

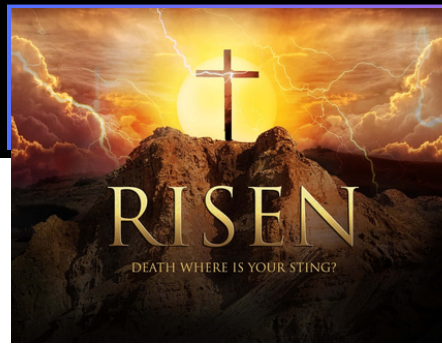
THE VISION

ROOTED IN PRAYER ♦ GROWING DISCIPLES ♦ REACHING THE WORLD

MT CALVARY UMC
Harrisburg, PA

April 2026

Rev. James Copulos, Pastor
Lynn Hackman, Office Manager
Barb Buckingham, Organist
Danielle Eagleson, Choir Director
Ashley Howson, Jubilee Worship Leader
Owen Howson, Youth Leader
Erin Collelo, Children's Director



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ACTIVITIES

- April 2 at 6pm** **Maundy Thursday**
- April 3 at 6pm** **Good Friday**
- April 5 at 6:30am** **Easter Sunrise Service**
- April 5 at 9am** **Easter Traditional Service**
- April 5 at 11am** **Easter Jubilee Service**

We will be remembering the life and sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ with two services during Holy Week. The first will occur on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. This Christian Seder will be led by Pastor Jim, and will include music and scripture, with a light meal of soup to follow the service. This commemorates the final meal Jesus had with His disciples, as well as honoring the Jewish tradition of the Passover meal, done to remember Israelite's Exodus from Egypt.

Our second Holy Week service will be "A Funeral for Jesus." This is a unique service for Mt. Calvary, and is meant to remember, once again, the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made out of His love for His Father as well as for us. It will consist of hymns and song, scripture and a message by Pastor Jim, with the stripping of the front of the sanctuary. For those who choose to go, we will then proceed to a local cemetery to reenact the finality of death, remembering that Jesus' friends and followers all thought Good Friday was His last word and the end.

But it wasn't! Early on Easter morning we will rise before the sun and rejoice in God's raising of his Son. As the sun comes up we'll gather outside at the pavilion with the coming of the light, and the celebrate the rising of the Light of the World. This service will be shorter, with a message given by the pastor of Charlton Church, Rev. Miguel Arenas.

During our continuing Easter celebration on Sunday morning, we will be offering both our Traditional and Jubilee services at their regular times. Join us for either or both services as we once again give thanks to our Lord for His mighty and everlasting promises through Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory! All and Forever!



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TRANSFORM 2026!!!
April 24 through 26



We are excited to have the opportunity to work on 8 projects in our local community this year. In order to do this though, we NEED VOLUNTEERS! This year's work includes weeding, mulching, mowing, digging a small pond, interior/exterior painting, general cleanup, laying a weed barrier, helping to lay a small bit of flooring, and more! Please consider setting aside some time Friday through Sunday to assist with these projects and be the hands and feet of Christ. If you'd like to volunteer, you can do so at the following link or by speaking with Pastor Jim or Maddie Snyder:
<https://forms.gle/kKtFmASV9swVHwPAA>



WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT EASTER

THIS is the moment Church! The single most important moment in human history. The moment that defines Christianity. The moment that declared the authenticity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Messiah, and Savior. The reason all of you are reading this today: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS!!! HALLELUIA!!!

Here are some interesting facts you may not be aware of regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus.

1. We have a reasonable knowledge of the date and time of when Jesus died: April 3, 33AD at 3PM. There are a number of reasons why this date and time work but the most interesting is that NASA records confirm a partial eclipse on that date and at that time that lasted 2 hours and 50 minutes. This coincides with the Scriptures that tell us "And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." (Mark 15:33). Interestingly, 3PM was also when the Passover lambs would have been slaughtered.
2. There is a source for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus written by a man named Flavius Josephus in 71 AD. It is called Testimonium Flavianum and says the following: "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was thought to be the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared." (Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3,3)
3. Simon of Cyrene is pulled from the crowd as Jesus is carrying the cross. Cyrene is a city in Africa meaning that Simon was likely black. Therefore, the taking of Simon may not have been random but rather an act of racism.
4. The family of the High Priest, Caiaphas, was known for their corruption. In fact, in the Jewish Talmud, Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, has this written about him: "Woe to the family of Annas! Woe to their serpent-like hisses." The position had become a political appointment by the Romans who wanted someone who would side with them. Annas and his son-in-law Caiaphas thus became vassals of Rome rather than servants of God.
5. There is a church built upon the house where it was said Peter denied Jesus three times. This would have been the house of Caiaphas. Interestingly, beneath the house was a dungeon. Because we don't know what happens to Jesus for a number of hours between His trial and being brought to Pilate, it's possible He was chained in the dungeon during that time.
6. The Scriptures tell us that "Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus" and that "He was accompanied by Nicodemus...[who] brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen...[and laid Him in] a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid." This was a particularly important moment because, traditionally, the bodies of those who'd been crucified were thrown into piles to be eaten by wild dogs and hyenas.
7. Women being the ones to first encounter the empty tomb and resurrected Jesus is highly significant. The testimony of a woman was considered worthless in ancient Israel, but God specifically chose women to be the ones to first share the news. Why? Because God values and loves us all. The limitations we put on each other do not come from God but from sin. God wants you to know you are loved and that, through a relationship with Him, you can know salvation and one day experience eternal life with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May God bless us all during this Holy Easter season.

Pastor Jim



WONDERS FOUND FEBRUARY REPORT

The story of the GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:25-37) still holds true today!

A load of medical equipment was taken to Mission Central several weeks ago but we still had too much to keep for the Wonders Found lending closet. When this happens, we take the surplus to Pronio's Market in Hershey where it is then shipped to Ukraine. The volunteer who took it from Wonders Found was busy and had to wait to move it until March 13, which, little did we know, was God's perfect timing.

While we were at Pronio's, a Ukrainian truck driver was there loading items to be shipped. From him we learned due to the war, the people of Ukraine have only 7 hours of electricity per day, no running water (so no way to do laundry) and the temperature, which is similar to ours, is now very cold! We also found out that in addition to medical equipment, which is all we thought they needed, they could use blankets, clothing, kitchen items, and other things. So we now have an expanded mission to Ukraine!

Because water is limited, clothing must be washed before shipment. So if you'd like to help, stop by Wonders Found and pick up a box of clothing to wash for the people of Ukraine.

THANK YOU to the volunteers from the congregation who have already agreed to wash clothing before it is sent, as well as those who will stop by in the future. Because of you, we are now able to help in so many ways and we thank God, who placed before us an additional opportunity to help those in need in Ukraine! And it was wonderful to meet our neighbors from Ukraine!

EASTER - A Time of Renewal - A Time to Reassess

C.S. Lewis wrote many letters to correspondents who had questions.

To Keith Manship, September 13, 1962, From C.S. Lewis

The whole problem of our life was neatly expressed by John the Baptist when he said (John, chap 3, verse 30) "He must increase, but I must decrease." This you have realized. But you are expecting it to happen suddenly: and also expecting that you should be clearly aware when it does. But neither of these is usual. We are doing well enough if the slow process of becoming more in Christ and less in ourselves has made a decent beginning in a long life (it will be completed only in the next world). Nor can we observe it happening. All our reports on ourselves are unbelievable, even in worldly matters (no one really hears his own voice as others do, or sees his own face). Much more in spiritual matters. God sees us, and we don't see ourselves. And by trying too hard to do so, we only get the fidgets and become either too complacent or too much the other way.

Your question what to do is already answered. Go on (as you apparently are going on) doing all your duties. And, in all lawful ways, go on enjoying all that can be enjoyed—your friends, your music, your books. Remember we are told to "rejoice." Sometimes when you are wondering what God wants you to do, He really wants to give you something.

As to your spiritual state, try my plan. I pray "Lord, show me just so much (neither more nor less) about myself as I need for doing thy will now."

Don't worry. All is going quite nicely.

Store Sales	\$19,176.07
Jewelry Sales	\$4,160.00
Merchandise Sales	\$195.00
Found Money	\$2,300.00
Total Income	\$36,296.39
Rent	-\$7,600.00
Utilities	-\$344.72
Store Supplies	-\$275.05
Missions	-\$1,001.00
Change for Easter Eggs	-\$160.00
Sales Tax	-\$923.13
Evangelical Free Church/ Thailand missionaries	-\$8,700.00
Lightshine Ministries/ mission building in Alaska	-\$2,000.00
Family Promise of Harrisburg	-\$2,000.00
Cocoa Packs	-\$5,000.00
Nutripacks	-\$5,000.00
Hanna's Pantry	-\$5,000.00
Profit/Loss	-\$706.51



MCUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES APRIL '26

CELEBRATE APRIL AND MAY
BIRTHDAYS WITH US ON APRIL
12TH!
HBD DYLAN AND LEENA!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
APRIL 5TH!

STAY TUNED FOR A
SPECIAL CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES EVENT
COMING SOON!

CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE
@MCUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Join us for Simply Loved Sunday
School in April at 9:30am where
kids will learn how loved they are!

We will have lessons about asking
God for Help, Messages from God
and God Showing He's the one True
God!

Remember...
God is great!



YOUTH GROUP - APRIL UPDATE

Hello Everyone!

This is Pastor Jim once again reporting in for Owen Howson. I am so excited to share (for anyone who hasn't already heard) that Owen and Ashley had their baby, Benjamin Eugene Howson, weighing a whopping 10 pounds!!! Four days after being born, Benjamin had a planned major heart surgery which could not have gone better. In fact, Benjamin was able to come home significantly earlier than expected. I invite you to keep the entire Howson family in your prayers as they adjust to their new normal and especially be in prayer for baby Benjamin as he continues to thrive!

In youth group news, if you haven't heard, Haley Kalinowski and Maddie Snyder have been running a Youth Bible Study at 4:30pm every Sunday before Youth Group. They've been doing a great job and I cannot encourage you enough to come and check it out!



Our schedule for April will be:

- April 5th - No Youth Group. HAPPY EASTER!!!
- April 12th - Youth Group from 6-7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm)
- April 19th - Youth Group from 6-7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm)
- April 24th - 26th - Support the TRANSFORM Ministry
- April 26th - Youth Group from 6-7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

Hope to see you all there!!

Owen Howson
Pastor Jim



Events and Happenings

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 David Heckman, Sr.
- 3 Barbara Faber
- 4 Karan Marker
- 4 Diana Reynolds
- 5 Jaden Ebert
- 6 Simon Eckard
- 6 Katie Reynolds
- 9 Erica Sehar
- 10 Tammy Chianos
- 14 Amy Stoner
- 16 Alexis Stoner
- 18 Cindy Hoover
- 18 Julius Illiano
- 20 Hope Walborn
- 21 Walter Reynolds
- 22 Amanda Collins
- 25 Paula Eckard
- 26 Nancy Schug
- 27 Peggy Hudson
- 30 Janet Deardorff

Wedding

Anniversaries

- 11 Jim & Connie Hazen
- 14 Antonio & Sheila Illiano
- 22 Jake & Kaitlyn Loffreda
- 27 Jeff & Sarah Klos
- 30 David & Sheila Heckman

Deaths

David E. Hoppie, 83, a long-time member of Mt. Calvary and former youth leader, passed away on March 5, 2026. His wife, Dee, passed in 2020.

Lloyd C. "Sonny" Strupp, Jr., 90, uncle of Michael Mumma Sr. passed away on February 24th.

Meetings

Ad Council Meeting, CR	4/13	7pm
Nominations via Zoom	4/14	6pm
Prayer Team, CR	4/23	6pm
SPRC, FH	4/27	7pm

On March 23, the WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY started a new study titled Why Did Jesus Have to Die? They're discussing the biblical foundations given for answering this question, which directly impacts our faith. Come on out and join us for reading, a video, and discussion about this cornerstone to our faith. It's never to late to join in. They meet Mondays at 6:30pm



RAHAB'S READS

On Tuesday, April 21 at 7pm, Rahab's Reads will be discussing Once There Were Wolves, by Charlotte McConaghy. Read up and come out to discuss!



CONGRATULATIONS!

As one church, we give thanks to God for the safe delivery and successful surgery of Benjamin Eugene Howson, who is already home with his family. Prayers answered. God Is Good! Congratulations Mom, Dad and Evelyn!



THANK YOU to everyone who ordered Easter Flowers to make our sanctuary look fresh and alive for Easter. Don't forget to pick your flowers up after the service you attend. If you forget what you ordered, please see Lynn Hackman.

Bernadette "Bernie" Kreiser, 94, another long-time member of Mt. Calvary, passed away on March 21. She was the wife of the late Clifford Kreiser and mother of Carol Kreiser, a member of our church. Her funeral will be held at Charlton UMC on March 31 at 11am.

Upcoming Events

Remember our TRANSFORM ministry happening from April 24th through 26th. Even an hour of time can make a big difference in completing this restorative work.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee will have its first meeting of 2026 on April 14th over ZOOM. For those unfamiliar with this Committee, they are the team responsible for Nominating individuals to serve in various roles throughout the Church. This is a prayerful process of discernment working to create the best teams possible for the best ministry possible at Mt. Calvary. This year's committee is:

Stacy Archibald
Maddie Creamer
Kaitlyn Loffreda
Chris Luttrell
Beth Matthews
Brenda Mumma
Diana Reynolds
Pam Ruddle
Bob Ulrey

Collection Updates




Food Pantry: The collection items for the month of April are soups. Donations may be placed in the designated plastic tub in the lobby.

Mission Zone: collecting wrapped plastic silverware, plastic bags, eye glasses, cell phones, aluminum cans, aluminum can tabs. Thank You for your donations!

APRIL HELPERS

9am Traditional Service	April 5 Easter	April 12	April 19	April 26	May 3 Youth Sunday
Acolyte	Cole Strouse	Colemann Sehar	Ava Collelo	Wyatt Scheidler	Everett Sehar
Greeters	Jim Reynolds Erin Collelo	Brad and Nicole Scheidler	Frank Duschek Janet Copulos	Judy Imes Patrick Gerety	Lenny Baumbaugh Carole Gochenour
Media	Jaan Sidorov	Bob Ulrey	Blake Bechtel	Micah Copulos	Blake Bechtel
Scripture Reader	Mary Beth Miele	Lynne Trojcak	Yvonne Fry	Nicole Scheidler	Diana Reynolds
Stewards	Sharon Sidorov Kathy Duschek	Blaine Fry Sharon Sidorov	Diana Reynolds Kay Holtzman	Sharon Sidorov John Kreamer	Bob Ulrey Blaine Fry
Ushers (head usher listed first)	Brad Scheidler John Kreamer	John and Maddie Kreamer	Blaine Fry Lenny Baumbaugh	Bill Griffiths Anna Strouse	Brad and Nicole Scheidler
Children's Sunday School Teachers	No Sunday school	Nicole Scheidler Haley Kalinowski	Mary Beth Miele	Tom Billington Janie Deardorff	Sarina Boyd Mary Beth Miele
11am Jubilee Service	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26	May 3 Youth Sunday
Nursery	Rachel Woodworth Kaitlyn Loffreda	Mark Schug Sarah Klos	Kim Kalinowski Maddie Snyder	Amanda Billington Jeff Klos	Jake Loffreda Ashley Howson
Greeters	Dave and Sheila Heckman	Mark and Debbie Schug	Steve and Tammy Chianos	Matt and Sarina Boyd	Russ and Amy Thomas
Media	Amanda Copulos	Blake Bechtel	Amanda Copulos	Mitchell White	Amanda Copulos
Scripture Reader	Norm White	Pam Ruddle	Debbie Schug	Dave Heckman	Rachel Woodworth
Stewards	Russ Thomas Mark Schug	Russ Thomas Todd Ruddle	Todd Ruddle Mark Schug	Matt Luttrell Russ Thomas	Mark Schug Matt Luttrell

APRIL CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6am - Men's Sharing Group, SH 6pm - Bell Practice, S 7:15pm - Choir Practice	2  6pm - MAUNDY THURSDAY CHRISTIAN SEDER	3  6pm - GOOD FRIDAY FUNERAL FOR JESUS	4 HOLY SATURDAY
5  6:30am - EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 9am- TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11am - JUBILEE WORSHIP	6	7 6:30pm - Men's Group, CR	8 6am - Men's Sharing Group, SH 6pm - Bell Practice, S 7:15pm - Choir Practice	9 5:30pm - Foundations Bible Study Meal, FH 6-7:30pm - Foundations Bible Study, FH	10	11
12 9am - Traditional Service 10am - Fellowship Time 10:15am - Sunday Schools 11am - Jubilee Service 5:30pm - Youth Group	13 11am - Manada Hill Bible Study 4-7pm - Barb, piano lessons, S 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study, CR 7pm - Ad Board	14 6pm - Nomination's Meeting Over ZOOM 6:30pm - Men's Group, CR	15 6am - Men's Sharing Group, SH 6pm - Bell Practice, S 7:15pm - Choir Practice	16 5:30pm - Foundations Bible Study Meal, FH 6-7:30pm - Foundations Bible Study, FH	17	18
19 9am - Traditional Service 10am - Fellowship Time 10:15am - Sunday Schools 11am - Jubilee Service 5:30pm - Youth Group	20 11am - Manada Hill Bible Study 4-7pm - Barb, piano lessons, S 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study, CR	21 6:30pm - Men's Group, CR 7pm - Rahab's Reads, SH	22 6am - Men's Sharing Group, SH 6pm - Bell Practice, S 7:15pm - Choir Practice	23 5:30pm - Foundations Bible Study Meal, FH 6-7:30pm - Foundations Bible Study, FH 6pm - Prayer Team Meeting	24 TRANSFORM MINISTRY WORKDAYS	
26 9am - Traditional Service 10am - Fellowship Time 10:15am - Sunday Schools 11am - Jubilee Service TRANSFORM MINISTRY WORKDAY 5:30pm - Youth Group	27 11am - Manada Hill Bible Study 4-7pm - Barb, piano lessons, S 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study, CR 7PM - SPRC, FH	28 6:30pm - Men's Group, CR	29 6am - Men's Sharing Group, SH 6pm - Bell Practice, S 7:15pm - Choir Practice	30 5:30pm - Foundations Bible Study Meal, FH 6-7:30pm - Foundations Bible Study, FH	25 9am-6pm - Social Hall and Kitchen Reserved for Private Function	
						S-Sanctuary SH-Social Hall CR-Conference Room YR - Youth Room 

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717-545-1681


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Scan below



The Vision – April 2026

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Worship With Us:

Traditional Worship: 9:00AM
Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School: 10:00AM
Jubilee Contemporary Worship: 11:00AM
Virtual 9 & 11AM:  YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@mtcalvaryunitedmethodistch3305>

NOTE: If you are receiving this newsletter and no longer wish to receive it or have joined another church, please contact us to have your name removed from the mailing list.