



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Oct. 6th, 2024 – Oct. 12th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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



What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do

It's Okay to Not Be Okay

9/22/24 Sermon by Deaconess Noemi De Armas; Scripture: Ruth 1:11-21

Life often takes us through unexpected and difficult seasons where we find ourselves asking, "What do I do now?" The story of Ruth and Naomi in Ruth 1:11-21 gives us a powerful example of what to do when we don't have the answers and life feels overwhelming. Naomi had lost her husband and her two sons, leaving her feeling empty and bitter. She didn't know where to turn, but Ruth stood by her side, showing us that it's okay not to have all the answers. This message gives us three key actions we can take when we don't know what to do.

Three Key Actions to Do: If We Are Not Okay

1. Be Honest About Where You Are (Ruth 1:11-13)

Naomi didn't pretend to be okay; she was honest about her pain and grief. She even told her daughters-in-law to return to their own homes, saying, "The hand of the Lord has turned against me." It's okay to admit when things aren't going well. God can handle our honesty and so can the people who love us. Pretending everything is fine only isolates us more. In times of confusion or pain, the first step is acknowledging where we are emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. God doesn't ask us to be perfect or to hide our pain. He wants us to come to Him as we are, even when we feel broken.

When acknowledging our real situations, sometimes we feel that it makes us weak; sometimes we don't want others to pray for us because we're so proud and want to deny our situations. However, accepting and being honest makes us braver!

Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3



Kid's Club (1st – 5th grade) ~ Youth Group (6th – 12th grade)

1st and 3rd Sundays will be Children's Club.

2nd and 4th Sundays will be Youth Group

MEETING TIME: 4PM – 5PM

(Schedule is subject to change.)



October 6th, 2024
World Communion
Sunday

8:00AM Praise Service

9:15AM ~ Sunday school

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Sermon Series:
Come to the Table
Revelation @ the Table

SUNDAY LIVESTREAM
CTRL + CLICK HERE

CELEBRATION
OF
LIFE

BRO. HENRY BHASKER
Sunday, October 27th
1:00 PM

Calvary's Sanctuary
Livestreamed (use the
website worship service link
from Calvary's homepage at
www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

Easiest Giving Ever

How is your personal Sunny Day Fund account balance shaping up? Here at the Werner household, we are apparently really taking John 10:10 to heart where Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." Our personal Sunny Day account balance stands at \$209 and grows weekly. We find that this type of giving is the easiest we have ever experienced. It certainly isn't sacrificial giving, as we've already enjoyed the experience from which we are setting aside the 10%. I just had no idea that we were having so much fun!

If you have any questions about the SDF concept please feel free to contact me. Having a large percentage of congregational participation will make a big difference in meeting our 2024 budget needs. Thanks for your help.

Bob Werner, PRISM Chp.



Calvary will be participating in the Mohnton YMCA Trunk or Treat on
Monday, October 28th
6 – 8PM
(140 Chestnut St, Mohnton)

CANDY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!
Individually wrapped, please.

Donation bin located in the
Gathering Area.

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.**

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



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



**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.



"Let's Talk About It" Bible Study/Life Group

Join us every Thursday at 9:30AM, (started 10/3), for an engaging and open discussion led by Pastor Nova. Whether you're new to the Bible or have years of experience, this group offers a welcoming space to explore Scripture and share life experiences with honesty and without fear of judgment. Together, we'll grow in faith and understanding. We'll meet in the chapel, so come as you are, ready for meaningful, open-hearted conversations and spiritual growth.

Prayer Warrior's Night

Join us on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7pm, (started 10/3) for an evening of powerful, faith-filled prayer. Led by Pastor Nova, this gathering is a time to come together as a community to lift up our needs, stand against spiritual battles, and seek God's guidance and strength. Whether you're seasoned in prayer or just beginning, all are welcome to unite in intercession and experience the power of prayer together. We meet in the chapel—come ready to pray boldly!

THE MOHNTON BOROUGH Great Pumpkin Parade

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

AT 7:00PM

**Sponsored by the Mohnton
Cumru Lions Club**

**Group and Float judging will
take place in front of
Calvary Church.**

**The parade will start in
Northridge.**

**If you/group would like to
participate in the parade, you
may register online at:
www.mohntoncumrulions.com**



Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

2. Surround Yourself with People Who Will Walk with You (Ruth 1:16-18)

Despite Naomi's attempts to send Ruth away, Ruth clung to her and vowed to stay with her through thick and thin. Ruth said, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay."

In the story when Naomi felt sad, the first thing she thought was to go home, where she feels at HOME. We have a saying "there's no place like home...we feel loved when we're home...and then Ruth decided to go with her, it wasn't her home but because of Naomi, she felt like home, too.

In difficult seasons, don't isolate yourself. Surround yourself with people who are willing to journey with you. Ruth's loyalty reminds us of the importance of having companions who will walk through the valley with us, who will pray with us, and who will hold us up when we're too weak to go on. True friends

and faith communities are God's gift to us in times of uncertainty. Lean into the support around you.

3. Trust That God is Still at Work (Ruth 1:20-21)

Naomi returned to Bethlehem, feeling empty and bitter. She said, "The Almighty has made my life very bitter." Yet, despite her feelings, God was still working behind the scenes. We know that Ruth's faithfulness led to God's plan of redemption through the lineage of David, and eventually Jesus. God will always make a way.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 5



- 07 – Jody Wagner
535 Chestnut St.
West Reading, PA 19611
- 8 – Audrey Kinsel
20 Matthew Drive
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 10 – Denise Wagner
70 Carriage Cir.
Oley, PA 19547
- 10 – Sydney Wagner
535 Chestnut St.
W. Reading, PA 19611
- 11 – Luke Wagner
70 Carriage Cir.
Oley, PA 19547
- 11 – Megan Miller
544 Mohns Hill Rd.
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 12 – Justin Thomas
12 N. Church St.
Mohnton, PA 19540

THE REST OF THE STORY

by Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

Our former pastor, Bern Kefer, told a story to illustrate his Sunday sermon. The incident took place many years ago when he was a high school student.

One summer, he, along with some other boys, was working on a farm owned by his uncle in Lancaster County. An older man who worked on the farm had emigrated from Germany after World War II. He had far more skills than the boys and frequently tried to correct their mistakes. Of course, the boys resented his efforts and, in retaliation, made jokes about his thick accent and the ancient car he drove. Another man, who frequently visited, noticed what the boys were doing and, one day, said to them, "You should not be so rude to this man. He is a genuine hero." Then, he told them this story.

The family had lived on a farm in Eastern Europe at the beginning of World War II. The father had been taken from his family and impressed into a labor battalion. When the war ended the family was separated and the father could not find them. So, he began walking west across Poland and Germany, carrying a scarred and worn photo of the family. For nearly four years, he walked hundreds of miles showing the picture to everyone he met, always asking if they had seen his family. During those long years without success, he never gave up and, finally, he found a person who had seen them. The family was reunited and came to America, sponsored by Mennonite Missions.

As Pastor Bern told the story, I became more and more convinced that I had heard the sequel from another member of the same family.

More than twenty years ago, when I was pastor of a Lancaster County church, I was taking part in the annual "Crop Walk". I knew the woman I was walking with, but I had never heard her story. As we walked up a long hill near New Holland, I asked how she and her family had come to America. This was her story.

They had been a German farm family resettled in Poland. Early in the war, her father had been taken away, leaving the family to survive alone. When the Russians pushed the German Army back into Poland, for their own safety, the family was forced to move. She said that they loaded what they could on a farm wagon pulled by a team of horses and started west, only a day or two ahead of the Russians. She was a teenager and did much of the driving.

It was obvious, as she told the story, that she omitted some of the more painful details. There was little food to be had. They were desperately afraid of being overtaken and made prisoners by the Russians. Sometimes, they traveled by night to avoid strafing attacks by Russian planes. Eventually, they reached American lines and the safety of a refugee camp run by American Mennonites. But this was not the end of their saga.

Family separation was common at the end of World War II. Much of Europe had been destroyed. Entire cities were in ruins. For many refugees, civilian and military, there was no home to which they could return. Many wanted nothing more than to start a new life in a new country. It was so with this family.

My companion on the Crop Walk so long ago continued her story. She said they found shelter in the refugee camp and, with help, began searching for her father. Every day, she would read the list of names posted on the camp bulletin board, hoping and praying that her father's name would appear. The lists were updated each day and included the names of refugees recently registered in one of the many similar camps located in Eastern Europe.

Days stretched into weeks and months of disappointment. Just when they were beginning to lose all hope, their prayers were answered. Her father's name appeared on a morning list posted on the camp bulletin board. He had registered at a camp only a few miles away.

The rest is history. The family was reunited and, with Mennonite assistance, was resettled in Lancaster County to begin a new life.

I have no proof that these are part of the same story, but the details fit together like pieces in a puzzle. Someday, I hope to verify all this with my "Crop Walk" companion of so long ago. Until then, I will believe that what she told me was, "The Rest of the Story".



Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 3

He is working even when we don't see it, like what the "Way maker" song says:

*Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working*

When you don't know what to do, trust that God is still in control. Naomi couldn't see it at the time, but God was working in ways she didn't expect. Our perspective may be clouded by our pain, but God's purposes are still unfolding. In Phil. 1:6 -"being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Even when it feels like God is far away, He is working all things together for good. Trust Him with the outcome, even when the path is unclear. He is in control, believe it or not.

When you don't know what to do, it's okay not to be okay. Like Naomi and Ruth, we can be honest about our struggles, lean on others for support, and trust that God is working even when we can't see it. God will guide us through our darkest times and turn our sorrow into joy, just as He did for Naomi and Ruth. Our Lord wants to manifest His power in our lives when we are weak. For when we are weak, He is strong. Amen.



What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do *Celebrating God's Grace*

9/29/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Ruth 4:3-17

What are Grace & Mercy?

GRACE ~ We receive an undeserved favor or gift.

MERCY ~ We don't receive the judgment or punishment that we do deserve.

Traditional meaning of grace:

Hebrew: *Hesed*- grace/love - The Lord -kindness/loving kindness and compassion

Greek: *Charis*- non-meritorious or unearned favor, an unearned gift, a favor or blessings bestowed as a gift, freely and never as merit for work performed

A young boy accidentally broke his neighbor's window while playing baseball. Frightened, he ran home, knowing his family couldn't afford to fix the window. The next day, the boy bravely went to the neighbor's house to confess.

To his surprise, the neighbor smiled and said, "I've already fixed the window."

Confused, the boy asked, "But how can I pay you back?"

The neighbor knelt down and said, "You don't have to pay me back. That's what grace is—fixing what you can't fix and not expecting anything in return."

The boy, overwhelmed, asked, "Why would you do that?"

The neighbor replied, "Because someone once did the same for me."

This story highlights grace as an unearned gift—a kindness we don't deserve, freely given, just like God's grace toward us.

There have been ongoing theological explorations and reflections on the meaning of grace, but here are a few emerging insights that some scholars and thinkers are emphasizing more in recent times:

1. **Grace as Radical Inclusion:** God's radical inclusion is for all people, regardless of race, gender, social status, or past. Grace is seen not merely as a personal experience but as a communal force that breaks down barriers and creates unity among diverse groups.
2. **Grace in Social Justice:** Grace isn't just about personal forgiveness but also about transformation in society. Grace compels individuals and communities to pursue justice, care for the marginalized, and work for systemic change.
3. **Grace and Ecology:** Grace in the context of creation care. They argue that God's grace is not just extended to humanity but to all creation. This understanding encourages humans to respond with gratitude and stewardship toward the environment, seeing the world as a recipient of divine grace.
4. **Grace as Empowerment:** God's grace strengthens people to live out their calling, to endure suffering, and to rise above life's challenges. Grace becomes the divine energy that enables people to thrive despite adversity.

These insights reflect how the understanding of grace continues to grow. God is still at work. God is on the move, addressing contemporary social, ecological, and personal realities in new and meaningful ways.

Let us study the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, and how grace plays out in their relationships:

1. Naomi and Ruth – Grace in Loyalty and Devotion

Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi reflects sacrificial grace, choosing loyalty and love over personal gain. Her

commitment shows that grace is an active choice to serve, as highlighted by her declaration in Ruth 1:16.

2. Boaz and Ruth – Grace in Compassion and Protection:

Boaz's kindness to Ruth exemplifies grace through compassion. He goes beyond duty, ensuring her protection and well-being, reflecting God's unearned grace that extends beyond expectations, particularly toward the vulnerable.

3. Naomi and Boaz – Grace in Restoration:

Naomi's life, marked by loss, is restored through Ruth's marriage to Boaz and the birth of Obed. Grace turns her despair into hope, showing how God's grace restores what was lost, continuing her family line leading to King David and Jesus.

God's Grace in the Bigger Picture:

The story illustrates God's grace working behind human actions, turning simple kindnesses into part of a greater divine plan. Here grace goes beyond individuals, weaving into history and leading to redemption for all.

In summary, grace in the relationship between Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz is seen in their loyalty, compassion, and restoration.

It highlights that grace is **not just a theological concept** but a lived experience of kindness, loyalty, generosity, and divine providence in everyday struggles and relationships. God's grace transforms lives, just as He transformed Naomi's through Ruth. And Ruth through Boaz.

As we celebrate that grace, let's remember to do these 3 key actions:

1. Acknowledge God's Grace at Work

In Ruth 4:13-17, God restored Naomi's joy through Ruth's marriage and the birth of Obed. Despite Naomi's loss and bitterness, God had a plan that brought joy and a legacy that led to King David and Jesus.

2. Show Gratitude for God's Grace

Naomi's transformation began when Ruth committed to walk with her. In the same way, we must express gratitude to those who support us. Gratitude shifts our focus from sorrow to thankfulness.

3. Be a Vessel of Grace to Others

Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi is an example of walking alongside others, even in our own struggles. God calls us to support one another, regardless of our own difficulties.

GRACE is the foundation of our Wesleyan Theology. Grace is the reason why Martin Luther became a

protestant reformer. Grace is the reason why we are all here. By God's grace... Grace upon grace...

A father and his teenage son had a falling out. Harsh words were spoken, and in anger, the son left home. Months passed, and the son, struggling with guilt and pride, lived far from his family, unsure if he could ever return.

One night, desperate and broken, the son wrote a letter to his father. He said he would be on the train passing through town the following week. "If you can forgive me, tie a white ribbon to the tree in front of our house," the son wrote. "If I don't see one, I'll just keep going and never bother you again."

The day finally came, and as the train approached his hometown, the son was too afraid to look. His heart raced, filled with both hope and fear. He couldn't bear the thought of seeing nothing.

As the train neared the house, the son worked up the courage and looked out the window. His breath caught in his throat. The tree was covered—completely covered—in white ribbons. The father hadn't put just one; he had filled the tree with ribbons, showing his overwhelming love and grace.

Tears streaming down his face, the son realized: grace doesn't just forgive—it welcomes us home with open arms, no matter how far we've gone.

Friends, we are stewards of God's grace, let's Celebrate Grace and remember to acknowledge the Grace of God that is at work within us, express our gratitude for it, and extend that grace to those around us. Naomi's story reminds us that even in the darkest times, God is at work, and He often uses people like Ruth and Boaz to walk with us and show His grace in our lives. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Common Ground

"Christianity was never intended to be a solo walk with God," says pastor Jeremy Basset. "A conversion to Christianity is also incorporation in the body of Christ, the church."

That's a fitting reminder as we observe World Communion Sunday in October. Christians don't take Holy Communion alone; the very name of this sacrament refers to unity with God and others. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't learn Scripture or Christian theology and history alone. We can't have Christian fellowship by ourselves.

The New Testament is clear that one cannot be a solitary Christian. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30) and "belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV). As you gather for worship and receive Holy Communion, thank God for "our common salvation" (Jude 3, ESV) granted to all followers of Jesus. [churchart.com]