

The Calvary Crier

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM REVEREND CHERYL KINCAID

"He thinks great folly, child," said Aslan. "This world is bursting with life for these few days because the song with which I called it into life still hangs in the air and rumbles in the ground. It will not be so for long. But I cannot tell that to this old sinner, and I cannot comfort him either; he has made himself unable to hear my voice. If I spoke to him, he would hear only growlings and roarings. Oh, Adam's son, how cleverly you defend yourself against all that might do you good!"

— C.S. Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*

That is a line from C.S. Lewis's story *the Magician's nephew*. In this story, Aslan, who is the Christ-type of this story, creates the world through a song. He hums the world into being. Two children visiting Narnia for the first time are moved as they hear Aslan's compelling melody. They are astounded at how it creates life. But it isn't long before they discover that not everyone listens to song. Then Aslan pronounces the reasons why some people may shut his voice out.

"Oh, Adam's son, how cleverly you defend yourself against all that might do you good!"

Shutting our ears to God's songs is a way of shutting out opportunities to do good in our world. People can be prone to create all kinds of defenses against doing good.

But as Christians, God's song calls us to something more than just living for ourselves. God's song of love calls us out to those who need love, His song of redemption inspires us to proclaim His gospel and His peace motivates us to comfort those who are going through a season of trials.

Calvary Church in Enfield has responded to God's life giving song with ministry that does much good to our world.

In our February Worship services, we will be emphasizing two missions that express the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The first one is **Springfield Rescue Mission**. Our mission committee will have a designated place in fellowship hall where we can donate items to that mission. On February 17th we will hear a testimony from someone who is befitting from that ministry.

This month we also will be emphasizing our **Deacons Ministry** and provide our Covenant Partners with an opportunity to give to the **Deacon's Compassionate Fund**. Our deacons host funeral dinners and reach out to the sick and hurting in our congregation. The **Deacon's Compassionate Fund** enables them to minister to people in financial crises and show the face of Jesus in life's most desperate circumstances.

There is great joy in hearing Christ's life giving melodic song, but let's not keep it to ourselves. Share it with our world.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:9-10

A Word From Our Parish Associate Donna Yanosy

Prayerful Practices for People of the Presence

The Practice of Blessing

About 15 years ago I attended a weekend workshop in Ohio called, "Blessing Based Spiritual Nurture". One of my takeaways was the use of "Holy Listening" stones. (The Kids and Teen Connection knows about them!) I also learned the practice of blessing our children and teens before we depart from one another whenever we have met. I use a scented lip balm as my "blessing balm" to make a cross on the back of the hand saying, "God made you, God loves you, God is with you, God blesses you. Remember that God is with you wherever you are." And then I ask someone to bless me. It is a little reminder of who we are – God's chosen and loved people!

We benefit from reminders, don't we? At the end of our Tuesday and Thursday Morning Prayer I often use the Aaronic blessing, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen." The Lord knows us, He sees us, He loves us. When I attend worship and the pastor is offering the benediction, I often open my hands to receive it. (I learned this from some amazing young believers during a mission trip to Brazil.) I like to think that the Lord has given me something tangible to take away from worship, a blessing to carry to others throughout the week.

I am rereading one of my favorite books, "Life of the Beloved" by Henry Nouwen. This book reminds us that God has chosen us, blessed us, loves us in our brokenness, and uses us to give love and blessing to others. Remember the voice spoke from the clouds at Jesus' baptism, "This is my Beloved..." (Matthew 3:17) Nouwen reminds us that we too are the beloved of God. And as we truly and deeply receive God's love and blessing in our lives, that we are free to share that love and blessing with others. Not because we are perfect, but because we can share the compassion and healing God has poured out upon us to others, to let them know that they too are loved by God.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we have so much to share. When we bless others, we speak acceptance, approval, value – we represent the Father's heart towards His people. Through words of affirmation and acts of service we can express blessing in the lives of others. As we have received, so then we can give.

May God's great blessing be upon you!

Rev. Donna Yanosy
Parish Associate
donna@calvaryenfield.org

DEACONS CORNER

Well ... it's February. Thirty-one days (plus) have passed since we marked the beginning of a new year. Thirty-one days (plus) have passed since many of us made "resolutions": promises to ourselves about how we'll be thinner, richer, more faithful, more generous, less cranky ... etc. I believe I broke that last "resolution" on Jan. 2.

There are many definitions for "resolution." If you're a musician, it's the passing of a discord into a concord during the course of changing harmony. For a chemist, a "resolution" is the separation of a racemic mixture or racemic modification into pure enantiomers. Even poets have their own definition: the metrical phenomenon replacing a normally long syllable in the meter with two short syllables.

For the rest of us, it is more simply defined as a firm decision to do (or not to do) something. But there's nothing simple about a "resolution," especially when it comes to our relationship with God. We are called to something more than a year-end goal.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me." (Psalm 51: 10-11)

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!" (Lamentations 3:40)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

If I don't lose those 10 pounds, my life is not likely to end. If I don't prayerfully examine the ways in which I relate to the Lord ... that's a different matter. God doesn't care about how much I weigh. He does care about whether I am actively seeking Him in all I say and do. God desires constant contact with us. That's a "resolution" worth keeping.

Just like our New Year resolutions, though, we often fail in our resolutions toward God. That's okay. He knows we're going to fall short. All He asks of us is progress, not perfection. Only God achieves that level of perfection. We will fall short, but God never falters in His commitment toward us.

"I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you." (Leviticus 26:11)

"God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13).

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Praise God for His resolutions toward us.

The Deacons are here to serve you in the name of Christ, striving always to uphold His promises.

If you have a need or a prayer concern, reach out to any of the Deacons (Marcelyn Hyde, Linley Ruoss, Judy Lipke, Cindy Bostik, Kris Harger, and Sue Harger) or you may contact the church (860-745-5211; <https://calvaryenfield.org/contact-us/>).

Kristine Harger
Deacon



Hugs 'n Hope A VALENTINE BRUNCH

Come join us as we gather for a wonderful time of fellowship at a Valentine potluck brunch celebration. Come hear and share what the Bible says about "Love".

When: Saturday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:15 a.m. (brunch served at 10:30 a.m.)

Where: Home of Janice Singer
19 White Oak Road – Somers

Please R.S.V.P. to Janice at (860) 763-2936 for food assignments.

Knitters meet Wednesdays

Stitch 1 pray 2, a group of knitters and crocheters, meets every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower level of Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1518 King St., Enfield.



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They make items for residents in nursing homes, cancer treatment centers, and soup kitchens.

Donations of new or used skeins of yarn are welcome and may be dropped off at the meeting or arranged to be picked up.

For more information, email: loriadmin@calvaryenfield.org or call 860-745-5211 or Jeane Roberts at 860-966-3363.

NOTE: Lois Hansen is now the contact person for the knitting Group.
You may reach Lois at 860-212-7069



MUSIC NEWS

We plan to sing in the worship services on February 12, 19 and Ash Wednesday, February 22. Rehearsals will be on Sunday, February 5, Wednesday February 22 following the Ash Wednesday service and February 26.

Thanks!

Lori Bourret



STARTING SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2023

GRIEF SHARE
MEETS EVERY SATURDAY
FROM 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
in UL 8

Please see Linley Ruoss or Bob Thoelen for more information. You may call the church office @ 860-745-5211 for more information.

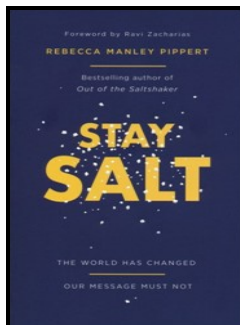
We are here for you.



FEBRUARY **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Springfield Rescue Mission

NEW BOOK STUDY COMING SOON!



Stay Salt – Rebecca Manley Pippert

Cost of books \$12.50

Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM in UL8

Monday evening 7 p.m. Women (zoom)

Thursday morning 10:30 a.m. Mixed Group (zoom)

Look for class signup & book order sheets in Fellowship Mall soon

or call church office @ 860-745-5211

**January 2023
Collected for Enfield Safe Harbor Warming Center**



Thank you for your generous giving!

We collected \$106.00 in cash plus the items listed below. We used the cash to purchase some of the items below.

Comforters – 5	Blankets – 7
Water – 1 case	Sweatpants – 9
Razors – 25	Combs/brushes – 3 pkgs
Boxes of snacks – 3	Paper plates/cups – 1 pkg each
Hats/gloves/scarves – 37	Socks – 26 pairs
Long underwear shirts – 2	Bag of coffee – 1
Toilet paper / 6 pack – 1	Lg rubbish bags – 16 in one box
Plastic bags/ gal. size – 16 in one box	Personal wipes – 4 pkgs.
Hand sanitizer – 3 bottles	

A Recap of December 2022 Activities

Hugs 'n Hope Ladies Christmas Party



2022 Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes. These boxes were filled with small gift items and donated to children overseas. Thank you "Kids Connection" & helpers for your time and love in filling these boxes!



Staff Christmas Luncheon 2023



Calvary Church Christmas Caroling in the Enfield Square Mall. Jim Lenn and his Ukulele group joined us also.



FEBRUARY 2023

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays

- 6 Bradley Gallacher
- 7 Cathy Perrill
Lionel Picard
- 15 Sara Brown
- 16 Lorry Plude
Peg Zukowski
- 29 Nancy Marcil

No January Anniversaries

- 11 Lois Hansen
- 15 Penny Farrell
- 20 Austin Hess
- 21 Fred Shaw
- 23 Donna Hess
- 29 Paul Yanosy

- 8 Nancy & Al Marcil
- 16 Vangie & Will
Gallacher
- 19 Nancy & Bill
Gardner

