



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 2nd – March 8th, 2025

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

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

## **FRESH START: Ten Lepers How Many Miracles?**

Scripture Passage: Luke 17:11-19

**The New Colossus** (inscribed in the Statue of Liberty pedestal, 1903)

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles.  
From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"  
~Emma Lazarus November 2, 1883*

The latter part of the above poem suggests welcome to immigrants and hope for a better future: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The National Park Service said that the Statue of Liberty is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom & democracy a symbol of hospitality and hope to all travelers of this world.  
~Sermon cont'd on pg. 4



**March 2nd, 2025**

**8:00AM**

**Praise Service**

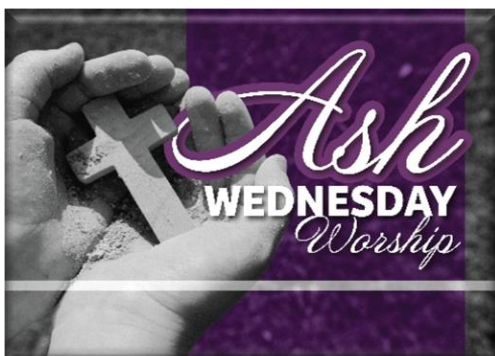
**9:15AM**

**Sunday school**

**10:30AM**

**Traditional Service**

*Holy Communion*



The 2025 Ash Wednesday  
ecumenical worship service will  
be hosted by

Zion E.C. Church (57 N.  
Church St., Mohnton) on  
March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Pastor Nova  
will bring the evening message;  
the imposition of ashes will be  
offered; and a community  
choir anthem.

Choir rehearsal will be at  
Zion E.C.C. at 6PM.

Daylight Savings time  
begins on Sunday,  
March 9<sup>th</sup>.

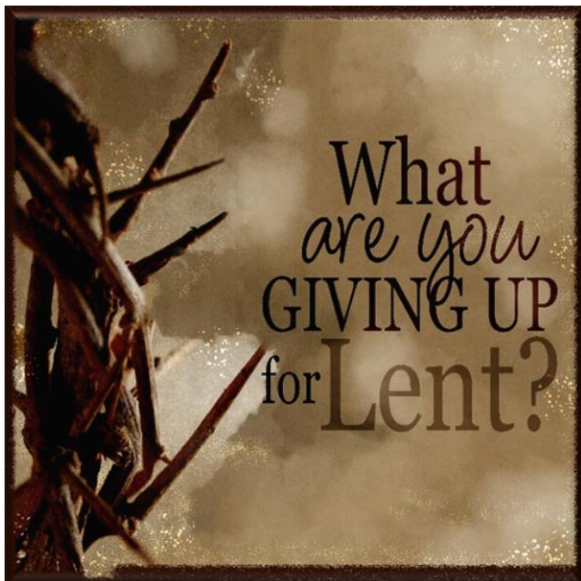
Remember to turn  
your clocks  
**FORWARD** one hour  
on Saturday night!

## NOT BY CHOICE

*Not by Choice*, a support ministry for widows and widowers (AND ANYONE who would like to join us) that meets monthly to share a meal out. The next lunch will be March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30AM at the Olive Garden, Wyomissing. RSVP Linda Chandler @ 484-269-8200.



- 04 – Juliette Newton  
509 Sycamore Rd.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 07 - Helen Hartman  
375 Oregon Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 07 - Rick Ehst  
333 Pennwyn Place  
Shillington, PA 19607
- 07 – Chris Raszkievicz  
1122 Lehigh Avenue  
Wyomissing, PA 19610



## COLLECTING SODA TABS IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, BERKS, INC.

From now until Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Calvary members and friends are asked to collect soda tabs, bring them to church, and place them in the bottle on the back counter in the narthex.

The soda tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House in Central PA to support families with housing and meals while a child is receiving medical care at Hershey Medical Center.

Let's help support this worthwhile community endeavor!



**The India Sunday services were very informative, uplifting, and filled with heartfelt remembrances by several of the mission team members.**

**If you missed it, the service may be viewed on YouTube at the following link:**

**India Sunday Service**

**To view a PowerPoint set to music with lots of trip pictures, use this link: India Mission Trip**

## WE ARE **HIRING**

### JOIN OUR TEAM

- Summer camp counselors & a lifeguard
- 20-40 hours weekly, M-F
- No weekend hours
  - Aides start at \$14.00
  - AGS start at \$16
  - GS start at \$17

**Submit your resume to:**

**CALVARYCARE@COMCAST.NET**







Pastor Nova's reflections on healing during the community service at Lincoln Park UMC on 2/26:

## Types of Healing

What is the Journey of Healing?

The "Journey of Healing: *From Lamentation to Praise*" is a joint prayer campaign of the United Methodist Conferences of Eastern PA and Greater NJ led by Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi to guide us through a process of spiritual and communal healing.

Healing is one of the most profound and mysterious works of God in our lives. Jesus' ministry was marked by acts of healing. Healing is more than just curing diseases or fixing broken bodies. It is the restoration of wholeness, bringing harmony where there is discord.

Healing is God's way of mending what is broken.

- Hebrew Word: Rapha (רָפָא)
  - Found in Exodus 15:26: "I am the Lord who heals you."
  - It means to heal, restore, or make whole. It is used in both physical and spiritual contexts.
- Greek Word: Sozo (σῴζω)
  - Found in Mark 5:34: "Daughter, your faith has made you well."
  - It means to save, heal, or deliver. Sozo is used not only for physical healing but also for salvation and deliverance from sin.

Together, we will name our woundedness, and dig deeper into what areas of our lives need to be restored..

## DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEALING

1. *Physical Healing* – Restoring the body from sickness, injury, or disability. This includes healing from blindness, paralysis, chronic illness, or pain. It also extends to healing the physical world—caring for the environment and restoring creation.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Diseases, disabilities, injuries, chronic pain, environmental destruction.
- Healing Example: A blind person being able to see, a sick person recovering, or efforts to restore a polluted environment.

2. *Emotional Healing* – Healing from inner pain, sadness, grief, and trauma.

It restores joy, peace, and comfort to those struggling with emotional wounds.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Grief, loss, heartbreak, trauma, emotional distress.
- Healing Example: Someone who has lost a loved one finding peace and joy again.

3. *Social Healing* – Restoring people to community and relationships, especially those who have been rejected, outcast, or disconnected. This includes healing from loneliness and isolation.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Rejection, isolation, abandonment, discrimination, lack of belonging.
- Healing Example: A person who was once outcast finding a loving and accepting community.

4. *Spiritual Healing* – Healing the soul from sin, guilt, shame, and disconnection from God. It renews one's faith and relationship with God.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Sin, guilt, spiritual emptiness, feeling lost or disconnected from God.
- Healing Example: A person burdened by past mistakes receiving God's forgiveness and feeling free.

5. *Mental Healing* – Healing the mind from confusion, anxiety, depression, and mental struggles. It includes finding purpose and overcoming past trauma.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Anxiety, depression, stress, mental fog, childhood trauma, low self-worth.
- Healing Example: Someone who has battled depression finding peace and a sense of purpose.

6. *Financial Healing* – When someone is freed from financial struggles, stress, or poverty. It's about trusting that God will provide and making wise financial decisions.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Debt, financial stress, poverty, fear of not having enough.
- Healing Example: A person who once struggled with finances gaining stability and peace.

7. *Relational Healing* – Mending broken relationships, restoring trust, and breaking unhealthy family cycles. It also includes generational healing—breaking harmful family patterns passed down through generations.

- Woundedness/Sickness: Betrayal, broken relationships, unforgiveness, family curses, generational trauma.
- Healing Example: A family with years of conflict finally forgiving each other and rebuilding trust.

Finally, divine and absolute healing, both physical and spiritual, will happen when God has given us our glorified bodies and be in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

Healing is often a mystery. Sometimes, it happens instantly; other times, it takes a process. Healing is not always supernatural; it can come through medicine, therapy, and gradual restoration. Dr. Paul Tournier, a Christian therapist, once said, *"Healing begins when people feel welcomed and supported."* Jesus demonstrated this by welcoming the outcasts: the lepers, the bleeding woman, and the sinners. Love and acceptance is Jesus' example for healing.

Illustration: Process in Japan- Kintsugi ("golden joinery"), also known as kintsukuroi ("golden repair"), is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise. We are "kintsugi pieces" in God's art gallery or the way God is working in us (bringing life from death) is a testimony or witness to others. Kintsugi- teaches us the art of resilience, that God can turn our wounds into gold. When we are wounded and broken, God can, and will, bring purpose and beauty out of our brokenness and woundedness.

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~Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

Today, we reflect on Luke 17:11–19—a striking narrative that offers us not only a miracle account but also a call to new beginnings. In this passage, we encounter three important lessons about: the ten lepers, Jesus, and the one Samaritan who returns in gratitude. Together, they illustrate a fresh start—a radical renewal that transforms lives from isolation to community, from despair to hope.

### **1. Ten Lepers: Recognizing Our Brokenness**

As Jesus journeys toward Jerusalem, He passes along the border between Samaria and Galilee. In the Bible, borders were important for protection, order, and justice. Jesus' teachings on love and generosity eliminates borders. ALL means equality. There, He meets ten men suffering from leprosy—a disease that rendered them outcasts, marked by isolation and despair. These men, shunned by society, lived as if their condition defined them. They were forced to dwell on the fringes, borders - didn't belong, unable to participate in the life of the community, living dead.

Yet, in the midst of their hopelessness, these ten men dared to call out: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Their

plea represents more than a request for physical healing; it is a cry for renewal — a fresh start that transcends their dire circumstances. In our own lives, many of us may feel trapped by past mistakes, burdens, or feelings of unworthiness. Like these lepers, we too may be marginalized by our own wounds. But the message here is clear: when we reach out in desperation, God meets us in our brokenness and offers us a new beginning. A fresh start to reintegrate into society, we too are offered a new beginning when we encounter Jesus.

### **2. Jesus: The Radical Hospitality of the Healer and Restorer**

V14, When Jesus saw them and heard them, his response to the lepers is both simple and revolutionary. He does not linger on words or promises. Instead, He gives a direct command: "Go, show yourselves to the priests." At first glance, this may seem puzzling—why send them away rather than heal them immediately? Yet, this instruction is part of a larger process of restoration. In the Jewish law, the lepers had to appear before the priests to be officially declared clean and restored to society.

By sending the men to the priests, Jesus was initiating a process that validated their healing in the eyes of the community. When the ten men obey and set out on their journey, they experience a miraculous healing - “as they *went*, they were healed.” This journey symbolizes our own walk of faith: it is in stepping out, even without full clarity or immediate proof, that God begins to transform us. Jesus did not pick and choose:

*Physical Healing for All:* Jesus heals all ten, restoring them to a state of cleanliness and allowing them to re-enter society. For us today, Jesus invites us to leave behind our old labels and burdens. Whether we're haunted by past failures, guilt, or isolation, Jesus offers a fresh start—a chance to be made whole in body, mind, and spirit. His call is radical: to trust and obey even when the path seems unclear, knowing that God's transformative power is at work.

### 3. The Samaritan Who Returned: Radical Gratitude and New Identity

Out of the ten, only one man, the Samaritan, returns to express his gratitude. This is perhaps the most radical aspect of the narrative. Samaritans were viewed with deep suspicion and disdain by the Jewish majority; they were the ultimate outsiders. Yet, in a stunning reversal, the only one to come back and give thanks is the Samaritan.

This act of returning is much more than a simple “**thank you.**” It is a public declaration of faith and a reclaiming of a new identity. By falling at Jesus' feet and praising Him, lead Jesus to say, “Your faith has made you well,” suggesting a deeper healing that goes beyond mere physical restoration. Not only is his body restored, but his heart is renewed, as well. His gratitude transforms the miracle into something deeper - a fresh start that redefines who he is.

The Samaritan leper encountered Jesus, and because of his faith he experienced transformation from being healed to being saved. He fell on Jesus' feet to acknowledge that He is the one who healed him. The priest can only pronounce him clean when they see that he is healed, but it was Jesus who made him clean. He recognizes that healing isn't complete until he embraces and celebrates this new beginning.

This story challenges us to examine our own lives. How many times have we received blessings, whether spiritual, emotional, or physical, yet failed to acknowledge them with sincere gratitude? **True transformation, the Bible teaches, is marked by a grateful heart, an attitude of gratitude.** Faith without gratitude is like a seed that never grows and bears fruit. A grateful spirit is the soil in which true faith can grow. a call to true, grateful faith that brings about complete, holistic healing.

The “foot of liberty chain,” refers to the broken chains at the feet of the Statue of Liberty, symbolizes the breaking free from oppression and servitude, particularly the end of slavery in the United States. Essentially, Lady Liberty has been liberated from bondage. The image reminds us that Jesus breaks the chain of oppression and frees us from all forms of sickness especially spiritual.

Interestingly, Lady Liberty's shoe size is 879! Her right heel is raised meaning Liberty is on the move. Just like the statue of liberty, every Christian, as well as the church, should always be on the move. We are free from the chains of laziness, and inactivity because God freed us. Get up and GO, because God is on the move! God has given us a fresh start for an abundant life. Wholeness of life is found only in Jesus, the Christ. Use your fresh start; make every moment count; make this year count. Get up and GO, in the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## RESTING IN JESUS

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God's love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God's goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Just like last year's "Draw the Circle" Prayer Challenge by Mark Batterson, we once again invite you to join us this Lent for a meaningful 40-day journey inspired by beloved hymns and guided by James Howell's insightful book "Unrevealed Until Its Season."

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, we'll gather daily to explore the depth, comfort, and hope found in sacred hymns, deepening our spiritual reflections and understanding of God's unfolding grace in our lives.

Schedule:

- Ash Wednesday, March 5th, at 5:00 PM
- Every day, from March 6th through April 19th, at 6:00 PM, excluding Sundays.
- Sessions will be held in-person at the Chapel and via Zoom.

We need two volunteers each day: one (1) to read the book aloud and lead the discussion and one (1) to provide music accompaniment. Volunteers will lead the book study discussions based on "Unrevealed Until Its Season" by James C. Howell.

Here is the link to Signup Genius, or you can email/call the church office, and we will sign you up for the day of your choosing (see volunteer needs below.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084DA4AB2BA3F94-55175880-40day>

- Meeting ID: 647 829 181
- Passcode: 082013
- Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09HSmFQcUZ3bEorMUNwRUNKZz09>

Location: Calvary UMC at 1 W Wyomissing Avenue Mohnton, PA 19540

Together, we'll reflect, share, and grow spiritually as we walk through this holy season. Everyone is welcome—join us as we journey toward Easter, discovering the truths "unrevealed until it's season."

Shalom,

Pastor Nova





# Introducing...

Three new members joined Calvary's church family last Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. Their pictures and biographical information are below. When you see them in worship, please be sure to stop by to welcome them and introduce yourself!

## **SUSAN ALTHOUSE**

(Profession of Faith)

Birthday: March 28

1627 Gregg Ave.

Shillington, PA 19607

## **MADELYN COMO**

(Profession of Faith)

Birthday: Aug. 12

91 Constitution Blvd., Apt. H

Kutztown, PA 19530

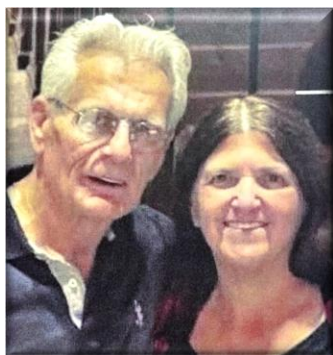
## **SUSAN WENDEL**

(Reaffirming Faith)

Birthday: Aug. 18

834 Welsh Rd.

Schwenksville, PA 19473



**SUSAN ALTHOUSE:** I was raised by my mother and stepfather in Kenhorst and attended Governor Mifflin schools through intermediate and H.S. I have 3 sisters and 2 brothers. I feel my parents did a great job raising the 6 of us, with family morals and discipline. That allowed us to stay together as a family. We had a lot of family holiday gatherings, as well. I'm appreciative of having been raised by them, which led me to give my children the same family values.

I had a set of twins, a boy and a girl, with my first husband. Two years later, I had another girl. We raised them in the Governor Mifflin S.D. After being ill for 15 years, my first husband passed away. It was a very difficult struggle, but I made it through. It led to me reconnecting with my first love, Kevin Althouse. Kevin and I started talking online, because he resided in

Texas. He came to visit me a few times. We realized that our love for each other never died and that we wanted to become husband and wife. I became Mrs. Susan Althouse on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2025!



**MADELYN COMO:** I graduated from Governor Mifflin High School in 2017, after which I graduated from Kutztown University in 2022.

Since graduating college I've tried many new things, all of which have led me here. I live in Kutztown with my boyfriend, Daniel. My parents live here in Kenhorst, as well as my 11-year-old brother, Elliot. When I'm not at work I prefer to spend my time reading or crocheting.

I'm very grateful to have been given this opportunity to become a part of this community. I hope to not only learn more about myself, but everyone here as well!



**SUSAN WENDEL** is a scientist at J&J, leading global teams in developing new medicines to improve lives. She lives with her husband, Tim Vattima, and has a blended family with two daughters and two stepsons, keeping life full and exciting. When she's not working, Susan loves walking, hiking, and spending quality time with family, including her parents, Jim and Carol Adams. She's passionate about giving back, serving on the boards of Happy 2 Be Home and the Camp and Retreat Board for EPA UMC, as well as the Gretna Glen Site Committee and the Shippensburg University Wood Honors College Advisory Board. Life is busy, but she wouldn't have it any other way!

## Meet Our New Music Director!

Calvary is very blessed to welcome Scott Piergrossi as our new Music Director. He comes to us with a wealth of talent and experience and is an answer to prayer! Be sure to introduce yourself before or after a worship service.



Scott J. Piergrossi is an avid and accomplished musician with particular expertise in piano accompanying. Scott taught High School Vocal Music at Hamburg and Schuylkill Valley in Leesport for 26 years before retiring early from education. He continues to accompany local theaters, music groups, schools and churches.

Scott has worked as a church music director, pianist, tenor soloist, choir section leader, organist and handbell choir director at many churches throughout Pennsylvania.

Scott is a graduate of Mansfield University where he studied voice with Dr. Jean-Anne Teal and conducting with Dr. Peggy Dettwiler. He earned additional degrees from Wilkes University, University of the Arts in Philadelphia and Millersville University.

Scott credits his childhood church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Fleetwood for his love and passion of all things MUSIC.

