

DISCOVER

CALVARY *Connection*

CALVARY



Spring 2024

An Invitation to Discover

A simple definition of discover is to find something in the course of a search. I invite you to consider the pages that follow as your guide to a quest of discovery in this season.

Lent is a season of discovery. With devoted intent, we choose to set aside our normal rhythms and desires for the sake of more time and attention focused on the presence of God. Doing so cannot help but produce moments of revelation in our lives about who we are and what God is doing in the world. During worship throughout this Lenten season, we will seek an answer to a simple question: who is Jesus. Surely we have much to discover in answer to that question.

We also have an opportunity in the months to come to discover more about who we are here at Calvary. Every time we are together we can choose to make ourselves open to discovery. Such discoveries may come in times of celebration. When we recognize high school graduates or those receiving degrees from colleges and universities, we learn something about who we are as we listen to their stories of how they have been shaped by our nurturing community. And as we celebrate the retirement of one of our longest tenured ministers, we will remember much of Calvary's story as reflected in his service. Times of celebration are also times for discovery. Make sure to add the ones mentioned in this publication to your calendar.

And then there is the invitation to discover that comes to us in small, everyday ways. We learn about ourselves and God's work in the doing. Whether we are serving at God's Pantry or Clothed by Grace, welcoming guests as they enter our campus or engaging in conversations with someone from the community over the pickleball nets in the ROC, we will have moments in which we can glimpse the work of God in the lives of other people.

Of course, this season's most sanguine opportunity comes to us in the form of Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, we are invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to discover the depths of God's love for us. This year we will gather at First United Methodist Downtown alongside our friends from our host church as well as Second Presbyterian and Good Shepherd Episcopal Churches in worship at noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. You will find more about the individual events for the week in the pages that follow.

The invitation is clear. Opportunities abound to discover more about who we are and what God is doing in the world around us. All we need to do is to search. To discover is to find something in the course of a search. So, let us set out together to search for God's presence in hope and expectation.

Our Staff is Here To Serve

Dr. Monty Stallins,
Pastor

Dr. Kevin Raybuck,
*Minister of Worship Arts
& Information Technology*

Rev. Hank Ellington,
*Associate Pastor for
LOGOS*

Rev. Carrie Beth Tonks,
*Minister to Families
with Children &
Congregational Care*

Mrs. Niki Hays,
*Minister to College
Students & Adults*

Mr. Jamie Wright,
Choral Director

Mr. Chuck Powell,
*Minister to Families with
Youth & Missions*



Use the QR code to find staff contact information including email addresses.



Blessings,
Monty



We're asking some big questions during worship this spring.

Life's Biggest Question: Who Is Jesus?

As the forty days of Lent lead us closer to the cross, we will also grow closer to Jesus as we discover, *Who is Jesus?* during our worship sermon series.

Why Church?

Do we need church? Does the church need us? Discovering our humanity and why we need to come together in worship. This new sermon series, *Why Church?* begins, April 7.



Can't participate in person?

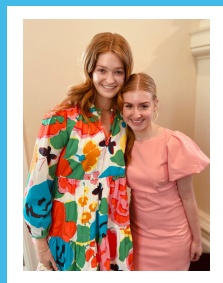
Everyone can be part of Calvary by streaming live with us! 8:30AM and 11:00AM Sunday services are streamed live on Calvary's YouTube channel.

College Sunday

April 28

8:30AM & 11AM

Join us for worship as we feature Calvary's College and Young Adult Ministry as well as celebrate this year's graduates. Come hear stories and testimonies about how the Lord has been working in the lives of the young adults in our church family.



College students graduating this spring (or this past winter) should complete our graduation form to participate in graduate recognition during College Sunday.

Youth Sunday

May 12

8:30AM & 11AM

We're highlighting the Youth Ministry and celebrating graduating high school seniors on Youth Sunday. There will also be a special breakfast hosted by the youth for the graduating seniors.



Students graduating from high school should complete our form to participate in graduate recognition during Youth Sunday.





Why Lent?

I was reared in what I would now identify as a traditional Southern Baptist church in Western Kentucky in the 1970s and '80s. I was taught well by loving women (at first) and men (when I got into the youth group) in Sunday School and offered every opportunity for growth available to children and youth in that era. I was conditioned in the Baptist way of faith to believe that the Bible is our guide and the congregation is the visible presence of Christ in the world and under the authority of the Living Christ in all things. Much of what I know about how to follow Jesus I learned in those days. I say that first to make clear that nothing that follows this paragraph is meant to imply that my training was anything less than complete within the specific context I was raised.

My home church is a fine example of the free church tradition that was true of most Baptist churches in my childhood. We knew very little about what was going on in more liturgical church circles. So, I did not grow up with Advent or Lent. I do remember discussion of Good Friday as the day of crucifixion but I do not recall attending a service on the day. I did not encounter Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday until I got to seminary and was not aware generally of Holy Week as a special time. Frankly, both Christmas and Easter occurred without much by way of build-up.

When I arrived at the Candler School of Theology, an official seminary of the United Methodist Church, I was introduced to the rich liturgical traditions of the seasons of the church year. I enrolled at Candler in January. So, my first real encounter was with Lent. Now I had some awareness of Ash Wednesday from Catholic friends through the years; but I had an incomplete understanding of the idea that the 40-day period of Lent was an opportunity for reflection and preparation that often involved a partial fast of some sort or what people often refer to as giving up something for Lent.

“Something in the disciplined rhythm of that first Lenten season opened me up to a fresh experience of the passion and resurrection of Christ.”



I determined to engage these new traditions that year and found them helpful, which is the important word here. I did not find them better than my previous experience or in any way more spiritual; but I did find them helpful. Something in the disciplined rhythm of that first Lenten season opened me up to a fresh experience of the passion and resurrection of Christ. In the years that followed, I found that the repentance of Ash Wednesday, the commitment to following the command to love on Maundy Thursday and standing in the shadow of the cross on Good Friday all became equally helpful in inviting me into the story of Jesus in a powerful way each year.

So I engage in both the discipline and intentional worship of the Lenten season because they have become for me a helpful guide down the path of following Jesus through the cross and into new life. The practices are quite simple. Determine with God's help to forgo something in your life that will help you to focus on the presence of God in your life. Take time each day to meditate on Scripture and pray, maybe using the guidance of the Lenten Devotional Guide available from the church. Then make time for worship during Holy Week and engage with others in walking with Jesus. I invite you to join me this year. I think you will find it helpful.

-Monty Stallins



Lent Devotion Book

Utilize this Lenten resource during your personal Bible study and prayer time.

Monday
March
25

Tuesday
March
26

Wednesday
March
27

Holy Week

Worship & Lunch

You are invited to join us at First United Methodist Church at noon for a brief worship experience followed by a light lunch. We will meet at FUMC (just down High Street).



Lillian Beiting, 12th grade

Maundy Thursday

March 28

Youth & Adults

Join us for our Maundy Thursday service at Calvary where you can spend time in quiet meditation, prayer, and communion. The Sanctuary will be open from 5-7PM for a self-directed experience of the holy moments in the Upper Room. A printed guide will be available as you enter the sanctuary and one of our ministers will be at the Communion Table to serve when you are ready.

Kids

To allow adults an opportunity to fully engage in the Maundy Thursday service there will be drop in childcare available for babies through PreK4s. There is also a hands-on, child-friendly Maundy Thursday experience for Kindergarten through 5th graders during this time. Please drop off children in EB1 prior to heading to the Sanctuary and pick-up when your self-directed experience is complete.

Good Friday

March 29

Service
12PM in the Sanctuary

Our Good Friday service includes singing, a short message, and time for reflection. Join us as we encounter Jesus at the cross.

Easter

Sunday, March 31

Worship Services:
8:30AM in Fellowship Hall
11AM in the Sanctuary

Sunday School, 9:45AM

Invite someone to join you at Calvary for Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.



Children are encouraged to bring a fresh flower to help "flower the cross" for the Sanctuary.



Family Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30

9-11AM
Horne's Home

Families with preschool and elementary children are invited to a pancake breakfast and egg hunt. Visit the website for registration and location details.





Make plans to join us at Lifeline Lexington as we work together to pack meals for those who experience food insecurity. All ages are welcome so we encourage you to bring the entire family!

We'll meet you there! No registration necessary!

Lifeline Christian Mission
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
2514 Regency Rd, Suite 105

Contact Chuck Powell with questions at chuck@calvarybaptistchurch.com

Volunteers Needed

Calvary is in need of volunteers to help at God's Pantry, deliver meals for Meals on Wheels, and serve at our clothing closet, Clothed by Grace. Help bring important resources to our community.



Contact Chuck Powell to learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities and to sign-up to volunteer.



SAVE THE DATE

SPRING GATHERING 2024

The Event Will Be Held On:

April 19-20, 2024
 Calvary Baptist Church
 Lexington, Ky

www.cbfky.org

We're Hosting!

April 19-20

Calvary is hosting CBF Kentucky's Spring Gathering, and we encourage you to attend and volunteer to help us welcome others to our campus! We need volunteers to greet at the doors, help register and check-in participants, and guide guests around our campus. If you're able to volunteer, please contact Niki Hays at niki@calvarybaptistchurch.com.



EVENTS FOR *SPRING*

MARCH

Women's Ministry Bible Study Begins Monday, April 8, 10:30AM

Ladies of all ages are invited to our spring Bible study, which meets in Rachel's Room on the 3rd floor of EB2. Contact Camille Ely to sign-up, and look for more information coming soon about study details.

Young Adult Supper March 5, 6:30 PM at the Reed's Home

Are you a young adult in your 20s or 30s looking to connect with others here at Calvary? Join us for supper! No RSVP necessary. Contact Hannah Moody or Niki Hays for the Reed's address.

Emergency Response Training (AED, CPR, Heimlich)

March 10, 5:00PM in Fellowship Hall

Calvary is providing a one hour class that covers the use of our AEDs and instruction on how to perform CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. This is not a class for certification, but rather a great intro or refresher course. Register using the QR code and contact Niki Hays with any questions.



LexLUNCH

March 13 at 12PM in Fellowship Hall

LexLUNCH is an opportunity for Calvary to connect with the downtown business community and to hear from local business leaders as they share how their faith impacts their work, all within the lunch hour. Join us, and invite your colleagues and friends! \$10/lunch paid at the door. March's speaker is Reverend G. Hendree Harrison, Jr. from Good Shepherd. Please contact Monty Stallins for more information.

Jailhouse Lunch (LOGOS)

March 14, 10:30AM-2:00PM

The LOGOS Senior Ministry is traveling to Carlisle, Kentucky and putting everyone behind bars! But, you get to enjoy a 4 course lunch while you're at the Jailhouse. Event is limited to 24 people and the cost is \$25 per person. RSVP to Tyanna White by calling the church office.



Youth Spring Spiritual Formation Retreat, March 31-April 3

Students in 6th-12th grade are invited to **Breathe**, an intentional, focused 3 days of deeper Bible study, prayer, worship and fellowship. The retreat will be held at All Saints Center in Leitchfield, KY and the cost is \$200. Sign up using the QR code and contact Chuck Powell with questions.



APRIL

Young Adult Supper

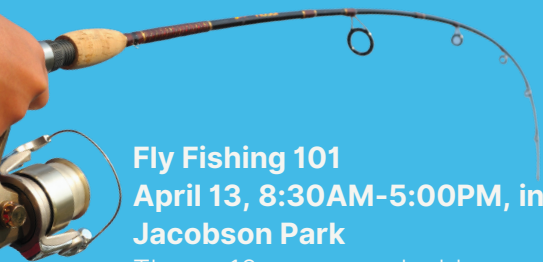
April 9, 6:30 PM

Are you a young adult in your 20s or 30s looking to connect with others here at Calvary? Join us for supper! No RSVP necessary. Stay tuned for location and contact Hannah Moody or Niki Hays with any questions.

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An opportunity for Calvary to connect with the downtown business community and to hear from local business leaders as they share how their faith impacts their work, all within the lunch hour. Join us, and invite your colleagues and friends! \$10/lunch paid at the door. Please contact Monty Stallins for more information.



Fly Fishing 101

April 13, 8:30AM-5:00PM, in the ROC and at Jacobson Park

Those 12 years and older are invited to learn more about fly fishing and try your hand out on the water! Calvary's ROC is partnering with Kentucky Wild and the UK River Cats to offer this full day event with hands-on fly fishing instruction. The afternoon session will be held at Jacobson Park. SPACE IS LIMITED. View more information and sign-up using the QR code.



Pound the Parents

April 14, 5:00-7:00PM in the ROC

Parents and youth leaders will team up to take on our youth in friendly competition and games. Winner takes this year's trophy and bragging rights! Could this be the year the youth finally get a victory? Contact Chuck Powell for more details.

Mother-Daughter Lottie Luncheon

April 21, 12:15-2:00PM

Fireside Room

Mission Kid girls in 1st-5th grade and their moms and grandmas, are invited to join us for lunch as we celebrate missions education and learn about Baptist missionary, Lottie Moon. Contact Carrie Beth Tonks to sign-up and for more information.

MAY

RA-Parent Fishing & Campout

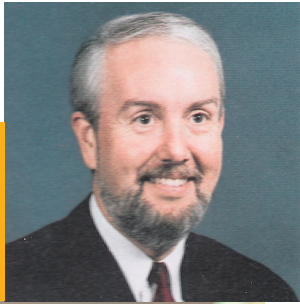
May 17-18, 6:00PM-8:30AM

Donamire Farm

Mission Kid boys in 1st-5th grade and a parent or grandparent are invited to join us for our end-of-the year event. Enjoy a cookout, fishing, and camping out along Elkhorn Creek. Contact Carrie Beth Tonks to sign-up and for more information.



Profiling the **Profiler**



Celebrating Hank Ellington's Ministry to Calvary Baptist Church

Wednesday night chicken cordon bleu, the Calvary Christmas Project, and Hank Ellington—all classic Calvary Baptist Church institutions.

Ordained minister, Bible study teacher, youth worker, deacon, softball player, preacher, RA leader, writer, VBS Mission rotation leader, Calvary and CBF committee member are all roles that describe Hank's commitment to Calvary and to Baptists. Hank has spent the last three years profiling the lives of 150 Calvary members. Let's take a look at Hank and his life and work at Calvary.

In November of 1972, a young couple, Hank and Linda Ellington, like many of you, joined Calvary Baptist Church. Within the year, Hank and Linda were leading seventh and eighth graders in Discipleship Training on Sunday evenings. Thus began two decades of committed ministry leading the youth of Calvary in Sunday School and Discipleship in addition to writing and serving on faculty with many Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist groups.

By 1977, Hank was ordained a deacon and began serving the larger church with deacon responsibilities and work on several committees. In the summer of 1990, Hank's life was about to change dramatically when he was asked to serve as Interim Youth Minister. After finishing the interim in May 1992 Calvary's Minister of Education retired and Hank answered God's call to full-time ministry. Hank was ordained to the gospel ministry at Calvary in March of 1995 and received his master's degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in May.

In 1998, Hank's title changed to Associate Pastor and in January 2022 Hank moved to his final position as part-time Associate Pastor for Logos Ministries. Hank loves Calvary Baptist Church. Whenever Hank has been asked to serve he has given his time, talents and love to his Lord and the people of our congregation and community. We look forward to celebrating his considerable ministry and dedicated service on Hank Day in May.

-Carrie Beth Tonks



Join Us

Hank Ellington Retirement Luncheon

Sunday, May 5th

12PM-2PM in Fellowship Hall

Enjoy lunch and a program to celebrate Hank Ellington's ministry to Calvary. RSVP using the QR code or on our website.



Together in Unity



*How good and pleasant it is when
God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1*

The congregation of Calvary Baptist Church is a tapestry God is weaving together. The threads God is using are from many places and experiences, come from a variety of faith practices and backgrounds and hold a broad set of political opinions. Our tapestry finds its strength in the diversity of materials; but such an interweaving can be vulnerable to the divisive discourse in the world around us. My hope and prayer is that Calvary can continue to be a place where we can find our center in Jesus in such a way that we can dwell together in unity. In our planning for this year, the ministry staff has adopted the theme *Together in Unity* rooted in the song of the psalmist from Psalm 133.

During some congregational discernment conversations last year, we reached a consensus on three commitments we made to God and each other. The second of which was this: We commit to seeking unity in Christ out of our diversity. Here is a broad overview of what we will do in 2024 to focus on that commitment.

We will begin by asking the simple question... Who Is Jesus? The process of seeking unity in Christ begins with understanding exactly who is at the center of our communion and why. As we continue to develop our theme, we seek unity in Christ as we...Gather as the Church. In April and May we will ask another simple question: Why Church? Each service will feature testimony about the place of the church in the lives of our members. As we turn to the fall of the year, we will explore how our life together becomes a model for the world. Our fall worship series through October will be Life Together as we will explore what it means to live out our unifying community in the sight of the world.

I invite you to join me in praying that our communion here at Calvary will be a beacon of unity that is rooted in the love of Christ for all in the year to come. How sweet it will be.

Blessings,
Monty



**OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS**

SUNDAY, MAY 19

CBF field personnel cultivate beloved community, bearing witness to Jesus Christ, and seeking transformational development among those forgotten or forsaken by the world. Calvary will collect an *Offering for Global Missions* on Sunday, May 19 in support of CBF's mission work around the world.

Summer AT CALVARY PREVIEW



Passport Kids
June 30 - July 3
(completed 3rd-5th grade)
Montreat in North Carolina

PASSPORT

Youth (6th-12th grade)
July 7- 12
Converse College,
Spartanburg, SC



REGISTER ONLINE FOR CHILDREN'S CAMPS

online registration opens for all camps on April 1



Additional
Passport Camp
info available
here.

Vacation Bible School

June 10-14

Pre-K - Grade 5 (completed)

9AM to 12PM

No cost

VBS features Bible stories, games, music, missions, crafts and much more! [VBS Plus available from 12-5PM for \$10/day]

STEAM Camp

June 18-21

2nd - 7th grade (completed)

9AM to 4PM

No cost

STEAM Camp provides opportunities for campers to experiment, work in teams to discover and create, and develop their understanding of the STEAM fields.

Creative Arts Camp

June 24-27

1st-5th grade (completed)

9AM to 2PM

\$25

Campers engage in music and art through hands-on activities and classes. [CAC Plus available from 2-5PM Monday thru Thursday and 9AM-2PM Friday for \$10/day]



Reflections of the Season Together

This holiday season at Calvary was such a meaningful time full of opportunities to gather as a church family to worship, to serve, to fellowship, and to celebrate. We hosted many of our annual events such as our **Thanksgiving Lunch**, **Christmas Project**, our **Shoobox Packing Party** for the children in the Appalachian regions, **Christmas caroling** to our senior adults, the **Children's Christmas Party** and **Parent's Night Out**, candlelight **Christmas Eve Worship**, along with parties for every age group. The Advent season provided opportunities to gather together in combined worship and focus on "The Vocation of Christmas," the theme of our worship sermon series. Each week featured children building the nativity, as well as music from our Sanctuary Choir, Calvary's instrumental ensembles, the Children's and Preschool choirs, our Early Worship Band, and our own African Praise group.

It was indeed a busy season in the life of our church, one that created rich experiences, shared in community with one another.



Oh the *memories* we created





This year's multicultural Fest-of-All featured opportunities for our international church family members to share their stories and culture with our congregation. Many gathered in Fellowship Hall to sing, to listen, and to celebrate the story

God is writing here at Calvary. It's a story that begins with a gracious God who by bringing us all together has formed the life-giving community we experience as a church family. Our community is one in which we challenge one another to see new perspectives, to broaden our understanding of how God is at work in this world, and to develop meaningful, cross-cultural relationships. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). We are indeed better because we have one another. As our story continues to unfold, may we learn to better walk together into the mission and purpose the Lord has for Calvary Baptist Church.

-Niki Hays





Connect With Us!

Subscribe to the *Weekly Update*, Calvary's digital newsletter sent to email inboxes on Wednesdays, for the most up-to-date information! We feature everything you need to know for the upcoming week and provide links to sign-ups, ministry newsletters, and more!

For more information, you can visit our website and check us out on Facebook and Instagram. Worship with us virtually by visiting our YouTube channel.

Stay connected.
Stay informed.



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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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