



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Sept. 1st, 2024 – Sept. 7th, 2024

[www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)  
Summer Worship: 9AM

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



**Sunday, September 8th  
at 10:30AM**

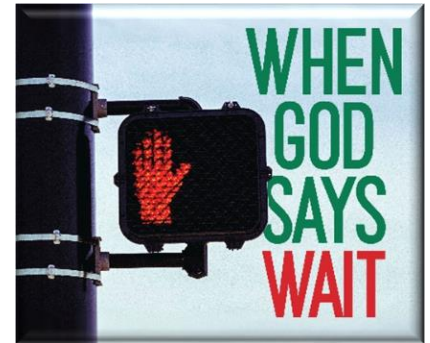
**THEME: INVITE OTHERS TO CHURCH!**

This will be the time when we **ALL** gather back together to:

- worship and give praise to God as a
- community of believers...
- personally invite someone to church...
- and kick-off a new Sunday school season.

**INVITE A FRIEND...A MEMBER YOU'VE MISSED...  
OR A NEIGHBOR...**

Please plan to stay after the service for a time of refreshments and fellowship.



**September 1st, 2024**

**9:00AM**

w/ Holy Communion

**A New Sermon Series:  
What to Do**

*When You Don't Know What to Do*  
**When You Have to Wait**

Worship services are also available via livestream from our home page at [www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org) or click below.

**SUNDAY LIVESTREAM  
CTRL + CLICK HERE**

### **Plugged In for Others**

8/25/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

The Book of Ephesians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christian community in Ephesus, a major city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). The letter is often considered one of Paul's most profound works, the last letter to a community of faith- addressing deep theological themes and offering practical advice for Christian living.

#### **Purpose and Themes:**

- Unity in the Body of Christ
- The Church as the Body of Christ
- Spiritual Blessings in Christ
- Christian Conduct and Relationships
- Spiritual Warfare: Historical and Cultural Context

Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3

The **IGNITE Youth Conference** will be held **Oct. 11-13** at the **New Jersey Wildwood Convention Center**. The deadline to register any 6th-12th grader is September 8th. Justin Thomas, our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries, is making the arrangements for interested youth to attend. The cost is only \$65.00 (check payable to Calvary UMC) with IGNITE in the memo section.

**Parents/Grandparents of youth:** If you haven't already, please contact Justin (cell: 517-331-2665; or email: [christened.calvmohn@gmail.com](mailto:christened.calvmohn@gmail.com) or [jthomas.sitka@yahoo.com](mailto:jthomas.sitka@yahoo.com)) ASAP if you have a youth interested in participating in this amazing annual event!

*IGNITE is more than just a high-energy youth conference with powerful music and profound speakers. It's about a generation united and energized as young disciples of Jesus Christ. They are a generation, guided by dedicated adult leaders, who are becoming ready, willing and able to "Go into all the world" (Mark 16:15) and share their faith with others from the inside out.*

To learn more,  
go to:  
2024 Youth IGNITE

**LOOKING FOR** Sunday School teachers for children (ages 4 yrs. – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12 grade). Please see Justin Thomas, Dir. Of Children & Youth Min., or call/text him: 517-331-2665.

## Stewardship Update

In an effort to keep our congregation informed about finances within Calvary church we would like to provide this update.

### Parsonage Project:

The insulation installation will be done on September 4 in the parsonage attic. About \$9600 of the \$12,000 cost for the project has been donated and if the remaining \$2400 is not received we will dip into our "rainy day savings" to complete the funding for this project. Donations are still being accepted.

### Church Budget:

We are currently 22% behind in the giving needed to meet our budget requirements. We usually see a downturn financially during the summer months but our current situation is a bit precarious. We are initiating a voluntary stewardship experiment to help solve the problem.

### Our Experiment:

We are asking congregants, on a voluntary basis, to let God's work be a part of your personal lifestyle choices. In addition to your regular offerings, every time you do something solely for your own enjoyment, such as going to a movie, eating at a favorite restaurant, or taking a vacation, set aside 10% of your expenditure for the Lord's work through Calvary church. Keep track of these gifts and bring them to church on December 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, when they will be collected in the offering plate, or send a check to the church office with the designation "Sunny Day Fund" on the memo line. If our Sunny Day Fund experiment is successful, we might not have to dip into our rainy-day savings to meet our budget needs. Let's change Calvary's financial forecast from cloudy with a chance of showers to full sun for the foreseeable future!



## Update Your Calendar for the Fall Season

### Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

- 8AM Praise service
- 9:15AM Sunday school for all ages begins:
- 10:30AM ~ Traditional Service



## CURRENT NEEDS

**Pillows, twin size sheet sets, size 5 and 6 diapers, and misc. gift cards for grocery stores, gas, Walmart or Amazon.**

Items may be placed on the back counter at the end of the main hallway, designated with a sign for SAFE BERKS. I will be checking for donations and delivering on a regular basis. Your contributions are greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you!

Diane Anderson  
Calvary UMC Liaison



## Reunion

*Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.*

I first met him when he was admitted to our surgical unit in the early 1960's. It was to be a simple gall bladder operation on a healthy man with no history of heart problems. But, despite the benign history, he had a cardiac arrest while in surgery. Along with other anxious staff members, I was with him when he regained consciousness in recovery and, for the first time, I heard the story of a "near death experience". It was typical of the stories that have been told by countless others. Books have been written to record them. They tell of being in the room observing, from a distance, the frantic efforts to resuscitate them. They are in a dark tunnel, a bright light at the end, a mysterious soft voice, the faces of long deceased family and friends. Then, abruptly, regaining consciousness with the memory intact.

He remained with us for more than two weeks until his condition stabilized but, during that time, he told his story to anyone who would listen.

As the years passed, he developed diabetes and was treated as an outpatient at the hospital clinic. Though he cooperated with treatment, eventually, complications led to another hospitalization, this time for a leg amputation.


He was a career musician, having served as organist and choirmaster in several large Philadelphia churches. One of his proudest achievements was playing a Christmas concert on the famous Wanamaker pipe organ. For him, losing a leg would be a devastating blow to a brilliant career.

The Chief of Surgery called me a day before the scheduled operation to discuss a new complication. Recently, the man had lost his wife of many years and he and his only child, a daughter, had been alienated since her graduation from college. It began with a bitter confrontation over some life choices and moral issues that escalated, as these things often do. They had not spoken in years. He understood the seriousness of his condition and could not face the possibility of death without reconciliation with his daughter, the one person who mattered most to him in life. Surgery was temporarily postponed.

It was not difficult to find his daughter. She had pursued a career in advertising and was well up the corporate ladder in a Philadelphia firm. I called her office, only to be told that she was in a meeting and could not be disturbed. I left a message. Two days later, I called again, leaving another message. This time, I described her father's condition in detail and strongly urged her to call the surgeon. The

result was a rather tense meeting with the surgeon and me. He explained the procedure and the risks presented by her father's physical problems. Last of all, he told her of his long association with her father and his knowledge of her father's grief and regret over the long estrangement. He expressed his opinion that, in his present troubled state of mind, her father was not a good candidate for such traumatic surgery. As he spoke, she began to weep.

The reunion and reconciliation of father and daughter took place that afternoon in the privacy of a visiting room. It was a long, emotional conversation with tears on both sides. The result was a much more relaxed patient, confident and prepared for the surgery that took place two days later. His daughter was there, holding his hand when he emerged from anesthesia in the recovery room. All of this because of a fine, perceptive surgeon who saw much more than a routine amputation.



*Sermon con'td from pg. 1*

- *Ephesus:* As a major port city and commercial hub, Ephesus was a melting pot of cultures and religions. The city was home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. This environment made Ephesus a challenging place for the early Christian community, which had to navigate issues like pagan worship, social tensions, and persecution.
- *Early Church:* The letter reflects the challenges faced by early Christians in maintaining their faith and unity in a diverse and sometimes hostile environment. Paul's message to the Ephesians is one of encouragement, urging them to remain steadfast in their faith and to live in a way that reflects their new identity in Christ.

Today, we will conclude our series "PLUGGED IN", and we will explore what it means to be "Plugged in for Others" by looking at how we are called to use our gifts, grow together in love, and live our lives for the benefit of others.

### **Plugged In for Spiritual Gifts**

*Have you heard the phrase... use it or lose it*

The phrase "use it or lose it" means that if you don't regularly use or practice a particular skill, ability, or resource, you might lose the capacity to use it effectively. This concept applies to various aspects of life, including physical abilities, mental skills, opportunities, and I would like to add Spiritual Gifts.

Each one of us has been given different gifts and important roles (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Paul writes that Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12). These gifts are not just for our own benefit; they are for the good of the whole body—the church, and the world. When we use our gifts to serve others, we help each other grow, mature, and reach the fullness that God intends for us.

Just as the song *God Bless the U.S.A.*, by Lee Greenwood, reminds us of the importance of unity and pride in our nation, we are reminded in Ephesians of the diversity and unity within the Body of Christ. Each gift is essential, and when we come together, united by our love for God and each other, we reflect the fullness of Christ's love in the world. In this way, we see the purpose for which we were created, and we bring glory to God.

## 2: Plugged In to Grow & Build Up

In Ephesians 4:14-15, Paul urges us to grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head of the body. As we grow, we are called to build each other up in love. Our gifts are not meant to operate in isolation; rather, they are intended to work together in unison. When we are united in love, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own.

The message of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, aligns beautifully with this call to unity and love. The song speaks to the peace that comes when we work together, hand in hand, letting love guide our actions. Growing together in love means encouraging one another, holding each other accountable, and being patient with one another. When we are "plugged in" to this love, we become a powerful force for good in the world, demonstrating the love of Christ to those around us.

### Plugged In to Be Like Jesus

Finally, Paul reminds us that the whole body, "joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:16). Anything that keeps us from living our lives for others hinders us from reaching the fullness of Christ. Our ultimate goal is not just personal fulfillment but living in a way that reflects the love of Christ to the world. **Living for Others Brings Us the fullness of the image of Jesus- We Become More like Jesus (Ephesians 4:16)**

I bet Ms. Deb will agree with me that Team ministry is not

easy. It requires commitment, sacrifice, and a willingness to work together for the benefit of God's kingdom. There will be challenges along the way, but when we are plugged into God's purpose, we find the strength and grace to overcome them. Living for others, serving together, and building each other up in love brings us closer to the fullness of Christ—a fullness that is marked by unity, maturity, and love.

Friends, as we reflect on these points, let us remember that we are here for a purpose. When we plug into Christ, our lives are filled with meaning. But that is just the beginning. We are sent into the world to do God's work, using the gifts He has given us to build up the body of Christ. Let us commit to growing together in love, using our gifts in unison, and living our lives for others. In doing so, we will experience the fullness of Christ and bring glory to God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Mifflin Community Clothing Giveaway

@ Zion EC Church, Corner of East Summit Street &  
N. Church Street, Mohnton, Pa. 19540

### Drop Off Dates & Times:

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024 from 9 AM to 1 PM  
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024 from 9 AM to 1 PM  
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024 from 9 AM to 7 PM  
(**NO** DROP OFF after Thursday)

PLEASE, **ONLY** CLEAN, GENTLY USED CLOTHING WILL BE  
ACCEPTED.

### Giveaway Dates & Times:

Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 from 9 AM to 7 PM;  
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 from 8 AM to 12 Noon.

**NO** TVs, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, COMPUTERS,  
COPIERS, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, TOYS, BOOKS, CDs  
or DVDs **WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

\*Zion E.C. Church is not responsible for lost or stolen  
items\*







## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Luke Myers  
51 Guigley Dr.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 04 – Bruce Madeira  
10 Weber Dr.  
Topton, PA 19562
- 06 – Doris McCleary  
230 Hawthorne Ct. North  
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 06 – Kylie Stump  
585 Wolfe Lane  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 07 – Elaine Reed  
3 Fern Lane  
Southern Shore, NC 27949

We  Love  
Our  
VOLunteers



**From Calvary's Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Justin Thomas:**

We have finalized our Children's Club and Youth Group meeting times. After speaking with the parents, youth, and Christian Education Committee, we have decided to move our meeting time to Sunday evenings from **5pm-6pm**. This was a very tough decision, but with sports, work, and school schedules we want to give this a try. As before, we will have alternate weeks between the Children's Club and Youth Group so that each group will meet twice per month.

### September Schedule – Pizza will be provided

- Sunday September 22, 2024- Youth Group (grades 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>)
- Sunday September 29, 2024- Kids Club (1 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Children Club and Youth Group schedule starting October 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays will be children.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays will be Youth Group
- (Schedule is subject to change.)*



## MIFFLIN COMMUNITY FOOD MINISTRY

### September Volunteer Needs

Wed., 18th, Thurs., 19th, and Fri., 20th: Meet at Zion ECC at 8:30AM to help with various jobs.

Sat., 9/21 will be food distribution day 8:30AM-11:30AM.

Help also needed after food give away to clean up.

Willing hearts needed; any amount of volunteer time is appreciated!