



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

July 21st, 2024 – July 27th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org
Summer Worship: 9AM

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

Road Trip – Worth Stopping For

Pastor Nova; Scripture: Luke 8:40-56

When taking a road trip, the journey matters as much as the arrival at your destination. Every road trip should include a “**can’t miss**” stop along the route. It is important in our faith journeys not to miss the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Have you traveled on the road by car (not a bike or motorcycle) for more than 7 hours? Where did you go?

What are the reasons why we stop on during trip?

1. **Rest and Relaxation:** To take a break from driving, stretch their legs, or avoid driver fatigue.
2. **Refueling:** To fill up the gas tank.
3. **Food and Drink:** To eat meals or grab snacks and beverages.
4. **Bathroom Breaks:** To use restrooms at rest areas, gas stations, or restaurants.
5. **Sightseeing:** To visit tourist attractions, landmarks, or scenic spots
6. **Accommodation:** To stay overnight in a hotel or motel during long trips.

Message, *cont’d* on pg. 2



July 21st, 2024

9:00AM

**ROAD TRIP #3:
U-Turn**

Pastor Nova, preaching

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP VIA ZOOM
CLICK HERE**



The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee is happy to share that Justin Thomas has been hired as our part time Director of Children and Youth Ministry, beginning July 16.

Justin is married to Pastor Nova Vitug-Thomas and it’s clear he has a heart for working with children and youth. He grew

up in Michigan, where he served in Youth Ministry in several churches before moving to Sitka, Alaska where he lived for 8 years.

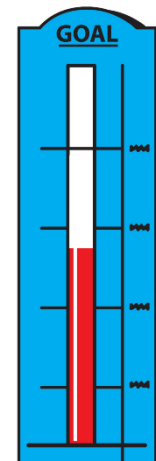
Justin continued his ministry in Sitka working for a United Methodist church first as their Youth and Children’s Director and then as the Administrative Assistant. He also helped to run church camp in Juneau, Alaska.

Justin supports working with a team, frequently served on several church committees over the years, including Christian Education, Administrative Board and Worship.

Justin has a medical background and has worked in hospitals in Michigan, Alaska, and New Jersey and is currently working full time at the Center for Urologic Care Berks County.

In his spare time, he likes to travel, especially to Europe, and enjoys working on their cabin in the Poconos.

Justin is looking forward to his new ministry, and we thank him for answering God’s call to serve Calvary’s children and youth.



Fundraiser Update:

For Insulating
the Parsonage Attic
\$4,839 donated
\$7,161 still needed

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.



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.

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



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 21 – Kay Wadsworth
256 New Castle Dr.
Shillington, PA 19607
- 22 – Lyle Neal
10 Pebble Brook Ln.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 23 – Dianne Bassetti
12 Eagles Lane
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 23 - Ron Fox
2139 Reading Blvd.
West Lawn, PA 19609
- 25 – Suzanne Jones
101 Mesa Dr.
Reading, PA 19608
- 25 - Makayla Jo Kelley
1720 Cedar Top Rd.
Reading, PA 19607
- 26 – Bob Wagner
142 Hemlock Rd.
Reading, PA 19607

Sermon *Cont'd* from pg. 1

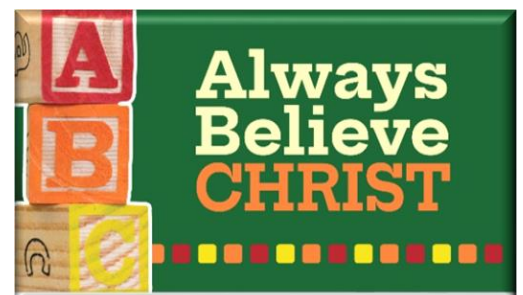
7. **Emergency or Maintenance:** To address car troubles, such as flat tires, mechanical issues, or to seek emergency assistance.
8. **Navigation and Planning:** To check maps, GPS, or plan the next part of the route.
9. **Weather Conditions:** To wait out bad weather, such as heavy rain, snow, or storms.
10. **Health and Safety:** To address health needs, take medications, or manage travel sickness.
11. **Passenger Needs:** To accommodate the needs of passengers, including children or pets, for breaks and comfort.
12. **Phone or Internet Access:** To make phone calls, check messages, or use the internet where connectivity is available.
13. **Shopping:** To buy supplies, souvenirs, or personal items.
14. **Legal or Regulatory Stops:** To comply with traffic laws, such as checkpoints, toll booths, or border crossings.

Each stop can help make the journey safer, more comfortable, and more enjoyable for travelers.

In Luke 8:40-56 account, Jesus stopped on his way to Jairus house for 3 reasons: 1. Faith and Desperation. 2. Sensitivity/Awareness, and 3. Compassion and Declaration of Healing

Faith and Desperation

- The woman had immense faith that simply touching Jesus' garment would heal her.
- Her desperation, after twelve years of suffering and failed treatments, drove her to seek Jesus despite the crowd.
- Jesus emphasized that it was the woman's faith that had healed her, not just the act of touching His garment.
- This highlights the power of faith in Jesus and encourages others to trust in Him.



Jesus' Sensitivity and Awareness

- Despite being surrounded by a pressing crowd, Jesus immediately sensed that healing power had gone out from Him.
- This indicates His divine awareness and sensitivity to the needs of individuals.
- Jesus did not show prejudice or discrimination or special treatment.

Compassion and Declaration of Healing

- Jesus did not just allow the healing to happen silently; He stopped to address the woman personally.
- His response highlights His compassion and willingness to acknowledge and comfort her.
- Jesus addressed her as "daughter," a term of endearment and acceptance.
- He told her to go in peace, providing her with both physical and emotional healing.
- By stopping and asking who touched Him, Jesus gave the woman an opportunity to publicly declare her healing.
- This public acknowledgment reinforced her healing and restored her social and religious standing, as her condition had likely made her ceremonially unclean.

This story emphasizes the importance of faith, Jesus's sensitivity and compassion, and His readiness to stop and address individuals' needs, even in the midst of pressing circumstances.

Friends, I want us to stop and, in faith, like the woman bleeding and touching Jesus' garment, stop and be still in the presence of Jesus. Let us address the pressing need of our congregation for healing—physically, emotionally, mentally, behaviorally, economically, and spiritually.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30:

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I invite anyone who needs healing, whatever aspect it is, or if you know anybody who needs healing, come forward and represent them (your family, friend, or anybody you know). Come forward as a gesture of faith to come to Jesus and receive His blessings.

"Let us listen to the words of Scripture that remind us of God's healing power.

James 5:14-15, *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven"* (James 5:14-15, NKJV).

Isaiah 53:5, *But he was pierced for our transgressions,*

*he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

Psalm 103:2-3

Praise the Lord, my soul,

and forget not all his benefits—

³ who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

Closing Prayer with the Congregation: Join in a collective prayer for healing.

Lord, we thank You for Your presence and Your healing power. May Your peace and comfort rest upon each person here. We trust in Your continued work in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



EASTERN PA CONFERENCE NEWS

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has been assigned to serve as the episcopal leader of United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey, effective September 1, 2024.

Elected as a bishop during the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Lancaster, PA, Bishop Moore-Koikoi has previously served the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Conferences.

As of September 1, 2021, Bishop Moore-Koikoi also serves as the Interim Bishop of the Harrisburg Episcopal Area.

~cont'd on pg. 4

Bishop Moore-Koikoi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Loyola College in Maryland in 1988, and a Master of Arts and advanced certification in school psychology from the University of Maryland in 1992. She worked as a school psychologist for Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 17 years, serving in leadership roles as a layperson before answering her call to the ordained ministry.

She answered that call while a member of Sharp Street Memorial UMC in Baltimore, her great-grandfather's church and the church which sent her father into ministry. Her husband of three years, the Rev. Raphael Koikoi, currently serves as pastor there.

The Bishop is familiar with church life and ministry in rural, urban and suburban settings. Growing up in a preacher's family, when she was in elementary school, her father served a rural hilltop church. Later, they moved to serve a church in suburban Silver Spring, MD, where she went to junior high and high school.

Attending Wesley Seminary, she was appointed as a student pastor to "a small congregation with a proud EUB heritage in a section of East Baltimore that was experiencing change." The congregation had to learn how to navigate that change. Later she was appointed associate pastor at Calvary UMC, a large congregation in Annapolis.

Ordained an elder in 2010, she served on the Conference staff working with churches on discipleship. She later served as district superintendent for the Greater Washington Area, and most recently as superintendent of the Baltimore Metropolitan District.

In that role, she played a key spiritual role in the city in 2015 during the unrest after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. She helped to organize United Methodist churches to open their doors and minister to children and families whose schools were closed, and to meet other basic needs. She became the face of the United Methodist Church, and church volunteers in red T-shirts were visible walking through neighborhoods, praying for and ministering to people.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi says she sees the work of bishops as "overseeing the work of the church, working prophetically, evangelically and apostolically with all as they cooperate with the Grace of God." A key component of that, she believes, is leaving space for the transforming movement of the Holy Spirit, especially at times when the denomination is divided, and many people wonder what the future holds. "That's spiritual work -- remembering who God is and who God has called us to be," she said. "We got God, so we got this."

Bishop Moore-Koikoi said she sees herself as a bridge-builder, clear and confident about what she believes, while respecting others who might not believe the same way.

Her vision is of a diverse church that embraces justice and the life-saving love of Christ. As a new bishop, she's committed to work for that. It won't be easy, she said, "but I remind myself, God has got this. God is in control."

Restarting an Old Tradition

The Rev. Ken Dearstyne, Sr., (Jan. 1925 – Dec. 2022) father of Ken, Jr., was ordained as a U.M. minister after serving in World War II, served as an Air Force Chaplain for over 30 years, was the Chief Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Coatesville, PA, and served several smaller churches in his early and late ministry years.

During his lifetime, Chaplain Ken personally ministered to hundreds in need of encouragement, prayer, guidance, affirmation of their worth and God's infinite love for them, or simply someone to listen. But, most of all, many needed to hear the words of salvation through Christ Jesus.

It's no surprise, then, that he accumulated a treasure trove of faith and human relationship stories, so many that he wrote which he self-published, *Memories: From A Chaplain's Notebook*. Both his book and individual stories have been shared many times over the years. In fact, all his stories were shared in Calvary's former monthly newsletter, *The Grain of Salt*, usually one per month.

There are many in our congregation who have read Chaplain Ken's stories, but others who haven't. They are inspiring, often insightful, and worth retelling. So, when space is available, I will republish them in our weekly *Calvary Connection*. (see pg. 5)

~Janet Dearstyne
the proud daughter-in-law

THE BALL TURRET GUNNER

Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

During World War II, Sperry Corp. and Erco developed what was called a ball turret gun mount for use on combat aircraft, primarily bombers. The Erco was mounted on the tail of aircraft for defense and strafing. The Sperry was much more commonly used on later models of the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator bombers.

The turret was small and cramped to reduce drag. On the B-17, the turret was very close to the ground, so the gunner didn't enter until after takeoff, a lesson learned after a few gunners were killed when landing gear failed. On the B-24, the turret was retracted into the fuselage of the plane until airborne.

By necessity, the ball turret was crowded. There was little room for a parachute. Few gunners tried to wear one. Fifty caliber machine guns were mounted on either side of the gunner's head, a few inches from his ears. Hearing loss frequently resulted. Once inside the turret, the door was locked. There was no easy escape. It was, often, a suicide assignment given to the smallest member of the crew. My friend, Sam, was an obvious candidate for the assignment. He stood less than 5'5" tall and tipped the scales at 115 pounds.

Sam grew up in Philadelphia, the youngest of five and the only son of a working-class family. To survive on the street, he used his wits to make up for his size. He would distract a theater usher with his antics and conversation while his friends snuck into the Saturday matinee. Or he would point out over-ripe fruit to a vendor while other boys made off with better choices. He became a valued addition to any group. Later, he would tell me that he was not proud of all this, but it helped him survive.

We were about the same age when I met Sam in 1978. He was a patient in neurology and suffered severe hearing loss. After countless missions in a cramped ball turret, he had developed spinal problems. By the end of the war, he found himself a patient in a VA hospital. Hearing aids were helpful, and surgery was a temporary solution for mobility but, by the time we met, Sam used a wheelchair much of the time.

He attended services and chapel activities of his own faith but was a participant in any activity where volunteers were likely to be serving food. Though physically limited, often, he could be found tooling around the maze of tunnels at the hospital in his wheelchair. He was a frequent volunteer at entertainments and activities, handing out programs or helping set tables. He was everybody's friend.

Sam always attended our Tuesday evening discussion group. He added much to the conversation from his own tradition and experience. Others in the group enjoyed Sam's contributions. And needless to say, Sam always stayed for refreshments served by volunteer ladies.

Sam never discussed the war, unless he was with other veterans who had similar experiences. But I vividly remember an incident when he was being treated for a form of pneumonia. He was very sick and breathing with difficulty and had been given a sedative to help him sleep. While he was sleeping, they had put an oxygen tent over his upper body to ease his breathing. I was in the ward when he awakened. He was terrified of being enclosed and struggling to free himself. The tent was removed immediately and replaced with a mask. He later told me that, after those ball turret missions, he became claustrophobic. I could understand, as could the medical staff.

My last chapel service, before retirement, was in May 1984. It was a communion service. Sam had attended programs and activities for years, but never services other than his own. Our chapel was designed with very wide side aisles to accommodate wheelchairs and, as usual, there were many of them. But, when I looked out at the congregation, I was surprised to see Sam, in his wheelchair, halfway down the right isle. I thought it must be his way of saying, "goodbye".

At the appropriate point in the service, I read the "Invitation" to Holy Communion.

"Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in His holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort, and make your humble confession to almighty God."

After serving those at the chancel, I took the chalice and wafers down the side aisle. As I came to each person, it was my custom to quietly ask, "Do you wish to receive?" My approach to Sam was different. I leaned toward him and said, "Sam, we're old friends. No offense if you don't wish to receive." Sam smiled and said, "I heard the invitation chaplain, and I wish to receive." Those were my last words with my old friend, Sam, the ball turret gunner.

Amen!