

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

May 2022

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com



What if our Happiness Isn't a Location?

Have you ever thought “There has to be more to life than this?” If you’ve had the same thoughts, there are two things you need to know before we dig in:

- You’re in good company and not alone.
- Your thoughts are spot on: There is more to life than this place we often catch ourselves in.

My happy place has always been a physical location. If you would have asked me what my happy place was, I more than likely would have said any beach or hanging with my husband in a cozy coffee shop, even though moments in these places are few and far between.

You know those moments when it feels like God is speaking through someone else directly to you? This was one of those. As I took one step in front of the other on my walk, my mind led me to a question that has challenged me to pivot my perspective ever since: What if our happy place is our everyday journey with God? Trust me, there are days when I look at my own life and I remember picturing it to be so different.

Life often looks very different from how we pictured it, but where God has positioned us is exactly where we need to be. This is where the freeing yet challenging choice we have to make comes in: Would we rather spend our days wishing we were somewhere else or spend our days soaking up the very place where our feet are planted?

A friend said something that stuck with me. She told me how her pastor refers to our time on Earth as “going camping.” Think about that for a minute: When you go camping, you typically bring a light load with you and have a posture that is expectant for some type of crazy adventure.

Friends, we’re on an everyday journey to do kingdom work until we are called to our forever home. It’s not an arrival moment we are aiming for but a voyage with Him. Our God is not only for us but is with us.

Are you ready to pivot your happy place from a precise location to anywhere He takes you in this life? Ephesians 2:7-10 in the *Message Version* says it best, “Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It’s God’s gift from start to finish! We don’t play the major role. If we did, we’d probably go around bragging that we’d done the whole thing! No, we neither make

nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.”

There's no better time than now. Welcome to your everyday happy place!

Tips & Tricks for Creating Your Everyday Happy Place:

1. Accept your ticket from God to let Him be a part of your daily journey.
2. Lighten your load. Give your burdens to God and allow yourself to receive grace. It's the ultimate gift that has no strings attached and requires no transactions.
3. Get in the Word and really get to know God. Lean not on your own understanding and focus on seeking Him each day.
4. Spend time in prayer and confiding in God. He truly listens and will find the most creative ways to speak back to you. Instant gratification has nothing on the satisfaction you experience when you start seeing God reveal Himself to you. Come to Him with the good, bad, and everything in between.
5. Make moves and know that God is with you wherever you go. Love people on your journey and enjoy the abundant life He wants you to have now.

From *Dayspring*
Article by Hope Reagan Harris

Your Dollars At Work



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

Something new this month is the addition of a "Your Dollars at Work" segment. This month's feature: The Hospitality Cart.

In the advent of the Coronavirus, we, like many churches and organizations offering food and coffee to worshippers and visitors alike, were heavily advised to cease such actions as to not spread the virus. As conditions improved, we brought back the former Hospitality Table as a Hospitality Cart. With fig, fruit and nut-based snacks (among many others) we have happily seen children and adults enjoying a snack while going to and from worship and Sunday School. In recent weeks, we brought back hot coffee after it was requested by several folks. It is my pleasure each week to see our church family catch up with one another over a snack or cup of coffee (sometimes even both!)

Part of your giving makes this possible, good people. While our Hospitality budget is not large, the team is ever using cost-effective means to get delicious and varied snacks for our enjoyment. Furthermore, several individuals have donated or made snacks, further aiding this hospitality ministry. Therefore, thank you, good people, for the ways you fund the fellowship of our church membership. Let us continue to build up our relationships with one another and all who grace our church through simple yet impactful acts of hospitality such as The Hospitality Cart. Enjoy!



Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

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

What a month! April was an incredibly meaningful time as I had the wonderful opportunity to have my first Holy Week and Easter with you all. I was pleased to meet your friends and family at these services. We saw 215 total folks across our three Easter Sunday worship services! Note: that does not include the folks who watched online via our Facebook and/or YouTube pages. I especially found our Sunrise Service meaningful as we greeted the new Easter day as the sun peeked over the building.

As we enter the post-Easter season, we wrap up a season of heavy activity. For our students and parents, another school year is quickly (but not quickly enough) coming to a close. Please, pray for all our students as they write final papers, take final exams, and prepare themselves for a summer of refreshment and preparation for the coming year's studies. On the church-side of things, while I've heard of plans for getaways, vacations and the like, we at QUMC will continue the good work of Jesus Christ in great and varied ways. Some new ideas are coming together so while I'll be sparse on details now, full plans are forthcoming.

This month also sees Pastor Kathryn's time with us coming to a close. Pastoral transitions are always a bittersweet moment; we are saddened that we will no longer have their pastoral presence but are also excited for them as they head off to a new ministry setting. I encourage you to reach out to her to express your thanks. The SPRC and I are working on a send-off so stay tuned for details. Speaking of the SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee for those wondering what I'm alluding to), we are at work on transition plans as, in the wake of Pastor Kathryn's departure, we have both pastoral visitation and youth leadership areas that need filling. Please pray for us. Moreover, if you are passionate about either or both of these areas please contact either myself or any of our SPRC members.

As I wrap this entry, as always, my thanks goes out to all of you. I continue to feel your love and support and I hope the same is felt on your end. We have a great many changes and opportunities before us, QUMC; let's rise to meet them in the name of our Risen Savior. Amen?

Pastor Rick Brown

Confirmation Class Call

As the summer draws ever near, if you are someone who is considering making QUMC your church home, please speak to me. We will be having information meetings over the summer with plans for classes proper to begin this fall.

Office Hours & Sabbath

My office hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. so feel free to stop in to chat with me. If you wish to secure a meeting with me you are welcome to call, text, or email me so we can work out a time that best fits your schedule. Please note that I observe my Sabbath on Fridays, so all non-emergency matters will be contacted the following day.

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

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. Contact Christine Rush (215.264.4815 or rushcm@npenn.org) to learn more about Sunday School.





From Missions Commission

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, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Thank you 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.

Easter Candy Sale

The Missions Team realized a profit of \$808 from the Easter Candy Sale. Where does that money go? Well, Missions added additional funds to the money raised and made donations to benefit the following:

- Seeds for the Harvest/Myanmar Relief, \$500
- Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot, \$250
- Lily's Hope, \$250
- Quakertown Community Outreach, \$500

Thank you to everyone who bought candy, and to the volunteers who lent a helping hand. We hope you enjoyed the candy!

Jerusalem House

Thank you to those who donated food to the Jerusalem House Easter Food Drive.

Planting Partners **Sponsored by the Missions Team**

“Planting Partners” is the community garden of QUMC, located behind the playground. At least 10% of the harvest is contributed to local food banks. To reserve a plot, contact Steve Finch (215.538.0835 or finchsc1@verizon.net).

The church provides the tilled ground and water under the God-given sun. You take care of the rest; plant your own choice of plants, pull weeds, harvest, and clean-up afterwards. We have a lawn mower available if you want to help mow. A limited number of tomato cages are available. “Planting Partners” can plant and tend to their own 3’ x 20’ garden spot, beginning on May 14. The garden is open 24/7.

Gardening Conditions:

- No herbicides/insecticides permitted.
- Rainwater is collected in barrels and piped into the field. Supplemental public water is available if there is inadequate rain.
- Beware of ticks; please use topical bug repellent.
- Sets of garden tools are available for use and hang outside the shed on hooks.
- Garden is fenced in an open field to limit damage by wildlife.

Garden prep, visitation and work days: 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays, June 4 & 11 (weather permitting). Have time during the day? Contact Steve for a guided tour of the garden area.



From Hospitality

11:00 a.m. Worship Service Greeters

Many 11:00 a.m. worshippers have asked, “What happened to the greeters?” Ushers at that service are doing double-duty, also serving as greeters. They are scheduled on a monthly basis and instead of greeting at the entrance to the church, are greeting at the doors to the sanctuary.

Hospitality Cart

In response to COVID, the Sunday morning Hospitality “table” was replaced with a “cart.” It is stocked weekly with prepackaged snacks and can be found in the narthex. We are able to continue this ministry only if we have snacks donated or cash donations to cover costs. A box has been placed under the narthex TV for cash donations. Snacks can be placed, clearly marked, in the kitchen.

We plan to bring the “table” back at the end of summer. Those interested in helping with it can contact Phyllis McKinley (pcmckinley@gmail.com) or Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com).

Welcome Center Greeters

The Welcome Center offers welcome bags to adult and child visitors to the church. Since the Center is not always staffed, a sign invites guests to help themselves to a bag. We can all be “welcoming greeters” in the sense of friendliness by welcoming guests to our church and introducing ourselves to those we don’t know.

Brainstorm Over Breakfast **Saturday, June 4th, 9:30 a.m., Miller Hall**

You are an important member of the QUMC family and we value your input! We invite you to a brainstorming session, with a light continental breakfast, to “brainstorm” ideas surrounding church involvement. The church is operating with a shortage of volunteers in key activities and positions. Current volunteers urgently need help if they are to continue to offer the benefits that all of us at QUMC have become accustomed to receiving. Do not panic! This is NOT a recruitment session (of course, we won’t turn anyone down who offers to help with any church activity). This is an all-inclusive invitation to members of the church family concerned about the future of the church and willing to provide positive input to our participation challenges. We plan to brainstorm:

- activity versus committee involvement,
- filling vacancies in positions, prioritizing church activities and identifying those activities at risk of being discontinued, and
- matching individuals’ skills and interests with opportunities for engagement in church activities.

We value your thoughts and concerns and look forward to some new and creative ideas. Mark the date on your calendar to join us!

For planning purposes, a sign-up will be provided in the narthex. If you are willing to help with the breakfast, please indicate so on the sign-up. Check with Molly Minarik for more information (craftlover38@aol.com).

Upcoming Events



UMCOR Special Sunday - May 15

On Sunday, May 15, we will take a special offering for Native American Ministries Sunday. A designated envelope will be included in the bulletin. Your generous gift recognizes the contributions of Native Americans to our society and the United Methodist Church.

The offering taken is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in annual conferences and Native American communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and promotes partnerships and programs on behalf of Native Americans. By giving generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students to honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries, while empowering congregations to minister in Christ's love.

Blessing of the Animals – May 29

“The blessing of an animal means that health, healing, and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners.”

Many of our lives are enriched by the relationships we share with our pets. Join us in the pavilion on Sunday, May 29 for 11:00 a.m. worship as we celebrate a “Blessing of the Animals.” This will be a brief service lasting about 30 minutes. You are invited to bring your furry (or non-furry) friends for this time of worship. We ask that pets be leashed or contained appropriately for the comfort of all.

A regular traditional service (without pets) will take place as usual in the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m.

VBS Returns!

Vacation Bible School (or VBS) is back, June 20 through June 24, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening. After being cancelled for the past two years due to COVID, we are excited to bring this important ministry back!

As we prepare to offer this program for all children three-years-old to fifth grade, please prayerfully consider helping out. We understand a lot of you have not been to QUMC in a while, and we respect that, but we are asking you to consider returning to volunteer for VBS this year. We are currently in need of several teachers and someone to run games. We will also need crew leaders and youth to help out as well!

Regardless of what church you call home, please consider helping us for the sake of the children eager to experience the return of VBS. Reach out to Megan McMichael (megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) or Allison Ghorm (agghorm@gmail.com) with any questions or to sign-up to volunteer.

Chicken Barbeque

Save-the-date of Saturday, September 10. Volunteers will be needed.

Fall Rummage Sale

Save-the-date of Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29. Donated items and volunteers will be needed .



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: June Roth, May 2.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Pastor Rick, Carol & Ed, and the entire QUMC Congregation,

“Thank you again for such a meaningful and uplifting visit to QUMC last weekend. It was such a wonderful time of reconnecting and sharing updates about our ministry and beloved El Salvador. Your hospitality, warm welcome, and the spaces you hosted for increased connection made our visit really feel so full and encouraging. We are so grateful for the ways QUMC continues to support us through prayer and giving, and by serving as one of our church homes here in the states. We look forward to how God continues to grow and lead both of our communities in ministry in years to come, and how our connection continues to grow.”

*Peace and love to all of you,
Eliberto, Molly (Jamison) and Elliot Juarez*



Looking For Ways To Help?

- Vacation Bible School is June 20 through June 24. Volunteers are needed for all areas. Contact Megan McMichael (megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) or Allison Ghorm (agghorm@gmail.com) for more information or to help out.
- 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.
- 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.
- Wawa Food Donation Connection is an effort of the Missions Team, making it possible for local organizations to go to Wawa in the late morning to gather hot food express items not sold that day. QUMC goes once a week and we typically gather 30-40 pounds of food! Food items are taken to the Quakertown Food Pantry, who distributes it to the community. If you are interested in helping us gather food from Wawa on Wednesdays, please see any member of the Missions Team. We would be happy to accept your help!



Faith Preschool

Do you have a preschool-age child? Faith Preschool offers classes for children ages two through five and is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Spaces are filling quickly! For more information, please reach out to Megan McGinty (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172).

Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Clearances and Training: **Updates required if you are volunteering for VBS**

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 information to submit. 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 Marj as well.

Reminder from the Trustees & the Church Office

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

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) would like 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. Please pray for Pastor Kathryn and our church as we meet to discuss our future ministry in light of this appointment change.

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).

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).

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).

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.

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!



Election Day is Tuesday, May 17

**QUMC is pleased to report we will once again
open our doors to serve as a polling place.**