



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

February 9- February 22, 2026

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

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org  
Office Hours- Mon.-Thur. 9-2  
610-777-8441  
Administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net

**February 15 & 22 , 2026**

9:15AM ~ Sunday School

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Pastor Nova, preaching



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE  
February 18,  
2026**

Calvary UMC will be  
hosting the community  
Ash Wednesday Service  
February 18, 2026 at  
7:00PM

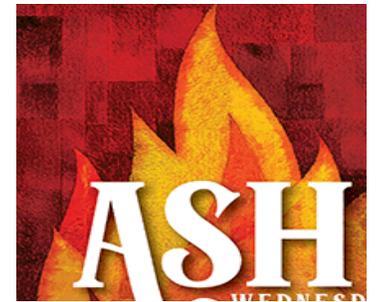
## BLESSED BONDS

Next Lunch Dates  
Wednesday, February  
11th , 11:30 AM at the  
Crooked Hen on  
Lancaster Ave, in Shillington.

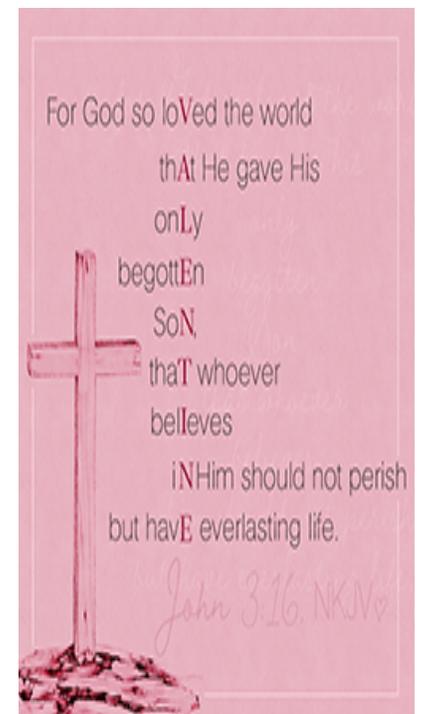
Reach out to Linda Chandler  
with any questions.

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

**Scott is looking for  
congregation members to  
help clean, organize and  
restock the pews in the  
church. If you have free  
time Monday-Thursday 9-2,  
email or call Scott at the  
church office to give him a  
heads up that you will be  
coming in to volunteer.  
He would  
like this done before Ash  
Wednesday, Feb. 18.**



- 10 – Neil Magerman
- 11 – Kelsey Shuman
- 11 – Dawn Fox
- 13 – Lisa Ruth
- 13 – Don Zerfoss
- 15 – Zachary Wagner
- 16 – Tom Minick
- 22 – Aaron Fortunato



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

February 13 -15 2026 - "New Date" Pocono  
Winter Retreat for older Youth.  
We would like to leave around 3:30pm.

Sunday, February 22, 2026- Kids Club 4:00pm

Thursday, February 26, 2026 – Winter Jam at  
Santander for older youth. More details soon.



The link below will allow you to register for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-10:00.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/20th-anniversary-celebration-and-fundraiser>



FEBRUARY 18, 19, & 20, 2026 8:30AM  
FEBRUARY 21 Distribution Day

**NEEDED:** volunteers on Saturday FEBRUARY 21 for food distribution. All help is greatly appreciated. Help is needed to clean up at the end of distribution. If you are available to stay it is greatly appreciated.

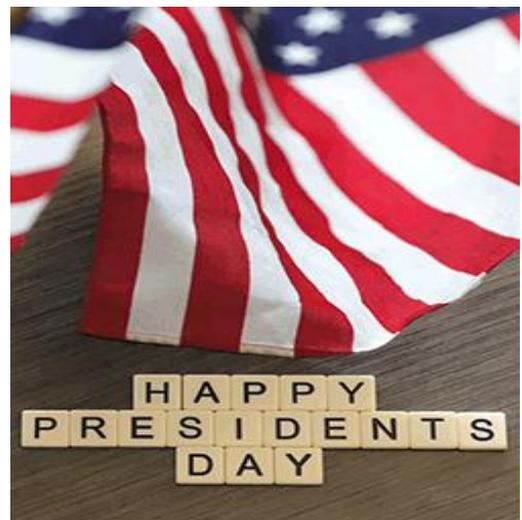
**ITEMS NEEDED:** PEANUT BUTTER, JUICE IN 64 OZ CONTAINER, PAPER TOWELS, CEREAL and INSTANT POTATOES

## New Church Policy

Church Council passed a new policy at the February Council Meeting.

All Beverages that are brought into the Church Sanctuary MUST be covered with a lid.

THANK YOU





Carrying the Light -Craig Caltagirone Message  
CUMC February 1, 2026

Here we are, four Sundays after Epiphany, the day commemorating the visit of the Magi, the 3 Kings and their visit to Jesus. And how are we told the Magi found the place to visit Jesus? They followed the Star of Bethlehem, the light of the star. Why did these Wise Men make this journey? Why did they follow the light? Theologians suggest they came to worship a new king, with the second chapter of Matthew reading: ***“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*** These astrologers came to worship and offer gifts. So what leads you to visit this space on a Sunday morning? Why are you here? Some may state, because “I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.” I recently heard Reverend Megan at Immanuel UCC in Shillington offer a potential distinction between the labels of Christian and Disciple. Made me pause to think ... I am still thinking about it. Is there a difference? Definitions appear similar, but is there a difference? We sometimes use the term “believer”. If I believe Jesus is the son of God, even believe Jesus to be my Savior, but I ignore His teachings, ignore His example, ignore His commands ... can I claim to be a disciple – a follower of Jesus? My question may be challenged as judgmental. That is not my intent. Last week’s scheduled reading included Isaiah: ***2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*** The suggested Psalm – number 27 begins: ***The LORD is my light and my salvation.*** Both readings emphasizing Light. In the Gospel of John, 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter: ***12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*** As followers of Jesus, we are said to be carriers of the Light. The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5 includes these words from Jesus: ***14 “You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*** Are we allowing our light to shine? With the comparison of light to darkness, I think about the nighttime sky. We can experience complete darkness of night or we can experience a moon lit night, a full moon. If clouds permit, we will see a full moon tonight. Now the moon is not a source of light, it reflects the light of the sun, spelled S-U-N. When the moon is in a certain position, we see a bright full moon, reflecting the light of the sun. In a contrasting position, the moon has the potential to block the sun. We call it an eclipse. Do I reflect the light of the son – spelled S-O-N, the light of Jesus - the light of God, or do I block, casting a shadow?

We have the custom in our worship service for the acolyte to carry the light, beginning our service with the lighting of the two altar candles (as Bob Wagner has explained to us – two candles representing both the divinity and humanity of Jesus). We conclude the service with the acolyte taking the light from the candles out into the world. Carrying that light is a challenge. Just ask Andrew, Parker or Jesus as they stand with the light, working to keep the taper lit, as the air current from the fan above attempts to snuff it out. Carrying the flame presents a challenge for the acolyte. And I see evidence we all have challenges keeping the flame lit. How are we expected to carry the light? Through good works, kindness, truth, justice? The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: ***8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*** And hear this next verse: ***11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*** Did you get those last 2 words, EXPOSE

THEM. Paul did not say to act as if the deeds of darkness do not exist. Paul did not say to turn away in silence. Paul said “EXPOSE THEM”.

Yes these are Paul’s words, not the words of Jesus, but this is Holy Scripture. In 1<sup>st</sup> John, we read: ***God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth;*** those words written to encourage believers against false teachings. Are we listening to false teachings today? Can you place any hope or trust in the words I am saying? I am attempting to learn from Holy Scripture. If I am misguided, I pray God would lead me back to the path illuminated by the light of Jesus, a contrast to the darkness of evil and sin. I have recited many verses already this morning. And some of you would be happy if I stopped and sat down at this point. But I have yet to encourage and challenge you. So let’s face the question of application. What does any of this talk of carrying the light, mean to how we live our lives? What does any of this mean to a Christian, a Disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ?

I have wrestled with a few questions for over a year now. And if any of my spoken words today are proven invalid by Holy Scripture, I welcome feedback. My question is set up by that verse in 1<sup>st</sup> John: ***“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.”*** How do those carrying the label Christian support and endorse what is happening in the halls of government in our land? How many of us are claiming to follow Jesus, yet walk in darkness? How can one claim to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus and sit on the sidelines, watching the further deterioration of the morality of our nation? If we do not receive guidance, challenge and encouragement from the church, where will we find it? From Wall Street? From corporate boardrooms and CEOs? From a leader who states his power is limited only by his own morality? Without following Jesus, the path to success may endorse stepping on anyone to get to the top, but that is not the position of Jesus. Who are we following? Are churches failing our nation? Our God? My question addresses both church leaders and church members. Have events of the past 2 weeks in our nation finally crossed a line - prompting our nation’s churches to break the silence? Silence ... some may offer the excuse of “Separation of Church and State”. I have heard and participated in that debate for many years. And only now do I recognize - that phrase, those 5 words, “Separation of church and state”, apply in one direction – the direction of keeping the state – or the government – out of the business of the church – preserving my freedom to worship as I choose. After all, that was a primary reason for the colonists to first journey to this land – to seek freedom to practice their faith as they chose; not to be forced by the government to follow a faith pressed upon subjects by a king. Not to be silent in applying their faith. Why do we arrive at the idea the church must remain silent on issues of the government? Where do we get the idea our churches and church leaders cannot comment on the practices of the government? Separation was to keep the government out of our religious practices, not to silence the church. After a year of wrestling with my question, one potential answer – rather obvious – came to me this past week. Some endorse or remain silent because they have not experienced the direct negative impact upon themselves, NOT YET.

Students of world history, history just 100 years old, can tell you about Pastors Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer with their concerns of the church remaining silent.

Niemoller's writing, "First They Came" contains these closing words, "Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me."

When Jesus said "**do not hide your light**" ... when Paul wrote "**expose deeds of darkness**" ... I hear direction to not be silent when you witness actions in direct conflict with the teachings of Jesus. Someone may look to debate, citing Hebrews 13:17 "**obey your leaders and submit to them**" or Romans 13:1 "**authority comes from God**". I admit, I had to take a step back when considering those verses from Hebrews and Romans, however I continued studying scripture to where the text states - authorities are to be servants to God. Go to Matthew 25 beginning in verse 24 where Jesus speaks "**whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant**". Some believe God has selected our leaders. I contest in our form of government, "we the people" choose our leaders, they are not appointed by God. When asked the greatest of all commandments, Jesus replied in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**" <sup>38</sup> **This is the first and greatest commandment.** <sup>39</sup> **And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'**"

How are we doing with those two? Before we start debating all the other items we spend time on, how are we complying with the two most important? And I suggest loving my neighbor includes how I support the actions of others towards my neighbor. Who is my neighbor? Jesus was asked the question by a Pharisee and Jesus answered in Luke 10 with the story of the Good Samaritan. You recall the story. Is the person sitting next to you your neighbor? Is your co-worker your neighbor? Is the immigrant our neighbor? Are those with opposing views my neighbors? Who is my neighbor? History is being written. Future generations will look at these current years with hindsight to see the impact, just as we look back whether 100 years to the stage being set for World War II, or 250 years of our nation's history or two thousand years back to how the people chose when offered a choice of **Jesus** or Barabbas. For those who do not place an emphasis on Jesus, I understand how the importance of worldly issues and policies takes center stage for individuals – from the value of our 401Ks, to securing borders, to gas prices. SELF above all else. But when the application, the actions to address the issues conflict with Jesus, why is there silence from so many who carry the label Christian? My observation is very few people are willing to confront the issues in conversation. "My voice does not make a difference. I don't talk about religion or politics. I am afraid of losing friendships. My faith is private." Is that what Jesus taught – to keep it to yourself? I believe Jesus has placed a responsibility on me to speak up – yes peacefully, even with gentleness, but not silence. My goal today is not to influence you towards a political party. I am asking you to consider the words of Scripture, hear the words of Jesus and decide, are you carrying the light ... walking in light ... or stumbling in the darkness?

***"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but God made foolish the wisdom of the world. Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."*** AMEN!



# SOUTH-EAST REGION

UNITED METHODISTS  
OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

February 2026

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we observe Black History Month, we pause to give thanks to God for the rich history, enduring faith, and profound contributions of Black men and women—both within the Church and throughout society. This month is not only a time of remembrance but also a sacred opportunity to reflect on God’s justice, faithfulness, and redemptive work among His people. Scripture reminds us that every person is created with divine purpose and dignity: “So God created humankind in his image... male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27) Throughout history, Black believers have borne powerful witness to the gospel—often in the face of suffering and injustice—by trusting God’s promises and living out resilient faith. From the spirituals sung in hope to the prophetic preaching that called nations to righteousness, their testimony echoes the prophet Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8) We also celebrate the leaders, pastors, teachers, and laypeople whose faith shaped the Church and strengthened communities. Hebrews encourages us: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” (Hebrews 13:7) As a district and a region, we recommit ourselves to being a people who honor the full body of Christ and stand together in love, truth, and unity. The Apostle Paul reminds us: “There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (Ephesians 4:4-5) May this month inspire us not only to remember history but also to live out Christ’s call—to love one another deeply, to seek justice faithfully, and to reflect God’s kingdom here on earth. Grace and peace to you as we continue to walk together in faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Loving Boldly, Serving Joyfully, and Leading Courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

Rev. Steve Pittman ,South District Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III East District Superintendent, EPA Dean of Cabinet