



HEART OF THE MATTER

The Parables of Jesus

January 4, 2026



We're so glad you've joined us today!



Learn more about the opportunities below:

- Scan the **QR code**
- Stop by a **Connection Center**
- Visit **calvarychurch.org/learnmore**

This month, Men's & Women's Bible Studies will kick off new series! Men will study through theologically-significant anchor passages, while women will study through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Both studies begin the week of January 11. Women meet on Tuesdays at 9:30am or Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Men meet on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Chapel. Sign up online.

This new year, join us for *Essentials*, an interactive small group that explores the "One Story" of Scripture and helps you understand how to read, apply, and live it out. Unit III: God Becomes Flesh, will be offered January 18 through March 1, at either 9:30 or 11:00am. Explore how God shows His love through Jesus Christ, inviting humanity to believe in and have a relationship with Him. Sign up online.

Crocheters and Knitters: The Good News Blanket Brigade partners with two ministries to make blankets that proclaim the gospel. All skill levels are welcome, and yarn is provided. Our next meeting is Saturday, January 17, at 10:00am in room 312. Contact Freda at dfekconner@verizon.net for more information or to get involved.

Applications for 2026 short-term ministry teams are now open! To apply for teams traveling to non-secure locations, visit our website. Those interested in teams that will be serving in secure locations can email Meagan Landis at mlandis@calvarychurch.org to find out more details and to RSVP for the informational meeting that will take place on January 18 at 9:30am.

Financial Peace University is a nine-week online course that teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt, spend wisely, and invest for the future... all from a biblical perspective! The next group starts on Monday, January 12. Register online.

Warriors of the Word, an eight-week Bible memory program developed by Piercing Word, will begin on Monday, January 19. Homeschool students will meet at 1:30pm, and all others will meet at 6:30pm, both in room 318. Email Beth at beth.weaver@worldteam.org for more information or to register.

Identity Matters is an eight-week interactive group series that explores how our identity in Christ shapes our purpose and actions, emphasizing that, as Christians, we live from our identity, not for it. Join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm, starting January 13. Email Steve Adams at steve@embracingbrokenness.org to request more information or to register.

Reminders

Global & Family Prayer: Wednesday, 6:30pm, room 317.

Baptism is an opportunity to publicly share with your loved ones and our church body about the new life you’ve found in Christ. Want to take the next step of baptism? We have a place for you at our next baptism class on Sunday, January 11, at 11:00am in the lobby conference room. Sign up online to let us know you’ll be there.

Scan the QR code to view our church calendar and find out what’s happening this week.

Praying For One Another

LGH: Brian Uhlin

Please take time to pray for the spouses and families of these loved ones who have gone home to be with the Lord:

Gerald (Jere) Brubaker – December 24

Glenn Metzler – December 26

Lester (Jim) Weaver – December 26

Pauline (Polly) Smith – December 27

Financial Information

Week 26, December 28

	General	Global	Building	Combined
Weekly Budget	147,097	52,180	11,538	210,815
Received	332,546	76,008	5,799	414,353
Received YTD	4,021,144	1,255,431	170,647	5,447,222
Budget YTD	3,824,522	1,356,680	299,988	5,481,190

Financial summaries through November 30 are available at the Connection Centers.

Stay connected!

@calvarychurchpa   

Watch Live on the MyCalvary App, Facebook, or calvarychurch.org/live
Ukrainian interpretation at 9:30am | Sign language, Spanish interpretation,
and WDAC FM 94.5 broadcast at 11:00am

Wifi password: Pursuing Life | calvarychurch.org
1051 Landis Valley Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601 | 717-560-2341

Heart of the Matter

The Sower and the Soils - Mark 4:1-20 (p. 839)

Jesus begins His parables with a call to listen. In the Parable of the Sower, He shows that God's Word is powerful and life-giving, but its impact depends on the condition of our heart. Today, we're invited to examine whether our heart is truly receptive to Jesus and the transforming power of God's Word.

The Context (4:1-2)

The Parable of the Soils (4:3-9)

Listen! (3)

The Soils (4-8)

Hear! (9)

The Purpose of Parables (4:10-12)

The Parable Explained (4:13-20)

A Hard Heart: Along the Path (15)

A Vulnerable Heart: On Rocky Ground (16-17)

A Distracted Heart: Among the Thorns (18-19)

A Receptive Heart: On Good Soil (20)