



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

August 4th, 2024 – August 10th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org
Summer Worship: 9AM

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

Road Trip – Road Less Traveled

7/28/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

The phrase "the road less traveled" originates from Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken." It is often interpreted to mean choosing a unique or unconventional path in life, one that is less popular or more challenging, rather than following the crowd or taking the easier, more common route. This decision can reflect individuality, independence, and the courage to forge one's own way despite potential difficulties or uncertainties.

In a broader sense, taking "the road less traveled" symbolizes making choices based on personal values and desires rather than conforming to societal expectations. It highlights the importance of personal growth, self-discovery, and the impact of our choices on the course of our lives.

Every day we make decisions. This is what Jesus said about it in Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

I have a story of a Good Samaritan in my life. Let's call him Jojo. When I was in my first year of college, my sister Janita, who was in Doha, Qatar, sent me a gold necklace with a cross pendant. My travel from school to home took two hours and involved transferring from a bus to a jeepney. I had just gotten off the bus when somebody grabbed my necklace. I did not shout; instead, I looked under the bus and saw the guy who took my necklace. I followed him and asked at least two people to help me by signaling to them, but only one understood and took the time to follow me. That was Jojo.

~Message, cont'd on pg. 4



I will proclaim your name to my
brothers and sisters, in the
midst of the congregation
I will praise you.

1 Hebrews 2:12, NRSV

August 4th, 2024

9:00AM

Dave Svetz

"My Return to God"

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP VIA ZOOM
CLICK HERE



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 people in 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](#)



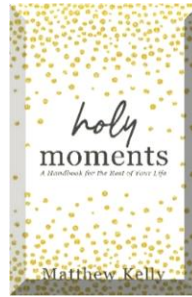
BE
Jesus'
LOVE
to others!

It's Not Too Late to Join in an All-Church 6 Week Book Study

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 pg. 1)

Next Dates: Aug. 8th, Aug. 15th, Aug. 22nd, Aug. 29th, and Sept. 5th.



- 06 – Randy Dautrich
261 Preston Rd.
Wernersville, PA 19565
- 06 – Jessica Leffler
48 Butlers Ln.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 06 – Jennifer Raszkievicz
1122 Lehigh Avenue
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 07 – Tyler Dautrich
261 Preston Rd.
Wernersville, PA 19565
- 07 – Shannon McBride
4851 Perkiomen Ave., Lot 54
Reading, PA 19606
- 08 – Blake Dearstyne
72 Peach Street
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 08 – Mike Leffler
48 Butlers Ln.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 09 – Kathy Keinard
42 Maple St., Apt. 2-A
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 10 – Kaitlyn Highduch
5016 Cherrywood Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540



PRAY
FOR HEALING

JIM ADAMS
SHIRLEY AYRTON
BOBBY BAKER
DAVID BAKER
ANDREW BEERER
SUSAN BERKLEY
BRO. HENRY BHASKER
JOE BLACKBURN, JR
RICK BRUETSCH
LINDA CHANDLER
TREVOR COMEAU
DAVE CURLEY
BROOKLYN DANIELS
LYNN DANIELS
MICHELLE DANIELS
AARON DEARSTYNE
RAY DAUTRICH
AMANDA D
DAVID
KAREN DAVIS
AARON DEARSTYNE
LAINA DIGIROLAMO
CANDY DODSON
MATT EDGERTON
GINNY EPPS

ANDREW ERB
BOB ERB
JOAN ETCHBERGER
PATRICIA FINAN
AMELIA FORTUNATO
BYRON FRITZ
RUNETTE GABRIEL
STEVE & BARB GANCER
ROSELEE HAAKE
PEGGY HARSHAW
RICH & JAN HARTMAN
TOM HASSLER
JACK HIGGINS
DAVID HOFFMAN
TAD & CORI HORNE
DANNY HUTZELL
KELLY HUTZELL
NICK KARETAS
JOHN KLINE
REV DON & ELVA KNOT
ED LEISER, SR.
DEB MCGAHEN
JULIE MCGETTRICK
BRENDA MEYERS
JENNIFER MILLER

CHARLES & LINDA
MORGANT
DANIELLA MUNTEAN
RYAN MYHER
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI
LAWRENCE RIDER
JOHN & DORISMARIE ROWE
PAULLINE SCHMEHL
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY
MIRIAM STEFFEY
TRACEY SUNDAY
JOANNE TALARICO
KELSEY TAVERAS
MARY THOMAS
MAE TIMER
LOLA TROUTMAN
KAREN WADE
SUSIE WAHL
NELLY & JAE WALLACE
BOB WERNER
BRYCE WERNER
SUE WERNER
DAUGHTER OF SUE YOCH
ELIZABETH ZEMBAS

School Supplies Needed for Food Ministry →

~ 2 ~

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.

HUMAN POTENTIAL

Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

I have just finished watching and listening to a scholarly lecture on the subject, "Spirituality and Self-Esteem" delivered at a professional seminar on June 7th, 1988. The speaker was a brilliant young pre-med student at the University of Pennsylvania.

I met this young man in 1970 when he became a patient at the Veterans Hospital where I served as chaplain. His personal history up to that point had been filled with disappointment, frustration and tragedy.

He had been raised in a troubled and dysfunctional home. Despite a very high I.Q. and academic brilliance, he dropped out of high school and, to escape an unhappy existence, he enlisted in the Air Force. His intelligence was soon recognized, he passed the GED tests with high grades and, after only a few months out of technical school, he was supervising a section maintaining radar equipment. He appeared to be well on his way to a successful career in electronics. But it was not to be.

Serious mental illness began to interfere with his work. After manic episodes, he was hospitalized several times. Treatment was unsuccessful and, after less than two years of active duty, he was given a medical discharge.

Soon after leaving the service, he was confronted with two more traumatic occurrences. His marriage disintegrated largely because of his mental instability and on December 4, 1970, he discovered that his father had committed suicide during the night. He had no family or community support. He simply collapsed emotionally and was admitted to our hospital. He was not permitted to attend his father's funeral.

I met this young man soon after his admission to ward 2, next door to the chapel. He was diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic on admission. It would be eleven years before that diagnosis would be changed to manic depressive. Later, it would become bipolar affective disorder.

His brilliant mind was never at rest. He had not been convinced that the early diagnosis was correct and began his own research. In time, he was convinced that manic episodes had led to his Air Force medical discharge and that current treatment was not working.

He was discharged from our hospital but sought help as an outpatient in Philadelphia. There, he became the patient of a psychiatrist who recognized his brilliance and potential. Other therapists had believed that his goal of becoming a psychiatrist was just a grandiose symptom of his illness and tried to direct him into some less demanding field, but his new therapist urged him to follow his dream.

I continued to see this young man frequently over the years. We became and remain friends. In twenty-three years as a hospital chaplain, I baptized only two people. He was one of them.

Between 1970 and 1988, when he lectured at the Institute of Religion and Health, he struggled to control the symptoms of his illness. He remarried. His wife worked to provide income to support his dream and, in 1987, he was admitted to a pre-med program at the University of Pennsylvania. During his first year, he achieved a grade point average of 4.0. What had seemed impossible, now appeared to be more than an illusion.

I suppose it was inevitable that his miraculous progress would be slowed and, finally, halted by his illness. Despite medication and therapy, he began to experience the typical manic episodes and depression. His academic performance became erratic and unpredictable. Admissions to the hospital interrupted his studies. He changed colleges and, finally, dropped out in the early 1990's.

His phone calls over many years have revealed a sad decline. Conversation has become irrational and plans unrealistic. He would insist that he had been offered a professional position with a government agency upon completing medical school and residency. He would announce, yet again, that he was entering college to complete pre-med. A few weeks later, he would find several implausible reasons for not doing so.

His second marriage finally ended, and his wife moved to Florida, unable to cope with his illness.

As I watched and listened to the recording of that scholarly lecture from 1988, I was reminded of the many professionals who tried so hard over the years to help this brilliant man achieve his potential. We have, yet, so much to learn about the human mind.

He is now sixty-three years of age, living in a personal care residence and continuing to insist that, in the fall, he will continue his education. He seems unable to grasp the reality that eight or ten years of education and residency would make practicing his chosen profession impossible at more than seventy years of age. A brilliant mind with unlimited potential destroyed by an illness that science seemed powerless to control.

His story does not have a happy ending. But there is hope for others with similar diagnoses. Research has continued to produce new medications and treatment methods that enable many to live productive, useful lives. Unfortunately, he is not one of those.

Message cont'd from pg. 1

When I saw a police officer, I grabbed the robber's shirt by the neck and shouted, "Thief! Thief!" The robber pushed me, and I fell to the ground. Jojo, who had followed me, helped me and protected me from the thief. The police officers recognized the thief because he had many previous records. They told me they followed the thief but could never catch him. They said I could file a charge so the thief could go to jail, but since it was getting late, I declined. The officers told me to come back the next day, and they would go to the thief's house and try to recover the necklace and cross pendant. I went back and got the necklace but not the pendant. Still, I thanked them, and Jojo, who was the Good Samaritan for me.

In Pennsylvania, there is a law, a provisional statute that states: § 8332. *Emergency response provider and bystander good Samaritan civil immunity. (a) General rule.*--Any person, including an emergency response provider, whether or not trained to practice medicine, who in good faith renders emergency care, treatment, first aid, or rescue at the scene of an emergency event or crime or who moves the person receiving such care, first aid, or rescue to a hospital or other place of medical care shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of rendering such care, except in any act or omission intentionally designed to harm or any grossly negligent acts or omissions which result in harm to the person receiving emergency care or being moved to a hospital or other place of medical care. The Good Samaritan is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. I invite you to study it with fresh eyes this morning. Here are three points that may help us see it in a new light:

1. The road to Jericho is dangerous. Who has been to the Holy Land? If you have been to the Holy Land, the road to Jericho is a place you should see. It is inhabited by Palestinian Arabs. When we were there in 2016, with the Drew University Cross Cultural Trip, one of the female students was shouted at for no reason at all by one of the bystanders. Jericho is one of the oldest cities in the world. Today, the road and the parable of Jesus are commemorated by a building known as The Good Samaritan Inn. Three kilometers east of the Inn is the "Valley of Darkness/Valley of the Shadow of Death" mentioned in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," wrote David. If you had been traveling down the road to Jericho and saw the hurt man, what would you have likely done?

2. The road to Jericho is narrow. While at first it appears the Samaritan alone sees what the others did not, others would have seen the man attacked by robbers. The road between Jerusalem and Jericho was a major

thoroughfare for trading caravans, military personnel, and pilgrims who visited Jerusalem multiple times each year. Given the isolated terrain, people on this road were easy targets for bandits, who would have found ample hiding places and escape routes into the desert where no one would pursue them. When Jesus said that "a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho," his listeners surely would have recognized the dangers that this journey posed. Samaritans were Jews' enemies and yet they were the ones who rescued the stranger in distress.

3. I, too, can be like the priest and the Levite and step over people, never recognizing their pain. There was a time when Ms. Deb and I were walking in Lancaster, and a lady was talking to me, but I just looked at her and ignored her. After that, I felt so guilty. I realized that I did not recognize the lady who was talking to me and that she might have needed my help. It is very easy to ignore and step over people when we are not paying attention to their needs. Like the priest and the Levite who were going to the Temple to do their jobs, they missed the most important thing of all: to show mercy and love for others. It is very difficult to step outside our comfort zones. If we are not comfortable, we tend to ignore others, even if they need our help. In our lives, there are people who need help that we see and step over, or maybe we are too self-centered to really notice the needs around us. As we journey through our Jericho road trip, we must not step over the needs of others. In our lives, let's ask ourselves, who are we being called to help?

There are people in our community that God is calling our church to see and help. Who are they? What obstacles do we have to overcome? Suicide, drugs, epidemics, depression, sickness, homelessness, and the hungry. If we can listen like Jojo and step up to help, we can save lives. Thank God I am still here and doing God's will. Jojo was able to do what was difficult and dangerous. Are we ready to do the same?

Jesus sends us out every day—all of us have a mission every day—it is between you and the Lord—you would know it. When Jesus sends us out, sometimes the road is difficult and dangerous. We can avoid the Jericho roads of life, or we can take them in order to serve Jesus. We are invited to travel the Jericho roads in our communities with eyes open and offer our service to another in need.

Let us pray. *Amazing God, we accept your call to go and make disciples of all nations. We begin by offering up ourselves—give us the courage to leave our comfort zone and step into the world. Lead us to the place where we can best serve you. Teach us to love in a way that points to your love. We trust in you. Amen.*