



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

June 2nd, 2024 – June 8th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

Staff Pastor/Parish Relations Announcement

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.

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.

This is an exciting opportunity for Pastor Matthew, and we are happy to see him pursue this next step in his call to ministry.

On Sunday, June 30th, join us in showing our appreciation for Pastor Matthew and his family during our 9:00AM summer worship service. 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.



The 2024 Preschool and Calvary Care Summer Camps will begin Monday, June 3rd and end on Friday, August 9th. Please refer to our online church calendar to view when various areas of the church building and property are being used by Calvary's children's outreach ministries.



June 2nd, 2024

Communion Sunday
[Communion at the altar rail]

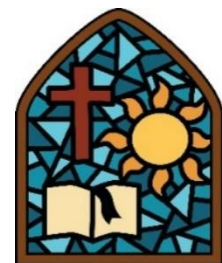
9:00AM Worship

Err on the Side of Grace
Ken Dearstyne, Jr., Speaker

The summer 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**



Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer

**FROM JUNE 2 – SEPT. 1
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAYS AT 9AM.**



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. – 5th Grade)

Vacation Bible School

June 17th – 21st from 6 – 8PM

@ Mohnton Playground (June 17-20)
Closing day, June 21st, at Zion E.C.C.

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



Scan for online
registration.

Mifflin Community Food Ministry

Food Items Needed for June

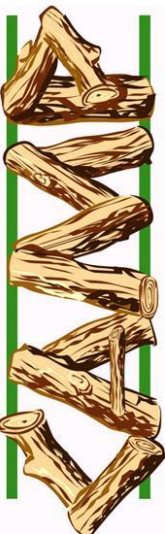
CANNED PEACHES, CANNED CHICKEN BREAST, SPAM, CANNED SALMON, TUNA, RICE -A-RONI (or similar product), 100% JUICE, CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES, and CANNED FRUIT COCKTAIL

In addition to food items, the MCFM is always in need of volunteers! One hundred boxes of food will be prepared. On Saturday, June 15th, 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.



- 02 – Kelly Baumgartle
42 Steffy Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 04 – Susan Gross
418 Longview Drive
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

SUMMER CHURCH



The Eastern PA Conference offers four camping locations with a wonderful myriad of camping themes. **NOW** is the time to be looking over the various websites to check out their electronic brochures and registration areas. **NOW** is the time to start talking to your brothers, sisters, and friends about experiencing a camp adventure this summer!

Partial scholarship funds are available through Calvary Church (one scholarship per child per season). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Matthew at 717-917-5342 or christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com.

Below are the links to each of the camps: (Ctrl + Click)

[Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center](#)

[Innabah Camp & Retreat Center](#)

[Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center](#)

[Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp](#)

Historic Annual Conference Offers Healing and Hope [excerpts...]

May 24, 2024 | John W. Coleman



Bishop John Schol (center) holds hands with other Eastern PA Conference clergy during the closing hymn of the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. ©2024 Shari DeAngelo

Eastern PA 2024 Annual Conference Summary

The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, meeting May 21-23 in Wildwood, NJ., made history twice with two actions—one offering a redemptive healing of its past; the other offering a resilient hope for its future.

The conference began with an historic and inspiring procession of robed clergy into the annual Service of Commissioning and Ordination—historic because it included the Rev. Irene Elizabeth “Beth” Stroud. Defrocked 20 years ago for her admission to being in a committed relationship with another woman, she was reinstated and warmly welcomed back at a clergy session just before the service. That action allowed her to rejoin her peers in the procession, wearing a borrowed clergy stole.

Stroud’s reinstatement—by a more than two-thirds vote of the Eastern PA clergy session—was made possible by a May 3 decision of The United Methodist Church’s (postponed) 2020/2024 General Conference to allow for the reinstatement of clergy who were previously defrocked due to their sexual identity. She may be the denomination’s first reinstated clergy member to benefit from that decision.

The evening service filled the convention hall with a triumphant spirit, uplifted by inspirational prayers, stirring music, colorful worship pageantry and joyous appreciation for those who endured years of preparation toward their ordination and commissioning. It ended with attendees singing conference musician Mark Miller’s embracing anthem “Draw the Circle Wide,” as most moved out from



The Rev. Graham Truscott (left), newly ordained, talks with the Rev. Beth Stroud, newly reinstated during the Service of Commissioning and Ordination. ©2024 Shari DeAngelo

their seats to encircle the vast hall, holding hands and looking into one another’s faces as they sang...

The bishop preached from the conference theme, *Belong*, from Romans 12:5. He urged the church to reject society’s misguided demands that people first become and believe alike before they are allowed to belong. “You have to do what Jesus says: first invite and engage others to belong, then help them grow to believe, and then they can become the disciples God is calling them to be.”

Historic MOU agreement approved

The other historic action by this annual conference was its approval on May 22 of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize and extend the 18-month collaborative partnership between the Eastern PA (EPA) and Greater New Jersey (GNJ) conferences—a partnership often referred to as EPA&GNJ.

The MOU resolution was co-presented to both annual conferences by their two Connectional Table chairpersons—Lenora Thompson of EPA and the Rev. Iraida Ruiz De Porras of GNJ. Recognizing the hard work and resilient hopefulness invested in forging the proposal, EPA members voted to approve it by a margin of nearly 74 percent.

GNJ previously approved it on May 20 by a similar vote tally of about 75 percent. The two conferences met consecutively at the Wildwoods Convention Center—GNJ on May 19-21, and EPA on May 21-23.

The dual agreement formalizes the groundbreaking partnership that elected committees, leaders, and staff of the two conferences have been working to develop for a year and a half. Now it will allow them to collaborate more

in their decision-making, staffing, budgeting, and ministry planning.

Both conferences' presenters assured members that the legally non-binding MOU is an "iterative" plan that can be adjusted as needed and will be reviewed and updated by conference leaders and future conference sessions. There were questions and a motion to delay the plan until after the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July considers possible new conference alignments and episcopal assignments, due to an expected reduction in the number of NEJ bishops.

But presenters—which included EPA's Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Jo Fielding—explained that the MOU allows for adaptation if there are new conference alignments and affiliations, and if EPA's next bishop wishes to make any changes.

Bishop's episcopal address

Bishop Schol praised EPA churches and leaders for "recruiting and developing transformational leaders, making new disciples of Jesus Christ and growing vital, missional congregations," while aligning resources "toward a comprehensive strategic direction...(with) measurable results."

He noted significant challenges during his nearly three-year tenure, including the COVID pandemic, disaffiliation of some churches, and fewer conference staff and dollars. But he credited EPA's staff and elected leaders—especially the Cabinet, Board of Trustees and Council on Finance and Administration—for navigating those challenges.

The bishop recalled the 2022 discovery of deficiencies in conference budgeting and spending procedures, as well as billing and collections. He cited remedies the conference approved at a special session in September 2023 that included reorganized staffing, development of a comprehensive budget and implementation of internal controls, more accurate billings, and fund management. Those changes now give the annual conference a closer review and monitoring of all annual EPA income and spending.

Schol expressed thanks for the questions and challenges that greeted fundamental changes. "These questions and challenges are essential when going through such changes, and they helped lead to a better than 90% approval of the policies and the 2024 budget," he said. "Today, there are policies and reporting mechanisms in

place that create greater transparency and sound financial practices."

He also commended two decisions made by the recent General Conference: structural regionalization that allows for contextual rules and decision-making across the global church; and immediate removal from the Book of Discipline of language that for decades has condemned homosexuality and barred LGBTQ members from full participation in the life and ministry of the church. The latter decision has brought "joy, hope, fear, disappointment and anger," he said.

Calling it "a privilege to serve with a people who first loved me and birthed me," the bishop prescribed three "Rs" as key for the conference's future health:

Relationships that, despite differences, can foster "unity and collaboration toward a common strategic missional direction."

Results that indicate the bearing of much fruit: "The hungry are fed, new disciples are born again, damaged homes are rebuilt, Hope Centers are birthed, leaders are called and developed, diversity grows, and racism is ended."

Regeneration through "healthy policies, procedures and processes" that lead to measurable, meaningful goals and accountability. "Strengthening organizational life is important."...

EPA episcopal endorsements

The annual conference endorsed two Extended Cabinet members as candidates for election to the episcopacy in July. The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, EPA's Director of Connectional Ministries and EPA&GNJ Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Development, was the first to receive sufficient votes for endorsement, followed by the Rev. Andrew Foster III, East District Superintendent, in a subsequent ballot...

Currently, there are six active bishops and one retired bishop, Peggy Johnson, serving the 10 annual conferences in NEJ—with three bishops serving more than one conference. Bishop Schol's retirement would leave five active bishops.

The NEJ Conference is expected to assign six active bishops for the 2024-2028 quadrennium. That means it may need to elect a new bishop; or it may instead receive a bishop who agrees to transfer from another jurisdiction, a new possibility just approved by the General Conference. If the NEJ's Episcopacy Committee, which meets in June,

proposes receiving a transferred bishop, an election in July may not be necessary.

Innabah land easement and acknowledgment

The conference approved a negotiated easement for conservation of 126 acres of land at its Innabah Camp & Retreat Center in Spring City. A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement that permanently limits development and usage of land to protect its conservation values. Innabah will retain ownership of the land and be paid from \$1,392,000 to \$1,834,000 by a conservation trust for the loss of its usage value.

The payment would enable EPA's Camp & Retreat Ministries board to pay all of Innabah's past payroll liability and provide future funding for camp development, improvements and scholarships. The funds would be invested and monitored according to EPA's new fund policy. Innabah can use the remaining 46 acres of its property without restrictions.

In approving the easement agreement, the conference also passed an amendment that calls for Innabah to visibly indicate acknowledgement that its land originally belonged to the Lenni-Lenape Native Americans. That tribe inhabited the northeastern United States, including parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. The proposal mandates education that surpasses the merely symbolic acknowledgment of original indigenous land ownership that is pronounced at the opening of each annual conference session.

EPA's Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM) also won approval of a social advocacy resolution titled "Continuing the Journey toward Healing and Wholeness with Indigenous People." It calls for EPA to join with the UMC's Council of Bishops (COB) who took a "bold stand against voter suppression in 2020 and again in 2022 in their belief that '...the right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack...'"

The COB urges United Methodists to "use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest participation in elections." (A Call for Equal Voting Rights, January 2022)

For more information and videos taken during the 2024 EPA/GNJ Annual Conference, go to: [2024 Annual Conference Highlights](#)



May/June and July/August editions of *The Upper Room*, enlarged and regular print copies, are available in the Gathering Area.

A joint choir will present an anthem on June 23rd at 10:30AM during the annual Community Worship & Picnic at the Mohnton playground & Pavilion.

If you are interested in being a part of that choir, the rehearsal will be held on Thursday, June 20th at 6:00PM at St. John Lutheran Church. If you plan to participate, please contact Jim or Carol Adams at 610-777-3764 so that they have an idea of the number of Calvary members



Choir Rehearsal

TWO MINUTES MORE

Tune in to a weekly word of challenge and encouragement as Christ Servant Minister, Craig Caltagirone, offers sound and inspiring spiritual reflections on contemporary matters.

Consider using these solid two minutes for your own personal reflections or small group discussions. Either way, you'll be surprised at just how meaningful 2 minutes of your day will be if you sign up for these weekly audio devotionals. Contact Craig at ccgirone@comcast.net to get on the mailing list today! or access his messages from our website: [CLICK HERE](#).



COMMUNITY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EVENT

**COME JOIN FELLOW CHRISTIANS AT OUR 16TH
SUMMER DAY OF WORSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT
AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY JUNE 23rd 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>