



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

April 28th, 2024 – May 4th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

In It to Gather

Keeping Seniors Connected at Calvary

The kick-off event for this new ministry will be held in the chapel library and will begin with lunch provided for those who attend. Then the fun will continue with a get-acquainted game of Bingo, followed by "Name that Tune" featuring music of the 50's, 60's and 70's with our resident DJ and music man, Craig Caltagirone. Additional surprises are in the works, but Calvary seniors will need to come to find out what they are!

~ Mark your calendar now ~

In It to Gather: Keeping Seniors Connected at Calvary Kickoff Get Together

Friday, May 3 at 12:00 noon in the Chapel Library
Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Janet in the church office
(call 610-777-8441 or email
administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net).

Questions? Please reach out to Jeanette Magerman (610-368-8677), Vickie Dautrich (281-753-1003 or Kay Wadsworth (484-269-0552).



April 28th, 2024

9:00AM Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

I See You:
Diverse People, One Vision
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**

I SEE YOU: R.E.S.P.E.C.T. the Stranger

4/21/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:14-22 (NIV)

Last week, Pastor Matthew talked about stopping, listening, and then being compelled to act. Today, we are going to talk about strangers. As Christians, our actions must always be based on God's view of the stranger and how God calls us to love them.

Have you ever felt like a stranger – out of place, felt like you didn't "fit," felt different from others around you, or experienced a deep need? All of us, in one way or another, have experienced being a stranger or have met a stranger. How did it go?

The word "Typewriter" originally referred, not to the machine, but to the young lady who operated it. The first functional machine was patented in 1868. There was an uproar when it was suggested that women could operate the machine. Women, at that time, being considered as lesser class. A six-month course was developed to train the girls to be "typewriters". Thus, the field became open to respectable girls who wanted to earn a living.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3

Our Calvary church family will be hosting the Wyomissing Valley Preschool (WVP) graduation on Friday, May 10th. Calvary's Hospitality Ministry is looking for congregation members to volunteer in the following ways:

-clear off the social hall stage on Monday & Tuesday May 6th & 7th so that rehearsals can take place on May 8th & 9th.

-donations of the following:

- ▶ 125 hot dogs
- ▶ Apples slices – purchased or sliced and bagged in snack size bags
- ▶ 125 buns
- ▶ Carrots - purchased or sliced and bagged in snack size bags – 4 carrots per bag
- ▶ 25 Uncrustables
- ▶ Cookies/Brownies - baked or bought, placed in the kitchen downstairs. They will be trayed on the morning of the event.

If you are willing to provide any of the above, please email or text Sara Erb at sara@lhbridalrak.com or 484-663-1548 or text Suzy Maniaci at 610-334-1046. Donations should be at the church by Wednesday, 5/8/24.



Thank you ~ Sara Erb and Suzy Maniaci

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Prayer requests and updates may be given to Joann Werner (610-914-5020; call or text) or called/emailed to the church office at any time.

****Please be assured that all confidential (non-public) prayer requests will only be shared with the Tues. AM Prayer Circle.****



Calvary's Tuesday AM Prayer Circle meets in the sanctuary weekly at 9AM to bring before the Lord all the persons and situations that have been entrusted to their care. Members of the Prayer Circle maintain a high level of confidentiality and commitment to this calling.

If you believe you might want to become a part of this committed weekly prayer circle, please pray about it first. Then, if you feel God is calling you to be a regular member of this weekly ministry, please see or call Pastor Nova (201-699-6704).

ATTENTION GOLFERS, HACKERS, AND WANNA-BEES !

Our recreational golf leagues will be starting the first week of May and you are invited to join in. As before, we will have two schedules: 1) Tuesday in the early evening, playing 9 holes at various Berks Cty. courses. Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated, and 2) Thursdays in the mid-morning, playing 18 holes on alternating Berks Cty. and out of the area courses. Registration IS required for Thursday games.

The two golf schedules will be available by April 28th. Play as little or as much as you wish. We are looking for some new players to join in; all skill levels are invited!

If you are a first-time player and not currently on Bruce Morton's golfing email list, please contact him (484-794-0744 OR bkmme@comcast.net) for the schedule(s) or if you have any other questions.



Pastor Nova invites members and friends of Calvary 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. You may also contact the church office at 610-777-8441 or email 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.



Mark Your Calendar Now!

(Ages 3 yrs. – 5th Grade)

Vacation Bible School

June 17th – 22nd from 6 – 8PM

@ Mohnton Playground (June 17-21)

Closing day, June 22nd, at Calvary U.M.



- 29 – Connor Dautrich
326 Carriage Dr.
Wernersville, PA 19565
- 01 – Dan Bentz
14 Foxtail Pl.
Wernersville, PA 19565
- 01 – Dennis Bowers
92 Comanche Dr.
Auburn, PA 17922
- 02 – Karisa Stump
585 Wolfe Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 02 – Mark Gerard
2269 Welsh Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 03 – Ken Dearstyne, Jr.
454 Kenny Dr.
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 04 – Elsie Miller
544 Mohns Hill Rd.
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 04 – Darla Wagner
142 Hemlock Rd.
Reading, PA 19607
- 04 – Jesse Angstadt
1182 Maple Grove Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540

Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

Our title was inspired by a song of the late American musical icon Aretha Franklin, also known as the 'Queen of Soul'. **RESPECT: Find out what it means to me.** This song, released in 1967, was one of her signature songs and was originally released by Otis Redding in 1965. Both versions of the song have slightly different meanings.

The 'Queen of Soul' said the lyrics of "Respect" speak to anyone who feels unappreciated. She also talked about how the song went on to become a battle cry of the civil rights movement in the United States. In addition to being a strong symbol of female empowerment, "Respect" also became a powerful anthem for African Americans and marginalized people (meaning those on the sidelines, those we don't usually see or hear, those we don't care about, different from us in one way or another) all over the world.

The Bible is clear: as children made in God's image, we are to treat the foreigner/immigrant with empathy, compassion, justice, and inclusion.

RESPECT is acronym for:

Respect, Empathy, Sensitivity, Peace, Equality, Compassion, Trust

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT FOREIGNERS/STRANGERS?

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 is not an isolated passage; it is part of a major theme throughout the Bible, starting in Genesis 1 and continuing through Revelation. Time and again throughout scripture, God blesses those who treat the stranger with kindness and curses those who do not.

STRANGER: This word generally denotes a person from a foreign land residing in Palestine. Such persons enjoyed many privileges in common with the Jews, but still were separate from them. The relation of the Jews to strangers was regulated by special laws (Deuteronomy 23:3; 24:14-21; 25:5; 26:10-13).

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 4



The altar flowers this Sunday are placed by Dave Suetz in memory of Bonnie, a fantastic and loving partner in life, and in honor of Bryleigh, a beautiful granddaughter who continues to keep "Zedo" young.



FOREIGNER - Bible def: One not native to a land. Any non-Israelite having temporary contact with Israel was considered a foreigner; however, if friendly, was entitled to hospitable treatment. Israelites were frequently warned that extended contact with foreigners would lead to religious corruption (Exodus 23:31-33; Isaiah 2:6-8).

Psalm 146:9: *The LORD protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.*

Jeremiah 7:5-7: *If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the **foreigner**, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, **then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors forever and ever.***

In Deut.10:14-16, God chose the Israelites and their descendants alone and set them apart for Him. Many Christians are uncomfortable with this kind of language. The rest of the passage says God is "not partial" and brings justice and love for all. And yet, He elected the Israelites to be His chosen people. But this does not mean that God does not love everyone else or that we can justify division. Rather, God *chose* the Israelites to be **the people that reveal the character of God to the whole world and show the world what it's like to live in covenant faithfulness**. That is precisely why the Israelites must show God's love to the stranger.

Sunday's scriptural passage also illustrates the foundation of God's law and nature - unconditional love and justice - and models specific ways to treat the foreigner: with dignity, with empathy, without partiality, and by advocating on their behalf.

In the New Testament, this theme is given even greater emphasis through Jesus' call to welcome the stranger during his ministry outside the borders of Palestine and Paul's ministry to the Gentiles. As God enters human life through Jesus, God includes more and more people in the work of showing the world who God is.

Theologian Arthur Sutherland of Loyola Univ in Maryland points out the centrality of hospitality to God's plan. Since God will always be a stranger to us, receiving God is receiving a stranger, someone different from us (*I was a Stranger: A Christian Theology of Hospitality*, pg. 206). Receiving God, therefore, is an act of faith and so is receiving a stranger.

A journalist once asked Carl Sandburg, "What is the ugliest word in the English language?" After a few minutes

Sandburg replied, "Exclusive." The ugliness of "exclusive" depends upon whether we are among the included or the excluded. Some people pride themselves on being members of exclusive clubs, living in exclusive neighborhoods, dining at exclusive restaurants, vacationing at exclusive resorts, or belonging to exclusive churches. Being an insider carries with it a sense of pride and security. Most of us, however, have been excluded often enough to agree that exclusive is an ugly word. When we are among the marginalized, the rejected, the pushed-aside or the left-out, **it hurts!**

The conflict in the early church centered on the question of who is in and who is out. Peter and Paul debated that question until Peter had a dream and concluded that "God shows **no partiality**" (Acts 10:34). The Book of Acts is the story of God's grace through the Holy Spirit, pushing the early church out into the margins and breaking down the barriers among people.

3 Important Things to remember:

- Step up and challenge traditions that are not fair and just.
- Listen and seek God's wisdom when faced with an issue.
- God extended the table wider to include those at the margins.

A pilot frequently flew his small private plane in and out of Toronto International Airport. A pastor friend asked him if he ever encountered problems taking off and landing a small craft at an airport that was dominated by so many large jets. He said, "My plane may be small, **but I have the same rights, the same privileges, and the same access to that airport as anyone else - even the jumbo jets!**"

The pastor thought about it and said, "Well, it's the same with God, God loves everybody, God loves you and God loves me, God does not have partiality, and no one is given special treatment."

In a world that offers preferential treatment to the wealthy, the famous, and the VIPs, it's encouraging to know that every child of God has equal access to the Father in heaven.

DRAW YOUR CIRCLE WIDE, respecting and accepting the stranger. In the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.





Please be Praying for...

MAY MIFFLIN COMMUNITY FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS:

- ▶ Peanut Butter
- ▶ Canned Chicken Breast
- ▶ Spaghetti Noodles
- ▶ Elbow Pasta

SHIRLEY AYRTON
DAVID BAKER
FAM OF ERIN BAUER
ANDREW BEERER
BRO. HENRY BHASKER
DONNA BROWN
RICK BRUETSCH
LINDA CHANDLER
TREAVOR COMEAU
DAKOTA
DAVE CURLEY
BROOKLYN DANIELS
LYNN DANIELS
MICHELLE DANIELS
KAREN DAVIS
LAINA DIGIROLAMO
CANDY DODSON
JEFF EBERTS
MATT EDGERTON
GINNY EPPS
ANDREW ERB
AMELIA FORTUNATO
BYRON FRITZ

STEVE & BARBARA GANCER
FAM OF LARRY GROSS
ROSELEE HAAKE
FAM. OF JIM HAMMOND
PEGGY HARSHAW
RICH & JAN HARTMAN
TOM HASSLER
FAM OF GARY HERTZOG
JACK HIGGINS
DAVID HOFFMAN
DANNY HUTZELL
KELLY HUTZELL
FAM OF PEGGY JONES
ED LEISER, SR.
MIRIAM LORAH
JEN MADARA
DEB MCGAHEN
JULIE MCGETTRICK
BRENDA MEYERS
JENNIFER MILLER
FAM OF KAREN MOORE

CHARLES & LINDA
MORGANT
DANIELLA MUNTEAN
RYAN MYHER
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI
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
KAREN WADE
SUSIE WAHL
CLAYTON WALKER
NELLY & JAE WALLACE
JANE WEISS
BOB WERNER
ELIZABETH ZEMBAS

There will be no
Youth Sunday
school on
Sunday, May 5th.

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

June 9th ~ Graduation Sunday: Attention all grads (or parent(s) of soon-to-be grads) from any degree/certificate program, please complete the form below so we can celebrate your achievements!

The following information is requested so that it may be included in the *Calvary Connection*.
[Parents of graduates are welcome to relay this information to the church office.]

Graduate's name: _____

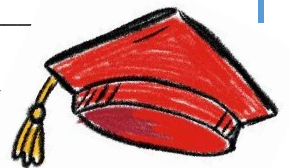
Degree (college/graduate school only) _____

Date of graduation: _____

Awards, honors, scholarships: _____

Future school or career plans: _____

Other information you would like to share: _____



DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 29th, 2024

Please email this information to the church office at administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net
OR complete the form and mail it to the church office: Attn: Janet Dearstyne,
1 W. Wyomissing Avenue, Mohnton, PA 19540