



Calvary Weekly Connection

August 16th – August 21st, 2020

ZOOM WORSHIP

by Phone

Sunday, August 16th at 9AM

1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 647 829 181#

Password: 082013

ZOOM WORSHIP

by Computer Device

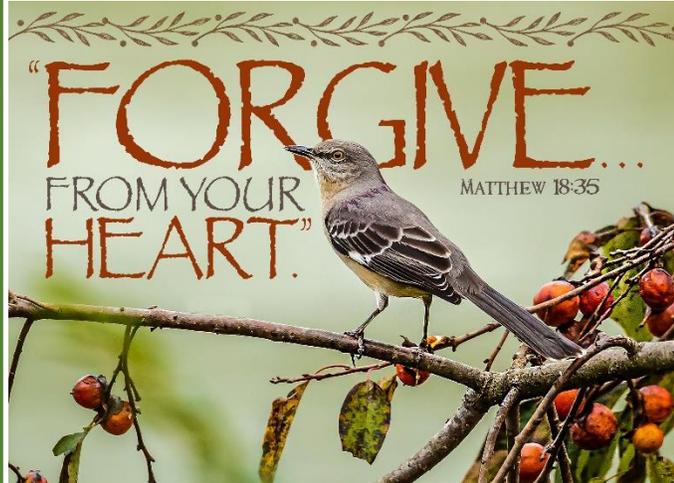
Sunday, August 16th at 9AM

[https://zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09](https://zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09HSmFQcUZ3bEorMUNwRUNkZz09)

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REMINDER:

Please regularly check the online church calendar on Calvary's website: calvaryumcmohnton.org. All small groups, ministry meetings, and services (Zoom, as well as on-site) will be listed, including details, when necessary & available.

We Need Some Good News

[Read Romans 10:5-15, CEB]

This week I was listening to the July 9th podcast from *On Being* with Krista Tippett titled, "Robin DiAngelo and Resmaa Menaken: In Conversation." Mr. Menaken shares a story of a longtime friend who lives in a neighborhood where "Black Lives Matter" signs have been prominently a part of the front lawn landscape for a long time. After the George Floyd incident, these signs ironically disappeared at the same time the Black Lives Matter movement gained momentum. Menaken explains, "And [my friend] said he found that strange, because if Black lives mattered before all of this went down, what's making you now pick them up? And he said, '—the thing about it was, is that I immediately thought about, Resmaa can't remove his Black skin; that Resmaa can't remove the cops killing him. He can't do that, but we can.' And so [my friend's] been working with that and struggling with that for a minute. And I just let him struggle with it, because that's an important struggle. It's an important question to begin to deal with." The premise they discussed about why the signs were removed was fear, fear that those opposing the movement would target these houses which so prominently display their position. When suddenly, there was discomfort, people escaped. (<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-diangelo-and-resmaa-menakem-in-conversation/>). It got me thinking about Christians and evangelism. Many people today cringe at the prospect of receiving a house call from a person carrying a Bible. Many Christians cringe at the prospect of receiving a house call from a person carrying a Bible.

~ Cont'd on page 3

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP & DISCUSSIONS

Moving forward, our Sunday evening meeting schedule will look like this:

August 16th and 30th – Outdoor Worship on the side lawn at 6:30PM, with Holy Communion (please bring a small piece of bread & juice, or another type of drink); we will have prepackaged communion sets available, if needed. Social distancing and masks are required.

9AM Zoom Worship will continue to be offered each Sunday morning. This will continue into future months.

August 23rd @ 6:30PM *Conversations on Race* continue

LOG INTO WORSHIP LINK...same channel, different time (see above left hand text box)



- 16 – Pete Radwanski
47 Greenleaf Rd.
Bluffton, SC 29910
- 16 – Shannon Wagner
535 Chestnut St.
West Reading, PA 19611
- 17 – Mary Jo Hollis
Country Meadows, Apt.
414
1803 Tulpehocken Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 17 – Riley Pearson
53 Shea Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 18 – Ginny Epps
307 Maplewood Ave.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 19 – Jeff Fichthorn
4500 Wilfox Ave.
Reading, PA 19605
- 21 – Kimberly Angstadt
1182 Maple Grove Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 22 – Phyllis Weinstein
807 Oregon Rd.

Covid-19 requires additional prep for worship, extra hands on deck during worship, and follow-up tear-down/touch-up cleaning afterward. So, MORE willing hands and hearts are needed 😊

So far FIVE members have volunteered...is God nudging you???

Volunteer to be a “J Walker” (Walking with Jesus)

- ✓Willing to serve during outdoor worship?
- ✓Prepare or clean up the worship space?
 - ✓Greet and seat people?
 - ✓Read liturgy, scripture, or poetry?
- ✓Offer hospitality and joy for Jesus during in-person services?

Please contact Janet Dearstyne (610-777-8441 or administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net). We’d like to have a group of 10-12 volunteers to set up a rotation schedule.



Janet Tait now has a private phone number at Berks Heim, 610-898-7675. She would be very happy to receive calls between 10AM & 7PM.

Sunday AM Adult Study – Following 9AM Zoom Worship

For Sunday 8/16, the topic of *Belonging* will continue as we consider the dynamics of identity formed in community, asking questions like "who am I," "whose am I?" What is similar and different about identity markers in the religious settings over the past decades?

Joining Zoom link (same as Sunday AM worship):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09HSmFQcUZ3bEorMUNwRUNkZz09>

Meeting ID: 647 829 181; Password: 082013



WVP has been working diligently in order to determine how to best juggle the challenges of this pandemic. In our initial plan for a September opening, we cancelled our Toddler Class, as well as our Extended Morning and Afternoon Class

options, knowing we would need those spaces to accommodate social distancing. We then considered how to adjust our daily routines and class sizes to meet numerous agency guidelines and staffing needs. We further discussed how to cover all the additional expenses involved in maintaining a safe environment for our students, families, and staff, yet still struggled to make all of these things work while being realistic about the fact that we work with small children.

The Wyomissing Valley Preschool Board of Directors met to discuss and prayerfully determine the best course of action. It has been decided that WVP will delay opening until at least January of 2021. By delaying the start of our school year, and with optimistically fewer restrictive guidelines in place, we will watchfully consider opening in the New Year. It is vital that we operate under a more sound financial status while still providing the same quality of care and education that is expected of Wyomissing Valley Preschool.

We thank you for your continued support and understanding during these unusual and trying times.

Kelli Ernst, WVP Director

Many Christians cringe at the prospect of having to share the Gospel with others. Many Christians put up their signs only so far, too. Maybe we wear a cross necklace or display the cross in our homes. Certainly we spend a lot of money on Christmas decorations, and so do many other people who are not Christians. Theologian, Martha Highsmith, argues that how we do evangelism can be delineated between the north and south. She claims evangelism is “social justice in the North and witnessing to one’s faith in the South” (*Feasting on the Word, Year A, Volume 3*, 328). If we were to turn to our co-worker, our neighbor, a stranger and profess our faith in Christ, we face a risk of being ignored, offending the other person, or, worse yet, losing a friend. Many Christians reject the idea of evangelism simply because they don’t know what to say or do. There’s discomfort; there’s fear. Both of these instances got me thinking about Paul’s message of human fragility, integrity, and God’s faithfulness through Christ.

Paul clearly emphasizes that all believers are called to proclaim Jesus Christ as Messiah. Just start with Paul’s conclusion in our passage: “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news” (Romans 10:15). Paul asks these challenging questions: How do we profess “Jesus is Lord?” How do we reveal the love of Christ that is merciful, just, and life-giving? How do people believe in Jesus if they have not heard him? This letter not only communicates the answer but it embodies it as well.

Paul is speaking from a deep place of concern for his own community. Paul is Jewish, and his belief in Jesus is in the context of his Jewish faith tradition. In this letter, Paul addresses his own disappointment in how the Jewish community has failed to embrace the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He is crying out as we do when we pray that our family and friends would listen and embrace the love of Christ. He argues that they insist on law instead of simply resting in faith alone. Paul wants to help people recognize that Jesus Christ fulfills the promise God has made in the Jewish covenant. His purpose is not to condemn his friends and family but to further negotiate their differences, to speak through their language so as to touch their hearts. Paul is also speaking to strangers; he has never even visited the faith communities in Rome. News of the division in Rome has compelled Paul to share his faith. Paul is living out the hope in Christ by faithfully professing the truth as he knows it. He is proclaiming the very message of faith that Jesus commanded his disciples. He is spreading good news.

Paul identifies all believers as messengers of faith. It is our faithful response to God’s mercy and love to share the good news and liberate others. Jesus began his ministry in the Gospel of Luke, reading from the scroll of Isaiah:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.* (Luke 4:18-19)

It’s with this same mission that Jesus anoints all believers. Just before Jesus ascends in the Gospel in Matthew, he commands the disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:16-20). In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells his disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). There is no circumventing the truth that belief in Christ is linked with sharing the good news, with evangelism.

Today we face the same challenge of Paul. Membership in our churches is declining at an ever quickening rate. With the mitigation strategies necessary for Covid-19, we are grieving the ability to practice our faith as we have always done. We are wondering if people will ever enter the doors of our buildings once they open again. We long for our family and friends who do not know Christ to receive this message of life. Paul embodies his message and makes it obviously pertinent. It is our responsibility to share this message of faith. If not us, then who? If not us, then how will anyone hear Jesus? As Paul concludes, “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.” Think about that...good news. Isn’t that what anyone wants to hear!

Why does professing our faith seem so scary? Why does it feel so uncomfortable to share the good news? One of the reasons people cringe at the language of evangelism is because of the harm that we have happened in the past. Christians haven’t just shared the Gospel, they have forced people to receive it, profess belief in Christ, and denounce their own ways of seeking God. We have called Native Peoples savages; we have stripped away their children to educate them in the Bible. We have used the language of this Gospel to justify slavery and to claim that black people are less than human. In fact, this letter of Paul has been used by many to condemn the Jewish community. Following World War II, the Church recognized its role in perpetuating anti-Semitism that contributed to the genocide of the Jewish community. People have been harmed by Christians and their beliefs that judge and exclude them. While Paul links

confession with salvation, evangelism has in the past led Christians to insist on conversions from other faiths. In a now global world where our neighbors, co-workers, and even family members embrace varying faith traditions, Paul's words are reassuring.

This risky work is nothing new to Paul; he is speaking from experience. His friends and family were resisting the good news. He was speaking to strangers in Rome to heal divisions. This is what I know. Christians have gotten it really wrong in the past. Christians have caused serious hurt in the name of Jesus. Even in our learning and growing today, we will get it wrong again and cause harm again. This is the human story that Paul has talked about before in this very letter. This is human fragility. It's why we must remain faithful to the message of Christ who reveals the power of repentance and forgiveness and who offers life out of death. When we recognize the harm and the brokenness in which we live, either individually or collectively, we must repent. It is our responsibility to name it, ask for forgiveness, and then change it. We cannot remain silent and complicit. The act of radical love, of always remaining one in the Spirit despite the brokenness, is the only way through any suffering. Oneness is not the same as likeness. Oneness celebrates the diversity through which God is creating and offering abundance.

Paul offers us the way to live into the important work of Christians, to profess that Jesus is Lord and to share the good news that you have experienced. All that we need is within us. The Spirit dwells within. What is inside of us - what lies on our hearts - will naturally express itself on the outside - what is on our lips. The truth reveals itself, just as Christ could do nothing but reveal God. Christ is the Word. This is especially true as Christians who know the joy, the hope, the freedom out of which we live in Christ. Paul recognizes that not everyone who hears the proclamation receives it and accepts it. No different than Jesus Christ himself, who when he sent the disciples into the mission field, advised that if they were not welcome to simply dust off their feet and move on. Sharing the Gospel is our work, wherever we go. In faith, we

trust that God is the one working, softening the hardened hearts. We must recognize that God is already fully present, that God's grace is continually flowing. With our eyes, we may or may not see the presence of the Spirit. Our inward faith reassures us, allows us to share the good news, and faithfully walk on letting God continue the work.

I have a dear friend, Dwight, who is a Pentecostal disciple who had once been a Jehovah Witness. He had spent years carrying the Bible to doorsteps and entering homes to share the good news. He can quote scripture like no one else I have ever met. Dwight is also the person I call when I need to hear the good news. There are no words to express the depth of joy and affirmation that pours out of Dwight no matter the difficulties in his life. The last time we spoke, Dwight said to me, "Pastor, I am just sitting back and watching the show!" He was referring to God's show. He went on to explain that there were miracles happening every day, and as a believer, he was just watching. In his church one of the young men had been shot multiple times in a street altercation. They prayed over him. He was alive. He was in a rehabilitation center and doing well. God is working, he proclaimed; God is fulfilling his promise of life and goodness. Praise God! You can't encounter Dwight without encountering Jesus. It's just impossible. How beautiful are the feet of those who share the good news.

Good news is exactly what people need to hear right now. We are the bearer of the good news! We all need to be watching God's show. We all need to be sharing what we see! All people need to hear that they are never alone. All people need to be assured that there is nothing to fear in God. All people need to hear that they are lovable and loved unconditionally. Take what is in your heart and on your lips and share the good news! Bang the signs in your lawns, call it out across the street, tweet it, post it on instagram - Christ is the good news of all time.



Dear Church Family,

Last Sunday night, a small electrical fire began in the youth room. Due to flooding from the heavy rains last week, a fan was left on for an extended period of time. The Mohnton Fire Company responded to the fire alarm and safely put out the fire. We are so grateful for their service! Unfortunately, significant smoke and soot filled the entire basement. Calvary Summer Camp has had to close its doors for their last week.

There are so many blessings to count: no one was hurt; the fire was contained to a small area; the insurance claim has been placed; and Service Master Restore has already responded and is prioritizing Calvary Care in order to expedite cleaning and move them upstairs for the new school year. Praise be to God!

Wherever you are right now, please pause with me in prayer...

O God, our rock and our refuge, we come with grateful hearts for your protection and grace. Even when a fire blazes, you bring us help. You remind us that you are always present. This fire impacts many children, families, and staff. Lord, surround them all with loving care. Already they are facing heightened uncertainty with the ever-changing landscape of Covid-19. Be their refuge and provider when we are unable. We ask that you open ways for children to receive care, for parents to work, and for the staff of Calvary Care to revision the opening. Thank you for shining your light here amidst your faithful servants whose hearts overflow with love for you! We pray in the name of your Son, our Redeemer! Amen.

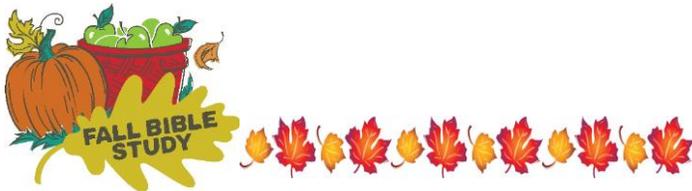
We will continue to keep you informed as progress is made. We ask for continued prayer for the children, families, and staff of Calvary Care. ~Page 4

Prayer Request

Rev. Ken Dearstyne, Sr. – Back at Phoebe Berks in the Healthcare Unit receiving multiple therapies; the vertebral compression fracture is causing continual pain; prayers for relief and healing. If you would like to send a card/note of encouragement, please use the following address; Phoebe Berks Healthcare, Room 106, 1 Reading Dr., Wernersville, PA 19565

FINANCIAL UPDATE - Giving Through Week 32

Current Year thru 8/9/20		Last Year thru 8/10/19	
Received	\$164,025	Received	\$180,047
Annual Budget	\$320,000	Annual Budget	\$308,162
%Rec'd to Date	51.3%	%Rec'd to Date	58.4%



The Thursday morning adult bible study, which was placed on hold due to Covid-19 last March, will be ready to resume in our Chapel AND on Zoom on Thursday, September 17th at 9:30AM.

Bob Wagner, CLM will facilitate the study and discussion on the Book of Hebrews. Please bring your bible along.

Procedurally, if you plan to attend in person, you will be signed-in and have your temperature taken in the Gathering Area before proceeding to the Chapel. After the study is over, attendees will be asked to assist in wiping down the chairs.

For those who plan to attend via Zoom, please watch for that information to be communicated in September.



Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

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