



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 30– April 5, 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



He giveth power to the faint;  
and to them that have no might  
he increaseth strength.  
Isaiah 40:29, KJV

## 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!**

**HOLY WEEK**

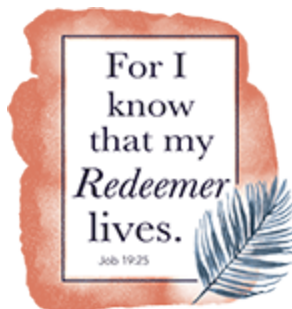
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**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/Communion-**  
**April 5 -10:30AM**



For I  
know  
that my  
Redeemer  
lives.  
Job 19:25



- 01 – Candy Dodson
- 04 – John Owen
- 05 – Mark Brumbach

### 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: CLIMATE JUSTICE**



**MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026**

*"Music is well said to be the speech of angels."  
Tomas Carlyle*



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



Sunday, April 5 (No Youth Group or Kids Club)  
April 6-12- Praveen visiting to Mohnton, PA  
Tuesday April 7- VBS Meeting 6pm  
Sunday, April 12- Youth Group and Kids Club Together 4pm (Possible visit from Praveen)  
Sunday, April 19 - Kids Club 4pm  
Sunday, April 26- Youth Group 4pm





Nova Vitug- Thomas March 22, 2026

Calvary UMC

Think about a time when something familiar suddenly changed. Maybe it was a routine at work that had been in place for years, and suddenly a new leader came in and changed everything. Maybe it was a tradition or system in the church that everyone had followed for generations until someone questioned whether it still made sense.

Or maybe it was something smaller—plans for a quiet day that were interrupted by unexpected events.

In moments like those, the first reaction is often frustration. Change can feel uncomfortable because it forces people to rethink what they thought they understood.

Yet sometimes those disruptions reveal that what felt comfortable was not necessarily what was best.

Disruption is rarely comfortable. Yet sometimes disruption is exactly what is needed for something deeper and more meaningful to emerge.

In the Gospel of John, there is a moment when Jesus enters the temple in Jerusalem and completely disrupts what people had come to see as normal. What follows is one of the most surprising scenes in Jesus' ministry.

### SLIDE 3 Important Lessons Why Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

- 1: When Good Systems Lose Their Purpose
2. When Faith Loses Its Meaning
3. When People Lose Their Focus

#### 1: When Good Systems Lose Their Purpose

To understand what Jesus does in this moment, we need a little context.

Passover was one of the biggest festivals in the Jewish world. People came from places like Galilee, Samaria, Egypt, Babylon—even Rome—to worship in Jerusalem. Many traveled for days or even weeks.

Because of that, they couldn't bring animals with them for sacrifice. So when they arrived, they would buy animals and exchange their money in the temple courts.

At first, this system actually served a good purpose.

It made worship possible. It helped people obey God. But over time... something changed.

The temple courts became filled with business. Animals were being sold. Money was being exchanged. Prices were inflated—especially hurting the poor. And this wasn't random.

This system existed under the authority of the priests—the very people responsible for protecting worship. They approved what animals were acceptable.

And if someone brought their own, it could be rejected—forcing them to buy one there.

So what started as something helpful became something controlled... and profitable.

The place meant for prayer began to feel like a marketplace.

And when Jesus saw it, He didn't just see inconvenience—He saw distortion.

He drove out the animals, overturned the tables, and said:

“Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace.”

Jesus disrupted a system people had grown comfortable with because it had lost its purpose.

And sometimes, what feels normal... even what feels religious...  
no longer reflects the heart of God.

## 2. When Faith Loses Its Meaning

The people in the temple likely thought everything was working just fine.  
The system had been there for years. It felt normal. It felt stable.  
But Jesus reveals how easily something meaningful can become routine... and lose its  
depth, and lose its meaning. We do this too. We tell ourselves:  
“Everything will be fine when I finished the job...”  
But faith is not about arriving at a place where everything is settled.  
Faith is about trusting God—even when things are not.  
Sometimes the disruptions we resist...  
are the very moments God uses to deepen our faith.  
What looks like interruption...  
may actually be invitation to grow and strengthen our faith

## 3. When People Lose Their Focus

After Jesus clears the temple, the leaders ask Him for a sign.  
And Jesus says something confusing:  
“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”  
They thought He meant the building. But He was talking about Himself.  
Jesus becomes the true temple—the place where people encounter God.  
Which means this: Faith is not centered on buildings. Or systems. Or even traditions.  
Those things can help—but they are not the foundation. The center of worship... is Christ.  
And when people lose that focus,  
everything else begins to drift.  
Jesus wasn't just clearing space— He was redirecting attention.  
Back to God. Back to relationship. Back to what truly matters.

## Closing

So this story asks us a question: Where might we have grown comfortable...  
with something that has lost its purpose?  
Where has faith become routine... instead of real? Where has our focus shifted... away  
from Christ? Jesus does not disrupt to destroy. He disrupts to restore.  
To cleanse what has been distorted.  
To renew what has grown stale.  
To bring us back to the heart of worship.  
if Jesus walked into our worship service today, what would He see?  
Would He find purpose in our programs, or would He see systems that have lost their  
way?  
Would He see faith that can move mountains, or faith that's become routine?  
Would He see hearts focused on Him, or people distracted by everything else?  
Friends, may God find us faithful to the very end—steadfast in purpose, alive in faith, and  
focused on Christ. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

# CLIMATE JUSTICE

## FAITH & FACTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

#### What does the Bible say?

God saw everything that God had made and indeed, it was very good. **(Genesis 1:10)**

Praise God, you highest heavens. **(Psalm 148:4)**

There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land... The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. **(Hosea 4:1, 3)**

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **(Matthew 22:37-39)**

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. **(Isaiah 24:4-5)**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **(2 Chronicles 7:14)**



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

**Climate Change:** "Global warming and climate change are already creating extreme conditions that threaten the entirety of life on earth. Over industrialization, widespread deforestation, and overreliance on fossil fuels are but some of the human activities that have contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the earth's atmosphere. A sharp upsurge in greenhouse gases over the past decades already has resulted in a steady rise in sea levels, growing acidification of the world's oceans, increased droughts and famines, and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate scientists warn that the window of opportunity for reversing the negative effects of global warming and climate change is rapidly closing. Without concerted action by individuals, churches, communities, shareholders, businesses, governments, and international organizations, the negative effects will become irreversible." **(Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, B. Global Warming and Climate Change)**

**Energy Transition:** "The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil and, to a lesser extent, natural gas, is the greatest single contributor to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequent warming of earth's atmosphere. To reverse the current trajectory of global climate change, increased investments are needed in the research, development, and distribution of alternatives to fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal and hydrogen-based energy sources." **(Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, C. Dependence on Fossil Fuels)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living WITH Sins Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

# CLIMATE JUSTICE

## FAITH & FACTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### What do the facts say?

- In the last two-hundred years - due to heat trapping pollution, mainly from cars, power plants, and other industrial sources that burn gasoline, coal, and other fossil fuels - carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere have increased by more than 50%.
- Average global temperature has increased by 1.2°C (2°F) since the pre-industrial era. This number might seem small, but it means a significant increase in accumulated heat.
- The global average temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C (about 3 degrees F) above preindustrial levels in the next few decades and could rise as much as 2.4°C above preindustrial levels if we don't stop emitting greenhouse gases. (NOAA)
- 2024 was the warmest year on record according to NASA scientists, beating the record set in 2023. The ten most recent years were the warmest on record.
- Communities of color and low income communities experience higher overall temperatures, more days that exceed 100°F, and are at higher risk of dangerous heat exposure than other communities. (Yale School of the Environment)
- Dangerous extreme heat is affecting more people around the world than ever before. Extreme heat causes health problems, increases in violent crime, and psychiatric distress.



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

**Lower your impact** and find ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

- Choose modes of transportation that reduce or eliminate fossil fuel consumption.
- Consume local and seasonal food products that are cultivated in more sustainable ways.
- Conserve energy: turn off the lights, reduce air conditioner use, and investigate using "green energy" alternatives such as wind or solar.
- Connect with other United Methodists who are committing to a just and equitable transition to net zero emissions.

**Raise your voice:** Contact your elected officials and urge them to address the global climate crisis now! Ask them to support investing in a clean energy future, reducing emissions and providing adaptation assistance for those struggling to survive in a changing climate.



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

# 2026 CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFICERS

(Last revised – March 2026)

## **Audit Committee**

Patty McQuillan, Chp

## **Church Council (106)**

Chairperson:	Jen Raszkievicz (2021-present)
Recording Secretary:	Scott Piergrossi (2025-
Pastor:	Nova Vitug-Thomas (2023 - )
Director of Children & Youth Min.	Justin Thomas (2024 - )
Director of Music:	Scott Piergrossi (2025 - )
Church Treasurer:	Laura Conlin
ESL Coordinator:	TBD
Financial Secretary:	Don Wadsworth (2021 - present)
Lay Leader:	Carol Adams (2016 - present)
Lay Member of Annual Conf.:	Michelle Daniels (2021 - )
Alternate Lay Delegate:	Deb Bierly (2021 - )
Lay Leadership & Development:	Nova Vitug-Thomas
Membership Secretary:	Scott Piergrossi
Health & Wellness Ministry:	Gloria Hutzell
Hospitality Ministry:	Sara Erb & Suzy Maniaci
SPPR Council:	Michelle Tomczak & Cindy Fortunato
Finance Chairperson:	Vickie Dautrich (2022 - present)
Stewardship Ministry Chairperson:	Bob Werner
Trustee Chairperson:	Dave Svetz & Jay Owen (2026)
Calvary Care Early Learning Co-Chp.:	Susan Gross (2025 -)
<u>At-large Members of Church Council:</u>	
Andrew McBride (Youth)	
Kay Wadsworth	

## **Special Ministers: (117)**

Christ Servant Ministers: Craig Caltagirone, Dr. Michelle Daniels, & Robert Wagner

Certified Lay Minister: Robert Wagner

Certified Lay Pastor: Lyle Neal (on appointment)

## **Community Engagement**

SAFE BERKS liaison: Diane Anderson

## **Education Committee**

Nova Vitug-Thomas	Deb Bierly	Michelle Tomczak	Cindy Fortunato
Jen Raszkievicz	Shannon McBride	Joann Werner	Justin Thomas

## **Youth & Kids Group**

Justin Thomas



**(Mohnton AM/PM) Calvary Early Learning Center (464) & Wyomissing Valley  
Preschool Combined Board (116)**

Chairperson: Susan Gross  
Secretary: Laura Conlin  
Treasurer: Laura Conlin  
Pastor: Pastor Nova Vitug-Thomas  
Calvary Care Assistant: Sonja Matthews  
WVP Assistant Director: Crystal Adams  
Parent Rep. CC: Angie Bucks  
Parent Rep. WVP: Devon Shea Shomberg  
Members: Vicky Wagner Bill Ruth Sara Erb Suzy Maniaci Vicki Dautrich  
Tony Calata Carol Adams

**Music Ministry**

Director of Music ( UMC Choir, Bells and Organist) Scott J. Piergrossi  
Substitute Organists Jim Adams (organ emeritus), Jerry Kinsel  
Substitute Pianist Kay Wadsworth

**Native American Ministries Representative**

**Nominations and Lay Leadership Development (109)**

Chairperson: Pastor Nova Vitug-Thomas  
Lay Leader: Carol Adams  
Church Council Chp.: Jen Raszkievicz

At-large Members: Bill Ruth Sean Steffey

**Blessed Bonds (Widow/Widower ministry)**

Linda Chandler (Coordinator)

**Staff/Pastor -Parish Relations Ministry (105)**

Co-Chairpersons: Michelle Tomczak (26) & Cindy Fortunato (27)  
Secretary: Joann Werner (28)  
Pastor: Nova Villa Vitug-Thomas  
Lay Leader: Carol Adams (ex-officio)  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Michelle Daniels (ex-officio)

Members:

Michelle Tomczak (26)	Cindy Fortunato (27)	Guy Lombardo (28)
Julie McGettrick (26)	Mark Martin (27)	Darla Wagner (28)
Shannon McBride (26)	Danny Hutzell (27)	Joann Werner (28)

## **PRISM People Representing Inspired Spiritual Movement**

Chairperson: Bob Werner

Members: Dave Svetz                      Michael Werner    Jerry Kinsel                      Kendall Martin

### **Trustee Board**

Chairperson: Dave Svetz & Jay Owen

Secretary: Susan Gross (27)

Treasurer: Laura Conlin

Members:

Jerry Kinsel (26)

Bill Ruth (27)

Susan Gross (28)

Jay Owen (26)

\_\_\_\_\_ (27)

Dave Svetz (28)

John Gingrich (26)

Owen Tomczak (27)

Pastor Nova Vitug-Thomas

## **Vitality & Sustainability Task Force**

Chairperson: Pastor Nova Vitug-Thomas

Lay Leader: Carol Adams

Members:

Vickie Dautrich

Ken Dearstyne Jr.

Michelle Tomczak

Patty McQuillan

Bob Werner

## **Worship Ministry Support**

**Acolytes:** Parker Diedrich, Andrew McBride and Nicole Hilario

**Adult Bible Study/Sunday School:** Michelle Daniels, Dave Svetz, Bob Wagner

**Altar Guild Coordinator/Candle Refill:** Jeanette Magerman

**Attendance:** Toni Calata, Linda Chandler & Joann Werner

**Audio/Visual Support:**

Livestreaming: Kendall Martin, Shannon McBride & Jen Raszkievicz

PP Operator: Shannon & Andrew McBride, Joyce Caltagirone, Janet Dearstyne,

Parker Diedrich, Michelle Tomczak, Susan Gross and Nicole Hilario

Sound System: Jerry Kinsel (Coordinator), Mark Martin, Ferd Gross, Bob Wagner

**Bell Choir:** Bob Wagner, Julie McGettrick, Jody Wagner, Jim & Carol Adams, Joanne Werner

**Calvary Senior Choir:** Jim & Carol Adams, Ollie Baker, Deb Bierly, Tristan & Julie McGettrick,

Dave Svetz, Kay Wadsworth, Kathy Keinard, Bob Wagner, Jody Wagner, Dale Wiest,

Laura Conlin, Susan Gross, Deb Owen

**Children's Sermon:** Terry Stephenson, Deb Bierly, Jen Raszkievicz, Justin Thomas,

**Christian Education:** Jim & Carol Adams, Jen Raszkievicz, Deb Bierly, Michelle Daniels,

Shannon McBride, Joann Werner, Terry Stephenson, Dave Svetz, Susan Gross, Michelle

Tomczak, cindy Fortunato

**Communion Stewards:** Sheila Renninger & Candy Dobson; Tristan & Julie McGettrick

**Lay Worship Leaders:** Carol & Jim Adams, Sandy Graffius, Andrew McBride, Shannon

McBride, Dave Svetz, Kay Wadsworth, Bob Werner, Susan Gross, Ken Dearstyne, Cindy

Fortunato, Michelle Tomczak

**Praise Team:** Doug Pearson

**Ushers/Greeters:** Don Wadsworth (Head Usher), Toni Calata, Vickie Dautrich,

Susan & Ferdinand Gross, Jody Martin, Bill Ruth, Joann & Bob Werner

**Vacation Bible School:** Justin Thomas, Jen Raszkievicz, Susan Gross, Dave Svetz,

Parker Diedrich, Sam Wagner