

THE

CALVIN CONNECTION

Your connection to the Calvin Church Community

This Month

Sun 20th Anniversary Service,
Sunday School, &
BBQ (11:00 a.m.)

Tues 22nd Property & Main.
(7:00 p.m.)

Mon 28th Prayer Chain
(10:30 a.m.)

Ladies Guild
(1:30 p.m.)

October

Fri 2nd Games Night
(7:00 p.m.)

Sun 4th World Communion
Sunday (11:00 a.m.)

Sat 10th Breakfast @ Jim's
(8:30 a.m.)

Thur 22nd Bible Study begins
(1:00 & 7:30 p.m.)

November

Sun 8th Remembrance Day
Service (11:00 a.m.)



Called to Connection

Making connections. At it's heart, that's what LEGO is all about. It's about building different bricks, of different shapes, sizes, and colours together in such a way as to shape something out of them. And every LEGO enthusiast knows that.

The Apostle Paul, also knew it's about making connections; though when Paul talks about making connections, he's not talking about LEGO...he's talking about LIFE, and about the Christian life in particular.

Because at it's heart, living out the Christian faith is about 'connecting' - an idea Paul tries to lay out for us, not by likening us to LEGO bricks, but by likening us to being a 'body'.

"...God," he writes, "has put the body together...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Cor. 12:24b-27)

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Getting Linked In with the Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain at Calvin was formed to help comfort and sustain people in their time of need- in sickness, in sorrow or any other special circumstance. Also included in our prayers is intercession for our church- it's ministry and mission, our government and the needs of our world.

Currently the prayer chain has 13 members. The requests for prayer are sent by e-mail or phone to the co-ordinator and passed on to each member. We meet once a month (not in summer) on the last Monday of the month at 10.30a.m to update requests and for a time of prayer. Otherwise we pray at home daily.

If you are interested in being part of this important ministry of intercessory prayer in our church or would like to know more about it, or have a prayer request, please feel free to contact Idabell McDonald at idabellm@gmail.com or phone 902.443.1204 or call the church office at 902.455.7435.

You are meant to be connected. You are meant to be connected to God, to others, and to the world...and not just superficially either, but deeply, and meaningfully.

Cultivating a Connection With God

Foundational to the Christian life is the call to connect with our Creator, and to live out life in an ongoing relationship with God. Mind you, like any relationship, it's depth ultimately depends on just how much of ourselves we invest in it; on how much of our time, attention, and understanding we're willing to give to it.

It's about taking the time to look for God in amongst the many moments that make up our lives. It's about learning to listen for God speaking to us in the likes of silence and scripture and that still small voice that speaks our hearts.

It's about giving our attention to actively trying to understand what it is we call God's 'will' - and not just what it is God wants for our lives, but why it is God wants that for us, and how it is God might want us to live that out.

It's about learning to open every aspect of ourselves to an experience of God's presence and power in perhaps new and different ways.

In connecting with our Creator, we connect with the very source and sustainer of life. Disconnected, we wither spiritually. And God's great dream isn't for us to wither, but to thrive and to know life, as it was meant to be, to its fullest.

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Bible Study Starts!

The 6-part Bible study, 'A Journey through Judges' begins Thurs., Oct 22nd with sessions at 1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Reading the Bible's book of Judges, we will explore the history of God's people as they first sought to settle in the 'Promised Land', and the challenges they faced there amongst peoples, cultures, and beliefs that were often at odds with their own.

It's a look at world not all that unlike our own, and it's a world you're invited to come and explore with us! So please, make plans to come. Everyone is welcome!



New Elder's Districts

Since the election and ordination of new elders this past spring, the Session has been busily at work reviewing the active membership of the congregation, and assigning those active within the life of the congregation to updated elders' districts.

Elders are responsible for connecting with those assigned to them in these 'districts', and building real relationships with them through which the hopes, joys, and concerns of the church can be communicated, and through which prayer and pastoral care can be provided.

It is important work. And though the updating to do this work - and to do it well - has been admittedly long overdue, it is now done. The congregation's active membership has been reviewed, new and revised districts have been drafted, and our elders will be now be trying to touch base with everyone under their care in the coming months.

We pray you will welcome the opportunity to visit with them. And we pray that you will be blessed because of it! *If you have any questions about who your elder is, please speak with the Session clerk, Debbie Lyver.*

Cultivating a Connection With Others

You are meant to be connected with God, but according to the bible, you were also meant to be connected to God's people - those other believers who make up the rest of the 'body of Christ', the church. And again, Paul isn't speaking superficially here. Beyond the superficiality of the skin, a body's connections run deep. And deep connections is what Paul urges God's people to cultivate, connections in which we genuinely enter into sharing each others joys...and sorrows.

And for that to truly happen - for us to find that place where we can be free to be ourselves - it will mean us having to risk being vulnerable. It means having to trust people with the sometimes hard truths of who we are, and what it is we're going through. And that, for some, can be scary business indeed. But, here's the thing: we can only be loved to the extent that we're truly known. We can hide behind false fronts. But then it becomes those false fronts people love, and the not the real us. Not really anywhere.

Of course, trust takes time to build up. So if it's a real connection we're after - a connection in which we're supported, befriended, and cared for - then we'll need to spend time in community.

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Breakfast @ Jim's

You are invited to join us for this monthly tradition of getting together for breakfast at Jim's restaurant on the 2nd Saturday of the every month.

So make plans to join for breakfast on:

Sat. Oct. 10th

@ 8:30 a.m.

at Jim's restaurant

(243 Bedford Highway, Halifax)

Everyone is invited to come enjoy good food, and great fellowship.

Cultivating a Connection With the World

The Christian life, is a life that's meant to follow in Christ's footsteps. That means that beyond being just words, the Christian life is one that's meant to make a difference in the world, and in the lives of those around us.

"...faith by itself," wrote James, "if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

Putting our faith into action means trying to connect with the hurts and needs of this world in such a way as to bring healing, help, and wholeness. And sadly, that can't happen if we have no connection, or contact with the world around us, or forever live a life that's turned inward.

Cultivating a Connection with Ourselves

As we discover a deeper connection with God, as we discover a connection to a community in which we're free to confront the reality of our lives, and as we connect to the hurts of the world in such a way as to make a difference...we might just very well find a connection to our true selves; the us we can be, and are called to be in Christ.

I'd invite you to consider your faith's connections, and to take this Fall as an opportunity cultivate ever-newer and deeper connections. And in making them, may we find ourselves blessed.



Want Dinner Guests?

'Share Thanksgiving' is an opportunity for people throughout Nova Scotia to host newcomers, such as a new-immigrant family or international students, for Thanksgiving dinner. It is also an opportunity for a newcomer or newcomer family to meet new people and share a great Thanksgiving experience.

If you're interested, registration for Engage Nova Scotia's Share Thanksgiving is now open! For more details, please visit www.engagenovascotia.ca/sharethanksgiving.



PWS&D: Responding to the refugee crisis

In response to the current crisis facing more than 4 million Syrian refugees, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is working with ecumenical partners to provide food, shelter, clean water, health care and psychosocial support to those affected by the crisis. PWS&D is also working with congregations and groups who are interested in sponsoring refugees.

Wondering what you can do to help? Considering one of the following as a possibility:

Pray - that refugees from Syria and around the world will find safe haven.

Learn - about the roots of the refugee crises in the Middle East and elsewhere. While a great deal of media coverage is focused on Europe, there are millions of refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, as well as Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Act - consider sponsoring a refugee or refugee family. (Visit WeRespond.ca/refugee-sponsorship for more information.)

Give - Support PWS&D's ongoing response to the crisis through your church, by mailing a cheque to the PWS&D office, calling us at 1.800.619.7301 x291 or by visiting WeRespond.ca/donate.

Prayer Pals Wanted!

Before I really begin, I feel I need to warn you that I am going to use a “bad” word. It is a word we have all used on occasion, and it seems as if it has lost its goodness. I fear I am looking for ‘*volunteers*’. Now before you stop reading, I encourage you to know that this time, any and all of you are capable of helping out. Not one person is too old, busy, “have already done my share” or too afraid of youth for this task.

This year we are looking for volunteers, as part of our youth program. These volunteers need only to do one thing, one thing we all do, pray. What we are looking for is one volunteer per youth to take on the task of praying every day for one year for one youth as a secret prayer pal.

As a prayer pal, you will be matched up with one youth and all you need to do is say a prayer for him or her each day. It doesn’t have to be elaborate, and it doesn’t have to be long. Even just a “Dear God please watch over so and so today. Amen.” It’s that simple. At the end of the year, we will meet together and each youth will learn who their secret prayer pal is.

As a prayer pal, you will be given a “profile” of your youth to better assist you with your prayers. It will include a name, age, school, and hobbies. If you desire to send them a birthday card, or Christmas greeting, this can be arranged in order to keep your identity a secret, but these extras are totally up to you. All we ask is for a prayer everyday.

If you are interested please contact Karen Emmons. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

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The Calvin Connection is a publication of Calvin Presbyterian Church aimed at keeping the community informed of events in and around the life of the church.

All ministry teams within the congregation are encouraged to submit information for publication, and those groups or individuals wishing to contribute are encouraged to have submissions into the office via email no later than the 25th of the month.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, **encourage** one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:11