

The Clarion
October
2021

Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshipping, growing, and service together



Upcoming Events

Join us for World Communion Sunday
October 3rd at 10:30 am at the Rose Garden
or online at 10:30 am.

Please stop by the church on Friday, October 1st,
to collect your at-home Communion kit if you
wish to celebrate with us online.

Fall Festival
Sunday, October 31st
6:00-8:00 pm

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!

Kilian von Bibra	10/2	♥ Dave & Cathy Riley	10/12
Holly Bruce	10/4	Louie Cisneros	10/26
Tamara Ramirez	10/4	Darcy Douglas	10/26
Forrest Baird	10/5	Marie Castellano	10/29



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

Should I worry that I am not one of God's elects?

No. If you are worried enough to ask this question, chances are you shouldn't worry about being one of God's elect!

Why? Simply because in our traditional Presbyterian understanding of election and predestination, we recognize that God saves sinners who do not in themselves even *want* to be saved. That is, we believe the powers of sin are so strong that they turn us away from God. Our whole lives and all their parts—hearts, minds, desires, wills—all are turned inward on ourselves instead of outward toward God. We are sinners by nature, addicted to sin, and our actions are expressions of our sinful will.

If we are at the point of worrying about God in our lives and whether we are part of God's elect, it would seem to indicate God's Spirit is at work within us. If the Spirit were not active, we would not care about this question. We would continue in our sin, unconcerned about our relationship with God. Since we have this concern, we can surmise that God's Spirit is stirring within us, leading us to consider what otherwise would not be an issue at all.

A way to meet this worry or concern is to ask oneself this simple question: “Do I believe in Jesus Christ?” If the answer to this is “No,” then one will not long worry about whether one is of the elect. The concern will simply not be there.

If we can answer, “Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior,” then this is the confession that makes one a Christian, and thus one called and elected by God to salvation. Instead of worrying, speculatively, about one's election, our question can be focused directly on Jesus, who is the “mirror of our election” (John Calvin) and in whom the electing purposes of God are fulfilled.

If a person has already confessed Christ as Lord and Savior, that person's election is secure. It is the duty of all of us Christians to “rekindle the gift of God” that is within us (2 Tim. 1:6), to confirm our call and election (2 Pet. 1:10), and to look to Jesus who is “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).

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

Making Missions Work

“EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.”

1 PETER 4:10

Last month I wrote about how disaster response needs to be culturally sensitive and locally sustaining. This month I am going to turn the discussion towards traditional mission trips.

When ‘mission trip’ is mentioned many of us think of high school trips that our children went on, or that we participated in. Youth travel and participate in work projects that improve something for the receiving community.

Mission trips that cultivate the sense of helping a needy community have become so common that there is a name for these activities—Voluntourism: go on a trip to an exotic location with the purpose of helping the needy people there. Pre covid over 2 million people from the US participated in mission trips annually. Serve the needy and grow your faith—what could be wrong with that?

It is a noble, well-intentioned idea but the mission world is full of stories about what goes wrong when plans are not discussed honestly with local partner agencies, and sometimes even when they are.

- Untrained teams building houses while local carpenters, roofers, plumbers, and electricians sit without work. (Sometimes brought in after the fact to fix the mistakes of the volunteers)
- Rooms that are painted multiple times each year as an ‘easy- do no harm’ project for visiting groups.
- Local staff who feel the need to develop projects for volunteers in order to meet the required ‘hands on’ component when receiving funding, who then must take time to oversee the visiting volunteers rather than tending to their own programs.
- These trips may also perpetuate the belief that ‘we’ in the developed global north, have the answers for ‘undeveloped’ nations, who are unable to find solutions to their issues. This discounting of the strengths and resources that these communities have is not how we should be treating our neighbors.

People often counter these points by stating that it is important for our children to gain exposure to other cultures. I 100% agree!!! I wish that colleges would offer study abroad in developing nations as well as Paris, Rome and Tokyo. But then let’s be honest about who is really the beneficiary of the trip.... the local community or the youth from the US getting a diversity experience?

I want to be clear that I am not saying that all mission trips are unintentionally doing harm. There are amazing organizations who do this work well. There are wonderful people who want to volunteer to make the world a better place for their brothers and sisters. Just as you research the summer camps that a child attends, or the colleges that you apply to, you should put the same effort into going on a mission trip. Do some diligent research.

Here are some suggested questions to ponder:

- Does the agency have long term partners on the ground in the community being served? Are you honestly being asked to fill a void in what cannot be done locally? Or are you taking work

away from local professionals?

- Are you working to develop sustainable local solutions?

Many mission medical clinics closed when covid struck, as volunteers were not able to travel internationally. This left local communities with no health care just as a pandemic hit their country.

- Are you providing work that you would feel comfortable doing at home?

As always if you wish to discuss this, or anything mission related, let's get together!!!

Liz Daley



SAVE THE DATE!

One way or another, Mission Market is planned for December 12, 2021, watch for updates!

Lisa and the Mission Committee

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

What To Do When You're Not Sure How To Help

Maybe this has happened to you before; you're approached by someone that you know, but maybe do not know that well and they ask you for financial assistance. You can tell that they have a need, but you aren't sure how best to help them. Often as believers, we feel a lot of pressure to meet the need ourselves even if we feel uneasy about it. I have good news for you! Your family at Calvary Presbyterian Church has worked hard and faithfully to design, refine and sustain a system by which people who find themselves in a time of financial crisis can receive help. Our Benevolence Fund Taskforce has resources available for situations such as these and all one has to do is call our church office and ask for a Benevolence Request Form. They will be put in touch with members of our Taskforce who will then go to work to offer them support. While you are always free to offer help on your own, our Mission Committee wanted to remind you that you are not ever alone. We are ready and willing to help.

As Always, Keep Shining,

Reece Lemmon
Director of Spiritual Formation and Service

The Mission Committee would like to share this thank you note that we received from a recent Benevolence Fund recipient.

Thank you Cavalry for your dedication to helping others.

I am speechless, with tears in my eyes. I am soooooo..... grateful!

I have been praying that God would open a door and ease my path forward and past the struggles I have been experiencing during this difficult and historical time.

God Bless You and the Committee and the Church. Once again, I feel speechless due to this miracle that you have created in my journey forward.

My goodness....This will allow me to not worry about day-to-day groceries/meals and be able to focus on the bigger deadlines and my search for project work and permanent opportunities with companies. Wow.....Mere words are not enough to thank you properly. I am very, very, very grateful. You have lifted me up and inspired me to keep going no matter how tough things get. God is so good.

My deepest Thanks and Blessings to you,



THANK YOU CALVARY!!!!!

With your help and donations we filled 41 backpacks with tons of school supplies for the students at Monte Vista Ave Elementary School





We are so glad that people in our community stop by, write out a prayer request and place it on our wall. This is a great way to engage with our community and offer hope, comfort and support to our city!

I come to you today asking for your forgiveness for all that I do, have or will do. I know I can't stop the way people I love look at me. I just want to change and want my family. I love them so much.

-Marly

Please pray for victims of Hurricane Ida.

Thank you.

My prayers are that I ask in the name of our Father Christ Lord of all beings that we and this pandemic on earth at this time and always and bless all those less fortunate than others. For us and their health. watch over Marika that she may some day walk again and bless my love ones and family.

Your truly and forever

Parley L.

Dear God, help me to find a shelter.

God I pray you protect me that I am in the street, I pray when evil comes my way, you will be there. I pray for my mom.

Lord, I ask first that my family renews its faith, that you may rejoice in prospering us all, and that the obstacles, trials, and darkness be diminished by your light and grace. I ask that my life finally be open to receive the blessings of your love, that my mind be steadfast in its devotion to do what you deem light and splendid.

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts & dreams you gave me.

My fur baby Charlie of 20 years passed away, please send both of prayers for we can meet up when it's time. I can move forward during grieving as I'm falling apart with depression.

Thank you, Elizabeth

There was a time in our culture for man when to be a "American" also carried the assumption that you were "Christian." Towns all across the country have old churches on every corner in their historic areas. To the chagrin of many, these churches are no longer bursting at the seams with people excited to come to worship on Sunday mornings. It has the establishment asking, "What happened?"

Can I suggest that a powerful culprit in the American Church's decline is pretty clear to most who stand on the outside of the church establishment walls? The American Church seems to have lost sight of what makes Christianity so unique among a multitude of religions and worldviews. It has unwittingly become just one of many options in the world of religion.

So what is it that makes Christianity unique? At some point this was a question that was posed to C.S. Lewis and he had a ready answer. He said that *GRACE* is what sets Christianity apart. Every religion has a system of doctrines and practices that, if adhered to, promise absolution, peace and some version of salvation. Could it be American Christianity has forfeited the very thing that made it matter? Among the cultural Christian demands for morality, faith, compliance and repentance could it be that American churches have forgotten and forfeited the very difference that made us matter...the difference of *grace*?

Grace is simply "unmerited favor."

It is the idea that in spite of all of one's shortcomings, God still loves them. Is this the message that American Christianity has been preaching or is it something else?

To speak of grace is to invite a multitude of challenges from within the American Church.

What about sin? Do we just accept everything as good? What do we do with all these commandments in the Bible?

Maybe we fail to see that none of us have been very good at keeping commands. Maybe we have ignored the plank in our own eye as we have been busy trying to remove the sliver from our neighbor's eye. Maybe we have been straining gnats out while swallowing a camel (look it up, Jesus actually said that!). Maybe we have become blind guides who study words on a page rather than a living Savior. Do we only accept God's grace for us while rejecting God's grace for others?

Sadly, in general, I think too many have.

The Church in America is *against* so many things and the list keeps growing, but what is the Church for? Seriously, who wants to be a part of a community that doesn't really want or accept them? The religious elite of Jesus' day used to constantly complain

that he welcomed “sinners.” I am not so sure he wouldn’t be accused of the same today.

Grace removes our right to control our own destiny or the destiny of others and I think this is the real sticking point for folks. Grace sets us free from the illusion of control. Grace reveals our utter dependence on the love of God and the love of others. Think about how that resonates with what Jesus revealed to be the two greatest commandments, "love God and love your neighbor." For love to be pure and true, it is given, it is grace.

It is my humble position that we American Christians have assumed authority over others that does not belong to us and we need to turn away from such impulses and return to grace. The Church is best, Christians are best when we are gracious, like the humble Jesus, whom we confess as Lord of all. The Lord who welcomes sinners, the one who redeems, transforms and loves without reservation. The one who lays down his own life so that others may truly live. The one who went through hell for us so that he wouldn't have to go to heaven without us. (to paraphrase Max Lucado) The one who left the glory of heaven and look on the form of a slave, a slave to everyone so that he could meet the great need of all of humanity.

Is American Christianity at all like that? It could be.

Keep Shining,

Reece



Sip N Stitch will resume October 2nd 9-1 as in the past.

Please note that attendees must present a copy of their vaccination card to show that you have been fully immunized. If you have a diagnosed medical condition that prevents you from being vaccinated can provide a very vague doctor’s letter and still be allowed to attend. Also, masks will still be required indoors, and we will need to step out of the Sip N Stitch room every thirty minutes to allow the air to recirculate before once again entering the room.

More than a Social Club

By Ashley Lynn Hengst

Just the other day, I sat across the table from the wife of a pastor of a church I used to attend. She seemed tired and distraught. Over poached eggs and lox, my friend and I shared our burdens. I always enjoy talking with her because she loves to talk about the deep things of God. We quickly circumvent small talk over Netflix shows and the weather to dive deep into discussion over our spiritual lives. This Saturday, was no different except this time we talked about her children and about their difficulty in coping with anxiety.

“They are in crisis,” she said. She explained how her teens felt anxious and overwhelmed. Serving as a Youth Director in a pandemic, I understand why her teens feel this. But sitting across from her, watching her fiddle with poached eggs, I began to wonder: *where is her church?*

Leading a church in a pandemic can take a toll on you. Assisting a husband, year after year, in the draining and often difficult work of pastoral ministry can be overwhelming. The expectations we put on one another can often prohibit deep and necessary fellowship. My friend, even as a pastor’s wife, needs a church. This pandemic isn’t going away anytime soon and our struggles with mental health seldom disappear overnight. My friend needs an enduring community of faith that can let go of their expectations of her as the pastor’s wife in efforts to nurture her, strengthen her and lift her up. Everyone needs this kind of church and so I ask, are we the kind of church that even a pastor’s husband or wife would find nourishing and refreshing?

Too often the Body of Christ treats churches like social clubs, like communities of exclusivity with certain expectations. Those expectations are the hardest upon pastors. People must “perform” to belong. They must perform in how they dress and how they contribute. They must overlook the things that the club overlooks and do their part in not ruffling any feathers. There is nothing more toxic than teaching people that they must perform to belong.

In the kingdom of God, we are all worthy of belonging. Any kind of performance is absurd. According to Scripture, there are no social distinctions for we are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal.3:28). In addition to worshiping God, our primary objective in coming together each Sunday is to “spur one another toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are God’s temple. The church building is not God’s temple. Nor is our denominational affiliation. We, the people, are God’s temple. We are the Church, and it is in us that God’s spirit dwells so that we can live out the “one another’s.” The Bible offers up a list of “one another’s” throughout Scripture. It’s not a literal list but a variety of commands sprinkled throughout that deal with relationships. God calls us to love one another (John 13:34), to care for one another

(1 Cor. 12:25), to serve one another (Gal.5:13), among many other one anothers. Ultimately, we are called to intentionally and purposefully provide a spiritual haven for one another each and every week.

My friend needs a church that rejects performance. She needs a church that embodies the Spirit of the Living God and that embraces her as worthy. The Church is not a social club but a family of faith that welcomes everyone, deepens faith and sends all to love and serve as Jesus did. We prioritize the concerns of others and do all that we can to address them. There are plenty of people within our own community of faith who need grace and mercy, who need a spiritual haven like my friend. May God give us the humility to embody a spiritual haven for all. If you want to learn more about how to deepen your love and commitment to our local church, I would love to talk with you. You can reach out at any time at 626-799-7148 ext. 218 or at pastorhengst@gmail.com. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Ashley's Book Club

Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life

By Henry Cloud and John Townsend

This month I want to recommend to you a book that just might change your life. Many people think they have boundaries and assume they understand when to say NO and when to say YES. But as I've gotten older, I have come to see how *boundary-less* our culture truly is.

Text messaging has made it easier for people to have access to others 24/7. Having our work email on our phones makes it difficult to truly unplug on weekends or on vacation. We often run around like chickens with our heads cut off trying to please everyone. We are so stressed out from our growing to-do list that time off is mostly Netflix and sleep. We often lack the energy to live the "abundant life" that Christ described because we are living lives without boundaries. And we associate love with a lack of boundaries. Nothing could be further from the truth.

To love your spouse well, you must put a boundary up with all other people. To be of optimal service at work and in your families, you must draw hard lines around your own time of rest and rejuvenation. To say YES to God's calling upon your life, you must often say NO to everyone else's expectation of you. Boundaries keep unnecessary things out so the good can stay in. If the idea of boundaries is difficult for you, I want to encourage you to pick up a copy



of my book of the month, “Boundaries: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life.”

This classic psychology book by Henry Cloud and John Townsend is accessible and tremendously helpful. In addition to widely accepted principles, the authors use Scripture to explain how boundaries are developed, to outline boundary myths and explain the 10 laws of boundaries. They also graciously unpack how to resolve boundary issues with your family, friends, with supervisors and coworkers, with your spouse, and children and even God.

Even if you think you do not lack boundaries, it is worth reading this book to examine if you respect the boundaries of others.

I have read this book many times and find it continuously helpful. I hope that you would find it helpful too. My prayer is that we would become a community of faith that encourages and respects boundaries. I pray that we will seek out ways to protect our strength, vitality, and Sabbath so that we might model how to do so for a watching world.

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.

Laser Tag



This past month, Calvary youth enjoyed a couple of hours of laser tag games with San Marino Community Church and we had a blast!

The One Another's

The Bible offers up a list of “one another’s” throughout Scripture. It’s not a literal list but a variety of commands sprinkled throughout that deal with relationships. These are great verses to memorize as you grow and mature in your faith. #relationshipgoals

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. – John 13:34

Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. – Romans 12:10

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. – 1st Thessalonians 5:11

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. – Ephesians 4:2

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. – Hebrews 3:13

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. – Philippians 2:4

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. – 1 Peter 4:10

Therefore encourage one another with these words. – 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
– 1 Peter 4:9

All of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
– 1 Peter 5:5

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective
– James 5:16

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
– Colossians 3:13

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.
– Romans 14:13

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.
– Ephesians 4:15



Angel INTERFAITH NETWORK News

It's October and before you know it the Holidays will be here so let's start planning for the upcoming **ALTERNATIVE MARKETS!**



NETWORK PARTNERS:

Are you hosting an Alternative Market where people make donations as gifts? If so, Angel Interfaith would like to be a part of it! Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alternative Christmas Gift Markets went virtual (see pic below) and Angel Interfaith Network participated at:

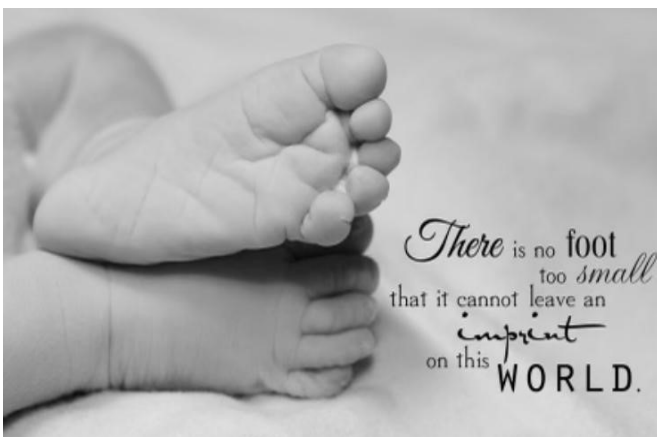


Oneonta Congregational Church, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, All Saints Church, Claremont Presbyterian Church; Our Lady of Assumption Church and San Marino Community Church.

Instead of tables in the halls, there were videos on church websites; complete with a checkout form and payment online or by



check! Amazing!!! This year we hope to participate in the Non-Pandemic version so we can get to meet many of you in person and thank you for your continued support and generosity.



THOSE WE SERVE: When we are called to deliver an infant car seat, we think of the joy and excitement the parents experience bringing their newborn home for the very first time. In this situation, Angel Interfaith was called to provide a car seat for an infant being sent home for hospice care. As we do in any urgent need, we respond, but this request was heartfelt for the family going through an emotional crisis. This may not have been our typical delivery but it

was one that truly touched our hearts as we continue to send prayers of strength and comfort not only for the family, but also the social worker assigned to assist this family.

URGENT NEEDS: 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.

Thank you! Your Gift Will Make a Difference.

September Financials

September Budgeted Income \$16,066.67
September Actual Income \$7,680.00
September Budgeted Expense \$37,293.15
September Actual Expense \$5,585.73
September 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 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](#).

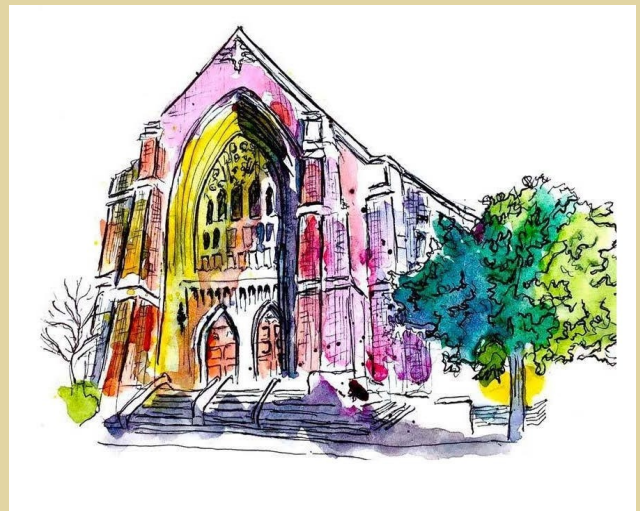
You can also subscribe to our
[YouTube page](#) for all of the latest
from our church.

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Praise The LORD with us!
Join us for In-Person Worship
Sunday 10:30 am
at the Rose Garden