

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church
1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

January 2024
www.qumc.com

FINDING JOY BY RACHEL

2024... Starting a new year...

Sometimes we can look back at our year and think about all the things that were hard or we didn't do or we just wished for the calendar to flip at midnight.

A date flipping doesn't change us.

Hope changes us. Action changes us.

You see, even in the hard, you were strong. You made it to today.

Even in the down parts, you were brave. You made it to today.

Even in the moments when you didn't know what to do, you were creative. You made it to today.

Even in the times when tears were shed, you were real. You made it to today.

Even in the moments of anger, you dealt. You made it to today.

Imagine if you could look back at this year, and even if you consider it to have been the worst year ever, and see where you were strong, powerful and brave?

You have it within you to do amazing things. Hard things. Brave things. Bold things.

You are kind.

You are brave.

You are strong.

You are wonderful.

You are courageous.

You are fearless.

You are insightful.

You are creative.

You are giving.

You are generous.

You are important.

You are forgiving.

You are unique.

You are tenacious.

You are loving.



You are worth fighting for. This is your year. Your day, your month, your time. But it is up to you.

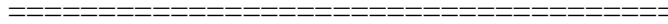
Not a program, not a schedule, not an agenda. You.

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If you want 2024 to be amazing or freeing or redeeming or healing then you have it within you. You were created to do amazing things. You can do this.

Don't dismiss 2023 - learn from it. Give yourself grace. It wasn't perfect, but here you are starting another year.

Breathe. Each day matters, and so do you.



These are some verses to help you remember God is with you throughout the year:

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalms 91:15-16

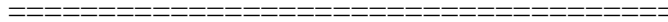
I will answer your cry for help every time you pray and you will find and feel my presence even in your time of pressure and trouble. I will be your glorious hero and give you a feast. You will be satisfied with a full life and with all that I do for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.



May the blessings of God be yours in the new year!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon *Worship

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



Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

Good morning/afternoon/evening, good people. This is Pastor Rick and I hope you are doing well on this new day the Lord has made. Wow, a new year is here; 2024! Hard to believe. While we may still be aglow from Christmas and New Year's worship services, I am excited for how the Lord will lead us and the ministries we shall do in His holy name.

Lent Comes Early!

Wait a second, you say, I thought we just had Christmas! Right you are, dear church family. This year, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14. As a lead-up to this season, we will also be celebrating the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, February 11 as this event and Jesus' temptation in the wilderness are the very framework of the Lenten season. Furthermore, the season ends on Sunday, March 31 with Easter.

The Worship Team and I will be finalizing all matters related to Lent later in this month of January. I ask for your prayers amid our conversations so that all decisions help our church grow closer to the Lord and one another.

Membership & Confirmation Classes

Amid an already joyful season in Christmas, we ended 2023 by celebrating two baptisms and welcoming seven new adult members. More information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

As we get going in this New Year, I will be organizing a Confirmation Class as well. If you or your child(ren) would like to join the church, please contact me as classes will be forming to begin meeting in early February. Reminders will also be run in the worship bulletins and distributed via church-wide emails. Let us get ready to welcome the teenagers in our midst who are ready to confirm their faith and join QUMC as members.

As always, thank you for your dedication, good people. Let us continue to Serve, Give, and Grow together, to the glory of God. Amen.

God bless you, all.

Staff Notes

Pastor's Office Hours & Sabbath

My office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:30 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. For contact purposes, I am available by phone (484.358.1138) or by email (pastorrick@qumc.com).

Church Secretary's Schedule

In correspondence with Pastor Rick's office hours, Barbara Hafler is in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week (215.536.4992) after 9:30 a.m. Barbara works remotely Tuesday and Thursday (215.538.7817) and is always available by email at barb@qumc.com. Thank you!



Grief Share

The journey of grief is a painful process and one in which we are not alone. QUMC now offers a Christ-centered and biblical small group for those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Meeting weekly on Saturdays from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**, Grief Share provides an opportunity for those grieving to be surrounded by others who understand the pain of their loss. The weekly video series features grief experts and real-life stories of those dealing with loss of a loved one. Videos are followed by a group discussion and a time of sharing.

The purpose of this group is to provide encouragement, comfort, support, and guidance, while renewing hope for the future. Light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to be a part of Grief Share, or have any questions, please contact:

Gail Schadler (267.733.3328 or glschadler@gmail.com)

Gale Hewitt (267.218.2479 or gwhewitt4@gmail.com)

Pastor Rick Brown (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com)

“Treasured” A Women’s Retreat



Join us for the QUMC Women’s Retreat, "Treasured." Just as a treasure hunter searches for hidden jewels and buried riches, we seek out and treasure God's Word. During the women’s retreat, you are invited to open the Bible and take a unique look at His treasures for you, where God sees us as precious and priceless.

Where: Pocono Plateau, Cresco, Pennsylvania

When: Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28, 2024

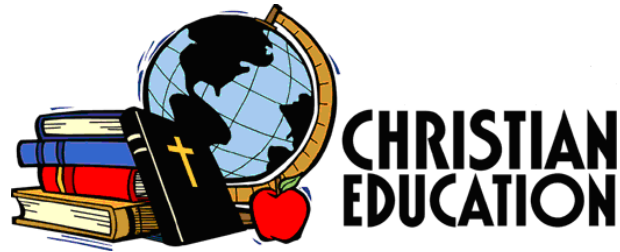
Cost: \$160 for lodging and five (5) meals

Please contact Allison Ghorm or Patty Wensel if you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot. The \$40 deposit will reserve your spot for the retreat and is due by February 4, 2024. The remaining balance is due by March 3, 2024. You can also join the monthly payment option; \$60 due by the first Sunday in March and April, March 3 and April 7. Checks should be made payable to QUMC.

Follow this link for the registration form for the retreat https://mcusercontent.com/23ade6e9217442c1d0e12d2fb/files/fa0c06b3-4a60-eebd-769f-c33c0264d95f/Treasured_Registration_Form.docx

We need 15 participants for the retreat to take place and look forward to sharing in God's Word together as women of QUMC.

Contact Allison Ghorm (agghorm@gmail.com or 484.225.7004) or Patty Wensel (wenselpatricia@yahoo.com) for more information.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

If you have the calling to teach QUMC's Sunday School, then we would love to have you! We could use assistance in all classes but are still specifically looking for those interested in teaching/assisting Sunday School in our Middle/High School class. The classes could be Bible related, crafty, financial, project based, etc. Please consider helping with this ministry. We would love to have you share your talents with the church! Training for Safe Sanctuary will take place at the church, along with the ability to obtain proper clearances. Please contact Christine Rush if interested (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815).

FRIDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP

The Friday morning study group meets on Friday mornings, 9:30 a.m. on ZOOM. If you would like to join, please contact Janet Finch 215.538.0835 or Gail Schadler 267.733.3328.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SMALL GROUP

Bread for the Journey meets in the Library at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and is led by Gale Hewitt. For more information, contact Gale (gwhewitt4@gmail.com or 267.218.2479).

LENTEN SEASON CLASS!

Beginning on Sunday, February 18, and running for six weeks, Gail Schadler will lead a Daniel Darling study, "The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle." The Easter story is so familiar to all of us that perhaps we are not as amazed and moved by this miracle as we once were. Take a new look at the people and circumstances that were part of the greatest story ever told and bring this momentous event back to life for you, renewing your gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.



The QUMC Egg Hunt is back!

An egg hunt is being planned for our young children in March. Your help is needed! If you are able, please donate small individually wrapped candy, treats, or trinkets that will fit in a plastic egg. Place these items in the box marked "egg hunt" in the narthex. Volunteer "egg fillers" will be needed in the future!

Watch for more information, including registration, coming soon.



Family Matters

- Baptisms: On December 17 – Arlo Prickel, Tom Shepard
- New Members: On December 17 – Jenn Amore, Susan Crim, Casey & Arielle Homa, Tom & Maxine Shepard, Mary Jane Stoltzfus
- Happy Birthday to: Elaine Wentz (December 31), Richard Hillegass (January 4), Gale Hewitt (January 13), Samuel Crowther (January 16), Thomas Weisel (January 23), Arthur Kukowski (January 31), Marie Frankenfield & Lorraine Hillegass (February 11), Ethel Hurley (February 16), Margaret Stotsenburg (February 21), Kathryn Landis (February 22)
- Congratulations to: Educational Endowment Grant recipients Emily Ghorm, Joseph Pizzi, Julie Pizzi, Shawn Newswanger

Notes of Thanks:

“QUMC Cares says ‘thank you’ to the Friendship Circle for giving \$1,000 of their Rummage Sale proceeds to us. Without their support we could not have donated all that we did to Quakertown Cares. Thank you!”

“Many thanks to those who baked for the ‘Cookies with Santa’ event earlier this month. A special thanks to Becky Petko and Kathy Dressel for serving the treats, Megan McMichael for acting as the outstanding photographer, and Pastor Rick for being both the inspiration and storyteller for the event. All were rewarded with huge smiles and warm hearts!”

“Heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Craig Thatcher & Nyke Van Wyk for presenting their December holiday concert at QUMC. This event was a great success! It was well attended and we received over \$3,500 in donations. Thank you to all who volunteered in so many ways to make this wonderful event happen. Our church is truly blessed.”

Faith Preschool News



- ❖ Faith Preschool is joining with Applebee’s for “Burgers for a Cause”. Each \$10 coupon purchased is redeemable for a burger from Applebee’s handcrafted menu. Coupons do not expire and are good at several locations. For every coupon sold Faith Preschool receives \$6.50! Contact any staff member of Faith Preschool, Tammy Swearingen, Allison Ghorm, or email Rachelle Sawadski (mrs.sawadski@gmail.com) to purchase coupons. Payment can be in cash or by check, checks made payable to Faith Preschool.
- ❖ Congratulations to December’s Artists-of-the-Month: Marissa Amore (three-year-old class), Leo Pavone (four-year-old class), Benson Prickel (pre-kindergarten class).



From Missions Commission

Red Cross Blood Drive

On Friday, February 9, QUMC will host an American Red Cross blood drive. The times are noon until 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in donating blood can sign up at redcrossblood.org. Thank you.

Kensington Area Ministries (KAM)

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas gifts to the children of KAM. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Jerusalem House

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to QUMC's annual Jerusalem House Thanksgiving dinner event. We delivered 22 turkeys and oodles of side dishes. Thank you for your generosity.

QUMC Cares

Just a reminder that we make a difference in our efforts on behalf of Quakertown Cares!

From Jim Newcomer, on behalf of Quakertown Cares:

Just today I heard about a senior in her late 70s who had become homeless and living out of her car. She has been placed in a local motel as a temporary charity case.

A single woman, she had lived with a female friend for several years. The friend has descended into mental illness and became verbally and physically abusive to our recipient who was forced to flee with just the clothes on her back, literally. She lives on a base social security check, has medical co-pays for chronic illnesses and needs to make car payments, gas (minimum driving) and food. An agency is working with her to find subsidized housing, but there is a wait list.

Because her need is immediate, Cares has advanced her Giant food cards and a check in anticipation of your next special collection.

Please share the facts of this situation with the congregation. We live in a relatively prosperous community, and yet we continue to come upon situations that are hard to comprehend.

On November 26, our congregation raised \$458 for this woman. Thank you for your kindness. But wait! There's more!

Also from Jim Newcomer:

I should not be surprised at this point, but I must admit to being startled, pleasantly, by the exceedingly generous check just arrived, both from the November special offering and also Friendship Circle's godsend contribution to assist our local neighbors in need. I will be responding to the Friendship Circle with a separate letter.

Just for your information, the QUMC contributions for 2023 totaled \$4,143. Happy New Year!

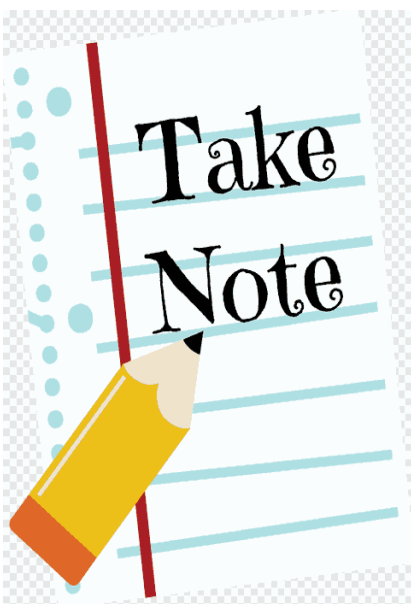
At their last meeting, Friendship Circle agreed to generously give Missions \$1,000 from their Rummage Sale funds. Instead of taking a congregational collection in December, Missions donated this money to Quakertown Cares.

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Missions Recent Giving

Missions holds fundraisers in order to give money to people in need. Since most of you participate in our fundraisers, we want to give you an update on our fall distribution of funds.

CROP Walk:	After being gone for many years, the CROP Walk came back to Quakertown this year. Missions gave \$200 to CROP Walk.
Girl Scouts:	Girl Scout Troop 2806 meets at our church. The troop came to our attention when they offered to help with the Chicken BBQ. They were a fantastic help. We contributed \$200 to their troop funds.
Jerusalem House:	Missions donated \$190.76 to supplement the food that went to Jerusalem House.
Shop-with-a-Cop:	Missions presented \$450 to the Quakertown Police Department for their Shop-with-a-Cop program.
Global Ministries:	\$250 was sent to Global Ministries on Giving Tuesday. Because we gave on Giving Tuesday, our contribution was doubled. We requested this money be used in the Food Production and Income in Times of Siege programs.
Code Blue:	Missions bought \$200 worth of food that was taken to Quakertown's Code Blue Shelter.
Bucks County Opportunity Council:	Missions purchased \$400 worth of gift cards that were given to a local father and his two sons to supplement their Christmas holiday.
Belinda Forbes:	\$220 was sent to Missionary Belinda Forbes. This money was earmarked for two water filters for families in Nicaragua to have clean drinking water.



From the Trustees:

- ✓ With winter weather upon us, please keep in mind that church updates, including closures, will be communicated in the following ways:
 - Church-wide emails
 - QUMC Facebook ad website
 - Outgoing messages on the church answering machine
 - WFMZ Channel 69 News
- ✓ We also ask that the front row of parking spaces be left open for the elderly and those with difficulty ambulating.
- ✓ In an effort to save utility costs this winter, please remember to keep all doors closed and to turn off lights when an area is not in use. Also, please check that exterior doors are locked when leaving the building.



Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is one of the ways we care for each other here at QUMC. Prayer requests are currently being received and distributed by Pastor Rick and thus, should be directed to him (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com). Prayer Chain requests will be communicated through Mailchimp, the way in which you are currently receiving church communications via your email. Emails will be clearly titled “Prayer Chain.” If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Rick.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Two AA groups are now meeting at QUMC, a meditation group and a Spanish-speaking group! For more information, contact Pastor Rick (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com) or the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).

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 and to complete a Building Use Request Form accordingly. Forms are readily available in the church office. To schedule an event, contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).

Faith Preschool

There are still openings in the three-year-old, four-year-old, and Pre-K classes for the 2023-2024 school year. Please share the word with friends and neighbors. For more information, email or call Diana Shabani (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172).

If you have a question, concern, or idea to share with the teachers of Faith Preschool, please use the following email address: faithpreschoolboard@gmail.com. Thank you!

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind our church family that if anyone is experiencing financial difficulty during these unprecedented times, please 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.

Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Clearances and Training

Clearances are for all volunteers working with children. If your clearances are updated please make sure we have a copy for our files. There is also a Safe Sanctuary training offered periodically that must be taken and if you would like a hands-on First aid and CPR training. Contact Pastor Rick if you have questions or have your information to submit.

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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 215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com.

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

Handmade prayer shawls are available to those who are ill, grieving or just lonely. These handmade shawls bring comfort and warmth to those enduring difficult times. If you or someone you know needs to be wrapped in prayer, contact Gail Schadler (267.733.3328 or glschadler@gmail.com).

Monthly Newsletter Submissions

If you have items for the monthly newsletter, you can email them to QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com or you can put them in Teddi Miller's newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next newsletter, please email Teddi or drop off the information in the church newsletter mailbox as soon as possible. Thank you!



OFF THE PRESS

It's Audit Time!

The church is in need of someone with accounting and/or treasury experience to audit the 2023 end-of-year books. If you can serve in this way, contact Pastor Rick (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138) or Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com or 610.390.887). Thank you!

Wanted: Coffee Cans

Coffee cans (with a plastic lid) are needed for a drum-making project at Faith Preschool. They can be placed in the marked box in the narthex. Thanks!



If you have any questions about Youth Group, contact Pastor Rick (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com). Youth Group is primarily for fourth- through twelfth-graders, however if you have a younger child who would like to participate in our youth programming, please contact Pastor Rick. A friendly reminder that all youth are welcome to attend - you need not be a member of QUMC. Feel free to invite friends and family!

Kid's Club is for children who will be entering grades one through five for the 2023-2024 school year. To learn more about Kid's Club, contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com). Hope to see you soon!

Looking For Ways To Help?



- Have an extra 45 minutes a month? Want to make a difference in the community? See/text/email Kathy Dressel, Melea Rupert, or anyone on Missions, to let us know that you would be willing to make a Wawa run a few times a year. Missions does a weekly “Wednesday Run” from the Wawa on Route 663 (near the turnpike) to the Quakertown Food Pantry. We head to Wawa in the morning (plan to arrive at the food pantry between 9:30 & 10:00 a.m.), package the previous day’s hot food choices in green bags, and drop the food off at the Quakertown Food Pantry. The whole process takes about 45 minutes. This is an extremely flexible activity that helps to feed our community. Thank you.
- A Hospitality Chair is needed. This person is responsible for initiating and managing special events at the church. If you have any interest in serving in this way, contact Molly Minarik (610.282.3708 or craftlover38@aol.com).
- Snacks are needed for Sunday morning hospitality. Donations of pre-packaged breakfast snacks are welcomed and can be placed on the table in the Conference Room outside Pastor Rick’s office. Thank you!
- 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).
- Have you ever considered using your talent as a reader during worship services? If so, Melea Rupert is coordinating the Lay Reader Schedule so please contact her to express your interest or to ask questions. She can be reached at 215.696.9804 or mrupert55@hotmail.com.
- Looking for an opportunity to serve our community while sharing your faith? Independence Court has asked our church to offer a 30-minute worship service of prayer, scripture, and song at their facility the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Contact Gail Schadler (267.733.3328) if you would like to be a part of this outreach ministry.
- 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).
- 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.
- A Stewardship Chair is needed. Contact Pastor Rick if you can volunteer for this position.

