



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 17th, 2024 – Mar. 23rd, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

*Connect with God.
Connect with each other.
Connect with the community.*



Palm Sunday

March 24th @ 10:30AM: A joyful celebration of Christ's arrival into Jerusalem, with palms waving, joyful hymns and a special choir anthem. The service will be livestreamed & available through Calvary's website homepage & Facebook. All are welcome.



Maundy Thursday

March 28th @ 7PM: An experiential service in Calvary's lower-level Social Hall (handicap accessible), including scripture, hymns, sharing Holy Communion, special music, and reflection.



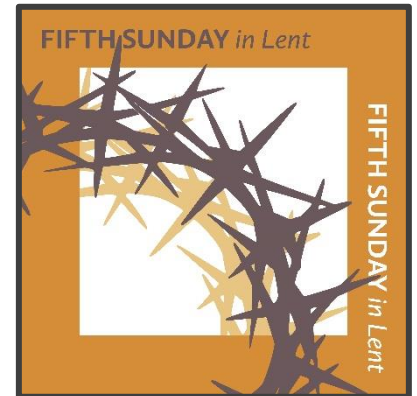
Good Friday

March 29th @ 7PM: An evening service in Calvary's sanctuary recalling & reflecting on the passion and death of Christ through readings and hymns. All are welcome.



Easter Sunday (No Sunday school on Easter)

March 31st @ 10:30AM: Join us for a joy-filled service rejoicing in Christ's triumph over the grave. The bell choir and senior choir will present special music, and we will share in the fellowship of Holy Communion. The service will also be livestreamed & available through Calvary's website & Facebook.



March 17th, 2024

8:00AM – Praise Service

9:00AM – Sunday school
for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

Purple Theory Series: Worship
Pastor Nova Preaching

The traditional worship is available via
livestream through Calvary's
website homepage.

Go to: calvaryumcmohnton.org or
click on the link below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**



For centuries many faith traditions observed the Sunday after Easter as a "day of joy and laughter" to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it. Calvary will celebrate **Holy Humor Sunday on April 7th during the 10:30AM service**, with children & youth participating.



4th Sunday in Lent- Confession as Spiritual Discipline | TEXT: 1 John 1:5-9

1. If you could push delete and get rid of your mistakes, would you do so? Why or why not?
2. What draws you to confession of sins or of faith? What holds you back?

Confession means: to own or acknowledge, repentance, admission of sin, to agree or consent to something, to profess or make a public declaration.

When we use the word *confession*, we almost always think about *confession of sins or wrongdoings*. In the Old Testament, the word confession pertains to the admission of sins in order to receive forgiveness. Referring to New Testament scripture, we usually use it synonymously with the word *repentance*. However, in the New Testament, the word confession is used more often in the context of a *confession or profession of faith*. Confession, therefore, is both accepting our sins and declaring God's goodness.

Four preachers met for a friendly fellowship. During the conversation one preacher said, "Our people come to us and pour out their hearts, confess certain sins and needs. Let's do the same. Confession is good for the soul." In due time all agreed. One confessed he liked to go to movies and would sneak out when there was a new movie he liked. The second confessed to liking to smoke cigars, and the third one confessed to liking to play cards. When it came to the fourth preacher, she wouldn't confess. The others pressed her, saying, "Come now, we confessed ours. What is your secret or vice?" Finally, she answered, "I like gossiping and talking to others about secrets, and I can hardly wait to get out of here."

Three important things about Confession:

- 1) Confession is to accept sins, and therefore, the beginning of a transformation.
- 2) Confession is to profess our faith.
- 3) Confession is to receive forgiveness, as well as to give it.

Confession is to accept sins & therefore, the beginning of a transformation.

Judaism and Christianity both recognize that everybody sins and falls short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23, confession is the acknowledgment of sin to God, whether from the beginning of Christian life or as an ongoing practice.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3

Creating a "5th Gospel" Devotional Booklet

With all the wonderful sharing that's been happening during our Lenten 8:30AM and 6PM Prayer Challenges, Pastor Nova is extending an invitation to ALL Calvary members to write your own devotional to share with others, similar to the style of *The Upper Room*.

Pray about what God may be calling you to share about as an encouragement/message to others. We are looking for submissions in the following format:

- 1) Choose a scripture that speaks to your personal story.
- 2) Write a brief personal story (200-250 words, max.)
- 3) Conclude with a short, written prayer.
- 4) Include your name.
- 5) Please submit your devotional via email to the church office (administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net). Include in the email subject line "Shared Devotional".

Submission deadline: October 31st, 2024. Our Calvary 5th Gospel Book(let) will be published in time for Advent.

Questions? Please contact Janet in the church office (610-777-8441; administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net)



~ SAVE THE DATE ~

A Community Easter Egg Hunt to be hosted by Calvary UMC

Saturday, March 23rd at 9:30AM for kids ages 2 yrs. – 4th Grade
Rain or shine @ Calvary ~ No RSVP

Donations of individually wrapped candy are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please place candy in the plastic bin located in the Gathering Area. THANK YOU!

~Sermon cont'd from pg. 2

Sin in the Bible refers to missing the mark or straying from the path. The implication is that there is a mark, a path that we are supposed to follow to be in proper relationship with others and with God. We are supposed to love, do justice, care for others, and put other's needs before our own. Every day, we miss that mark, and we fall short of God's glory. Confessing our sins is being human and humble before a Holy God. 1 John 1:9 *9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* When we confess our sins, God works mysteriously into our lives and transforms our hearts to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) *if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Leviticus 16:21-22 God is giving instructions to Moses for Aaron- Levite *21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place, and the man shall release it in the wilderness.*

Today, we use the word 'scapegoat' to describe people who symbolically take on the sins of others. In the Bible, during Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, one of a pair of kid goats was released into the wilderness, taking with it all sins and impurities, while the other was sacrificed. The goat was designated to be cast into the desert to carry away the sins of the community.

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Jesus so much loved us that he offered his body to bear our sins and to become our scapegoat.

Confession is to profess our faith.

Every day, we should confess not only our sins but God's goodness. The Apostle's Creed is used as a Christian's profession of faith.

Each Sunday morning, as they began class, the fifth graders would line up and recite their section of the Apostle's Creed in the order that it was written. That teaching method worked well and went on for about four months. Then, on one particular Sunday, the first girl recited her line flawlessly: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." The second, a boy,

stood up and said his sentence: "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." But then silence descended over the class. Finally, one girl, who felt she had discovered the problem, stood up and loudly said, "I'm sorry, sir, but the boy who believes in the Holy Ghost is absent today!"

Paul in Romans 10:8-9 says, *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Jesus is calling, *Come, follow me*, with your words and with your life, confess that Jesus is your Lord.

When was the last time you shared your faith? When did you last share the good news about Jesus and the power of His life, death, and resurrection. Friends, it is a command.

Confession is to receive forgiveness, as well as to give it.

When we confess our sins to God, our goal is to be forgiven. The song "It is Well with My Soul" contains these lyrics:

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Through Jesus Christ's death on the cross, our sins are forgiven.

In **Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)** Jesus is teaches another step in following Him: *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.* Mt. 6- (The Lord's Prayer)- Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Mt 18:21-35 -The parable of the unforgiving servant- Jesus taught that God is willing to let us off a debt we cannot repay, so we should be ready to forgive others. The servant who did not forgive was tortured. Perhaps Jesus is referring to the way a person feels when they cannot forgive. They remain bitter and resentful and end up suffering the most.

Recently the Templeton Foundation, funded a major nationwide study on people's attitudes toward **forgiveness**. The study found that 75% of Americans are "very confident" that they have been forgiven by God for their past offenses. The lead researcher, Dr. Loren Toussaint, expressed great surprise at such high confidence. When it came to interpersonal relations, only about half of the people surveyed claimed

that they were certain that they had forgiven others. Most people admitted that, whereas God may be a galaxy-class **forgiver**, ordinary folks struggle. It's difficult to **forgive** other people with whom you are angry. It's even difficult to **forgive** yourself sometimes. However, where forgiveness does take place, the study found a link between forgiveness and better health. The more prone a person is to grant **forgiveness**, the less likely he or she will suffer from any stress-related illnesses.

Jesus died on the cross, bore our sins so that by believing in Him, we can be forgiven and have life everlasting. Jesus is calling, Come Follow Me

A true follower of Jesus asks for forgiveness and gives it, too. *Is there anybody you still haven't forgiven this Lent? If*



Pastor Nova will be on vacation from Monday, April 1st through Sunday, April 14th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Matthew at 717-917-5342 or christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com.

God has forgiven the depth of our sins; therefore, it is just as right to forgive those who have wronged us. We should let go of anger and hatred, giving others the same forgiveness that we have received through Christ.

Friends, 3 things of most importance: 1) Confession is to accept sins & therefore, the beginning of a transformation; 2) Confession is to profess our faith; and 3) Confession is to receive forgiveness, as well as to give it

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Happy Birthday!

17	Kaila Dautrich 261 Preston Rd. Wernersville, PA 19565
18	Doug Schonour 35 Sage Dr. Sinking Spg., PA 19608
18	Mark Wagner 70 Carriage Cir. Oley, PA 19547
18	Jason Highduch 5016 Cherrywood Dr.



IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER A VARIETY OF GIFTS may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please indicate your choice(s) below. Checks may be made payable to: "Calvary UMC" with the gift designation & your Env. # in the memo section.

I / We would like to contribute the following as an Easter gift(s): (Indicate the number in the blank/\$10 ea.)

☐ Easter Lily (\$12 ea.) ☐ Pastor's Contingency Fund (\$10 ea.)
☐ Safe Berks (\$10 ea.) ☐ Mifflin Community Food Ministry (\$10 ea.)

NAME: _____ Env. # _____
(Please print clearly.)

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE PLACE YOUR COMPLETED FORM & DONATION IN JANET DEARSTYNE'S CHURCH MAILBOX (A10), OR MAIL IT TO HER ATTENTION AT: CUMC, 1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540.
DEADLINE: ON OR BEFORE PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2023.