



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

July 28th, 2024 – August 3rd, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org
Summer Worship: 9AM

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

Road Trip – U-Turn

7/21/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Acts 9:1-6

What is a U-Turn traffic sign?

A U-turn traffic sign indicates where a U-turn is permitted. It typically shows a black arrow curved in a U-shape on a white background.

Do you remember a time when you thought you were headed in the right direction, only to discover you were way off course? When and where was that? This happens to all of us.

I remember when I was working in Pennsauken. Every week, I drove home to Bergenfield, a two-hour drive. One time, I was driving and singing along to the music when I missed my turn. I got lost and ended up in New York. I spent two hours circling the city, wasting time just trying to find my way home. I could have arrived early, but my carelessness and lack of attention to the present moment caused me to waste time. I've missed a lot of things but thank God for U-turns.

Are we in the right place at the right time that God intended for us?

Are we doing good things or God things?

Sometimes we miss the signs, and sometimes we see the signs but are too stubborn to turn.

~Message, cont'd on pg. 4



July 28th, 2024

9:00AM

Road Less Traveled

Pastor Nova, preaching

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

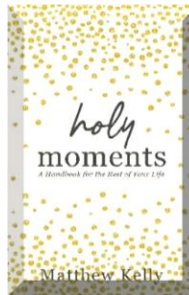
SUNDAY WORSHIP VIA ZOOM
CLICK HERE

Join in an All-Church 6 Week Book Study Starting in August

Every Thursday, beginning Aug. 1st from 6PM-7PM, all are invited to participate in a 6-week study using the book, *Holy Moments – A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*, by Matthew Kelly.

[excerpted from the back cover]

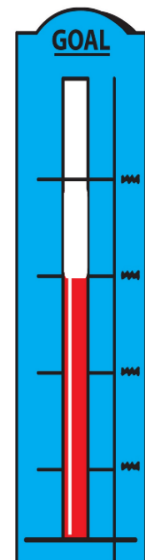
You have so much more to offer. You know it. You have sensed it for some time now. ... But you have never known quite what to do about it. All that is about to change. Some ideas are so powerful that simply becoming aware of them, changes our lives forever. Holy Moments is such an idea. It is profoundly simple, astonishingly practical, and once you discover it, your life will finally make sense...It's time to explore your soul-potential.



Please pick up a book from the brown shelving unit in the Chapel. A donation of \$2 will defray the shipping cost.

Participation in person is preferred, but Zoom will be available, if needed, using the same Zoom log-in as Sunday worship. (see link above)

Please RSVP to Janet in the church office: 610-777-8441 or administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net.



Fundraiser Update

For insulating the parsonage attic
\$6,239 donated
\$5,761 still needed

2024 AUGUST – DECEMBER OPEN ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

The sign-up sheet to sponsor altar flower sign-up poster is hanging on a bulletin board in the narthex, next to the usher's closet. Don't wait to choose your special date to dedicate to a loved one or a friend.

Sponsors may call any florist they prefer to fill the two vases on the altar. Stein's Flowers (610) 775-0430 and Royer's Flowers (610) 777-3987 in Shillington both have keys for easy access and dropping off the arrangements.

If another florist is used, please have them contact the office to set up a delivery time.

All Sundays are open except Nov. 17th.



Celebrated nationwide on the 1st Tuesday in August, National Night Out is in its 4th year of setting a day apart to foster better & trusting relationships between first responders (fire and police) and the communities they serve. This year, the Mohnton Boro is sponsoring a host of fun activities and events for all ages on Tuesday, August 6th from 6-9PM at the Mohnton Playground. Plan to enjoy an evening out in the community with your family, friends, and neighbors!

For additional information use this link: [3rd Annual Mohnton National Night Out in the Park](#)



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

- 29 – Nathan Ignacio
12 N. Church St.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 31 – Don Wadsworth
256 New Castle Drive
Shillington, PA 19607
- 31 – Kara Highduch
5016 Cherrywood Drive
Mohnton, PA 19540

AUGUST

- 03 - Ryan Gallery
613 Leininger Avenue
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 03 - Patty McQuillan
113 Main Street
Mohnton, PA 19540



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.

THE WING SURGEON

Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

This is a story prompted by a letter in one of my ancient correspondence files. It was written by an old friend, our Wing Surgeon, dated, May 7, 1962, over 60 years ago.

We had just returned from a retreat high up in the still snow-covered Adirondack Mountains of New York State. The Catholic Chaplain and I had reserved four days in a massive log building with two dormitory wings connected by a dining area and common room at the center.

It was an unusual mix of military personnel. About half were commissioned officers and half enlisted men. We had decided, when the retreat was planned, that uniforms would not be worn and rank would not be addressed. We would share equally the duties of meal preparation, cleaning and splitting firewood.

Several hours each day were spent in discussion groups, some separately and some with Catholic and Protestant men together. As the retreat progressed, inhibitions disappeared and the men were able to share parts of their lives that had been hidden even from family: fears, doubts, failures, disappointments and hopes never attained.

At one session, the doctor told a story I have never forgotten. He had been a young intern after medical school. He and his wife had just been told, after exhaustive tests, that they could never have children of their own. It was a devastating blow to them. Several nights later, he had been on an ambulance mission to a city cemetery. When they arrived, they found a newborn baby girl. The child was in a cardboard box lined with a dirty blanket. Her crying had alerted a passerby who had called the police.

For the young intern, it seemed almost a miracle. Legal hurdles were formidable, but, in time, the baby was theirs. He went on to tell us about what this child had meant to him and to his wife. It was as though a power greater than themselves had recognized their grief and transformed it into joy.

Another group member shared the tragic loss of a son, seven years old. He had just left the school bus and ran to cross the street. The driver did not see the little boy, started the bus, and he was killed. It was a very emotional moment for the father, a high-ranking officer in our unit, as he shared his struggle to regain his faith.

After each session, we would stand in a circle, join hands, and members would offer simple prayers or comments. The joint sessions, with Catholic and Protestant men, led by us two chaplains, bring back very special memories. Jack Lyons, a Jesuit, and I had developed an unusual bond of friendship while serving together. During the year, I had lost my young assistant, Sgt. Wendell Fowler. Lymphoma took his life very quickly a few months before the birth of his son. Jack and I, together, conducted Wendell's memorial service. In our joint sessions at the retreat, we discussed how Wendell's tragic death had affected our lives and our relationship as chaplains. We had become true brothers during that time.

A few days after we returned from the retreat, the announcement that I would leave the unit early to become a hospital chaplain with the Veterans Administration prompted the letter from my friend, the Wing Surgeon. I have preserved it for nearly fifty years.

He wanted me to know how the weekend retreat had changed his life. He said that he had gained a great inner satisfaction and peace from the fellowship and discussions. Previously, he said, he had been afraid to openly express his beliefs for fear of being thought a bit "off" or even "fanatic". The openness and tolerance he had found at the retreat had been life changing and liberating for him. He concluded the letter: "Thanks, again, for accepting me into your fellowship and for not trying to re-convert me by means of fire and brimstone words."

I left the unit a few weeks later to join the staff at Coatesville VA Medical Center, but I will always cherish the memories embodied in this letter and the good friends left behind.



Message *cont'd* from pg. 1

I remember eleven years ago when I was having problems with my ex-husband. I found out that there was a third party who was pregnant. I didn't know what to do. It was August 23, 2013, and I was parked at the Walmart parking lot on Route 130 W. Someone pointed to my tires and said, "You have a flat tire." I just nodded because I was talking to my sister-in-law on the phone. Then the guy signaled me to lower my window. I lowered it, and as soon as it was wide enough, he reached for the lock and opened the door. He sat in the passenger seat with a sharp object and said, "Go outside the parking lot, and I will tell you where to go." He said to go to a university. I said I didn't know how to get there, and he said, "Just go!" He wanted me to drive towards the highway to my right. Instead, I turned left and hit the gas towards the Walmart building. I was ready to crash the car into the building when the guy cursed at me, took my phone, and jumped out of the car. I parked the car and went inside Walmart to ask for help.

Police and detectives came to investigate. The guy was not caught, but I was blessed that I was not hurt and still had my car. I consider that my second life from God, giving me a second chance to follow His calling.

Sometimes we have to be in a tough situation, when we don't know what to do, to realize that we have gone too far away from God's purpose and calling for us. That situation with my former partner and the attempted carjacking woke me up to see that I was lost and needed a U-turn. Thank God for U-turns.

This week, we will examine the story of the Apostle Saul's U-turn in life. Paul's life takes a radical turn when he hears Jesus. One of the often-thought-of "name changes" in the Bible is that of Saul to Paul. The change is commonly linked to Saul's conversion on the Damascus Road. Actually, during that time, Saul's name was also Paul. The custom of dual names was common in those days. Acts 13:9 describes the apostle as "Saul, who was also called Paul." From that verse on, Saul is always referred to in Scripture as "Paul."

Paul was a Jew, born in the Roman city of Tarsus. He chose to use his Hebrew name, Saul, until sometime after he began to believe in and preach about Christ. After that time, as "the apostle to the Gentiles" (Romans 11:13), he used his Roman name, Paul. It would make sense for Paul to use his Roman name as he traveled farther and farther into the Gentile world.

Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road is very dramatic. God steps in and literally stops Saul right in his tracks. Saul

was actively working against Jesus and persecuting the Christians. Saul was active and sincere, but that doesn't mean he was doing God's will.

How are we like Paul? Do we actively or passively do this? Some of the decisions on our path are moving us away from Jesus. Others are not so clear; we might not be doing anything actively, hurting our faith journey, but our inactivity is not helping the advancement of God's kingdom.

Recognize that this is not the last time Paul needs to make a turn. Paul does not always get it right from this moment on. There are times when he argues with other followers, and he parts ways with Timothy and Barnabas. In our Christian life, we will go in the wrong direction, but the love of Jesus will be there to turn us around, to help us make a U-turn.

Some of us here this morning are in the middle of the road to Damascus. Maybe you were once so sure of where you were going, but now you find yourself wondering. For various reasons, you have not opened yourself fully to the presence of Jesus. For others, something in your life has pulled you away from your faith – like Paul, you end up doing what you never wanted to do. Jesus wants to encounter us on our Damascus Road – for those who have never done so, receive Jesus now. For those who are already on the road, recommit your lives to Jesus Christ. Open to the fullness of God's love, reaffirm your faith, and commit to living fully as the disciples that Jesus has called us to be.

"You ever notice how your GPS says 'Recalculating' when you miss a turn? Well, God's been telling some of us to recalculate for years now. It's time for a divine U-turn!"

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we come before you with open hearts. Meet us on our journey, transform our lives, and lead us into a deeper relationship with you. For those who are committing their lives to you for the first time, fill them with your Spirit and your love. For those recommitting their lives, renew their strength and their faith. Help us all to walk in your ways and to be faithful disciples. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

