



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 16 – March 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



*New
opportunities
are blooming*

- 16 – Ashley Feiler
- 17 – Kaila Dautrich
- 18 – Doug Schonour
- 18 – Mark Wagner
- 18 – Jason Highdich
- 19 – JuliAnne Kline
- 19 – Andrew Erb
- 20 – Bob Steffey, Jr.
- 20 – Julie Burkard
- 21 – Jill Koestel
- 21 – Michelle Tomczak
- 21 – Jay Owen
- 22 – Joyce Baumgartle

Exciting new opportunity to serve! Calvary has officially partnered with opportunity house to begin serving meals on a quarterly basis. If you are feeling called to help with his ministry, please contact Jen Raszkiwicz. Usually, groups between four and eight people work well for meal prep/serving.

Contact Jen if interested! 484-529-6850

Following dates open to serve:

- June: 6, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 28, 29, 30
- September: 3, 6, 7, 11, 15, 19, 21, 29
- December: 5, 7, 11, 15, 18, 20, 21, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31

March 22, 2026

9:15AM ~ Sunday School

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Pastor Nova, preaching
5th Sunday in Lent



Palm Sunday Service- March 29 -10:30AM

**Maundy Thursday Service – April 2
Seder Meal -7:00PM**

**Good Friday Service –April 3
Tenebrae Service 7:00PM**

**Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30 AM
baseball field next to the YMCA**

Easter Service- April 5 -10:30AM





**Sunday, March 22 4:00 Kids Club and Youth Group stuffing Easter Egg Project
Pizza will be provided!**

Sunday, March 29 No Youth Group or Kids Club

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: GUN VIOLENCE



Sunday, March 29, PALM SUNDAY, Bell Choir & Choir Anthem

Friday, April 3, GOOD FRIDAY, Bell Choir will perform.

Sunday, April 5, EASTER, "Joyful , Joyful Sing Praise"

MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026

"Nothing on earth is so well suited to make the sad merry, the merry sad, to give courage to the despairing, to make the proud humble, to lessen envy and hate, as music." -Martin Luther

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 March 8, 2026 Calvary UMC
Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1-22; Who Is Your Hope?
Are We There Yet Worship Series# 3

When What We Want Isn't What We Need

Introduction

In 1912 the world celebrated the launch of the Titanic.

It was called unsinkable — the largest moving object ever built and a symbol of human progress.

Because people trusted the ship so much, warnings were ignored. Iceberg alerts came in, yet the ship kept moving at full speed.

There weren't enough lifeboats because the ship was believed to be unsinkable.

On its very first voyage, the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank. More than 1,500 people died.

The Titanic itself wasn't evil. It was impressive.

But people trusted it more than it could handle.

And when we place ultimate trust in human systems, leaders, or progress, we set ourselves up for disappointment.

What looks strong is not always secure. The unsinkable Titanic became a lesson in misplaced trust

This is exactly what happened in 1 Samuel 8. Israel looks at the nations around them and says:

A king will make us strong. A king will make us safe. A king will fight our battles.

They place their hope in a human leader. But no human system is unsinkable.

No leader is perfect.

In 1 Samuel 8, the leaders of Israel come to Samuel and say:

"You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways. Now appoint a king to lead us like all the other nations." (v.5) Their concern sounds reasonable.

Samuel is aging. His sons are corrupt. Leadership feels unstable.

They want security and stability. They feel different, they don't belong because they have different leadership, maybe they feel weak politically,

But they forget something important. They already have a King.

God had been ruling Israel all along. So God tells Samuel:

"They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me as their king." (v.7)

The real issue isn't politics. It's misplaced trust.

Samuel's Warning

Samuel warns the people what a king will do.

He says a king will take their sons for his army, their daughters for service, their fields, and their wealth. A king will take and take and take.

But the people refuse to listen. They say, "No! We want a king."

Why? Because we often believe the next thing will solve our problems.

We think: If we just get the right leader... the right government... the right boss... then everything will finally be okay.

But when we expect people to save us, we place a weight on them that only God can carry. And when they fail, disappointment follows.

The Pattern of Disappointment

Israel's history proves this. Saul begins with promise but ends in fear.
David loves God but still falls into serious sin.
Solomon builds the temple but later turns away from God.

Trusting God in Uncertain Times

The time of the judges and the kings were messy. Leadership changed often. God raised leaders when they were needed. That required trust. But Israel didn't want trust. They wanted predictability—something visible they could point to. Yet sometimes uncertainty is exactly where God teaches us to trust Him. Instead of asking, "Who will fix this?" What if we asked, "God, how are You leading us? in this situation" God never promised Israel an easy life. But He did promise His presence.

God Still Works Through Our Mistakes

God allows Israel to have a king. Not because it was the best choice, but because love allows freedom. And even through flawed kings, God continues His plan. From the line of David comes Jesus — the true King. God can redeem our mistakes, but misplaced hope still brings pain.

A Vision for the Church

Imagine a church that truly believes God is King. A church where people don't wait for one leader to fix everything. Where everyone shares the mission. Pastors guide and equip, but Christ remains the head. The church is not a pyramid with one hero at the top. It's a body where every part matters. When we believe God is King: We pray before we panic. We seek wisdom before we complain. We serve instead of waiting to be served.

Final Illustration — The Chair

Imagine a chair. You can admire it, study it, and even say you believe it will hold you. But you don't actually trust the chair until you sit in it. Trust means placing your weight on something. Israel said they trusted God. But when uncertainty came, they shifted their weight to a king. The question for us today is simple: Where are you placing your weight? If our hope rests in people, it will rise and fall with them. again the question: Where are you placing your weight?

Friends, let us not place our ultimate trust in human leadership or human provision. Leaders will rise and fall. Systems will change. Circumstances will shift. But our hope is not built on people.

Our hope rests in the One who never changes — the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Mighty One. The Everlasting Father. Our Lord and Savior.

So today, let us place our trust where it truly belongs — not in earthly power, but in the One true King.

Jesus Christ.

The One who reigns. The One who saves. The One who will never fail. In The Name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

GUN VIOLENCE

FAITH & FACTS

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

Many nations shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. God shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. **(Micah 4:2-3)**



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **(Matthew 5:9)**

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. **(Matthew 5:43-44)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

God deplores violence in our homes and streets, rebukes the world's warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly. And so shall we. **(2020/2024 Book of Discipline, "A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed")**



The stunning imagery of Micah's dream is the transformation of weapons into instruments of harvesting food...God does not collect or hide the weapons from the nations, nor does God transform the weapons outside of human effort...the nations themselves "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks."

Violence, in so many ways, is fueled by fear and self-protection. Iron plows and pruning tools can be used as weapons. Yet, in Micah's vision, genuine peace and security are given to all people by God after the weapons of violence are transformed: "they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid." Culture as well as weapons will be transformed: Indeed, "neither shall they learn war any more."

Whether it happens in the towns of northeastern Nigeria, a suburb in the United States, the streets of Australia, or an office in France, gun violence has become an all-too-frightening phenomenon. We need the reality of Micah's vision more than ever. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #3212, "Our Call to End Gun Violence")**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

GUN VIOLENCE

FAITH & FACTS

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- In the United States, between 2002 and 2022, more children were killed by gunshots than on-duty police officers and active military combined. Gun violence is the number one cause of death for kids and teens.¹
- Chicago has a gun-homicide rate four times the national average, with 90% of homicides being committed by guns. Illinois has some of the strongest gun laws in the United States, and so much of its gun violence is due to trafficked guns from neighboring states with weak gun laws.²
- Suicide and domestic violence are hugely implicated in gun violence. In 2021, 54% of gun deaths were by suicide (26,328).³ The U.S. gun suicide rate is nearly 12 times of other high-income countries.⁴
- Black youth are four times more likely to be killed with guns than their white peers.⁵



¹ Giffords, ² Giffords, ³ Pew Research Center, ⁴ Everytown, ⁵ Children's Defense Fund

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Talk** about the impact of gun violence in your communities: Host church and community conversations; join ecumenical and interfaith partnerships; and walk alongside gun violence survivors through prayer, pastoral care, creating space, and identifying other resources.
- **Use** the Kingdom Dreams Violent Realities, a Bible study on gun violence prevention, in your congregation to learn how to address gun violence as a spiritual and moral issue: <https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/kingdom-dreams-violent-realities-bible-study-412>
- **Join** the UMC Gun Violence Prevention Network, a group of grassroots leaders nationally in the United States who are working in their communities to prevent gun violence. Email advocacy@umcjustice.org for more information.
- **Advocate** for laws that prevent and reduce gun violence, including banning assault weapons, universal background checks, safe storage, banning concealed firearms on school campuses, and ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers.
- **Sign up** for email alerts on gun violence prevention at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

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