



**The Clarion
March
2024**

Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshipping, growing, and serving together



UPCOMING EVENTS

Palm Sunday
Sunday March 24th, at 10:30 am
Sanctuary

Easter Sunday
Sunday March 31st, at 10:30 am
Sanctuary
Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt in the Rose Garden

Flowering of the Cross
March 31st, anytime
Calvary Front Lawn

Union Station Family Center Dinner
Easter Dinner
March 31st

One Great Hour of Sharing
All of March

Birthdays and **Anniversaries**



Elisa Argus	3/5
Bruce Irwin	3/5
Tyler Zack	3/6
James Jontz	3/7
Millason Dailey	3/14
Marya Gullo	3/16
Chelsea Reynolds	3/18
Katherine Gutschow	3/20
Reece Lemmon	3/24
Elene Perry	3/25

Presbyterian Corner



Our faith, our practice, and our roots.

What is my Christian “vocation”?

“Vocation” means “calling”. When we speak of our “Christian vocation” we refer to our calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus “called” his disciples (Mark 1: 20; Luke 6: 13). Paul writes that God “calls” people to salvation (Rom. 8: 30) and into the “fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1: 9). So, first and foremost, according to the new Testament, our “calling” is to be Christians. Like the disciples, we “follow” our Master. This is a way of describing Christian salvation. God calls us in Christ, we respond in faith, and receive hope (Eph. 1: 18; 4: 4).

The Protestant reformers Martin Luther and John Calvin both extended the idea of “vocation” or “calling” to include not only our salvation, but also our service to God in Christ in this world. In the Roman Catholic Church in the sixteenth century, it was only the “religious”—the priests or monks or nuns—who were considered to have a “vocation.” But the Reformers believed the New Testament indicates that all who respond in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ have a ‘calling’ to live out their salvation by serving God, through who they are and what they do. Calvin stressed that our ‘calling’ is the basis for our life’s actions. God calls us to our jobs, our ministries, our forms of service as “sentry posts” to keep our lives from being topsy—turvy. Our duties in serving God give us purpose and stability for our lives as Christians. Our occupations or professions are ways of serving, and should be viewed as the ‘calling’ through which we live out our Christian discipleship. What we do in serving Christ—as a parent, or caregiver, or volunteer, or professional person—these are our ‘callings,’ our ‘vocation.’ We serve Christ in these ways, just as those who carry out ordained offices in the church also serve Christ. Both ‘clergy’ and ‘Laity’ have a vocation—to be Christian in all we do, in service to this world.

So Presbyterians recognize that if all Christians could see their work and service as their “callings,” a strong sense of renewal and ‘reformation’ would energize our churches. What we do during a week is not irrelevant or unimportant. It is our vocation, our calling, and is the way we live out our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ. God calls us, and we respond in faith and service.

~from Donald K. Mckim, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers

What, Me Worry?

Anxiety has gripped our society. According to studies, 1 in 5 Americans has an anxiety disorder (some studies say as much as 1 in 3 people!). So the good news is, if you are feeling anxious, you are definitely not alone. Now I am not going to write about ways to elevate anxiety or to say that you should somehow just stop worrying. I have been around long enough to know just how unhelpful, such an approach can be.

I am more interested in exploring a little bit of why I have always been drawn to an idea in Scripture that seems to induce anxiety for some, but somehow helps alleviate it for me.

“Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”- Ecclesiastes 1:2

Everything is vain? Vanity is defined as having an excessive pride in one's accomplishments. So is the writer of Ecclesiastes saying that everything is built on excessive pride of accomplishment? I am not so sure that this makes much sense. I think it was a translator's choice when interpreting the Hebrew word *habel* (הַבֵּל).


This word does not literally mean “vanity.” It means “vapor” or “breath.” It seems that the translator wants to say that *breath* or *vapor* is something you can see, but it is not substantial and they attached that meaning to human accomplishment. Couldn't it also be argued that everything is *vapor* or *breath*, because it is temporary or transitory? After all, it is true that nothing is permanent in this world, it has all been in a constant process of change.

I think humans desire stability and permanence. We desire it so much that we fight hard against change, especially changes that inevitable come with life circumstances and age. For myself, I have often tried so hard to maintain stability, that I end up extremely anxious. I also find myself feeling defeated at times, because as much as I would love things to stay the same in certain areas of my life, I have never been able to stop change from occurring.

Let me give a few examples. There have been moments when my children were growing up, that all I wanted was for time to stand still so that I could have them with me, always, just as they were in that moment. It was unrealistic and it often made me sad to realize that they would grow and I wouldn't see them every day. There were also times that I was doing meaningful work with people and it was so good, that I thought it would last forever. Again, because of the nature of life, this hope was unrealistic.

Then I come to these words in Ecclesiastes and I am released from the need to hold everything so tightly. Have you every tried to hold onto vapor or tried to catch your breath in your hand? It is an exercise in futility. Ecclesiastes sets me free from my unrealistic expectations of permanence. It allows me to enjoy this breath and then the next. I wonder if you are like me in this respect. I worry about a lot of things that are not going to be permanent. The reminder that everything comes and then will go, I think, is a chance for us to make the most of each moment.

Keep Shining,
Reece



**Bible Study Series
Sermon Reflection**

Our Bible Study series
Is ongoing at 5:00 pm
via the zoom link.
Click below for the link to
our Sunday online Bible
Study with Reece!



Click below to join the Zoom



[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87139749891?
pwd=d2pTSWpOSmpuNTB5dTNTc1EyOVF2QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87139749891?pwd=d2pTSWpOSmpuNTB5dTNTc1EyOVF2QT09)

Letter from Dr. Beau Wammack

It goes without saying that the music at Calvary's worship gatherings is always exquisite. We're blessed with an array of talented folks who lend their skills to make each Sunday awash with wonderful, compelling *sound*. Of late, the breadth of diversity has been particularly wide, with everything from Leonard Cohen to J.S. Bach to Cat Stevens being featured in our Sunday worship. I'd like, for a moment, to point out a few of these (somewhat atypical) works.

A couple weeks ago Rev. Roffina preached about healing, using a passage in Mark's Gospel about Jesus's mending of the sick and the disturbed. Leading into his sermon was a congregational song from the late great Irish musician, Sinead O'Connor. Her piece, *Thank You For Hearing Me*, centers on gratitude for God's provision, from love to listening to healing. You can find the song on O'Connor's 1994 record "Universal Mother," as well as on a 2002 album of church music from The David Crowder Band called "Can You Hear Us?" Both versions are excellent.

When I preached back in January, on Jesus's startling claim in Matthew 10 that he came not to bring peace but the sword, we were blessed to hear a version of *Christ Comes Again* performed by one of the Calvary musicians. These lyrics were written by Barbara Hamm, a contemporary hymnodist who is as prolific as she is profound. Where I spoke on Jesus's overturning of our notions of familial affiliations in favor of affiliation with the Kingdom of God, this hymn helpfully centered us on the fact that our simple, day-to-day actions can be precisely the sites where we encounter the risen Christ in other people. You can find Hamm's sublime words set to my original music on the album "Berth" by The Magpie Gathering (a group featuring a number of Calvary musicians!).

Finally, we recently sang the old Beethoven tune typically referred to as "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," but we did so with lyrics composed by the contemporary hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Her composition, *God, Whose Love is Always Stronger*, is a deeply moving rumination on the church's struggle to be faithful to God's calling, which coincided nicely with that Sunday's theme of taking the Gospel seriously. She's published a number of books of hymns, including "Songs of Grace" where this hymn is found; you can find all of her stuff at her website (www.carolynshymns.com), and her books are available on Amazon. I am forever grateful to Huw Christopher for alerting me to Gillette's powerful words, and it's not an overstatement to say that her music has featured prominently at Calvary over the past decade.

Cesar Chavez once wrote: "Bring forth a song and celebration, so that the Spirit will be alive among us." Music is just one of the things that makes Calvary great, and it is indeed an indication that God's Spirit is manifestly present here. And where Reece might say, "Keep shining," I'll instead say, "Keep singing!"

- Beau



Angel INTERFAITH NETWORK News

March 2024

A good friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.

Network Partners:

This month we give thanks for our friends and supporters of **Whittier Presbyterian Church**. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness in delivering these beautiful handmade sweaters for the infants at Los Angeles General Medical Center. These items were delivered directly to the hospital so they can be shared with the new mommies. Both staff and mommies were very thankful and grateful for this loving gift.



Those We Serve:

John came to Angel Interfaith as a referral from a Social Worker. He is currently battling Cancer resulting in him being unable to work. His disability benefits are pending approval and at the present time, his wife is unemployed. Having fallen behind on his rent and experiencing food insecurity, Angel Interfaith was able to provide him with financial assistance towards his rent and food cards.

Urgent Needs:

We are in need of Sustaining Angels. Sustaining Angels are individuals and/or organizations who have committed to making regular monthly or an annual donation to Angel Interfaith Network. Their consistent giving enables us to know that we will be able to meet the urgent needs that are referred to us. Please consider joining our Circle of Angels, most of our Sustaining Angels have found it easiest to sign up on our web page (www.angelinterfaith.net) and have their donations forwarded monthly. These funds are kept in a designated AIN account at St. Camillus Center, whose 501c3 makes the contributions income tax deductible.



You can reach us via email at: office@AngelInterfaith.net

Thank You for Your Continued Support!



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF
FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,
AND SUPPORT FOR THE
POOR AND OPPRESSED.



FILIPPO CARLOT

POS 12138-24-101



Text **OGHS** to **91999** to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.



One Great Hour of Sharing: *The Presbyterian Church, USA, enlists the support of its members in a once-a-year special offering called the One Great Hour of Sharing. Even a cursory view of our world reveals great suffering of its most vulnerable citizens. One Great Hour of Sharing seeks to repair the breach by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Calvary is known for its generosity in meeting these needs. Please join with Presbyterians world-wide and give as you are led by the Spirit to the One Great Hour of Sharing through Calvary. List the amount to OGHS on the memo line on your check. Or go to*

[Presbyterian Special Offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing \(pcusa.org\)](http://pcusa.org)

Mardi Gras Celebration Family Dinner

Sunday February 4th. 2024







UNION STATION
FAMILY CENTER
DINNER
EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31ST.

BRING FOOD TO SUNDAY
MORNING SERVICE AND IT WILL
BE DELIVERED TO
UNION STATION. PLEASE USE
EMAIL SIGN UP LIST OR CONTACT
REECE FOR INFORMATION

Sip 'N Stitch Needs Your Help!

Did you know that a group of ladies meet in fellowship every Saturday morning in the basement of this church to do community outreach? It began as an opportunity for women to do some quilting, or other handwork while chatting over a cup of coffee. Later, inspired by the Keeping America Warm project, the group began making knitted blankets. Now going on their (30th) year of knitting, stitching, and edging blankets Sip 'n Stitch has provided over 1500 blankets to individuals in need through Elizabeth House, Door of Hope, U.S. Military, L.A. County Hospital, Red Cross, Angel Interfaith Network and L.A. County/General Medical Center's "Acts of Kindness" program. In addition, congratulatory blankets have been given to our church families for their new babies and high school graduates.

This has been a tough year for this group as we've lost four of our longtime members to illness and death. Although we are blessed with some devoted stitchers and have added some high school students, we would welcome more hands to help stitch the squares together. We can finish blankets faster with more people helping.

Don't know how to knit, sew or crochet? No problem, we'll teach you! Don't have time to give on a Saturday morning? You can help us in other ways! Squares can be knit in the comfort of your home on your own time, and we'll provide the yarn.

We also accept donations - 4-ply yarn, of course, preferably 2 to 3 skeins of the same color.

The hours are 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday in the basement at Calvary Presbyterian Church. One does not need to come for the entire time. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can. Coffee, tea, treats, and stitching supplies are provided!

Please give Cathy Riley a call or text at 323-702-6806 if you have any questions "or just join us any Saturday you can."

We hope to see you there!

**Thank you everyone for participating in
our Souper Bowl for Caring in**

February!

It was a great success !

Thank you for supporting our

Little Food pantry!



***Join us for the Flowering of the Easter Cross on Easter morning March 31, 2024, and help
Decorate our Cross on Calvary's Front Lawn to celebrate Jesus overcoming death.***



*Calvary Presbyterian Church
Outdoor Cross last year!*



Lent 2024: Rooted in God's Love

Lent starts this year on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Though Valentine's Day isn't a religious holiday, the convergence is significant. Lent is a time of dedication to the Lord. What does it mean to anchor yourself in love and in God this Lent? As we think of Lenten *discipline* we might naturally associate it with shadows, emptiness, and suffering. Yes, these are elements of the lenten journey, to be sure, but so is *love*. How will you take on a Lenten practice that is rooted in love this year? Here are three ideas for you.

Lovingkindness Meditation - You can do a simple search to find many scripts for this, but the basic idea is to think warmly first toward yourself, then toward someone you love, and finally toward an enemy. A few minutes per day makes a significant difference.

Practicing Self-Compassion - Every morning say to yourself "I am God's beloved child. God loves me unconditionally." — Sounds simple, but how often do we neglect to extend love and hospitality to ourselves? Children seem to be better at this, though they too can struggle. If we are to remind them of their worth, we must see it in ourselves first.

Scripture Memorization - Many of us know the beautiful and familiar words of 1 Corinthians 13 that begins "Love is patient. Love is kind." This love is not referring, specifically, to romantic love, but rather God's perfect love. Perhaps you'll want to memorize the whole chapter this Lent? How would that change your spiritual practice?

February Financials

February Budgeted Income \$ 11,750.00

February Actual Income \$ 4586.68

February Budgeted Expense \$ 44,570.37

February Actual Expense \$ 39,248.32

February Food Bank Expenses: \$ 0.00

*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.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

1050 Fremont Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030
626-799-7148

The Rev. Millason Dailey
millason@cpcsouthpas.org

Sandra Olsen
Office Administrator
Cpc.southpas@gmail.com

UPCOMING

Lent
February 14th - March 30th

Palm Sunday
March 24th, at 10:30 am

Easter
March 31st, 10:30 am

Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt in the
Rose Garden following Easter service

Union Station Family Center Dinner
Easter Sunday

