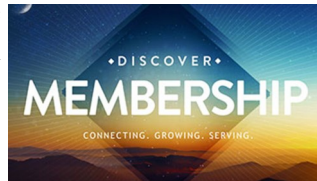


New Member Class

If you are interested in joining our congregation, have questions, and are seeking relationships, consider our 3-week Membership Interest Class starting on Wednesday, February 5th at 5:30 PM. This class will be led by Pastor Deb and will begin by gathering in The Square. The dates for the class are February 5th, 12th, and 19th. If you and/or your family are interested, contact the church office to sign up or sign up in The Square.



Helping Hands Ministry

Our typical jobs for the Calvary Church Family include: moving help, install washers in faucets, stop leaking toilets, small retaining walls, repair storm doors, install handrail, clean up fallen trees, remove bushes, trim weeds, replace garage door openers, repair dry-wall, fix mailboxes, and replace batteries in smoke detectors. If you need assistance or would be willing to volunteer, fill out a form found in The Square or call John Shepler at 717-579-2548.

Gospel of Mark Discussion Groups

Throughout the coming season leading to Easter, we will walk through the Gospel of Mark. In addition to engaging with the Gospel during worship, we will send out an email on Mondays offering reflective materials you can use in your personal devotion life.

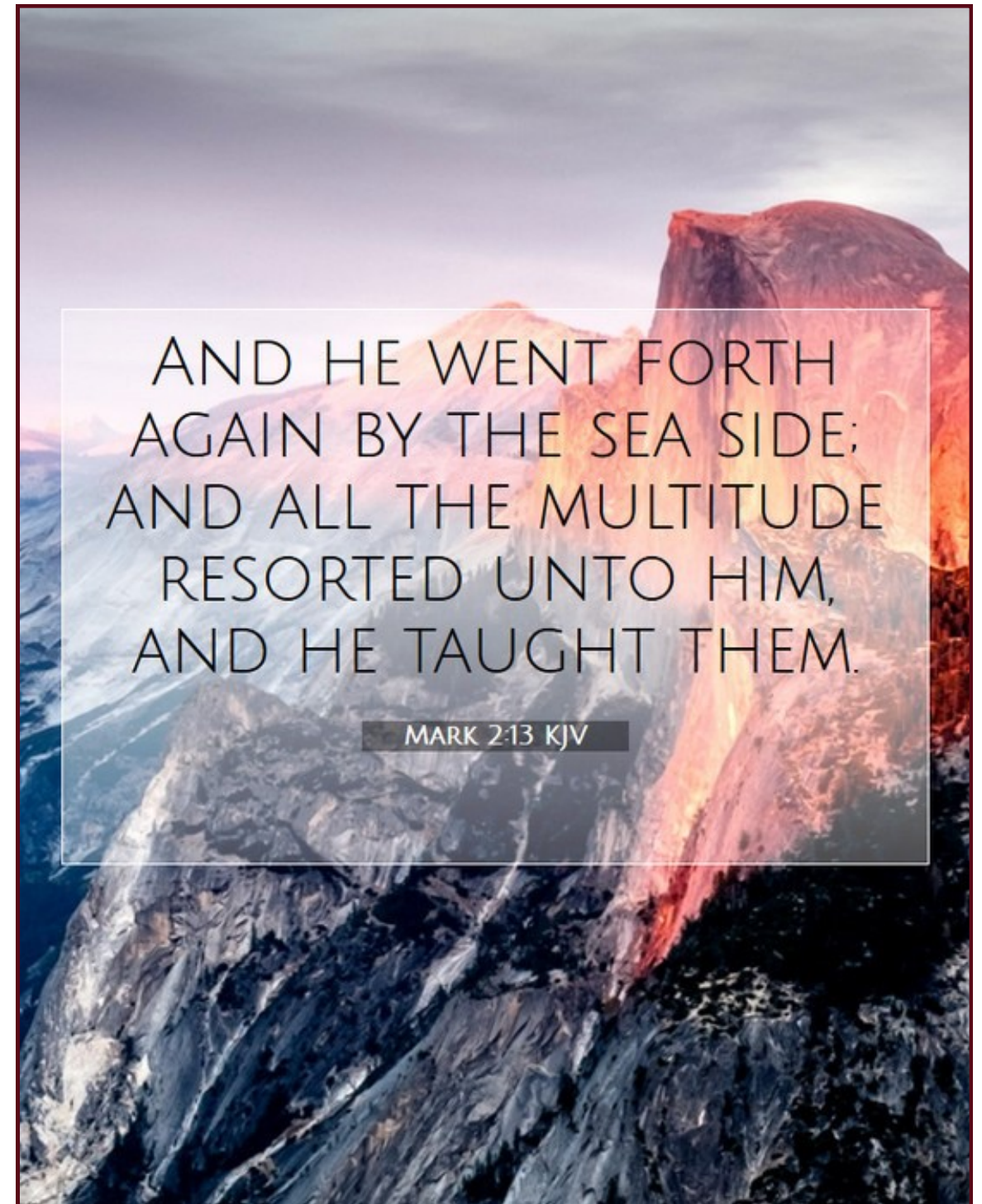
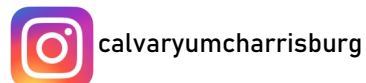
There will also be two times on Tuesdays when you can join a discussion group to study the passage of the week as we strive to apply what we are learning. Discussion groups started on January 7th. One group will meet on Tuesdays at 11 AM in Rooms 123/124 (under the office wing). The other group will meet on Tuesdays at 7 PM via Zoom. Groups will continue to meet until Easter. Both groups will be led by Pastor Deb Port. You are WELCOME to join any group at any time.

The Zoom Link can be obtained by emailing the church office or Pastor Deb.



Calvary United Methodist Church
Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr., Lead Pastor

Rev. Doug Compton, Visitation Pastor Deb Port, Associate in Pastoral Ministry
4700 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109 Office Phone 717-545-0021
Office Email office@calvaryunitedmethodist.org www.calvaryhbg.org
Pastor Email pastor@calvaryunitedmethodist.org Parsonage Phone 717-857-6143
Calvary's Wi-Fi access—User Name: CalvaryUMC_Guest; Password: Pra1seH1m



~ *Gathering in Word and Spirit* ~

WELCOME

PRELUDE *In Christ Alone* Getty/Townend

***HYMN** *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* #371 UMH

***PRAYER of PRAISE** Pastor Deb Port

***PASSING of the PEACE** #382 UMH

*Please be mindful of people's boundaries as you share God's love.
Please be seated as we sing "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."*

*Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION Pastor Deb Port

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 2:1-22 (NIV)

ANTHEM *All I Claim* Miller

Chancel Choir (8:30 AM)
Duet: Ellen DeStefano and Corvé Ransom (11 AM)

SERMON **"The Acceptance of Jesus"**

Series: *The First Gospel: Mark 2*
Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

PRAYERS of THE PEOPLE Pastor Deb Port

~ *Celebrating at the Table* ~

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 12,
2025**

PRESENTATION OF OUR LIVES, TITHES, and OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *I Will Arise* Sorenson

***DOXOLOGY** #94 UMH

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

~ *Going Forth in Mission* ~

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace* #378 UMH

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Shalom to You* #666 UMH

***POSTLUDE** *Precious Name* Doane

*Please stand as you are able.

UMH=UM Hymnal (red) TFWS=The Faith We Sing (black)



**THE FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER THE
EPIPHANY**



The prayer of faith will save the sick. The Lord will raise them up. Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
James 5:15-16

Calvary's Prayer Ministry

In Mourning: Dick Lehn and Family on the passing of his wife, Janet.

Calvary LAMS (Limited Activity Members): Dona Hoover, Jean Murphy, Rosalla Hollenbach, Marianne Bacon, Carl Page, Arlene Little, Lois Hartman, Marcia Oster, Dottie Gilloway, Ruth Schaadt, Madelyn Smith, Laura Goodhart, Jean Thomson, Jan Crouse, Bill & Vi Stiffler, Clyde & Joann Rohland, Carol Bettinger, Paul & Dottie Danko, Bill Morris, Harold McNaughton, Pat Rowe, Nan Heberle, Vicki Restelli, Pat Hartranft, Bill & Liz Payne, Marilyn Archibald, Barbara Fritz, Priscilla Secord, Sandra Beck, Bob Santos, Glen Reed

Prayer Concerns: Bryce Leidich, Lorraine Brosius, Scott & Tracy Wagner, Shirley Holtzer, Joanne Paladino, Ginny Coy, Lance Leidich, Kimberly Myhre, Charlotte Cornelius, John Oster, Ronald Sheaffer, Brandan & Kelly Mehaffie, Rebecca Jacobs & Family, Dave Drayer, Roger Cooper, Sandra Frantz, John Ewell, Mary Wagner, Charley Cover, Dave & Carol Mehaffie, Henry Reinsborough, Earl Gingrich, Jane Schwartz, Jen Koontz, Deanne & Keith Armstrong, Cole Sullivan, Craig Evans, Jim Andre, Kimberly Moyer, Tom Stypola, Gene Baldwin, Nova Sheaffer, Tom Worthington, Charlie Sullivan, Lexi Compton, Douglas Walt, Millis Schwartz, Chris Sproule, Colin Sproule, Christopher Castellani, David Walt, Brad Wolfe, Bryan Hemcher, Michelle Dougherty, David Plonski, Bobby Shindle, Dick McClure, Ron Albright, Dennis Helsel, Ron and Nancy Wenrich, Melissa Weicksel, Nomia Basore, Charlie Sullivan, Julie March, Tim Thomas, Ray Kelley, Henry Solt, Patty McConnell, Lee Griffiths, Nancy Paine, Art Schwarz, Mark Toto, Karen Greene, Lauren Greene, Wendy Rose, Lauren Rodia, Rudy Yocum, Dan Sheenan, Tom Fealtman, Annie, Phyllis McGavick, Melissa, Calvin, Darwin, George, Elaine Milligan, Jane Taylor, Al & Hope Pietrougo, Amy Stoner, Judy Huntzinger*, Marty Brightbill*, Craig Richards*, William Stratton*, Dr. Paul K. Marchetti*, Donna Pope*, Phil Womer*

Serving in Armed Forces: Andrew Hoffman, Jake Smuda, Aaron Lytle, Anthony Oswandel, Patrick McCarthy, James Simmons, Clay Burnette, Holly Dively, James Forsyth, Steven Novosel, Curtis Fetterhoff, Jackson Robinette, Joseph Swift, Cole Schifffhauer, Jake Schifffhauer, Zachary Curtis, Ian Turner, Haden Wagner

** indicates a prayer concern added or changed this week. Prayer cards can be found in the pew racks. Please complete a card and place in the offering plate. You may also email prayer concerns to office@calvaryunitedmethodist.org or call 717-545-0021. A new list is compiled at the beginning of each month.*

CALVARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 12th

8:30 AM..... Worship Service
9:45 AM..... Sunday School
..... (Preschool—Adult)
11:00 AM..... Worship Service
5:30 PM.... Competitive Pickleball

Monday, January 13th

6:30 PM.....Men's Pick Up
.....Basketball (age 25 & up)
7:00 PM.....Bells of Calvary

Tuesday, January 14th

9:00 AM..... Threads of Love
11:00 AM.... Discussion Group on
..... the Book of Mark
12:30 PM.... Young at Heart Club
2:00 PM..... Stephen Ministry
.....Meeting
6:00 PM..... Amateur Pickleball
6:30 PM.....Cub Scouts
7:00 PM..Zoom Discussion Group
..... on the Book of Mark

Wednesday, January 15th

10:00 AM .. Women's Bible Study
11:30 AMPrayer & Devotions
5:00 PMChildren's Choir
5:30 PM Youth Group
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 16th

9:00 AMEaster Candy Making
6:30 PM GriefShare Class

Friday, January 17th

9:00 AMEaster Candy Making

Saturday, January 18th

9:00 AM Susquehanna UMC
.....Conference Event

Sunday, January 19th

8:30 AM Worship Service
9:45 AM Sunday School
..... (Preschool—Adult)
11:00 AM Worship Service
5:30 PM Competitive Pickleball



Last Week in Offering

Offering 01/05/2025

General Fund Needed: \$18,615
Received: \$16,979
Building Fund Needed: \$962
Received: \$1,265

Attendance 01/05/2025

8:30 AM: 113
11:00 AM: 138
Sunday School: 52
Online Worship: 123

Young at Heart Club

The next gathering of the Young at Heart Club will be on Tuesday, January 14th at 12:30 PM. We will begin by enjoying dessert together. Afterwards, we will have a short business meeting, Joe Kerwin, State Representative for the 105 District, will talk with us about what issues are coming up in the House this year, what his position entails, and why, as a young person, he has chosen to serve in this way. To make a reservation or to ask questions, call Mary Alice Dumbauld at 717-545-7174. New faces are always welcome.

Women's Voices of Calvary

(grades 7—adult)

We will sing for both worship services on Sunday, February 2nd. Our rehearsal will be Wednesday, January 29th at 7 PM in the choir room.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Benedict at 717-379-6551 or db@calvaryunitedmethodist.org.

Easter Candy Production

Easter Candy production continues every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM (unless otherwise noted). Many positions are available! Please join us as our tasty confections sell quickly and we need many volunteers. This project supports the Missions Committee. We also need donations of Jif Creamy Peanut Butter. Questions, please contact Karen Miller at 717-439-0852.

Livestreaming of Worship

In case you did not know, we are Livestreaming Worship. Please note that we reserve the right to record, videotape, and photograph our services. Your image may be used in print, broadcast, and/or on the internet. By attending our services, you agree to waive any rights or interest to control the use of your likeness in whichever media we may use. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Book Club Starting in 2025

The book club sponsored by the United Women in Faith will meet on the third Tuesday at 1 PM in Rooms 121/122 (under the office wing) on the following dates: January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, and May 20th. If you are interested in meeting other women who like discussing books and are free at that time, please join us.

The first book covered will be Michelle Obama's second book **The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times**. There is a pink sign-up sheet outside The Square. Any questions, contact Mary Alice Dumbauld at 717-545-7174.

2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 offering envelope boxes are available for pick-up in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall through the end of January. After that, please call Nancy Flint in the church office to arrange pick up.

"The Acceptance of Jesus"

The First Gospel: Mark 2
Rev. Randall G. Bennett, Jr.

Chapter 2 Summary

Jesus returns to Capernaum in Mark's second chapter. A large crowd once again gathers as Jesus "preaches the word" (2:1-2). The crowd is so immense that a group of four friends carrying their paralytic friend cannot reach Jesus. Determined, the friends carry the paralytic up to the roof of the house where Jesus is preaching. They cut a hole in the roof and lower their friend on a mat down to Jesus. Witnessing their remarkable faith, Jesus demonstrates His authority to forgive by forgiving the paralytic's sins (2:3-5). Jesus' declaration of forgiveness sparks sharp internal criticism from the teachers of the law present, who silently question how He can claim to forgive sins (2:6-7). Jesus, knowing their thoughts, openly challenges them. Employing the title, "Son of Man," Jesus heals the paralytic, commanding him to get up, take his mat and go home. The paralytic was instantly healed, arose, and walked home in front of the entire amazed crowd, who glorified God (2:8-12).

The scene then shifts to a lake where Jesus is teaching another large crowd. While teaching, He notices Levi, a tax collector, and calls him to follow Him. Levi obeys, leaving his old life behind (2:13-14). Later, Jesus is seen dining at Levi's house with "many sinners," which draws criticism from the teachers of the law and Pharisees. In response, Jesus says, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners*" (2:15-17).

The chapter continues with questions about Jesus' character and conduct. People ask why Jesus' disciples do not fast like those of John or the Pharisees. Jesus answers with the parable of the "Old and New Wineskins," explaining that the old religious practices are now obsolete because the Kingdom of God has arrived. His teaching highlights the transformative nature of His ministry and the new covenant He is bringing (2:18-22).

The final scene of chapter two unfolds on a Sabbath as Jesus and His disciples walk through a grain field, picking heads of grain. The Pharisees object, accusing them of unlawful behavior. In response, Jesus reminds them that King David once set aside Sabbath rules to provide food for his hungry men. Jesus then declares that, as "the Son of Man," He has authority over the Sabbath, affirming that any action He takes is lawful (2:23-28).

Chapter 2 Theme: Acceptance

Jesus' acceptance is radically inclusive: breaking the barriers of societal norms, religious traditions, and human expectations to call the outcast and welcome all who seek Him. His acceptance ushers in a "new wineskin" of grace that values people over systems, transforming lives and communities through the power of His sacrificial love.

Key Takeaway: The acceptance of Jesus is for everyone, and His new covenant of grace is transforming the world one person at a time.

Bonus – The Son of Man: Jesus strategically refers to Himself in Mark's Gospel as, "The Son of Man." This self-designation, with overtones of humanity and divinity, is purposefully ambiguous: it forces people to make up their own mind as to Jesus' identity.