

CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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**September**  
**Birthdays**

Sept 3	Emily Goman Donna Fike
Sept 4	Abi Carver
Sept 8	Bev Fry
Sept 11	Debbie Stubbs
Sept 12	Jack Carver Scotlyn Carver
Sept 19	Jack Hagan
Sept 24	Matthew Hagan
Sept 28	Kathy Boylan
Sept 29	Nancy Miller Mark Bilyeu
Sept 30	Ron Miller

**September**  
**Anniversaries**

Sept 3	Harry & Phyllis Johnson
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# Calvin Connection



September 2022



We will be sharing a meal after worship, with grilling by Todd Wood! Please also plan to bring a dish to share, as we celebrate the start of our program year!

## The Journey with Pastor John

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” *Psalm 119: 105*

You never really know where the journey is going to take you. When I was young, I was absolutely positive that I would be an astronaut. Or president. Or something like that. But here I am, a minister of the word and sacrament; transitional pastor to a church in Long Lake.

In a similar way, your journey may be not the way you thought it would be. And certainly, everyone has unforeseen circumstances and opportunities. Our music director is moving on to another position, and he will be greatly missed. It’s an opportunity too good to pass up – which leads me to thinking about opportunities in general. God is always talking, always leading, always loving. But we aren’t always expecting what comes next. God is in charge, but we also have to participate in what He’s doing. He calls, but we still need to answer.

He shows us the way. We need to follow. And sometimes it’s scary, or difficult. Sometimes it’s wonderful AND scary and difficult. In the well known verse from Psalm 119, the Hebrew word for “lamp” is a specific one. It’s just big enough for a person to see in order to take one step. Just enough for us to do what is next. But sometimes, what we really want is a big spotlight – “Tell us where we’re going, God!”

(cont’d on the next page)

He doesn't work like that. The next step is really all we get. And the next step for Calvin is finding some people to do what Mark has been doing here. Not to replace him as a person, but to continue the work of the church we need to do what is next. Just like I had to come when I did, and you'll find a new pastor and that person will come when it's right.

So we say our farewells when it is appropriate, and we greet the next thing. Hopefully with some semblance of grace and thanksgiving. May God be with us all during this particular time of transition. And may God go with Mark as He walks with him to his next stage on his journey!

In Christ, Pastor John

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**Our Weight Warriors group has begun meeting again on Saturdays at 8 am.** Everyone who is interested is invited to join us! We will continue to meet all summer. If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Tammy Wenz at 612-384-9520.

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**Have you checked out the library recently?**

New books are always being added to our church library, found in the Gathering Hall. Take a look at the new "Back to School" display shelf, and be on the lookout for new themed displays every week!

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**Mark Your Calendars!**

- **Wednesday, Sept 7** — Chancel Choir rehearsals resume
  - **Wednesday, Sept 28-October 4** — Rummage Sale set-up
  - **October 5-8** — Rummage Sale
  - **Tuesday, December 6** — Presbyterian Women's Christmas Party
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**Ruth / M&M Circle**

is gathering again starting Thursday Sept 8, at 1:30 at the church or on zoom for a hybrid gathering.

This year's theme is Celebrating the Sabbath, and we will start by looking at the Sabbath as a gift from God for each of us. Many of us may not want to change our lives so much as make a mid course correction to some of our ways.

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**Adult Education**

Led by Rev. Dwight Chamberlain, will begin again after the Summer Recess on Sunday, Sept. 11th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00a. Everyone is welcome.

A Bible Study Series will continue on the Theme: **SALVATION & THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

# A Note from Mark:

Dear Calvin Family,

It is with many mixed emotions that I write with the news of my move to Chicago. I have said many times that I was not actively seeking a new position -- much less an inter-state move -- and that has been the truth. This opportunity sought me out, and ultimately, I simply could not say no. Calvin has been my home for nearly 10 years. In that time, I have had the great privilege of sharing joys and sorrows, births and deaths, weddings and confirmations with you. I experienced my first wild game dinner here at Calvin, and I learned that Advent meant not just waiting for Jesus, but also waiting for the Christmas Eve Cookie Onslaught (special shout out to the nut roll bars and Chex-Mix). I tried lutefisk for the first time, started a concert series at Calvin, housed my piano here, muddled through a pandemic, and most importantly: I have had the immense joy of making music with you through it all.

Many of you know that my father was the Director of Music at the church I grew up in. It was here at Calvin where I began to understand why he loved that work so much. While this move will put me much closer to my family, and will allow me the luxury of a single, full-time job, it also takes me away from this family which has been so kind, supportive, and appreciative of my contributions over the years. My gratitude for that is inexpressible.

God's timing is not always clear to us, but we trust that it is always perfect. I hope we will stay in touch, and that you will hold me in your prayers during this time; you will certainly be in mine. - Mark



## Clerks Highlights of August, 2022 Session Meeting

Five session members attended the meeting together with the Pastor, Clerk, and Treasurer

An open discussion was held regarding the following items:

1. What sort of fall programming are we doing here at Calvin Presbyterian? Sunday school, festivals?
2. What has your session/elder training looked like in recent years? Have you had regular training or education on your roles and responsibilities?

### Mission Statement

Our mission at Calvin Presbyterian Church is to provide a place of gratitude, love, and kindness to worship and serve Jesus Christ, grow spiritually, build meaningful and loving relationships throughout our community, and engage in mission to serve those in need and our environment.

### Vision Statement

Creating love, peace, and kindness through Jesus Christ to bring a happier and better tomorrow.  
[Adopted Nov 2019]

Dwight Chamberlain was named as Parish Associate

The church HVAC system was discussed. The Air Conditioning Compressors and furnaces in the fellowship hall and that serve the sanctuary are to be replaced at a cost of \$46,000.

Please direct any questions to the Clerk of Session at Church via email or phone message.

Walter Baker,  
Clerk of Session

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Connect with us!

**PASTORAL CARE**

Along with Pastor John, Calvin's Parish Associate, Rev. Dwight Chamberlain, is available for any pastoral care needs that may arise

He can be reached by calling the church and leaving a message, or by calling him directly at (952) 937-6160

We are going to begin having **fresh flower arrangements** on the altar table for the live on-line services! If you are interested in signing up for flowers, please call Tammy Wenz at 612-384-9520 or email her at [tammywenz@aol.com](mailto:tammywenz@aol.com), to check on available dates. The cost is \$35/arr., and payment can be made by sending a check to the church payable to Calvin. If you wish, you will be able to pick up your flowers after the recording of the Sunday service.



## Updates from Choral Scholars

The Calvin Choral Scholars Program began in 2015, through designated gifts from our congregation. It has given pre-professional musicians the opportunity to lead rehearsals, conduct performances, and offer them opportunities to work as section leaders. They have brought vibrancy, kindness, and joy to our music program, and we wanted to let you know what they have been up to!

**Regina Stroncek (Gigi)** is now based in Boston, MA and is beginning her second year at Longy School of Music at Bard College. She has loved her coursework in voice pedagogy and medieval, baroque, and opera repertoire, and continues to research Brazilian song while in school.

**Iris Kolodji:** "After graduating from the UofM and saying goodbye to the Calvin community I taught in Kathmandu for 4 years. During my 3rd year in Nepal I began graduate school at the University of St. Thomas in the summers. When COVID hit we were evacuated out of Nepal and as a result of the pandemic I decided it was a good time to settle back in MN! From 2021-2023 I taught high school choir in Pierz, MN and completed my master's degree June of 2022! I recently moved to Duluth, MN where I am teaching middle and high school choir at Marshall school! Oh, and I got engaged this summer! I have always looked back fondly on my time at Calvin and I will always remember the kindness and compassion of the community!"

**Brian Brokofsky** is currently living with his wife Anna in the south metro. He is teaching choir full time at Valley View Middle School in Bloomington where he also directs the show choir and the spring musical.

**Sabreena Cheerington** "I recently graduated from University of Tennessee with a Masters Degree in Voice Performance. I sang the roles of Pamina in Mozart's The Magic Flute, and Rosalinda in Strauss II's Die Fledermaus, both with University of Tennessee Opera Theatre. I participated in Bay View Music Festival's American Spirituals Intensive with Doctor Everett McCorvey this summer. And I'm looking forward to living in Knoxville for the coming year, while I audition for Young Artist Programs, study with my voice teacher, and maintain a small studio of private voice students. I miss the church family at Calvin dearly!!"

**Taylor Burkhardt** (pianist) recently started as a fellow at The Juilliard School in New York, working for the vocal arts department. After having worked very steadily locally and throughout the Midwest, she is hoping that this move to NYC will offer new opportunities in both opera houses and in the academic sphere.

**Savannah Heigl:** "I am entering my 4th year of teaching in Milwaukee Public Schools, and loving every second of it! At the end of last school year, I had the great honor of directing at my district's Biennial Music Festival, leading a choir of about 200 middle school students from different schools across the city. When I'm not teaching- I sing with my church's choir, hang out with my family, and have really gained a love for cooking and baking!"

**Kiley Hazelton & Miles Herr** have gotten engaged and settled in well to their new home in Memphis. **Miles** is performing wherever possible, most recently with Fargo-Moorhead Opera and the Rhodes Master Chorale in Memphis. **Kiley** is in the second year of her MA/PhD program in speech language pathology at the University of Memphis. Highlights of her time in Memphis so far have included publishing her first article in the Journal of Voice and leading a 7-week-long Voice Building Workshop for the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. She continues to sing and is looking forward to reviving her own voice studio soon!