



Calvary Family News

September 2025

A Call to Prayer

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

The Lord made those promises to the Israelites at one of the darkest times in the nation's history. They had just been taken into captivity and hauled off to Babylon. While those words were written to Israel about 2,600 years ago, I believe they are also applicable to Calvary Baptist Church today. And while our situation is not nearly as bleak as it was for the Jews back then, I believe the promise is just as valid for us today.

God has plans for us. Not plans for evil but for welfare, a future, and for hope. Our part is rather simple. We need to come to Him and pray. We, as a Church and as individuals, need to seek the Lord. Not to try to figure out His plans but to have a relationship with Him. From there He will lead us in the direction He wants us to go.

To help facilitate this, the elders are making a few changes in our weekly Church schedule. For the next four months, until the end of the year, we are moving our prayer meeting from Wednesday evening to Sunday at 9:00 AM, our "Sunday School" time.

My request is that everyone who is coming to the Sunday morning worship service, come an hour early and pray with us. We will focus on our spiritual growth, building community within the body of Christ, being the hands and feet of Jesus, and being salt and light to those God brings into our paths.

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Please join us as we seek the Lord's direction in our mission to Love God, Love People, Proclaim Christ, And Make Disciples.

In His Love,
Pastor Karl

Beautiful Worship

John Owen said that the church should regularly be finding ways to express worship in manners that are *“more decent, beautiful, and orderly.”* What did Owen mean by *“beautiful”* worship? Was this beauty meant to proceed from rites and rituals, incense and candles, worship bands and spotlights? Was he talking about organizing a worship experience wherein the participant is caught up in a trance-like state in a darkened, fog-filled room? This is not quite what Owen had in mind. For worship to be biblically beautiful, Owen believed, it must focus on the triune God.

All acceptable devotion in them that worship God is the effect of faith, which respects the precepts and promises of God alone. And the comeliness and beauty of gospel worship consisteth in its relation unto God by Jesus Christ, as the merciful high priest over his house, with the glorious administration of the Spirit therein.

We would do well to keep in mind that **“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24)**. This is the only manner of devotion and worship that God accepts. God seeks those who will worship *“in spirit.”* The Greek is quite clear here. It does not say *“in the Spirit”* but *“in spirit.”* Jesus is not instructing believers to worship in the Holy Spirit but with or in the human spirit. He is telling the Samaritan woman in **John 4** not only that he desires worship that flows from a knowledge of the truth of who he is, but also that he is looking for worshipers who will worship from the very depth of their inner being—their spirit.

Authentic biblical worship occurs only when the very core of our being is employed in worshiping God. Our lips may mouth the words, our hands may be lifted upward, our eyes may fill with tears, but unless these expressions flow from *“the effect of faith,”* as Owen describes, our worship is mere performance. Valid worship proceeds from the heart of faith, for **“without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb. 11:6)**. Worship isn’t born in the void of our conscience but proceeds from truth.

The truth of who God is as revealed in his word, the understanding of who Christ is and what he accomplished in his incarnation, the realization of who the Spirit is and what he is currently doing in our lives. Without truth born in faith, worship becomes ordinary, humdrum, and even carnal.

In **John 4:23**, a peculiar phrase warrants our attention here: ***“The Father is seeking such people to worship him.”*** Wait. Don’t we, as worshipers, seek God? Indeed, we do. All genuine worship begins with a heartfelt seeking after God. This is the clarion call of **1 Chronicles 16:8–11**:

**Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!**

Extended to all believers, the command is clear: *“seek his presence continually.”* But Jesus reminds his people not only that we seek God in worship but also that he is seeking us. The Father is actively pursuing those whose hearts yearn to bask in his omnipotent glory.

It’s easy to fall into the trap of the conventionally humdrum *“worship service,”* giving little thought to the extemporaneous beauty that becomes a reality when we properly behold the holiness of God. We don’t have to work up some frenzied performance to appease God; we just need to come in faith and truth offering our innermost selves, for God is already pursuing and singing over us (**Zeph. 3:17**).

Excerpt from ‘The Loveliest Place’ by Dustin Bengé, submitted by FS.

Thank you!

Dear Family at CBC Baker City,
We are Very Grateful for all your prayers over these many years. This summer we sold our house in Chihuahua and wanted to share part with you all. May this be a great blessing to you in some ministry or project you have faithfully supported us and we want to express our appreciation.

May the Lord Bless you all greatly.

With The Love of Christ,

Glenn, Teo & Derek

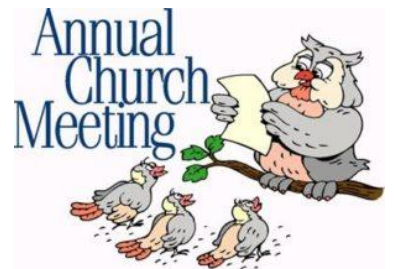
(The above note accompanied a donation)



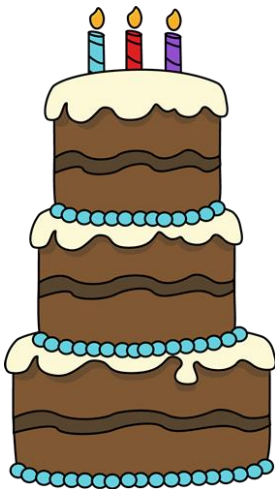
October Newsletter

Items should be turned in on or by Tuesday, September 29th.

We'd love to hear Your news and share with our Church family!



Will be on Sunday, Sept. 28th right after our Worship Service.



September Birthdays

8 Joe Sword

Ladies' Monday Night Bible Study will be starting back up at 6pm on September 8th in Browning Hall. There is always room for more.



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9am Church Body Prayer Time 10am Worship, Child Church & Nursery	1 Labor Day 6pm Men's Bible Study	2 10:30a-1:30p CBC Serves at Sr Center	3	4 5-6 pm Community Dinner BBQ, Chips & Berry Salad! 6pm Celebrate Recovery	5 9am Ladies 1st Friday Breakfast at Baker Truck Corral	6
7 9am Church Body Prayer Time 10am Worship, Child Church & Nursery	8 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study	9	10	11 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6pm Celebrate Recovery	12	13 
14 9am Church Body Prayer Time 10am Worship, Child Church & Nursery	15 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study	16	17	18 5-6 pm Community Dinner Stroganoff, Salad & Dessert! 6pm Celebrate Recovery	19	20
21 9am Church Body Prayer Time 10am Worship, Child Church & Nursery	22 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study	23 	24	25 5-6 pm Community Dinner Veggie Beef Soup & Bread! 6pm Celebrate Recovery	26	27
28 9am Church Body Prayer Time 10am Worship, Child Church & Nursery Annual Mtg	29 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study	30	1	2 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6pm Celebrate Recovery	3 9am Ladies 1st Friday Breakfast at Baker Truck Corral	4