

christmas giving

Last Chance! calvarygr.org/christmasgiving

This year we have partnered with two local ministries to support their efforts to come alongside those in difficult life circumstances and provide a dignified Christmas experience. This is the last week to donate gifts to Urban Family Ministries and Dégagé for their Christmas Stores. They will accept gifts until December 4.



Links to the Amazon wish lists are at calvarygr.org/christmasgiving. Please note that they could especially use more of the cold-weather clothing listed. On behalf of UFM and Dégagé, thank you Calvary Church for your giving generously in support of these two vital community ministries. The families they serve will see Jesus through your selfless donations.

Because these stores offer gifts at minimal cost, parents and kids are able to purchase gifts for their loved ones that they normally would not be able to. From one of last year's volunteers: "I worked wrapping presents at UFM and loved talking and getting to know the people. A woman who only spent \$30, for the first time was able to get something for all her children and even her two grandchildren. Talking with her and hearing about her family was the major gift I walked away with." It will be well worth your time to volunteer, to get to know both the staff at these organizations, and the people in the community that they serve.

There are countless ways to volunteer in order to make these Christmas stores run smoothly; from sorting, inventory and stocking, to personal shoppers and gift wrapping, to providing cookies for the workers. Sign up individually, as a family, or as a small group – all are welcome. Sign up at calvarygr.org/christmasgiving.

congregational care

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED PRAYER LIST

If you have been hospitalized, or anticipate hospitalization, and would like to be added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 956-9377.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you need prayer, contact Don & Cindy Marrell (cmarrell@calvarygr.org) at 450-9622.

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who contributed to our Benevolent Offering. We collected \$21,391.02.

Calvary Church Deacons

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers and beautiful flowers that were sent on behalf of the passing of our Wife, Mother, and Grandmother. She was a kind and thoughtful person who loved God. We miss her but know that she is in God's presence.

Bob Bruner, Karen and John Moran and Alyson

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Be a Christmas blessing this year by providing a food basket for one of our Calvary families, who is currently receiving financial assistance through The Yellow House. Our goal is to provide 75 baskets. Food Baskets can be dropped off at the Yellow House between 8:30am–5:00pm, Monday, December 4 through Friday, December 15. Baskets will be handed out Wednesday, December 20.

A list of suggested items for filling your basket is at calvarygr.org. To sign up, please contact Lynnell at ext. 3510.

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 135,577	\$ 119,748	(\$ 15,829)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Nov. 12	\$ 1,678,998	\$ 1,719,741	\$ 40,743
Open Door Project		\$ 20,860	

We apologize but the projected offerings and surplus were mis-reported last week.

Calvary Church

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calvarygr.org

CalvaryChurchGR

calvarygr

November 26, 2017

9:00am & 10:45am

The Person of Jesus

Mark 2:18-22

Jim Samra, Senior Pastor

RESCUED
RESTORED
READY
STORIES OF REDEMPTION

calvary
CHURCH

welcome

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here. For information about our many groups, programs and events for all ages, pick up a copy of the quarterly *Calvary Life* magazine, visit us online at calvarygr.org, or stop by the Connection Point (located in the Gathering Place across from the main Sanctuary entrance). We would love to meet you! If you need hearing assistance, listening devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Crosswalk.

grace BEYOND

MORE THAN A BUILDING PROJECT

Grace Beyond is a journey of faith that started with a building project. On paper, it's about renovating our building to facilitate new ministry opportunities. On a heart level, it's about God re-making us as a people. It's about Him making us into followers of Jesus who walk obediently and give generously, trusting He will be with us along the way with His abiding presence and faithful provision.

We are not the same church we've always been. God is doing a new thing here. Will you join us on this journey? This is a season to reaffirm your commitment, to consider giving more. It's also a chance to take part in what you may have missed.

On December 17, we will have an opportunity as a church family to celebrate how God has led us through our Grace Beyond journey and commit to where He is leading us in the future. As we prepare for that day, we encourage you to pray about how God is asking you to respond.

Ask God if He is asking you to make an initial pledge, extend your current pledge or simply fulfill your existing pledge. Take these options before the Lord and ask Him where He has you. We believe prayer is powerful and effective and that God will lead you as you come to Him. Pledge cards are available at the back of the Sanctuary.

coming events & announcements

Advent - Begins December 3

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Year. Walking through the Christian Year provides us with the opportunity to practice what it means to be like Jesus by following the pattern of His life and death. Advent is a time of waiting in hopeful expectation for the birth of Jesus. The time when Immanuel, the Savior, will come to dwell with the people he will deliver. A church-wide Advent Guide is available for you to download and print at calvarygr.org. Print versions of the guide will be available beginning this Wednesday.

Mountain Movers

First Sunday Prayer Group

December 3 | 8:00am | Rm 251

Join us next Sunday to pray for our missionaries and key regions around the world; 8:00-8:45am, Room 251 – please note room change. No registration necessary.

Help Archive Calvary's History

We are looking for a volunteer to help archive historical items from throughout the years of Calvary Church. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Stacy (sarmbrester@calvarygr.org) at ext. 5095.

Blessed2Bless Prayer Gathering

December 7 | 6:00pm | Room 251

We will meet for an hour before a city-wide prayer gathering here at Calvary in anticipation of the Palau Festival coming to Grand Rap-

ids in September 2018. Prayer will continue with many more brothers and sisters from around GR from 7-8:30pm. Hope you can join us for both!

Christmas at Calvary

December 15 at 7:00pm | December 16 at 3:00 & 7:00pm

Tickets on sale at mycalvarygr.org

We are excited to present an incredible weekend for the church to celebrate together in music and drama this December. *Christmas at Calvary* includes performances by our choir and orchestra centered around a timely and important Christmas story that reminds us all to take another look at how we're celebrating this season. Our music will feature beloved holiday classics and modern favorites. All seating is general admission; tickets are \$5.

LUMIN8 Kids Choir Christmas Musical

December 17 | 6:00pm

Bethlehem's homes and stable are bursting at the seams with travelers for the census! Bethlehem's top temp agency must call on their most eager but often-inept family of workers, the Wooltons to help them through this difficult time (temporary "staffing" takes on a whole new meaning!). What they expect to be an unglamorous assignment will soon put them face to face with the good Shepherd himself- Jesus! Join the kids choir for this fun Christmas evening.

this morning - family service

For the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, nursery is available. Children preschool age and older are encouraged to attend the service with their families. If needed, room 124B is open for a limited number of preschool age children. Middle School Ministry (5th-8th grade) is not meeting.

this week at calvary

- 1 Explore Calvary**
Today | 10:30am | Just show up!
Meet others who are new to Calvary along with some of our staff, tour the building, and ask questions about Calvary Church. The class is different each week.
- 2 College: Christmas Carols Kick-off**
November 30 | 7:00pm | Room 208
Come kick-off the Christmas season with us with decorations, special food, and of course, Christmas carols!
- 3 Men's Breakfast**
December 2 | 8:00am | \$5
Jim Hoekwater, a Calvary Elder, will speak about testimonies of the Lord he has seen throughout his lifetime. Pay at the door.
- 4 Young Adults Christmas Soirée - Ticket Deadline!**
December 8 | 7:30-10:00pm | \$12 | Downtown Market
Enjoy an evening filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres, beautiful ambiance and a charming band as we gather together to celebrate Christmas in twinkling downtown Grand Rapids. This is a semi-formal Young Adults Christmas Party (ages 18-34). Invite your friends! **Purchase your tickets at mycalvarygr.org by Dec. 1.**

take note

There is no Sunday evening service this week.