



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 23rd, 2024 – Mar. 30th, 2025

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

I'LL BET YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION:

“What can WE do as a Church for our immediate Community?”

Now there are a few suggestions to help you finalize your amazing answer...

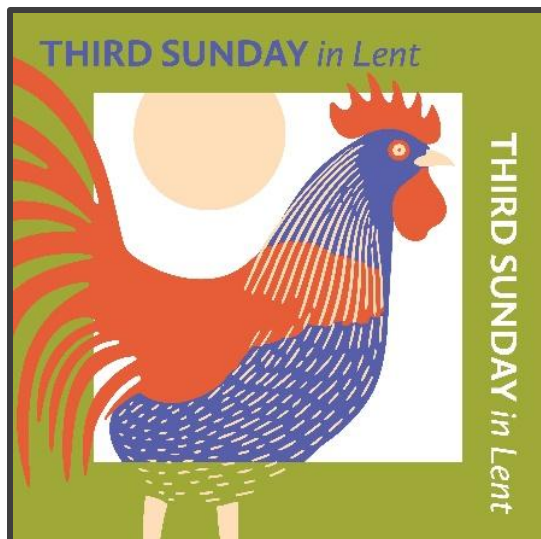
1. We are actively looking for a project/activity that will allow every generation in our Church family to participate
2. We are looking for something that hopefully will even appeal to people who are currently members of Calvary and non-members (today)
3. We are hoping that your answer will be something that can start out being a stretch but certainly manageable for our current congregation population
4. We are, however, excited about your answer growing into something sustainable and expandable as we grow in our community

NO! We are not asking you to head up this answer/idea (yet...)

BUT we would like to hear your answer before March 31, so that we can discuss the possibilities and get a plan put into action. Don't set this aside assuming someone else will do it. God is equipping YOU to provide the answer that will generate a living example of Christian Action in Mohnton.



There are NO wrong answers!!!!



March 23rd, 2024

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

Scripture Passage: Hebrews 4:12-14

Hebrews 4:12-14

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **13** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess

The Book of Hebrews was written around 60-70 AD before the destruction of the Temple. It was written **during a time of crisis**, calling believers to **stay faithful despite persecution, trust in Jesus instead of the old temple system, and endure suffering with hope**. It remains a powerful message for all who struggle with faith under pressure.

"Have you ever wrestled with the question: Can I truly trust the Bible as God's Word, and if so, what makes it different from any other book?"

The original word for the **Bible** comes from the Greek word "**Βίβλος**" (**Biblos**) or "**Βιβλία**" (**Biblia**), which means "**books**" or "**scrolls**."

- **Biblos** originally referred to the inner bark of the papyrus plant used for writing in ancient times.
- **Biblia** (plural) came to mean "the books," referring to the collection of sacred writings that make up the Scriptures.

Over time, "Biblia" was adopted into Latin as a singular noun, leading to the modern English word "**Bible**", signifying **the divinely inspired collection of writings that form the Old and New Testaments (66 Canonical Books)**.

Summary: How the Word Developed

1. **Spoken Word (Adam–Moses)** – God directly spoke; truths were passed down orally.
2. **Written Law (Moses)** – The first written Scriptures (Torah) began.
3. **Prophetic Revelation (Joshua–Malachi)** – God's Word expanded through historical records, wisdom literature, and prophetic writings.
4. **Living Word (Jesus Christ)** – Jesus became the fulfillment of God's Word.
5. **New Testament Writings (Apostles)** – Jesus' words and teachings were recorded, completing the Bible.

In the New Testament, when Jesus and His disciples talked about the Scriptures, the Word of God, they were referring to the Old Testament. But in Hebrews, the author bridges the Old Testament to The New Covenant who is Jesus, the Christ. That Jesus is the ultimate Revelation of God. The Word of God alive.

Is The Bible Reliable? Hebrews 4:12-14

Today, we will explore three key aspects of the Word of God: its **purpose, the struggles we face in understanding it, and its reliability**.

Point 1: The Purpose of the Bible—God's Love Story

As Christians, we must always remember that the purpose of the Bible is to call us back to God by retelling the story of salvation, culminating in Jesus Christ. When we use the Bible for our own agendas, we cheapen its message. However, many struggle with understanding the Bible, and some question its reliability.

Hebrews 4:12 – "For the word of God is alive and active..."

The Bible is more than a historical document or a set of moral rules; it is **God's living and active Word** that reveals God's character, God's love, and God's plan of salvation.

It is sharper than any two-edged sword- Literally, a *double-edged sword* is a sword that has two sharpened edges. Figuratively *double-edged sword* refers to something that has both good and bad consequences.

V12b" it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"

~ 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:



~ Sermon cont'd from pg. 2

Do we read the Bible? Or does the Bible read us?

The Bible is **meant** for us to know, serve and love God. It is meant to **transform us**. When we approach Scripture with humility, we allow God's Word to **judge the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts** (v. 12) and call us to repentance.

Point 2: Struggles and Confusion About the Bible

Hebrews 4:13 – "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight..."

Many Christians struggle with reading and understanding Scripture. Some feel intimidated by its complexity, while others are disturbed by difficult passages. **This struggle is not a sign of weak faith—it is part of the journey of faith!**

In Jewish tradition, **engaging in Scripture means wrestling with it**. Jesus, Paul, and the early disciples were shaped by a faith that welcomed **discussion, debate, and community discernment**. Instead of avoiding difficult topics, they leaned into them.

- It is **okay** to struggle with Scripture! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Faithful study happens best **in the community**.
- Our struggles with Scripture can lead us **closer to God, not further away**.

~ Sermon cont'd on pg. 4

~ Sermon cont'd from pg. 3

How are we actively engaging in the study of God's Word within our community?

We have a Bible Study we started last October, "Let's Talk About It" where we wrestle with our situations and what the Scripture tells about it. We also have Sunday school 9 AM, Life Groups, and the 40 Day Lenten Journey with hymns in person and via zoom. I challenge you to get involved and let us learn and be transformed together.

Point 3: The Bible's Reliability—The Word Points to the Word

A common question many people ask is: "**Can we trust the Bible?**"

- Is it historically accurate?
- Does it contradict itself?
- Has translation changed its meaning?

Rather than getting lost in endless debates, we should first ask:

What is the Bible reliable for?

The Bible is reliable because it **points to Jesus, the ultimate Word of God.**

Jesus Christ is the **Logos**—the Living Word made flesh (John 1:1-14).

The Bible is meant to lead us into a **living relationship with Christ**, not just serve as an academic text.

The **existence of the Church for over 2,000 years** is a testament to the Bible's power and reliability. **Transformed lives** are the greatest evidence that Scripture is true and trustworthy.

Isaiah 55:11, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

There's a story about a man who goes to the doctor with severe pain in his chest. The doctor examines him and realizes he has a dangerous tumor growing near his heart. The only way to save his life is through **precise surgery**. The surgeon takes a **sharp scalpel**, carefully cuts through the layers of skin and muscle, and removes the tumor before it spreads further. The procedure is **painful**, but necessary for healing.

After the surgery, the patient wakes up feeling sore but grateful. He looks up and sees the doctor, now dressed not in scrubs, but in a warm and comforting white coat, gently reassuring him, "You are healing. You are safe. You will recover."

Connecting to Hebrews 4:12-14

- The **Word of God is like the scalpel**—sharp and precise, cutting deep into our hearts. It exposes **sin, brokenness, and wrong motives**, just like the surgeon's blade reveals what's unhealthy inside the body.
- Nothing is **hidden from God's sight**—He sees the deepest wounds and secret struggles of our lives, just like the doctor's scan detects the unseen tumor.
- **But here's the good news:** Jesus is **not just the surgeon who cuts away sin**, He is also the **Great High Priest** who **comforts and heals** after the painful work of transformation.

Just as a skilled surgeon doesn't cut to harm but to heal, God's Word convicts us **not to destroy us, but to make us whole**. And just as the doctor cares for the patient after surgery, Jesus **intercedes for us**, encouraging us to **hold firm in our faith** because He has already made a way for our healing and restoration.

When we hold **firmly to Jesus, our High Priest**, we can approach God **with confidence** (Hebrews 4:14-16). Let us read the Bible with **humility, faith, and expectation**—for it is **alive and active, speaking to us today**.

In the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



~ 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!

Remember to Send Easter Love to:

Please send these 1st class or hand deliver.

Michelle Daniels
4106 Lynn Ave.
Reading, PA 19606

Lee Keinard
141 Hickey Lane
Wyomissing, PA 19610

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

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

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

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

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

Lola Troutman
1 Summer Hill Dr
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

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

Fun and laughter

“Here cometh April again,” said poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834). “And as far as I can see, the world hath more fools than ever.”

That second observation may or may not be true, but April does indeed begin on a lighter note. April Fools’ Day, which is filled with practical jokes, can also be a reminder to thank God for laughter, joy, funny stories, children’s antics and other things that make us smile.

Then one week after Easter, on what’s known as Holy Humor Sunday, some churches celebrate that God played the supreme joke on death. Jesus’ resurrection is cause for joy, smiles and, yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins in: “He who sits in the heavens laughs” (Psalm 2:4).

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23 – Kyle Wills
135 Hartz Store Rd.
Mohnton, PA 19540

25 – Sam Varano
17 Woodland Manor Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540

25 – Joan Etchberger
305 Crest Circle
Mohnton, PA 19540

26 – Dave Svetz
305 Crest Circle
Mohnton, PA 19540



26 – Michael Werner
205 Slichter Dr.
Mohnton, PA 19540

28 – Susan Althouse
1627 Gregg Ave
Shillington, PA 19607

29 – Jack Price
3414 Poinciana Ave.
Reading, PA 19605





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."



Special dates

- Holy Week, *April 13-20, 2025*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 13, 2025*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 17, 2025*
- Good Friday, *April 18, 2025*
- Easter Sunday, *April 20, 2025*

"My Easter Dove"

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter
dove!

Above earth's storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.

—Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1849-1916)

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