



at Calvary United Methodist

Connect to God.

Connect to each other.

Connect to the community.

Sept. 4 – Sept. 11th, 2021



Special Worship Service

Sunday, September 12th
Confirmation &
Holy Communion 10:30AM in-house



Come celebrate with our confirmands, Jeda & Sofia Stone and Lilly DeLoretta, and their families, as they affirm their faith and become full members of Calvary Church. Afterward, there will be a picnic lunch on the side lawn.

Come, support, and fellowship with our confirmands and their families!

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th ~

- *Zoom Worship moves to 8:30AM!* Prepare your cup of coffee/tea a half hour earlier and be ready to worship the Lord with your whole mind, heart, and spirit. Gathering/Fellowship time will held from 8:15-8:30AM.
- *A new Sunday school hour for all ages from 9:30-10:30AM.* The adult class will gather via Zoom and in-house in the Chapel Library so that all desiring to grow and fellowship may do so together.
- *In-Person worship continues at 10:30AM.*

Step On the Train

8/29/21 Message by Pastor Tamie
Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

History professor, Heather Cox Richardson, writes in her email newsletter, *Letters From An American*, on May 23, 2021:

Frederick Douglass wrote his autobiography three times, but to protect the people who helped him run away from enslavement, he did not explain how he had managed to get away until the last version.

Douglass escaped from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1838. In his twenty years of life, he had had a series of masters, some kind, some harsh, and one who almost killed him. But by 1838, he was a skilled worker in the local shipyards, earning good money for his master and enjoying a measure of freedom, as well as protection. He had good friends in the area and had fallen in love with the woman who would become his wife.

It was enslavement, but within that existence, it was a pretty good position. His peers in the cotton fields of the Deep South were beaten like animals, their deaths by violence unremarkable. Douglass himself had come close to being "sold down the river"—a term that referred to the slave convoys that traveled down the Mississippi River from older, worn out lands in the East to fresh, raw lands in Mississippi and Louisiana—and he knew that being forced to labor on a plantation in the Deep South would kill him.



COMMUNION SUNDAY

Worship Servants
9 AM ZOOM

Lay Leader: Carol Adams
Music: John Bassetti, Linda Ebersole & Megan Richarts

10:30 AM IN-PERSON
Lay Leader: Jim Adams
Music: Matt & Rebecca Doran and Linda Ebersole & Liz Matz

ZOOM WORSHIP by Phone
1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 647 829 181#;
Password: 082013

SUNDAY WORSHIP BY PC
CLICK HERE

~Message cont'd on pg. 4



All the tags for birthdays through the end of 2021 are hanging on the **Birthday Giving Tree** in the narthex. THANK YOU to everyone who has or is participating in this collaborative endeavor with Bethany Christian Services.

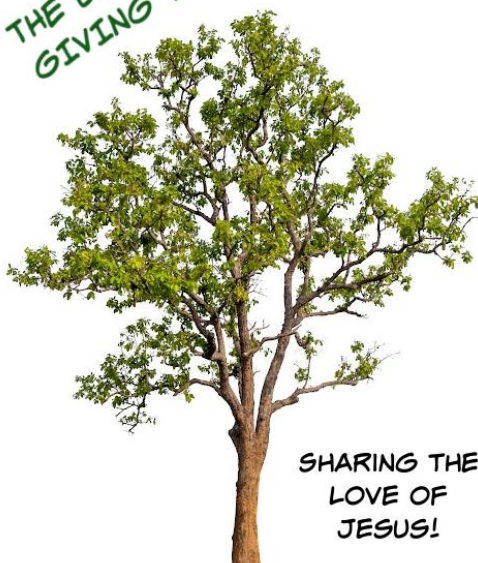
To join in with this outreach project simply choose one (or more) tag, complete the duplicate tag card, place it in the envelope provided on the tree, then have fun shopping! You may also choose a name online using SignUp Genius.

GO TO:

BIRTHDAY GIFT TREE

Please stay in the spending range of \$50 per child. If possible, wrap the gift(s), attaching the tag to the outside of it, OR place the name, & birthdate on the outside of the package. Finally, drop the gift off at the church at least a week prior to the birthday, so that there will be time to deliver it.

THE BIRTHDAY
GIVING TREE



SHARING THE
LOVE OF
JESUS!

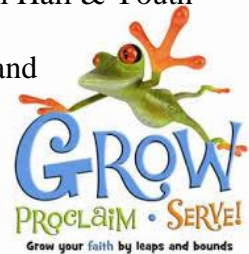


Grow. Proclaim. Serve.

Sunday school for children & youth
Beginning Sunday, Sept. 19th
9:30 – 10:30AM in-house

Using the *Grow. Proclaim. Serve.* curriculum from Cokesbury, children will explore families in the Bible, learn how today's faith families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships, and discover what it means to be part of God's family!

In age-level small groups (K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade & 6th-12th grade), children will gather weekly in the lower level of the church (Social Hall & Youth Room) for the Bible story, music, and movement as they dig deeper and apply the story to their daily lives.



Come and Listen!

The praise band will be holding an open practice on the side lawn of the church on Sunday, September 12th from 4:00pm - 5:30pm.

All are welcome to join us and enjoy some worship music as the band members get accustomed to playing together again. Bring a lawn chair and/or blankets...and a snack, if you'd like ☺

Updating Clearances



Anyone desiring to teach or volunteer with children, youth and/or vulnerable persons must have his/her proper clearances (PA Criminal Clearance and PA Child Abuse Clearance). The information below will allow you access to the online sources to complete the necessary applications for these clearances. The cost will be paid for by the church.

PA Criminal Background Check:

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

Click on the link for New Record Check *Volunteers Only*

PA Child Abuse check:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Click on Individual login or create new account if you don't have one.

If you have current clearances, please provide a copy of each to the church. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Director of Christian Education, Matthew Davis at christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com or call his cell phone at 717-917-5342.



It's time to sing! Sing for all that God is and all that God has done for us, for His great wisdom and love for us.

Calvary Adult Choir will begin Wednesday, September 8th at 7PM. Please come prepared to learn beautiful music to bless our Calvary Family and to enjoy warm fellowship.

We will rehearse in the Sanctuary. For everyone's safety, choir members are respectfully requested to be fully vaccinated in order to participate. Please come with your mask on and plan to observe social distancing during rehearsal.

Choir is needed to lead congregational singing at this time. We will invest part of our practice time on hymns and some of our well-loved choruses, adapted for choral and congregational use. Instrumentalists, please bring your instruments each week, as we will work on ensemble pieces each Wednesday night as part of our time together.

New members are most welcome☺

~Linda Ebersole, Music Director

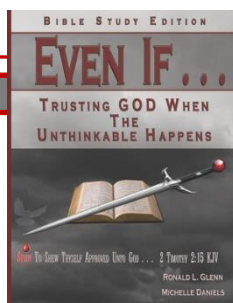
Come, Join in the Learning and Discussion!

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 19, at 9:30AM, Michelle Daniels will lead an Adult Bible Study using a workbook that she co-authored with Ronald L. Glenn, entitled *Even If: Trusting God When the Unthinkable Happens*.

"Sometimes it seems that God is hard of hearing, slow to answer, or even indifferent to our prayerful concerns. This book is a follow-up to *The Deep Things of God*. It calls us to recognize the faithfulness of God even in the face of the most challenging and tragic events."

Each participant will have their own workbook to use. Please let Matthew Davis, DCE, know if you are planning to attend so that sufficient copies are on hand. (christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com or text 717-917-5342)

This class will gather in-person in the Prayer Room and will also be offered via Zoom using the 9AM Worship link (see page 1).



SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteer teaching or assistant teaching for children and/or youth Sunday school, please use the Sign-Up Genius link below.

Choose the weeks that best suit your availability. Children and youth Sunday school classes will meet weekly by age group (see pg. 2) in the Social Hall and Youth Room.

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)

His relatively safe position would have been enough for a lot of people. They would have thanked God for their blessings and stayed put. In 1838, Frederick Douglass was no different than they were: an unknown slave, hoping to get through each day. Like them, he might have accepted his conditions and disappeared into the past, leaving the status quo unchanged.

But he refused.

His scheme for escaping to freedom was ridiculously easy. In the days of slavery, free black sailors carried documents with them to prove to southern authorities that they were free, so they could move from northern and foreign ports to southern ports without being detained. These were the days before photos, so officials described the man listed on the free papers as they saw him: his color, distinguishing marks, scars. Douglass worked in shipyards, and had met a sailor whose free papers might cover Douglass... if the white official who looked at them didn't look too closely. Risking his own freedom, that sailor lent Douglass his papers.

To escape from slavery, all Douglass had to do was board a train. That's it: he just had to step on a train. If he were lucky, and the railroad conductor didn't catch him, and no one recognized him and called him out, he could be free. But if he were caught, he would be sold down river, almost certainly to his death.

To me, Douglass's decision to step aboard that train is everything. How many of us would have taken that risk, especially knowing that even in the best case, success would mean trying to build a new life, far away from everyone we had ever known? Douglass's step was such a little one, such an easy one... except that it meant the difference between life and death, the difference between a forgotten, enslaved shipyard worker and the great Frederick Douglass, who went on to become a powerful voice for American liberty. ... After all these years of living and of studying history, I have one piece of advice:

When the day comes that you have to choose between what is just good enough and what is right... find the courage to step on the train.

This is the courage, the same bold spirit which we hear in these final words spoken to the people of Ephesus: *Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak* (Eph. 6:19-20). The writer pleads at the end for prayers at all times, prayers of supplication for all saints, and especially bold prayers for himself as an ambassador for Christ in chains. In a place and time when Caesar is called Lord, where law defines the god to worship and is enforced through the brutal authority of military, the saints of Ephesus worship and share the good news at great risk. As Jesus reveals and just as Paul, a prisoner of the Roman Empire, reveals, it is a life and death risk to share the gospel message. So the author casts these final words of encouragement in the language of the secular world built on militarism, not to mimic it but to counter it. Stand firm, proclaim the gospel message that defies the powers of this world, and do so boldly in the name of the risen Christ. This is akin to the bold move made by Frederick Douglass. Step on the train.

Remember that this is the concluding call to action. This is the climax of a letter shaped around ardent prayers for a faith community to grasp the immeasurable dimensions of God's love. This is a letter that pleads for the community to heal its divisiveness, embrace the mystery of the gospel, grow up in Christ, and build one another up. We already know that this church family has its problems. We already know that the people are grappling and warring among themselves. We know they're a hot mess. We also know that they are growing in Christ to create a new life. So they are gently reminded...you're fighting the wrong battle. The battle is not with each other. It's not a human battle but a spiritual war. And in Christ, that war is already won. It doesn't matter that they aren't perfect or that they don't have it all figured out. Just go. Go share this good news that everyone needs to hear. Speak boldly. Step on the train.

This week I spoke with Dieuny, my friend in Haiti and a neighbor of Yaya's. We shared news about our countries. He spoke about the devastation from the earthquake. Many families now have no homes and are living beneath the sun and stars. Yaya's grandmother and aunt are among them. Meanwhile, a senator from Haiti has built a home for his wife in Canada for millions of dollars. He asks how one family should have such a grand house, using up so much money, when there are thousands of people who do not have one small house. I shared with him how in our country the children are returning to school where battles are being fought over whether to require masks. Children are scared in schools where families are given a choice as to the treatment they will receive from their classmates, the judgments on either side and harmful actions such as name calling and exclusion. School board meetings - encounters with people on the street - even family gatherings are becoming hostile and violent.

~Message cont'd on pg. 5

Dieuny said to me that it doesn't matter if we are a big, rich country or a small, poor country. We share the same problem. It is a problem of humanity. He explained that the word *moun* in Haitian Creole means something deeper than just *person*. It refers to their humanity, the invaluable nature of being as a child of God. If we don't know it in ourselves, then we cannot see it in others. If we do not grasp the dimensions of God's love, then we cannot share it. If we do not experience the peace of Christ beyond understanding, then we cannot share it. The war is not with each other. The war is spiritual. Whether or not people realize it or acknowledge it, what they really need is to hear is the gospel message, to grapple with its mystery until they can no longer turn away from its light. As we face this intense, historical moment of divisiveness, there is a greater risk in boldly speaking words and messages that in themselves seem to provoke more and more resistance from people. It's in this moment, in the now, that we must step on the train and proclaim the word of God.

The legionary soldiers of the Roman emperor were everywhere, and they were a very real fact of terror, a law unto themselves. The imagery of putting on the full armor of God is tremendously significant in this context. Everyday soldiers dressed with the intent to engage in battle. Their armor was a visual reminder of who had power, who was more likely to be the victor. To strike fear. Their armor was specially designed, and they were trained in its use. Every day the legionary soldiers garbed their bodies in these layers of metal, bearing the sheer weight of it, carrying weaponry, and strapping on their allegiance to Caesar. To serve Caesar, there were preparations in body and spirit. In this grand finale of the letter, the writer calls the saints of Ephesus to stand against the powers of evil. Just as these legionary soldiers undergo preparation to be fit for battle, so should the ambassadors of Christ.

Notice the dramatic shift in the spirit with which preparations are made for ambassadors of Christ. In his article, "Professing Faith: Bible uses Roman armor to symbolize spiritual armor," Gregory Elder, a professor of history and a Roman Catholic priest, interprets the pieces of armor in relation to spiritual warfare

(<https://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/2016/11/16/professing-faith-bible-uses-roman-armor-to-symbolize-spiritual-armor/>):

- The breastplate imagery is more akin to that of a traditional dress uniform for Roman soldiers; it illustrates a formal, grand image of faith with a victory displayed by justice. The shod feet refer to the caligae, or the boot sandals, that are essentially leather soles with dozens of straps that the soldier wove around his feet. With these sandals, a soldier is fast moving, protected, and prepared for the fight. Instead, the ambassador of Christ shods his or her feet in readiness for the gospel of peace.
- A Roman battle shield is called a scutum, which protects about three-fourths of a man's body. The interesting part of this is how they are used. In combat, the shields are linked together to create a wall of metal protection. This is their real strength, when they are working in harmony. The shield of faith isn't about individualized faith; it's a metaphor for the faith of the church, a community of believers who accomplish God-sized feats when they work in harmony.
- The helmet of salvation refers to the galea. In combat, the helmet is essential to protecting the soldiers from the initial artillery attack of rocks, arrows, animal waste, and everything but the kitchen sink. What a fabulous image of salvation! Salvation is a gift, a victory already won in Christ. With salvation, no evil can penetrate, and no darkness can overcome.
- The sword of the spirit refers to the gladium, or short sword, that is 24 inches long and razor sharp on both edges. Without the gladium, a soldier is powerless. In other words, the ambassador of Christ is essentially unarmed and helpless without the word of God.

This is the full armor of God - truth, justice, peace, and faith. The full armor of God bears the weight of God's mercy and love to make us exemplary peacemakers. I am often asked, "On what do we stand firm in our tradition?" The way of Christ, the victory already won, is that of peace. As A.J. Muste says, "There is no way to peace; peace is the way." A follower of Christ must prepare daily, work in harmony with others, receive the gift of salvation, and always carry the word of God. In this way, we are strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power (Eph. 6:10). Then we are able to stand firm. As Heather Cox Richardson advised, "When the day comes that you have to choose between what is just good enough and what is right... find the courage to step on the train."



CALL TO ACTION

Every day we are to put on the armor of God. Every day we are to prepare ourselves to be a spirit-filled force of truth, justice, peace, and faith. We go confidently knowing that Christ has won the victory; we are called to bear Christ's peace wherever we go and share it. Let us prepare...

Connect with God:

Come worship and be nourished by God's word and the grace experienced in community. Starting September 19th, the Zoom worship service will begin at 8:30AM while the in person service will remain at 10:30AM. And in between, at 9:30AM, we will connect with each other.

Connect with each other:

Matthew, please share your invitation to join the Sunday school hour.

Connect with the community:

Friends, wherever you go, boldly proclaim the gospel message of peace with your children, family, neighbors, and strangers. I invite you to step on the train.

- 06 – Doris McCleary
230 Hawthorne Ct. North
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 06 – Kylie Stump
585 Wolfe Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 07 – Elaine Reed
3 Fern Lane
Southern Shore, NC 27949
- 08 – Lucy Roussel
32 Meganser Dr.
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 08 – Jeda Stone
1 N. Sandy Lane
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 09 – Jody Martin
PO Box 364
Adamstown, PA 19501
- 11 – Ron Anderson
35 Stewart Ave.
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 11 – Sofia Stone
1 N. Sandy Lane
Sinking Spr., PA 19608

Happy Birthday to:

Gretna Glen Camp A Glimpse at the Work of Hands & Hearts



From Camp Assistant Director, Dan Kirby

On a Sunday evening in July, our staff noticed a young woman, probably about 13 years old, who was looking a little dejected. While most campers arrive on Sunday full of excitement, some campers require some extra encouragement.

On Monday that same camper was still struggling to be excited about camp. "The food isn't like it is at home." "No one here understands me." "I want to go home."

On Tuesday the patient love and understanding of the counselors was rewarded with some sheepish smiles, and even a giggle or two. Even through a tough façade, the joy of camp was starting to seep in through the cracks. Still, the new feelings were scary, and I continued to have conversations with this camper like "Try to do these three things and we'll check in at dinner."

After dinner on Tuesday, I sat by the pavilion with her and her counselor and we each ate a popsicle. I asked her what things she did today, and she explains how she tried all the things I asked her to. She smiles as she talks about camp, but asks once more to go home. I remind her that camp is so good for us and tell her I'm proud of her for trying. Proud of her for sticking it out and respecting her counselors. I take her popsicle wrapper and mine over to the trashcan and throw them away.

Through the scent of hand sanitizer, I feel a tap on the shoulder. "Thank you for saying you're proud of me... no one ever tells me that."

On Wednesday morning our camper friend no longer scoffs at the food options. She laughs and sings along with the camp songs. She has a smile on her face from activity to activity. On Wednesday afternoon she asks her counselor to tell her what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ means.

This is what I think of when I wrap up camp. I think that the metrics and numbers are all important, but ultimately this is the lens I want to judge our summers by. It wasn't the awesome foam slide, or the amazing high ropes element, or the extra epic randomness of the week... it was the love and attention from her counselors. The silly invitation to join the fun by her cabin mates. It was camp being camp, and kids being allowed to just have fun together after a year of pandemic chaos all around them. To be clear – this camper's success story isn't mine. It belongs to her new friends, her counselors, and ultimately to Christ. Something amazing happens at camp that even after many years I still can't pretend to understand. God is good.

This summer our campers learned about Sharing Our Joy. Every day our campers took time to share joy with each other in ways big and small. Learning about the God who loves us, and the amazing ways he wants us to connect with him through prayer.