



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

June 9th, 2024 – June 15th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

Personal Shared Message: *Err on the Side of Grace*
by Ken Dearstyne, Jr., Sunday, June 2nd, 2024

Yesenia, a mother of eight, was a RACC (Reading Area Community College) student. Her family has a long history of substance abuse going back at least 2 generations. Her family members never really understood or were aware of or courageous enough to take advantage of the community resources available to help them deal with life. They certainly had no idea how to navigate the complex world of higher ed or any kind of continuing education opportunity which might have helped end the continuous unfortunate circumstances that they found themselves in. Impoverishment often caused by ongoing experience w every kind of abuse imaginable; sexual, spousal, parental was not only a headwind but a brick wall in allowing them to move forward. Trying to survive every day was their supreme focus and main challenge. That included doing whatever was necessary to provide food for the family, including selling their bodies. It was part of a hopeless generational experience that was their Groundhog Day, happening over and over endlessly. Add on to that the conditions that arose from everyday experiences such as lack of confidence, ignorance of how to get help, no available health care, etc. and there was seemingly no way out.

~Message *cont'd* on pg. 3



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.

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.



June 9th, 2024

Graduation Sunday

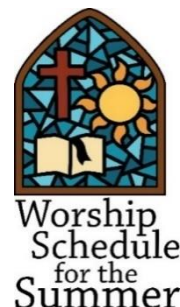
9:00AM Worship

Greater Than Series #1: WE>ME
Pastor Nova preaching

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**



**Through
Sunday,
Sept. 1st, one
service 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 Food Ministry Food Items Needed for June

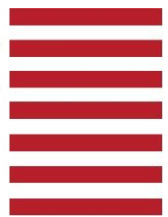


CANNED PEACHES, CANNED CHICKEN BREAST, SPAM, CANNED SALMON, TUNA, RICE -A-RONI (or similar product), 100% JUICE, CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES, and CANNED FRUIT COCKTAIL

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.



Flag Retirement CEREMONY



A special ceremony will be held to retire old flags with the respect and dignity they deserve on

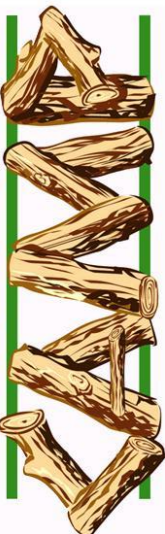
Monday, June 10th at 7:00PM

at the Mohnton Playground Pavilion

The community is invited to participate in this meaningful event. Bring your worn flag(s) with you in order for the Scouts to prepare your flag(s) for proper retirement.

Sponsored by the Mohnton Boy Scout Troop 264
Earl Eshelman memorial VFW Post 9045
Patriotic Sons of America Camp 211

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](#)

Message *cont'd from pg. 1*

Forward to today, Yesinia was a RACC First Gen graduate on May 3rd of this year. In higher ed a 'first gen' is someone that is the first in their family to graduate from an institution of higher ed. She has not only navigated life to this point; she is now pointed in the right direction to succeed and help her family succeed. She has made social services and in particular substance abuse a focus of her education and soon to be career of which she has already begun and will be able to help countless others who find themselves in the same or similar circumstances which she was in.

This is one of hundreds of stories that I have been able to not only hear but be a part of in my role as SVP at RACC. Seeing our communities needs firsthand has helped educate and motivate me along with others at RACC and in the community to design, plan, finance and construct a \$20M educational health care pavilion so those who do not easily have the means to further their education can do so in a state-of-the-art educational facility. I've been blessed to oversee planning for and construction of a food pantry, a professional clothing distribution center, an inviting and economical school cafeteria, an advanced teaching, tutoring and learning center, hybrid classroom technology, and an outdoor campus project called Welcome Home that will provide convenient, safe and accessible space for teaching learning studying and recreation. Something especially needed for people whose opportunities to congregate, socialize and have fun is often limited by where they live.

In all of this, student success is the focus. How can we help those who come to our doors be successful?

I have received a level of grace that I cannot begin to describe. My wife is a fount of grace as she provides me with love, guidance, motivation, and helpful feedback to help me continue to reach out to others – even as I'm complaining about how much of a pain this employee is or that politician is, or my own situation is on a particular day. I've got a very loving family. I don't believe that happened by chance. God has graced me with, as Pastor Matthew said a few weeks ago, RADICAL GRACE. I believe then that God calls me to extend that radical grace to others. I used to, and sometimes still do, jump to the first thought that comes to my mind as to why bad things are happening to someone. Why do they have so many kids, why did the mom have so many boyfriends that were not committed to family, why doesn't she just get a job, he's just selling his welfare check for drugs... and leave it at that, but I believe ~ 3 ~

God has placed me in the midst of young adults in such circumstances not to judge but to help comfort and support. And when it comes right down to it none of the judgment matters or is helpful. Instead, I feel God's direction clearly to be 'err on the side of grace Ken'.

My grace journey has been a hodgepodge of ongoing experiences, but to me each one whether painful, stressful, challenging, joyful or even confusing has been an instance of God's plan for me. He knows me and he knows what will work and not work to get me closer to where he wants me to be. God's got a lot of work to do, but my outlook on life and what part I should be playing has changed considerable especially over the past 25 years as my career has taken me from RACC to Lancaster Theological Seminary to Millersville University and now back to RACC. If God can extend radical grace to me then I can at least attempt to return the favor by erring on the side of grace with those with whom he puts me in contact. After making the same mistakes over and over again, I feel God telling me 'I'm extending radical grace to you Ken. You know what that means? – err on the side of grace darn it'.

Our conscience testified that we have conducted ourselves in the world, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. ~ 2
Corinthians 1:12

Often, I need to be hit over the head with my own backsliding again and again. Sometimes I need to hear something several times before I get it. In what must have been the late 80's, Pastor Garrett invited Rev Bill Marlowe, who was an Albright Professor to preach

here at Calvary. Although I don't remember the sermon topic, I do remember a story he told of a drunk who used to frequent his church when he was a youngster. He was well known to the congregation because he would profess passionately that he was a born-again Christian who was able to go sober, but then would turn right back to drinking bringing him and his family to their knees again. A vicious circle of failure and victory. Rev Marlowe's message regarding this story was not one of 'he failed because he was never able to successfully change his life for the good' or 'he was never truly born again'. Instead, he used it as an example of how sometimes we need to be born again....and again....and again. God was and is patient with me as I succeed, backtrack, succeed, backtrack to what seems like perpetuity, but, thankfully, God's grace is limitless.

In my almost 25 years in higher ed, I've seen firsthand how so many of those around me suffer because of life getting in the way. That's what we at RACC call 'life happening' events, interruptions and detours that happen to students

as a result of life's challenging circumstances – poverty, parental abuse, sexual abuse, language barriers, etc. However, do you know what is probably the main deterrent to student success? In my opinion, it is judgment and lack of grace.

RACC is the largest institution of higher ed in Berks County w 6,500 students. A full 80% of those students receive some sort of need related financial aid and about half are first generation that I explained before are the first from their families to go to college. We are an HIS or Hispanic Serving Institution and the first one in the state of Pennsylvania with over 50% of our students Hispanic. More importantly, the economic reality and the city of Reading demographics that make up much of our student body are a big roadblock to many of our students. However, not necessarily insurmountable ones. We have robust student services, financial aid and scholarship help, a family-oriented learning environment and faculty and staff trained to truly care about the student's education BUT perhaps more importantly their life circumstance. Our students need more than support; they need grace.

I am definitely a work in process and always will be, but it has been truly therapeutic to me to understand that it's not my job to be judgmental. Yes, I still get frustrated when I see people not picking themselves up by the bootstraps and helping themselves.

Then it's time to listen to that voice. John Wesley heard that voice too when he said something that is truly timeless, "We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others."

Here are some other examples of grace I've seen in action with names changed:

- Ruth just received her citizenship. She already has her associates and bachelor's and just got her master's and is about to enroll in a PHD program in neuropsychology. She came to this country knowing no English.
- At a recent Salvation Army breakfast, I heard from Marisol and Gisette stories, in broken English, about how community support helped them persevere through abuse and neglect to be able to now fully support their families
- I work with a gentleman who was born of a drug user and a non-existent dad. He somehow has worked through that and other challenging circumstances to be a top-level manager and loving husband and father
- I saw a gay woman who was very upset at a hate speech that was taking place in our Quad. By the way, by law we have to allow hateful speech on

our campus, due to freedom of speech rights. I was able to talk to her and give her a hug and let her know she is loved.

- I know of a person who became paralyzed from an unfortunate medical accident a few years ago and has no feeling from the waist down. She has been helpful in discussions with our architects to ensure designs go the extra step toward true accessibility. She is now the President of Pennsylvania's chapter of a well-known student organization that celebrates educational attainment and success, and she will graduate next year with honors
- I was able to speak with a student who recently was homeless but took the courageous step to further her education while working a job. She humbly asked how she might apply for additional financial aid which she eventually received, enabling her to graduate.
- I've been blessed to be around people who are unlike me in so many disparate ways and who are in need of a smile, a hug, a word of encouragement or sometimes just a hello
- There is a student who at times carries a Teddy bear with him to class. He's about 6'6" and 300 lbs. so it is impossible to miss. He's on the autism spectrum and my first inclination may well have been to judge him. However, I was blessed to converse a little with him. I've also seen him perform on stage as one of the lead actors in 2 of RACC's productions. What an unbelievable experience as a shy, extreme introvert with social skill challenges came to life as the center of attention; he was absolutely fantastic! I've learned that he is a special person with special skills who would not have received the grace that he deserves anywhere but at RACC. His friends are now innumerable. By the way, the part he played was Young Frankenstein which I bet was somewhat therapeutic for him as in the past he sometimes has been perceived as a monster. He's one of the gentlest people I know.

Several years ago, my sister sent me the following saying in a birthday card that I now have posted just above eye level at my desk – "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle".

How many times has God introduced me to someone who needs eye contact, a brief conversation, a handshake, a hug, or to let them know I'll pray for them, to be there at least in some small way.

I'm not always accepting of His grace or feel like freely giving it to someone else, but I do know it is abundant. I try to err on the side of grace a lot more than I used to. As I mentioned previously, I'm a work in process.

Everyone needs the message of grace, a message that they clearly hear as nonjudgmental. I promise you that the opportunities for everyone to show joyful, redeeming, loving, grace are endless. I'll bet you'll get more in return than you expected.

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

~Matthew 7:1-3

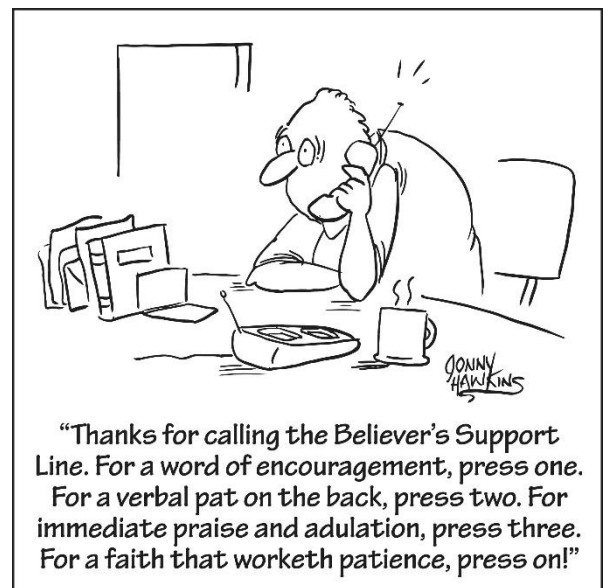


A joint choir will present an anthem on June 23rd at 10:30AM during the annual Community Worship & Picnic at the Mohnton playground & Pavilion.

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 to expect.



- 09 – Nicole Thomas
12 N. Church Street
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 10 – Tim Myers
51 Guigley Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 11 – Emma Stone
1 N. Sandy Lane
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 12 – Jen Wocklish
303 Orchard Way
Winder, GA 30680
- 12 – Max Pearson
821 Dodson St.
Bethlehem, PA 18015
- 12 – Ben Myers
51 Guigley Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 13 – Phyllis Matz
13 Katie Ln.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 14 - Michael Stump
585 Wolfe Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 15 – Debbie Owen
1563 Cedar Top Rd.
Shillington, PA 19607



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>