



Calvary Weekly Connection

Feb. 7th – Feb. 13th, 2021

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Serving in Worship

Lay Leader: Jim Adams
Reader: Megan Richerts
Leading Music: The Ebersoles and the Pearsons
Special Music: Kay Wadsworth and Liz Matz

ZOOM WORSHIP by Phone

1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 647 829 181#;
Password: 082013

ZOOM WORSHIP by PC

<https://zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09HSmFQcUJZ3bEorMUNwRUNkZz09>
Meeting ID: 647 829 181
Password: 082013



Prepare for Communion

Please set out a slice or a small loaf of bread & cup(s) of juice. Set these elements wherever you experience Zoom worship with our faith community.

What Have You to Do with People?

Message by Pastor Tamie, 1/31/21
[Scripture: Mark 1:21-28]

Jesus Teaches Healing

While we hoped 2021 would offer a place of healing and peace, we have already experienced unprecedented turmoil: COVID-19 has reached new heights of exposure and death; a challenged political election led to a violent insurrection and the uncertainty of domestic terrorism; and this week we experienced volatile stock market activity. This is only the first month of 2021 - 31 days! While we hoped 2021 would offer a place of healing and peace, we have already experienced unprecedented turmoil: COVID-19 has reached new

heights of exposure and death; a challenged political election led to a violent insurrection and the uncertainty of domestic terrorism; and this week we experienced volatile stock market activity. This is only the first month of 2021 - 31 days! Our culture has so many places of extreme division that seem to be colliding and crashing at a quickening rate. What our faith tradition teaches us, as a people who recognize one God, one Creator, one Source of Life, we are all connected. This divisive culture is contrary to the nature of God's kingdom.

As I watch these events unfold, my heart breaks again and again; my prayer, my hope is that there could be healing that leads to restoration of justice and peace over the people and the land. Healing almost appears an impossibility, as the chasms widen and become more volatile. If you're like me, maybe you're wondering how can I - just one person - make a difference in what appears to be national and global crises, problems so much bigger than an individual. At the very heart of Jesus' teaching is healing, the necessary work that leads to restoration. This gospel reading is most pertinent to us who have been called to become fishers for people. It's a healing that begins one person at a time.

More than any other gospel, Mark emphasizes Jesus' miraculous power to heal. Out of the eighteen miracles recorded in Mark thirteen have to do with healing. The first teaching Jesus offers is this one, when he heals a man with an unclean spirit. While the healing act itself is a face-to-face meeting with unclean spirits, the teaching is a communal message. With authority, Jesus makes it explicitly known that all things impure are on their way out. Jesus ushers in the reign of a restorative God and begins a teaching embodied by healing. Restoration is possible through authentic relationships.

To See or Not to See

Imagine Jesus entering the synagogue with four fisherman - maybe showered, maybe not - and asserting authority in his teaching. His words provoke a man with an unclean spirit. In this place of God's love, Jesus reveals what is hidden. There are people among them who are suffering, who need love and care, who are not seen or ignored. The story does not specify what is particularly ailing the man. Maybe it's more important to recognize that he represents one of

~cont'd on pg. 4



As we leave the season of Epiphany and prepare to move into Lent, we will share together in holding up a symbol for Light of Christ during the prayer time as part of the 2/14 Zoom service. Please have a candle, flashlight, phone light, or something similar ready for that moment. Pastor Tamie will lead the prayer time and provide directions.

W Ash Wednesday

Calvary UMC and St. John's Lutheran Church will usher in the Lenten season by worshipping together, via Zoom (using our regular Sunday AM worship log-in).

Wednesday, February 17th @ 7pm

The evening message will be given by the Rev. Wayne Heintzelman, the new interim pastor for St. John's.

- Calvary members/friends who desire to partake in the imposition of ashes are asked to pick up a pre-packaged plastic envelope(s) of ashes from the church anytime from 9AM - 3PM on February 10th-12th, 15th & 16th. However, on 2/17 ashes may be picked up from 9AM - 6PM.
- As an act of love, support, and radical generosity for our neighbors, we invite you to pledge an offering to the Mifflin Community Food Ministry – either food donations or designated monetary gifts.

Questions? Or to verify staff is available when you plan to pick up your ashes, contact the church office at 610-777-8441 or email: administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net

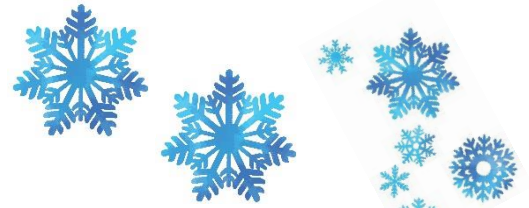
february

BIRTHDAYS

- 07 – Julie McGettrick
1111 Wyomissing Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 08 – Jeff Feiler
3314 Pequot Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 08 – Jake Erb
113 Pennypacker Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 08 – Anthony Stevens, Jr.
343 Belle Alto Rd.
Wernersville, PA 19565
- 09 – Deb Bierly
1 Hanley Ln.
Shillington, PA 19607
- 10 – Neil Magerman
2500 Jacob Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 11 – Kelsey Shuman
439 Calyn Dr.
Reading, PA 19607
- 11 – Dawn Fox
2139 Reading Blvd.
West Lawn, PA 19609
- 13 – Lisa Ruth
2409 Lindale Dr.
Reading, PA 19609
- 13 – Don Zerfoss
878 N Maple Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

FINANCIAL UPDATE Through Week 5

Current Year thru	01/31/21
Received YTD	\$21,720
Annual Budget	\$270,000
%Rec'd to Date	8.0%
Last Year thru	02/02/20
Received YTD	\$36,686
Annual Budget	\$285,910
%Rec'd to Date	12.8%



God
LOVES A
cheerful
GIVER
2 corinthians 9:7

Bob Wagner, CLM will complete his facilitation on the Book of Hebrews on February 11th, 2021. Then beginning Thursday, Feb. 18th at 9:30AM, Frank Scalise will lead a Zoom study and discussion which will delve into the words of *The Lord's Prayer*.

You know it by heart; you have recited it a thousand times privately and in community; you know it answers the question posed by the disciples to Jesus: "Lord teach us to pray". And Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer. But like many things in our lives, do we really reflect on the words and their meaning? Or do we just say them without thinking?

Come join us on Thursday morning as we seek even deeper meaning and understanding in the words of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236284042> Meeting ID: 872 3628 4042; Password: 822479

By Phone: 1 646 558 8656 US; Meeting ID: 872 3628 4042



FEBRUARY MIFFLIN COMMUNITY
FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS
DUE FRI., FEB. 19TH @ 9AM:

Blueberry Muffin Mix Canned Gravy
Boxed/Bagged Stuffing Canned Yams

Food donations may be dropped off at the church anytime by placing them in or on the bench outside the side entrance.

~Prayer Request~

Rev. Dr. Michael McQuaid – son-in-law of Angie Juckem; 56 w/advancing Parkinson's; will undergo deep brain stimulation surgery on 2/16 to hopefully improve his neurological function.

~Message cont'd from page. 1

many who are suffering in so many different ways. Maybe no one even knew that he was hurting, let alone identify the brokenness. Sadly, maybe no one wanted to go near the man. It's a reminder to me and all of us that we are also likely to miss the marginalized before us, in our families, churches, and communities.

This week another unprecedented event took place. This time on Wall Street. Volatile trading led to the market's worst week since October, reports the New York Times

(<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/01/29/business/us-economy-coronavirus>). A group of day traders bid up several big hedge funds, starting with GameStop. Large trading firms, who invested in these companies with the assumption that they would fail, lost substantial amounts of money. Estimated losses are upwards of about 19 million dollars. Essentially a social media platform, Reddit WallStreetBets, became a space where small day traders rallied together to create one huge impact on large, wealthy firms. For me, this is simply the backstory. The real story I want to consider is about this "group of day traders" - the people. What is their story?

At my house, the dinner table is a very interesting place because multiple generations are represented: a baby boomer, a Gen X, and three Gen Zs. The range creates dynamically challenging conversations as we strive to view the world through various cultural contexts and experiences. This is representative of the national narrative - one of the great divides. It's in conversation with the Gen Zs that I caught a glimpse into the perspective of these day traders. Memes on Tik Tok and dialogue on Reddit was shared across the dinner table. Here are a few things I heard. People encouraged one another to remain together in their actions. There was criticism of the close of a free market. People out of the country rallied to continue to drive up the prices. Some spoke about how "gamers" have been identified as people with little value, doing nothing with their time. Others shared how they learned about the stock market through games like Animal Crossing where they traded tulips. Advice was offered to those losing huge amounts of money: live within your means, pull yourself up by your boot straps, make your coffee at home, work two full-time jobs. Some identified these acts as part of a class war - the rich versus the poor.

I am not sharing this to offer either support or criticism for the actions taken. What did happen, though, is I began to see the people. I heard perspectives that opened my eyes to a community of people who I don't relate to in anyway. Computers and video games were just emerging as a young adult, and I have never developed a social media identity. My Gen Zs are constantly teaching me and revealing the dynamics of alternative, virtual communities. This unexpected turn of events grew out of a marginalized community, one that has been easily dismissed. These are the great divides that we need to conquer, face-to-face in authentic relationships. As we become fishers for people, it is our work to connect with all kinds of people - across generations and interest groups. This is the fertile ground where healing begins, through authentic relationships that we foster.

What Have You To Do With Us?

Let's become fishers for people. That's the story Jesus told the four fishermen that are now standing aside him in the synagogue. I am certain they did not imagine that Jesus' first catch would be a man with an unclean spirit. In the middle of worship, this man causes a major disruption. He cries out, "What have you to do with us? Are

you here to destroy us?" This is a really loaded question, especially for a person who is exposed as unclean. Lepers are forced to live outside the cities. Blind people live as beggars. Unwed mothers and adulterers are stoned to death. Jesus responds differently, as a compassionate friend who rather hopes to heal rather than destroy. On a Sabbath day, in the midst of a religious community that by law casts out unclean people, Jesus actually chooses to do something with them. It is an unprecedented event, and a risky one at that. The authority of Jesus isn't just in his words; it's in his actions, an especially poignant aspect of Jesus as portrayed in the gospel of Mark.

This is the deep question we have to ask ourselves: what have we to do with people? Richard Rohr says, "Until we learn to love others as ourselves, it's difficult to blame broken people who desperately try to affirm themselves when no one else will." When I think about the healing power of authentic relationships, the movie *Good Will Hunting* with Robin Williams and Matt Damon comes to mind. Matt Damon plays Will, a genius and angry kid with a police record who gets arrested again. His freedom comes with mandatory counseling. He quickly takes out counselor after counselor, refusing to engage in a system that has failed him. Then he encounters, Sean, a psychologist teaching in a college. After sessions of silence and Will's attempts to thwart him, Sean confronts Will:

I look at you; I don't see an intelligent, confident man; I see a cocky, scared... kid. But you're a genius, Will. No one denies that. No one could possibly understand the depths of you. But you presume to know everything about me because you saw a painting of mine and you ripped my... life apart. You're an orphan right? Do you think I'd know the first thing about how hard your life has been, how you feel, who you are because I read Oliver Twist? Does that encapsulate you?

Personally, I don't [care] about all that, because you know what? I can't learn anything from you I can't read in some... book. Unless you wanna talk about you, who you are. And I'm fascinated. I'm in. But you don't wanna do that, do you, sport? You're terrified of what you might say. Your move, chief.

Here's the language people want to hear from friends: I'm fascinated; I'm in; you need to tell me all there is to know about you. This is the space where healing can begin. What Will and Sean discover in the authentic relationship that follows is mutual healing. As we work to heal others, the people who we are in relationship with will heal us.

Be Silent and Come Out

The voice of the unclean spirit rages - the most visible, reviling part of the man. Jesus sees beyond the unclean spirit. Jesus recognizes that underneath whatever it is that ails the man, there is a beautiful human who has something to offer this world. He comes face-to-face with the unclean spirit and responds, "Be silent and come out!" Jesus no longer wants to hear from the broken part of the man. Instead, Jesus restores the man so that he may live in the fullness of who God made him to be. This public act of healing transforms the man who is healed and those who observe in amazement.

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~Message cont's from pg. 5

The act is life-giving. It is merciful. It is an act of pure love for another one of God's children. This act of healing is greater, though, for all who watches and learns to see beyond the unclean spirit. It opens the possibility for people to approach people who were never before touched or included or valued. God's kingdom comes near.

This is the really hard work of "seeing" people. People are masked by their brokenness, most often created by social norms and systems that are beyond their control as well. People battling poverty, the imprisoned, and those suffering from mental health issues or addictions are examples of people we often avoid - the unclean. People can be angry, even violent; people can be sad and disconnected; people will hide in shame and guilt; people can be hopeless. It's a challenge to enter the circles of those who are suffering. This isn't just the other people. It's us too. We all need healing. At the heart of Jesus' teaching on healing is this - it's human to human. Jesus arrives as a human; this is what makes him totally approachable. Jesus arrives divine, acting with the abounding mercy and love of God who longs to restore all creation. As we work to heal, one person at a time, we grow in learning to love more perfectly in the likeness of Christ. The risk is putting ourselves out there.

How do we even begin to heal the divisions at our dinner tables, in our communities, and raging across the nation? It actually begins

one person at a time. It begins as fisher for people engage in the mission to which they are called - loving others radically. Healing begins with three basic ingredients: a longing to be in relationship; the belief that we are all beautifully made by Creator God with a divine purpose; and all of us are broken and imperfect. We need one another to heal. We need to cross these lines of division, as difficult as that is, and offer a thin space where healing can begin. So I ask you, what have you to do with people? I don't think Sean will mind if we steal his line, starting with "I'm fascinated. I'm in."



2021 TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

March 13, 2021

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM via Zoom

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:12



Tools for Ministry Schedule

08:40 AM Opening Devotions w/Bishop Peggy Johnson & Text to Give Offering opportunity with proceeds going to Antiracism POWER Organization, Philadelphia

09:00 – 10:30AM Session A Workshops

10:30AM Break

10:45 AM Session B Workshops

Register online at

<https://na.eventscloud.com/2021-tools> Cost: \$5

If desired, the cost of attending will be covered by Calvary.

You may choose a Morning Session seminar AND an Afternoon Seminar.

WORKSHOP ON DIVERSITY & JUSTICE

To view the full brochure with all workshops, go to:

<https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Tools-for-Ministry-Brochure.pdf>

#9 - Make us one Lord: A moderated conversation on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the United Methodist Church Participants will exchange ideas and best practices that churches can and should implement to build inclusive, diverse sanctuaries. Participants will evaluate the impact that current social issues are having on our churches and communities. Through open dialogue, participants will examine churches' response, timing, and language, regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. Presenter: Shawn Mack is Minister of Music and a Christ Servant Minister at Bickley's New Beginning UMC, Philadelphia. He is also the Development Officer and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor for Valley Youth House, Inc. Shawn is committed to helping people and organizations build authentic relationships around common goals.