

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

April 2022

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com



ALLELUIA!

Easter Sunday, April 17
"Blossoming of the Cross"

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m. Easter Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Easter Worship

On Easter Sunday, we welcome you to come to church with flowers (either live or silk) to place on the cross. This will help us bring the cross to life in beauty and celebration of our risen Lord.

5 Easy Ways to Live Your Faith

Live your faith. It's a phrase that we hear often in church or from mentors and peers, but it can be difficult to articulate what that really means. For such a simple phrase, we often feel paralyzed with how to act on the words and live our faith in our everyday lives. But we want to flip the script and make it easy to start living our faith out loud **boldly**.

Living your faith is not something that is only confined to the four walls of the church, like volunteering in the nursery or leading a Sunday school class. Instead, it's an everyday, outward expression of your love for God and what He is doing in your life. It's a choice that we must make, and it's one that impacts everyone around us. Below are five ways to intentionally live your faith in simple, everyday actions. You're probably already doing some of these things in your own life, and you didn't even realize that you were ministering to those around you!

..continued on page 2

Be a friend.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Who knew that living your faith could start with something as simple as being a friend to others? Being a good listener and attentive friend to those around you expresses Christ's love through you, shows others that you care, and that they're important to you. There's nothing more frustrating than trying to have a serious conversation with a friend, and they can't be bothered to look up from their phone long enough to engage with you. Choose to be *intentional* with your relationships and treat others how Jesus treated others. Be authentic, and inclusive, and your friends will see God's love shining through you.

Who comes to mind when you think of who you could be a better friend to? Does someone come to mind that you might want to start a friendship with?

Use your gifts.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10-11

The Lord has blessed each of us with unique gifts that we can use to further His Kingdom. Sometimes, we don't even realize we have those gifts, but they've been given to us for the purpose of living and sharing our faith. For example, if you love surprising the people in your life with handwritten notes, you may want to start a card ministry. Come up with a list of all of your loved ones and people in your life you want to bless, and start sending them cards of encouragement that include Scriptures. You've taken your gift of words and started using it to live your faith out loud to the people around you! You can turn any gift into a ministry.

Think about the gifts God gave you. What is an easy way for you to put just one of those gifts into practice to glorify God?

Radiate positivity.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

Living your faith can be as simple as just having a positive attitude! Every morning, before we even get out of bed, we have a choice to make as to whether or not we will be positive or look for all of the small things to worry about. People take notice of our attitude and actions, and it's our task as Christ-followers to be an example for others in this way. There is *always* going to be something that goes wrong or doesn't go as planned, but we have the freedom to *choose* how we react to it, and we can choose to react by glorifying God with our attitude, and in turn, living our faith.

Try to simply smile at one or two strangers today, you'll be blessed by how it makes you feel and you never know what kind of impact it can have on their day!

Show your gratitude.

Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

We all have things to be thankful for, but it can be easy to overlook them or take them for granted if we aren't consciously recognizing the blessings around us. When you are actively seeking things in your life and the lives of those around you to show gratitude for, the people around you can't help but take notice. Thank your friend for taking the time to listen to you when you've had a rough morning. Thank your barista for always having a smile on their face while making your morning coffee. Thank your boss for making the time to meet with you before a big presentation. Thank your spouse for folding the laundry so you could take some extra time for yourself. Finding the time in your day to recognize and react to the things around you will open your eyes and the eyes of others to the kindness and blessings that God has provided for you.

Go one step further, write a note or two to let someone know how grateful you are for them. Your simple words of encouragement will build them up and may cause a ripple effect.

..continued on page 3

Do your best.

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people. Colossians 3:23

At the end of the day, no one is perfect. We are all just trying to do our best and make Jesus proud, and **we will make mistakes**. But consciously choosing to do your best in everything you do is an outward expression that you are following what God asks of us in the Scripture. By working for the Lord and doing things for His glory instead of your own, **you are living your faith** and showing a great example to others around you.

*Article by Jordan Sears
Dayspring*



Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Game, Wednesday May 25

Calling all baseball fans!!! Join us for a family outing to the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game, Wednesday, May 25, 7:05 p.m. The night is an 80's night! Tickets are \$11 per person, which includes a \$2 ballpark credit. You are welcome to bring friends and family and carpooling is available for those needing transportation.

Sign-up in the narthex or contact Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815) if you are interested in reserving tickets. Payment is due by Sunday, April 24.

We look forward to a fun family out at the Iron Pigs and we hope you can join us!



Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! Mark your calendar for this incredible event, Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24. Details to follow.

Can you help? A few more teacher groups are needed for VBS, as well as someone to supervise games. Contact Megan McMichael (megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) or Allison Ghorm (agghorm@gmail.com) to volunteer.





Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

Greetings, good people, on this day the Lord has made.

We are quickly approaching Holy Week and I am very excited to be celebrating it with you all. As part of our first of many Lenten seasons and Holy Weeks, we have explored a thematic sermon series: "Healing Mind, Body and Spirit." We celebrated our Service of Healing on April 3, engaging that day, seeking the healing we need, and coming to offer our praise and thanksgiving for a past healing. Pastor Kathryn delivered the sermon at our 11:00 a.m. worship service. When Pastor Kathryn and I drafted this series before last Advent, we envisioned this holy moment and praise God for seeing it come to fruition.

There is one aspect of our upcoming Holy Week that I would especially like to highlight: the Blossoming of the Cross. I remember this tradition from my days growing up in my hometown United Methodist Church (though, in all likelihood it was not something unique to PUMC). Marj Lofland, Eileen VanAuken, and "Skip" Eichlin generously took on this project, adding some mesh wiring to one of our crosses so that we might place flowers into it. Why flowers, you ask? At Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We see the cross, formerly a symbol of Roman execution and humiliation, now bare, for our Savior is alive forevermore. The flowers we add offer a tactile representation of our theology: the transformation of the death on the cross into a symbol of resurrection power!

As such, at each of our three (3) Easter worship services, you will be invited to come forward and adorn the cross with flowers. We invite you to bring real or artificial flowers (knowing that, much like around Valentine's Day, we will see skyrocketing prices on live flowers). Moreover, we will not simply keep this beautified cross all to ourselves. No, after our final Easter Sunday service we will move the cross outdoors, to the lawn near our church sign so that all who drive may see this symbol of new life through the power of God.

My thanks goes out to all of you for your prayers amid this holy season. As I said, and will likely say again, I am very excited for this celebration with you, QUMC. Lent and Holy Week offer a unique time to draw closer to the Lord and each other. As we finish this season, I challenge you not to let up on your participation; keep attending worship, Sunday School, our small groups, or various teams and committees. Stay engaged for the Lord is active and we can come out of this time better disciples, better brothers and sisters in Christ, and better witnesses for Jesus. Amen!

God bless you all,

Pastor Rick Brown



Confirmation Class Call

We have had several individuals come forward expressing interest in becoming members of the church. If you have been attending regularly and have found this to be your church home, please be in touch with me as we draw up plans for an adult and youth confirmation classes, respectively. I would truly hate to miss one of you who is ready to make this commitment so please don't hesitate to make your interest known.

Pastors' Office Hours

- My office hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. I encourage you to stop in to chat with your pastor. As always, you are welcome to give me a call, shoot me a text, or pop me an email so we can work out a time to meet that best fits your schedule. I observe my Sabbath on Fridays, so all non-emergency matters will be contacted the following day.
- Pastor Kathryn has office hours Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feel free to stop by the church at this time or schedule a specific time to meet with her using the contact information listed below.



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.



Holy Week

Looking at the impact of each day, not just rushing to get to Easter

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday Celebration, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 15

Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

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 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).

Looking for a Small Group?

- "Maid" discussion group, biweekly on Sundays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on ZOOM. Contact Pastor Kathryn (610.348.2632 or kathrynswan19@gmail.com). This group runs through Sunday, June 5.
- Bread for the Journey small group, Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Contact Gale Hewitt (267.218.2479 or gwhewitt@gmail.com).
- Online Bible Study, Fridays, 9:30 a.m. on ZOOM. Contact Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com) or Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com).



From Missions Commission

Connecting the Church in Mission



The Missions Team of QUMC is pleased to support Dr. Belinda Forbes, Global Missionary of the United Methodist Church to Nicaragua. You can learn more about Belinda and her work here:

My new placement as a UMC Global Missionary is with Fundación AMÓS, Salud y Esperanza (or in English, AMOS Health & Hope). AMOS is an acronym for "A Ministry Of Sharing" (Health and Hope). The organization's name also makes reference to the Old Testament prophet Amos who was a farmer and spoke out against injustices in his day.

AMOS is a Nicaraguan nonprofit health organization whose mission is dedicated to reducing preventable deaths and improving the health and well-being of people who suffer from the unjust conditions of poverty. AMOS's programs empower local leaders to build upon their strengths and respond to the needs they identify within their communities. AMOS seeks health for all people, a world where no child dies from a preventable disease and effective and empowering health care. AMOS believes that everyone deserves to have health and hope.

Many of you understand and support the participatory health model I have promoted during my 30 years in Nicaragua. I hope it is easy for you to appreciate how much I identify with AMOS's approach toward health equity and the opportunity it presents for you as my supporters to embrace this placement as an extension of your own mission to serve the world.

Jerusalem House

Thank you to everyone who donated food for Easter Dinner at Jerusalem House. Your generosity is appreciated!

Our First Food Drive of 2022!!!

On Saturday, May 14, Missions will host a food drive. Donations can be dropped off at the pavilion behind the church on that day. Thank you one and all for your continued support of this outreach effort.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the gift of life by participating in our next blood drive, Friday, May 13 in Miller Hall. Sign-up online (RedCrossBlood.org) or in the narthex.

Quakertown Cares

Last month, QUMC Missions gave our Quakertown Cares donation to a family in Trumbauersville who recently lost their husband/father. This month, we decided to again donate to this family.

Wawa Food Donation Connection

The Missions Team has become part of the Wawa Food Donation Connection. The Food Donation Connection makes it possible for local organizations (like the Missions Team) to go to Wawa in the late morning (we go once a week) and gather hot food express items that have not sold that day. We usually gather 30 to 40 pounds of food. We take the food to the Quakertown Food Pantry, who then distributes the food to the community. If any church member is interested in volunteering to help gather food on Wednesday's, we would be happy to accept your help.



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

Youth group is in full swing meeting on Wednesdays! Come out and join us for fun, games and fellowship!

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.

Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14: The Youth will have an overnight retreat at Camp Seltzer. As requested by last year's confirmation class, we will be going back up to Camp Seltzer, hosted by Pastor Jim of Palmyra First UMC. The camp is near Hershey Park and we will stay overnight for some fun and fellowship. Both male and female chaperones are needed for the overnight trip.

The Worship Committee needs help each month with Communion! Youth that have gone through the confirmation process, or plan on going into confirmation within the year, are asked to help out the Worship Committee by passing out gluten free elements for the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please contact Pastor Kathryn if you are interested. Youth are needed at both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Little Church-Shaped Library Project: The youth are collecting books for the little church-shaped library project. Contact Pastor Kathryn if you have books to donate, questions, or are looking for more details.

Family Matters



Happy Birthday to: William Diller – April 5; Nancy Prusch – April 8; Evelyn Lewis – April 22.

A Note of Thanks:

“This is Belinda Forbes, Global Missionary to Nicaragua.

Recently I heard from Global Ministries that Quakertown UMC has committed to be in a relationship with me over the next six months. Your name and email was listed on the Covenant Relationship Form.

I am reaching out to say hello and to ask permission to include your email in my mailing list. I hope to have a newsletter out in Lent where you will read more about the mission I am connected to. I will also keep Quakertown UMC on my prayer list, giving thanks for your support and praying for the wellbeing of the church members and your ministries.

I see from the church website that Quakertown UMC supports a variety of local, national and global missions, some Methodist and some not. That sounds like a really great combination to me! I see you have also supported Global Missionaries, I am pleased to be among them.

Please extend my greeting to Pastor Rick and Pastor Kathryn, the staff, the missions team and all of the congregation.”

Grace and peace, Belinda Forbes



Looking For Ways To Help?



- The Quakertown Food Pantry is in desperate need of personal care items, soap, and laundry detergent! As an outreach project, the Youth Group will be collecting these items on behalf of the food pantry. Please consider picking up a few of these items the next time you are at the store and placing them in Pastor Kathryn's office. Thank you in advance for your support of the Youth Group, the Quakertown Food Pantry, and the community-at-large.
- 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. 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.





Reminder from the Trustees & the Church Office

Praise God that QUMC seems to be back in full swing! Both church members and members of the community-at-large are requesting weddings, baptisms, parties, and showers in our beautiful facility. This means it is extremely important to keep our building use forms and church calendar up to date and accurate to avoid scheduling conflicts.

All staff, church groups, and church members are reminded to promptly inform the church office of any upcoming events. Events need to be put on the calendar and necessary paperwork completed to reserve your space. Building use forms are readily available in the church office. It is our hope that this effort will eliminate issues of double booking and scheduling conflicts as we move forward toward a once-again active church building!

To schedule an event, contact the church office 215.536.4992, 215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com.

Appointment Change

On Sunday, March 6, 2022 an announcement was about a new appointment for one of our pastors. On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), we wish to inform you that Pastor Kathryn Swan has been appointed as the Senior Pastor of Mountainhome UMC as of July 1, 2022. Please join us in thanking Pastor Kathryn for her ministry and service at QUMC. An event to formally send her off with blessing is forthcoming so stay tuned for information from the SPRC. In the meantime, amid these remaining three and half months with us, please pray for Pastor Kathryn and our church as we meet to discuss our future ministry in light of this appointment change.

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 27 was UMCOR Sunday – an opportunity to share the goodness of life with God’s children at home and internationally.

When disaster strikes outside of the United States, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. In the short term, UMCOR provides funds to partners to distribute food, hygiene supplies, shelter and other basic items. In long term the agency works with local partners toward recovery and reconstruction.

Thank you to all who have generously supported the work of UMCOR with your donations.

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Special Giving Update

The church family of QUMC continues to put faith into action by supporting outreach efforts of the church. To date, \$989 was given on behalf of UMCOR (One Great Hours of Sharing) and \$661 was given to Ukraine relief efforts. Thank you for your continued generosity!

What's Happening at QUMC?

If you wish to receive updates on all that is happening at the church, subscribe to our church-wide email list or USPS mailing list. For more information on these resources, contact the Church Secretary, Barbara Hafler at 215.538.7817, 215.536.4992, or barb@qumc.com.

Membership Care

The Prayer Chain is one of the ways we care for each other here at QUMC. To join the Prayer Chain, or to put a prayer concern on the chain, contact Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com or 215.538.0835).

Safe Sanctuary Clearances

Clearances are required for all volunteers working with children. If your clearances are updated, please make sure we have a copy for our files. Contact Marj Lofland (215.257.7389, 267.227.8990, or yeamarj@gmail.com) if you have questions or have documents to submit. There is also a required Safe Sanctuary training offered periodically. In addition, if you would like hands-on First Aid and CPR training, it can be arranged by contacting Marj.

Faith Preschool

For more information, reach out to Megan McGinty (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172).

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.

The audit of church financial records for 2021 is complete. Thank you to Molly Minarik and Debi Umstead for their hard work performing this annual task.

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 manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.

To learn more about bequest opportunities, see Pastor Rick or any member of the Finance Committee. 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 help to provide for the future of the church.