

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

January 2022

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com



Post Holiday Fatigue? Four Scriptures to Help Restore & Renew

After weeks of whirlwind holiday planning and activities, the holiday season has come to an end. Anyone else feeling less-than-energized? If so, you're in good company! When post-holiday exhaustion hits, it can be difficult to find motivation.

We are starting a new year! Here are four Scriptures on rest and restoration to guide us in the coming days:

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Psalm 46:10 NIV

Whatever holiday transition looks like for you - boxes of half-put-away ornaments, counters full of dishes, or maybe just a neglected to-do list - there's likely something crying for your attention. Try giving yourself a little mannequin challenge every once in a while: stop right in the midst of whatever you're doing - stand, sit, or lie still - and just breathe in God's peace. Recall His Word in Psalm 46:10. Remind yourself that whatever's making life feel hectic today, it will get done - eventually. It'll work out. It'll be ok. And best of all, it's not in your hands (even if you'd like to think so!). Let go, and let God work through the rhythm of your life to accomplish what's needed in His time.

IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, LIVE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE

Romans 12:18 NIV

The post-holiday season can be a challenging time to keep the "heavenly peace" going in our homes (and hearts!). It's likely the kids have had way more sugar than they're used to, we're all running on little sleep after some late nights, and we're thrust back into our weekly school and work routines. We may be more likely to snap at one another or say things we don't mean in moments of frustration. Why not introduce a new post-holiday theme this year called Space & Grace? Hang a sign, tack it up on the fridge, or remind one another during daily prayer. We all need some healthy personal space and extra grace for one another as we settle back into daily life.

COME TO ME, ALL WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST

Matthew 11:28 NIV

We often wrap up the season with a New Year's resolution or two focused on trying harder, doing more, or being better at something. What about a different kind of commitment this year? Once a day (or week, or whatever feels realistic) commit to setting aside a few moments for some holy imagination. Find a little time -

maybe after the morning rush or as you're drifting off to sleep at night - to close your eyes and envision a real connection with Jesus. What does it look like for you to receive the love and peace He longs to give you? Envision this beautiful place, laying your head on His shoulder, just being held without words or expectations. Maybe create a sketch or capture a photo that communicates Matthew 11:28 to your heart. Place it somewhere and remind yourself often to respond to His invitation of rest.

THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT

Psalm 118:24 ESV

For some of us, the after-Christmas blues can be hard to shake. We may be exhausted or disappointed that the holiday "break" is over. We may be dealing with the aftermath of far-from-perfect family gatherings; difficult relationships can often take their toll.

Whatever it is, we can rest assured that God always has a Word for our hearts. As Christmas decorations come down, why not consider a few new ways to surround yourself with His words of encouragement? There may not be an "official" season to celebrate for a while, but there's always a reason to rejoice. There are simple reminders throughout the day of God's presence with you. Whether it's a holiday or any day, we can celebrate the beautiful truth of John 1:14 NIV: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."

Article by Paige
Dayspring, Living your Faith

SPECIAL UPDATE FROM PASTOR RICK

Beloved congregation, we have a situation at hand that calls for action in order to continue to offer vital ministries in a safe and meaningful manner.

With a disaster emergency called in Bucks County, fresh encouragement from our denominational office, and concerns raised from within our congregation, it is time for us to make a change already seen in other sectors: mask mandating regardless of vaccination status.

We understand that this change will likely be met with a mixed response; some may be relieved while others may be less than thrilled about its return. This change is to help us avoid other more extreme measures, such as church closings. As with all COVID protocols, this is a temporary measure until such time that the steep spike in cases, primarily due to the Omicron variant, decreases.

Our goal is to keep the majority of our worship elements the same; continuing with responsive readings, singing, and Sunday School. While some things may need to be modified, as always, we strive to offer a sacred opportunity to encounter the Lord and grow in our faith together as a church family.

Beginning this Sunday, January 16, 2022, we will require masking upon entry to the church. We have purchased additional masks that will be available to anyone who forgot to bring one; they are located at the Welcome Center or can be requested from an usher.

As a general rule, if you are experiencing cold, flu, or COVID symptoms please avail yourself of our livestreamed worship so as not to jeopardize the health and well-being of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support of one another, myself and my family, the church, and our witness to the Quakertown community and beyond. God bless you all.



Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

Congratulations, it's a girl!

Pastor Rick, his wife Kim, and "big sister" Ella welcomed a baby girl, Cora Rhiannon Brown, on December 20. Praise the Lord for the best Christmas gift ever!

Pastor's Paternity Leave

Pastor Rick is presently on paternity leave, the specifics of which are detailed below:

- ✓ Pastor Rick is observing a one-month paternity leave
 - Pastor Kathryn will be on call for pastoral care needs
- ✓ Following said month, Pastor Rick will be on "light duty" for an additional month
 - Pastor Rick will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, January 23. He will be making visitations but will not be attending standard church meetings unless specifically needed.

During this time, we ask you to contact Pastor Kathryn (610.348.2632) with any pastoral concerns. For other church matters, please contact Barbara Hafler, Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com). Thank you for your cooperation during this time of paternity leave for Pastor Rick and his family.

Pastors' Office Hours

Pastor Rick's office hours will resume following completion of his paternity leave, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Kathryn has office hours Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feel free to drop by to see her during these hours. To schedule a specific time to meet with Pastor Kathryn, you may contact her directly.



Pastor Rick is available by phone (484.358.1138) or by email (pastorrick@qumc.com).

Pastor Kathryn can be reached at kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Our worship and Sunday School schedule at QUMC is:

- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. - Worship
- 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School for Children and Adults
- 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon – Worship

11:00 a.m. worship will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

If you have any questions about the new worship schedule, please feel free to contact Pastor Rick (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com) or Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com).



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!
Sunday Morning, 9:45 to 10:45 p.m.

2-Years-Old to Kindergarten	Room 107/108
Grades 1 to 5	Room 106
Middle and High School	Room 105
Women's Class	Room 114
Men's Class	Room 112
Faithbuilders	Room 109

Children's Sunday School classes, age two through grade 12, now meet in Miller Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. for a brief period of fellowship, songs, and prayer. After opening exercises, teachers will escort the children to their individual classrooms. Parents can pick up their children from their respective classroom at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School is in need of additional Middle School/High School teachers. We are also in need of assistants and substitutes for the program. Anyone interested in giving of their time and talent to this ministry of the church is asked to contact Christine Rush at (215.264.4815 or rushcm@npenn.org).

Small groups are an integral part of the Christian Education program at QUMC!

Bread for the Journey is a small group meeting Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Together we pray, explore Scripture, and read and discuss books as we journey together to grow in our relationship with God. For more information, contact Gale Hewitt (gwhewitt4@gmail.com or 267.218.2479).

The Friday Online Bible Study meets on ZOOM, Friday mornings, 9:30 a.m. To learn more about this small group, contact Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com) or Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com).

From Missions Commission



American Red Cross Blood Drive

QUMC will host a blood drive on Friday, February 11. Sign-up for the blood drive online (RedCrossBlood.org) or in the narthex.

Code Blue Shelter

The Missions Team cooked several meals for our local Code Blue Shelter, also delivering laundry soap and detergent to the shelter. The Quakertown Shelter operates for people aged 18 and up who are in need of a safe and warm environment when outside temperatures drop below 32 degrees. Those served by the Code Blue Shelter receive a meal, a bed, and the opportunity to shower and do laundry.

Super Bowl Food Sale

The Missions Team (we are a bit on the old side) and the youth (who are a bit on the young side) are partnering up to offer the church family of QUMC culinary delights for Super Bowl Sunday. Following worship on Sundays, January 9, 16, and 23, Missions will be taking orders for a variety of tasty treats including Beef BBQ, Chili, and Potato Salad. See the weekly bulletin, or page 6 of this newsletter, for an order form. Food can be picked up after worship services on Super Bowl Sunday, February 13.

The Youth Group will offer "cash & carry" baked goods following worship on Super Bowl Sunday.

Thank You!

From the Missions Team

Missions members realize there are times throughout the year that we ask a lot of our QUMC family. Okay, there are times that we do more than ask; we implore, beg, and beseech. And, thankfully, you come through for us. When we ask that you donate money to QUMC Cares, Blanket Sunday - you name it - our church members say yes. When we ask you for your time – again, you give it. Members help at the Chicken Barbecue, participate in drop-off donation events, make baked goods, and buy our culinary delights (think Easter candy). So, to one and all a ginormous thank you! We appreciate the care and kindness you show to both Missions and the community throughout the year.

QUMC Cares

From Jim Newcomer (on behalf of Quakertown Cares):

We are passing your special collection along to a "double" family - two single mothers with limited English share a rental to make ends meet. Multiple children and multiple part-time jobs while the children are doing well learning English. The families suffered a loss when laundry and glasses were stolen. Thank you again for your help.

Note: For our November collection, the church family of QUMC generously gave \$266 on behalf of Quakertown Cares. Thank you to all who donated.



A Stewardship Letter and 2022 Commitment Card were recently mailed out to members and friends of QUMC. Commitment cards can still be submitted in-person at worship or can be mailed to the church.

Please prayerfully consider how you will share your presence, gifts, service, and witness to the church in the coming year. Thank you!



Come out and join our youth for some fun, fellowship, and exploring our faith!

**If you have any questions about Youth Group, contact Pastor Kathryn
(kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610-348-2632).**

YOUTH GROUP MEETS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, 6:30 TO 8:00 PM

Our Youth Group is primarily for fourth- to twelfth-graders; however, if you have a younger child who would like to attend please contact Pastor Kathryn and Pastor Rick so we can have a conversation. Likewise, if you are a high school graduate and would like to take part, please be in touch as we can share specifics of how you can become a Youth Group volunteer. A friendly reminder that all youth are welcome to attend - you need not be a member of QUMC. So please feel free to invite friends and family to attend.

THIS JUST IN!

Youth (ages 12 to 18) interested in arts, history, and museums are invited to join the Museum Youth Advisory Council at Historic St. George's UMC Museum & Archives, 326 New Street, Philadelphia. Experience the workings of a history museum, while learning skills including archival work, museum management, planning and assisting with teen events and programs at the museum, developing the museum's youth voice, and acting as a museum advocate!

For more information, contact Kate Nolan (kate@historicstgeorges.org).

Family Matters

Happy Birthday to: Richard Hillegass – January 4; Samuel Crowther – January 16.

Note of Thanks:

“Our sincere thank you to everyone for the heartfelt cards, notes, personal support, compassion, and sympathy for the loss of our beloved Audrey. They have been a source of strength and support during this difficult time. Your reminders that she is with GOD in his heavenly kingdom have eased the pain. Thank you to our Christian family. God bless you all.”

Bill Diller and family

Looking For Ways To Help?



- Altar Flowers are \$40 for two vases and can be sponsored in honor or memory of someone (or if you just feel it upon your heart to provide flowers for a Sunday during the year). The florist will use flowers seasonal at the time. Special requests can be fulfilled at an additional cost. Flowers are yours to keep after worship services. To sponsor altar flowers, contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).
- Got Talent? If you play the piano, flute or another instrument, you can make a meaningful contribution to worship! Musicians are needed to play occasionally throughout the year, solos or with others. In particular, Bethan is looking for a pianist to play a four-hands duet on Christmas Eve. To share your musical gifts by making a joyful noise unto the Lord, see Bethan.
- The Hospitality Ministry is in need of volunteers in these areas: Greeters, Hospitality Table, Welcome Center. If you are interested in serving in any (or all) of these areas, contact Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com or 610.282.3708).
- The Bountiful Basket of Morning Snacks at our Hospitality Table is a popular spot on Sunday mornings! Donations of pre-packaged breakfast snacks are welcomed and can be placed in the kitchen, clearly marked “Hospitality Table.” Many thanks!
- Finance Chair Committee Member is needed. Anyone with a background in finance who would volunteer for a three-year term as Chair of Finance (leading meetings and the team), is encouraged to contact Pastor Rick. This position is very important to the financial health of the church.
- Stewardship Chair is needed. Contact Pastor Rick if you can volunteer for this position.
- Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency is looking for caring individuals or families interested in providing a short- or long-term home for a child and/or children in foster care between birth and 17 years of age. You will receive financial assistance for room and board and medical assistance. You will receive 24/7 professional supportive services and preservice training. Contact Shantelle at (215) 348 -6922 or sjgammon@buckscounty.org.
- Outreach Care is in need of volunteers to assist the homeless in Upper Bucks County by helping them to get back on their feet. Contact Joanne Cramer (610.442.6465) to learn more.



We're Updating and Would Like to Hear from You!

The church is in the process of updating telephone contact information for family and friends of QUMC. We ask that you reach out to the Church Secretary (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com) with the best contact phone number for your family. It can be a cell phone number or a landline, whichever is your preferred mode of telephone contact. Thank you!

Interested in a 2022 Confirmation Class?

Do you have basic questions about what confirmation is and our process? If you are interested in confirmation for 2022, contact Pastor Kathryn for more information (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632).

Safe Sanctuary Clearances

Welcome back everyone! Due to COVID, we lost over a year, as well as track of Safe Sanctuary clearances and expiration dates. If your clearances are updated, please make sure we have a copy for our files. Contact Marj Lofland (215.257.7389, 267.227.8990, yeamarj@gmail.com) for more information.

The following three background checks are required:

- ✓ Department of Human Services Child Abuse History Clearance.
- ✓ Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal Records Check.
- ✓ Federal Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)

If your original form has been misplaced, or if you need a new application, you can access the following links.

Volunteer Clearances (If your clearances need renewal)

All volunteers working with children must meet Safe Sanctuary requirements which include:

Child Abuse Clearance <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Criminal Background Check <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

Both are currently free to obtain.

You also must get a fingerprint check done if you have not lived in the state of Pennsylvania for 10 years, or you can sign a waiver instead if you have lived in Pennsylvania for 10 or more years. Here is the link:

Fingerprinting https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm

Lastly, there is a Safe Sanctuary training offered periodically that must be taken. If you would like hands-on First Aid and CPR training, it can be arranged by contacting Marj Lofland.

Youth Group Library Project

This project is underway. The youth are collecting books for our little library project. Contact Pastor Kathryn (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632) if you have questions or are looking for more details.

Faith Preschool

For more information, reach out to Megan McGinty (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172). The registration form for Faith Preschool can be found at :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vq2wupgX4r24OWo3gcokTFNWLuHaTIFH/view?usp=sharing>

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind the church family that members of the congregation experiencing financial difficulty should contact Pastor Rick (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

The church has an Acts IV Fund specifically designed to help members during a time of financial struggle. Inquiries are completely confidential. Now more than ever, we realize many are struggling to make ends meet. QUMC is here to help. Those with sufficient resources who have it in their heart to contribute to the Acts IV Fund can send donations, indicating that preference, to QUMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Prayer Shawls

Those who are ill, grieving or just lonely can request a shawl for comfort. Contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com) or Janet Finch (215.538.0835).

Worship Service Materials

Anyone desiring a copy of the bulletin each week is asked to contact the church office (barb@qumc.com or 215.536.4992) to get on the email and/or USPS list.

Want To Become A Member or Schedule a Baptism?

The doors of QUMC are always open! Contact Pastor Rick for more information (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

Paper Recycling

We like to do our part to save the planet. Receptacles can be found in the southwest corner of the church parking lot to recycle paper. Acceptable materials to recycle include newspapers, magazines, catalogs, books, office paper, school paper, wrapping paper, and junk mail. Missions will receive a check to be used for missions programs of the church.

Aluminum Can Recycling

This is yet another way we save the planet, while helping defray costs of the annual Chicken Barbecue. Bag and bring your cans to the white trash cans at the church pavilion. They do not need to be crushed but they are easier to handle if they are. All brands of aluminum cans are welcome.

Monthly Newsletter

If you have items for the monthly newsletter you can email them to Teddi Miller at QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com or you can put them in the newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next monthly newsletter, please email Teddi or drop off the information in the church newsletter mailbox by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!



Thank you for your continued commitment, financial support, and faithfulness to QUMC.

- ✓ 2021 Contribution Statements were recently mailed out through the USPS. If you did not receive a statement, or have questions about your statement, contact Financial Secretaries Bob & Anna Mushrush (215.536.3112 or robert.mushrush@yahoo.com).
- ✓ The audit of church financial records for 2021 has begun. Those responsible for maintaining financial records of church groups are asked to submit their books to the church for auditing by the Audit Team.

In this time of COVID-19, we ask that financial records be sealed in a Ziploc bag or other type of protective covering, clearly marked with the name of your group and "Audit 2021." Those with a key to the church can leave financial records in the box located on the table outside the church office. If you are unable to drop them at the church, contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com) to make arrangements for a contactless drop-off or pick-up.

Additionally, one or two additional volunteers with a finance background are needed to assist with the audit. If you are able to help out in this way, please contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com).

Thank you for your cooperation in submitting materials for the 2021 Audit. Following completion of audit of your books, you will be contacted with instructions on how to retrieve your records.

Continued Appeal Regarding Bequest Opportunities: Bequests from individuals are an important part of the funding of our church's missions. If or when you plan a charitable bequest to help support the mission of the Quakertown United Methodist Church, you can direct your bequest in the following ways:

1. Unrestricted bequest: This is a gift for our general purposes, to be used at the discretion of our Trustees and Finance Committees. A gift like this - without conditions attached - is frequently the most useful, as it allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.
2. Restricted bequest: This type of gift allows you to specify how the funds are to be used. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If so, it's best to consult us when you make your will to be certain that your intent can be carried out.
3. Honorary or Memorial bequest: This is a gift given "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. We are pleased to honor your request and have many ways to grant appropriate recognition.
4. Endowed bequest: This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only the investment income they generate. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.