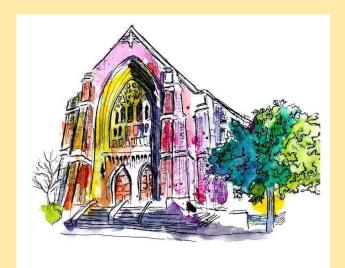
YouTube page for all of the latest from our church.

# Calvary Presbyterian Church

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The Rev. Millason Dailey millason@cpcsouthpas.org

Maribel Valadez
Office Administrator
cpc.southpas@gmail.com



Praise The LORD with us!

Join us for In-Person Worship Sunday 10:30 am at the Rose Garden

### 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 Lynn Hengst, Director of Children & Youth The Reverend Dr. P.A. Castellano, Pastor Emeritus

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