



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 1 – March 8 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

## BLESSED BONDS

### Next Lunch Dates

Wednesday, March 11,  
12:00 PM at State Hill  
Restaurant in  
Wyomissing.

Reach out to Linda Chandler  
with any questions.

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

## Faith & Facts Cards

Throughout its history, the Methodist Church has sought to live out the gospel not only in personal faith, but also in the way we engage the world around us. As part of the United Methodist Church, we are guided by Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience as we seek to respond faithfully to the social issues of our time. These matters can be complex and, at times, challenging, yet our calling remains the same: to love God, to love our neighbors, and to seek justice with humility and grace. This message is offered to help clarify how our church understands and approaches social and public concerns, and how our faith shapes these conversations. The Faith and Fact cards will be part of a series that will be published in Calvary Connection over the next couple months. They will be located on the last 2 pages of the newsletter. Issue Covered: Immigration



- 01 – Judy Kline
- 04 – Juliette Newton
- 07 – Helen Hartman
- 07 – Chris Raszkwicz
- 07 – Rick Ehst



Please join us for our 40-Day Lenten Bible Study Journey as we prepare our hearts for Easter together. We will meet at 6:00 PM. During these 40 days, we will walk together through the devotional book "Journey to the Cross" by Paul David Tripp.

**March 8, 2026**

**9:15AM ~ Sunday School**

**10:30AM ~ Traditional Service**

**Pastor Nova, preaching  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Daily Participation Option – In-Person and Zoom Bible Study  
Each day, you are invited to join the daily in-person and Zoom meeting where we will pray together, have a designated reader to share the day's devotional reading from Journey to the Cross, and have a discussion and sharing.



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Sunday, March 1** *NO YOUTH GROUP*  
**Sunday, March 8** 4:00 Kids Club  
**Sunday, March 15** 4:00 Youth Group  
**Sunday, March 22** 4:00 Kids Club and  
Youth Group stuffing Easter Egg Project  
Pizza will be provided!

Due to Stacey's resignation, we are starting a search for a regular full-time Director. If you know of anyone interested and qualified, please drop off to the church office during office hours or send a CONFIDENTIAL resume to the church ADMINISTRATOR and cover letter to

Administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net.

Minimum qualifications are an associate degree and related field experience running an early learning center. The Job Description has been reviewed and in final stages of completion. The hiring team will be back in touch once reviewing all resumes and applications of interest and available to answer any questions.

We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support. For 50 years, Calvary Care has been a vital, Christ-centered ministry of this church, touching countless lives. We trust that God will continue to guide us with unity, wisdom, and faithfulness in the days ahead. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Thank you, and God bless. Susan Gross



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>



Our Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 Rain or Shine at Calvary Methodist Church- 10:00AM

We are asking members of the congregation to donate bags of easter candy for the egg hunt. Please drop off donations in the bin in the church Gathering Room (lobby)





**Nova Vitug- Thomas 10:30 AM February 22, 2026**  
**Sermon Title: "Getting Free and Staying Free" Are We There Yet? Worship Series Week 1 The Waters of Marah and Elim Scripture: Exodus 15:22–27**

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled

against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" 25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you." 27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Introduction : Friends have you ever prayed hard for something... and when God answered, you celebrated only to find yourself worrying again the very next day? Like the Israelites who were freed from Egypt only to find themselves without drinkable water, we too can find ourselves freed from one trouble only to be met with another. God invites us to shift perspective and find our freedom in relationship with Him.

The Stationary Bike: A person joins a gym in January. The first day, he rides the stationary bike for 30 minutes. He feels amazing. Sweaty. Accomplished. Motivated. But then... he doesn't return for three weeks.

One workout can begin change. But it cannot sustain change. Freedom works the same way. One breakthrough moment feels powerful. But staying free requires something more. In Exodus 15, Israel had just experienced the greatest miracle of their lives. The Red Sea parted. Their enemies were defeated. They sang. They danced. They celebrated. And then... three days later... they complained. What happened? They were free — but they were not transformed. 4 Important Points on Freedom

1. Freedom Must Be Practiced, Not Just Experienced The Red Sea was dramatic. But the wilderness was daily. Freedom is not just about the moment God rescues you. It is about the habits you build afterward.

The gym bike only works if you return to it. Spiritual freedom only strengthens if you stay engaged.

Prayer and Word. Trust. Obedience. Gratitude. Freedom fades when neglected. It grows when practiced.

2. Freedom Requires a Renewed Mind “They were out of Egypt, but Egypt was not yet out of them.” There are stories of prisoners who are released after many years. They walk outside into open air. But some feel overwhelmed. Some miss the routine. Some struggle with open space. Physically free. Mentally still confined. Israel left Egypt in one night. But Egypt still lived in their thinking. Freedom requires more than a change of location. It requires a change of mindset. God can move you quickly. Transformation takes time.

3. Freedom Is Strengthened in Bitter Seasons They traveled three days and found water — but it was bitter. Marah. And immediately their praise turned into complaint. Sometimes we think freedom means life will now taste sweet all the time. But freedom is not the absence of difficulty. It is the presence of God within it. God did not remove the water. He transformed it. Like bitter coffee that becomes drinkable with adjustment. Like hardship that reshapes character. Sometimes God does not change the situation. He changes what it produces in us. The wilderness reveals what is still inside us. And that is not punishment. That is formation.

4. Freedom Moves Forward Toward Provision After Marah came Elim. Twelve springs. Seventy palm trees. Rest. Shade. Provision. But they had to keep walking to reach it. On a long highway drive, rest stops are already ahead. But if you stop driving because you're frustrated, you never reach them. Egypt was behind them. Elim was ahead of them. Freedom is not just rescue from something. It is perseverance toward something. God does not only deliver. He provides.

## CONCLUSION

Friends, Getting free is powerful. Staying free is intentional.

Freedom must be practiced. Freedom requires renewed thinking.

Freedom is refined in bitter moments. Freedom keeps walking toward provision.

The Red Sea was not the end of the story. And neither is your breakthrough.

Don't overthink, Just Do It, Keep walking, Because ahead of you  
there are springs you have not yet seen. Keep the faith

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

# IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES

## FAITH & FACTS

### CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

#### What does the Bible say?

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:33-34)**



I [Jesus] was a stranger and you welcomed me. **(Matthew 25:35b)**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. **(1 Corinthians 12:24b-26a)**

#### What does the United Methodist Church say?

Regardless of legal status or nationality, we are all connected through Christ to one another. Paul reminds us that when “one part suffers, all the parts suffer” as well (1 Corinthians 12:26). The solidarity we share through Christ eliminates the boundaries and barriers which exclude and isolate. Therefore, the sojourners we are called to love are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons, and daughters; indeed, they are us. **(Book of Resolution, #4271, Welcoming the Migrant to the US)**



We express our utmost concern for the passage of anti-immigrant laws, which adversely affect the well being of citizens and residents of this country as they engage in providing humanitarian aid to undocumented persons in several States. **(Book of Resolutions #4272, Faithfulness in Response to Critical Needs)**

# FAITH & FACTS

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES

### What do the facts say?

- In 2022, 14.3% of the US population was foreign born (Pew Research Center)
- One-in-ten Black people in the U.S. are immigrants. The number of Black immigrants living in the country reached 4.6 million in 2019, up from roughly 800,000 in 1980 (Pew Research Center, 2022)
- Immigrants contribute and pay over 651 billion dollars in taxes to support and participate in the US economy (American immigration Council)
- 43% of recently arrived family and diversity-based immigrants are college graduate— compared to 29% native born Americans
- Beyond the staggering moral costs and far-reaching trauma of separating millions of American families, the deportation of 11 million people would impoverish many American families and create enormous social costs. Mass deportation would force a nearly \$8 trillion hit to the economy over the next 14 years and jeopardize our housing market. Further, it would take 20 years, and cost U.S. taxpayers between \$400 to \$600 billion (FWD.us)



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Join** a rapid response team in your area to support and learn more about opportunities for engagement, partnership, and solidarity
- **Contact** your legislator utilizing any of our Action Alerts to support legislation that protects immigrants and honors their dignity
- **Support** the Immigration Law and Justice Network through donations and volunteering



For more information contact:  
[advocacy@umcjustice.org](mailto:advocacy@umcjustice.org)

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

Updated 2025

**General Board of Church and Society**

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002

© 2022 General Board of Church and Society of

The United Methodist Church