



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

April 6- April 12, 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

[Administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net](mailto:Administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net)



*from Bob Wagner:*

**Stained glass windows serve several important purposes for worship.**

Two of the many artists who created stained glass windows were William and John Bolton. Both gentlemen went on to become members of the clergy. John, after one or two charges, went to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania. While there, he made the decorative aisle windows. Many years later, a visitor from Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn sought out an aged daughter of William Bolton who was supposed to be on her deathbed. She had never heard of her father's earlier career in stained glass. The story so excited her that reportedly she arose from her bed and traveled from England to the United States to see the windows.

**Teaching & Storytelling:** Stained glass windows visually show Bible stories, saints, and key events. In earlier times, when many people couldn't read, these windows helped teach the message of Christianity in a clear, memorable way.

**Creating a Sacred Atmosphere:** Colored light shining through the glass transforms the inside of a building, making it feel peaceful, beautiful, and set apart for worship and reflection.

**Symbolism:** The colors and images have meaning:

- Red → sacrifice or love
- Blue → heaven or holiness
- Green → life and growth
- Symbols like crosses, doves, or lambs represent spiritual ideas

**Honoring People & Events:** Many stained-glass windows are dedicated to individuals or families, serving as memorials and connecting the church's history to its community. Take some time to look at the names on our windows representing Saints who have gone before us.

**Artistic Beauty:** They are also works of art, showing craftsmanship and creativity.

## 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: DEATH PENALTY**



**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



## MUSIC SUNDAY – May 17, 2026

*“It is music’s lofty mission to shed light on the depths of the human heart”*  
*Robert Schumann*

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



**07 – Gwen Alsedek**  
**10 – Nadine Jensen**  
**12 – Mary Wooddell**

### 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



Nova Vitug-Thomas      March 29, 2026      Calvary UMC  
Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 STAYING POWER Are We There Yet-

I heard a story about a donkey who had the best day of his life. One day, the donkey was led into a big city, and suddenly—everything changed. There were crowds everywhere. People were cheering. They were waving branches, shouting, laying their coats on the ground. And this donkey is thinking, “Wow... I must be a big deal.” He starts walking a little slower... a little prouder... maybe even practicing his “royal wave”—you know, just a subtle nod... By the end of the day, he’s convinced: “This is my moment.” So, the next morning, he wakes up and says, “I think I’ll do that again.” He heads back into the city... same

street... same walk... same confident attitude... And this time? Nothing. No cheering. No branches. No crowd. In fact, someone yells, “Hey! Who left this donkey in the road?!” And the donkey just stands there thinking, “...Well that’s a different reception.” And slowly—very slowly—it dawns on him: Maybe... just maybe... it wasn’t about him. And that’s Palm Sunday, because even a donkey can get caught up in the moment. But the truth is—the celebration wasn’t about the one carrying Jesus... It was about Jesus Himself. And maybe that’s a good reminder for us too. When great are happening in us, we tend to take the glory, but God is the one working in us, and it is very easy to fall into this kind of mistake

Introduction: The Parade and What Comes After We love celebrations. I mean—we are all in for the big moments. Birthdays? We want cake. Weddings? We want to dance. Parades? We want candy to be thrown at us—we don’t care how old we are! But if we’re honest, we’ve noticed something about ourselves... We love the start of celebrations... we’re just not always as committed to what comes after. Take a parade, for example— When the music is playing, the crowd is cheering, everything feels alive... But come back an hour later... The crowd is gone. There’s trash blowing down the street. Half a hot dog bun is just sitting there for no reason. And suddenly... it’s not a parade anymore. It’s a cleanup. And nobody ever says, “Hey! Who’s coming back tomorrow for the Post-Parade Cleanup Festival?” No band. No cheering. Just... showing up. And if we’re honest... that’s the part we don’t get as excited about. In fact, if we can avoid it—we will. That’s why we rent halls. That’s why we book venues. That’s why we say, “Does this come with cleanup included?” Or better yet—we’ll just pay somebody else to take care of it. Because we love the celebration... we’re just not as interested in the cleanup. And that’s exactly where Palm Sunday meets us. Because when Jesus enters Jerusalem, it looks like a parade— but it’s more than that. It’s also a protest. People are in the streets. They are raising their voices. They are shouting, “Hosanna!”—which means, “Save us!” That’s not just celebration. That’s a cry for change. And we recognize that. We’ve seen in our own time—people marching, demonstrating, showing up in the streets because something isn’t right. Because they believe the world can be different. Palm Sunday is that kind of moment. But here’s where it gets real— Because it’s one thing to show up for the parade... it’s one thing to join the protest... To stay when the crowd thins. To stay when the excitement fades. To stay when work becomes quiet, costly, and hard. And that raises the question for us today: Will we follow Jesus only in the celebration... or will we stay with Him after the parade? Because Jesus doesn’t just lead the crowd for a moment— He keeps going. He walks all the way to the cross. And He invites us not just to show up— but to have the staying power to follow Him all the way. And this is one of the reasons Calvary inspires me so much. Because after every gathering, something beautiful happens. People don’t rush out, they stay. They ask, “What can we do? What needs to be done?” You’ll see people lined up at the sink, washing dishes... others stacking chairs... others just quietly helping wherever they can. No spotlight. No applause. Just... showing up. That’s what staying power looks like. And that’s what I want us to explore this morning what it means to have staying power. Palm Sunday Is a Parade of Hope. In Luke 19, Jesus enters Jerusalem, and it is a moment overflowing with joy. People spread their cloaks on the road. They wave palm branches. They shout: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” This is celebration. This is hope. This is everything they’ve been waiting for. They believe this is the moment Jesus will fix everything— restore their nation, change their

circumstances, make life better. And here's something important: They were not wrong to celebrate. Joy is not a mistake. Praise is not misplaced. God delights in their celebration. In fact, when the Pharisees tell Jesus to quiet the crowd, He says: "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." This moment matters. But the Parade Doesn't Last And here's what we know and what they didn't fully understand: The parade doesn't last. By the end of the week: The crowd will disappear. The cheers will fade. Jesus will be arrested. He will be mocked. He will be crucified. The parade becomes a path to the cross. And this is where faith becomes real. Because it's easy to follow Jesus when the crowd is cheering. It's harder to follow Him when things fall apart. Another Picture: The Marathon. Christian life is like a marathon, sometimes we think we've hit the limit, marathon runners call it "the wall." At the beginning, the energy is high. The crowd is cheering. Everything feels strong. But around mile 20, something changes. The excitement fades. The body aches. The finish line still feels far away. And that's where the race is really decided. Not at the start. Not in the cheering. But in the quiet miles it's hard to keep going. One runner said, "Anyone can start strong. The question is who keeps going when it hurts?" That's staying power. Jesus Shows Us Staying Power Jesus doesn't just ride into Jerusalem. He stays. He stays when the cheers fade. He stays when pressure builds. He stays when the cross is ahead. Even in the garden, when He is overwhelmed... Even when He prays, "Not my will, but yours be done"... Jesus shows us what it means to keep showing up. Not because it's easy. Not because it feels good. But because it is faithful. Living Between Palm Sunday and Good Friday We live in that same space. We love Palm Sunday moments:

When life feels full. When prayers are answered. When joy comes easily but we also experience Good Friday moments: Loss, Waiting, Disappointment, Uncertainty. And sometimes we want to skip over the hard parts... jump from one celebration to the next. But faith doesn't grow in constant celebration. It grows in consistency. In showing up to pray when you don't feel like it. In loving others when it's difficult. In trusting God when you don't understand. How Do We Build Staying Power? So how do we keep going after the parade? 1. Remember the Joy Go back to what God has done. Tell the stories again.

Hold onto those moments. The joy of Palm Sunday is meant to sustain you. 2. Expect the In-Between Don't be surprised when things get hard. Faith includes both celebration and struggle. 3. Keep Showing Up Even when it's ordinary. Even when it's messy. Even when it feels like cleanup instead of celebration. Stay with Jesus. Closing: The Bigger Story Palm Sunday is not the end of the story. Yes—Friday is coming. But Sunday is coming too. The cross is real. But so is the resurrection. So today—celebrate! Wave the palms. Sing "Hosanna." Rejoice in the King. But don't stop there. Stay. Stay with Jesus through the week. Stay in the hard moments. Stay in the quiet moments. Because real hope... lasting hope... resurrection hope... is found not just in the parade— but in the staying.

Passion Sunday is another name often used for Palm Sunday, especially in more traditional churches. It highlights not just Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but also the beginning of His suffering (His "passion") leading to the cross. What does "passion" mean?

In this context, "passion" doesn't mean emotion—it comes from a Latin word meaning "to suffer." So, Passion Sunday marks the start of the time when we remember: Jesus' suffering, His betrayal, His trial, And ultimately His crucifixion. Why combine Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday? On one hand, the crowd celebrates: "Hosanna!" ("Save us now!") But within days, many of the same people rejected Him. So, the day carries two powerful themes:

Victory – Jesus enters as King. Suffering – Jesus moves toward the cross Simple way to understand it: Palm Sunday shows the praise. Passion Sunday reminds us of the cost. Spiritual meaning: It challenges us to ask: Will I follow Jesus only when it's joyful...Or also when it involves sacrifice? Will I follow Jesus only when it's joyful...Or also when it involves sacrifice?

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, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

# FAITH & FACTS

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# DEATH PENALTY

### What does the Bible say?

Thou shalt not kill. **(Exodus 20:13)**

Say to them, "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." **(Ezekiel 33:11)**

You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also...You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. **(Matthew 5:38-39, 43-44)**

Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. **(John 8:3-11)**

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **(John 10:10)**



### What does the United Methodist Church say?

Our commitment to the inherent dignity and worth of every person and our historic stance as United Methodists compels us to oppose capital punishment and the imposition of the death penalty. We, therefore, call for the abolition of the death penalty and urge individuals and congregations to educate themselves about the historical stance of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors. **(Social Principles, Paragraph 163, Political Community, Section G)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **IN** Faith Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

# FAITH & FACTS

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# DEATH PENALTY

### What do the facts say?

- More than 70% of the world's countries have abolished capital punishment in law or practice. The U.S. is an outlier among its close allies in its continued use of the death penalty. (Death Penalty Information Center)
- In 2021, most known executions took place in China, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria – in that order. (Amnesty International)
- Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say there is some risk that an innocent person will be put to death, while only 21% think there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent that from happening. (Pew Research Center)
- Public support for the death penalty is at its lowest level in a half-century, with opposition higher than any time since 1966, according to the 2020 annual Gallup poll on Americans' attitudes about capital punishment (Gallup Poll, Death Penalty Information Center)
- 41% of Death Row Prisoners are Black and 14% are Latinx. (NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "Death Row USA")



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- If you reside in the US, **tell** your state and federal legislators that the death penalty does not work in restoring victims or protecting society.
- **Join** Death Penalty Action, an organization that works to stop executions and abolish the death penalty through advocacy, education, and action
- **Become** a pen-pal with a person on death row through organizations such as Human Writes ([www.humanwrites.org](http://www.humanwrites.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

© 2022 General Board of Church and Society of

The United Methodist Church