



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

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

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

## **Calendar of Events December 21<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

### **ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND**

- DEC. 21    WORSHIP SERVICE**  
9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES  
10:30 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
- DEC. 24 -   CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
5:00 PM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE  
6:45 PM PRE-SERVICE PRELUDE MUSIC  
7:00 PM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
- DEC. 25    MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
- DEC. 28    WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK**  
10:30 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

### **LOOKING AHEAD – WORSHIP SERIES**

- DEC. 21        HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?**
- DEC. 28        HOW DOES THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHO  
GOD CALLS YOU TO BE, AND HOW YOUR COMMUNITIES SHOULD LOOK?**

## **Updated Church Office Hours and Closings starting December 8, 2025 until January 5, 2026**

**Monday 9-2 Tuesday 9-2 Wednesday 1- 6 Thursday 9-2 Friday 9-2**

**Scott will be out of the office December 8, 15 and 19  
due to prior commitments.**

**The church office will be CLOSED  
December 25, 26, 31 and January 1 and 2.**



## Christmas Eve Services at Calvary United Methodist Church

**5:00 PM**

**The Praise Band will lead the 5PM service. This service is for all ages, telling the Christmas story in a unique way with traditional carols in a contemporary setting.**

**6:45 PM**

**The UMC Choir & Musicians will present Christmas music prior to the Candlelight Service.**

**7:00 PM**

**Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion.**

**"God with Us"**



- 21 – Jerry Pawlik
- 23 – Bonnie Comeau
- 24 – Matthew Chandler
- 25 – Mike Wahl, Jr.
- 26 – Paige DeLoretta
- 27 – Marilyn Williams
- 29 – Hannah Wagner
- 29 – Caden Coutz
- 30 – Jennifer Brumbach
- 31 – Carol Spangler
- 31 – Marianna Wolfe



As part of our Pathways "50 Stories" assignment from our October meeting, we are gathering short stories from our Calvary family.

We are inviting you to share a brief story (or two!) about:

**"Seeing or finding God in the community — in small or big ways."**

This could be something you experienced, witnessed, or heard about this past year — an act of kindness, a blessing, a moment that revealed God's presence, a ministry impact, or a way you saw God moving in our church or neighborhood.

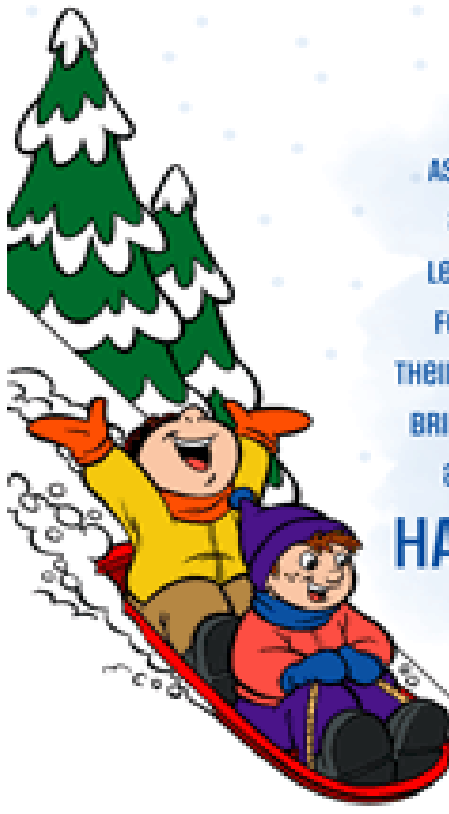
Your stories will help us celebrate the amazing ways God is at work and will support our upcoming "Pathway Bridges" Ministries and programs.

You can write just a few sentences or a short paragraph.

Please email your story to:

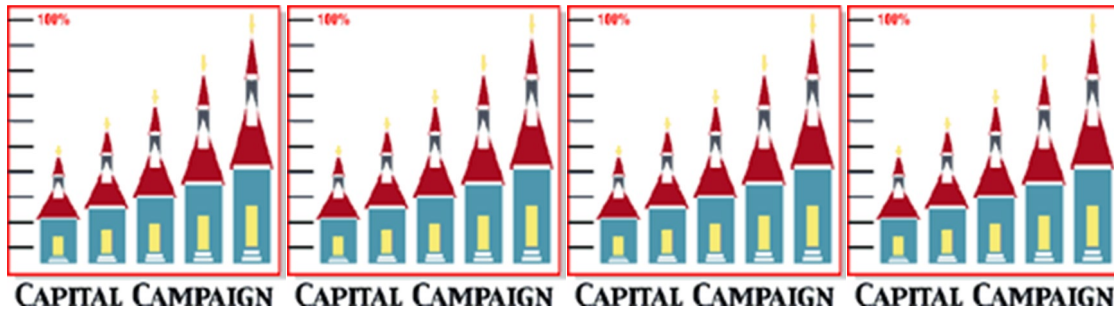
**[jwerner2179@hotmail.com](mailto:jwerner2179@hotmail.com)**

**Thank you for helping us tell the story of what God is doing here at Calvary!**



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR  
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,  
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER  
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND  
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR  
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH  
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## Update from Bob Werner

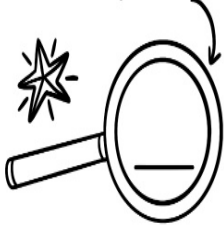
In August we embarked on an ambitious fundraising effort to repair and beautify our church and parsonage buildings. Our financial goal was set at \$100,000 as over 100 items were identified that needed attention. Many of our congregation responded with monetary gifts and also gifts of time and talent by undertaking jobs such as painting, organizing, and outdoor maintenance tasks. To date we have received a total of \$78,534, some of which has already been spent on electrical upgrades and glass stairwell renovation.

There are several necessary jobs that the trustees have received bids to accomplish over the coming months such as window and carpet replacement in the parsonage and some plumbing repairs. The upkeep on a 94 year old structure is never ending. Just as our Christian faith requires us to continuously pursue excellence in spiritual matters, our place of worship requires us to strive to provide safe and welcoming facilities for our congregation and community.

We originally established an end date of Thanksgiving for our fund raising effort. After further consideration it was determined to make our fund raising efforts open ended. We now have a capital campaign line item in our budget to accept contributions specifically for improvements to our facilities. Please continue to note "capital campaign" on the memo line of your check if you wish to support the needed improvements for the church and parsonage. Thanks for your ongoing partnership in the quest to maintain our place of worship.



How many small stars can you find?



Answer: 12

# JOY TO THE WORLD

## BIBLE QUIZ!

What city was Jesus born in?

a) Jerusalem b) Bethlehem c) Nazareth

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?

a) a rainbow b) a dove c) a star

Where did Jesus sleep when he was born?

a) in a manger b) in a basket c) in a cradle

Who came to visit baby Jesus first?

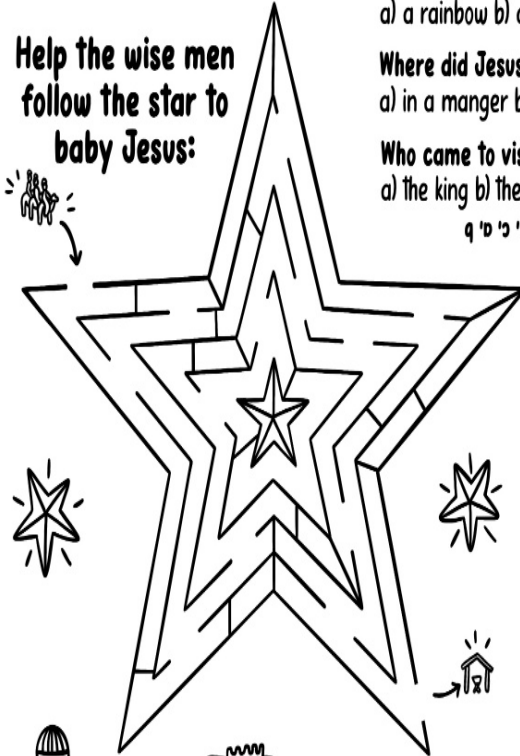
a) the king b) the shepherds c) the wise men

Quiz answers: b, c, a, b

Fill in the blanks! What gifts did the wise men bring Jesus?



Help the wise men follow the star to baby Jesus:



Are you as wise as the wise men that visited Jesus? Unscramble the words!

GLANE \_\_\_\_\_

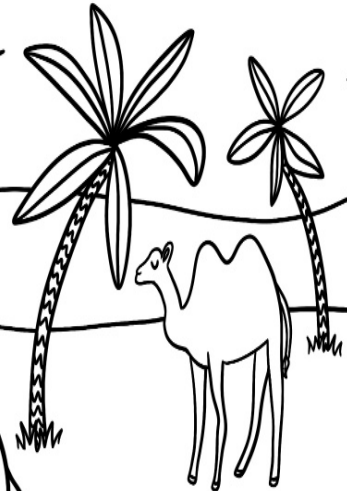
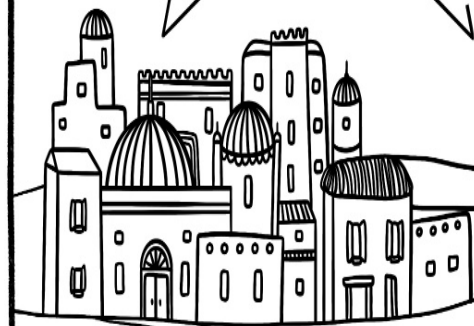
RNAGEM \_\_\_\_\_

TASR \_\_\_\_\_

ECEAP \_\_\_\_\_

LROYG \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: angel, manger, star, peace, glory





### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1:26-38**

**26** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **34** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For with God nothing will be impossible. **38** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**Have you heard the old saying "This is bigger than the both of us"? In the case of Joseph & Mary, this sentiment rings true. Last week, we journeyed with Joseph, the dutiful, a righteous man who stepped from duty into destiny. The first week, we greened the church and we read the story of Zechariah, the skeptic. Today, we stand with Mary, the faithful; a young woman whose courageous "yes" brings joy into the world.**

**If Joseph teaches us obedience in confusion, Mary teaches us trust in the impossible. As we continue Advent, we learn this truth: Joy is not the absence of fear—joy is the presence of God in the middle of it. God with us. Joy is one of the most frequent emotional commands in Scripture, not presented as a fleeting feeling but as a faithful response to God's presence and promises. Throughout the Bible, joy is expressive, voiced through singing, shouting, and even dancing before the Lord; Joy is communal, it is shared in festivals, worship, and moments of restoration; and resilient, able to rise even in seasons of exile, suffering, and persecution. Biblical joy is never passive or optional; it is a spiritual discipline, a practiced posture of trust, and a visible sign that God is at work among God's people. As Scripture calls us, "Serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2), and again, "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4), reminding us that joy is both a command we obey and a gift we receive from God. It is found from Genesis to Revelation. Joy is not treated as a mood but as a faithful way of living in God's presence. The Bible speaks of joy up to 500 hundred times.**

#### **The Story of Mary Teaches Us:**

**1. Joy Begins with Holy Disruption 2. God Invites Us to Trust Beyond What Makes Sense 3. Joy Grows in Us When We Say "Yes"**

## **1. Joy Begins with Holy Disruption**

God's work in Mary's life does not begin with a request—it begins with a disruption. An ordinary day in an overlooked town is suddenly pierced by a divine message.

Luke tells us Mary is not afraid at first; she is pondering, weighing, trying to make sense of what has interrupted her world. This matters, because Scripture does not rush her toward obedience or celebration. Instead, it honors the space between interruption and understanding. Advent joy is born precisely in that space. Not after everything is explained, and not once fear disappears, but while discernment is still unfolding.

Holy disruption is not God's way of causing chaos; it is God's way of reorienting our attention, inviting us to listen differently, see differently, and imagine a future shaped by grace rather than control. Before Mary ever says yes, joy is already present—not as emotion, but as assurance: the Lord is with her, even while the meaning of this moment is still taking form.

## **2: God Invites Us to Trust Beyond What Makes Sense (Luke 1:30–37)**

Mary receives a message that does not fit logic, biology, or social norms. She will conceive Jesus, the Son of God. Her life will change forever. Her question is honest and simple: "How can this be?" God does not shame her for asking. God explains. God reassures. God points her toward Elizabeth—a living testimony that "nothing is impossible with God." Impossible means something that cannot be done, achieved, or occur. It expresses something beyond ability or natural limits.

### **Origin and History**

- From Latin in- ("not") + possibilis ("able to be done").
- Passed into Old French as impossible.
- Entered Middle English in the 14th century with the same meaning.
- The prefix "in-" became "im-" for easier pronunciation before p and b.

In Luke 1:37, "nothing will be impossible with God" uses a Greek word:

ἀδύνατον (adunaton) Meaning: "unable, powerless, without strength, incapable."

Greek also connects "possible" with δύναμις (dunamis) meaning power, ability—the same root as "dynamite." So biblically, "impossible" means: "What humans have no power to do—God does through His power."

God often calls us into places we feel unprepared for:

- A new ministry
- A difficult conversation
- Forgiveness
- A step of obedience
- A season of sacrifice
- A dream that seems too big
- A future we cannot fully see

Faith is not the absence of questions.

Faith is bringing those questions to God and still trusting His promise.

Advent joy is not shallow happiness—

It is the deep confidence that God can do what we cannot.



### **3. Joy Grows in Us When We Say “Yes” (Luke 1:38)**

**The turning point of Mary’s life—and ours—comes in one sentence:**

**“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”**

**Mary’s joy doesn’t come because everything is easy.**

**It comes because she surrenders to God’s will.**

**Joy grows where trust is planted.**

**Mary’s yes changes the world.**

**Your yes can change someone’s world too.**

**Maybe God is calling you to:**

- **Begin something new**
- **Reconcile a broken relationship**
- **Step deeper into service**
- **Trust God with a burden**
- **Enter a season of healing**
- **Say yes to ministry**
- **Say yes to forgiveness**
- **Say yes to hope again**

**When we say yes—**

**God forms JOY in us, just as He formed Christ in Mary.**

**This is Advent joy: God with us, working through us, shining in us.**

### **Conclusion**

**Like Mary, we stand today between fear and faith.**

**Between what we understand and what God is asking us to trust.**

**Between our plans and God’s greater purpose.**

**Advent invites us to choose joy, not because life is simple, but because God is faithful.**

**May we, like Mary, find the courage to respond:**

**“Here we are, Lord. Let it be according to Your word.”**

**Amen.**

