



SHEPHERD of the HILLS CALVARY CHAPEL

DOING LIFE TOGETHERWEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND ORDER OF WORSHIP









VERSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

Exodus 15:2

Message Series:

PHILIPPIANS 2



SPEAKER:

Assistant Pastor Charles Rowdon

8:00 AM Service Worship

My Life Is in You Lord (542) Take My Life and Let It Be (597)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (21)

Change My Heart Oh God (654)

Closing:

I Surrender All (596)

9:30 & 11 AM Service Worship

Alive In You Lord Most High Build My Life Praise The Father, Praise The Son

Song Lyrics on pages 3-4

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Songs of Worship Moment of Prayer Good News Mystery Box

Children's Message

Announcements
Missions Moment
Message
Closing Worship





SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AMAcoustic Service





9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 & 11 AM Contemporary Service

Upcoming Events

Offering Agape drop-boxes are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. You can also give electronically here: www.soth.church/giving

We're Hiring! A Part-time (Salaried, 32 hours) Ministry Assistant. See more details on page 5.

2024 Envelopes are available for pickup in the Coatroom near the Welcome Desk.

Please note the church offices will be closed starting Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday, January 1st. We will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.

Toddler Care Room: 11am Service: We are looking for volunteers to sit with our toddlers during the 3rd service. Please contact Renee Miller.

Chosen by Grace Women's Ministry, Lunch & Prayer Boards Craft, Sat. Jan. 18th 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Ladies join us for a craft event and lunch on Saturday, January 18th. We will be making "Prayer Boards." Sign up at the Event Sign-up kiosk or online.

Shepherd 101: Jan. 19th @ 12:15 PM. If you are new to Shepherd, join us for our Shepherd 101 class. Lunch is provided, sign up at the Event Sign-up Kiosk.

Ladies Beautifully Bound Book Club, Friday, Jan. 24th @ 6:30 PM. Our book selection is available for purchase at Chronicles Christian Books until January 19th.

We ask everyone to please refrain from bringing food or snacks into the sanctuary. Thank you.



Get last week's message and message notes <u>online here</u>, or through our <u>SOTH Church Mobile app</u>.

THE HOLY BIBLE

Critical to the Christian Faith, there is no other book that can compare to the Word of God. For the entire month of December, the Bible is our Book of the Month. We want to make sure that God's Word is available to all. All Bibles, including Children's Bibles, compact Bibles, and Study Bibles are on sale during December.

Get 10% off any new Bible at Chronicles Christian Books today!









Songs of Worship

Contemporary Service – 11:00 AM Live Stream

Alive In You CCLI #5065956 | Mike Guglielmucci and Scott Ligertwood

Verse 1

Calling all believers new life
Found within the cross of Christ
For He is risen seated high and lifted above all
Above all

Pre-Chorus

All around the world We sing Your praise The anthem of creation Our God reigns

Chorus

Let the Name of Jesus Forever be glorified We are alive in You We are alive in You

Verse 2

Redemption story
Our lives freely given light to see
Salvation drawing all hearts
Finding hope in Christ alone
In Christ alone

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge 1

You are risen, You are risen You are risen, Christ our Savior

Bridge 2

You alone can satisfy, You alone created life You alone are crowned as Christ our Savior You alone set captives free, You alone have rescued me You alone are Jesus Christ our Savior

Lord Most High CCLI #2037688 | Don Harris and Gary Sadler

Verse

From the ends of the earth From the depths of the sea From the heights of the heavens Your name be praised

From the hearts of the weak
From the shouts of the strong
From the lips of all people
This song we raise Lord

Chorus

Throughout the endless ages You will be crowned with praises Lord Most High

Exalted in every nation Sovereign of all creation Lord Most High be magnified

Songs of Worship

Contemporary Service – 11:00 AM Live Stream

Build My Life CCLI #7070345 | Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Pat Barrett, and Matt Redman

Verse 1 Worthy of ev'ry song We could ever sing Worthy of all the praise We could ever bring Worthy of ev'ry breath We could ever breathe

We live for You

Verse 2 Jesus the name above Ev'ry other name Jesus the only one Who could ever save Worthy of ev'ry breath We could ever breathe We live for You

Chorus

We live for You

Holy there is no one like You There is none beside You Open up my eyes in wonder And show me who You are And fill me with Your heart And lead me in Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Praise The Father Praise The Son CCLI #5203251 | Ed Cash and Chris Tomlin

Verse 1

O sov'reign God O matchless King The saints adore the angels sing And fall before the throne of grace To You belongs the highest praise

Verse 2

These sufferings this passing tide Under Your wings I will abide And ev'ry enemy shall flee You are my hope and victory

Chorus 1

Praise the Father praise the Son Praise the Spirit Three in One Clothed in power and in grace The name above all other names

Verse 3

To the valley for my soul
Thy great descent has made me whole
Your word my heart has welcomed home
Now peace like water ever flows

Chorus 1

Bridge

Yours is the kingdom Yours is the power Yours is the glory forever Yours is the kingdom Yours is the power Yours is the glory forever

Chorus 2

Praise the Father praise the Son And praise the Spirit Three in One Clothed in power and in grace The name above all other names The name above all other names

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The ministry of Shepherd of the Hills Calvary Chapel is not possible without the help of many volunteers who give their time and talents to serve in various areas of the church.

Scheduled Today 12/29

Welcome Desk: Diane K.

Greeters: Gordon & Sandy M. / Mark F. / Ed

& Barb F.

Calvary Cafe: Diane / Sharon Chronicles Books: Melanie B.

Calvary Kids

Crib Room: Diane K.

Toddler Care: Mikaela / Melisa Children's Church: Crystal / Isabella

A/V Team:

Sound: Neil / Brad Video: Stan / James

Logistics Team

Deacon: Uwe B.

Offering Counters: Vaughn M. / Francesca P.

Scheduled Next Week 01/05

Welcome Desk: Diane K.

Greeters: Edo J. / Terry & Gail L. / Uwe & Mary

B.

Calvary Cafe: Ling's / Hughes' / Engelman's Chronicles Books: Aimee F. / Francesca P.

Calvary Kids

Crib Room: Judy W. / Debbie E. Toddler Care: Chevelle / Heather Children's Church: Crystal / Isabella

A/V Team:

Sound: Neil / Tyler Video: Matt / James

Logistics Team

Deacon: Mark F.

Offering Counters: Patti W. / Sharon S.

SOTH CC mobile app



Stay connected with Shepherd of the Hills by downloading our Mobile App Today!

Our mobile app allows you to get instant updates and events about the church, as well as download and listen to messages, study God's Word, give Online, and more!

VOLUNTEER CORNER Service Opportunities

Are you interested in serving here at Shepherd of the Hills? Here are just a few areas that have an active need.

we're Hiring! A Part-time (Salaried, 32 hours) Ministry Assistant. Mon-Thurs: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Friday: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. This position consists of primarily office work, conducted at a desk. While some tasks will require walking, standing, crouching, and lifting (<25 lbs.), most work will be done from a seated position. The Ministry Assistant shall be responsible for the overall management and administration of the church office. S/He will also serve in a simultaneous capacity as the Sr. Pastor's administrative assistant. Due to the nature of the ministry, this position requires a high degree of confidentiality and as such the person selected must be trustworthy and honest. A complete job description and application can be found at our website: www.soth.church/ministries/service-opportunities

Toddler Care Room Assistant: We are looking for volunteers to assist in our Toddler Care Room during the 11:00 AM Service. This is a rotating schedule (once every 4-6 weeks). Please contact Renee Miller at rmiller@soth.church if interested in helping. Per PA law, background clearances will be needed.

Building Upkeep Volunteers: We are seeking individuals who are interested in helping to clean the building and perform general upkeep as needed. If interested, please contact the church office at info@soth.church

Multimedia Team: We're looking for people to join our multimedia team on Sunday mornings. You would be helping with video and audio production, sound mixing, and other tech-related areas of the Sunday service. If you're interested in helping, let us know! Experience not needed and we will provide all the training you need. Email pastor Jon at media@soth.church

Connect Group Leader: We are currently looking for people to host in-home small groups. The person must be (or willing to become) a member of SOTH, be a believer, be able to host a group of between 7 and 10 other people twice per month and be able to coordinate the group's meetings. This person ideally will have a spiritual giftedness of a pastor, teacher, administrator, host, or other relevant gift. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Pastor Jason at jwells@soth.church.



HOW TO SUPPORT MISSIONS

You can give financial support to our Missions projects through our regular giving envelopes by check or cash. You can also give *Electronically* using our **Online Giving Portal**, through our **Mobile App**, or at Chronicles
Christian Books.

You can also support our missionaries by sending a SOTH Missions **Postcard** at Chronicles Books. You can write an encouraging message to our commitment missionary of the month and we will mail the card for you.

December Missions

The Stokes family lives in the mountains of Papua Indonesia amongst a people group named the "Dem." They are an isolated people group that have no written form of their language, never had any western influences and are completely remote. The only way in or out if by using a small missionary plane or their feet.

They have completed the translation of the Bible into the native language and have taught their first round of over 80 lessons of the Gospel. They have experienced several hundred native Dem coming to listen each day.

Currently the Stokes cannot return to the tribe at this time due to tribal fighting, but are training natives in a neighboring village.

Where they live there is no power company, no water company, no roads or corner mini mart. They live off solar panels, water from a stream and the trip to the

Jeremiah & Briana Stokes are our Missions Commitment focus for the month of December. The Stokes serve in the mountains of Papua Indonesia as missionaries to the "Dem" tribe.

grocery store is a plane landing with a couple months' worth of food.

"We are Jeremiah & Briana Stokes. We have 3 children Eden Jericho and Noelle and we are missionaries with New Tribes Mission in Indonesia.

We moved overseas July 4, 2010. We are both from Pennsylvania but opposite sides of the state. Briana is from eastern Pa and Jeremiah is from Pittsburgh. We both grew up in Christian homes but when we were in our first year of college, we were confronted with the fact that there are unreached tribal people groups that have no access to the Bible."





Vision Project



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Samaritan's Purse – Hurricane Relief is our Missions Vision Project for the month of December.

Samaritan's Purse is responding to both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, with multiple disaster relief bases in North Carolina and Florida.

Disaster relief volunteer teams are mudding out homes, tarping roofs, and cutting downed trees

Ground transportation is being used to deliver critically needed items, including generators

Please pray for all communities reeling after these two storms. We praise God that, so far, 306 people have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Monthly Updates

An Update from the Pastor...

Hi everyone! I hope this finds you blessed and well. We are in the Christmas season right now which means we are in one of the most exciting times of the year. There is a lot that happens during these weeks and a lot to prepare for, so please remember to pray for all the ministry that takes place in December.

I also want to encourage us all to pause and remember the real 'reason for the season:' that Jesus Christ was born into the world to offer hope to the hopeless, and salvation to the lost. It is great to decorate the homes and have gatherings and give gifts, just keep in mind the reason we do, why it is special.

Someone once asked me why Christians should celebrate Christmas the way we do since Jesus was not born in December, the wise men were practicing astrology (something condemned in scripture), pine trees do not grow in Israel and decorating them comes from paganism. They mentioned the Christmas season is more filled with worldly traditions than it is of the celebrations of the early church. To which I replied, they were right! Jesus was likely born around the Spring, based on historical evidence. It is also correct that decorating

pine trees comes from European history, not Israelite. Also, the wise men did not worship God – they followed the stars.

And yet God, in His sovereignty, was able to change the meaning of all that from something that celebrated paganism to something that celebrated His Son! And so now, every year on December 25th, the entire world recognizes and even worships the birth of Jesus Christ. We truly serve an awesome God!

Have a wonderful December, and a very merry Christmas!

Pastor Collin Monger Senior Pastor



The church property is large – between 15 and 20 acres. That means it takes constant upkeep and work to ensure it remains capable of meeting the needs of the ministry. Here are some recent updates regarding the property:

- The roof project has been completed! This fall we were able to finish replacing the roof over the offices, school rooms, and fellowship hall areas. The roof over the foyer and bookstore had been done a few years ago, so we are done with this project for now. Thank you to everyone who helped with this!
- Glen Moyer, who served as our property maintenance employee, has moved on to other things to be closer to family near his home. We thank him for his help over the past year and his volunteer service the year before that. Beginning in January we will be welcoming Lee Rufe to our staff as a part-time maintenance supervisor. Lee will help us keep the building and the grounds in good working order.
- We need more space for the youth and other activities that currently take place in the school, on the lower level, and in the fellowship hall. Please pray for God to open a door of provision for this need.
- The driveway entrances near the main road need to be repaired. This has been discussed and we are looking to have those done as soon as possible, weather dependent.
- Our library needs updating to meet the needs of the people using the room. Since the room is not used as a library anymore and is instead used for meetings, classes, and Bible studies, the idea is to update it to fit those needs. The plan is to keep books needed by the church and have a book fair at some point to allow



people from the church a chance to purchase books from the library collection, with the rest being donated. The room will then be worked on to provide more seating and table space, technology resources and tools, and other things needed for that kind of space.

• For the past couple of years, we have had a kind of mower shortage with several machines needing repair. However, a member of the church has donated several machines and made repairs on the ones we had, so that now we have more mowers than before. Thank you to all who have helped in that! Also, if you are interested in helping to mow in the spring and summer, please reach out to the office and let us know — we need your help! (610) 754-6446

Servant spotlight

Brian and Sandy Ling

Currently serving: Calvary Café, Wednesday Family Meals, Vacation Bible School



We came to Shepherd of the Hills in December of 2019. After only a short time we were kept home due to the pandemic so getting to know people became almost impossible. Once we were all back an opportunity arose to serve, and we jumped on it. We saw it as a way of getting to know our new Church family. That was one of the best decisions we ever made. We have been able to build relationships, discover our spiritual gifts, and see the joy we can share with others. We have now been at Shepherd of the Hills for five years and we still find it exciting when asked to volunteer. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us to use our gifts to serve one another. Serving is something we feel blessed to be able to do and it is our prayer that others are blessed by it as

MUSIC MOMENTS "Lay Me Down"



Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." -John 15:13

"What does it mean when we sing 'Lay Me Down?'" – I had

someone ask me this question one Sunday in response to one of the song choices of the morning: "Lay Me Down" by Chris Tomlin. I explained that Lay Me Down is a call to surrender to Christ. The third verse of the song states that we are "letting go of our pride, giving up all our rights." The verse then ends with a plea: "take this life and let it shine." The individual understood after I finished explaining the meaning of the song, but it made me realize something: perhaps the message of a given song is not as obvious to others as it is to all of us serving as worship leaders.

After all, what is a song? In most cases, a song is poetry, written to a given melody, tempo, and cadence. Over the centuries the style of poetry and melody has shifted and changed. Every year it seems there are new ways to express the truth of God through song and poetry; and this is good! Psalm 96 urges us to "sing to the LORD a new song" – a song not burdened by dull routine or obligation but sung fresh from a heart desperate to draw close to God. A song that leads us to say, "it will be my joy to say, Your will, Your way." That song is one worth singing in our daily praise.

Spiritual Care: Thankfulness and Anxiety

Anxiety steals our joy, and we forget just how good God is. This past November we learned that a heart full of thankfulness and praise is the spiritual key to truly managing anxiety. This focus is not a call to ignore the hardship of life. It is to make an active choice to remind ourselves that God is in control. His peace is found when we take our eyes off the worries and place them on Him.

Take a moment to read Philippians 4:4-9. Notice that the imprisoned Paul calls us to praise the Lord. In the act of worship, we are reminded that the God we serve is greater than our fears. Paul then reminds us to focus on God's goodness. When we make the active choice to recognize the Lord's blessings, even in difficult times, we are reminded just how good the Lord is. A heart that is full of

thankfulness and praise is a heart that will be less anxious.

Take time today and listen to a worship song. Create a list of all the blessings you see God doing even in the struggle. Bring your worries and concerns to the Lord in prayer. You will begin to feel his peace rest upon you even in the difficult times.

For more counsel and prayer around life's difficult challenges, reach out to Pastor Jason @ 610-754-6446 ex 23 or email at jwells@soth.church.





As we enter the joyous season of Advent, we want to take a moment to update you on the exciting things happening in our Christian School Ministry! It's been a wonderful fall, filled with new faces, learning, and fun! We are so grateful for God's provision the ministry, and we want to share with you some key highlights, as well as upcoming events that we're looking forward to this month.

Meet Our New Preschool Teachers and Assistant

We are excited to introduce two new teachers who have recently joined our school staff: Karen Rufe and Tammy Hinkle. Both Karen and Tammy bring a wealth of experience and passion for early childhood education, and we're thrilled to have them as part of our staff.



Karen Rufe is a new Lead Teacher for the 4-year-old class. Karen has worked in childhood education for many years and has a heart for teaching children about

God's love. Her experience, combined with her loving demeanor, makes her a perfect fit for our preschool family.

Tammy Hinkle also joins us as a Lead Teacher for our second 4-year-old class. Tammy has worked with preschool-aged children on Sunday mornings within



our church and brings an enthusiastic and creative approach to the classroom.



Our Christian School operates here at Shepherd of the Hills, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. There are a total of 5 classes ranging from ages 3 to kindergarten with approximately 40+ students enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year.

She loves making learning fun and is excited to help each child reach their full potential.

We are also excited to introduce Melissa Wilson, who has joined us as a classroom assistant with Mrs. Rufe's class. Melissa has a background in early childhood education and has been a great addition to our team.

Together, Amber, Karen, Tammy, Elizabeth, Grace, Katie, and Melissa are a wonderful team who are helping to create an environment where every child can thrive. We are so blessed to have them on our staff and look forward to all the ways they will continue to impact the lives of our students.

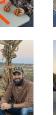


*Photos from October Harvest Festival.

Upcoming School Events & Fundraiser

As we approach the holidays, our annual Cookie and Soup Fundraiser kicks off on Sunday, December 8th. All premade cookie and soup mixes will be available









for purchase in the Foyer for \$8 each, while supplies last. These jars make great gifts for friends and family. All proceeds will go directly to the school ministry to



help fund classroom supplies, special projects, and scholarships for families in need.

Christmas Program - December 13th

One of the highlights of our December calendar is our annual Christmas Program, which will take place on Friday, December 13th, at 7:00 PM. This is always a special time for our school families as the children share the joy of the Christmas season through song, scripture, and celebration. Our Shepherd of the Hills Homeschool Co-op will open the program with a recitation of Luke 2 followed by a performance of "Oh, What a Special Night" by the 3-year-old, Pre-K, and Kindergarten classes.

We are so thankful for your continued support of our Preschool Ministry. Please keep our teachers, children, and families in your prayers as we finish out the year and look forward to all that God has in store in 2025.

God Bless, Pastor Charles Rowdon





We're excited to share with you the latest experiences in our Youth Ministry as we enter the final month of the year. The past few months have been filled with growth, community, and opportunities to serve, and we are eager to keep the momentum going as we prepare for the new year. Here's a quick look at what's been happening with our Middle School and High School H2O groups, as well as some exciting events coming up in January.



Middle School Group

Our Middle School group has been thriving this fall! We've seen new faces join us, and it's been a joy to watch the students grow in their faith. Recently, we started a series on "The Heart of Christmas" and we'll be looking at the promise of hope, the gift of giving, and the humility of nativity. It is always a joy seeing the youth engage in their faith, especially during this Christmas season!

The group continues to meet every Wednesday night from 6:30-8:30PM for Bible study, games, and small group discussions. The energy and enthusiasm in the room is contagious, and it's clear that these students are forming lasting relationships with each other and with God. We encourage you to pray for our Middle School group as they continue to develop deeper friendships and grow in their faith.

High School Group

The High School group has also had an exciting season. We've been diving deeper into the theme of "Faith in Action," with a study of the book of James. We're so proud of the students for their willingness to engage in tough conversations and for their desire to be lights in their schools and communities. Our High School group meets every Wednesday evening as well at 6:30-8:30PM, and we've had great discussions, worship, and fellowship during our gatherings. As we head into the Christmas season, we're looking forward to a Redneck Christmas Party and the upcoming winter retreat.





Service Day – Leaf Raking

One of the highlights of this fall was our Service Day, where our youth came together to serve members of our church by raking leaves in their yards. It was such a wonderful opportunity for the students to put their faith into action and show the love of Christ to others in a tangible way.

A huge thank you to all the students, leaders, and volunteers who made this day a success. It was a true reflection of the heart of our Youth Ministry – serving with humility, kindness, and joy.

Winter Retreat – January 10-12 @ Spruce Lake Retreat Center
We're gearing up for one of the most exciting events of the year – the Winter Retreat! This year's retreat will take place from January 10th to 12th at a beautiful retreat center, where both our Middle School and High School students will come together for a weekend of rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. The retreat will include worship, teaching, small group discussions, outdoor activities, and plenty of time for students to build deeper friendships. This retreat is always a transformative experience, and we are praying that it will be a time of great breakthroughs and encounters with God.



We are so thankful for the continued support of our church family. Your prayers and encouragement mean the world to us, and we are excited to see what God has in store for our Youth Ministry in the coming months.

God Bless. **Pastor Charles**



H26 UPCOMING HIS TO OWN Winter Event 2025

6:30-8:30 **18** December

REDNECK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for a wacky night of fellowship as we celebrate Jesus' birth by coming dressed in your best redneck attire. We will play some games, have a \$10 white elephant exchange, and are asking youth to bring a dessert to share.

25 December

NO YOUTH GROUP

There is no Youth Group on Christmas day. Spend time with friends and family!

10-12 January

WINTER RETREAT

Join us for our winter retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat Center. Cost is \$85 per youth. See Pastor Charles for a packing list and more details.

10:00-4:00 Tebruary

MISSION TRIP CANDY FUNDRAISER

Join us on Saturday February 1st to help make chocolate candies as part of our H2O Valentines Day fundraiser! All proceeds go towards the H2O mission trip.

GET INVOLVED AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

Nothing about the Christian faith is by accident, it all requires being intentional about your relationship with God. We encourage everyone who attends Shepherd of the Hills to this intentional approach to our church through service and fellowship.

Every third Sunday we offer a Shepherd 100 class for those who are interested in learning more about our church community. These classes begin with Shepherd 101 where you'll get an introduction to our church and the various ministries that you can serve in. Our Shepherd 102 class walks through the Calvary Chapel Distinctives. Finally, our Shepherd 103 class walks through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to use your gifts for service in the church.

If you would like to attend a Shepherd 100 class, please sign up at the Event Sign-Up kiosk in the foyer or <a href="mailto:em

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



Isaiah 12:5 says; "Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth." Worship music is an important element in every worship service; joining with other believers to sing praises to our Lord and savior. Here at Shepherd of the Hills we have been blessed to have some amazing musicians who are



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!"

Psalm 100:1-2

committed to leading us in worship.

Our worship ministry, **One Voice**, leads the congregation in songs of worship on Sunday mornings and special events throughout the year. During our 9:30am and 11:00am services, we have a dedicated team of musicians that lead the church in contemporary worship songs.

For our 8:00am service we worship with songs and hymns lead by piano and acoustic instruments. We believe hymns are timeless and just as important for worship as the contemporary



songs we sing at our 9:30am & 11:00am services.

If you have been blessed with the ability to play music or sing and would be interested in joining our One Voice ministry see pastor Jon Grove for more information.





Our ministries here at Shepherd of the Hills Church allow us to carry out our mission by addressing a specific area of need in our community. To learn more about a ministry, tap on a logo below.



