

Calvary Newburgh was one of nine HRP congregations that participated in the New Beginnings assessment process in 2012. After receiving the NB report about the reality they faced, Calvary's leadership went through a time of discernment in which they listened for what kind of church God is calling them to be and how they might best serve their neighborhood, which is full of great needs. Ultimately they found that their own passions for hospitality and feeding the hungry matches very well with the needs in Newburgh for food and food justice advocacy. Trusting in God's guidance, this aging, mostly white congregation asked J. Edward, an African American prison chaplain ordained in the United Church of Christ denomination, to help them connect with their neighbors and serve as their part-time pastor. Since his arrival Calvary's ministry has really taken off, with many people in the community and neighborhood connecting with the church through its outreach. Calvary is a great example of the New Beginning that is possible when a congregation is open to embracing change and taking some risks to serve their immediate neighborhood.

Please join the Rev. J. Edward and the Calvary congregation on May 18th as they celebrate their future story together at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Newburgh on **Sunday, May 18th at 3:00pm.**