

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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Little Thanksgivings by Victoria Manuel *(using the ESV Translation)*

Years ago, I read *The Dragon King Trilogy* for the first time. It's a fantasy series, but the author, Stephen R. Lawhead, is a Christian, and he weaves Christian elements into the very foundations of much of what he writes. During their adventures in the trilogy, the main characters come to know and serve "the Most High God" (very likely an allusion to the honorific "God Most High" in Genesis 14 and Psalm 57). At one point in the series, another follower of the Most High God explains that it is his practice to thank their God for everything, including the little things.

When I first read that, it struck me as a novel idea. I decided to make an effort to do that, too, though I didn't really know why at the time. It just seemed like a good idea. At random points each day, whenever I found myself enjoying something or thinking about how useful or important something was, I thanked God for it. I thanked Him for time to relax, for nice weather, for my comfortable and warm house, for music. I distinctly remember thanking Him once for spoons—such a simple but incredibly useful invention.

It might seem strange to devote prayer to such small things; it did to me at first. Usually people seem to save prayer and thanksgiving for things that are really important to them: people they value, resolved concerns, the success of a major life event, etc. I realized, though, that small-scale thanksgiving had a few very particular effects.

First, it made me think about how much can be traced back to God. The Apostle Paul, in speaking to the people of Athens, calls God "***The God who made the world and everything in it***" and says He "***gives to all mankind life and breath and everything***" (Acts 17:24-25). God doesn't exist in only the larger aspects of life, like bountiful harvests and job promotions. He is there in all things. Not even human inventions like spoons could have come into being without Him; He gave us our creativity and our skills and talents. God can be seen anywhere if we only look.

That understanding in turn made me more grateful, more appreciative. Everything we have we owe to God. Everything that occupies our time, everything that makes our lives just a little easier, everything that brings us happiness. He has provided so much for us, and all out of love. As **Psalm 106:1** says, "***Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!***" God cares for us immeasurably deeply, and He looks after us in many ways, including making sure we are provided for. Thinking about that always makes me feel warm inside. And it's something we should thank and praise Him for.

(Continued on next page)

I also found that this practice of offering prayers of small-scale thanksgiving made me feel closer to God. All those frequent little conversations made me feel like I was spending more time with Him. **Psalm 95:2** suggests this, as well: ***“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”*** Praying to God—thanking Him and conversing with Him—draws us into His company. That is one of the most important reasons to pray.

In this busy world of ours, there are so many different things vying for our attention and pulling us away from a prayerful mindset. It can be easy to become so distracted by the to-do lists and deadlines staring us in the face that we forget to stop and think about the God that is ever present but ever invisible. Out of sight can too easily become out of mind. Within the months after reading *The Dragon King Trilogy*, school became busier, and I became preoccupied and fell out of the habit of sending up those frequent little prayers. Lately, I’ve been feeling my lack of conversations with God, and I happened to look at the trilogy on my bookshelf. I thought immediately of the habit I’d taken up at the wise words of that character, and I decided to make the effort to start again. Then I realized something new. If remembering to talk to God is hard because he is not visibly in front of us, why not make use of what is visible? If we can see Him in all the little things we encounter each day, *they* will be our reminders to think of Him and reach out to Him in thanksgiving and prayer.

During this month of Thanksgiving and after, I hope you’ll keep this in mind, as I, too, will endeavor to do. See Him in the little things. Be thankful to Him for the little things. Even if it’s something so simple as spoons.

THANKSGIVING DINNER & SERVICE

Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings and give thanks to the Lord for all He has done for us. Though we should be giving thanks each and every day during the year.

A special invitation is extended to the family and friends of Calvary Church as we celebrate Thanksgiving on

Sunday, November 20th

A buffet-style dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a worship service at 6:30 p.m., then dessert to top off the evening. The church will be providing ham as its main course for the dinner. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish such as a vegetable, potato dish, type of salad, or a dessert (pies are the preferable choice).

A sign-up sheet is available at the church or you can call the church office at 516-223-4070. Please let us know how many will be attending and what you are able to bring.

Come join with us as we celebrate Thanksgiving together and praise God and give thanks for His infinite blessings. ***“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”*** (Psalm 107:1)



Special Events in November



Daylight Saving Time officially ends Sunday, November 6th, at 2:00 a.m. Although most clocks are autonomous, some clocks still need to be changed manually and the hands or time moved back an hour. We actually gain an hour in the day so come to worship with us!



Children's Movie Night - Saturday, November 19th, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

For ages 6-12 years old. Pizza and popcorn will be provided.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner - Sunday, November 20th at 5:30 p.m. For complete details, see page 2.

First Sunday of Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 27th. Advent is celebrated the four Sundays before Christmas. There will be special readings, Christmas hymns sung, and lighting of the candles during the Sunday worship services.

Special Events in December

The holidays are quickly approaching and December is an especially busy time. There are several events at Calvary throughout December, so be sure to mark your calendars ahead of time. Be sure to look out for Friday emails for any updates and details.

Decorating the Church - Many hands are needed to help decorate the church on **Monday, December 5th**. We will begin around 7:00 p.m. to assemble the Christmas tree, put up the wreath, hang the garland and bows, set up the nativity scene, and put all the final touches in place for the holiday season.

Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 6th**, starting at 12:00 noon. On the menu will be roast beef, potatoes, vegetable, and cake for dessert. Please let us know if you are attending by calling the church office and speaking to Paty or leave a message (516-223-4070).

Christmas Caroling - Help spread some song and cheer this holiday season and join us for Christmas caroling on **Friday, December 23rd**. Please meet at the church by 6:15 p.m. and carpool to some of our elderly and shut-ins from the church family. Afterwards we will return to the church to warm up and enjoy some refreshments.



Christmas Eve Service - Calvary's annual Christmas Eve service will be held, **Saturday, December 24th**, at 7:30 p.m. We welcome you to attend this traditional service. The choir will be singing, instruments will be playing, scriptures will be read, a Christmas message will be given, and everyone will light their candles and sing Christmas carols together. Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with us!

Seniors Luncheon

Calvary hosted another Senior Luncheon on October 4, 2022. The turnout was not as large as in the past, likely due to the weather, but the enthusiasm was contagious as the ladies and Barry Senita enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared by Brother Ralph Rose.



Florence Abiuso turned 100 years on October 4th, and the group celebrated her birthday with her!

Elder Charles Heztel spoke to the seniors. The topic was Communication, and was taken from Ephesians 4 verses 25-30. He emphasized using words that build up each other, he expressed taking responsibility for any misunderstanding, even if you are in the right, and he also talked about avoiding making clamor, or useless noise.



Some seniors took advantage of the St. Francis Hospital health bus. The staff was on hand to administer flu shots, lipid tests, and cardio screening.

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 6th. All seniors are welcome. Bring your friends and don't forget to RSVP.



Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Lord,

Today we give thanks!

For our many blessings

as we pray for those in need.

We give thanks for our family and friends

as we pray for those who are lonely.

We give thanks for our freedoms

as we pray for those who are oppressed.

We give thanks for our good health

as we pray for those who are ill.

We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity,

as we share our blessings with others.

On this day of Thanksgiving may the love of God enfold us, the peace of God dwell within us, and the joy of God uplift us.

Amen!



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

2nd Charles Hetzel Jr.
3rd Courtney Gross
3rd Lou Kelting
4th Ronnie Roddy Jr.
7th Sherry Valentine
8th Bridget Dowling
8th Paul Nembhard
9th Xavier Foster
9th Paula Kulla
12th Kirk Nehring
18th Roy Seymour
19th Shannon & Shelby Verity
20th Florence Emeigh
20th Nadeline Sandoval-Vallejos
22nd Barry Senita
27th Nicole Alcindor
28th Joe Waldvogel

DECEMBER

1st Lauren Nicolich
6th Trevor Watts
10th Noelle Nehring
11th Daishaun Elliott
15th Anthony Alex Ramos
20th Stephanie Verity
21st Diane Benedetto
24th Wren Waldvogel
25th Sean Deedy
27th David Manuel
31st Dylan Rose



ANNIVERSARY

November

19th Bob & Diane Benedetto

December

26th Carmine & Mary Jo Dapice

31st Jim & Terry Tucci



**It isn't what you have in
your pocket that makes
you thankful, but what
you have in your heart!**

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CHURCH UPDATES

Adult Sunday School Class meets Sunday @ 9:45 a.m. The group is watching “The Chosen” - followed by discussion. For parents with children who would like to attend the class, there will be a story time and activities available for your children.

The Sunday worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The message will be recorded and posted on the church’s website - www.cpcbaldwin.com (click on YouTube), and also on “YouTube” at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin).

Children’s Church is held on Sundays during the service. The children are dismissed before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. On the first Sunday of each month (when Holy Communion is scheduled), Children’s Church will not be in session.

Choir Practice every Monday @ 8 p.m. unless it falls on a holiday.

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting is held Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. at the church. There is prayer time followed by Bible Study. The men and women are studying the Book of Luke.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children’s Movie Night - Saturday, November 19th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For ages 6-12 years old. Pizza and popcorn will be provided.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner - Sunday, November 20th at 5:30 p.m. The church will be providing the ham and we are asking people to either bring a side dish or a pie. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table or call the office at 516-223-4070.

PUBLICATIONS

The September/October/November issue of *Our Daily Bread*, November issues of *Daily Walk* and *Today’s Christian Living* are available at the church. Additional literature and devotional books are located in the hymnal rack at the back of the sanctuary.