



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

April 13- April 19, 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



from Bob Wagner:

Paraments or Altar cloths are the fabrics placed over the pulpit, lectern and Communion Table. They carry both practical and symbolic meaning in Christianity.

1. Reverence and Respect: Covering the chancel area shows honor for what it represents—the sacrifice and presence associated with Jesus Christ.

a. The chancel area is frequently the eastern end of the sanctuary. At Calvary UMC it the elevated part of a church building, reserved for the clergy and choir, containing the Communion Table, Pulpit, Lectern, and Choir loft.

2. Communion: The cloth (white) symbolizes purity, reminding Christians of holiness and the sacred nature of worship. a. Chalice Veil: A cloth (white) covering the Communion elements prior to and after distribution.

3. Remembrance: Some Christians see Parament cloths as a reminder of the cloth that wrapped Jesus' body after his crucifixion, linking the chancel area to his death and resurrection.

4. Liturgical Colors: Parament cloths change color depending on the church season, each with meaning:

· White → joy, purity (e.g., Christmas, Easter)

· Gold → majesty of Christ (e.g., often used as a festive alternative to white)

· Purple → repentance, preparation (e.g., Lent, Advent)

· Green → growth and everyday faith

· Red → the Holy Spirit or sacrifice (e.g., Day of Pentecost, Ordinations)

5. Beauty in Worship: They also add beauty and dignity to the church, helping create a meaningful and focused worship space.

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:
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM



- 14 – Evan Byrne
- 16 – Vickie Dautrich
- 16 – Annabelle Werner
- 17 – Gloria Hutzell
- 18 – Veronica Miller
- 19 – Carol Adams
- 19 – Braden Smith



If you would like to join the bell choir, we rehearse Wednesdays at 8:00PM. Our next rehearsal will be April 15th at 8:00PM. All welcome!



MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026

*"I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live."
Psalm 103*



- Sunday, April 19, 2025- Kids Club 4pm
- Sunday, April 26, 2025- Youth Group 4pm
- Sunday, May 3, 2025- Kids Club 4pm
- Sunday, May 10, 2025- Mother's Day (No Youth Group of Kids Club)
- Sunday, May 17, 2025- Youth Group Breakfast out at a nearby restaurant.
- Kids Club field Trip for Ice Cream.

Christian Education Meeting Sunday April 26

CHURCH SERVICES AND HOURS

- 1ST SUNDAYS- COMMUNION SUNDAY
- ALL SUNDAYS 10:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICES (September-May)
- SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM ALL AGES (September-May)
- SUMMER WORSHIP TIME: 9:30 AM (June- 1st Sunday of September)
- 3RD SATURDAY, 9-11 AM - MIFFLIN FOOD PANTRY AT ZION
- 4TH SATURDAY 5-6:30 PM -DINNER CHURCH AT ZION
- ESL- FOR INFO PLS CALL PASTOR NOVA



Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 April 5, 2026

Everything Christians believe—every prayer, every hope, every promise—is meaningless without Jesus' resurrection.

Without Resurrection, the cross would only be a sign of suffering. The disciples nothing more than broken followers and faith itself is just a tragic story. "There are moments in life that feel meaningless, and final. A door closes. A relationship ends. A prayer seems unanswered. And it feels like something has been sealed...like a wall has been built around you or like a stone has been rolled in front of your life." You tried...You prayed...You believed... But now it feels like...this is how the story ends. Have you seen the movie Black Panther- Wakanda Forever? Black

Panther: Wakanda Forever follows Wakanda as they grieve King T'Challa while facing new threats, and Shuri struggles with loss, anger, and her purpose. In the end, Shuri accepts the death of her brother and mother and steps into the role of the Black Panther. I thought that was the end—but it wasn't, because she then meets Prince T'Challa, the son of King T'Challa, the coming Black Panther. That's exactly where the followers of Jesus were. Friday—He was crucified. Saturday—He was silent. And as far as they knew... it was over. It was dark... But early Sunday morning... God was about to prove something: What looks like the end is not the end when God is involved.

Matthew 28:1-10 Verse 1 — Wrong Expectations : Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake..." Luke 24 it says "They brought spices.

Why? Because they expected death. They weren't coming for a miracle. They weren't expecting resurrection. They were preparing to deal with what they thought was over. And if we're honest—some of us came in like that today. Not expecting God to move...just trying to manage our lives, even though it is hard to feel alive. Part of our human tendency is to seek these milestones or arrival points throughout our lives. We feel the need to "arrive" in this life because death seems like such a final ending point. However, this life is not all that there is. As theologian Esau McCaulley writes: "Easter is about encountering the person who, despite every disappointment we experience with ourselves and with the world, gives us a reason to carry on."

Verse 2 — God Moves First: Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. The stone represented finality. This is sealed. This is done. This cannot change. But God shook the earth... and moved the very thing they thought would never move. Here's the powerful truth: God was already working before they even arrived. Before you prayed again... Before you walked into this room... God was already moving. Verses 3–4 — Power of God His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. The same power that terrified the guards was the power that opened the tomb. The resurrection is not soft. It is not weak. It is power. Verses 5–6a — The Message 5Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. This is the message of Easter: Jesus is alive. Not a symbol. Not a memory. Alive. And don't miss this—'just as He said.' God kept His promise. If God can keep that promise... He can keep every promise over your life. Verse 6b — Come and See : Come, see the place where his body was lying. God invites them to look. Because our faith is not built on imagination— it's built on reality. Verse 7 — Go and Tell 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you. When Jesus changes your life... you don't stay silent, go quickly... Verse 8 — Mixed Emotions 8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message Faith doesn't mean you have no fear. It means you move forward even when you have mixed emotion. Even the resurrection is not the end or "arrival" of this great faith story. It is a new beginning. The women left the tomb to find Jesus with "fear and great joy,"

Verses 9–10 — Encounter

9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there." This is everything. Not just hearing about Jesus— but meeting Him. Easter teaches us something essential: God often meets us where our expectations fail.

Resurrection tells us: Jesus meets us in the unexpected places— in grief, in confusion, in messy transitions, and in uncertain beginnings. And Jesus' first words? 'Don't be afraid.' So now the question becomes: If Jesus is alive... what do we do? Mission — Matthew 28:16-20

Verse 17 — Worship + Doubt 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some of them doubted! Even here—there's tension. Faith and doubt in the same moment. And Jesus doesn't reject them. He meets them. Faith is not the absence of doubt. Faith is choosing to move forward with Jesus anyway. Verse 18 — Authority 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth That means Jesus is not just alive— He is in control. Amen Verses 19–20 — The Calling 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus is alive— we don't stay the same. We go. We tell. We live differently. We carry this message. The disciples, who are sent out now to lead this next chapter (verses 16-20), do so with both doubt and joy We, too, are called to make disciples of all nations. A life in Christ is not one of constant certainty—it is a life of: Awe, Fear, Joy, Questions, All at the same time. And yet... they still go. We Are Sent—Together Jesus doesn't just comfort them—He commissions them. Verse 20 — The Promise 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You are not alone. The same Jesus who left the tomb... walks with you. Consider how God kept showing up for God's people in Egypt, the wilderness, the exile, in the life of Jesus, and now in the resurrection. Why would God stop being God now if this is who God has been through the story of the Bible? Not only is there hope for eternal life but we are also given hope in the promise that Jesus is with us now and always be, even as we continue on our messy journeys Friends, The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. But the question is— is He alive in you? He proclaimed victory over sin and death, He defeated forces of evil and he opened the door of salvation- surrender to Him as Lord & savior

I invite you to take a quiet moment to look back on our day and ask, 'Jesus, where were You with me today?'—in the good, the hard, and even the messy—and letting our heart notice that we were never alone.

Some of us are still living like it's Friday... carrying pain... carrying loss... standing in front of something that feels sealed. But Easter says: It's not over."

It's not the end of our story, God wants us to GO!

God has great plan for us, a future with hope.

And we don't have to do this by ourselves. We are disciples together. God promises to be with us.

This can be hard work, but we are not called to do it alone.

We are not asked to have perfect faith. We are simply called to:

- Follow, Share, Trust, Walk forward, Together.

Easter invites us to ask: What is God doing next in my life? Not someday.

Not when everything is figured out.

But right now. We set out again. With fear...With joy... With questions... With hope... But because Christ is risen, because Jesus is alive... our story is not yet finished.

The tomb is empty—so our lives must not be

Easter is not an ending. It is a sending.

It is God saying: "There is more.

He is saying Live your life, be the best version of yourself, be the person God created you to be,

There is more in your life, do not stop living.

The resurrection is not just something we celebrate—it is something that sends us.

The empty tomb is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of our mission.

and remember the risen Christ will be with you every step of the way He is our LIVING HOPE . So now, Go, with authority, with power, with promise and with purpose, Go...

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

FAITH & FACTS

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

What does the Bible say?

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world."
(John 18:36)

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... and your neighbor as yourself."
(Matthew 22:37-39)

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



What does the United Methodist Church say?

We believe the state should not attempt to control the church, nor should the church seek to dominate the state... Separation of church and state means no organic union of the two, but it does permit interaction. (Book of Resolutions, #4100, Church-Government Relations)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living WITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

FAITH & FACTS

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

What do the facts say?

- Christian nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge American civic life with a particular expression of Christianity, often to the exclusion of religious minorities and non-Christians. (Baptist Joint Committee & Freedom From Religion Foundation, 2022)
- Studies show that Christian nationalism is associated with support for authoritarianism, racial hierarchy, anti-immigrant policies, and the erosion of church-state separation. (Sociologists Andrew Whitehead & Samuel Perry, 2020)
- 60% of Americans believe the U.S. should not be declared a "Christian nation," while 67% of white evangelicals support the idea. (PRRI, 2022 American Values Survey)
- Christian nationalism was a motivating factor in the January 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection, where Christian symbols and rhetoric were used to justify violence. (U.S. House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Speak out** when Christian symbols are used to justify hate, exclusion, or violence.
- **Support** civic and religious education efforts that uphold pluralism, democracy, and the true message of the gospel.
- **Learn** more through resources like Christians Against Christian Nationalism (www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org).
- **Encourage** your church to affirm its commitment to the separation of church and state and the equal dignity of all people.



For more information contact:
advocacy@umcjustice.org

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