



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

May 5th, 2024 – May 11th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

I SEE YOU: Diverse People, One Vision

4/28/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova

Scripture: Revelations 7:9-17 (NIV)

We cannot truly listen to, learn from or welcome and love all of God's children if we do not also affirm how God sees all of us. And without affirming one another in all our fullness, God cannot be fully revealed and known to us.

Three things of importance:

- 1) The Book of Revelation
- 2) Great Multitude
- 3) Diversity

Have you seen the movie Avengers-Endgame? I like to watch Marvel & DC (Detective Comics) movies because it is always a battle between good and evil, and at the end of every story, even though they've suffered many injuries and casualties, good prevails over evil.

The Book of Revelation is like a Marvel movie. In the New Testament, the literal title in Greek is the "Apocalypse of John." The word apocalypse means revelation. That which is uncovered. It literally means to unveil, to uncover, to pull the lid off something. The Book of Revelation is a "very well-known" book, but that doesn't mean that it is "very well thought" or "very well understood."

The author, John of Patmos, is not interested in explaining God's purposes or even in describing them, but rather in creating an awareness through which the experiences might be encountered again. Here, John is more writing a poem than a mystery - fashioning a new reality from the fertile language of imagination. *Eugene Peterson, a pastor, theologian, author, and poet, once said, "We do not have more information after we read a poem; we have more experience."*

Interpreters of Revelation normally fall into four groups:

- **Preterists** understand the book primarily in terms of its first-century setting, claiming that most of its events have already taken place.
- **Historicists** take it as describing the long chain of events from Patmos to the end of history.
- **Futurists** place the book primarily in the end times.
- **Idealists** view it as symbolic pictures of such timeless truths as the victory of good over evil.

Like the Avengers, and despite the frightening battle and imagery, Revelation meant to give hope to the faithful, assuring them that God would deliver justice to their suffering. Often, when all hope in this life runs dry, believers set their sights on justice in the life to come. When they do, they may turn to writings like the Book of Revelation for encouragement.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3



May 5th, 2024

Holy Communion

8:00AM Praise Service

9:00AM Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

Move Mountains:
God Is On the Move!
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**



*The altar flowers this
Sunday are placed by John
Gingrich in loving
remembrance of Barbara's
93rd birthday and the
importance of Calvary
Church in her life.*

Hope is Alive!



A Multicultural Service & Concert

Saturday, May 11th from 2– 3:30PM

at Calvary U.M. Church

**Tara Na Filipino Fellowship's praise band, Psalm 101, and
Calvary's Rock Solid will offer songs of praise and
thanksgiving to the Lord!**



All are invited to attend this multicultural service and concert.

**A free will offering will be taken to go toward renovating
the Calumpang U.M. Church in Bulacan, Philippines.**

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ATTENTION GOLFERS, HACKERS, AND WANNA-BEES!

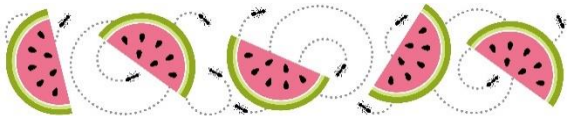
Our recreational golf leagues will be starting the first week of May, and you are invited to join in.

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 are now available. 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 bkmmem@comcast.net) for the schedule(s) or if you have any other questions.



**Save the Date: Sunday, June 23rd
Community Worship & Picnic**

10:30AM @ the Mohnton Playground
Please bring a hot or cold side dish or
dessert to share.

Watch for more upcoming information.



Dear Calvary members,

Your committed support of the Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) is vital. Most months, over 100 families (around 325 people) receive much needed food supplies, with the numbers even higher during the holidays. Since Christmas 2023, the donation of non-perishable food items for the MCFM by Calvary members has been fairly nominal. After the May distribution, the MCFM food stores will be greatly diminished, which is not a good way to begin the summer months.

Below is a full list of the items the MCFM will need on a monthly basis. Please commit to choosing at least 1 or 2 items and pick something up each time you grocery shop. If you're like me, I put reminders in my phone so that I don't forget.

Food Items Needed for May and June

CANNED PEACHES, CANNED CHICKEN BREAST, SPAM, CANNED SALMON, TUNA, RICE -A-RONI (or similar product), CANNED PINEAPPLE, PASTA SAUCE, PEANUT BUTTER, KIDNEY BEANS, BAKED BEANS, BLACK BEANS, KLEENEX, PAPER TOWELS, TOILET PAPER, INSTANT POTATOES, 100% JUICE, CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES, CANNED PEARS, CANNED FRUIT COCKTAIL

In addition to food items, the MCFM is always in need of volunteers! To prepare for the May distribution on Saturday, 5/18, willing hands are asked to meet at Zion E.C. Church at 8:30AM on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY (15, 16, 17, AND 18). One hundred boxes of food will be prepared. On Saturday, May 18th, it would be helpful if volunteers could be at the church as close to 8:30AM. Then when the distribution is done at about 11:30, help will be needed for clean-up.

**Let's be Christ's hands and feet in
our neighborhood.**



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.



~2~

Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

The symbols and the precise timing of the events in the Book of Revelation do not matter most. What matters most is that God's people endure until the very end—until Christ returns and renews both heaven and earth. Don't be afraid to read The Book of Revelation; don't try to understand everything. Look at the big picture. In this life, Good always prevails, and God always wins. Make sure you are on the winning team.

Great Multitude

V.9 a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

This confirms the truthfulness of V5:9, where the Lamb is praised for redeeming such a diverse multitude. This indicates that racial distinctions and uniqueness are retained in eternity. And God redeems multitudes of people from every nation, culture, and background. His grace reaches into every corner of the world, and His salvation is offered to everyone.

Since worship will be multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-generational, and diverse in heaven, it is right for us to try our best to do the same on earth. As believers who have been brought together as one people while still retaining much of our cultural, racial, generational, and other differences.

We should have no inhibitions about worshipping **alongside** representatives of any and every ethnicity, age, sex, language, and culture here on earth. We should be delighted to worship with anyone and everyone God brings through our church doors. Here on earth, we are limited in our vision, hearing, and senses. Maybe In Heaven, we might be able to understand all languages and see all the pigments and colors around us.

Try to Paint a picture of this verse and describe it. What is the one word we can use?

Diversity is the immersion and comprehensive integration of various attributes, such as: gender identity, ability, ethnicity, sexual identity, creed, socioeconomic background, age, military experience, learning style, personality, education level, geographic background/country of origin, language, marital status, caretaker status, occupation, and appearance.

It's necessary to include all these attributes as a part of diversity because of a historical global persistence of oppression and implicit bias.

Implicit bias, also known as Unconscious bias, relates to subconscious attitudes or beliefs that affect the way that individuals think, feel, and behave toward other people. Unconscious biases are often formed in childhood and can be formed through familial, social, and educational environments. You may agree with me or not, but all of us have unconscious biases. Unconscious biases can have a particular effect on decision-making and behavior when quick decisions are required or when an individual is in a stressful situation. We mistakenly think of it as a norm because of **social constructs** (an idea -that may not be just, true, or righteous that has been created and accepted by the people in a society; accepted by church, authority, and society.)

Unconscious biases can contribute to oppression and inequality. It often causes us to unconsciously attribute certain qualities to individuals who belong to certain groups.

~3~

- 06 – Tony Tomczak
323 Summit St.
W. Reading, PA 19611
- 06 – Quinn Raszkievicz
1122 Lehigh Avenue
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 09 – Brooke Shannon
1431 Fayette Ave.
Reading, PA 19607
- 10 – Tamara DeLoretta
453 Kenny Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 4

Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 3

Related to it is "unconscious stereotyping, which is often based on learned associations between particular qualities and social groups. This could include associations related to race, gender, and other social groups.

VIDEO-DIVERSITY

(Nicole Murphy online Article: Types of Bias) *The social justice perspective on diversity is a way of understanding how people from different backgrounds can see the beauty in each other and come together to work and create in inclusive and ethical settings. This perspective places a premium on freedom from oppression and on equalizing problematic power structures and dynamics. Living and working with people who have differences is common. By embracing these differences, we celebrate the diversity of the human experience and enrich our ministry.*

Diversity leads to unity when the members care for each other, but diversity leads to disunity when members compete with one another. We must embrace differences in a spirit of love. We need to root out the attitude of exclusivity, the idea that some people's ideas, opinions, and attitudes are acceptable while others are not. We may not agree with certain ways of doing things, like worshipping God, but we cannot dismiss them out of hand.

Therefore, let us truly believe that strength comes through diversity. As we continue to walk as one people, rejoicing in our differences, let us do so in imitation of Jesus, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Don't be root-bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggensbach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

"If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots," Riggensbach wrote in her gardening column. "If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots. That's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden."

In the same way, it's easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can't reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time! [from churchart.com by permission]

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

