**The Calvary Spirit**

*“Sharing God’s Love in Worship, Fellowship and In Service to our Neighbors.”*

 **February 2021**

**Church Staff**

Heather Spaccarelli*, Church Administrator*

Linda Himeback*, Treasurer*

**Calvary United Church of Christ**

1231 Route 100, Barto PA 19504

***phone #* *610-652-5023***

Church Office: *calvaryucc@gmail.com*

Website: *www.calvaryuccbarto.com*

Join us on FaceBook! *Calvary UCC Barto*

Clothing Ministry: *calvarysclosetbarto@gmail.com*

Heather Spaccarelli, *Church Administrator*

Linda Himeback, *Treasurer*

***From the Consistory of Calvary UCC…***

As we enter the year of 2021, we are all hopeful that we see things get closer to normal as the year goes on.  As we have been doing, weekly worship will continue to alternate between Calvary and Pennsburg, and also be available for viewing online through Facebook and on our church website.  Please see the worship schedule listed in this newsletter.  In the event of inclement weather, the host church will decide the night before whether or not the service should be cancelled.  Sherry Bauer and Sharon Burns continue to work together to organize worship at Calvary and Pennsburg, and are happy to share that Rev. Meagan McLeod has agreed to lead worship and both churches for the months of February and March.  The worship committees at each church will be meeting soon to discuss Lent.

Our transition Team continues to review applications that they receive and will share an update when they have information to share.

We have decided to merge the Christian Social Ministries and Christian Fellowship Commissions.   Calvary continues to minister to our community, helping the needy. Kim was able to deliver a box of Food to the Pottstown Cluster and a box of hats, gloves and scarves to Hobart’s Run in Pottstown. Please note that February is Food Pantry month, as well as the dates for a clothing give away, blood drive and Take-out Community meal all happening in February.  Dates and details are included in the newsletter.

Kim from the Property commission reported that Wallace electric installed a new controller for the circulator in the Sunday School Wing.  Property is also looking into brighter lights for the bottom doors, and inquiring to see if an electric starter can be installed on the water heater, eliminating the propane starter.

There will not be an Annual Report. In its place included in this newsletter is a synopsis of 2020 from our commissions.

Calvary is happy to welcome Becky Crist to the consistory team.  Thank you, Becky!  *You* can still join us, just contact a member of consistory.

We thank you with heartfelt thanks for your continued support.  Calvary continues to remain strong due to your generosity through giving, (in person, online and mail), your donations for the flea market and items for our outreach program, and the time members give to keep events at Calvary going. **Thank you so very much! The people of Calvary ARE Calvary, we are the church because of you.**

May the Lord Bless you and bring you Peace,

Your consistory; Harold Albitz, Kim Marburger, Sherry Bauer, Marlene Latshaw, Rona Britton, Becky Crist and Tracey Frey.



2/14 Consistory Meeting; *following Worship*

**2021 Consistory Officers**

*President* – Harold Albitz

*Vice President* – Rona Britton

*Secretary* – Sherry Bauer

*Treasurer* – Linda Himeback

***Elders:*** Harold Albitz, Sherry Bauer, Kim Marburger, Marlene Latshaw

***Deacons:*** Rona Britton, Tracey Frey, Becky Crist

**2021 Consistory (Committee) Representatives**

***Christian Fellowship and Christian Social Ministries:*** Marlene Latshaw, Kim Marburger, Rona Britton, Becky Crist, Sherry Bauer

***Worship:*** Tracey Frey, Sherry Bauer, Marlene Latshaw

***Church Property*:** Kim Marburger

***Stewardship & Evangelism***: Harold Albitz

***Christian Education:*** Tracey Frey

***Spiritual Council:*** Harold Albitz, Sherry Bauer, Kim Marburger, Marlene Latshaw

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Worship will be led by **Rev. Meagan McLeod** for the months of **February & March**,

beginning at 9:30am.

Join us in person or via Facebook Live or Zoom!

**Pennsburg UCC** will host Worship the following dates:

**February 7**

**February 21**

**March 7**

**March 21**

**Calvary UCC** will host Worship the following dates:

**February 14**

**February 28**

**March 14**

**March 28**

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***Thank You*** *to everyone for continuing to give to the church during this time of Worshiping in different ways than we are typically used to, due to the COVID-19 health pandemic. Please find the enclosed envelope (with insert) which can be either mailed to the church, or brought with you on a Sunday morning for 9:30am Worship to be left in the offertory plate in the Sanctuary.*

*\*Please designate which church (Calvary UCC or Pennsburg UCC) you would like your offering to go to on the front of the envelope before placing it in the offering plate. Both Consistory Teams will separate the offering for the designated church at the end of Worship.*

***On-Call Pastor…***Rev. MaryEtta Mest. Her email address is mestme@aol.com and phone number is

610-659-2775. Please reach out to her if you have a Pastoral need or Pastoral Emergency until further notice.

***Transition Team Update…***A candidate for the Designated Interim Pastor position has been interviewed and will be presented to the consistories in early February.  Special thanks to Holly Lash our team leader and Scott Mest, Lori Hawkins, Connie Jordan, Karlynn Miller and Kim Marburger for their continued good work and dedication to this important task.

***Christian Fellowship & Social Ministries News!***

Any and all donations for the *Flea Market & Calvary’s Closet* are appreciated. We often get asked if we are still accepting donations due to the ongoing pandemic. We certainly are still accepting donations, because there are SO many places that have stopped due to not having the ability to remain open or have their staff be at work. Donations can be left anytime at the lower double doors, tell your family, friends, and neighbors. Many people are driving around with donations in their vehicles and don’t know where to go with them. We accept small household items, shoes, clothing, toys, etc. but, ***please do not leave large pieces of furniture or TV’s.*** *(If you have a “larger” item that you wish to donate such as a bookcase, shelves, chairs, table, etc., kindly contact the church office, or see Rona before leaving it at the lower doors to ensure that it is something that we have space for within the flea market)**A* little donating goes a long way to make a difference!

\*Currently, we have a need for donations of larger size shopping bags. We get lots and lots of standard size grocery bags, however with our larger items, and armloads of clothing, the bigger bags come in very handy and are really appreciated. If you have any larger shopping bags (plastic, paper, or even re-usable) that you are willing to part ways with, kindly leave them in the donation area at the lower double doors, or drop them off during regular office hours. Thank you!



Ever wonder how you can help within the Church? Consistory is looking for members to join us! We are a committee of 6 and we prefer to add 4-6 members. Even if you do not regularly attend, (we know these times of masks and precautions make things harder) you can be a vital part of helping to take care of the matters at Calvary. We meet once a month, on a Sunday following Worship, and follow social distancing requirements. Please contact any member of Consistory if you are interested!

***FaceBook!*** Join us on Facebook! You can find us on Facebook by searching Calvary United Church of Christ-Barto or you may use this link! <https://www.facebook.com/calvaryuccbarto/>

***Website!*** Please take a moment and check it out, go to [www.calvaryuccbarto.com](http://www.calvaryuccbarto.com) If you have anything that you wish to have appear on the website, or even the Facebook page, please send it to the church office, calvaryucc@gmail.com

***Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors:*** If you are interested in sponsoring either Altar Flowers or Bulletins for 2021, kindly sign up in the binder located in the greeting area. If you wish to write a check to sponsor flowers, please make it payable to “*Tracey’s Flowers*” If you choose to write a check for the bulletins, please make it payable to “*Calvary UCC*” Payments may be placed in the offering plate.

***USAgain CLOTHING BINS*** Thank you to all that help to fill our bins and help to reduce, reuse, and recycle clothing materials! *Please keep in mind that once bags are dropped into the collection bins,* *the church has* ***no*** *access to them*. So, if you are wanting to donate your items to the Flea Market or to Calvary’s Closet, please drop your items off at the lower doors. Thank you!! (*Total profit for 2020 from USAgain, $1,650.00)*

***Newsletters, Daily Bread and Upper Room Devotional Booklets…*** At the lower doors, there is a “mailbox” on a bright red pedestal. In this box, you will find additional monthly newsletters, devotional booklets, event flyers, Calvary’s Closet information, and more! Please help yourself to these items. Even though the building is back “open” we will continue to use method this as an outreach to our members and our community!

***Electronic and Online Giving!*** Have you ever seen the ability to make a donation online or through an app on your smart phone? Calvary now has this ability! Vanco is the most widely used online giving platform for churches in the country. If you are interested in exploring this option, please use the camera feature on your smart phone to scan this QR Code to donate today! If you have any questions regarding this new giving option, please contact the church office.



***Offering Envelopes…*** If you would like to have offering envelopes mailed to you, please contact Heather in the office. We realize that if you receive your Newsletter electronically and/or are not able to attend Worship in person, that it can be a challenge to get your offering to the church, if you do not wish to send it electronically through Vanco. Thanks!

***ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION/RECYCLING*** Please bring your bagged aluminum cans to the lower double doors and place them in the can.  Thanks for your support*. (Total Profit for 2020; $120.60)*

***E-mail addresses*** Do you have an email address? We would love for you to share it with us so we can include you on our weekly email! Every week, either Wednesday or Thursday, an email is sent to those on our mailing list. This email includes important information such as upcoming events, changes to office hours, etc. If you are on our mailing list you will also receive notification of cancellations or closures due to weather and other important emails. To “opt in” please send an email to calvaryucc@gmail.com with “Mailing List” in the subject line.

***Calvary’s Closet…*** Do you, or someone that you know need a helping hand? Have they been displaced due to a tragedy or victim of a disaster? Maybe rebuilding their lives after a life event or a hardship? Calvary’s Closet is here to help those affected by such events. Open by appointment, and available to help those within our community. We can provide things such as clothing, linens, household items, and toys. If you have a specific need, please contact us as we may have it available! For questions, inquires for a need, donations or help, please contact us at: CalvarysClosetBarto@gmail.com or the Church office phone number is 610-652-5023, and if Heather is not in the office, she will return the voicemail as soon as possible.

*“Uniting Communities Through Caring”*

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***February is Food Pantry Month!***

Non-Perishable food items will be collected through the month of February to benefit Boyertown Multi-Service. Kindly place your donations in the shopping cart in the greeting area. The most needed items are: Canned Vegetables, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Granola Bars, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Jello, 64ounce size bottles of Juice, Rice, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Fruit Snacks, Pudding, Dish Soap, Sugar free snacks, Sandwich crackers. \*if you cannot attend Worship, but wish to donate to the Food Pantry, donations may be left at the lower double doors in a box or a bag\*

Thank you for helping us reach out to our community!

***Hoagie Sale Fundraiser!***

Social Ministries & The Fellowship Commission is holding a Hoagie Sale Fundraiser in February.

Italian Hoagies on an 8-inch Corropolese Bakery Roll, are $8.25 each.

The hoagies will be made by Valentino’s Pizzeria, located in Stowe.

Don’t forget to ask your family, friends and neighbors if they would like to order too!

**Hoagies will be ready for pickup** **at Calvary on** ***Saturday February 13th*, between 1:30** **– 2:30pm.**

Please have your order form ready with your payment for Heather, by ***Sunday February 7th.***

Thank you for your support!

*\*please see attached flyer, and order form*

***Clothing Giveaway!***

Saturday February 13, 8am -11am

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a Clothing (and more) Giveaway!

See Rona with any questions or if you can lend a helping hand!

*\*please see the attached flyer*

***Miller-Keystone Blood Drive***

Thursday February 18, 2:30pm -7pm

This event will be held by appointment only, due to Covid-19. If you would like to schedule to be a donor, please contact Rona at beachbound923@gmail.com OR 610-367-7878. \*If you have received the Covid-19 vaccine, you must wait a full 2 weeks before you may donate blood\*

Please speak with Rona if you have any questions.

***Free Community To-Go Meal***

Saturday February 27, Noon – 1pm

Come on out and help us serve our Community! Many hands are needed to help make

this a success, please sign up on the Fellowship Board to lend a helping hand.

\*please see the attached flyer, and share with your friends!

***\* Thank You to everyone that helps promote, volunteer, participates, and gives their time to make our events successful! \****

***Notes from the administrator’s desk…***

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 **Church office hours are as follows:**

***Monday****,* ***Wednesday, Friday*** *4pm – 6pm*

***Tuesday******&******Thursday*** *8:30am – 12:30pm*

\*The **March** Newsletter Deadline Is Monday **February 22nd\***

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***February BIRTHDAYS***

2/1 Tracey Frey

2/3 John Crist

2/7 Franklin Schlegel

2/9 Betty Smith

2/10 Barbara Derr

2/11 Carlee Jeann Frantz

2/16 John Canceliere

2/18 Mary Delo

 2/19 Cale Latshaw

 2/22 Pauline Weller

2/14 Randy Reigner 2/25 Adeline Britton

 2/15 Stacey Miller 2/26 Connie LaFaver & Sonya Spotts

***If you have a Birthday during the month and it was not mentioned, or the date is listed wrong, please let the church office know. We are working to keep our records updated and your help in this effort is appreciated. Thank you.***

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* Please hold our future Interim Pastor in prayer as God prepares him/her for ministry with us.
* Everyone that has been affected by the Pandemic and illness.
* Our Country

\*If you have any prayer concerns, you may send them to calvaryucc@gmail.com or submit them through the link

on the website, you may also leave a message for the office, 610-652-5023.

***Please continue to hold our homebound friends in your prayers:***

* Mabel Schultz
* Janet Kulp
* Dorothy Keim
* Howard & Barbara Moser
* Emil Schultheisz
* Eileen Haring
* Thelma Borchelt
* Henry Neiman

***Please continue to hold those with specific needs in your prayers:***

* Lillian Miller
* Sylvia Heckler
* Sally Fronheiser
* MaryAnn Galloway
* Paul Schollenberger

*We have restructured the Newsletter Prayer list to help keep it more current and up to date. If you have additional prayer requests that you would like listed, please contact the church office.*

*Exciting news!*

*Stay tuned for the March edition of the Newsletter, combined with Pennsburg UCC!*

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***A note from our Consistory President…***

The year 2020 had many difficulties for our church. One of our problems was our need to search for another pastor. We received a profile from a pastor that seemed to be the best fit for our church. We then informed the Rev. Sharon Morris that we are pleased to hire her as our interim for our church. Then in June the Rev. Sharon Morris, said she was leaving us and she would no longer be our interim end of August. Beginning in July services were resumed for inside worship services.

Then beginning in July talks with the Pennsburg began. Combine services with Pennsburg start the end of August. Then starting September the combine search teams started to search for another pastor.

Supply pastors were used in the meantime for church services.

God Bless

(As submitted by)

Harold P. Albitz

Consistory President

***Christian Fellowship Commission & Christian Social Ministries***

Fellowship/Social Ministries, working hand in hand!

The year 2020 brought these 2 commissions to do things differently and together.  In February we had a last-minute yard sale, and a free community meal, which was well attended. Also, our regular scheduled blood drive, with walk ins welcome. We welcomed Pastor Sharon Morris as our interim pastor, then we were introduced to Covid-19 and everything changed. Scheduled events had to be cancelled. That did not stop these 2 commissions from community outreach ministry. We had to change the way we did things from wearing masks, hand sanitizing stations, the amount of people we could have in the church at a time. The rest of the blood drives had to be by appointment only.

We were able to have a 25₵ clothing sale in June, inside and outside the building, keeping people safe, having another clothing sale by donation the following week. July 11, we held another free community to-go lunch and clothing giveaway, and the following week, a pop-up yard sale.  July 30, there was a massive apartment fire (56units) in Pottstown, and Calvary members sprung into action the very next day, filling bags and boxes with the immediate needs for the victims.  This tragedy introduced us to the Ann Frances Outreach Foundation, they work to serve the most vulnerable with love and compassion. Since then, we have been working with them as they find housing for the homeless. We have been able to donate clothing, household items and even some furniture to them.

Another pop-up yard sale was held in August. The annual soup supper was a bit different this year but successful, it was soup to-go with a bake sale. The leftover soup was picked up by the Ann Frances Foundation and fed to hungry, grateful people living on the street. The end of September was our Annual Fall Flea Market and Bake Sale. October brought us Mommy Mart, and the basket raffle kick off. Also, another pop-up yard sale and bake sale. October 25, we held a trunk or treat which was very well attended. Our annual Christmas Bazaar/flea market was in November. A Free community to-go meal featured a hat, coat, gloves and scarves give away in December.  We collected toys for the Ann Frances Foundation.

We were able to donate to Boyertown Multi Service food pantry in Feb and Sept. We gave clothes and other items to fire and flood victims this past year. In addition, the following are also recipients of our donations: Pottstown Cluster, Hobart’s Run, Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Building 51, and 5 people that have been able to recover from homelessness and move into a permanent location. Our Ministry is growing!  All this has been possible because of the great volunteers and ongoing donations for the flea market and Calvary's Closet. We thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Rona Britton

***Property Commission Report***

The Property Committee was busy in 2020 with the ongoing maintenance of our beautiful church building, and property.  Most notably the crumbling exterior wall/ramp was repaired and the parking lot was sealed.  By the Grace of God and the dedication of our members, we were able to complete these costly projects.  Also, special thanks is extended to Fred Kroncke our resident handyman!

Many Thanks!

-Kim Marburger

***Christian Education Commission***

2020 was a year of challenges, changes and cancellations.  Although many of our events could not be held, we were able to add 3 members to the Calvary Family through the Confirmation of Jacob Latshaw, Kiera Jordan, and Jaylan Anderson.  Jacob, Kiera and Jaylan completed their 2 years of study with the help and guidance of Tracey Frey, Pastor Linda Kozlowski, Rev. Sharon Morris, and Pauline Weller.  Due to the pandemic, they were confirmed online through a Zoom meeting led by Rev. Sharon Morris.  Tracey Frey and Pauline Weller were in attendance as well as each student and their families in their own homes. They completed confirmation and shared in taking their first communion with their families.

This class endured multiple changes in leadership and studies due to changes at Calvary and the pandemic. They met each change and challenge they faced.   When you see them at Calvary, please Welcome them!

Submitted by,

Tracey Frey

***Union Cemetery Report***

The Union Cemetery Association of Niantic, Pennsylvania is a separate non-profit corporation, incorporated under Pennsylvania laws.  Their purpose is to provide and maintain burial grounds for members of Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic and Calvary United Church of Christ, Barto and non-member lot owners.

The members for the year 2020:

Sharon Bauer (co-secretary)

Chershe Derr

Ernest Derr (vice-president)

Ernest Fox, Jr.

Dean Latshaw

Marlene Latshaw (president and co-secretary)

Ken Moser (treasurer)

Cindy Miller

Harold Schoenly

Meetings are held every six months on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic.  Special meetings will be held upon request, with two weeks’ notice.

The funds of the corporation are derived from the sale of burial lots, gifts and bequests.

Lot prices for members of either congregation:

Number of Graves Total Cost Amount Going to Perpetual Care Account

 1 $       400 $       200

 2 $       600 $       300

 4 $       720 $       360

 6 $       960 $       480

 8 $    1,200 $       600

Lot prices for non-members:

 1 $       500 $       250

 2 $       880 $       440

 4 $    1,200 $       600

 6 $    1,680 $       840

 8 $    2,160 $    1,080

A fee of $100 is charged for each grave opening.

The fee to transfer a lot to another person is $50.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bauer

Secretary

***Worship Commission***

Members of the Worship Commission are Joan Albitz, Sherry Bauer, Tracey Frey and Marlene Latshaw.

* Formulated the 2020 church calendar.
* Prepared for Holy Communion.
* The church was decorated for Christmas.  There was a Candlelight Holy Communion Service at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.  The Sanctuary was decorated by poinsettias which were purchased by members of the congregation.
* Thank you to Tracey Frey for changing the flowers on the landing during the church year.

Rev. Sharon Morris was our interim pastor from March 9 to August 23, 2020.  During the Covid-19 pandemic shut down Rev. Morris led us in virtual worship services on Facebook from March 22 through June 14.  We resumed in-person worship services in our sanctuary on June 21, taking all the precautions necessary to keep our members safe and healthy.

Supply pastors who led us in worship during 2020:

* + Rev. Kim Adamson
	+ Ms. Chanel Alexander
	+ Rev. Deborah Clemens
	+ Rev. Martha Kreibel
	+ Rev. Jane Kropa
	+ Rev. Meagan McLeod
	+ Rev. Daniel Moser
	+ Rev. Elmer Reinhold
	+ Ms. Michele Schenk
	+ Rev. Rebecca Stephens
	+ Rev. Debra Timmons

Rev. MaryEtta Mest was our on-call pastor in 2020 and will continue in this position until we are successful in our search for a pastor.

On August 30 we began our shared ministry with Pennsburg UCC.  Services alternate between our two churches.  The services are available on Calvary’s Facebook page and our website.  The search for a pastor to lead our congregations is ongoing.

Thanks to everyone for their support during the challenging year.

Please talk to any member of the commission if you would like to help plan the church year.

May God Bless You All!!!

***Rites & Sacraments***

*Confirmation:*

* *Jaylan Marie Anderson Confirmed 6/7/2020 Rev. Sharon Morris*
* *Kiera Jordan Confirmed 6/7/2020 Rev. Sharon Morris*
* *Jacob Latshaw Confirmed 6/7/2020 Rev. Sharon Morris*

*Deaths:*

 *Born Name Died Clergy\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

* *1/10/81 Dan Ruch 2/29/2020 N/A*
* *4/24/38 Roma Schollenberger 5/3/2020 Rev. Sharon Morris*
* *10/5/35 Lee Latshaw 7/25/2020 Rev. Sharon Morris*
* *7/29/35 Jean Latshaw 9/18/2020 Rev. MaryEtta Mest*
* *9/16/23 Lawrence “Pitts” Kahler 12/9/2020 Rev. Homer Royer*
* *? (Robert) Samuel Smith 12/22/2020 Rev. MaryEtta Mest*

*\*If you have an interest in joining any of the commissions, teams, or councils, please speak with any member of Consistory or a member of the appropriate commission. We always welcome new faces and more hands to help!\**