



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Courier

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Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done...

A Week of Prayer and Fasting at Calvin: January 3—9, 2016 Draw Near to the God Who Shows Up

By Pastor Zach Washburn

After an arduous journey, it was finally a new beginning. God's people had been in the desert for years. Their respected and trusted leader, Moses, was gone - they relied on the unproven Joshua in his stead. They had crossed the Jordan River and set foot in the Promised Land, ready to begin a conquest of peoples more numerous than themselves. There was much to prepare for, to anticipate, to do. They should have begun immediately: sharpening spears, running combat drills, plotting the upcoming campaign.

Instead, they circumcised themselves (not a good tactic in enemy territory-see Genesis 34). After recuperating for a few days, they celebrated the Passover. Now, self-mutilation and ritual consumption of flatbread are not the way most armies have geared up for battle. But it is the way God's people prepared. Before doing anything significant, God's people draw near to Him.

And when God's people draw near to Him, God answers. The promises scattered throughout the Bible regarding prayer are audacious, even scandalous - *'anything you ask in my name will be given to you'*. When God's people pray, God shows up. Immediately after that Passover was concluded, we find these words: *"When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said*

to him 'Are you for us, or for our adversaries?' And he said 'No. But I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.' And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped him." (Joshua 5:13-14)

When they had a million better and more urgent things they could have been doing, at a crucial moment in their collective history, God's people chose instead to draw near to Him. And God showed up.

We begin the year with a week of prayer and fasting because we trust in this God - this God who answers prayers, this God who shows up. We deliberately trust Him more than we trust our own wisdom, our own industry, our own passion, or our own hopes. We know that the challenges we face, individually and as a body, are impossible for us, so we cry out to the one for whom nothing is impossible.

We are calling for everyone who is a part of Calvin to participate in this week in three ways:

1. Sign up for at least one of the 15 minute slots to pray each day, and then pray during that time. We encourage parents to also sign up for a slot as a family and pray together with your children.
2. Practice some form of fasting. Give up food, sweets, coffee, the internet, the news, or something. Choose something that normally occupies your time and attention, then lay it aside to make more room for God in your life.

3. If at all possible, attend the prayer gathering on Saturday, January 9, 9-11 am. We recognize that some have travel plans, need to work, or have other requirements to be elsewhere. However, we encourage anyone who possibly can to come. Parents, bring the kids and we'll take turns watching them and/or encouraging them to participate.

We know this will be inconvenient and uncomfortable - in fact, we hope it is inconvenient and uncomfortable. If fifteen minutes of prayer sounds like a breeze to you, sign up for more. Fast from something that hurts to give up. Seize a tangible opportunity to draw near to God and say: 'you are worthy of my time and attention. I do not want to live by bread alone'.

The first Great Commandment, to love the Lord our God, is not abstract. It cannot be carried out entirely in the realms of thought and emotion. It must be lived. For God to be loved, he must be trusted and prioritized over other important things. Prayer and fasting are certainly not the only ways of doing this, but they are ways we have been given, and ways we intend to walk in together as this New Year begins. Join us. May God's kingdom come, may His will be done, in us as it is in heaven.

Additional information:

Prayer Guide on p. 2

A link to a page on fasting is on our website, calvin-church.org.

Printed copies available at church.

2016 Prayer Guide

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done on earth as it is in heaven...



Each day pray Matthew 6:10 seven times. Additional Scriptures to help guide you in your prayer time are listed for each day. There is a passage(s) that fits with the theme of the day and an example of a Biblical character or people who surrendered to God's kingdom in their life. Please allow God's Spirit to direct you as you pray.

Monday Jan. 4

God's kingdom to come in my life

Psalm 57 – a steadfast heart for God
Ruth 1:15-18 – Ruth, a life of commitment

My life...

Home, work, hobbies, friends, personal spiritual growth

Tuesday Jan. 5

God's kingdom to come in my household

Joshua 24:14-24 – as for me and my house we will serve the Lord
Luke 8:40-42; 49-55 – Jairus and his daughter

My home...

Pray for each person by name

Wednesday Jan. 6

God's kingdom to come in Calvin Church

Romans 12:9-21 – marks of a Christian church
1 Thess. 1:2-10 – believers in Thessalonica; work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope

My church...

Children's ministry, missions, discipleship, college ministry, home groups, sharing the gospel, Sunday morning worship

Thursday Jan. 7

God's kingdom to come in Corvallis

Acts 5:28-42 – the believers filled the city with the teaching of the gospel
Nehemiah 1:1-11 – prayer for his city
Jeremiah 29:7; Jonah 4; Psalm 137

My town...

OSU, schools, businesses, fire department, police, government leaders, the homeless, Love INC, Friends of the Family, Options Pregnancy Resource Centers, Intervarsity at OSU & DeGarmos, ACORN Outreach

Friday Jan. 8

God's kingdom to come in the world

Revelation 7:9-17 – a great multitude from every nation
Psalm 67
John 3:16-21 – Jesus came to save sinners

My world...

Cru & Melissa Crabtree, unreached people groups, persecuted church, refugees, Bridge Builders International, Latvia & Paula Hewitt in Ireland, Servant Partners & the Davies in South Africa, Streams of Life in Uganda, Asante Kids

Lord, how are you leading us in 2016?

Saturday January 9, 9 a.m. – noon

Join us at 9 a.m. for a time of guided prayer in the sanctuary followed by a meal at 11 a.m. to conclude our week of prayer and fasting. If you can contribute soup or bread to the meal, please contact Pastor Craig.

Prayer Vigil, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

We are encouraging everyone to commit to at least 15 minutes of prayer each day, sometime between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Whether you pray at church, at home or in another quiet place, you will be blessed, especially as you know that other Calvin folks are praying at the same time. Talk to Pastor Craig to sign up for a specific time.

Staffing Men's Homeless Shelter

By Ben Slothower

Calvin is scheduled to help out at the Corvallis Men's Cold Weather Shelter during the week of **Jan. 4 – 10, 2016**. For the guys in the area that have no permanent place to call home, this place is a haven against the cold and dampness we have this time of the year.

These may not be the type of guys we'd normally spend time around, but being around them can be a real eye opener into getting to know our society and culture on a different level.

We still need folks that week to:

- **Provide Snacks** on Saturday, Jan. 9 and Sunday, Jan. 10. Funds available to purchase the snacks.

- **Greeters** We need 1 more person from 6:45—11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8—Sunday, Jan. 10 to help greet, check bags, and chat with the men.
- **Overnight Stay** Stay overnight on a comfortable cot January 4, 8, 9 or 10, 11 p.m.—7 a.m.

With the exception of being an overnight sleeper, all these positions include the opportunity to talk with and get to know the guys. Some are most anxious to chat, while others are tired and want to rest as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Ben Slothower: (541) 602-6686 or benslothower@hotmail.com.

Calvin's Annual Meeting Sunday January 31

11:15 a.m.

Immediately following the worship service

Plan to stay as we celebrate the past year and elect Deacons, Elders, and Nominating Committee representatives.

Sunday Evening Programs Begin January 3

New Year ... new Sunday evening programs at Calvin. Join us three Sundays a month at 7 p.m. for these programs the elders believe will help us grow in Christ as a church and become better citizens of His kingdom. We hope you find them beneficial too.

Dialogue

Dialogue will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning Jan. 10. This is an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion on any spiritual, theological, or ethical topic. Questions can be brought up at the event, or asked anonymously by putting them in the offering plate. The elders hope this will

be an opportunity to invite friends or acquaintances who are curious and/or skeptical about Christianity.

Missional Support Group

MSG will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We believe that God has sent us as missionaries to Corvallis (the grammar of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 is not 'go somewhere else and make disciples' but 'as you are going, make disciples'), which we know is difficult, intimidating, and even confusing. Many outside the church are disinterested in or dismissive of what we believe. MSG will be a gathering for those engaged

in making disciples, or trying to be engaged, or hoping to be engaged. It is for those who are unsure of where to begin, or uncomfortable with beginning, or frustrated with a lack of results, as well as for those enjoying the work. We will share stories of how things are going (or not going). We will encourage and edify one another. We will pray for one another. Hopefully, we will become bolder and more winsome in opening our mouths to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel, for which we are ambassadors (Ephesians 6:19-20).

Calvin Celebrates Christmas with annual tea, pageant and winter crafts.



Mission Partner Update: Bridge Builders News from Paula Hewitt

Serving the Latvian Community in Ireland

The Latvian church is often the center of community life for those now living in Ireland (especially in Dublin). Most of them know English but would like to practice speaking so that the Irish people around them can understand. It is my joy to have English conversation groups to help with this situation. Bible studies (in English) are also helpful.

Several women are gaining in understanding the scriptures. My hope and prayer is that they become disciplers/teachers for the Latvian church. Pray especially for Anda, her children (2 are still at home) and her husband, who is not interested in the Bible or even in having spiritual conversation.

I am in Corvallis until February 14. Please contact me if you would like to get together and see pictures: (559) 563-3735.

Recycle Your Christmas Cards for Crafts

Laura Rung would like Christmas cards with nice pictures of the nativity, angels, shepherds and wise men to use for future Sunday School Christmas crafts. Drop them off at church or give them to Laura. Thank you!



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Return Service Requested

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Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship