

The Freier Flyer

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

March 2024
www.qumc.com

Why Easter Eggs?



At this time of year, as we walk through a store, one can't help but see a variety of Easter eggs. Some are decorative and many are edible (and delicious!). There are also lots of Easter egg hunts planned and hosted to provide an opportunity for children to have some fun in the spirit of the season. But why during this season of Lent, and Easter, do we see so many forms of eggs?

In their traditional form, Easter eggs are meant to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life Christians receive through him. For this reason, they are also known as the eggs of resurrection.

Some believe the boiling of raw eggs represents Jesus' tomb being sealed off after being used to hold his body. And the breaking of the hard-boiled egg, or cracking of the shell, is meant to represent the triumphant bursting forth of Jesus' return to life after he was put to death.

Through His strength, Jesus overcame death and rose from the dead. Because Christ was able to rise from death, we have the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins and assured of eternal life with the Lord. Jesus is the one who gives life. He made it possible for those who believe in Him to have a new beginning in life, hence the symbolism of Easter eggs has become part of the Easter journey, story and celebrations.

This Easter, as you boil, color, and decorate your Easter eggs, think of their significance and the promises of eternal life given to us by our Lord, Jesus.

Happy Easter!

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."
John 11:25*



- Fellowship Dinners continue through Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Miller Hall. The congregation is invited to sign-up in the narthex to bring something to share.
- Lenten Worship begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Held in conjunction with the worship service, Children's Church will be offered for the children featuring a program entitled "The Easter Garden," focusing on the symbols of Holy Week. Note: Each week during Lent, Chancel Choir will hold practice at the conclusion of the worship service.



- On Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday will be celebrated with an innovative "supper with communion" in Miller Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. The congregation is asked to bring a "pot luck" variety of foods.
- A Good Friday service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29.
- Easter morning worship services will be held at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Both adult and children's Sunday School classes will meet in Miller Hall during the Sunday School hour for the "Four F's: Food, Fun, Faith & Fellowship!" Nursery care for young children is offered during the 11:00 a.m. service.





Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

Lenten Line-Up and Holy Week Services

The **Wednesday Fellowship Dinners** got off to a great start in February with on average 41 people attending the meals. My thanks to all who are bringing the delicious chilis, soups, breads, and desserts. The best part, as you all know, is the fellowship. Someone commented that it was "loud" in Miller Hall and that, in my professional opinion, is a sign of a healthy church. When all of us can gather and enjoy good food and friends, I see it as nothing but a good thing. I therefore encourage you to keep attending these meals and the worship services after; meals are served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with worship beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A friendly reminder that the Fellowship Meals will be running through Wednesday, March 20.

Palm Sunday is on March 24. Palm Sunday will feature palm branches made available to all who attend. Help wave them in praise of the King of Kings who comes to bring peace and restoration to this sinsick world. Worship will be at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

To the same end as our Wednesday Fellowship Dinners, we will have one more special meal on **Maundy Thursday**, March 28. Unlike the Wednesday Fellowship dinners, this meal is a full pot-luck, so bring whatever you wish. The meal and worship are intermixed for this holy day. We will start at 6:00 p.m. in Miller Hall. As we eat, we will celebrate Holy Communion as we read from the Scriptures and pass bread and drink from cups together amid our meal. Please join us in this special remembrance of Jesus.

Good Friday, March 29, comes next and will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Here, we shall bear witness to the extent of God's love, even unto death on a cross. Please join us as we remember Christ's sacrifice.

During Holy Week, the "Building Up Our Faith" series will come to its height as we celebrate how "**The Tomb Shall be Empty.**" The focus of **Easter**, March 31 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., is how Jesus is no longer dead and in the tomb but alive! Our Holy Week will focus on this point. As we proceed through the days of Holy Week, we will see how each day makes this possible. Moreover, this is not just a historic remembrance for Jesus but also how he makes it so our own tombs will be empty as he opened everlasting life to all who believe. Amen?

Appointment Change & Announcement of New Pastor as of July 1, 2024

On Sunday, February 18, it was announced that a pastoral change will take place this summer. Below is the formal announcement from the District Superintendent, Cabinet, and Bishop, which was read by SPRC Chair, Bill Scott:

"Today it is my responsibility to share with you the news that our pastor, the Rev. Rick Brown, will be appointed to serve as the new associate pastor for Asbury United Methodist Church in Allentown effective July 1, 2024. Our committee has met with the District Superintendent, and we have already begun the process of preparing for a new pastoral appointment.

Transition is always a difficult time, and I ask you to be in prayer with our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), the Bishop, and the Cabinet as they work towards the appointment of new pastoral leadership for our church. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our current pastor for his faithful leadership in our church.

Pastor Rick's last Sunday at Quakertown UMC will be June 16, 2024 and his first Sunday in his new church will be Sunday, July 7, 2024. During the transition period, Pastor Rick is responsible for working with Quakertown UMC to provide pulpit coverage. He is also responsible for pastoral care for Quakertown UMC through June 30, 2024 regardless of his move date.

While saying goodbye is always difficult, we want you to know that you too will be in our prayers as you prepare for a new chapter in your ministry."

"I know that God has a plan for QUMC."

This was the first sermon I delivered to you all back on July 4, 2021, quoting the profound words of the Prophet Jeremiah: 'for I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). Back then, it was to a church that had just reopened its doors after its most recent COVID-19 shutdown. Now, I see a church that is living into the plan and I have great hope that you will continue the good works we did together into the future and with your new pastor in July.

For those less familiar with our polity, this appointment change is part of our itinerant system. Pastors are appointed and reappointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet (composed of the District Superintendents within the Conference). As an itinerant minister, I agreed to 'go where the Bishop sends me.' This was the case when I was asked to serve you all back in 2021 and I am grateful to the Bishop for sending me to you all. While I too am saddened that our time together will be coming to an end, that does not diminish the ministry we did and how the church has grown. Going back to my first point, I am hopeful for the future of QUMC.

While we all process this change and feel the emotions that come with it, I would ask the following of you all:

- Please be civil in conversations with one another and the District Superintendent
- Please pray for *me*, my family, one another and our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)
- Remember the wise words of the hymn 'We Are the Church':
 - ✓ The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people
 - ✓ The church is also more than just its pastor; QUMC existed before me and will continue to exist after me
 - ✓ Support one another
- Trust that God is in control

On Sunday, February 25, SPRC Chair Bill Scott shared the following announcement with the congregation:

"It is my joy to share with you today that Bishop John R. Schol has appointed Rev. Graham Truscott as the new pastor of our congregation. Rev. Graham will begin his new responsibilities on July 1 of this year. As a United Methodist Church, we are part of an appointment system. Our congregation's Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has met with the district superintendent to identify our congregation's needs and the needed skills in a pastor. We have also met with Pastor Graham to better get to know him and to ask questions.

Graham Truscott is a life-long Methodist. Much of his ministry experience prior to pastoral ministry was in summer camp ministry. He loves the outdoors and connecting with God in nature. He received his calling to pastoral ministry as a teenager. He graduated from Messiah College with a BA in Biblical and Religious studies in 2017 and from Duke Divinity School with his MDiv in 2020. Many people affectionately know him as a 'Bible nerd.' He has recently received approval from the Board of Ordained Ministry to become an elder. He anticipates his ordination to take place in May, during the Annual

Conference. Graham has continued to serve Conyngham UMC as his first appoint since 2020. He loves developing small groups, leading the church into service and fellowship in the community, and building up the church to be disciples for the transformation of the world.

Our new pastor will work with us and the conference so that we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Bishop Schol and the leaders of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will work with us to continue to grow as a vital congregation. I know you will join the bishop, our new pastor, and me in helping to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

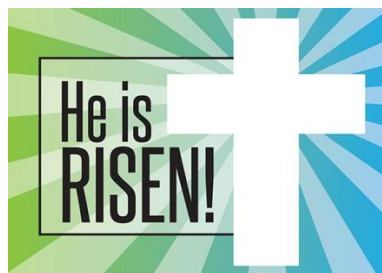
Brothers and sisters, when I heard that it was Pastor Graham Truscott who would be succeeding me as your pastor, I was filled with hope and confidence. I have known Pastor Graham personally for the past three years. He is a man of deep faith and really knows the Bible. I have confidence in his leadership. If you like my energy, you will certainly like his! Please know that, following Easter, Pastor Graham and I will begin to meet as part of this pastoral transition. I would ask that you pray for me, for him, for the church he is departing and for yourselves, QUMC. Pastor Graham and I will be working hard to make for a smooth transition. I look forward to giving you more updates as we formally begin talks in the coming month.

Final Call for Youth Confirmation Class

As a follow-up to our announcement in recent months, if you, or your child or children, would like to join the Confirmation Class, please contact me as soon as possible as I am finalizing class details. I can be reached by phone (484.358.113) or by email (pastorrick@qumc.com).

I look forward to celebrating Easter with you all, good people.

God bless you, all!



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!



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 includes Nursery for the little ones. The service is also livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.*



GRIEF SHARE

The journey of grief is a painful process and one in which we are not alone. The church offers a Christ-centered and biblical small group for those dealing with the loss of a loved one. This group meets weekly on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. The purpose of this group is to provide encouragement, comfort, support, and guidance, while renewing hope for the future. 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) or Gale Hewitt (267.218.2479 or gwhewitt4@gmail.com).

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).



CALLING ALL BASEBALL FANS!

A family outing is planned to see the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs play on **Wednesday, May 22, 6:45 p.m.** at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. This is an umbrella giveaway night! Tickets are \$12 per person, which includes a \$2 ballpark credit. Please feel free to sign-up to bring friends and family. Carpooling can be available by those willing to transport anyone needing a ride.

Sign-up in the narthex, or contact Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815), if you are interested in purchasing tickets. Ticket purchase and payment will be done electronically this year. We are looking forward to a fun family night out at the Pigs! Hope you can join us!



- ❖ “Lunch & Learn” is a new extended day program of Faith Preschool. We will be doing more art projects and fun science experiments during this time, along with other activities. If you are able to contribute to this mission of QUMC, please consider our Amazon wish list of supplies we need: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PSQJB4PUYUFU?ref=wl_share
- ❖ 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 to purchase coupons. Payment can be in cash or by check, checks made payable to Faith Preschool.

For information on Faith Preschool, you can email or call Diana Shabani (regisrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172). Diana is able to answer questions relative to Faith Preschool registration.

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



From Missions Commission

Jerusalem House Ministries

Missions will collect Easter donations for Jerusalem House Ministries in Allentown. Donations of hams can be put in the refrigerator, while side dishes should be labeled “Jerusalem House” and put on the kitchen counter. **The last date to bring in food is following the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 24.** NOW, if you want to help, but would rather not go shopping, please grab a Jerusalem House envelope, place your donation in the envelope, and put the envelope in the narthex donations box (labeled Jerusalem House) or in the offering plate. **Please have monetary donations in by Sunday, March 17.** The Missions Team will use these donations to shop for food items for Jerusalem House. Thank you.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to the church family of QUMC for donating blood at the drive in February. Your continued support is appreciated!

QUMC Cares

Sunday, March 24, is our special offering on behalf of Quakertown Cares. Please plan to give generously. Thank you!



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!

NURSERY IS BACK!

Spread the good news! The Nursery is now open every Sunday morning during the 11:00 a.m. service. In order for us to offer Nursery Care during worship, volunteers are needed to staff the nursery. You will need to obtain clearances to volunteer. Pennsylvania clearances are free for volunteers, and very easy to obtain. For more information on clearances, or to sign-up to help in the Nursery, please reach out to Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org).

