**The Calvary Spirit**

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

 **DECEMber 2020**

**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 into the Season of Advent, we encourage you to join us as we gather with our “sister” church members at 9:30 am, hosting every other week. We will continue in person worship following pandemic guidelines as well as do Facebook live. It is a joy to see you on Sunday mornings. We have been aware of some problems with Facebook live. Heather has been troubleshooting, and found that updates along with the large amount of online traffic has caused the interference, but can be solved by purchasing a Webcam (we have been using Rona’s cell phone). We plan to use memorial funds to purchase the webcam, so that we can continue to offer online services. Please see our Sunday schedule included in the newsletter for the month of December.

We have many upcoming events. Please see the newsletter announcements for the dates and details. Marlene reported that Yard Sales, Clothing Sales, Soup Supper and Mommy Mart has brought over $13,000 to Calvary. The funds from these outside sales, as well as your continued generosity continue to keep Calvary Alive and Strong. **Thank you so very much for your offerings and support. We are surviving and staying current with our expenses because of you!**

Social Ministries continues to aid people through The Ann Frances Outreach Foundation, and Anchored Ministries helping the homeless & needy with items needed. Coats, hats, gloves, and scarves will also be available at our Free Take Out Community Meal on December 5th, from 12-1. Please see the announcement for the Toy Collection benefiting children in the Pottstown area.

Consistory Members have reversed the decision to switch insurance companies after reviewing updated rates and policies from GuideOne and the Insurance Board. We will be remaining with GuideOne.

*(Continued on next page…)*

Our Transition team is waiting for more profiles in our search for an interim Pastor.

An area soccer club will be using our lighted parking lot to practice in the evenings on December 5, 12, and 19.

Kim from the Property Commission reported that Dice’s Pest Control was out to take care of bees in the wall by the front door. The old dishwasher from the kitchen was also removed.

Consistory is looking for members to join us. We would love a few new faces! 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 and follow social distancing requirements.Your consistory members are Harold Albitz, Kim Marburger, Sherry Bauer, Marlene Latshaw, Rona Britton and Tracey Frey.

The people of Calvary ARE Calvary, we are the church because of you, Thank you!

We Wish You and Your Family a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6**



11/16 Consistory Meeting, 7pm

**2020 Consistory Officers**

*President* – Harold Albitz

*Vice President* – Kim Marburger

*Secretary* – Sherry Bauer

*Treasurer* – Linda Himeback

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

***Deacons:*** Tracey Frey & Rona Britton

**2020 Consistory (Committee) Representatives**

***Christian Fellowship:*** Marlene Latshaw, Kim Marburger, Rona Britton

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

***Church Property*:** Kim Marburger

***Christian Social Ministries:*** Rona Britton

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

***Christian Education:*** Tracey Frey

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

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**12/6** *2nd Sunday of Advent* **- Worship *At Calvary UCC* & FaceBook Live, *9:30am***

**(Worship Leader, Rev. Antonio Villareal)**

**12/13** *3rd Sunday of Advent* **- Worship, *At Pennsburg UCC* & FaceBook Live, *9:30am***

**(Worship Leader, Rev. Antonio Villareal)**

**12/20** *4th Sunday of Advent* **- Worship, *At Calvary UCC* & FaceBook Live, *9:30am***

 **(Worship Leader, Meagan McLeod)**

**12/24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion, *At Calvary UCC* & FaceBook Live, *4:00pm*, (Worship Leader Rev. Elmer Reinhold)**

~ **Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion, *At Pennsburg UCC*, *7:00pm*(Worship Leader, Rev. Daniel Moser)**

**12/27** *1st Sunday after Christmas* **- Worship, *At Pennsburg UCC* & FaceBook Live, *9:30am***

**(Worship Leader, Rev. Rebecca Stephens)**

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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. Mary Etta 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.

***Thank you*** to everyone who helped make our annual bazaar, bake sale, flea market and basket raffle a success!  We added $8,540 to the general fund.

***Christmas Poinsettia Order*** sponsorsheets are available in the greeting area, and included with this newsletter. They will be ordered from Glick’s Greenhouse. Orders are due to Joan Albitz by *Sunday November 29th.* The colors available are Red and White, $8.25 each for a 6 ½” pot with 5-7 blooms. Orders forms may be placed in the offering plate, given to Joan Albitz, mailed to the church, or put in the top mailbox outside the office door. Please make checks out to “Calvary UCC” Please pick up your poinsettia(s) following our 4:00pm Worship on Christmas Eve.

***Social Ministries News!*** We continue to be busy with *Calvary’s Closet,* helping our neighbors.  Any and all donations for the *Flea Market & Calvary’s Closet* are appreciated. 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. A little donating goes a long way to make a difference!



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 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

***The Fellowship Commission*** will meet on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 PM to plan for 2021.  Do you like to volunteer at community meals, bake, help at yard sales, cook, plan events, etc.?  You are wanted and welcome to join us plan the next series of events!

***Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors:*** If you are interested in sponsoring either Altar Flowers or Bulletins, kindly sign up in the binder located in the greeting area. Plenty of dates are in need of sponsors for the rest of the year. 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.

***FLEA MARKET DONATIONS*** are now being accepted all the time! If you have donations please leave them by the bottom doors. We accept small household items, shoes, clothing, toys, etc. but, ***please do not leave large pieces of furniture or TV’s.*** Thank you for all of the support in making this a profitable ministry for our church!

***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!!

***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*** will continue with the help of Dean Latshaw.  Please bring your cans to the lower level of the church and place them in the can.  Thanks for your support.

***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”*

***Canning Jars*** We are currently collecting jars! If you have any extra empty *Quart size* canning jars, kindly leave them at the lower doors anytime. Quart size is what we use the most of, although pint and gallon size are also appreciated! Thank you!

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***Free Community To-Go Meal & Coat Giveaway!*** Saturday December 5th, Noon – 1pm! Calvary UCC, together with Pennsburg UCC invite you to join us! Event will be held at Calvary UCC in the Fellowship Hall. A flyer is attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions please contact the Church Office, 610-652-5023. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the Fellowship Board for Volunteers! We are asking Volunteers to arrive at 9am to prepare the meal. Let’s work together to make this another successful event serving our community!

***\* 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 **January** Newsletter Deadline Is Wednesday **December** **16th\***

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***DECEMber BIRTHDAYS***

12/4 Richard Stofflet

12/7 Gregory Kintner

12/8 Ryan Crist

12/9 Arlene Melcher

12/9 Paul Schollenberger

12/13 Hannah Saylor

12/17 Howard Moser

12/19 Ryan Fox

12/20 Christopher Spotts

12/23 Connor Jordan

 12/24 Elmer Reinhold

12/27 Dylan Craig

***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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* *Emil Schultheisz,* as he is in the care of “Caring Hospice” at Chestnut Knoll
* *MaryAnn Galloway and Family,* as they mourn the loss of Tom
* Please hold our future Interim Pastor in prayer as God prepares him/her for ministry with us.

\*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.*