



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

July 14th, 2024 – July 20th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org
Summer Worship: 9AM

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

Road Trip – Hit the Road
Craig Caltagirone, CSM

Matthew 28:16-20 *The Great Commission*

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We begin a new sermon series today. Often referring to our faith as a journey, we are going on a *Road Trip*.

To begin this Road Trip, let us return to the opening of our Gospel reading:
"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee." – a Road Trip for the eleven disciples.

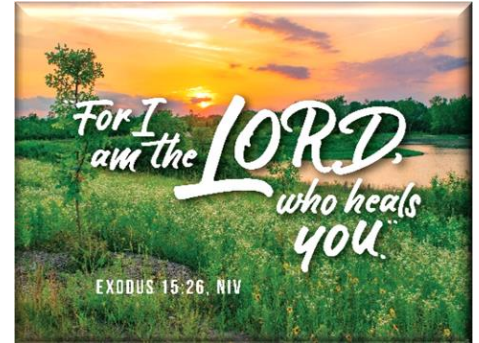
How are you with remembering names? Most of us recognize Jesus started with twelve, but at this point in the Gospel of Matthew, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, there were only 11 of the original 12 remaining. I suspect, most of us could identify the name of the one who was no longer present ... Judas Iscariot, but can we name the other eleven?

If you attempt to recite the other 11, you may start with the easy ones, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – but wait! Two of those names were not among the original twelve. If you want the full list, go back to Matthew 10 or Luke 6, where we read: "² These are the names of the twelve apostles".

Stop again! We are told the names of *the twelve apostles* ... but today's reading said *the eleven disciples*. Is there a difference between apostle and disciple?

Disciples include all who are followers of Jesus. I hope you are among that group, while *apostles* may be defined as those were the select group singled out by Jesus, by name and given the directions in today's lesson. So, it seems to me, all apostles are disciples, but not all disciples are apostles.

Message, *cont'd* on pg. 3



**July 13th, 2024
9:00AM**

**ROAD TRIP #2:
Worth Stopping For**

Pastor Nova, preaching

Service of Healing after the Message

Worship services are also available via livestream from our home page at www.calvaryumcmohnton.org or click below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**

Come enjoy some great baseball, fireworks,
BBQ, and more!

Fun for the whole family!



Calvary India Mission Team Fundraiser
\$45 for a book of 6 tickets.

Tickets are good all season. That's only \$7.50 a ticket...\$12 at the gate!

Please contact the church office @ 610-777-8441 for tickets.

**SHARE JESUS
WITH A FRIEND**

Food Items Needed for July Food Ministry Distribution

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, July 20th, 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.



Pegge Harshaw
Mifflin Court
450 E. Philadelphia Avenue, Rm. 216
Shillington, PA 19607
Phone # to come.

Mifflin Food Ministry is collecting school supplies (**needed by Aug. 11**): Extra-large bookbags (sufficient smaller sizes are on hand), two pocket folders, spiral notebooks, pocket size tissues, pink erasers, pencil top erasers, glue sticks, highlighters, colored pencils, markers, and Sharpies.

Drop off donations in the gray bin in the Gathering Area.
Items will be distributed to school-age kids on Saturday, August 17th.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 15 – Bryce Werner
205 Slichter Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 16 – Tristan McGettrick
1111 Wyomissing Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 16 – Toni Calata
193 Chateau Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 18 – Kylie Brumbach
18 Bare Ave.
Reading, PA 19607
- 19 – Joshua Wagner
70 Carriage Cir.
Oley, PA 19547
- 20 – Randy Bierly
1 Hanley Ln.
Shillington, PA 19607

➔ In It to Gather ➔

Keeping Seniors Connected at Calvary

~ Mark your calendar now! ~

2nd Get Together

Tuesday, July 16th, from 1PM – 3PM
in the Chapel Library

- Special Speaker from the
Berks County Detective Office
- Ice Cream Social
- Fun and Fellowship!



Friends are welcome, but 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).

And what about Paul? Paul claimed the title of Apostle because of his personal encounter with the risen Jesus, being sent as a messenger directly from Jesus. Some refuted his claim of apostleship, but Paul frequently used the title in his writings.

And just for anyone into statistics, I did a search. In the NIV version of the New Testament, the word “apostle” appears 88 times. When I searched “disciple”, 294 occurrences.

Then just as I thought I was getting it straight, I stumbled onto thoughts from Orthodox tradition that name 70 Apostles!

Perhaps I am dwelling on insignificant details, but it leads to my question: “Did Jesus intend the command to be a responsibility only for the eleven?”

If that was the case, the making of disciples would have potentially ended when the lives of those eleven ended, but the sharing needs to be repeated, perpetuated through generations.

Listen again to the directions from Jesus: *go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.* These words spoken to the eleven disciples.

I hope we can agree, whether referring to those eleven as Apostles or Disciples, if you consider yourself a follower of Jesus Christ, we share the responsibility stated in verse 19 – *to go and make disciples.* Those words “obey everything” - they require more time than I have available today, so let’s stick to making disciples.

And just to be clear, I am also confronted and so I remind myself of Paul’s words in the 3rd chapter of Philippians: *¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. ...* Those are words of Paul, that also describe me.

I know that I am failing. I know I need to press on toward the goal. I know that I need God’s help to “keep on keepin’ on”, and so I pray for God’s help.

And maybe there’s the first step if you want to begin this process of making disciples. Rather than offering an excuse or looking for a procedure, a process, how to speak, what to say, maybe the first thing is to go to God in prayer, with a sincere ask for help in how to make disciples.

In fact, maybe that basic step is still too big a step. Maybe we first need to be convinced Jesus is talking to me and you when he said “GO”. If we need convincing, there is where our prayer can begin.

If you need convincing, I ask you, with the current condition of our world, from wars to poverty; from the anger generated by national political campaigns to crime statistics ... do we all agree, a greater number of disciples, true followers of Jesus, obeying the commands from Jesus are needed? ... do we all agree our world could be a better place with more disciples?

If the words of Holy Scripture, specifically, these recorded words of Jesus, are meaningful to us, how can we deny the responsibility?

Another question we may need to ask ourselves, ... do I have a desire for others to know and have a relationship with Jesus? ... Beyond the benefit to just you and me knowing Jesus – do I care enough about others to want them to know Jesus for their benefit? Then why am I not engaged in making disciples?

What is your favorite restaurant? Do you tell others because you think they might enjoy it? Did you see a good movie and tell friends about it? Why – because they might enjoy it? Do you share the name of your outstanding handyman or your mechanic – in order that others may benefit?

Is there anything more important for others to benefit from, than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Then why do we hesitate to share?

Is it a job for someone else? Not for you and me.

Do we need a definition or instructions on how this task is performed?

Google, “how to make disciples” and there is no shortage of formulas, outlines, or procedures, but what method works for me or you?

How do I define it? Do I water down this task of making disciples to simply be telling someone about the Gospels, about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – that all we need to do is tell people those few words, and we have completed our assignment? If this were a school project, how many of us would receive a grade of “incomplete” because we have not even started the assignment?

We will not take the time here this morning to go into depth of strategies, but I suggest there is much more for us to do beyond reciting a few Gospel verses. The task goes deeper than a two-minute exchange of words.

Maybe we need to have a class with experienced disciple makers sharing some of their success. Painting the side of a barn with the words “Jesus Saves” ... a license plate or bumper sticker proclaiming Jesus as Lord, a tee shirt or hat? I have no issue, but does the statement itself make disciples? Does opening a door, carrying someone’s groceries or paying for their coffee make disciples? Nice actions. Maybe leading to conversation, but those actions, by themselves, do not say Jesus.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I drove down Lancaster Avenue. At the busy intersection with Route 10, two men held signs stating, “Read the Bible”. Are they making disciples? They might be doing more than I am.

Even if I am able to memorize some verses of Scripture, recitation of memorized words is not likely to develop a connection with another person. Last week, Pastor Matthew reminded us we need to share our story ... OUR story. That is part of explaining our hope as believers.

After years of wrestling with the truth of my failure to seek out those needing to hear the Gospel, I finally, just this past week, came back to the words in First Peter 3:15 *“if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.”* I have not been ready to explain my hope as a believer.

Yes, we need to introduce Jesus, the Gospel, God’s Word to the pre-believer, but what do we then expect? Are we scattering seed in the wind, hoping there is a fertile piece of ground somewhere close by? Oh, I have heard some of us say, it is not our job to make the seed grow, we just need to put the seed out there and let God do His work. ... Maybe. Yes, it is only Jesus who saves, but what if God is expecting me to water that seed? What if God is expecting me to apply fertilizer? What if God is looking for workers to care for the new disciple?

The word “relationship” comes around so often as we discuss our journey on this Road Trip.

I try to counsel my teenage grandchildren with different aspects of “growing up”, and I have tried to help them be more comfortable with breaking the ice in a social setting,

whether it be with new peers or even adults who enter their lives. I have encouraged them to use questions to generate interest and conversation with others.

The same practice can be used in attempts to develop faith conversation with others. Willie Robertson, of Duck Dynasty fame, suggests questions like: How well do you understand the Bible? How satisfied are you with how your life is going? Do you have any sort of relationship with Jesus Christ?

Yes, Willie’s questions may clash with all those who say, my faith or religion is private, I do not discuss it and do not want you telling me how to think. Asking a question does not force my beliefs, in fact, it invites the other person to offer their thoughts to me. If the other side is not open to hearing from me, it will quickly be obvious, and I can back off. But as ice hockey player Wayne Gretzky is quoted to have said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take”. How many opportunities have I missed – and why?

And yes, I know some of you may already be working the task and maybe my words this morning appear as an accusation that does not apply to you. I concede ... but along with my concession, I ask you to help the rest of us. Help me, help others who have trouble. Perhaps you can participate or lead that class I spoke of.

Still need convincing? Still need some motivation?

Paul writes in the 10th chapter of Romans:

“And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

If you entered this sanctuary today of your own free will, I suspect you want to see the expansion of the number of disciples. Then why are we not working to make that expansion happen?

Is there at least one among us who will accept the challenge, the command from Jesus?

Will anyone ... Hit the Road - for Jesus?

Amen!

While you’re away

Taking regular vacations is key to our well-being. It’s important to spend time with loved ones, experience physical and mental refreshment, enjoy changes in scenery and routine, and prepare for future productivity.

Just remember: God’s work goes on all summer long. When you’re on vacation, your friends at church miss you. No one else can fill your unique role in the congregation. Your presence and gifts help the church thrive. So please give your regular offerings before you leave for vacation. And if you have the opportunity, try to attend church while you’re away. Have a wonderful summer! [<https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/content/issue/9672028>]

Happy Birthday to Calvary Church!

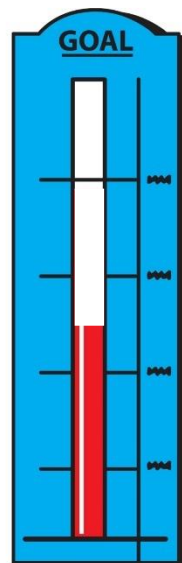
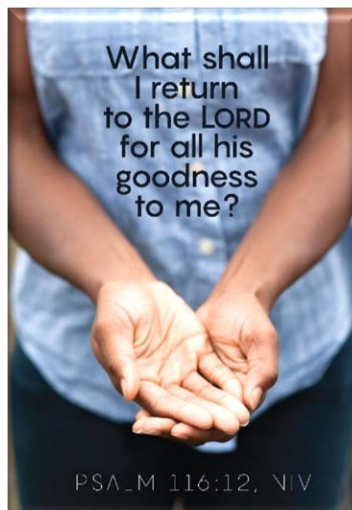
By Bob Werner

This year our church and parsonage buildings turn 93 years old! Built during some of the most perilous economic times our country has faced, The Great Depression, they have weathered many storms, provided a home for the families of 12 pastors, and welcomed thousands to worship within the beautiful and comfortable confines of our church over those many years. As with any 93-year-old structure, regular maintenance is essential to keep the buildings looking good and functioning well. Fortunately, we have been blessed with good stewardship of our resources by our Boards of Trustees during the long history of our buildings. Their foresight, hard work, and efficiency have proved invaluable to the care of our structures.

On September 4, we will be solving one aspect of a long-standing problem of heat leakage in the parsonage. Specifically, 3 inches of foam insulation will be applied to the walls and ceiling of the parsonage attic, stopping the heat loss which has resulted in excessive gas and oil costs through the years. After much thought and consultation with professionals, this procedure has been deemed the most cost effective with the shortest payback period.

The Stewardship, Finance, and Trustee committees are asking the congregation to support a special fund-raising initiative to make this project possible. 25% of the total cost has already been covered, so our goal is to raise the remaining \$9000 to pay for this essential operation. Please don't let this special project affect your regular giving, as we need to also continue our outreach, staffing, and regular maintenance funding. Our hope is to reach the \$9000 goal by Sunday August 18th.

Please send your checks to the church office or place in the Sunday worship offering plate with the notation "parsonage project" on the memo line. We look forward to keeping Pastor Nova and her family warm this winter through your generosity and kindness.



Insulating the Parsonage Attic FUNDRAISER

\$4,700 donated
\$7,300 still needed



Redeeming "wasted" time

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! *Where* are my keys?"

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. "Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts."

When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

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