



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Nov. 10th, 2024 – Nov. 16, 2024

[www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)

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

## Tossing and Turning, Week #1

### FEAR

11/03/24 Pastor Nova; Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1-8 & Philippians 4:4-9

Fear is a universal experience, a natural response to perceived danger or threats. It manifests in various forms—anxiety, dread, panic—and is designed to protect us from harm. Fear may arise in different ways, from the familiar worries over financial or political stability to broader concerns about global issues like pandemics or climate change.

The English language gives us many synonyms for fear: anxiety, dread, apprehension, terror, panic, unease, and distress. In Hebrew, the word *yare* often conveys reverence or awe, especially toward God, while *pachad* describes a paralyzing fear. The Greek word *phobos* indicates general fear or reverence, while *deilia* suggests timidity or cowardice.

Research shows that a large percentage of people worry about the future; nearly 40% of Americans frequently worry about what's ahead. Although concerns about the past and present exist, fears about the future remain prominent. While we can't control external forces or the uncertainties of time, fear need not have power over us. In Scripture, we find God's guidance, promises, and presence to help us face our fears.

### Fear and the Presence of God (Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

Reflecting on my first trip outside the Philippines in 1996, I recall the fear that struck me at the airport. A missionary friend had invited me to experience a revival in South Korea, and I was thrilled until anxiety took over. Immigration officers questioned me, and my lack of important documents added to the tension. I clutched my passport and prayed silently, my heart racing with each passing moment. Then, in a wave of relief, they allowed me to go through. In that moment, I sensed God's calming presence guiding me.

~Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3



**November 10th, 2024**

**9:15AM ~ Sunday school**

**10:30AM ~ Traditional Service**

### Sermon Series:

*Tossing and Turning Wk. #2*  
**FUTURE**

**SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**  
**CTRL + CLICK HERE**



## Fundraiser to Support the India Mission Team Medical Camps

**When:** Sunday, November 10th

**Time:** 4 PM - 6 PM **Where:** Social Hall

Join us for a delicious spaghetti dinner while supporting a great cause! Enjoy a night of good food, great company, and a silent auction with exciting items!  
Free-Will Offering



**Monthly  
POTLUCK**

Starting  
**November 24,**  
we will hold  
a **potluck lunch,**  
following the  
10:30AM  
service, on the  
**last Sunday of  
every month**  
to celebrate  
birthdays &  
share in  
fellowship!  
Bring a dish to  
share and enjoy.  
Location TBD



Community Thanksgiving Eve  
worship service will be hosted  
by Calvary UMC on  
**SUNDAY, November 24th, at 4PM.**  
**Choir Rehearsal: Same day @ 3PM**

## Only 5 Stories Submitted So Far ...More Needed!

### Creating an Advent Devotional of Calvary Member Living Faith Stories

Write your own devotional to share with others,  
similar to the style of *The Upper Room*.

Pray about what God may be calling you to share about  
as an encouragement/message to others. We are  
looking for submissions in the following format:

- 1) Choose a scripture that speaks to your personal story.
- 2) Write a brief personal story (300 - 350 words, max.)
- 3) Conclude with a short, written prayer.
- 4) Include your name.

Please submit your devotional via email to the church  
office ([administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net](mailto:administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net)). Include  
in the email subject line "Shared Devotional".

**Submission deadline: November 15th, 2024.** Our  
Calvary's 5th Gospel of Living Stories will be published  
in time for Advent.



We are approaching the busiest retail week of 2024. Maybe you are already familiar with Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. Did you realize that the next day is Small Business Saturday, devoted to supporting small and family-owned businesses? Monday is Cyber Monday, a day of online retail specials. Tuesday is Giving Tuesday, a day that emphasizes donations to worthy causes, but what about Sunday?

We saved the best for last as Sunday December 1 is Stewardship Sunday! That day is a good time to update your Sunny Day Fund amount, but even if you have chosen not to participate in our SDF event, why not take advantage of Stewardship Sunday or Giving Tuesday to offer back to God some of what He has provided for you? At our house our latest SDF amount is \$372! We will be happy to bring even more than that amount to church on Stewardship Sunday December 1. Although we can never repay the grace shown to us by God in our spiritual journey, every effort on our part is a blessing to all who will benefit from our generosity.

Bob Werner, P.R.I.S.M. (Stewardship) Chp.



### **CALVARY'S SEASONAL RECREATIONAL BOWLING HAS STARTED!**

**Join Us for Fun and Fellowship ~ Calvary UMC and West Lawn UMC**

**When:** Every Tuesday @ Berks Lanes from November through April

**Time:** 6:20 M (practice); 6:30 M (games begin)

**Cost:** \$15 for 3 games

This is not a structured, experienced-only league; it's simply a group of adults who enjoy camaraderie & fun for 2 hours Tuesdays.

**Come When You Can!**

Questions? Call **Bruce Morton** ☎ 484-794-0744



## A PLANE LESSON

by Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

No, the word in the title is not misspelled. The plane that taught me so many lessons was once a valued part of my father's toolbox. It, along with many of his tools, occupies a special spot on the wall of my shop above the workbench.

With a father like mine, it was only natural that I would be interested in woodworking. Always, Dad was building a house or barn or repairing a farm building. He never restricted my use of his tools and taught me how to use and care for them. As a young child, my favorite place was the workbench in my father's shop watching him at work or trying my hand at a project of my own. At age seven or eight, I remember making a doll cradle for my sister from a nail keg, complete with rockers and hood. It was primitive and far from perfect, but she loved it.

I don't remember what I was trying to make when the accident happened. I was at Dad's workbench in the basement planing the edge of a board. I was nine or ten years old, and the bench was not built for someone my size or height. The plane was heavy, and, at the end of a stroke, I lost control, and the tool slipped out of my hands. On the cement floor was one of my dad's prized possessions in two pieces.

If you knew my father's temperament, you would understand my feeling at the sight of that broken tool. I was terrified. I knew I could not leave the broken pieces for him to find, but how could I tell him?

Plan one- take the broken pieces to Mom, hoping that she might be willing to tell Dad. Always the voice of wisdom, she told me to put the pieces of the plane back on the floor where they fell. "When Dad comes home, from work," she told me, take him to the shop and explain what happened." The next three hours were the longest that I can remember.

After what seemed an eternity, Dad came in the door. A very scared and repentant boy took him down to the shop and showed him the broken pieces of the plane. Without a word, he picked up the pieces and placed them on the bench. Then, he asked, "How did it happen?" I tried to explain, but, finally, admitted that it was my fault. There was no anger, and he did not tell me that I could no longer use his tools. But, there was a careful demonstration showing me how to avoid such a mistake in the future. I still remember the feeling of his arm around my shoulders as we went back up the stairs together.

The next day, we took the broken pieces to Carlton Wager's welding shop. He was a skilled mechanic and, when we picked up the plane a few days later, it bore some scars but worked as good as new. It still does.

That experience has remained in my memory for nearly eighty years. The lessons learned have influenced my behavior in ways that I could not have anticipated as a boy. I think it has helped me overlook the honest mistakes of others and to ask patience and forgiveness for mistakes of my own. I learned not to hide from responsibility, but to admit a mistake and try to find a way to correct it.

I'm sure that Ruth and the children benefited from that broken plane. I have tried to find solutions to our differences, not confrontation. Because my dad encouraged me to experiment, to ask questions, to build and to innovate, I have tried to pass all this on to my children, along with unconditional love when their behavior did not meet my standards or expectations.

After we picked up the plane from Carlton's welding shop, my dad asked me if I had learned anything. I don't remember my exact answer, but it must have included honestly admitting what I had done. I wish I had told him how much his arm around my shoulders had meant when we went back upstairs for supper and his willingness to let me continue to use his precious tools to build, create and innovate.

I don't use the old plane as much as I once did, but as I look at the scars from the welding shop, they remind me of my father's love and the encouragement he gave me to develop my own skills, find my own direction in life and always take responsibility for a mistake. All this, and so much more, from a broken plane.



Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

In her culture, children were a sign of blessing and validation, so her laughter masks years of hurt and disappointment. This laughter shows her inner conflict, a mix of faith and doubt, defense against yet another heartbreak.

Reflection: How often do we laugh because something seems too good to be true? Sometimes, our laughter comes out of a place of guarded hope, a way of protecting ourselves from more pain. Yet, even in those moments of

doubt, God is present, understanding our struggle, and inviting us to trust in His timing.

### **Laughter Born of God's Surprising Grace**

Later in Genesis 21:6, after Isaac (whose name means “he laughs”) is born, Sarah laughs again, but this time out of pure joy. She exclaims, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” The laughter of disbelief transforms into a laughter of overwhelming grace and joy as God’s promise is fulfilled. This shift from doubt to joy shows that God’s promises can overcome even our deepest disappointments and fears.

As I often remind you during the Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.” Like Sarah, we too have seen God’s grace turn despair into joy. Think about Ms. Michelle Daniels: not long ago, she was so weak and sick that it was hard to imagine her recovery. But today, by God’s grace, she can walk, talk, and shout “Hallelujah!” Her story, along with those of Mr. Jim Adams and others among us, testifies to God’s power to turn sorrow into joy.

As a reminder, I invite everyone to submit their Living Faith stories by November 15. These are stories of how God has moved in your lives, not for our own praise, but to glorify God and testify to His presence among us. Like the beautiful stained-glass windows in our sanctuary, these stories reveal how God can take broken, scattered pieces and make something beautiful when His light shines through.

### **Laughter at the Table Together**

In Genesis 18:1-2, Abraham welcomes three visitors—a manifestation of God. He offers them hospitality, showing both reverence and openness. This “table” they share becomes a place where God’s promises are affirmed, even when Sarah laughs in doubt. God does not rebuke her harshly but gently reminds them that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

*~Sermon cont’d on pg. 5*

*Sermon ~cont’d from pg. 4*

The table in this story is more than a setting; it’s a place of encounter, where God’s promises come to life. Here in our church, we have our own “table” when we gather together in fellowship, prayer, and sharing. At this table, we create space to share our joys and struggles, allowing God’s presence to work within us. As we listen to one another, God transforms both our laughter and tears into something holy, drawing us closer to Him and to each other.

As we conclude this series with “Laughter at the Table,” may we remember that God is present in every moment of our lives—the joyful, the sorrowful, and the unexpected. Our role is to remain open, to welcome His presence even when it brings laughter mixed with doubt. In our journey together, we are called to support one another, to celebrate together, and to witness God’s amazing grace in each other’s lives.

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### **Prayer:**

*God, we thank You for Your surprising ways and for the laughter and tears that draw us closer to You. Teach us to trust in Your promises, even when they seem far beyond our reach. Help us to build a community that embraces both the joys and the struggles of life together. May our shared moments become places of holy encounter, where Your light transforms everything we bring to the table. Amen.*



After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn’t done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who “came back to faith” during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers’ deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. “That’s what we did, preaching and reaching out to people,” he told a reporter. “I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it.”

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.

[by permission from churchart.com]

~ 4~



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419 S. Wyomissing Avenue  
Shillington, Pa. 19607
- 16 – Bob Erb  
13 Pennypacker Rd.  
Mohnton, PA 19540



Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

This experience echoes the message in Deuteronomy 31:1-8. As Moses prepared the Israelites to enter an unknown land, he reassured them that, though he wouldn't be with them, God would go ahead of them. God's promise is to be present, to pave the way, even in our unseen, unknown futures. This is the same God who goes before us in our fears.

Verse 6: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Can you imagine God ahead of you, preparing the way through your greatest fears? Pause and think of a specific fear you're facing, and envision God already there, working on your behalf.

### **Point 2: Fear and the Power of God - Rejoice and Pray Through the Fear (Philippians 4:4-7)**

In 1994, my father was involved in an ambush meant for his friend, a police officer. Masked men targeted them due to a business dispute. Outgunned and severely injured, my father was miraculously saved by a friend who shielded him. During his time in the hospital, missionaries visited and shared the gospel with him. He accepted Christ, and his life and faith transformed. Despite the fear of nearly losing him, I witnessed God's power to redeem and bring peace in the face of life-threatening fear.

Paul's words in Philippians 4:6-7 invite us to a similar transformation. Though he was in prison—a place of fear—he encouraged the Philippians to rejoice, pray, and give thanks, turning fear into an opportunity for faith. By turning our worries into prayers, we hand our fears over to God, allowing His peace to fill the void left by fear.

Verse 6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

When fear threatens your peace, list your worries and present them in prayer. Trust that God is hearing and will respond, replacing anxiety with peace.

### **Point 3: Fear and the Peace of God - Guard Your Heart and Mind (Philippians 4:7-9)**

Verse 7: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This peace, which Paul describes as "transcending all understanding," is the kind that goes beyond our ability to comprehend or explain. It is a peace that sustains us, not because the circumstances have changed but because God is present. This peace guards our hearts, preventing the "what ifs" of fear from overwhelming us. God's peace becomes our strength, reminding us that He is with us even in our deepest anxieties.

Reflect on an area of your life where you need God's peace to guard your heart and mind. Invite God to enter this fear and believe in His promise to protect you, even in ways beyond your understanding.

### **Call to Action**

This week, consider making a habit of turning fearful thought into prayer. Each time you sense fear arising, pause, ask for God's presence, and choose to trust Him. When we surrender our fears, we can experience God's presence, power, and peace. Emmanuel—God with us—goes before us, ensuring we never face our fears alone. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



- 100% Fruit Juice • Spam  
• Instant mashed potatoes • Mac and cheese • Canned Ravioli  
• Elbow pasta • Spaghetti noodles • Canned chicken breast and salmon • Kleenex • Cookie mix

# LOOK what's been going on at Calvary...



**Trunk or Treat at the Mohnton YMCA**



**Sandy Graffius receives an award as a Community Media Honoree for her volunteer work at BCTV. Sandy finds & interviews seniors with interesting experiences and life stories to share.**



**BEYOND**  
**OUR WALLS**