



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

April 7th, 2024 – April 13th, 2024

[www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)

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



*Share Your Story*

After finishing the Lenten season, daily we celebrate with joy our risen Savior! Now, beginning in April and in the months ahead, members and friends of Calvary are encouraged to boldly, and with great thanksgiving, give witness to how Christ has/is moving in your lives.

If you feel called to share a story of witness during worship (about 10-15 minutes...or less), on a Sunday morning convenient to your schedule, please contact Pastor Nova at 201-699-6704 or email her at [novavillavi@gmail.com](mailto:novavillavi@gmail.com). You may also contact the church office at 610-777-8441 or email [administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net](mailto:administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net).

Give this prayerful consideration. Listen closely to hear if God is calling YOU to encourage and uplift others by your declaration of God's amazing grace.



### Creating a "5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.**



**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

**April 7th, 2024**

8:00AM – Praise & Worship

9:00AM Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

I See You: *Hearing Other Voices*  
Pastor Matthew Preaching

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

Go to: [calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://calvaryumcmohnton.org) or click on the link below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE  
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**



Pastor Nova is on vacation from Monday, April 1st through Monday, April 15th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Matthew at 717-917-5342 or [christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com](mailto:christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com)

## Easter Sunday Message: Attitude of Gratitude | Scripture: Luke 24:1-12 & 24:52-53

When the young D. L. Moody was called to preach at a funeral, he hunted the four gospels to look for Jesus' funeral sermons but searched in vain. He found that Christ broke up every funeral.

**Luke 7:11-14** *"Jesus went to a town called Nain. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her, and he said, "Don't cry."*

*<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the coffin. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother."*

**Luke 8:49:** *"Incident when Jesus was asked by Jairus to heal his only daughter, but because Jesus was delayed because of the woman who touched him, Jairus's daughter died. Then Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."*

*<sup>51</sup> When he arrived at Jairus's house, he took the girl by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and at once, she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.*

**John 11:17-** *Jesus went to Bethany, to Lazarus' tomb. Lazarus was dead for 4 days. Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And Lazarus came to life.*

*DEATH does not exist where Jesus dwells. When the dead heard his voice, they sprung to life.*

**Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"**

### What are YOU grateful for?

Think or make a list of what you're grateful for. What tops your list? Is it just material items, or is it something more permanent? Even if it is a material item, think about why you are grateful for it. What would your life be like without it? What would you do to protect it/care for it?

### Three Important things this day:

- Gratitude makes people happier.
- Gratitude is the humble expression of the gift we received.
- Easter people should have an attitude of gratitude for the Resurrection.

Gratitude becomes not just something we express, but part of who we are.

We all know the feeling of receiving a gift and what gratitude feels like in response to a gift, but we may not realize that an "attitude of gratitude," is something we can cultivate in our lives.

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways, gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. It is a pure gift – grace. Think about the difference in feeling when you receive your paycheck compared with receiving a gift. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. It is accepting that, in all things, God has a plan, and all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

### Gratitude makes people happier.

Positive psychology research from Harvard Univ. shows that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

People feel and express gratitude in multiple ways. They can apply it to the **past** (retrieving positive memories and being thankful for elements of childhood or past blessings), the **present** (not taking good fortune for granted as it comes), and

the **future** (maintaining a hopeful and optimistic attitude). Regardless of the inherent or current level of someone's gratitude, it's a quality that individuals can successfully cultivate further.

### **Gratitude is the humble expression of the gift we received.**

Easter Sunday morning takes the women, and later Peter and others, by surprise. When the women go to the tomb to attend to the dead body of Jesus, God surprises them with the exact opposite – resurrection! Life! The only way they can respond is in surprise, wonder, and awe. In Jesus, God has taken on the weight of sin and death on the cross and defeated it so that we, like Jesus, might live.

Once the disciples get over the initial shock of Jesus' resurrection, they come to understand it as the gift of repentance (metanoia – change of mind/heart) and forgiveness of sins. They respond in gratitude, not just for a moment, but as a new way of life. Luke 24:52-53 tells us, *"They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God."* Gratitude becomes not just something we express but part of who we are.

### **Easter people should have an attitude of gratitude for the Resurrection.**

Easter is the primary event of God's grace to humanity. As we celebrate Easter, we can learn to live in response to grace through the practice of gratitude. Our spiritual disciplines bring us to a place where we trust that God is doing an amazing thing in our lives and community, and we are grateful to be a part of it.

Gratitude is a natural response to receiving a gift. In our busy lives, however, we do not always recognize God's gifts to us. As we live lives shaped by spiritual disciplines, we can become more attentive and aware of God's movement in our lives. Jesus' resurrection is the greatest gift of all time – through it, God conquers sin and death and opens us up to new life in both big and small ways. This gift is offered to everyone, but it is also specially meant for each one of us, in particular.

### **Jesus' resurrection is God's grace that calls us to lives of gratitude.**

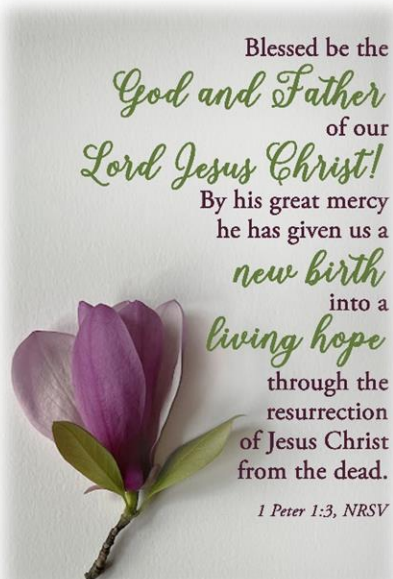
Intentionally practicing gratitude is not only the appropriate response to the gift of new life in Christ, but it also helps us to become increasingly more attuned to the grace we live in each and every day. It helps us to see the moments of life in the midst of sorrow, grief, and death. **Only Christians have a God who resurrected from the dead,** Jesus Christ our living hope.

Reaffirming our faith and gratitude in the resurrection is part of why many of us are here today. We need to be reminded of the power of life over death, of hope over despair, of love over hate, and there is only one place on earth that can be found. That is, by looking into the empty tomb of the man from Galilee.

Jesus lives, the Victor's won, and He wears the crown of victory. He has overcome death and whatever problem, sickness or challenges you are facing. God will overcome. Thank be to Him who is our living hope. our redeemer, our king, our victory.

Jesus is risen! He has risen indeed!

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





# Master Prayer List...

SHIRLEY AYRTON  
DAVID BAKER  
FAM OF ERIN BAUER  
ANDREW BEERER  
BRO. HENRY BHASKER  
DONNA BROWN  
RICK BRUETSCH  
LINDA CHANDLER  
TREAVER COMEAU  
DAKOTA  
DAVE CURLEY  
BROOKLYN DANIELS  
LYNN DANIELS  
MICHELLE DANIELS  
LAINA DIGIROLAMO  
CANDY DODSON  
JEFF EBERTS  
MATT EDGERTON  
JANET ENGLE  
GINNY EPPS  
ANDREW ERB  
AMELIA FORTUNATO  
STEVE & BARBARA GANCER  
FAM OF LARRY GROSS

ROSELEE HAAKE  
PAT & DOTTIE HAER FAM. OF  
JIM HAMMOND  
PEGGY HARSHAW  
RICH & JAN HARTMAN  
TOM HASSLER  
JACK HIGGINS  
DAVID HOFFMAN  
DANNY HUTZELL  
KELLY HUTZELL  
PEGGY JONES  
LOUISE KELLENBERGER  
FAM. OF KUMARI  
WAYNE LAMP  
ED LEISER, SR.  
JEN MADARA  
DEB MCGAHEN  
JULIE MCGETTRICK  
BRENDA MEYERS  
JENNIFER MILLER  
KAREN MOORE  
CHARLES & LINDA  
MORGANT  
DANIELLA MUNTEAN  
RYAN MYHER

CHARLES PLUSHINISKI  
ANN RINGLER  
GAIL ROLLMAN  
JOHN & DORISMARIE ROWE  
PAULLINE SCHMEHL  
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY  
MIRIAM STEFFEY  
GLENN & LISA STUBER  
TRACEY SUNDAY  
JOANNE TALARICO  
KELSEY TAVERAS  
LOLA TROUTMAN  
FAM OF CLARENCE TRUPE  
VICTIMS OF BRIDGE  
COLLAPSE  
KAREN WADE  
SUSIE WAHL  
CLAYTON WALKER  
NELLY & JAE WALLACE  
JANE WEISS  
BOB WERNER  
MARIANNA WOLFE  
ELIZABETH ZEMBAS

## Our feeble prayers, our Father's response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

[from churchart.com/subscriber/content]

## Open hands

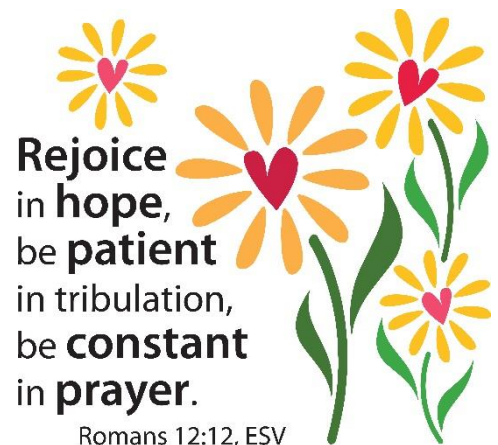
Liturgical scholar, Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001), shared an "a-ha" realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we're saying before God that we renounce "all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence." We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, "I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore, I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy."

[from churchart.com/subscriber/content]



- 7 - Gwen Alsedek  
230 Hawthorne Ct. North  
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 10 - Nadine Jensen  
533 Gregg St.  
Shillington, PA 19607
- 12 - Mary Wooddell  
806 Lakeview Dr.  
Mohnton, PA 19540



Romans 12:12, ESV