



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 23 – March 29, 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



- 23 – Kyle Wills
- 25 – Sam Varano
- 25 – Joan Etchberger
- 26 – Dave Svetz
- 26 – Michael Werner
- 28 – Susan Althouse
- 29 – Jack Price

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 Raszkievicz. 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 29, 2026



9:15AM ~ Sunday School

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Pastor Nova, preaching  
Palm Sunday



## Blessed Bonds

Next Lunch Dates

**Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 AM at Ganley's Irish Pub, Sinking Spring**  
Reach out to Linda Chandler with any questions.

**All ARE invited!**



**Palm Sunday Service- March 29 -10:30AM**

**Maundy Thursday Service/Communion – April 2 - 7:00PM**  
“Seder Meal..TO GO”

**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 29** No Youth/Kids Club  
**Sunday, April 5** No Youth/Kids Club

**April 6-12** Praveen Visiting Mohnton, PA  
**April 7** VBS Meeting



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

*"Music is the universal language of mankind."  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### 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: GLOBAL HEALTH**



**The Mifflin Community Food Ministry is very grateful for your participation in SouperBowl of Caring 2026. Calvary provided 73 canned goods and \$65. The community churches, schools, and businesses donated a collective 1,553 items and \$1,461. Thank you for your support of this ministry and the families in our neighborhoods.**

**Sincerely, Janet C. Reese, secretary**



Nova Vitug-Thomas    March 15, 2026    Calvary UMC  
Sermon: No Going Back Text: Ezra 3:10–13

Last January I traveled home to the Philippines and attended our high school reunion, which was held at our old school. Seeing my classmates again after so many years was special, but what made it even more meaningful was seeing some of our teachers and walking through the classrooms where we once sat as students. As we stepped into those rooms and walked down the hallways, memories came rushing back the laughter, the lessons, the moments that once felt so big in our lives. But something felt

different. The classrooms seemed smaller than I remembered. The hallways didn't feel as big as they once did. And as I looked around at my classmates—and even our teachers. I realized something powerful. We were no longer the students who once filled those rooms. Years had passed. Life had taken us in different directions. We had grown, changed, and moved forward. Standing there, I realized something important: you can revisit the past, you can cherish the memories—but you can never truly go back to it. Life only moves forward. And in many ways, that is exactly the moment the people of Israel are standing in in our scripture today. The Setting: The people of Israel have returned home after seventy years of exile in Babylon. Jerusalem had been destroyed. The temple had been torn down. Their lives had been uprooted. Now they are finally rebuilding.

#### KEY LEADERS GOD USED IN HIS PLAN OF REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

1. EZRA- A priest and scribe from the line of Aaron, who later leads spiritual reform in Jerusalem and helps the people return to faithfulness to God.
2. CYRUS THE GREAT- The Persian king who issued the decree allowing the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
3. JESHUA & ZERUBABEL- rebuild the altar of God. They begin offering burnt sacrifices again even though the temple is not yet rebuilt.

Before the temple was rebuilt, the altar was rebuilt because true restoration begins with restoring worship to God." Invite a friend, your invitation might be their salvation When the foundation of the new temple is laid, the people gather for worship. Priests blow trumpets, singers praise God, and the people shout: "For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever." But suddenly something unexpected happens. Some of the older people begin to weep loudly. Others shout with joy. The sound of celebration and the sound of grief mix together so loudly that no one can tell which is which.

And in that moment we see three powerful truths about faith and life. 1. The past matters — but we cannot return to it. 2. Joy and grief can live together. 3. God's love is the foundation that never changes.

1. The past matters — but we cannot return to it. The older people remembered Solomon's temple before it was destroyed. It had been magnificent. Grand. Beautiful. The temple was more than just a building, it was the heart of Israel's relationship with God a place for God's presence, (contained the Ark of The Covenant) sacrifices & atonement (forgiveness), worship (come together), prayer, and national identity. And when they saw the foundation of the new temple, they knew something. It would never be exactly the same again. So while the younger generation celebrated, the older generation mourned what had been lost. We understand that feeling. The glory days Many of us carry memories of seasons in life that were meaningful to us. A time when our family all gathered around the same table

A time when the church was filled with the voices of people who are no longer here.  
A time when life felt simpler. Those memories matter. They are part of our story.

But the truth is this: Faith does not ask us to live in yesterday.

God meets us where we are today. And God calls us forward. No going Back 2. Joy and grief can live together. What is beautiful about this passage is that Scripture makes room for both emotions. The people who shouted were not told to quiet down.

The people who wept were not told to stop crying. Both responses were welcomed in worship. Sometimes we think faith means we should always feel joyful. But real life is more complicated than that. Often the most meaningful moments in life carry both joy and sorrow at the same time. Think about a graduation. There is celebration and pride, but also the realization that a chapter of life is ending. Think about a wedding day. There is great joy, but sometimes parents wipe away quiet tears because things are changing. Even in the church we experience this. New ministries begin while older ones come to an end. New generations rise while we remember those who built the foundation before us. Faith gives us space to hold all of those emotions honestly before God. 3. God's love is the foundation that never changes. Right in the middle of this moment, the people begin singing together: "For the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." That line becomes the center of everything happening. The temple had changed. Their circumstances had changed. Their nation had changed. But one thing had not changed: God's steadfast love. That love carried them through exile. That love brought them home. And that love would guide them into the future. For people called Methodist, this language is familiar. John Wesley often spoke about God's grace — the grace that goes before us, walks beside us, and carries us forward. God's grace was present in their past. God's grace was present in their rebuilding. And God's grace would be present in their future. Closing Illustration: I once heard a pastor say something simple but profound: "When God builds something new, God rarely starts from scratch. God builds on the foundation that was already laid."

Think about the temple in the book of Ezra. The building was new, but the foundation was laid in the same place where the old temple once stood. The past wasn't erased—it became the ground on which something new could grow.

And that is how God often works. The faith of those who came before us becomes the foundation for those who come after. The prayers of previous generations become the ground we stand on. The love poured into this church over the years becomes the soil where new ministry can grow.

We may not be able to go back. But we don't need to.

Because the same God who was faithful yesterday is faithful today—and that same God is already calling us into what comes next.

And how do we respond to that calling?

First, with gratitude. Like the song we are about to sing, we remember the wondrous love of Christ—a love so deep that He would bear the cross for us.

And then we respond with our lives. Like the words of the closing hymn: "Here I am, Lord." When God calls, we answer. When God leads, we follow.

What do we decide? As for me, I have decided to follow Jesus, We answer God's calling, we move forward, no going back, no turning back,

friends, whatever changes life may bring, we stand on this promise:

God is good. all the time, he puts a song of praise in this heart mine,

And God's steadfast love endures forever.

No turning back, No turning back

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

# GLOBAL HEALTH

## FAITH & FACTS

### ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

#### What does the Bible say?

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul. **(3 John 2)**

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. **(Psalm 147:3)**

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. **(Jeremiah 33:6)**

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **(Revelation 22:1-2)**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. **(1 Peter 2:24)**



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

"We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care." **(Social Principles 163.A)**

"Health care as a human right also means that clinics, hospitals, and medical services and treatments must be accessible, affordable, and of good quality. They must also be available when and where they are needed and be provided on an equitable basis. We call on governments, businesses, churches, and civil society institutions to work cooperatively to ensure that every human being has access to medical services and treatment." **(Social Principles 163.A)**

"Additionally, we call on national governments and international health organizations and medical groups to work cooperatively and expeditiously to address global pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, as well as outbreaks of contagious diseases that threaten the health and wellbeing of entire countries and regions. As a church, we support other measures and initiatives to improve human health, including investments in preventative care, good nutrition, continuing research in infectious disease prevention and treatment, pre- and postnatal health, and substance abuse treatment on demand. We commend churches that are involved in community-based health-care ministries." **(Social Principles 163.A)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

# GLOBAL HEALTH

## FAITH & FACTS

### ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

#### What do the facts say?

- As of April 20, 2022, there have been 50.4 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6.2 million deaths directly attributable to COVID-19. Significant inequalities underpin the disruption of COVID-19 cases and death, as well as access to vaccinations.<sup>1</sup>
- Everyday 830 women die and every year 2.9 million newborns die from complications during pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>2</sup>
- Globally 2.4 million children died in their first month of life in 2020 – approximately 6,500 newborn deaths each day.<sup>3</sup>
- Social and economic determinants of health include water and sanitation, air quality, nutrition, income, education, gender, peace and security.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, <sup>2</sup> U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, <sup>3,4</sup> World Health Organization

#### What do you say?

##### Take **ACTION** for justice...

- Talk about issues of health and justice in the church you attend. What are the barriers to good health in your community? What social and economic determinants of health are prevalent in your community? Which can be dealt with by changing personal habits and circumstances and which are systemic?
- Identify the health issues that people talk about privately and create spaces that remove stigma and shame to facilitate public education and advocacy.
- Look for opportunities to participate in projects which go beyond simple health care measures like inoculation or clinics and address underlying causes of ill-health.
- Advocate to your country's leaders on behalf of improved health and improved social and economic determinants of health.
- Remind your members of Congress that health care is a right and not a commodity. Our priority for health should reflect our shared values honoring human life. We should work to correct inequity, especially as it affects the poor, the disabled, and other vulnerable populations who cannot afford or do not have access to health care. Take action today at [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org)



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  
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The United Methodist Church

# THANK YOU for GIVING

## Capital Campaign Update

What do the words “sacrificial giving “ mean to you?

Being involved in financial stewardship as I am at Calvary I usually first think of a monetary offering that causes us to delay or forgo a planned expense. An example would be not enjoying a restaurant dinner and a movie night out so that the money saved could be contributed to a special church need. Depending on your financial situation and your life priorities, everyone’s concept of sacrificial giving may be different. Perhaps you would cancel your night out and instead babysit and allow the children’s parents a special night out. Sacrificial giving may involve sharing financial resources or spending time on a church or community project or a personal

relationship or even sharing a unique talent you possess. Hmmm ... time, talent, treasures, where have we heard that before? Oh yes, in the membership vows we take when we join the church!

Jesus’ concept of sacrificial giving overshadows our ideas as He endured hours of torture and ultimately sacrificed His life to take away the sins of the world. Anything we can sacrifice in our lives pales in comparison. Each week we can be reminded of the blood He shed for you as the offering plate passes by. The crimson pad in the bottom of the plate is crimson for a reason, to symbolize Christ’s blood shed for our redemption.

After a long 7-month journey we have exceeded our \$100,000 goal for our capital campaign! Our total stands at a little over \$101,000 and we are still accepting contributions for the ongoing maintenance and repairs to our facilities. Many have taken part in our quest; some have even contributed more than once. We are grateful to all for your commitment and support and thank each person for helping us to reach our goal.

Bob Werner



# Easter



## Candy Match Up

*Match the Clue to the Candy*

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| — Cadbury Creme Egg          | A. toy, surprise, chocolate     |
| — Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs | B. Colorful, fruity, jelly      |
| — Chocolate Easter Bunny     | C. Classic Foil Wrapped Bunnies |
| — Jelly Beans                | D. Round, pastel, chocolate     |
| — Peeps                      | E. Nutty, creamy, egg shape     |
| — Hershey's Miniature Eggs   | F. holiday, chocolate bar       |
| — Lindt Chocolate Carrots    | G. A bunny-shaped treat         |
| — Russell Stover Chocolate   | H. Mini, egg-shaped, pastel     |
| — Chocolate Bunny            | I. Chewy, fruity, colorful      |
| — M&M's Easter Eggs          | J. Creamy, gooey, chocolatey    |
| — Whoppers Robin Eggs        | K. silver foil wrapped kiss     |
| — Solid Chocolate Easter Bar | L. Carrot-shaped, Orange        |
| — Starburst Jellybeans       | M. Bird, malted milk balls      |
| — Hershey's Easter Kisses    | N. Easter Favorite, Rabbit      |
| — Kinder Surprise Eggs       | O. Chewy, sugary, chick         |