

Upcoming Dates

2/01/24 — Men's Prayer Breakfast
2/01/24 — WCRM Volunteer Opportunity
2/11/24 — Church Conference
2/14/24 — Ash Wednesday Service
2/18/24 — Church Luncheon
2/20/24 — Lenten Bible Study Begins

Inclement Weather Announcements:

In the event of church closing or cancellation of worship services due to inclement weather, check our website (calvarync.org) or our Facebook page. We will also make the announcement by phone via our phone tree. We will not be announcing closing on TV or radio.



531 Haywood Rd
Asheville, NC 28806

FIND US AT
calvarync.org 

Give Online

www.calvarync.org/give

LIVE Streaming of Calvary Worship

Each Sunday, our worship service is LIVE on Facebook @ 10:30. If you cannot attend in person, join us online!

www.Calvarync.org



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CrossPoints

Monthly Newsletter

February 2024



From the Pastor...

Who are we, Calvary? What makes us unique as a body of believers? What are our core values, the ones we share with other followers of Jesus, but also, the ones that make us the distinctive family called Calvary? I think it is important from time to time that we remind ourselves who we are as a church family. To do that, read closely and consider deeply these our Guiding Ministry Principles:

JESUS IS THE ANSWER... TO EVERYTHING - Jesus is the answer to our brokenness as individuals and as a society. Following Jesus -- putting our trust in him to transform our lives -- saves us from the brokenness of our lives and the world around us. Through the transformation of one person at a time, Jesus is the answer the world's problems.

THE BIBLE IS TRUSTWORTHY TO TELL US ABOUT JESUS - The Bible culminates with the New Testament, the New Covenant, which documents and reveals to us the life of Jesus beginning with his miraculous birth, the meaning of his ministry, the message of his teachings, the purpose of his crucifixion and death, and the promise given through his bodily resurrection. The Bible is our sole authority for living as a follower of Jesus.

GOD HAS GIVEN US FREEDOM TO CHOOSE - God created humanity with the ability to choose. Choosing anything other than God's best for us is called "sin." We all sin because we all choose wrongly. If we choose to follow Jesus, we accept that through his death and resurrection, our sin and guilt no longer have sway over us. We are empowered to choose as Jesus would choose, live as Jesus would live, and be who God created us to be.

THE CHURCH IS GOD'S IDEA, AND WE NEED IT - To follow Jesus means to be part of a local church that is part of the bigger universal Church. We can't follow Jesus alone; we need others to encourage us, challenge us, love us, and be real with us. Being part of a Christ-centered, others-focused church is essential for all who follow Jesus.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ARE GOD'S IDEA - In His love for humanity, God has given us the gift and boundary of marriage. We believe that followers of Jesus should practice celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage between a woman and a man. Recognizing the complexity of issues surrounding sexual identity and the struggle involved, we distinguish between sexual orientation from sexual practice, and thus we embrace all persons regardless of sexual orientation while not embracing all sexual practices. We commit to being a loving church which, guided both by the Scriptures and the Spirit, disciples all people toward Christlikeness. We limit roles of teaching and leadership to disciples of Jesus who live according to a traditional Christian ethic in regards to sexual practice.

CHURCH IS FOR EVERYONE, THAT'S EVERYONE! - Jesus invited everyone to sit with him, share with him, listen to him, be loved by him. Because of Jesus' example, we invite everyone to do the same. Everyone. Regardless of your background, beliefs, sexual orientation, ethnicity, come worship with us at the feet of Jesus. Regardless of whether you are democrat or republican, libertarian or green party, unaffiliated or not even registered, come worship with us at the feet of Jesus. Regardless of whether you are a long-time follower of Jesus or someone who is just becoming curious about Jesus, come worship with us at the feet of Jesus. Regardless of what questions you have about the Bible, faith, Jesus, or church, come worship with us at the feet of Jesus. You are welcome here. (Continued on pg 2...)

Watch our worship services on Facebook Live.
Services are posted on our website on Sunday afternoons.
www.calvarync.org/messages

Church Conference - Feb 11, 2024

WOMEN AND MEN ARE CALLED TO MINISTER - We believe that Jesus elevated women, and so should we. We believe God can and does call both women and men to minister and serve in his church and in his world. We see clear evidence in the way Jesus treated women and in the way the New Testament describes the role of women in Jesus' ministry that God shows no partiality based on gender in regards to church leadership. It is up to God whom He calls to preach, teach, and lead in his church. God has, does, and will continue to call girls and boys, women and men, to Himself and to His service.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IS REAL LEADERSHIP - Jesus taught that real leadership is servant leadership. In serving others rather than ourselves, we model the humble way that Jesus lived for others rather than for himself and his own interests. In the way we do church and the way we engage the world, we work to model leadership the way Jesus modeled leadership, without heavy-handedness, without self-serving motives, without prejudice, with a true love and concern for others, and with humility and respect for the value, giftedness, and voice of all people.

ABSOLUTE TRUTH AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ARE CO-EQUAL REALITIES - As we seek and discover truth, we commit to "speaking the truth in love". Truth is not relative. Absolute truth does exist and can only be known in the truth of God found in God's self-disclosing expressions in the Scriptures and most fully in Jesus. Jesus said "I am the Truth." At the same time, "God is Love." His love is unconditional. But, love doesn't mean apathy; love doesn't leave someone to their own unhealthiness. If you love someone, you want the best for them. We believe that truth and love complement one another. Sharing truth without love is not the way of Jesus. Sharing love without truth is not the way of Jesus. Sharing truth in love is the way of Jesus, and is the way of Calvary.

HONEST FAITH MEANS WE CAN SOMETIMES DOUBT, AND THAT IS OK - We value honesty in our faith journey. To believe in God and have a relationship with Jesus doesn't mean that all our questions get answered. Sometimes, even in following Jesus, we have serious doubts that cut to the heart of our faith. We want honest faith, and honest faith encompasses doubt. Honest faith has room for diversity of thinking, dialogue, wrestling with the Bible, being real, even having doubts and questions about God. Honest faith is what God wants from us because it is part of a real relationship with God. He already knows us and loves us not in spite of our doubts, but because we are willing to share our doubts with Him and trust Him to love us through them.

You may not immediately recognize it, but much of what makes us who we are makes us a unique congregation. We don't "fit the mold". And, in the days in which we live, it is increasingly important that we strive to be objective followers of Jesus, unattached to labels and stereotypes. At Calvary, it is our uniqueness that makes us the kind of church that many people who don't fit in other churches will find fits them. And maybe we are just the kind of church that God intends to use "for such a time as this," to break down labels and stereotypes, and instead, focus our identity on "Following Jesus and Friending the World." And, I have a feeling that if we take to heart our Guiding Ministry Principles and truly live them out, God will use us mightily in the days ahead.

-- Rendell

Church Conference

We will have a called church conference on Sunday, February 11, following worship. In this conference, the church will be voting on the Verizon lease agreement. Also, the church will be presented some very important and exciting information about new opportunities for the Calvary family, including an important recommendation from your Deacons that will help us as we seek to fulfill God's calling for this congregation in the years ahead. Please make every effort to be present at this important

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, February 14, we will have an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This happens to also be Valentine's Day, and what better way to celebrate a day dedicated to "love" than to contemplate the love of God in Christ as we begin the season of Lent and the journey toward the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

Church Luncheon

Following worship on Sunday, February 18, we will have a church luncheon in the Learning Center. Meal is provided; suggested donation of \$10 per adult (children eat free) is requested at the meal. Mark your calendar now!

Tuesday Evening Lenten Bible Study

On Tuesday evenings, beginning February 20 running through March 19, our pastor will lead us in Bible Study during the season of Lent. The study will be in the Learning Center from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, and does not include a meal or meal time. Please plan to join us for a meaningful study as we contemplate the Passion of our Lord in the season leading up to Easter.

Imani Milele Children's Choir Concert

It's official! The Imani Milele Children's Choir from Uganda will be in concert at Calvary on Wednesday, May 1st. Since 2013, Imani Milele Choirs have toured the U.S. (with a different set of children for each choir group) performing at over 600 concerts collectively ever since. For about eight months out of the year, the choir tours all over the U.S. performing at churches, schools, organizations, private concerts, and many more venues, bringing their unique sound and infectious joy wherever they travel! The high-energy concerts are so electrifying, that being at one of them will exhilarate you as you watch these amazing children perform well-crafted dances, songs, African drum routines, and much more. We are excited to host this choir again! There will be ways you can plug-in to help us host this choir two nights, around 30 people, May 1st & 2nd, and help us get the word out to our community. Mark your calendar! More details to come.



Calvary Stewardship Update

Thanks to your faithful giving and to the provision of the Lord, we finished the 2023 budget year with receipts in excess of expenses by \$37,500. Thank you for the way you steward God's resources and give faithfully, sacrificially, and joyfully!

Monthly Hands - On Missions Opportunity

Each month in 2024, our Calvary family will volunteer for a monthly "hands-on" missions opportunity in our community. Opportunities will vary each month. For the month of February, on Thursday afternoon, February 1, we will be serving our neighbors at the Western Carolina Rescue Ministries. We need 6 to 8 volunteers in order to help prepare and serve dinner that evening to the residents of the shelter. Two volunteers are needed at 3:00 to help prep, and six volunteers are needed at 4:00 to serve. Additional volunteers can visit with residents in the dining hall. We should wrap-up by 6:00. Volunteers are asked to park in the gravel lot beside the rescue mission (located at 225 Patton Avenue), enter at the front desk, and be sure to sign-in and sign-out. Please sign-up to volunteer on the Connection Table. Please see Rendell if you have any questions.



Share Calvary

Be sure to "share" our Church's weekly worship services with your friends on Facebook. This is a great way to reach out to friends and family near and far.



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