



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Nov. 24th, 2024 – Nov. 30th, 2024

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

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

### Tossing and Turning, Week #3 FINANCES

11/17/24 Pastor Nova; Scripture: Luke 12:16-21, 1 Kings 17:2-16

Have you experienced tossing and turning due to financial matters, such as retirement planning or paying a college loan? Financial matters wake us up in the middle of the night and can make us sleepless. The world teaches us we can be free from the anxiety of money when we have more of it. Have you thought that if you won the lottery, life would be happier and more comfortable? Do you think this is true?

Is having more finances an answer to the anxiety and worry that money creates? What is money: money is a medium of exchange that facilitates the trade of goods and services. It is a widely accepted form of payment for transactions.

Let us explore 3 Biblical Figures whose experiences teach valuable lessons:

1. The Rich Fool
2. Elijah
3. Widow in Zarephath

#### The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-15: <sup>13</sup>Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance." <sup>14</sup>He replied, "Mister, what makes you think it's any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?"

<sup>15</sup>Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

During Jesus' time, inheritance laws and customs were deeply rooted in the Torah and in patriarchal traditions. They practiced *primogeniture*, meaning the firstborn son had special rights and received a double portion of the inheritance. For example, if a man had three sons, the estate would be divided into four parts: the firstborn received two portions, and the other two sons received one portion each.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 4



Monthly  
POTLUCK

Starting this Sunday, **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.



**November 24th, 2024**

**9:15AM ~ Sunday school**

**10:30AM ~ Traditional Service**

#### Sermon Series:

*Tossing and Turning Wk. #4*  
**Finality: The Anxiety of Choosing**

**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]

## Stewardship Sunday & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Coincide

We recently saw the musical, *White Christmas*, and one song particularly stood out to me. The lyrics are “*When I’m worried and I can’t sleep I count my blessings instead of sheep, and I fall asleep counting my blessings.*” I thought how appropriate this song, Count Your Blessings, is to our Sunny Day Fund stewardship initiative. After all, isn’t that exactly what we’re doing by setting aside 10% of the cost (privilege) of indulging ourselves in life’s small pleasures? We obviously can’t put a price on blessings of faith, family, and friends but when we gift a small percentage of the cost of everyday enjoyment to our church, we consciously recognize the grace that is showered upon us every day by our God.

Stewardship Sunday coincides with the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Advent recognizes our time of preparation to welcome Jesus, our savior into our world and into our lives. At this time, remember also the joy and fulfillment your faith has brought to your life and prepare to embrace all that is still to come. We are traveling with friends for a short 2-night trip and when we get back I’m sure our personal SDF will have exceeded \$400! (Since September 1). If you don’t know the song, I referenced at the beginning of this article stop me when you see me and I’ll sing a few bars for you.

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



## Calvary Christmas Card EXCHANGE

- Calvary will continue 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 welcomed 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.

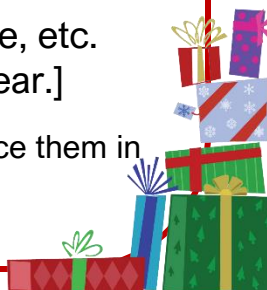
**DEADLINE: NOV 27<sup>TH</sup>!**



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

100% Fruit Juice

- Spam • Instant mashed potatoes
- Mac and cheese
- Canned Yams
- Elbow pasta • Spaghetti noodles
- Canned chicken breast and salmon • Kleenex



## THE LIFER

*by Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.*

Several years ago, I wrote a story about a career Air Force sergeant named Jesse. Before Jesse was a teenager, he was well on the way to addiction to the product of his family's still in the West Virginia Mountains. I met him many years later when he was only a year or two from retirement and about to be given a general discharge because of alcoholism, risking the loss of his military pension. I took Jess to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, and his addiction was history. He became a missionary for AA on our base and, in a short time, began looking for places in the area to establish more AA groups. This story is about one of those groups.

I remember well our first meeting inside the walls of Walla Walla State Penitentiary. It was on a Sunday evening. Jess had brought seven of us in his ancient station wagon and another car followed with six more from the base.

About twenty prisoners were in attendance. Except for one older black man, all appeared to be in their twenties.

Jess began the meeting in the usual way with a few moments of silence, followed by the AA Serenity Prayer. He told his own story, followed by two men from our group. Then, as always, he encouraged others to share their stories. The group of young prisoners was silent and embarrassed until the older man rose to his feet. I will never forget his story.

He said that he had been a young soldier in the First World War. In the segregated Army of those times, his black detachment was given the assignment of transporting supplies from depots on the coast to the front. It was boring duty.

Drinking had not seemed a serious problem before the military, but it quickly became his choice of recreation. By the time of his discharge, alcohol controlled his life.

In the prosperous early 1920's, he easily found work and was soon married to a girl he had known since childhood. Slowly but surely, drinking became an obsession. He went from job to job. Eventually, he became involved with petty crime when his drinking made it impossible to find work.

Through it all, his wife stayed with him, hoping for some miracle that would restore the man she married. But it was not to be. After a night of drinking, his anger would be out of control. When his wife tried to calm him, he would become violent and abusive.

He could not understand why his wife stayed with him. Friends urged her to leave for her own safety, but she was devoted to him and still hoped for that miracle.

As the old man continued his story, his voice revealed his grief, but he went on. His wife had worked as a cleaning lady at a local hospital. She had come home one Friday with her pay envelope. She begged him not to take the money, but he did. It was soon spent at a local bar where he remained for much of the night. He said he had no recollection of returning home, only a vivid memory of his wife's lifeless body beside him when he awakened the next day. Thirty years had not erased that terrible scene from his memory. He said he had no defense at the trial. The sentence for murder was life without parole.

At first, his reaction in prison had been to rebel against all authority. He fought with guards and prisoners and endured solitary confinement and other disciplines. Then, something happened that changed his life. Despite his behavior, another prisoner tried to reach out to him in friendship. The man was a Christian and his quiet, simple and sincere faith was hard to resist. The old man said that he began to understand that others had not caused the tragedies in his life. He had made the choices that led to addiction and, ultimately, to that terrible morning when he realized that he had killed his wife.

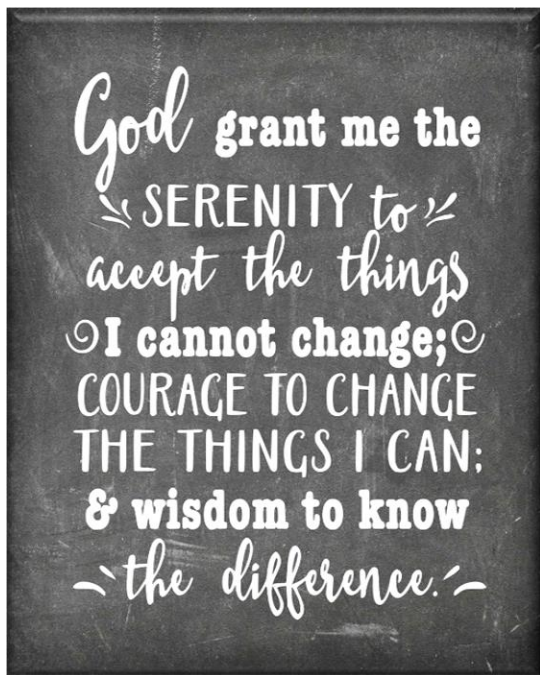
Over time, he became a Christian, and his new faith helped him find forgiveness and the determination to help younger prisoners experience what he had found, finish their sentences, reconcile with their families and put the past behind them. He would live out his life behind prison walls, but he had found his mission.

The mantra of this old man, often repeated whenever he told his story at an AA meeting, was, "Bloom where you're planted." He would say that a new life, for him, began when he simply accepted reality. His faith had helped him find forgiveness for the past and to simply put it behind him. He firmly believed that God had put him where he could make a difference.

Before I left active duty, I attended many AA meetings behind the walls at Walla Walla. Always, the elderly prisoner would be there, surrounded by twenty-five or thirty of his, "Boys", black and white. Long ago, he had decided he would not let bitterness over his life sentence destroy his usefulness. Instead, he would, "Bloom where he was planted".

As for so many others, the Serenity Prayer of Alcoholics Anonymous had special meaning for this self-appointed missionary.

*~cont'd on pg. 6*



Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

This practice was based on Deuteronomy 21:17, which stipulated the double portion is given to the firstborn as a sign of his privileged status in the family. For someone asking Jesus to order his brother to give him a fair share—meant it was not fair.

(Verses 16-19) *Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!'"*

*"Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?' "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."*

In the parable Jesus calls the man "rich" and "fool" for specific reasons:

The man is rich because of his abundant material possessions. His land produced a bountiful harvest, symbolizing worldly wealth and success. However, his richness is confined to the earthly realm; he is wealthy in possessions but not in his relationship with God or others.

The man is a fool, not because of his wealth, but because of his misplaced priorities. Here's why he earns the label:

→ **Self-centered thinking:** He hoards his wealth for personal comfort, saying, *"I will say to myself... take it easy, "showing no regard for God, his neighbors, or eternal matters.*

→ **Misplaced security:** He believes his material abundance guarantees him a long and easy life, ignoring the uncertainty of life and his dependence on God.

→ **Neglect of eternal treasures:** He invests in temporary things, failing to recognize that his life could end suddenly and that he cannot take his wealth with him.

→ **Failure in Social Responsibility and generosity:** The rich man's failure to share his abundance with those in need is portrayed as folly. True wealth is found in relationships and community rather than in material possessions. Believers should use their resources to support the marginalized and to work toward economic justice.

The term "rich" highlights material prosperity, while "fool" emphasizes spiritual poverty and short-sightedness. Jesus uses this to teach that true richness comes from being "rich toward God"—cultivating faith, generosity, and eternal treasures. We need to evaluate our own priorities and recognize that life's value is not measured by possessions but by a relationship with God and service to others.

## Elijah

Elijah is one of the most significant prophets in the Bible, known for his unwavering faith and powerful demonstrations of God's power. His story is primarily found in the books of 1 Kings and 2 Kings.

Elijah was called by God to speak His truth and confront idolatry, particularly the worship of Baal, a pagan deity. He stood against King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, who led Israel into widespread Baal worship. Elijah boldly declared a drought (1 Kings 17:1) as punishment for Israel's idolatry. Because of that, he became a wanted man—shoot to kill.

1 Kings 17:2-16: *Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: <sup>3</sup>"Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan."<sup>4</sup> You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."*

God miraculously provided for Elijah, even using "unclean" ravens and a Gentile widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:2-16).

## Widow in Zarephath

The widow of Zarephath, whose story is found in 1 Kings 17:7-16, was used by God to provide for Elijah. (Gentile and poor): The widow was in a dire situation; she was preparing their last meal because they didn't have any more flour and oil. Yet, when Elijah asked her to give him food first, she obeyed. By obeying Elijah's request, the widow experienced a miraculous supply of flour and oil that did not run out until the drought ended. Obedience to God,



even when it seems risky or illogical, opens the door for His provision and blessings. Even in moments of scarcity, trusting God's promises can lead to unexpected blessings. Despite her poverty, the widow showed remarkable generosity by sharing the little she had with Elijah. True generosity comes from the heart, not abundance. When we give selflessly, God honors our sacrifice. GOD'S MIRACLE USUALLY HAPPENS DURING OUR DEEPEST NEEDS.

The two scriptural stories make a good contrast with each other. A rich man in the Gospel of Luke has enough harvest. He even has more than he needs. He thinks his life should be happy-go-lucky. But that very night, his life is going to end, and Jesus completes the story with a question: "You fool!... Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" The other story, in 1 Kings, tells us about a widow who lived through a great famine. She had only a handful of meals in a jar. But, when she shared with a hungry prophet, her jar was filled and never exhausted. The one who sought contentment by selfishness and hoarding wealth lost his most prized possession, his life. Yet the one who finds contentment in sharing and giving what she has to others received endless food provisions.

Friends: To whom do you feel more similar in these two stories?

### In awe of everyday joys

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- **A** is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- **W** is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- **E** is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the "ordinary" can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.

[by permission churchart.com]



- 24 – Owen Tomczak  
323 Summit St.  
W. Reading, PA 19611
- 26 – Joyce Wills  
135 Hartz Store Rd.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 27 – Dr. Jed Calata  
1109 E Lilac Ln.  
Fox Point, WI 53217
- 30 – Diane Anderson  
35 Stewart Ave.  
Sinking Spg, PA 19608

## The Wyomissing Band, Inc.

presents a free

### Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15, 2024

3:00—4:30 p.m.

Zion E. C. Church

Church & Summit Streets

Mohnton, PA

*Donations of non-perishable items will be accepted for the  
Mifflin Community Food Ministry,  
which is housed at Zion E.C.*

## 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



## Remember to Send Holiday Cheer & Love to:

Please send these 1<sup>st</sup> class or hand deliver; do not place these in the Christmas card exchange.

Shirley Ayrton  
Health Center, Rm. 114  
PO Box 125  
Cornwall, PA 17016-0125

Michelle Daniels  
4106 Lynn Ave.  
Reading, PA 19606

Bonnie Ehst  
Berks Heim, Room A206  
1011 Berks Rd.  
Leesport, PA 19533

Ginny Epps  
Berks Heim, Room A317  
1011 Berks Rd.  
Leesport, PA 19533

Ron & Dawn Fox  
2139 Reading, Blvd.  
West Lawn, PA 19609

Pegge Harshaw  
Mifflin Court, Rm. 216  
450 E. Philadelphia Ave.  
Shillington, PA 19607

Suzie & John Maniaci  
9 Bancroft Terrace  
Shillington, PA 19607

Doris McCleary  
230 Hawthorne Ct., N.  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Doris Metz  
% Darryl Metz  
407 Valor Dr.  
Lititz, PA 17543

Janet Reppert  
308 Maplewood Ave.  
Mohnton, PA 19540

John & Dorismarie Rowe  
Fairmount Health Center  
333 Wheat Ridge Rd.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

Doug & Alice Schonour  
35 Sage Dr.  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Lola Troutman  
1 Summer Hill Drive  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Karen Wade  
616 Mull Ave.  
Leesport, PA 19533

Sue Werner  
Phoebe Berks Village Gardens  
9 Heidelberg, Dr., Room 106  
Wernersville, PA 19565

A Reverse Advent Calendar is where you pick up one item a day to donate to the FOOD MIINSTRY and place it in a box. Most Advent Calendars are comprised of a series of doors or windows to open one-per-day, revealing a small chocolate, a picture, or a little gift for each day. The Reverse Advent Calendar turns this tradition around. Instead of receiving a gift, you participate by donating and "Giving" an item each day to the food bank. These calendars were marketed to assist children in counting down the days until Christmas. Thank you for opening your heart and giving to families in need in your local community.

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| DECEMBER 1  | CAN OF MIXED VEGETABLES    |
| DECEMBER 2  | PEANUT BUTTER              |
| DECEMBER 3  | YAMS CANNED                |
| DECEMBER 4  | SPAGHETTI SAUCE            |
| DECEMBER 5  | BOX OF CEREAL              |
| DECEMBER 6  | CAN OF PEAS                |
| DECEMBER 7  | CAN OF SOUP                |
| DECEMBER 8  | CAN OF PINEAPPLE           |
| DECEMBER 9  | APPLESAUCE                 |
| DECEMBER 10 | CAN OF PEACHES             |
| DECEMBER 11 | CAN OF RAVIOLI             |
| DECEMBER 12 | MAC AND CHEESE             |
| DECEMBER 13 | CAN OF SPAM                |
| DECEMBER 14 | INSTANT POTAOES            |
| DECEMBER 15 | TUNA FISH                  |
| DECEMBER 16 | CANNED SALMON              |
| DECEMBER 17 | CAN OF CARROTS             |
| DECEMBER 18 | CAN OF GREEN BEANS         |
| DECEMBER 19 | CAN OF KIDNEY BEANS        |
| DECEMBER 20 | CAN OF BAKED BEANS         |
| DECEMBER 21 | CANNED CHICKEN BREAST      |
| DECEMBER 22 | 100% JUICE 64OZ. CONTAINER |
| DECEMBER 23 | CAN OF DICED TOMATOES      |
| DECEMBER 24 | CAN OF MANDARIN ORANGES    |



The gift  
of giving  
is the  
greatest  
blessing.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING AND BEING A PART OF THIS PROJECT TO HELP BRIGHTEN SOMEONE ELSE'S CHRISTMAS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.



## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO MOHNTON! SATURDAY DECEMBER 7th

After Santa's fire truck ride through Mohnton, he will head to the Mohnton playground for the annual holiday tree lighting. Santa will arrive about 6:00 pm.

**Please join us!** The tree lighting will begin with the singing of Christmas songs. Children are welcome to visit with Santa and share their Christmas wishes. *Complimentary hot chocolate will be served by the Mohnton Lions Club.*

