



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

April 20- April 26, 2026

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

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

Office Hours- Mon.-Thur. 9-2

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from Bob Wagner

Why do we include a "Call to Worship" in our service flow? In short: the Call to Worship is used to gather, focus, and prepare people to worship God together. The Call to Worship is the opening part of our worship service typically taking place right after the Prelude. The intent is to invite the congregation to focus their attention on God.

Purpose of the Call to Worship:

Gather People's Attention: It helps everyone shift from everyday thoughts to a mindset of worship and reverence.

Invite Worship: It is a formal invitation to come before God together as a community.

Center on God: The Call to Worship reminds believers that the service is about praising and honoring God, not just attending an event.

Set the Tone: It establishes a mood of respect, prayer, and reflection for the rest of the service.

Often Based on Scripture: It frequently uses Bible verses spoken by or about Jesus Christ or God's call to worship Him.

Common Scripture Examples may include:

Psalm 95:6: "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

Psalm 100:1-2: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

Psalm 122:1: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

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



BLESSED BONDS

Next Lunch will be
Wednesday, May 13,
11:30 AM at Paolo's
Lancaster Pike

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:
ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS



- 20 – Jonathan Calata
- 21 – Doris Metz
- 21 – Renee Troutman
- 21 – James Burkhard
- 22 – Mary Rinehart
- 22 – Dale Wiest
- 22 – Darlene Vernon
- 23 – Liliana Erb
- 23 – Kristin Kelley
- 24 – Mike Kelley



MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026 Choir, Handbells, Solos, Duets

“A song can turn tears into joy and fear into strength.”

APRIL 26, 2026

9:15AM ~ Sunday School

**10:30AM ~ Traditional Service
Lawrence Althouse Memorial Service**

**Fellowship after Worship in
The Gathering Room**

Pastor Nova, preaching



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.

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



Nova Vitug- Thomas April 12, 2026 Calvary UMC

Title: God's Wide World—and God's Promise to Us

Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who was an atheist. The friend did not believe in God but preferred to take the position that the universe just happened.

One day, the friend was visiting his learned colleague, and Newton showed him a model of the solar system.

The sun, the planets, and the moons were all in place. The sizes of the spheres were in proportion, and the planets and the satellites revolved around the sun at their relative speeds.

The friend admired the model. "It's intriguing," he said. "Who made it?" "Nobody," said Newton. "It just happened."

Romans 1:20 " 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky.

Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

Last Sunday, we studied that through Jesus' resurrection, God is making all things new, even up to now, Now, we are studying Psalm 104 that reflects celebration on how God continually sustains and provides for all creation and Job 12 talks about suffering. One passage comes from praise, the other from pain, yet both reveal a shared reality. Life is not held together by human effort, but by God's ongoing care, reminding us to trust in His sustaining presence in every season of life.

3 Points for Today's Scripture

1. Creation Is Not Random—It Reveals God's Wisdom by Design
2. Creation Is Made for Connection and Provision—All Life Moving in Divine Motion
3. Creation Teaches Rhythm, Season, and Time—God's Divine Purpose Set in Boundaries

1. Creation Is Not Random—It Reveals God's Wisdom by Design

Psalm 104 repeatedly shows us a world where everything is working together—water flows where it is needed, plants grow to support life, animals have their habitats, and even time itself is structured through day and night. Creation isn't just made—it is organized.

God's design reflects order instead of chaos, fit and function, and systems that sustain life. This aligns with a core biblical idea: creation is not accidental—it is purposed toward life and growth. Creation is made in wisdom, as it says, V24 "In wisdom you made them all."

This is huge. What it means is that creation itself is structured intelligently, patterned, and understandable. It connects directly to Job 12, where we are told, "Ask the earth... it will teach you." God didn't just speak wisdom—He built wisdom into reality itself.

2. Creation Is Made for Connection and Provision—All Life Moving in Divine Motion

From an ecological view, we see a beautiful chain of connection—water sustains plants, plants sustain animals, animals sustain humans, and cycles sustain it all. Nothing exists independently. Theologically, this reveals something deeper: God's purpose is not just to create things, but to create relationships—not isolated beings, but a connected community of life.

And here is the deeper revelation: dependence is not a flaw—it is part of the design. Animals depend on water, humans depend on ecosystems, and all life ultimately depends on God. This reflects a spiritual truth—life is not something we generate on our own, but something we receive. Psalm 104 emphasizes this provision. God provides food, water, and habitats, and even predators like lions are included in His care. In ecological reality, energy flows through food webs and resources are distributed through systems.

Theologically, this means God's design includes provision for all life—not just humans. And this challenges a narrow view of creation. The world is not made only for us—we are part of it, living within it, and dependent on the same sustaining hand of God.

3. Creation Teaches Rhythm, Season, and Time—God's Divine Purpose Set in Boundaries

Psalm 104 shows us that the seas have limits, that night and day are ordered, and that every creature has its role. This points to an important ecological truth—ecosystems depend on limits, and without boundaries, everything collapses.

Theologically, this reveals that God's design includes structure, timing, and restraint. Purpose, then, is not just about freedom—it is about right order.

And within this ordered creation, we find our place. Verse 23 tells us, "People go to their work..."

Humans are included in the system, but we are not placed at the center as rulers over everything.

From an ecological perspective, we are one participant among many, dependent on everything else around us.

The earth and the fullness therein, were given to us to take care of and not to rule over. We should cherish and love God's creation as our own. We should enrich it and make sure that all receive from its bounty equally. It is the theme of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si" (May 2015) on care for our common home.

This corrects how we often think. Instead of domination, the text points us toward participation and stewardship. And this is where it becomes personal. These scriptures and even the waters of baptism call us to live differently.

They remind us that life is a gift from God, that we are part of a larger creation, and that we are called to care for the earth and for one another.

They invite us to let go of the illusion that everything depends on us. Because it doesn't. Our calling is not to hold the whole world together.

Our calling is to be faithful within it.

Creation is not just something God made, God is continuously creating and God is still sustaining it.

"The steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness oh Lord". Lam 3:22-23

Through provision, order, and life itself, God is continually working in the world.

So instead of saying, "God made the world,"

we begin to see that God is still present and active within it.

On April 22, we will celebrate Earth Day. and also my mother's 85th birthday. So Earth is like my mother, in what ways? I only have one. And there is a big problem, the Earth needs healing, remember Michael Jackson?

"Heal the world, make it a better place, for you and for me and the entire human race...."

"It was good!" It was good!" It was good!" This was God's repeated statement in the creation story.

God declared creation good because creation is the place of life, characterized by harmony and unity, of love and joy, of goodness, kindness and righteousness. The earth and the fullness therein, were given to us to take care of and not to rule over

Just a reminder to Let us love God's creation and help heal the world.

5 Rs for Mother Earth

• REFUSE • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE • REPAIR

REFUSE Refuse to buy What you do not need (Save money)

REDUCE- NOT ONLY WAISTLINE, What you cannot refuse, consumption of water, ask Mr Bill how

REUSE What you cannot refuse and reduce If you don't want some things instead of throwing them ask somebody if they want it. THRIFT SHOP

RECYCLE Segregate waste and make sure to put recycling items

REPAIR Repair broken things than buying a new one

By doing the 5R's we save money and save landfill

Friends Creation is good when God's intention in creation is fulfilled. Creation where there is life, harmony and unity instead of lifelessness, discord and division. We must be participants in the restoration of creation to its original divine intention. LET US HELP HEAL THE WORLD... "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

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)**

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

Do not be among winebibbers or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags ... Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying mixed wines. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. **(Proverbs 23:20-21; 29-32)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

Regarding the consumption of alcohol, we acknowledge the historic United Methodist stance on abstinence as a safeguard against mental, physical, and spiritual harms caused by excessive drinking. Consequently, we urge those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer, to do so wisely and in moderation. Another important consideration is the impact of such actions on those struggling to recover from alcohol use and abuse. **(Social Principles 162.A)**

The alcohol and other drug crisis has reached global proportions. More alcohol and other drugs are produced and consumed than ever before. In consuming countries, with their attendant problems of poverty, racism, domestic violence, hopelessness, and material despair, alcohol and other drug abuse is a part of a continuing cycle of economic and spiritual turmoil. **(Book of Resolutions #3200 Alcohol and Other Drugs)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **W**ITH Seeking **J**USTICE Pursuing **P**EACE

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

FAITH & FACTS

ECONOMIC, HEALTH, AND GENDER JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease; it is the leading risk factor in the Western Pacific and the Americas and the second largest in Europe.¹
- An estimated 95,000 people die from alcohol-related deaths annually, making alcohol the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States.²
- In 2019, 25.8 percent of people ages 18 and older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the course of one month.³
- Prescription drugs are the drugs most commonly abused by teenagers. 70 percent of teens who use prescription drugs non-medically get pills from their family or friends.



¹ World Health Organization, ^{2,3,4} National Institutes of Health

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Remind** your member of Congress and state legislators that alcohol is a leading cause of addiction. Encourage your state to invest in strongly enforcing your state's criminal laws regarding alcohol and to update regulations for alcohol advertising directed at youths to best practices standards (see the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). Actively discourage members of Congress from taking contributions from the alcohol industry and raise awareness of the prevalence and dangers of drug abuse, including prescription drugs.
- **Learn** more about alcohol and other drugs by visiting the following web sites: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov), the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.org), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov), and the World Health Organization (www.who.int).
- **Make a commitment** to value health for others and for yourself equally.



For more information contact:
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www.umcjustice.org

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General Board of Church and Society

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The United Methodist Church