



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 9 – March 15, 2026

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

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

Office Hours- Mon.-Thur. 9-2

610-777-8441

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## 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!**



10 – Laura Owen  
13 – Becky Dodson  
15 – Wanda Steffey

**March 15, 2026**

9:15AM ~ Sunday School

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Pastor Nova, preaching  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent



## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**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 Service- April 5 -10:30AM**



Sunday March 15, Guest Tenor Saxophonist, Tim Vattima, will accompany the choir with a “jazzy” arrangement of “Can’t Carry These Burdens Alone.”

Sunday, March 22, Special Music

Sunday, March 29, PALM SUNDAY, Choir Anthem “The Lily of the Valley”

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

Sunday, April 5, EASTER, “Joyful , Joyful Sing Praise”

MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026



**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!**



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>

### **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: HEALTHCARE**



**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 1, 2026

Sermon Title: It's Not the Destination, It's The Journey

Are We There Yet Worship Series Week 2 Deut. 32:1-10 NLT

1 "Listen, O heavens, and I will speak! Hear, O earth, the words that I say! 2 Let my teaching fall on you like rain; let my speech settle like dew. Let my words fall like rain on tender grass, like gentle showers on young plants. 3 I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God! 4 He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is! 44 So Moses

came with Joshua's son of Nun and recited all the words of this song to the people.

45 When Moses had finished reciting all these words to the people of Israel,

46 he added: "Take to heart all the words of warning I have given you today. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of these instructions.

47 These instructions are not empty words—they are your life! By obeying them you will enjoy a long life in the land you will occupy when you cross the Jordan River."

It's Not the Destination, It's the Journey (3 P's) Poem of Praise, Prognosis and Promise

If you've ever taken a long road trip with children, you know the question comes quickly:

"Are we there yet?" Twenty minutes into a four-hour drive. We smile at that question —

but if we're honest, we ask God the same thing. "Are we there yet?" Have I arrived in my career? Am I financially secure? Have I built the family I dreamed of? Have I accomplished enough? Have I become who I'm supposed to be? We live in a culture obsessed with arrival — graduation, promotion, retirement, the house, the milestone, the "Promised

Land." (place of destination, status, success) But Deuteronomy 32 gives us a sobering truth: Sometimes we don't arrive. And even when we do... it's not the end of the journey.

My "Promised Land" Years ago, I had my heart set on what I believed was my Promised

Land. I wanted to be a veterinarian. Not casually. I was serious. I prayed about it. I planned for it. I structured my life around it. I was already in my second year of my Pre-Vet course — only two more years to go. I was working in my aunt's veterinary clinic. I could see it

clearly — the white coat, caring for animals, helping families, hearing "thank you." It felt right. It felt purposeful. It felt like I was exactly where God was leading me. And then... it

didn't happen. The door closed. The timeline unraveled. The vision I had carefully built began to fall apart. At first, I was disappointed. Then confused. Then quietly frustrated with

God. Lord, I thought this was where You were leading me." But here's what I didn't realize at the time: While I was focused on the destination, God was shaping me in the journey. In

that season, I felt I was a failure, I learned humility — I learned how can friends become family, I learned that my plans are not always God's plans. I learned patience — to wait

without having all the answers. I learned dependence — that my identity cannot be anchored to a title. I deepened relationships I might have rushed past. And I discovered

gifts I may never have noticed if I had stayed on the path I chose. Looking back in the eyes of faith, I could see it clearly now If I had arrived where I thought I was supposed to be, I

might have missed who God was forming me to become. And that's exactly what we see in Deuteronomy 32 Moses sings a song at the end of his life. It's reflective. Honest. He

reminds Israel who God is: "The Rock, his work is perfect." (v. 4) God is the Rock — steady, faithful, unshakable. But Israel kept clinging to other rocks. They forgot who delivered

them from Egypt. They complained in the wilderness. They built a golden calf. They wanted the Promised Land — but on their own terms. Moses himself does not enter the Promised

Land — but on their own terms. Moses himself does not enter the Promised

Land. After forty years of leading, God tells him he will see the land from a distance — but he will not cross over. Was Moses a failure? No. Deuteronomy 34 says there was no prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. His life was not defined by arrival. It was defined by relationship. What is Relationship and Why is it Important? A relationship is a meaningful connection built on trust, communication, care, and commitment. More than just knowing someone — it is being known, understood, and valued. Why are relationships important? 1. It shapes who we become. We grow through connections, love, correction, encouragement, and support refine us. 2. It gives identity and security. Titles, success, and achievements can change. But being loved and known gives lasting stability. 3. It provides strength in hard seasons. When plans fail or doors close, relationships carry us through. 4. It reflects how we were created. We are wired for connection — with family, friends, community, and with God. In the biblical sense, relationship with God is not about performance or arrival — it is about walking with Him, knowing Him, and being known. In verse 47, Moses says, “These are not just idle words for you — they are your life.”

Not the land. Not geography. Not the milestone. The relationship with God — that is your life. Journeying in Relationship We often treat faith like a moment of arrival. “I gave my life to Christ.” “I joined the church.” “I got baptized.” Those are sacred moments — but God’s grace is not a one-time arrival. It’s an ongoing journey. It is strengthening the relationship. Sometimes we describe it as a house. We are in different parts/our faith is not in the same place Some are still on the lawn — just sensing God drawing them. Some are on the porch — curious and leaning in. Some are stepping through the doorway — learning to trust. Some are deeper inside — growing and being transformed. And sometimes we drift back toward the porch for a season. But here’s the good news: God is at work in every part of the house. Faith is not about saying, “I’ve arrived.” It’s about living in relationship with God — wherever you are. The wilderness wasn’t wasted time for Israel. It was formation. And Moses’ greatest legacy wasn’t stepping into Canaan — it was shaping a people who would. He understood something powerful: He was part of a bigger story. Where This Hits Us, We have our own versions of the Promised Land. The perfect retirement. The dream home. The ideal church growth (206 by 2026) The healed relationship. The stable economy. Where This Hits Us And sometimes, we quietly cling to other “rocks” — money, ambition, comfort, recognition — thinking, “If I just get there, I’ll finally have peace.” “If I just have this \_\_\_\_\_” But how many times have we arrived somewhere and discovered it wasn’t satisfying? The job wasn’t as fulfilling. The milestone didn’t last. The victory didn’t fix everything. Like Israel, we sometimes grumble when the destination disappoints us. But what if the point was never just the destination? Jesus says in Matthew 28:20, “I am with you always.” Not, “I’ll meet you when you arrive.” “I am with you.” The real promise was never just a place. It was Presence.

Conclusion: The question “Are we there yet?” assumes that “there” is what matters most. But Deuteronomy 32 teaches us something deeper: God is our Rock. The relationship is our life. The journey is formation and we are part of something bigger. FRIENDS, Moses stood on a mountain, looking at a land he would not enter. yet he did not argue, he did not beg, he simply died, he knew his role was finished, Moses died but the mission of God continues, Heaven’s timeline does not pause for human loss, Some of us are called to start what others will finish Some of us will see the vision but never live it and that is not failure, that is faithfulness, Moses prepared the way for those who would cross and one day on another mountain, he would finally set foot on that land, standing beside Elijah, speaking with Jesus, at the transfiguration. Moses walked with God. And had a good relationship with Him, and that was enough. Because if we are walking with God—even the wilderness becomes holy ground. If we are walking with God—even the wilderness becomes holy ground. In the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

## FAITH & FACTS

### ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

#### What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27)**

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have your welfare. **(Jeremiah 29:7)**

Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. **(Ezekiel 34:4)**

The Lord who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. **(Psalm 146:7-8)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**



#### 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)**

The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the United States and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health-care delivery system that includes access for all, quality care, and effective management of costs. **(Book of Resolutions #4201 Health Care for All in the United States)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

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

# HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

## FAITH & FACTS

### ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

#### What do the facts say?

- Over 27.5 million people in the U.S. still lack health insurance. Most uninsured are in low-income working families.<sup>1</sup>
- The average family spends \$8,200 (or 11%) of family income per year on health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs for things such as office visit copays, prescription drugs, and surprise or out of plan medical bills.<sup>2</sup>
- People who don't have health insurance are more likely to forgo preventative care, rely on emergency room for care, be diagnosed in the late stages of a disease, and leave prescriptions unfilled.<sup>3</sup>
- Among the U.S.'s maternal mortality rates, African-American women are three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women.<sup>4</sup>
- In the U.S. the maternal mortality rate is 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is twice that of France (7.6 deaths per 100,000).<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, <sup>4</sup>The Century Foundation, <sup>5</sup>The Commonwealth Fund

#### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- 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.
- Learn more about federal spending decisions. Visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities ([www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)) for the latest analysis of proposed legislation or the National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)) to see exactly how your tax dollars are being spent.
- Visit the following websites to learn more about health care reform and options for purchasing or signing up for insurance: the Kaiser Family Foundation ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)) and [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).



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**General Board of Church and Society**

100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002  
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The United Methodist Church