



# The Friendly News

Calvary Baptist Church



**November & December 2017**



## **The Pastor's Corner**

As we know too well, no two moments are alike. Everyday, we open our eyes to a brand new life, a new joy, a clean life, and gleaming with love, bringing with it ample opportunities to be the best we could be and be thankful. This is the grace of God. As Christians, our stake is the kingdom of God. It is exciting and life-transforming to be Christian because we have JESUS. Each moment, our experience of the love of Jesus is unique. This love makes us want to know more and more about him. The more we understand Jesus, the more we love him, and the closer we are towards being like him; we will know fully when we see him face to face. The deep-rooted meaning of this love shines in our love for neighbor. Love of God and neighbor is a gift that has come to us through his incarnation, life, work, teaching, death, and resurrection. About six decades ago, H. Richard Niebuhr said, "The purpose of the gospel is not simply that we should believe in the love of God; it is that we should love him and neighbor." He was convinced that faith in God's love toward human beings is perfected in human beings' love to God and neighbor. Love shows us the way of grateful living. It moves us to be thankful for the existence of others. Such profound teaching prompts us to ask: "Who is my neighbor? What is my response to the love of God? How do I express my gratitude?" Someone said, "The more we love, the better we are; and the greater our friendships are, the dearer we are to God." This Thanksgiving, may we count the blessings we enjoy on a daily basis. May the Ancient Jewish prayer remind us to be thankful: "My God, the soul You gave me is pure, You created it, You



formed it, You breathed it into me, You preserve it within me. One day you will take it from me. I give You thanks, Lord of all souls.”

As the days and years pass, we hurry along with the time. One week after Thanksgiving, we will observe the Advent season that will lead us to the wonderful event of Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Christmas light illumine every corner of your life, and bring peace into your innermost soul, love and joy to your family, and hope of a life that is supremely good.

Gratefully,

Atula





# Advent Calendar

Scripture lessons for each Sunday is provided below. Please read them at your own pace, as you prepare to come to worship.

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

Is. 64:1-9; Ps. 80: 1-7, 17-19; I Cor. 1:3-9; Mk. 13:24-37

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

Is. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mk. 1:1-8

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Is. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; I Thess. 5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

2. Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27;  
Lk 1:26-38

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

7 pm at Calvary

## Christmas Day

December 25, 2017

Peace, Joy, Love, Hope



# Calvary Recognized



grotonwood

**Thank you for your support!**

Our church has been recognized for our faithful and generous support of Grotonwood and Oceanwood. Last year alone that support helped to replace Memorial Lodge which burned down at Grotonwood; to develop a Memorial Garden where donors can honor and remember loved ones; to expand the horse ministry at Oceanwood; to provide camperships so no one was turned away from camp for financial reasons; and to be creative and Innovative in providing programs and resources. Grotonwood and Oceanwood belong to us and to the other American Baptist churches in Massachusetts and we are appreciated for doing our part to make the camping ministry effective and meaningful. For more information, visit [www.grotonwood.org](http://www.grotonwood.org) or [www.oceanwood.org](http://www.oceanwood.org).



## Praise and Thanksgiving

*O Lord, how lovely it is to be your guest.  
Breeze full of scents, mountains reaching to the skies,  
Waters like a boundless mirror,  
Reflecting the sun's golden rays and the scudding clouds  
All nature murmurs mysteriously, breathing depths of tenderness  
Birds and beasts of the forest bear the imprint of your love.  
Blessed are you, mother earth, in your floating loveliness,  
Which wakens our yearning for happiness for happiness that  
will last forever  
In the land where, amid beauty that grows not old,  
Rings out the cry: Alleluia!*

*What sort of praises can I give you?  
I have never heard the song of the cherubim,  
A joy reserved for the spirits above  
But I know the praises that nature sings to you.  
In winter, I have beheld how silently in the moonlight  
The whole earth offers you prayer,  
Clad in its white mantle of snow,  
Sparkling like diamonds.  
I have seen how the rising sun rejoices in you,  
How the song of the birds is a chorus to praise you.  
I have heard the mysterious mutterings of the forests about you,  
And the winds singing your praises as they stir the waters.  
I have understood how the choirs of stars proclaim your glory  
As they move for ever in the depths of infinite space.*



*You have brought me into life as if into an enchanted paradise.  
We have seen the sky like a chalice of the deepest blue,  
Where in the heights the birds are singing.  
We have listened to the soothing murmur of the forest  
And the melodious music of the streams.  
We have tasted fruit of fine flavor and sweet-scented honey.  
We can live very well on your earth.  
It is a pleasure to be your guest.  
Glory to you for the feast-day of life.  
Glory to you for the perfume of lilies and roses.  
Glory to you for each different taste of berry and fruit.  
Glory to you for the sparkling silver of early morning dew.  
Glory to you for the joy of dawn's awakening.  
Glory to you for the new life each day brings.  
Glory to you O God, from age to age.*

Gregory Petrov



## Holiday Recipe



### **Cranberry and Feta Pinwheels**

#### Ingredients:

- ◇ 3/4 cup dried sweetened cranberries
- ◇ 1 (8oz) package cream cheese, room temperature
- ◇ 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- ◇ 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- ◇ 2 large flour tortillas, wheat or spinach for green color

#### Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients except tortillas, mix well.
2. Divide and spread mixture evenly among tortillas.
3. Roll up tightly, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least one hour.
4. To serve, cut each roll into approximately 12 slices.

Note: You can make the rolls a couple days before and then slice the day of serving for best results. Do not use reduced fat feta, it is too dry for this recipe.

# Kids Crafts



## Tabletop Turkey

You will need:

- ◇ 1 paper cup
- ◇ 1 pom pom
- ◇ different colors of construction paper
- ◇ googly eyes
- ◇ ruler
- ◇ glue

1. Paint a paper cup brown. Turn the cup upside down and glue a pom-pom to the top of the cup for the head.
2. Cut nine 4-inch leaf shapes from different colors of construction paper. Fold a 1-inch square piece of orange construction paper in half; cut a triangle shape out of the folded paper for the beak. Using a 2-inch square of red paper folded in half, cut a heart shape to create the turkey's wattle.
3. Glue the beak and wattle to the pom-pom. Add googly eyes. Glue on the "feathers".



(continued from page 7)

### Cup On the Cob



You will need:

- ◇ 1 paper cup
- ◇ different colors of construction paper
- ◇ crayons
- ◇ glue
- ◇ crepe paper
- ◇ snack bag
- ◇ popcorn
- ◇ ribbon
- ◇ ruler

1. Cut an oval corncob shape slightly larger than the paper cup out of yellow construction paper. With crayons, draw kernels on the paper. Glue to the front of the cup.
2. Cut a piece of crepe paper, 11 inches high by 12 inches long (this may vary depending on size of cup). Glue the crepe paper around the cup to create the corn husk. Crinkle and gather the paper at the top as you glue around the cup.
3. Fill a snack bag with popcorn and place inside the cup. Gather the top of the crepe paper and tie with a piece of ribbon.



## Happenings

- Sunday Worship: 10:45am
- Sunday, November 5, 2017 - Pledge Sunday
- Sunday, November 5, 2017 - Daylight Saving Time Ends, clocks are turned back one hour.
- Saturday, November 11, 2017 - Private event in Fellowship Hall.
- November 13, 2017 - Deacon's Meeting
- November 19, 2017 - Church Meeting to vote on budget and elect officers.
- Sunday, December 3, 10, 17, 24 – First, second, third and fourth Sundays of Advent.
- Saturday, December 16, 2017 - Children's Christmas Party at Calvary.
- Sunday, December 24, 2017 - 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### **Praying for One Another**

Evelyn Makiej

Ngabuen Nshom

Charles Lehman

George Garmon

Laurie Douillette

Shirley Crocker

We continue to pray for one another in different circumstances. If you would like a prayer, please call the church office or the pastor so that we can print your name in our upcoming newsletters.



## In The Community

Free Citizenship Application Assistance—November 11, 2017. 97 Central Street Unit 302, Lowell MA 01852. Eligibility: Be at least 18 years old, be a legal permanent resident for 5 years or 3 years if married to a U.S citizen. Read, write, and speak basic English. Registration and pre-screening required. Contact Bethany Gamble 978-459-9031.

Billerica 2017 Holiday Reception - Friday, November 17, 2017, 6:30pm-9:00pm. \$25/person. Billerica Public Library, 15 Concord Road Billerica MA 01821. With food from over 20 Billerica restaurants as well as complimentary drinks, the Holiday Reception is a fantastic evening for everyone!

Saints Vartanantz Church Armenian Food Festival—Friday and Saturday November 17 & 18 11am-7pm. 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford MA. 978-256-7234. Authentic Armenian Food and Pastries, Lunch and Dinner served all day.

Holiday Fair—Saturday, November 18, 2017. 9am-2pm. Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford. 978-256-5931. Lunch served from 11:15am to 1:00pm. Bake sale, books, crafts, plants and more!

Soup and Stories—December 9, 2017 7:00pm-10:00pm. 51 Berkley St., Somerville MA 02143. \$5 donation to cover cost of soup. Bring a story, poem, or song, or simply your ears!

A Little Bazaar—Saturday, December 23, 2017 12:00-4:00pm. 250 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell MA 01852. Every Saturday event at Mill No. 5 featuring vendors of vintage, handmade and artisanal goods!



## November Birthdays

Beverly Cruz - 11/3

Robert Mignone - 11/14

Jared Long - 11/14

Malina Sar - 11/14

Christine Gagnon - 11/15

Alan Breault - 11/16

Zachary Strong - 11/16

Lily Strong - 11/19

Alice Hughes - 11/25

Helen Rogers - 11/26



## December Birthdays

Zachary Ouellette - 12/3

Jim King - 12/5

Michael Cruz - 12/13

Anna Kouadio - 12/17

Amy Chan - 12/18

Richard Strong Sr. - 12/18

James A. Glenn - 12/23

Dakota Lacoy - 12/23

*Happy Birthday from  
all of us at Calvary!*

*Please contact the  
church office if we have  
missed anyone.*



***Calvary Baptist Church  
60 Hastings St***

***Lowell, Massachusetts 01851***

To the Members of Calvary Baptist Church  
Lowell, Massachusetts

Greetings:

The members of Calvary Baptist Church are hereby notified of the a special meeting of the church to be held November 19, 2017 at 12:30 PM in the Chapel of the Church, located at 60 Hastings St Lowell, Massachusetts.

We will act on the following:

Article I Proposed Budget for 2018

Article II Nominating Committee Report - Election of officers for 2018

Beverly Cruz

Clerk

October 16, 2017



## Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico

In response to the devastating one-two punch leveled at Puerto Rico by hurricanes Irma and Maria, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), in partnership with American Baptist Churches USA, has launched “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico.”

The multi-year initiative seeks to raise **\$1 million** within the next three to six months through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support rebuilding communities and lives. **ABHMS has pledged \$25,000, matching OGHS funds already earmarked for Puerto Rico recovery.**

“We will work with our American Baptist partners to restore all 114 churches and nine missions in Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico as well as Corporación Milagros del Amor and Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico,” says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray.

The first phase will address Puerto Rico’s pressing need for supplies, including bottled water; medicines; baby wipes, diapers and formula; canned milk; bedding; insect repellent; first-aid kits; and construction materials.

Your contribution—no matter the size—will make a big difference for our Puerto Rican American Baptist family. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts. No dollars are retained for administrative costs.

**> Go to [www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org) and click GIVE NOW.**

If making a donation via check, please make check payable to “OGHS-Puerto Rico” and mail to:

OGHS-Puerto Rico  
Attn: Kim Wilkins  
American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851

To ensure that your church receives credit for your gift, write the church name on your check or, if giving online, in the “comment” box.



American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
SINCE 1824

# Calvary Baptist Church

60 Hastings St, Lowell, MA 01851



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A CARING CHURCH,  
REACHING PEOPLE,  
CHANGING LIVES

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**We're on the Web!**

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