



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 16th, 2024 – Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

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

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



Hello everyone! I feel now would be a great time to introduce myself to anyone I have yet to meet. My name is Madelyn Como, and I am the new administrative assistant!

I am a Mifflin and Kutztown University alumni. I currently live in Kutztown with my boyfriend, Daniel, while he finishes his degree. I have a bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education along with my PA teaching license. When I'm not at work, I can be found reading, crocheting, and cooking.

I look forward to getting to know everyone here!

-Madelyn



**March 16th, 2024**

8:00AM – Praise Service

9:00AM – Sunday school  
for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

The traditional worship is available via  
livestream through Calvary's  
website homepage.

Go to: [calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://calvaryumcmohnton.org)

**1st Sunday in Lent- Questions from God: *Who is God?* | TEXT: 1 John 4:7-19**

**\*\*Message by Christ Servant Minister, Craig Caltagirone\*\***

Pastor Nova planned to start a new sermon series today titled "Questions to God". Over the next several weeks we will consider "Is the bible Reliable?", "Why Should I go to Church?", "Why is Jesus Special?" and more. Today I will attempt to kick off the series with the question "Who is God?" If you attended the Ash Wednesday service, you had a teaser for the question, from Pastor Nova's message.

I begin by asking you to pause and silently answer – to yourself – "who is God?" Take a few seconds to consider "who is God?" ... Surely if we made the effort to come to church this morning, to arrive on time even after moving the clocks ahead, coming to a WORSHIP service – you must have some answer to the question "who is God?" Who is this we come to worship?

I suspect some of you may have arrived at a one- or two-word descriptive answer. Anyone want to offer a short answer of one or two words?

If you relate today's reading from Holy Scripture, the one-word answer is Love ... the word from our reading. I counted the occurrences of the word "love" ... 22 times in 13 verses.

When something is repeated in Scripture it is usually a good clue to pay attention ... 22 times? ... caused me a bit of fatigue in processing the reading.

Is that repeated word "love" enough to answer our question?

Some of you may still be thinking through your answer to the question. Anyone wishing to share an answer that is just a bit more than two words?

~ Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 2

~Sermon cont'd from pg. 1

I thought about adding two words to the question making it "who is God to you?" Would that be a valid question? Or is it similar to asking - what is your truth? There is only one truth, not what we want it to be. Not our preference. Truth is truth. Not my truth or your truth.

And God is God. Or am I making an invalid assumption? I am talking God in the context of some of those words we already stated – LOVE, creator, redeemer, life giving, all powerful. ... But can someone worship a God named money? Or pride? Or possessions? Or power? Can we worship a God that has nothing to do with our stated answers ... nothing to do with ... LOVE?

### Who is God?

I cannot recall how I first came to consider the existence of God. As a young child I am certain the thoughts first came from my parents. But I think my early comprehension was more of a fear of God than a love and worship of God.

And through the years of my life, there were some moments of questioning the existence of God. The inquisitive or scientific mind wants to question, to look for proof. Or the times when we feel alone, maybe abandoned OR maybe disruptive voices from classmates, co-workers, or even friends with doubts or disbelief. Oh, that's when I need to pray the verse from the Gospel of Mark ... *"Lord I believe, help me in my unbelief."*

I believe, God reveals Himself to those who truly seek Him. Might not be visible, might not be conclusive all at once, may develop, like a Polaroid picture – over time.

~ Sermon cont'd on pg. 3



**IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER A VARIETY OF GIFTS** may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please indicate your choice(s) below. Checks may be made payable to: "Calvary UMC" with the gift designation & your Env. # in the memo section.

I / We would like to contribute the following as an Easter gift(s): (Indicate the number in the blank/\$10 ea.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily (\$12 ea.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Contingency Fund (\$10 ea.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Safe Berks (\$10 ea.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Mifflin Community Food Ministry (\$10 ea.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly.)

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

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



## Remember to Send Easter Love to:

Please send these 1<sup>st</sup> class or hand deliver.

Michelle Daniels  
4106 Lynn Ave.  
Reading, PA 19606

Ray Dautrich  
401 W Summit Ave  
Mohnton, PA 19540-1409

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

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

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

Lee Keinard  
141 Hickey Lane  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Doris Metz  
c/o Darryl Metz  
407 Valor Dr.  
Lititz, PA 17543

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

Lola Troutman  
1 Summer Hill Dr  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

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

### Two-way benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

[With permission from Churchchart.com]

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*Sermon cont'd from pg. 2*

For us with the label “Christian”, our spiritual journey is travelled with FAITH and as often pointed out, if God and God’s ways were all understood by us, if everything was proven to our satisfaction – there would be no need for faith, would there? No need for faith.

But have we answered the question, “who is God?”

When we meet another person, we may want to know “who are you?” We may ask questions. Or if we want to be known by someone, we share personal information about ourselves. When interviewed for employment, the employer wants to know “who are you?” And when we contemplate our spirituality, we may ask God, “who are You?”

Many books have been printed on the subject. Sermons written and delivered, Podcasts, YouTube videos, social media platforms ... all can be found to join in the conversation.

But what about the one book, the one source where we can go for answers? For God to answer the question! The Holy Bible holds many answers – maybe that is where you arrived at some of your descriptive words this morning.

For me, some of the words may create further questions or maybe even contribute to confusion. From the Book of Exodus, you may remember God saying to Moses, “*I am who I am*”. Does that one help you?

Other verses provide great clarity. Words from the prophet Malachi (3:6) *I the Lord do not change*. I find those words to be helpful.

*Sermon cont'd on pg. 4*

From the 18<sup>th</sup> Psalm: *"For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?"*

Chapter 2 of the prophet Joel: *"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in ... love."*

To the New Testament and the very first word in the Gospel of John: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

4<sup>th</sup> chapter of John tells us *God is spirit.* 1st Corinthians *God is faithful.* 1<sup>st</sup> John *God is light.*

Sometimes we may think WE are God or wish to have the power of God. Or we seek a substitute for God, maybe money, status, or maybe even a political leader.

And then I am humbled and corrected when reading Isaiah 45 *"I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."* Apart from me there is no God. This is the verse that helps us arrive at the phrase "you are God, and I am not".

Isaiah 55 also reads, *"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."*

I may be overloading you with so many verses, but how better to answer our question than to have the Word of God tell us, Who God Is?

Those who claim the label "Christian", recognize that as a community of believers, we are a group whose origin began by living differently, born of love ... and characterized by love. From the book of Acts Chapter 4:

<sup>32</sup> *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. .... There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.*

Did you catch those last 6 words? *"Distributed to anyone who had need."* No mention of who had the ability to pay. No negotiation for how much could be paid back. No question of what you can do for me? *"It was distributed to anyone who had need."* Sound unrealistic?

Two thousand years later, we continue to claim the name "Christian", professing to be followers of Jesus and yet I hear many speak of fear. I hear repeated tales of people who "like Jesus", but not so much the church when viewing the evidence presented in this world – our world. Hear again verse 18 from the lesson Andrew read for us this morning, <sup>18</sup> *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.* And we conclude with our final verse, <sup>19</sup> *We love because He first loved us.*

So have we answered the question with any degree of satisfaction, who is God? I suspect even those who have an answer, also have a desire to know God more intimately, to add to the answer. If that is you, hear the words of Matthew 6, verse 33 *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."* Seek Him first! Not just for these moments this morning but start every day seeking Him and continue that pursuit throughout your days.

We have entered another season of Lent; a season that brings hope for all, reflection for many, sacrifice for some. Perhaps this Lenten season can be a season beyond something we give up, maybe a season to give – sharing the hopes and promises of God, God who is ... Love. AMEN!





# 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](mailto:CALVARYCARE@COMCAST.NET)




**~ SAVE THE DATE ~**  
**A Community Easter Egg Hunt**  
**to be hosted by Calvary UMC**

Watch for upcoming information on the date, time, and location for our community Easter Egg Hunt!



16 – Ashley Feiler  
 3314 Pequot Dr.  
 Sinking Spring, PA 19608

17 – Kaila Dautrich  
 261 Preston Rd.  
 Wernersville, PA 19565

18 – Doug Schonour  
 35 Sage Dr.  
 Sinking Spring, PA 19608

18 – Mark Wagner  
 70 Carriage Cir.  
 Oley, PA 19547

18 – Jason Highduch  
 5016 Cherrywood Dr.  
 Mohnton, PA 19540

19 – JuliAnne Kline  
 16 E. Walnut St.  
 Shillington, PA 19607

19 – Andrew Erb  
 113 Pennypacker Rd.  
 Mohnton, PA 19540

20 – Bob Steffey, Jr.  
 4851 Perkiomen Ave.  
 Lot 71  
 Reading, PA 19606

20 – Julie Burkard  
 1 Sylvan Lane  
 Mohnton, PA 19540

21 – Michelle Tomczak  
 323 Summit St.  
 West Reading, PA 19611

21 – Jill Koestel  
 255 Pennwyn Pl.  
 Reading, PA 19607

21 – Jay Owen  
 1563 Cedar Top Rd.  
 Shillington, PA 19607

22 – Joyce Baumgartle  
 42 Steffy Lane  
 Mohnton, PA 19540



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Just a reminder about the 40-Day Lenten Journey!

Schedule: 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 its season."



## 74th Semi-Annual St. Paul's Adamstown Free Community Outgrown Exchange March 24-29



Supplies Needed

- ❖ Donate clothes, linens, toys, games, puzzles, books, purses, VHS, DVD's, car seats, and electronics
- ❖ *For more information contact St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 717-484-4885*

**Pick up a copy of *Upper Room*; Daily Devotional Guide for the months of April and May.**



**SPRING BIBLE STUDY**



Dedicate altar flowers for honor or memory of a loved one or special event.

The altar flower sign-up in is the Church Narthex or email the church office with the necessary information.

Flowers are ordered through either Stein's or Royer's in Shillington.