

The Clarion
November
2021

Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshipping, growing, and service together





JOIN US!

INDOOR WORSHIP

Join us for a new type of worship service every Sunday at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary beginning October 31st.

ATTENDEES MUST WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES, EVEN WHILE SINGING.

Or continue to worship safer at home with our recorded worship services.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Barbara Smith	11/1
Jeanette Inadomi	11/2
Cari Lyall	11/5
Lorna Venkataraman	11/5
Marcia Norton	11/5
Martha "Mez" Zabel	11/7
Liz Daley	11/8
Adam Garcia	11/8
Marta Veir Renna	11/11
James Zack	11/13

Lucy Callahan	11/13
Avery Douglas	11/14
Junia Dailey	11/15
Heather Cisneros	11/15
Ben Furuta	11/16
♥ Bob & Dawn Freeman	11/16
Susan Gutschow	11/21
Carl von Bibra	11/23
Peggy Tutor	11/25

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



Can I lose my Salvation?

Presbyterians believe in the “perseverance of the saints.” This is a theological understanding of salvation to indicate that once we are saved, God continues to hold us in faith so our salvation will not be lost. Sometimes this is called “eternal security,” meaning that our lives of faith in Jesus Christ are held secure by God’s power throughout our lives, into eternity.

We believe this on the basis of God’s faithfulness. God is trustworthy, and the promises God makes, God keeps. The apostle Paul said, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). God, who give us the gift of salvation as an act of free grace, will continue to hold us in the salvation until the “day of Jesus Christ”—forever. Jesus indicated the same when he said, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:28; cf. 10:29). If we are held in God’s hands, we will not slip through God’s fingers!

In the Methodist and various Baptist traditions, there is belief in “backsliding.” This is the view that a Christian can lose salvation. Due to sin, the salvation once received may be lost. Our Presbyterian theology, however, affirms that because of God’s unchangeable love and covenant, faithfulness in Jesus Christ, God gives the gift of perseverance. We are held in salvation by God’s power, not our own. God’s Spirit seals us for the “day of redemption” (Eph.4:30). There may be times and experiences in our lives where we sin, and sin grievously. There may be long periods where it appears that we have drifted away or “lost” our salvation in Christ. If someone who previously confessed faith in Christ comes to denounce Christ, it is a sign that the profession of faith was not genuine in the first place. But we do not “backslide” to the point of losing our salvation. When our confession of Christ is genuine and we are united to Christ through faith, God’s Holy Spirit abides in us so that we never totally or finally fall away from God’s grace. “Perseverance” does not give us a license to live however we please, without regard for God. Instead, it is a source of praise to the God who has graciously called us into salvation, who will continue to hold us in Christ throughout our whole lives and bring us finally to glorification in heaven.

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

Small Church Mission Work

By Liz Daley

I must admit, I sometimes get jealous of big churches, bigger mission budgets, more volunteers, big new exciting projects. As part of a smaller congregation we are limited in the projects that we can independently tackle. But Jesus never said “Go big or go home”. Just the opposite, Jesus uses the parable of the good Samaritan to teach us about our helping our neighbors. He uses a story of ONE person caring for ONE other person. Remember how that story ends? *“Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’” (Luke 10:37)*

Our Plan: To be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, the Mission Committee created guidelines on how to evaluate potential partners. The first consideration is if the organization aligns with the overall mission of Calvary Presbyterian Church. Christian organizations are prioritized over secular organizations. Higher priority is given to an organization with a relationship to Calvary through a member or regular participant. Organizations must have a method of providing accountability to the Mission Committee. We balance local organizations where the congregation can personally participate in activities, with international groups to whom we provide funding. If you would like more information about these guidelines please contact the Church Office. We welcome suggestions of organizations that you feel are as passionate about helping their neighbors as we are. If you would like to join us, our meetings are the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm (via Zoom for now.....)

Our partners: While continuity is important, our partner agencies do change reflecting current priorities. This month’s Clarion has a list of organizations we have partnered with over the past several years. The Covid pandemic changed how we interact with some of our partners. Locally we remain a dedicated partner with Union Station, Monte Vista Street School and Crossroads. Internationally, funds were sent to Haiti for earthquake disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Our participants: We have a high level of participation from the congregation. We are always looking for hands-on activities that provide meaningful service to our partners.

Our current activities: Calvary just finished hosting the Harvest Festival and a Union Station dinner on the SAME night! I like knowing that the Union Station families were fed a delicious, healthy meal before going out to trick or treat. We also provided them with dessert (just in case) and Halloween treat bags. In September, we provided backpacks and school supplies to local students. Sip and Stitch is back in action making blankets!

Looking forward: Christmas time brings out the best in us. We are looking forward to Mission Market which always astounds me with the level of support that Calvary gives. We will again ask you to participate in the Reverse Advent calendar, putting a food item in a box each day as you count down to Christmas. New for this year we are partnering with Door of Hope in their residents Christmas wish list. (More information can be found about that project in this Clarion)

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE TO BENEFIT DOOR OF HOPE



THIS YEAR WE ARE PARTNERING WITH DOOR OF HOPE TO PROVIDE
GIFTS FOR 3 FAMILIES.

PLEASE USE THE CALVARY NEEDS REQUEST EMAIL FOR DETAILS AND
TO SIGN UP FOR GIFTS, OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR SPE-
CIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.

TWIN BED SHEET SET (2)

EYESHADOW AND MAKEUP (2)

BLACK LEGGINGS

STAR WARS LEGO SET

PLAYING CARDS

RUNNING SHOES

AS WELL AS \$25 GIFT CARDS TO TARGET, VISA AND APPLE

TO AVOID DUPLICATION PLEASE ONLY PURCHASE ITEMS AFTER SIGN-
ING UP ON THE EMAIL LINK OR THROUGH THE OFFICE!

Reflections with Reece: Becoming

Sometimes we like to play the game of semantics. If we can mess with the meaning of a word, we can get around what that word requires of us.

The word today is "neighbor".

These days our culture is very private. We get in cars, by ourselves and drive miles to work in our own little office or cubicle. We never go anywhere without our little electronic screens which are always ready to command our attention so that we do not have to interact with the people around us. We drive home into houses behind garages, our front doors positioned so far from the street that any knock feels like a trespass.

How many of us even know the names of the people who live right next door to us?

Our quest for privacy has isolated us from others and our world is a real mess. We have lost our sense of community. We do not share common values. We do not share common beliefs. Americans in general have come to accept descriptors that separate ourselves and others from one another. To most of society, I am labelled as a white, middle class, Christian, male, liberal, do—gooder...and the list could go on. We label people so that we do not have to accept them into our group. What responsibility if any, do we have to care for one another. It is an ancient question, "Who do I have to love?"

Some two thousand years ago a man walked up to a controversial/trouble-making Jewish rabbi and wanted to test him.

He asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

In shrewd form the rabbi answered the question with a question. "What is written in the Law and how do you read it?"

The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

The rabbi answered, "Do this and you will live."

Wanting to justify himself (knowing that he did not love his neighbors) he asked "Well, who is my neighbor?" Basically he is asking, "Who do I have to love?"

So the teacher tells him a story about a man who was traveling away from the holy city when he was stripped, beaten, robbed and left for dead.

A priest walked by and saw the man lying there. He quickly crossed the road and continued on his way.

Next a minister from the temple came along and also saw the man, but he did the same thing as the priest!

Finally a half breed foreigner comes down the road. He sees the victim and quickly takes action to tend to his wounds and take him into the city to an inn to recuperate, all at his own expense.

The rabbi asks the man, "Who BECAME the neighbor to the victim?"

"The one who showed mercy", he said

The rabbi finished, "Go and DO the same!"

We know this story all too well, the story of the "Good Samaritan".

We know what it means all too well; that our neighbor is anyone and everyone and we

need to love them like we love our selves.

It is interesting that Jesus asked the man "who BECAME the neighbor..."

To "BECOME", a change must take place in our own self rather than in the other person.

We become the neighbor when we show mercy. There is action on our part to a need that we see, to any need that we see.

I am fascinated by the Greek word *poi-ey-oh*.

It is most often translated as "Do" and this is the word in Jesus' answer, "Go and DO the same."

It literally means to "have the ability", "to create", "To make". Like Jesus is telling us to "Go have the ability to do the same." "Go create the same!" I hear him saying that we have the power to do what God commands when it comes to loving. Love is not real if it is only spoken, it must be demonstrated.

So if we are able to love anyone and everyone, what is holding us back?

I mean honestly, who criticizes the Good Samaritan? No one that I have ever heard. So the question remains, why do I find it so hard to love my neighbors?

Keep Shining,
Reece



This is a photo of Maria Nino and Sebastian Wagner after Cathy Riley presented them with the gift cards and food that she made and purchased for them. Both of them have been ill and Sebastian was unable to work for the past year. They are very appreciative for all that Calvary does for them through the Benevolence program that Calvary offers to all in need.

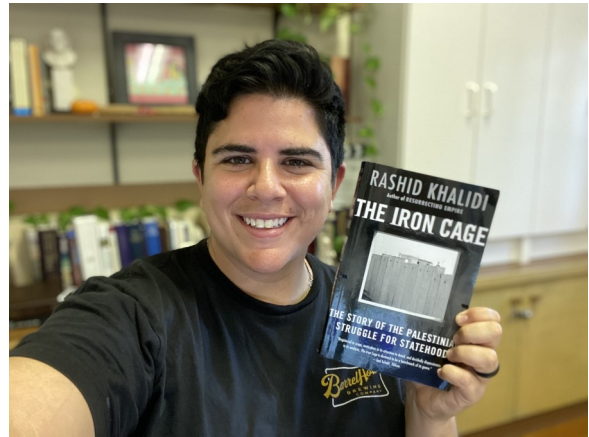
Ashley's Book Club

And the Investiture of Prince Charles

The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood

by *Rashid Khalidi*

I recently learned about Britain's Prince Charles' investiture as the Prince of Wales. In the process leading up to his investiture, which took place over 50 years ago, Prince Charles left his university studies in Cambridge to spend time learning the Welsh language in Wales. He was encouraged to give his investiture speech in Welsh in order to attempt to mend the tension brewing between the British government and Wales.



to

Upon arrival, Prince Charles was not greeted with the same warm celebration he often received in London. Instead, Prince Charles received a lot of negativity and coldness, and understandably so. As sovereign, he knew so little of the people he and his family ruled. He knew nothing of Wales' first *true prince* or the culture of the nation or imperial oppression the Welsh endured. While he was learning the Welsh language, the young prince took the opportunity to humble himself and learn about the oppressive nature of England's rule over this beautiful country. Prince Charles' awakening inspired him to edit his investiture speech in order to affirm the Welsh people and their culture, history and dignity. It changed the tone of his presence there and shifted, albeit only slightly, the image of the Crown in Wales.

I understand his enlightenment. I understand the awakening Prince Charles experienced in Wales. As I read "The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood" I feel a similar awareness growing within me. As a country, we in the United States know so little about the Israel & Palestinian "conflict." We know so little about the complicated history and struggle for statehood for Palestine. Even more so, we know so little about U.S. involvement in feeding the conflict between these two groups.

This month, I want to encourage you to check out Rashid Khalidi's in-depth look at Palestine's struggle for statehood. As with any aspect of history, we often need multiple voices to really understand history and so I know this will be, for me, the first of many voices I learn from about Israel and Palestine. Learning more about world history can be helpful when coping with anxiety. It can also help inform our relationships with people from Palestine as well as deepen our understanding of what we can do, as a country, to help support other people groups. 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

Sunday School in a Pandemic

By Ashley Lynn Hengst

These past few months our children and youth have been making their way back into the church building. We are so fortunate to have such a vibrant group of thoughtful and creative children. This year, our Sunday School theme is BLAST OFF: Launching Into a Life of Faith. Mrs. Cathy is teaching the children lessons following Rev. Millason's sermon series this fall, through the lectionary. Mrs. Cathy is also helping the children memorize Scripture, learn to pray and serve their families.



Each child has the opportunity to earn prizes. They can earn rocket ship stuffies, NASA t-shirts and a 13-piece Lego space set. In order to earn the prizes, children must earn "moon rocks." Children earn moon rocks (pictured above at the center of the table) by memorizing and reciting Scripture, attending Sunday morning service, completing service projects at home and bringing friends to church. As

the COVID-19 pandemic continues to lift and families become more comfortable, we offer Sunday School every 2 weeks apart from the holidays.

Calvary youth are diving into a bible study on the person and work of Jesus. When the youth gather together, we play games, eat nachos and come around the Word to discuss big questions and pressing issues.

We are so grateful for each of the teens who join us in youth group.

Fall Events for Calvary Youth

Discovering Your Identity in Christ – Nov. 13th
(Tapestry Event at San Marino Community Church)
Friendsgiving – November 21st
Ugly Sweater Party – December 12th
“Elf” (2003) Movie Night – December 19th



To join Calvary youth and children for any events, please reach out to Ashley Hengst, Director of Children and Youth at pastorhengst@gmail.com 626-799-7148 ext. 218.

All are welcome!

Tapestry So Call Event

**DISCOVERING
OUR
IDENTITY IN
CHRIST**

Tapestry: Presbytery Youth Collective
San Gabriel and Riverside Presbyteries

**IN PERSON SATURDAY, NOV. 13
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SAN MARINO COMMUNITY CHURCH \$25
1750 VIRGINIA ROAD
SAN MARINO, CA 91108**

Find us on Instagram @tapestrysocal



Angel INTERFAITH NETWORK News



As we find ourselves preparing for the Thanksgiving celebrations, Angel Interfaith Network is filled with great joy and thankfulness for each of you and for your willingness to find ways to be part of what God's generous heart looks like in the world. May the Light of the world shine upon you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving Day.

NETWORK PARTNERS:

Over 25 years ago, **Temple Beth Israel** joined **Claremont Presbyterian Church (CPC)** and began holding an annual "Baby Shower". Together, they were the first interfaith participants in Project Angel later known as Angel Interfaith Network. Over the years, the event has expanded to include other faith organizations, sewing guilds, and people who care about providing a good start for babies. Claremont Presbyterian Church and Claremont United Church of Christ (CUCC) rotate hosting their annual "Baby Shower" for Angel Interfaith Network.



We are truly grateful to everyone that worked so diligently to make our work possible. Pictured is **Marla White, Temple Beth Israel, Project Baby Shower Coordinator** with the recent Baby Shower gifts for Angel Interfaith Network.

THOSE WE SERVE:

Rosemary is the mommy to a healthy baby boy. Her husband recently went back to work after some of the Covid restrictions were lifted. Working only a couple of days during the week, the family has fallen behind in paying their rent and utilities. Social Worker Melinda referred the family for assistance. Thanks to your donations, Angel Interfaith Network was able to help the family with baby items, food cards and financial support to pay their rent and utility bills.

URGENT NEEDS: *Plus Size Sweat Suits* *Food Gift Cards*



To help, donations can be made online at:

<https://stcamilluscenter.networkforgood.com/projects/87161-angel-interfaith-network>

or by check payable to St. Camillus, the financial sponsor of Angel Interfaith, with AIN in the memo section.

As always, your support is what makes our work possible. THANK YOU!

Angel Interfaith is a project of St Camillus Center for Spiritual Care 323-225-4461 x111

OCTOBER FINANCIALS

October Budgeted Income \$16,066.67

October Actual Income \$19,680.50

October Budgeted Expense \$37,293.15

October Actual Expense \$51,320.75

October Food Bank Expenses: \$49.41

***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](#).

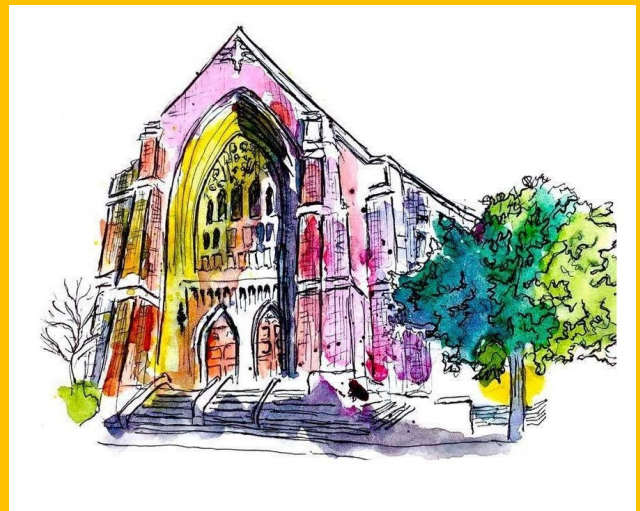
You can also subscribe to our [YouTube page](#) for all of the latest from our church.

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