



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Nov. 17th, 2024 – Nov. 23rd, 2024

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

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

## **Tossing and Turning, Week #2** ***FUTURE***

11/10/24 Pastor Nova; Scripture: Isaiah 41 :10-13 & Matthew 6:25-34

*"I am something you can't see, yet I hold endless possibilities. I am what lies ahead, full of mystery. People plan for me, yet I am uncertain. What am I?" THE FUTURE*

This week, we continue our "Tossing and Turning" series with a focus on **The Future**. Let's dive into the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:25-34 and the promises of God from Isaiah 41:10-13. Together, these passages help us confront our worries about tomorrow and anchor us in God's promises today.

### **A Closer Look or A Deeper Dive on Isaiah 41:10-13**

Isaiah 41:10-13 powerfully assures us of God's strength and care. Set during Israel's exile in Babylon—a time of deep despair—God speaks through Isaiah to comfort His people, reminding them of His sovereignty and protection. Despite captivity and surrounding threats, God promises deliverance, strength, and victory. Addressing those in fear, He reveals Himself as both sovereign and intimately involved, not distant but actively strengthening, upholding, and defending His people. His promise that enemies will be "as nothing" underscores His power to bring peace and justice, offering profound hope to those facing uncertainty and adversity.

### **Three Divine Truths Assuring Our Future in God**

#### **1. God's Sovereignty Provides Us with Security (Isaiah 41:10-13)**

Isaiah 41:10 reminds us, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." This verse speaks of God's sovereignty, assuring us that He not only knows our future but holds it securely in His hands. In times of transition, we may feel anxious and worried about what lies ahead. Yet, trusting in God's control provides a deep sense of security, even when the path is unclear. Instead of dwelling on the unknowns, we can rest in the truth that God is already working everything out for good, allowing us to release our anxiety and embrace His purpose, even if it unfolds differently than what we expected.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 4



**November 17th, 2024**

**8:00AM ~ Praise Service**

**9:15AM ~ Sunday school**

**10:30AM ~ Traditional Service**

**Sermon Series:**

*Tossing and Turning Wk. #3*  
**FINANCES**

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



**Community  
Thanksgiving Worship**  
hosted by  
**Calvary UMC on  
Sunday, Nov. 24th,  
at 4PM.**

**Invite your friends &  
neighbors!**

→Refreshments afterward.

→Choir Rehearsal: Same  
day @ 3PM]



**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  
in the Gathering Area.

## 20 Stories Submitted... Only Five 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*.

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

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".



### How the Election Affects Stewardship

We have just lived through another presidential election, polarizing as it may have been and continues to be. How will the results affect your stewardship? Hopefully there will be no effect, as we continue to return to God a portion of that with which we have been blessed regardless of whether Republicans or Democrats are in charge. Life goes on whether we are celebrating or despairing in the outcome, and our spiritual lives should exist on a higher plane than our political opinions. There may, however, be a way to take advantage of America's economic advances.

If you have held an investment over time which has greatly appreciated, by gifting that investment to the church, you pay no taxes on the proceeds. You transfer ownership to the church; the church sells the investment; and, being tax exempt, Calvary receives the proceeds tax free. And, if you itemize deductions, you may deduct the value on your form 1040!

Calvary has benefitted from transactions such as this in the past and, as we look to more creative ways to meet our budget needs, this definitely qualifies. You may even stipulate that the proceeds go towards our Sunny Day Fund, celebrating the good fortune with which you have been blessed. Our personal SDF balance stands at \$392 as we continue to enjoy the abundant life God has provided.

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



JIM ADAMS  
MEGHAN ANDREYSAK  
SHIRLEY AYRTON  
BOBBY BAKER  
DAVID BAKER  
JOE BLACKBURN, JR  
RICK BRUETSCH  
KYLIE BRUMBACH  
LINDA CHANDLER  
TREVOR COMEAU  
DAVE CURLEY  
JIM D'AMICO  
LAINA D'GIROLAMO  
BROOKLYN DANIELS  
LYNN DANIELS  
MICHELLE DANIELS  
RAY DAUTRICH  
KAREN DAVIS  
AARON DEARSTYNE  
CANDY DODSON  
MATT EDGERTON  
BONNIE EHST  
GINNY EPPS  
ANDREW ERB  
BOB ERB  
PATRICIA FINAN  
DAVE & LINDA FLAMM  
LORETTA FLICKER  
AMELIA FORTUNATO  
RON FOX  
BYRON FRITZ  
RUNETTE GABRIEL  
STEVE & BARBARA GANCER  
GLORIA  
PEGGY HARSHAW  
RICH & JAN HARTMAN  
TOM HASSLER  
JACK HIGGINS  
DAVID HOFFMAN  
TAD & CORI HORNE  
HURRICANE VICTIMS  
DANNY HUTZELL

KELLY HUTZELL  
NICK JACOBS  
NICK KARETAS  
DENNIS KAUFFMAN  
JOHN KLINE  
REV DON & ELVA KNOT  
ED LEISER, SR.  
DEB MCGAHEN  
JULIE MCGETTRICK  
BRENDA MEYERS  
HAROLD MILLER  
JENNIFER MILLER  
FAM. OF CHARLES MORGANT  
DANIELLA MUNTEAN  
RYAN MYHER  
RON PATON  
NIKKI PELLICANO  
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI  
ANA ROMULO  
LORRAINE ROTH  
JOHN & DORISMARIE ROWE  
BILL RUTH  
PAULLINE SCHMEHL  
DOUG SCHONOUR  
CAROL SOCKEL  
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY  
MIRIAM STEFFEY  
TRACEY SUNDAY  
JOANNE TALARICO  
KELSEY TAVERAS  
MARY THOMAS  
LOLA TROUTMAN  
SAM VARANO  
KAREN WADE  
KAY WADSWORTH  
SUSIE WAHL  
NELLY & JAE WALLACE  
SUSAN WEIHE  
BOB WERNER  
SUE WERNER  
MARY WOODDELL



## THE CAPTAIN

*by Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.*

I first met him in the mid 1960's, not long after becoming a chaplain at the medical center. He appeared to be in excellent physical condition, but that was not the case. He had seen his own physician in New Jersey, complaining of swelling and discomfort in his chest. X-Rays revealed something completely unexpected, advanced breast cancer.

Treatment options were few in those days, but surgeons did their best to remove the malignancy. Other treatment followed. Then, when he insisted, he was discharged and returned home.

He had been a Coast Guard sailor in the Pacific during World War II, piloting one of the small landing craft that carried Marines ashore as our forces advanced island after island toward the mainland of Japan.

Miraculously, he survived all the carnage without a scratch and, in the process, developed a love for small crafts and the sea. When, at age twenty-two, he returned home to a Jersey shore community, he knew exactly what he wanted to do.

His first job was as a deck hand on one of the large charter boats that took twenty or thirty fishermen on full-day excursions. He loved his work and was soon taking the boat to sea as its captain.

The owner was advanced in years and no longer able to handle the stress of managing the charter business. He and his deck hand became close friends and, after a few years, when he decided to sell the charter, his decision was obvious.

By the time I met him, he was about forty years of age and the successful owner of a beautiful new boat much larger than the one he had purchased from his former employer. As might be expected, the diagnosis of cancer was a devastating shock. It had come at the very time when he had achieved success, and his future had seemed secure.

Now, I must tell you about his personal life. In the early years after World War II, he had been far too busy to concern himself with home or family. Work had occupied almost every waking moment. Finally, he had a staff to help with the business and his life moved at a slower pace.

His first employee, after purchasing the charter, had been a young woman not long out of high school. She became indispensable, taking reservations, keeping the books, and serving as secretary. The relationship grew slowly over

time, until she was much more than an employee. Neither felt that formal marriage was necessary, since religion had never been a part of their lives. When I first met mother and son, the boy was nearly four years old.

Over the two years that I knew him, he was readmitted several times. Surgery was tried once more, without success. Each readmission saw him obviously weaker. Over time, he asked to be taken, in a wheelchair, to ward religious services. When this became impossible, he came down on a gurney.

One day, when I visited, he asked me to sit down beside his bed. He said he had talked with his doctor and knew that his time was short. He shed tears as he told me how much he wanted to see his son grow up and take over the charter. He talked about the woman he loved who had worked beside him to build the business. Then, he was silent for a minute or two, obviously struggling to control his emotions. Finally, he said, "Chaplain, can you conduct a wedding right here in my room?" He went on to explain that during his last time at home he had talked to his lawyer and knew that inheritance would be complicated for the two people he was leaving behind. But, he added, that was not the only reason he wanted the marriage. He told me that, at first, he had attended services to break the weekend monotony of the ward, but then, something unexpected happened. He began reading the Bible in his bedside table. He said that he was no longer satisfied with the informal relationship. He wanted to commit himself to this woman he loved. He wanted them to become husband and wife in a Christian ceremony.

And so it was that a few days later I conducted a wedding in a hospital room with a doctor as Best Man and a nurse as Matron of Honor. In twenty-three years as a hospital chaplain, I conducted only two such weddings.

The groom survived for only a few weeks but died at peace with himself and with God. The bride continued to run the charter successfully.

Over the years, I lost touch with the family, but, in my mind, I can imagine a handsome captain on the bridge of a charter boat on the Jersey Shore who looks very much like a man I once knew.





## **A Closer Look at Matthew 6:25-34**

Matthew 6:25-34, part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, encourages believers to live in God's kingdom with a radical trust in His provision. Rather than focusing on material needs and self-reliance, this passage urges us to place our faith in God's abundant care for every detail of creation, shown through the imagery of birds and flowers. By encouraging us to "seek first the kingdom of God," Jesus invites us to shift our priorities and align our lives with God's will, teaching that true peace and security come through a God-centered focus.

Recent studies provide a deeper layer of interpretation.

### **a) Social and Economic Interpretation**

In verse 25, Jesus links this teaching to His discussion of wealth (Matthew 6:19-24), contrasting material pursuit with trusting in God. He acknowledges the importance of physical needs but emphasizes that life's purpose is much more than these. He challenges the societal norms that equate security and status with material wealth; Jesus redirects our focus to our worth in God's eyes, reminding us that our true value rests in a trusting relationship with God.

### **b) Gender Role Interpretation**

In verse 28, Jesus' reference to lilies "not spinning" offers a metaphor that challenges traditional gender roles, particularly regarding women's labor in spinning and weaving. This interpretation invites us to value individuals beyond societal expectations, seeing each person's worth as grounded in God's love rather than productivity or assigned roles.

### **c) Ecological Interpretation**

An ecological reading highlights the intrinsic value of nature, urging Christians to view birds and lilies not merely as symbols but as elements of creation deserving respect and care. This perspective links faith with environmental stewardship, viewing care for the earth as a part of Christian discipleship, reflecting God's love for all creation.

### **d) Psychological and Mental Health Interpretation**

Some scholars interpret Jesus' teaching as an early method for managing worry, emphasizing mindfulness and reliance on God to ease anxiety. By focusing on God's provision rather than worldly concerns, Jesus' message provides a spiritual tool for reducing stress, reminding us that God's care surpasses even the wealth and achievements of Solomon. This approach to faith offers lasting peace rooted in trusting God's provision.

## **2: Trusting in God's Provision Frees Us from Worry (Matthew 6:25-30)**

*Matthew 6:25-26 - "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap... yet your heavenly Father feeds them."*

Jesus calls us to trust God's provision rather than striving for control. Just as God provides for the birds and flowers, He will meet our needs, even in ways we might not expect.

In 2013, I was preparing to manage a retail store for Mainline Medical in Blackhorse, NJ, when my life took a painful turn—I uncovered a truth that devastated my life. It felt as if my world had collapsed, leaving me lost and heartbroken. In desperation, I reached out to my then mentor, Bishop Toquero, who encouraged me to consider that God might be redirecting me toward my true purpose. His words stirred something in me, and I decided to return to ministry, knowing this meant pursuing a Master of Divinity.

Leaving my job felt daunting, even bold; a coworker remarked it was "one hell of a move." But in the Philippines, at Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in Manila, I experienced God's provision in unexpected ways. Without a job, my friends and family generously set up a scholarship fund that not only supported me but extended to classmates in need. Their kindness allowed me to focus on my studies and care for my daughter, Nicole. Through their support, I felt God's faithful presence carrying me through that season of transition and healing.

Recently, we planned a medical mission trip to India. Justin and I wanted to participate, hoping it would give Nicole a new perspective on life. We didn't have the \$6,600 needed, so Justin reached out to church members, family, and friends. God's faithfulness shone through your generosity. Thank you for being His hands and providing for our needs. To everyone who sponsored us—though we may forget these moments, God will never forget what you did for His glory. Thank you for making this mission possible for us.

## **3: Our Future is in God's Hands, Not Ours (Matthew 6:31-34)**

*Matthew 6:34 - "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps" is a Bible verse from Proverbs 16:9.*

Jesus directs us to focus on today, not to eliminate future planning, but to release the illusion that we control the outcome. Only God holds the future, and He has already gone ahead of us.

~ Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 5

Sermon cont'd from pg. 4

When we were called to Calvary UMC, I initially resisted, feeling content and secure where we were. But through prayer, I sensed God's peace and provision in this new step. Like Isaiah, who was humbled and prepared by God for his mission, I found myself facing a call to ministry that required trust and transformation. God's guidance led me to a new church family, where I found not a loss but a gain—a community of support and shared purpose. This journey reminds me of God's constant *preparation*, *provision*, and *promise*. When God calls, He not only equips us but also promises to be with us always, strengthening us to say "Yes" and live faithfully in His purpose.

As we consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 6, I challenge each of us to leave our worries about the future at Jesus' hands today. Let's focus on what God is calling us to do right now, trusting that He is already in the future, guiding, providing, and working for our good. Though we may toss and turn over the unknown, we can rest in God's unchanging faithfulness. Let us close in a prayer of surrender, asking God to help us release our need for control, embrace His presence today, and fully trust Him with all that lies ahead. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sources: (like those by Matthew Henry, John MacArthur, or the *NIV Application Commentary* series, Mrs. Google, Adam Hamilton, Donum)



- Calvary is continuing our tradition of exchanging Christmas cards among our LOCAL church members and friends. (In the past, many cards have NOT been picked up; therefore, we ask that cards NOT be left at church for out-of-town members.)
- Bruce Morton will set up a drop-off/pick-up table in the narthex after Thanksgiving.
- Please alphabetize your cards.
- Cards addressed to local shut-ins will be delivered by a member of Calvary, but if you have time to hand deliver shut-in cards, you are encouraged and welcome to do so 😊

### Wyomissing Valley Preschool (WVP) CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

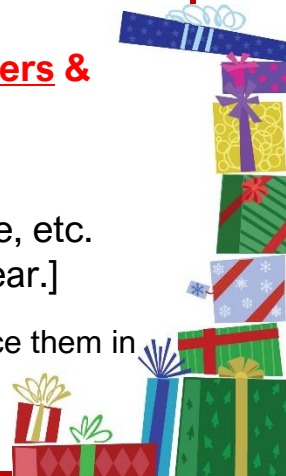
Preschoolers attending WVP will have the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts for their family members on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> in our Social Hall.  
(Set-up – Dec. 2; Clean-up - Dec. 5 or 6)

#### **DONATIONS REQUESTED!**

**NEEDED: Small gifts for dads, brothers & grandfathers!**

**NEW** small gift items, such as:  
Slippers, gloves, hats, tools, aftershave, etc.  
[Please, no gently used items this year.]

Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the large tote bin located in the Gathering Area. **DEADLINE: NOV 27<sup>TH</sup>!**



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



*The Altar Flowers*  
this Sunday are sponsored by  
Terry & Joanne Stephenson  
in celebration of their  
granddaughter, Alisha's wedding,  
Terry's birthday (11/22),  
and his brothers' birthdays,  
Dick (11/18) and Harry (11/26).

### Special Christmas Gifts

A variety of gifts may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please indicate your choice(s) below.  
**All gifts must be received by Wednesday, December 18th.** Checks may be made payable to "Calvary UMC"  
with the *gift designation in the memo section.*

The dedications will be printed in the *Calvary Connection* edition just prior to Christmas Eve.

\_\_\_\_\_ A Poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary (\$12 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ GSM Medical Camps (\$10)      \_\_\_\_\_ Safe Berks (formerly Berks Women in Crisis) (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mifflin Community Food Ministry (\$10) To help defray extra expenses at Christmas.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your donation and dedication(s) to:  
**Calvary UMC, Attn: J. Dearstyne, 1 West Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540**

 **NOVEMBER**

- 17 – Cindy Fortunato  
1737 Alden Lane  
Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 20 – Becky Giles  
1151 Kestrel Dr.  
Salisbury, MD 21804
- 20 – Joshua Myers  
51 Guigley Dr.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 21 – Guy Lombardo  
202 Roxberry Dr.  
Sinking Spr., PA 19608
- 22 – Terry Stephenson  
60 S. Church St.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 22 – Vicki Wagner  
122 Hemlock Rd.  
Reading, PA 19607
- 23 – Michael Wahl  
1050 Palisades Dr.  
Leesport, PA 19533



... LET  
YOUR  
LIGHT *shine*  
MATTHEW 5:16