



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

May 19th, 2024 – May 25th, 2024

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

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

### **Move Mountains: Mountains Can Seem Like Obstacles**

5/12/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9 (NIV)

Sometimes, movement can be uncomfortable. Faith requires that we face obstacles trusting in the plan of God.

3 Things of importance about: Obstacles, Abraham, Sarah

**OBSTACLES** - Bible Dictionary Greek *-Empodia*, Hebrew – *negef* or *mikk-shohl*, depending upon the use.

**Greek**- barrier, hurdle, impediment, hindrance, obstruction,

**Hebrew**- sin, stumbling rock, barricade, hindrance, occasion for falling, past

*Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a mountain/wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it. ~Michael Jordan*

Obstacles are present in our lives; there's no getting around that fact. Sometimes, our sins, regrets, or past are obstacles. As Joyce Meyer says: *We all have a past. No matter how bad your past is, you can get past your past. God can give you a new beginning; he can use you greatly and give you a future.*

Obstacles, like mountains, should be climbed because they give us the privilege and opportunity to go to our Father for help, guidance, refuge, rescue, and understanding. If it does not kill us, it will make us stronger.

### **ABRAHAM**

In Genesis 11:31, we see that "Terah took his son, Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans/Mesopotamia (Iraq) to go to Canaan (Lebanon, Jordan, Syria & Israel-Palestine)." But when they came to Harran (Turkey), they settled there. Then, when Abram was 75 years old, God called him to go to Canaan.

Abram was already stable in Harran, with an extended family surrounding him, land, servants, and herds, but he must decide whether to abandon his land in favor of the land Yahweh offers. He must decide whether to abandon what family he still has in favor of the family Yahweh promises (against all logic, given Sarai's infertility).

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3



**May 19th, 2024**

*Pentecost Sunday*

8:00AM – Praise Service

9:00AM Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

Move Mountains:  
*Mountains as Opportunities*  
Pastor Nova 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**

**In celebration of  
Pentecost, please wear  
something RED to church  
this Sunday! Then, please  
stay, after whichever  
service you attend, to  
have a group photo taken.**

## 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](mailto: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



Dear Calvary members,

Your committed support of the Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) is vital.

Below is a full list of the items the MCFM will need monthly. 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! One hundred boxes of food will be prepared. On Saturday, May 18th, it would be helpful if volunteers could be at Zion E.C. Church (N. Church & Summit St., Mohnton) as close to 8:30AM. Then when the distribution is done at about 11:30, help will be needed for clean-up.



- 19 – Bob Werner  
18 E. Fairview Street  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 22 – Joel Calata  
1700 Gravel Hill Rd.  
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 22 – Richard Burkhard  
1 Sylvan Lane  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 24 – Andrew McBride, Jr.  
40 Kinsey Hill Dr.  
Birdsboro, PA 19608

Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

He must decide whether to set aside his blessing and his inheritance for the inheritance Yahweh describes. The initiative offers much, but its cost is significant. Abram must trust and obey Yahweh, despite not being given a "game plan". God instructed Abram to step out in faith, literally. Blindly, Abram embarked on a journey that changed the world.

In Genesis 12, Abram (*the exalted father*) became Abraham (*the father of many*) when God made a covenant with him, promising him he would be the father of many

---

*The determining factor in life is not our situation but how we deal with that situation. Great people are often persons who have had to battle against overwhelming odds, people who climb mountains even if they seem like obstacles.*

nations. When God gave His promise to Abraham, God also changed him into a new person with a promise and a purpose.

## Sarah

Just like Abram, God changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Sarai (my lady, or my princess, which confines her dominion to one family) became Sarah (a lady or princess, simply and absolutely without restriction)

When God called Sarah to be the mother of many nations, what were her obstacles?

At 65, Sarah was unable to conceive. In that pre-scientific time, her condition was not considered a physical problem, rather it was viewed as a sign that God did not favor her. Sarah felt that she was an embarrassment to her husband, Abraham. Her culture viewed her as a failure in her primary function as a wife, to bear Abraham, a son. There must have been nights that, out of depression, she cried herself to sleep. "What is the matter with me?" she would have asked herself. "Why am I being punished like this?"

During those times, women had no choice but to adhere to cultural regulations. In some cases, beauty could be considered an obstacle because men of power considered their wives property or chattel. Sarah was also treated with contempt by her servant, Hagar, who she gave to Abraham to conceive a child, a son named Ishmael. Later, Sarah bore a son, Isaac. Even as a very young child, Sarah witnessed Ishmael and Hagar making fun of him, which saddened and infuriated her. As a mother, she could not

bear the sight of her son being ridiculed and belittled. She went to Abraham to discuss these matters.

When God called Abram, I believe God called Sarah, too. God was and is talking to all of His creations for His divine purpose. So, what was Sarah's reaction when God called her to be the mother of many nations? She laughed, but who laughed first? Abraham. Gen 17:17: *Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"*

We might think that Sarah's laugh was not important, but when her son was born, she named him Isaac, which means laughter.

"When a thing is funny," said George Bernard Shaw, "search it for a hidden truth." What was the truth behind Sarah's laugh? We can only guess, but here are some thoughts:

Maybe Sarah laughed because her situation was futile. It did not make sense. It was impossible. Maybe she laughed in fearful anticipation. Sarah's laugh was the nervous laughter of someone who wanted to believe in the impossible but felt foolish. She wanted to be a mother, a faithful woman who answered God's call despite all the risks and odds.

We are a people who want to believe. Even in Broadway musicals the lead character believes that "somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly", that we can "dream the impossible dream", and "climb every mountain, ford every stream." The determining factor in life is not our situation but how we deal with that situation. Great people are often persons who have had to battle against overwhelming odds. People who climb mountains even if they seem like obstacles.

Most Christians, called by God, have two obstacles to overcome: Ability and Availability.

When St. Petersburg, Russia, one of the most splendid and harmonious cities in Europe, was being laid out early in the 18th century, many large boulders brought by glaciers from Finland had to be removed. One particularly large rock was in the path of the principal avenues that had been planned, and bids were solicited for its removal. The bids submitted were very high. A peasant presented himself and offered to get rid of the boulder for a much lower price than those submitted by other bidders. So, officials gave the job to the peasant. The next morning, he showed up with a crowd of other peasants carrying

shovels. They began digging a huge hole next to the rock. The rock was propped up with timbers to prevent it from rolling into the hole. When the hole was deep enough, the timber props were removed, and the rock dropped into the hole below the street level. It was then covered with dirt, and the excess dirt was carted away. *(It's an example of what creative thinking can do to solve a problem. Source: The Best of Bits and Pieces, 1994, New Jersey: The Economics Press, p.41-42)*

What a wise peasant. If we have an obstacle, it is an opportunity to pray and ask God for wisdom. For wisdom comes from the Lord. Every obstacle has a purpose. It will make us stronger, and God will be glorified. In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit



Over the last 3 years, we have been so blessed by Pastor Matthew's faithful ministry, leadership, energy, enthusiasm, and passion for sharing God's word and love.

As a faithful servant of God, Pastor Matthew has been called and assigned to serve as pastor for 2 churches in Lebanon County, beginning July 1st. His last Sunday with us will be June 30th.

This is an exciting opportunity for Pastor Matthew, and we are happy to see him pursue this next step in his call to ministry. We know that God has great plans in store for him and God will be with Pastor Matthew and his family each step of the way.

He, along with Elizabeth, Aidan and Mia have been an integral part of our congregation and church family - all serving in various capacities. We will miss them dearly.

On Sunday June 30th, join us in showing our appreciation for Pastor Matthew and his family. There will be a fellowship hour to celebrate his many ministries at Calvary and to also celebrate his opportunity to serve God in this new role.



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at  
**Rocky Railway!**

On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

**Mark Your Calendar Now!**

(Ages 3 yrs. – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Vacation Bible School**

June 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6 – 8PM

@ Mohnton Playground (June 17-21)

Closing day, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Zion E.C.C.

Questions? Please call or text  
Pastor Matthew @ 717-917-5342



Scan for online  
registration.

SHIRLEY AYRTON  
DAVID BAKER  
ANDREW BEERER  
SUSAN BERKLEY  
BRO. HENRY BHASKER  
DONNA BROWN  
RICK BRUETSCH  
TONI CALATA  
LINDA CHANDLER  
TREAVOR COMEAU  
DAKOTA  
DAVE CURLEY  
BROOKLYN DANIELS  
LYNN DANIELS  
MICHELLE DANIELS  
KAREN DAVIS  
LAINA DIGIROLAMO  
CANDY DODSON  
FAM OF JEFF EBERTS  
MATT EDGERTON  
EILEEN  
GINNY EPPS  
ANDREW ERB

PATRICIA FINAN  
AMELIA FORTUNATO  
BYRON FRITZ  
STEVE & BARBARA GANCER  
ROSELEE HAAKE  
PEGGY HARSHAW  
RICH & JAN HARTMAN  
TOM HASSLER  
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  
CHARLES & LINDA  
MORGANT  
DANIELLA MUNTEAN

RYAN MYHER  
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI  
GAIL ROLLMAN  
JOHN & DORISMARIE ROWE  
PAULLINE SCHMEHL  
FAM. OF FRANCIS SNOW  
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY  
MIRIAM STEFFEY  
TRACEY SUNDAY  
JOANNE TALARICO  
KELSEY TAVERAS  
MAE TIMER  
LOLA TROUTMAN  
FAM OF CLARENCE TRUPE  
KAREN WADE  
SUSIE WAHL  
CLAYTON WALKER  
NELLY & JAE WALLACE  
JANE WEISS  
BOB WERNER  
ELIZABETH ZEMBAS





# COMMUNITY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EVENT

**COME JOIN FELLOW CHRISTIANS AT OUR 16<sup>TH</sup>  
SUMMER DAY OF WORSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT  
AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> AT THE  
MOHNTON MEMORIAL PARK  
[ Zion E.C. Church if inclement weather ]**

- ❑ Worship service at 10:30 AM (Main Pavilion) –
- ❑ Featured speaker Rev. Rachel Dietz (see Bio)
- ❑ Covered dish picnic w/pulled pork Bar-BQ at noon
- ❑ Fellowship time

**Sponsored jointly by:**

**Calvary United Methodist Church  
New Life Church of Shillington  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Zion Evangelical Congregational Church**

**Church participants are invited to bring a covered dish (preferred) and /  
or a dessert to share. Those concerned about sharing food are invited  
to bring a picnic lunch for their family. Don't forget your lawn chairs.**

## **Pastor Rachael Dietz**

*Executive Associate of the Bishop for Leadership*



Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy/economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut wasn't indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I got schooled in the ways of shrimp and grits, scripture, theology, pastoral care, and Friday night cookouts.

Since ordination, I've served St. James Lutheran Church, Hobbie (near Wilkes-Barre) and St. John Lutheran, Mohnton. I loved living and working in Mohnton! In 2021, the newly elected Bishop, Christopher deForest, called me to serve on the Northeastern PA staff. After 18 years as a pastor, I'm still gobsmacked that I get the privilege to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, knit methodically, and travel through life curiously with my service dog, Chipotle. I've been married to Travis Woodfield for almost 11 years now. Ask him to do a magic trick for you at the picnic!

---

And now about **SSD Chipotle** ...

Chipotle is Pastor Dietz' 4-year-old black Labrador from Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD), near Harrisburg, PA. He was born in June 2020 as part of the "Caliente" themed litter. After waiting 4 years and speed dating over a dozen dogs, Chipotle and Rachael became a team in July 2022.

He helps her with balance and mobility tasks such as: retrieving dropped items, providing a brace up and down curbs, pushing automatic door buttons, fetching her cane from anywhere in the house, taking off her socks, and more! When he's not working, he loves playing ball and sleeping on the couch.

Want to help with his training? The best thing you can do is ignore him!

Want to know more about him—or service dogs in general? Ask.

<http://www.facebook.com/dogfordietz>

# Let Hope Arise Worship Concert ~ May 11, 2024



GREAT  
IS THE LORD AND  
*greatly*  
TO BE PRAISED. PSALM 48:1

All those present at the event.

To watch video clips of this 1<sup>st</sup> time worship concert fundraiser, please go to:

Let Hope Arise Concert Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjaj3ykrOjI>



Musicians from Psalm 101 and  
Calvary's Rock Solid