



Advent Prayer

By Andy Van Arsdel

Advent is a season of waiting. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival. During this season we look back at our Savior’s first arrival as a baby in Palestine while looking forward to his second arrival.

However, while the season of Advent is meant to be a season of waiting, the month of December can often become a month of busyness. Parties must be prepared for and hosted, gifts must be bought and wrapped, and in the midst of it all we can become so focused on doing that we miss out on waiting.

In the hopes of reclaiming the season of Advent as a season of waiting, we are going to make a few small changes at Calvin. First, December marks the beginning of our new sermon series in

Matthew. During the first four weeks of this series we will look at the birth and infancy stories of Jesus in Matthew, all of which feature important connections with the Old Testament and frame Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Second, we will be adding a time of prayer before our services. From 9:15-9:45, you are invited to join us in Olleman A as we take some time to intentionally slow down, hand over to God the things that we have been busy with all week, and center our hearts for worship. All are welcome to join us during this time. Third, our “encouraging words” in the weekly prayer chain email will focus on waiting on Christ throughout the season of Advent.

We look forward to celebrating this season with you as we look back to the first arrival of our Lord and await his return!

Annual Meeting Sun. December 9

Plan to stay after the worship service for our annual meeting. We will celebrate 2018 and look ahead to 2019. We will elect elders, deacons, and nominating committee members.

Christmas at Calvin

Children’s Pageant
Sunday, December 23
4:30 p.m.



**Traditional Christmas
Eve Service**
Monday, December 24
7 p.m.

Children’s Ministry Spotlight: Prayer Grandparents



A few years ago Sunday School teacher Laura Rung was inspired to pair her class with widowed

grandmas in the congregation, based on James 1:27. That grew to include prayer grandpas. Now we are matching all our children with prayer grandparents and will meet together a few times a year to share a meal, activity, and prayer. In October kids and grandparents enjoyed cookies and puzzles. If

you would like to be included (whether or not you are a grandparent), talk to Vanessa Washburn. Our next gathering will be around Valentine’s Day.



InterVarsity Fall Conference

By Rachael Johnson, IV staff

Thanks so much for your partnership in InterVarsity’s Fall

Retreat! You prayed for us, gave student scholarships, and loaded us down with yummy snacks. Several of my coworkers mentioned that this was the first fall retreat in memory in which we didn’t run out of snacks. Thank you - you rock!



Getting to Know ... Mel & Marta McCracken

By Marta McCracken



Mel and I have been in Corvallis since 1998 and have been attending Calvin from the beginning. We chose Calvin because the pastor from our Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro knew

Marc Andresen and recommended the church. We came for a first visit and never left, we love Calvin.

Mel and I met in graduate school at Oregon State. Mel was studying

Geotechnical Engineering and now works for FEI Testing. I was studying Elementary Education and am now working as a first grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School.

We have been involved in many ways at Calvin, including: youth group, elders on session, choir, sound system, grounds trustee, worship team, worship planning team and small group leaders. We feel it is important to serve the church! In our free time we love to do almost anything outdoors - biking, hiking, yard work or hanging out on the porch on a warm evening.

Pastoral Resident: One Year Later

By Pastor Zach Washburn

Andy and Lauren (and now Elodie!) have been with us a little more than a year now. I am, as I am confident you are, grateful for their presence at Calvin. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind us of our collective purpose in this endeavor.

Andy is here as our pastoral resident (like a medical resident, but we don't make him work 90 hours a week). His role is a sort of apprenticeship, in which he learns pastoral work by doing that work, under our care and encouragement, over a period of 3 to 5 years.

Our hope for Andy is that this apprenticeship will help him mature into a man of God who possesses the character, knowledge, and practical wisdom needed to lead a congregation. I am happy to report that, in my estimation, he is well on his way.

Our hope for Calvin is twofold. First: we have benefited, and expect to continue to benefit, from Andy's service as a preacher, teacher, pastor, and leader. Second: when we one day, all too soon, send Andy, Lauren, and Elodie out to serve Jesus in another place, that sending will form us as a people who hold God and his kingdom even higher than we hold our particular congregation.

So, thank you! This residency is possible because of your gentleness and grace as a church. Please continue to pray that Andy would grow and flourish as a man and as a minister of the gospel of Jesus. Pray for the Van Arsdels as a family, that their life together might be full of the joy and love of God. And please pray for the next church Andy will serve. We don't yet know where, or precisely when, he will move on, but let that not stop us from paving the way with prayer.

Kitchen Renovation

By Janet Magedanz

A committee of Calvin people have had two meetings to discuss what improvements need to be made to bring our kitchen up to date and make it more usable for both our groups and the many other groups that use it. We will soon compile a list of "must haves" for review by Session, with the next step determining cost/affordability and scheduling.

Support Opportunities

Andrew Brunson

As the Brunsons recover from their time in Turkey, Andrew will be serving as Missionary-in-Residence at Christ Community Church in Montreat, NC. The EPC has set up a fund to support the position. For more information or to donate go to: epc.org/donate/welcomebackandrew

Paradise Fire

We are looking into ways to support and care for the people of Paradise and Chico, CA. Restoration will be a long-term effort, and we hope to participate throughout that time. For now, we have identified a local congregation, Neighborhood Church of Chico, which is at the center of the relief efforts, and will be sending donations to them. Any checks made out to Calvin with 'Paradise Fire' in the memo line will be sent along to help purchase food and supplies for those in need. We are also on the lookout for volunteer opportunities, and will pass those along as we become aware. Thank you for your continued prayers for those affected.