

# The Freier Flyer

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

June 2024  
www.qumc.com



Pastor Rick's final Sunday in the pulpit with us is June 16. We hope you can join us as we bid farewell to Pastor Rick and his family. On that day, there will be one worship service at 9:30 a.m., kicking off the start of our Summer Worship Schedule. During worship, the congregation will have the opportunity to share their appreciation for all Pastor Rick has done for us over these last three years. For those wishing to share cards or notes of appreciation with the Pastor and his family, we ask that you place those well wishes in the basket on the Welcome Center so that they can be presented to him on that day.

With June 16 being Father's Day, as well as Confirmation, there will be no reception or gathering following the worship service so that we may all celebrate and enjoy this special day with our families.

Please note that although this will be his last day in the pulpit, Pastor Rick will remain available for pastoral care through Sunday, June 30. You are welcome to call, text, or email him during this transition time at 484.358.1138 or [pastorrick@qumc.com](mailto:pastorrick@qumc.com).



# *Going the Distance*

*The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor*

Summer is here with heat to match! It is a time of many things: graduations, vacations, and transitions. I am very excited to share the events of this month. Please see that information below:

- June 2: Celebration of Holy Communion  
Reception of New Members, Ben, Katie, Benson & Arlo Prickel
- June 9: Reception of New Members, Bob and Mary Leight  
Confirmation of Brianna Wasem
- June 16: Summer Worship Schedule begins with one worship service at 9:30 a.m.  
Confirmation of Logan Hudson, Molly Kreisher, Ben Rush and Jonathan Swartz  
Pastor Rick's last day in the pulpit
- June 23: Transition Sunday  
The Missions Team will present The Story of Abraham
- July 7: Celebration of Holy Communion  
Pastor Graham Truscott's first Sunday as your new pastor

I will be sharing a special message to the congregation later this month as I wrap up my time as your pastor. In the meantime, please continue to pray for my family, this church, and your new pastor.

God bless you all, and talk to you soon.

Pastor Rick

*In the pulpit he stands, with heart full of grace,  
A pastor, a shepherd, who leads with embrace,  
His words are a balm, to the wounded and lost,  
His voice is a beacon, in the tempest-tossed.*

*He's a prime example, of a spiritual guide,  
Whose love for his flock, can never subside,  
His counsel is wise, his compassion profound,  
His faith is unwavering, in all that surrounds.*

*He prays with his people, in joy and in grief,  
And offers his presence, as their hearts seek relief,  
He walks with them closely, in every season,  
And shows them the way, with love as his reason.*

*This pastor, this leader, so faithful and true,  
Has touched many lives, with the gospel anew,  
May he continue to inspire, with his heart so pure,  
And lead his flock onward, with love that endures.*



# INTRODUCING PASTOR GRAHAM TRUSCOTT

Hello Everybody!

My name is Graham Truscott and I'll be the new pastor at Quakertown UMC starting July 1st. I'm so looking forward to being your pastor and serving Jesus together with you! Before I officially start, I thought it would be nice to introduce myself a bit and tell you all a bit of my story. That way you can begin to get to know me.

I was born and raised as a United Methodist in Lansdale. So, coming to Quakertown feels a lot like coming home. My parents named me William Graham Truscott. Yes, that means my parents technically named me Billy Graham, although I prefer to go by my middle name, Graham. While my parents naming me after a famous evangelist was an accident on their part, perhaps it was not an accident on God's part. I have always loved the Bible and I've grown up to be a bit of a Bible nerd. I love answering questions about our sacred scripture.

I also have OCD, a condition known as obsessive compulsive disorder. It can cause your brain to have intrusive thoughts that obsess over certain things, usually things that make you uncomfortable. I have had therapy, so the condition by-and-large doesn't affect me much anymore. But as a teenager it troubled me a lot. As a teenager, due to my OCD I thought if I didn't pray enough, God wouldn't love me. Of course, that is not true, there is nothing that can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38). God can even use negative experiences like that and take something good from them. It was when I was talking to my pastor about my anxieties that I first received my call to ministry, and I felt God's love give me some peace.

Because of that call I went to college and got a degree in Biblical and Religious Studies with a Bible concentration. See, I told you I was a Bible nerd! After that I went to seminary. It was in seminary that I really received my call to ministry in full. I was praying one night, crying to God about people's suffering. In the middle of that prayer, I heard the voice of God speak. God told me "go build My church." I've said yes to those words and started serving as a pastor in 2020. And even with the ups and downs, I love being a pastor. It is definitely who God made me to be. I have gifts for preaching, leading, listening, praying, and teaching.

I also love being in nature and hiking and was a Christian summer camp counselor for four years in college. That means I like working with kids in ministry too. And I love a good dad joke or pun! I love getting to know people and hearing your stories as well.

That's a very basic introduction to who I am. I am always open to questions, so feel free to ask me more about myself. I would love to learn more about you all as well and I look forward to worshipping God with you, and sharing the love of Jesus with so many people!

See you in a few weeks, and may the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all!

Pastor Graham Truscott



# Getting to Know You

To help Pastor Graham get to know all of us, name tag lanyards will be displayed alphabetically in the narthex beginning on his first Sunday with us, July 7. Upon your arrival at church, please pick up your lanyard and wear it so that Pastor Graham can put names and faces together. As you leave the building, either return your lanyard to the table or take it with you. If you take it with you, remember to continue to wear it when you come to church!

If you have any questions on the “Getting to Know You” initiative, or need a name tag lanyard, please feel free to Contact the Church Secretary at 215-536-4992 or [barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com). Thank you!



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning on Sunday, June 16, we will transition to one Sunday morning worship service, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., for the summer months. Adult Sunday School classes will be held 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. The summer schedule will continue through Sunday, August 25.



# FROM MISSIONS COMMISSION

## Loaves and Fishes

On Thursday, May 2, Missions served 103 meals to people in the Quakertown area. Meals were distributed at Trinity Lutheran Church, and as always, we had a fun time working together.

## Pack the Pantry

Once again Quakertown United Methodist came through for their community. Missions took the food to FEAST Food Pantry on May 19. We donated 381.7 pounds of food. Thank you for your donations.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to all QUMC members who donated blood in May.

## QUMC Cares

Sparse Memorial Day attendance didn't deter us from giving. Our church still donated \$300 to QUMC Cares on behalf of Quakertown Cares. This generous donation will be sent to Quakertown Cares, in care of Jim Newcomer. Thank you to all who donated.

From Jim Newcomer, on behalf of Quakertown Cares:

*Please express our appreciation to the congregation for the April special collection.*

*The timing is perfect, as we have a referral for assistance. You may share that the recipient will be a senior citizen (lives by herself in an apartment) with Stage 4 breast cancer. She continues to work at a low-paying job in order to make ends meet. However, her treatment causes her to call in sick, reducing her income. She relies upon the food bank. We are sending her a check, as well as Giant food cards.*

*A second referral just received is a male, 75-years-old, with metastatic prostate cancer, also a local resident who works part-time. He and his wife otherwise exist on his social security check. He simply can't work at times due to his condition. We will use funds from your next special collection, whether May or June, to aid this couple, and we have funds to send them an initial Giant food card at this time.*

## *Update from Hospitality*



The Hospitality Table is set up in the narthex of the church every Sunday, nine months out of the year. We offer morning refreshments and welcome both members and guests. The four individuals who make the table possible devote their time to purchasing or baking treats, setting up the table before the early service and cleaning up the table at the beginning of the late service. Sometimes, they rearrange their personal schedules to assure adequate coverage for the table, also assuring that appliances are turned off before everyone leaves the church.

Because of the start of summer vacations, a significant drop in the hot beverages being consumed, and a pause in Sunday School for the summer, the volunteers have decided to temporarily discontinue the Hospitality Table. Pending the availability of resources when Sunday School resumes in the fall, we will evaluate whether to restart the Hospitality Table. Thank you for understanding.



## Welcome New Members!

On June 2 - Benjamin, Katelyn, Benson, and Arlo Prickel

## Congratulations to 2024 Graduates!

Shawn Newswanger	Penn State University, BS in Supply Chain Plans to be commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corp
Amanda Tascarella	Gwynedd Mercy University, BS in Nursing Dean's List Plans to work at a hospital as an RN, BSN
Morgan Thrush	University of Delaware, BS in Civil Engineering Employed as a Civil Engineer with Century-Kleinfelder Engineering
Aubree Thrush	Quakertown Community High School National Honor Society Plans to attend Moravian University to study Nursing
Ethan Tomlinson	Quakertown Community High School Plans to attend a four-year college to pursue Physical Education
Brianna Grace Wasem	Southern Lehigh High School Recipient of an Athletic/Academic Scholarship to East Stroudsburg University for Student Athlete Swimmer Plans to attend East Stroudsburg University to double-major in K-12 Health and Physical Education

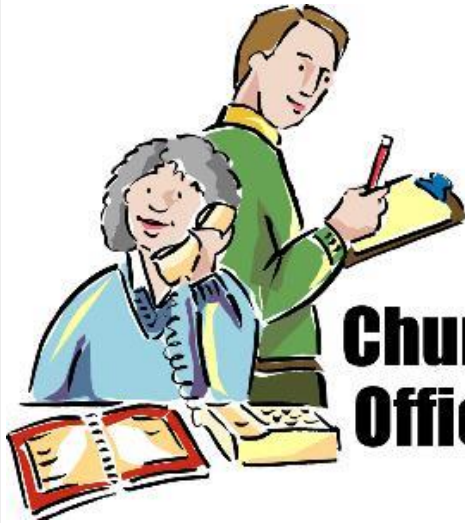
## Notes of Thanks:

*"I want to thank all my friends for helping me celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with cards, gifts and calls. I got a big surprise as my granddaughters from Alabama, Colorado, and Texas, and of course my grandson from Milford Square, were here! It was a wonderful birthday."*

*Fondly, June Roth*

A big 'Noah's Ark Thank You' to:

- *Pastor Rick for entertaining the idea of a Noah's Ark Day for QUMC (It was great!) and delivering a message of God's promises and our faith.*
- *Faith Preschool for supporting the idea of a Noah's Ark Sunday and constructing a beautiful ark at the front of the Sanctuary.*
- *QUMC kids for loaning their precious animal friends to include in the arks and for trusting us to return them safely.*
- *And Molly Minarik for pulling it all together!*



## Church Office

Pastor Rick is available in the office Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and also by appointment, through June 12. To schedule a specific time to see the Pastor, please contact him (484.358.1138 or [pastorrick@qumc.com](mailto:pastorrick@qumc.com)).

Please note that although Sunday, June 16 is his last Sunday in the pulpit, Pastor Rick remains available for pastoral care through June 30.

The church office is now operating under summer hours. During the summer months, Barbara works Monday through Thursday. She will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays, working remotely Monday and Wednesday. Her typical hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She is always available by email at [barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com).

Please note Barbara will be on vacation Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14. She will return to work on Monday, June 17. If you need assistance during this time, please contact Pastor Rick. Thank you!



One of the greatest things about our faith is prayer. We come together in prayer to support one another in tough times and celebrate with one another in joyful moments. The Prayer Chain provides all of us at QUMC an opportunity to offer prayer requests and have them shared with the rest of the church. You can also request private prayers as well (just let us know your preference when you reach out).

Carol Pertuit is now overseeing the Prayer Chain and will be the person communicating prayer requests. You can send requests to [prayer@qumc.com](mailto:prayer@qumc.com). This email address is accessible by Carol, the Pastor, and the Church Secretary, assuring there is always coverage. You may also call Carol directly with prayer requests at 267.733.3378.

As we continue to move forward, thank you all for lifting each other up in prayer as we continue the important ministry of the QUMC Prayer Chain.



### End-of-the-School-Year Update

Faith Preschool would like to thank the church family for all of the support provided this school year for our staff and students. In the fall, many of you provided baked goods and supported activities during our Apple Fest fundraiser, which raised \$344.75. This winter some members purchased the Applebee's "Burgers for a Cause" coupons which raised a total of \$800. The Red Robin night in May was well attended by church folks, which raised \$213.37. Church families also donated many supplies to enhance our new extended day for our students (also called Lunch & Learn for our three-, four-, and five-year olds). We are very thankful to have the support of our church family.

Faith Preschool was able to help support the church in some ways also. Some funds were provided to help fix the shed doors. Rainbow bells were purchased for the church in honor of Pastor Rick and his time of ministry at QUMC. Faith Preschool is also donating \$500 to the general fund as a small token of thanks for those that supported our ministry this year. We had a successful year. It takes a village (or a church) to make our preschool run successfully!

### Artists of the Month

Congratulations to Faith Preschool Artists of the Month! Those honored were: Cole Henderson and Parker Pringle in the Pre-K Class, and Veronica Alberts, Addy High, and Sawyer Stout in the Four's Class.

### Faith Preschool Openings for Fall 2024

Our Faith Preschool has openings for students in several classes. If you know someone who has a child ages two through five (not entering Kindergarten this fall), please share this information. Interested families may contact the registrar, Diana Shabani (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215-536-8172) to learn more and to schedule a tour.

### Burgers for a Cause

Faith Preschool continues to join 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. This is a great fundraiser; for every coupon sold, Faith Preschool receives \$6.50! Contact any staff member of Faith Preschool to purchase coupons.

### Contact Us!

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.



### **FRIDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP**

The Friday morning online study group is now on summer hiatus, starting back up on Friday, September 13. If you would like to join in this fall, please contact Janet Finch (215.538.0835) or Gail Schadler (267.733.3328).

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON SMALL GROUP**

Bread for the Journey, led by Gale Hewitt, is also taking a break for the summer months. This small group meets in the Library at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information, contact Gale (gwhewitt4@gmail.com or 267.218.2479).



As the Sunday School year has come to a close, prayerfully consider if you feel called to teach in our Sunday School program. Classes can be Bible related, crafty, financial, project based, etc. Please give some thought to helping with this important ministry of the church. We would love to have you share your faith and talents by participating in the life of the church in this way.

Training for Safe Sanctuary clearances will be provided, as well as assistance with obtaining the necessary clearances to teach. To learn more, contact Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815).



### Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

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

### Kid's Club

Kid's Club is primarily for children who will be entering grades one through five in the 2024-2025 school year, however we welcome older youth willing to participate and help out. We are looking forward to some pool parties and summer fun! If you would like to attend, or learn more about Kid's Club, contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.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).

### Safe Sanctuary Training

In the most recent EPA Digest, a publication of the United Methodist Church, news of an upcoming on-line Safe Sanctuaries training was included. We encourage our church members, especially those who volunteer with Youth and Children's Ministries, including Sunday School or Bible School, to attend on Saturday, June 8. Simply follow this link: <https://www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/safe-sanctuary-training/>

Pastor Rick is available by appointment for anyone needing assistance with obtaining their clearances. He can help you apply for clearances and can print one of the two clearances (the Criminal Background check is generated quickly, while the Child Abuse check can take a few weeks). To set-up an appointment with Pastor Rick, please contact him at pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138.

### 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.

### 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 by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Please note the next issue of the newsletter will be a combined issue covering the summer months of July and August. Items for this edition of the newsletter should be communicated to Teddi by June 25. Thank you!

# Looking For Ways To Help?



- Nursery is back! Spread the good news! The Nursery will now be open every Sunday morning. In order for us to offer Nursery Care during worship, volunteers are needed to staff the nursery. Clearances are needed to volunteer, are free for volunteers, and are easy to obtain. For more information on how to volunteer, including how to obtain your clearances, please reach out to Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org).
- 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? Our church offers the residents of Independence Court 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.