

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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Where does my help come from?

If you do not already know, you will soon hear that all activities at the church have been canceled. The decision was not an easy one to reach. We do not fear the virus, for we know that our times are in His hand (Psalm 31:15). The Scripture assures us that the Lord has appointed not only the number of our days, but the boundary of our habitation (Acts 17:26). He is working all things according to the counsel of His will. As we believe that God is sovereign, we also believe that He has called us to be responsible, and He has commanded us in Romans 13 to submit to the governing authorities that are over us. The government has requested a time period in which we are to be careful about going out, and meeting in groups, and when we're around people to stay six feet apart. It is for this reason that we have suspended all Sunday services.

Last Sunday was the first, with many to follow, we did not meet. I missed very much our gathering together for worship. I know it was the wisest choice for times such as these. Although we can communicate through email, text, and telephone calls, it is just not the same as gathering corporately for worship. Yet we trust in the Lord during these days and know that He rules over all! Although the entire congregation will not be meeting in the building on 2801 Park Avenue, Baldwin, for worship this Sunday, April 5th, we will have many working very hard to provide a live-stream or have a message streamed. If all works out, we will be able to post a link on the church website, www.cpcbaldwin.com, from which you can watch the service. I realize that it is not the same, but Lord willing, it will help us to connect during this time when we do not have corporate worship. I'm grateful for the men who are working on this, and we will let you know more about that in the near future.

Last week a physician said that we are in "unchartered territory." That statement had me consider the whole pandemic. The first question in the Heidelberg Catechism (by the way, good Catechisms are wonderful blessings) asks the question, "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" The answer is one worth memorizing. It says:

"That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who, with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the Devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto Him."

(continued on next page)

So what is our comfort in the face of this pandemic? It is that we belong to Jesus Christ our faithful Savior! What a blessing, that we do not need to fear...we do not need to fear the pandemic, we do not need to fear the grave, we do not need to fear the uncertain times and the economic impact. Why? Because we have a faithful Savior! All that we need is found in Him.

God's Word reminds us in Romans 12:12 which says, "**Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**" What a good reminder to us! As we perhaps have more time on our hands, take time to Rejoice. Think of all of the blessings that God has given to you in Christ and of all the ways in which you have been provided for even during difficult times. Remember to be patiently waiting on the Lord in the face of tribulation, and don't forget to take all these things to God in prayer. And as you are praying for one another, don't be afraid to call one or two people and let them know that you are praying for them and have been thinking about them. I know it's not the same as being face to face, but until that time, "**make the best use of your time**" (Ephesians 5:16). I need to remind myself of this on a regular basis.

Here are more uplifting scripture verses to turn our gaze towards the Lord:

- ♦ *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* (Psalm 23:1)
- ♦ *Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* (Psalm 124:8)
- ♦ *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.* (Psalm 139:16)
- ♦ *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.* (Proverbs 16:33)
- ♦ *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.* (Matthew 10:29)
- ♦ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)
- ♦ *And he [Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* (Colossians 1:17)
- ♦ *He [Jesus the Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.* (Hebrews 1:3)

Sit with these glorious realities for a minute. Read through them slowly. Let them soak into your soul. We don't live by probabilities and chance. **We live under the loving, wise, and sovereign rule of our Creator and Redeemer God.** The result of that is true hope, which steers clear of both a native optimism or a resigned pessimism.

Please, know that you are still able to contact me any time day or night. I am here for you and make every effort to stay in regular contact. My temporary cell number is 516-800-1041.

In His Love,
Pastor Charlie

**Please check church website for
link to Pastor Charlie's Sunday messages!**

www.cpcbaldwin.com

Calvary News

Due to these challenging times, Calvary Church has had to make difficult adjustments and changes to our schedules:

- Sadly, at this very special time of the year, we will not be able to celebrate Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter worship services together.
- We will not have the 2020 Spring Fling.
- The April Seniors Luncheon is canceled. We are hoping to resume the luncheons as soon as we can.
- The Missions Conference has been postponed to a date to be determined.

We will keep the church family apprised through emails, the church newsletter, and the website. Or please feel free to call the church office (516-223-4070).

Tithes and Offerings

A question has been asked as to how the church can receive tithes and offerings during this period. The preferred way is to mail your donations directly to the church at 2801 Park Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510. You can use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter. We are also in the process of setting up the ability to make donations through the church website (www.cpcbaldwin.com).

Speaking on behalf of many of our faithful servants, how grateful we are for your faithful and continued support!

Uplift yourself!

To be uplifted and focused on the Lord, we encourage you to:

- * Read the Bible every day and meditate on the scriptures. Recommended chapters and verses to start with are Psalm 121, Psalm 91, Philippians 4, and Romans 8:35 forward.
- * Keep faithful in reading from *Our Daily Bread* and other daily devotionals.
- * Listen to Gospel and Christian music on K-LOVE 95.5 FM radio, or download the Radio.com app and scroll through to The Crossings station 99.5.
- * Keep connected with your church family and friends through phone calls, emails, texts, letters, FaceTime, Zoom, etc. - any way and as often as you can.
- * Pray for God's protection against the virus, and the eradication of this pandemic. Keep in prayer those who are experiencing symptoms or those who have been confirmed with the virus.
- * And remember to pray for all the health care professionals and first responders that are on the front line aiding the sick people.

How amazing it is to see all the support from so many people and organizations. Even to see on the news how Samaritan's Purse has set up tents in Central Park to help ease the overcrowded hospitals.

God is in control and will see us through this difficult time. Stay focused on Him!

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2801 Park Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510

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BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

3rd Abbie Wong
5th Samantha Seymour
7th Debbie Porter
13th Howard Brockway
14th Leah Nicolich
15th Barbara Johnson
16th Barbara Grant
17th Ree Kelting
19th Ken Hults
20th Rose Nembhard
21st Mary Jo Dapice
21st Joe Fazzino
22nd Maryann Brockway
22nd Sotar Lloyd
24th Carter Miller
24th Rosemary Rotolo
27th Karen Linhart

MAY

4th Laura Seymour
4th Kaia Waldvogel
6th Mike Senita
6th Mike Syska
10th Bob Bennett
10th Dawn Manuel
11th Jonathan Linhart
11th Alicia Seymour
12th Nancy Bennett
13th Reed Waldvogel
17th Pat Watts
18th Caleb Nehring
21st Wes Carman
25th Dorothy Carman
29th Barbara Hindley
30th Dianne Miller

Happy Birthday!

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

12th Greg & Sue (Deedy) Mahoney
26th Charles & Evelyn Barnes

MAY

3rd Ralph & Bonnie Rose
9th David & Dawn Manuel
21st Charles & Trudy Hetzel
24th Lou & Colleen Arena
28th Chris & Melissa Watts
30th David & Christy Senita

Be anxious for nothing!

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith,
and the beginning of true faith is the end of
anxiety.

Worry less and smile more!

When we realize that God is in the future as
well as in the present, we worry less and
smile more.