



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

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

9/8/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-17

Listening is an essential part of our relationship with God, but it's not always easy. In a world filled with noise and distractions, hearing God's voice requires intentionality and openness.

The story of Moses encountering God in the burning bush offers profound insights into what it means to listen to God and how we can respond when He speaks. Let's explore Exodus 3:1-17 and the **three key actions** we can take when we find ourselves needing to listen: **Pay Attention to the Unusual, Approach with Reverence, and Respond in Faith and Obedience.**

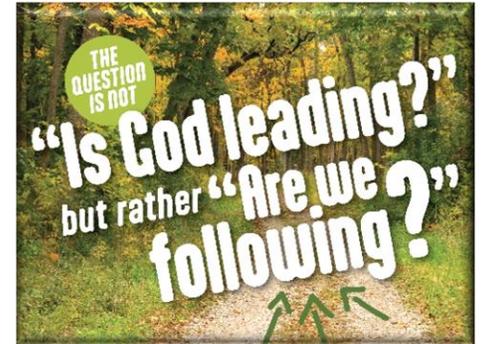
Moses' story begins in Exodus 2 during a time of oppression when Pharaoh ordered the death of all Hebrew baby boys. To save Moses, his mother hides him and places him in the Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter finds and adopts him. Raised in the Egyptian palace, Moses learns of his Hebrew heritage. After killing an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew, Moses flees to Midian, where he marries Zipporah. Meanwhile, the Israelites' suffering continues, and God remembers His covenant with Abraham, preparing to deliver His people from slavery.

1. Pay Attention to the Unusual (Verses 1-3)

Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock when he noticed something strange—a bush that was on fire but not consumed. Rather than ignoring it, Moses turned aside to see this "great sight." It was in this moment of curiosity and attentiveness that God called out to him, "Moses". God's voice in the wilderness in the burning bush, an unexpected and miraculous form of communication.

This suggests that divine messages often come when and where we least expect them, challenging us to remain attentive to God's voice in the ordinary and mundane aspects of life. **God's Voice can be heard in Unlikely Places.** God speaks through unconventional means, inviting believers to listen in places of desolation or discomfort. God often speaks to us through unexpected and unusual circumstances. When we encounter something that catches our attention—whether it's a situation, a word from someone, or a feeling in our spirit—we should take the time to "turn aside" and explore what God might be saying. Being attentive to the unusual can open the door to divine encounters, to holy moments, just as it did for Moses. We must be willing to pause and listen, recognizing that God often uses the extraordinary to reveal His presence and purpose.

Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3



September 15th, 2024

8:00AM ~ Praise Service

9:15Am ~ Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Sermon Series:

What to Do

*When You Don't Know What to Do
When You are Struggling
Where God is Leading You*

Worship services are also available

**SUNDAY LIVESTREAM
CTRL + CLICK HERE**



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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!



Safe Berks 23rd Annual Silent Witness March & Dedication



Monday, October 14, 2024

11 a.m. – Gather at Safe Berks, 255 Chestnut St., Reading

**11:15 a.m. – Silent March to The Miller Center for the Arts-
Reading Area Community College (RACC)**

Noon: Dedication Ceremony at RACC, followed by lunch

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Each year, Safe Berks holds the Silent Witness March & Dedication, a visual monument, to honor all those lost to domestic violence homicide. Each red silhouette, symbolizing Berks County women, men, children, and pets, displays a shield describing their untimely death. The silent march begins at Safe Berks, located at 255 Chestnut Street, Reading, and ends with a dedication program and luncheon at Reading Area Community College. This solemn yet most powerful event remembers and honors victims of domestic violence homicide and offers support to their families, friends, and community members.



There are several ways our congregation can support this SAFE BERKS event, and they are all completely free! The walk and luncheon are open to the public. You may choose to participate in the entire event or, depending on your time and abilities, attend either the walk or the dedication/lunch portion.

No reservations are required, but it is helpful to their planning if we give them an idea of how many people will be attending the luncheon. I am hoping to be able to attend both portions of the event and encourage each and every one of you to prayerfully consider joining a Calvary team to show our community support.

No matter what you decide, everyone can offer their prayers for the success of this event and for an end to the tragedy of domestic violence homicide. For further information, questions and to express an interest in participating, please contact Diane Anderson @ 484-269-7599 or e-mail dkanderson52@live.com

CURRENT NEEDS FOR SAFE BERKS

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!

Unsung Hero

Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

He was the husband of one of my cousins. She was at least twenty years older than me and our families rarely visited. I was nine or ten years old when I first met Ed. He was a tall, handsome man of about thirty years who seemed unusually quiet and withdrawn.

My most vivid memory of that first encounter was the prosthesis that replaced his left hand. At my young age, I had never seen such a thing and I was determined to find out more about him.

My mother could tell me very little. She said he had lost the hand because of a work-related injury. That did not satisfy my curiosity. It only made me determined to learn more. Over the next few years, I came to realize the heroism of this quiet, unassuming man.

Ed was an early pioneer in x-ray technology. He had been trained to operate one of the primitive machines when little was known about the result of radiation exposure. Exposure timing was far from exact, and little was done to protect the technician. Certainly, Ed did not know, on that fateful night, that he was about to become a human demonstration of the effect of over-exposure to radiation.

Sometime after midnight, the ambulances began to arrive with victims of a multi-vehicle accident on a road near Albany. Ed's x-ray machine was busy for hours making the pictures that would determine the treatment that patients would receive. Some of the injuries were severe and victims were in extreme pain. By the time he took the last x-ray, Ed was exhausted both physically and emotionally. He simply collapsed beside the machine and fell asleep. He never knew how long he slept. He was awakened by another technician arriving for the day shift. It was only then that he realized that his left hand had been extended on the table and the x-ray machine had not been turned off. In those early days, there were no safety switches.

Medical science had never observed the effect of extended exposure to radiation. Doctors simply didn't know what to expect or how to treat it. The first thought was immediate amputation. Doctors knew the pain would be extreme. Ed had another idea. He would volunteer to allow doctors to observe the result of the exposure, experiment with treatment and begin to develop safety equipment that would prevent such accidents in the future.

And so began an extended period while Ed endured the pain and watched his hand slowly wither away. Eventually,

amputation was inevitable, but, during this painful process, much was learned about cause, effect and treatment.

At first, only a few close associates knew anything about the sacrifice of this brave, courageous man. He sought no recognition or reward. It was enough for him to see the technical changes made to the machines, the establishment of exact exposure timing, control of x-ray intensity and safety protection for the technician.

I was too young to realize the courage and determination demonstrated by this quiet man. Sadly, I never got to know him well enough to ask questions and learn more about one of the unsung heroes of medical science.



Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

2. Approach with Reverence (Verses 4-6)

As Moses approached the burning bush, God instructed him to *"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*

This act of reverence signified the importance of the moment and the need for Moses to recognize the holiness of God. God is a Holy God, God is pure, perfect, and set apart from all sin. This understanding calls us to a higher standard of living in different ways. It reminds us that God deserves worship, honor, and devotion above all else. Listening to God requires us to approach Him with reverence and humility.

We need to be humble and acknowledge His holiness and the weight of His words. This means setting aside distractions, quieting our hearts, and coming before God with a posture of respect and awe. When we approach God with reverence, we position ourselves to hear Him more clearly and to respond appropriately to what He reveals.

3. Respond in Faith and Obedience (Verses 7-17)

God revealed His plan to deliver the Israelites from Egypt and called Moses to be the one to lead them. Initially, Moses hesitated, questioning his ability and worthiness. However, God assured him of His presence and gave him specific instructions on what to do.

When God speaks, our response should be one of faith and obedience. Like Moses, we may feel inadequate or uncertain, but God equips those He calls. Listening to God means not just hearing His voice but also acting on what He says. It requires us to trust in His promises and step out in faith, even when the path ahead seems daunting. Our obedience to God's word is the true measure of our listening.



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!

Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 3

One day, a mother was rushing to finish her work when her young daughter tugged at her sleeve. "Mommy, can you help me with this puzzle?" Distracted, the mother almost brushed her off but paused. She remembered the importance of being present. Setting her work aside, she sat down, listening to her daughter's explanation. Together, they completed the puzzle, and the mother realized the joy in simply listening. By stopping and paying attention, she strengthened her bond with her daughter and created a meaningful Holy moment, learning that listening can be a powerful act of love and connection. When two ears are placed together, they form the shape of a heart, symbolizing that true listening is an act of love

Friends, listening to God is a vital part of our spiritual journey. We must pay attention to the unusual, approach God with reverence, and respond in faith and obedience. When we do these things, we position ourselves to hear God's voice clearly and to participate in the great things He has planned. Just as God called Moses to lead His people, He calls each of us to listen and respond to His voice, trusting that He will guide and strengthen us every step of the way.

Each day, we have the opportunity to create Holy Moments and to partner with God in making a lasting impact on others and transforming the world around us. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen



- 15 – Janet Dearstyne
454 Kenny Drive
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 16 – Caden Coutz
45 E. Mohn St.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 17 – Gerry Postetter
421 Hain Rd.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 18 – Lauren Highdutch
5016 Cherrywood Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 18 – Jimmy Ulrich
201 Rudloff Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 18 – Pastor Nova
12 N. Church St,
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 19 – Pat Madeira
10 Weber Dr.
Topton, PA 19562
- 19 – Jim Hartman
375 Oregon Road
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 19 – Janna Byrne
403 S. Miller St.
Shillington, PA 19607





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 6th -12th)
 Sunday September 29, 2024- Kids Club (1 – 5th grade)

Children Club and Youth Group schedule starting October 1
 1st and 3rd Sundays will be children.



SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages

Beginning Sept. 15th from 9:15AM-10:15AM
 Adult class—Meeting in the Chapel & via ZOOM

Children & Youth—Meeting in the Social Hall
 5 yr. olds — 5th Grade ~ 6th – 12th Grade & up

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Lower Level/Social Hall

Big Faith is a well-rounded curriculum “where fun meets adventure, imagination, and trusted theology for a special connection to heart and home”. *Big Faith* will guide your children in discovering, developing, and practicing faith within a supportive community. Each session includes storytelling, videos, hands-on activities, and reflections to cultivate faith as an integral part of everyday life.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to teach or assist (flexible scheduling) please contact Justin Thomas at 517-331-2665 or jthomas.sitka@yahoo.com or christianed,calvmohn@gmail.com

The adult Sunday school class will gather for bible study in the Chapel (& via Zoom). The *NIV Standard Bible Commentary* will be used to facilitate discussion around biblical stories/verses that focus on worshipping in a covenant community. The key areas that will be presented in next several months will be:

- Biblical Leaders Set a Worship Example (Hezekiah, Josiah, Moses & Miriam)
- Songs of the Old Testament
- Psalms of Thanksgiving & Praise

On Sunday, Sept. 15th, Pastor Nova will lead the first class; thereafter, Dave Svetz will guide the weekly discussions. We are, of course, praying that Michelle Daniels will soon regain her health and be able to also a study leader.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may join the group using the Worship Zoom link, which is available on Calvary's website homepage under the Worship tab. Or click in the following: [Adult Sunday school](#).

Mifflin Community Clothing Giveaway

@ Zion EC Church

Corner of East Summit Street & N. Church Street, Mohnton, PA

Donation Drop Off

Tues., Sept. 24th from 9AM to 1PM
Weds., Sept. 25th from 9AM to 1PM
Thurs., Sept. 26th from 9AM to 7PM
(**NO** DROP OFF after Thursday)

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

Clothing Giveaway

Fri., Sept. 27th from 9AM to 7PM
Sat., Sept. 28th from 8AM to 12PM

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



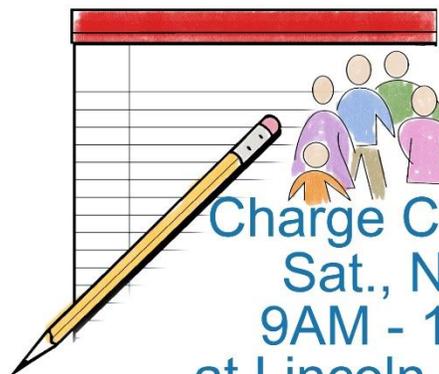
The Mohnton Community Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be hosted by Calvary UMC on MONDAY, November 25th, at 7PM

TWO MINUTES MORE: Tune in to a weekly word of challenge and encouragement as Christ Servant Minister, Craig Caltagirone, offers sound and inspiring spiritual reflections on contemporary matters. Consider using these solid two minutes for your own personal reflections or small group discussions. Either way, you'll be surprised at just how meaningful 2 minutes of your day will be if you sign up for these weekly audio devotionals. Contact Craig at ccgirone@comcast.net to get on the mailing list today!" or access his messages from our website: [CLICK HERE.](#)



7:00 PM in the Music Room
Senior Choir Rehearsals:
OCTOBER 23rd
NOVEMBER 6th & 20th

All who would like to sing praise to God to enhance our worship experiences are welcome to be a choir member!
Questions? Call Jim Adams at 484-332-1332 or Julie McGettrick at 603-540-3215.



Charge Conference
Sat., Nov. 2nd
9AM - 10:30AM
at Lincoln Park UMC

Sunday, September 22nd...

