



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Quakertown, PA 18951
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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

October 2016

Is You Is or Is You Ain't?



Way back in the dim days of the editor's teenage years, there was really great music. There were the fabulous big bands and unforgettable songs with beautiful melodies and meaningful lyrics.

And then there was the song that began "Is you is or is you ain't my baby?" (See what I mean?)

Remembering that song I began to think about the lyricist's point. Nobody wants to be left dangling. Is she committed to me or not?

Believe it or not, God pretty much wants to know the same thing. Have we made the decision to accept Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us and then to live as God's children or not?

There's a thought-provoking passage in the last book in the New Testament, Revelation. While there's much in this book that is puzzling and that eludes our understanding, the letters to the churches in the opening chapters are pretty clear.

Revelation 3:15 and 16 - "I (God) know...that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm...I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Wow! Our fence-sitting nauseates God! It's time to make up your mind. Is you is or is you ain't God's?

M.B.S.



Swimming from Cuba to Florida

By Pastor Tom Robinson

My seminary roommate, Dr. David Abbott, wrote the following thoughts about swimmer Diana Nyad's last attempt to swim from Cuba to Florida when she was in the midst of it:

Whether she completes it or not, she took the chance. She trained, she prepared, she learned from previous adventures and mistakes, and she set out. Her goal is not to reach Florida at this time but to reach smaller goals until she can see land. As we think about our lives, what excuses do we use to stay out of the "water"? How do we prepare to undertake challenges that may seem too big and yet we feel called to accomplish them? She has a team working with her. Who is on our team?

One stroke at a time, one minute at a time, one belief that it can be done.

Dr. Abbott's questions are very poignant for me. What excuses do I use to avoid the challenge God places before me in my life? Most of us have the same excuses in various forms. "I'm not qualified." "I'm not wise enough, strong enough, _____." You can fill in that blank with a host of "not good enough" characteristics and qualities from your fears and doubts.

The heroes of our faith had many "not good enough" answers for God. Abraham and Sarah said their age wasn't young enough. Jeremiah said his age wasn't old enough. Moses said his speech wasn't good enough. Simon Peter claimed he wasn't worthy enough. They, and many others, looked at themselves and saw their shortcomings and questioned God's call upon their lives. They had found their "comfort zones" (*Abraham and Sarah had established a nice life in their tent; Moses had settled into shepherding for his father-in-law; Jeremiah was just a young teenager expecting to marry and follow in his father's footsteps; Simon Peter had a decent fishing business going with his brother and friends...*) and they were content to remain there. But God knew they could do more.

**"Life begins
at the end of your comfort zone."**

—Neal Donald Walsch.

Dr. Abbott asks, "Who is on our team?" I know who my team members are. These are the persons who compliment my gifts with gifts and graces that are different than my own, who challenge me to reach

higher than I might on my own, who believe in me when I doubt myself, and who cheer me on when I begin to falter. Do you have people like that on your team? God never gives us a goal that can be accomplished all by ourselves. Abraham had not only Sarah, but for a time he had Lot. Moses had his brother Aaron and his wife, Zipporah, along with a wise father-in-law, Jethro. Simon Peter had his brother Andrew and several other associates who were disciples of Jesus. Though we may remember the leaders more easily than their teammates, they would be the first to tell you they needed all the help they could get.

"How do we prepare to undertake challenges that may seem too big...?"

As Diana Nyad did, we need to break the large goal down into smaller ones. Then, we take one step, one stroke, and achieve one small goal at a time. Do you have a calling from God to do something that seems big and overwhelming? How can you break that large goal down into smaller chunks?

And the part that really hits home for me is Dr. Abbott's opening statement:

**"Whether she completes it or not,
she took the chance.
She trained, she prepared, she learned
from previous adventures and mistakes and
she set out."**

Perhaps that is one of the most important statements someone can say about you – you took the chance. Nowhere in Scripture does God call someone to be a success. God only calls on us to be faithful. The success or failure ultimately is not in our hands but in God's. Our call is to trust God and faithfully fulfill our role. We do the preparation, the training and the studying to improve our abilities to fulfill our role, and then we must set out to accomplish them, but in the end, the result is still in the hands of God. How others respond is not within our control.

So, whether we have success or not, at least let us take the chance. Better to do that than to play it safe and stand before God one day and hear him ask why we didn't trust Him enough to even try.

Pastor Tom ☺

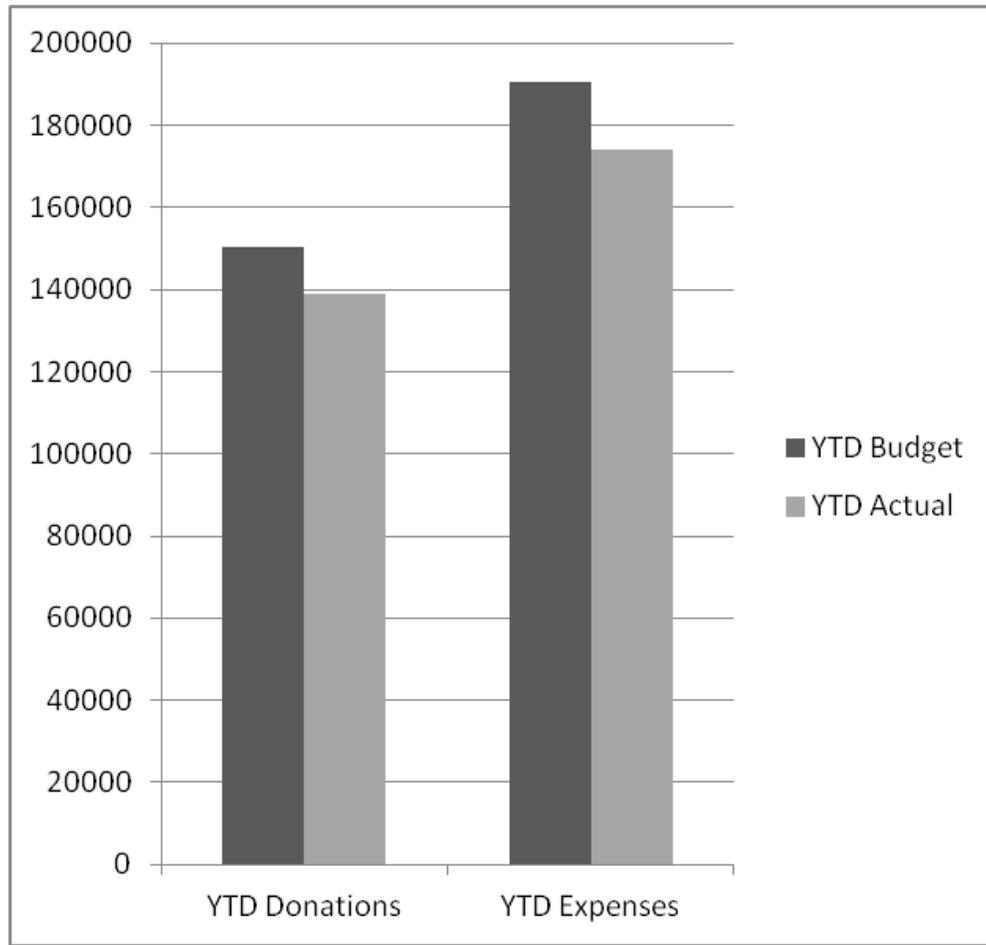


Sermon Plans

Date	Gospel	Sermon Title and Message
October 9, 2016	Matthew 5:1-12	<p>Blessings Disguised as Problems God often delivers blessings to us that look like problems. How do we find the hidden blessing?</p>
October 16, 2016	Matthew 6:25-34	<p>How to Avoid Regrets Fear can become an obstacle to our moving forward. Regrets come from things we chose not to do more than the things we chose to do. How can we know which choice to make at the time choices present themselves?</p>
October 23, 2016	Mark 10:13-16	<p>Change Your Tomorrow Your today was determined in part by the actions you chose to do yesterday. The harmful patterns we fall into can be broken if we recognize them and make a break from them. Jesus was a pattern-breaker. What tomorrow will be is determined by what we do today.</p>
October 30, 2016		<p>Pastor Tom will attend a special consecration service at Green Pond UMC</p>
November 6, 2016 All Saints Sunday Communion	Matthew 14:1-13a	<p>When You Can't Fix It Jesus grieved the death of John the Baptist. Imagine his pain knowing how many people he had healed, dead he had brought back, yet not his friend. Sometimes we can't fix things in life and we have to learn how to carry those things in our hearts for life.</p>



QUMC Financial Snapshot



We would thank the congregation for their increased support over the past months. Contributions sustained during the summer months and we received enough additional income to apply toward earlier Conference commitments. We still are tracking behind, but our projected deficit is now 50% less than communicated earlier this year.

Reviewing the chart above, you'll see we're about \$11,000 below our target for contributions. Expenses are also tracking below due to the deferral of Conference commitments. We still expect to use mostly all the expense budget, but are extremely encouraged by the increase in contributions.

Thank you again for your support!



Opportunities to be in Mission

- Disaster Buckets: Missions Commission and UMW are collecting cleaning supplies for UMCOR Disaster Relief. Because of recent floods, UMCOR's supply of cleaning buckets is very low. The display in the narthex includes a list of items needed for each bucket. Please note the size of cleaning items as everything must fit into the bucket. After supplies are collected children and youth of the church will prepare the buckets for distribution by UMCOR. UMCOR is the arm of the United Methodist denomination that responds to disasters in the United States and around the world.
- Feast Food Pantry items for October: hot and cold cereal, pancake mix, syrup. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart located inside the entrance doors to the church.
- The Annual CROP Walk for hunger will be held Sunday, October 9, at Memorial Park in Quakertown. Registration at 1:00 p.m. with the walk starting at 1:30 p.m. Sign-up in the narthex or see Kathy Dressel or Audrey Devine for additional details. CROP is an ecumenical event to raise money to address hunger, its causes, and ways to eradicate it. Each community that participates receives back a percentage of the money raised to be used to help alleviate hunger locally.
- Blanket Sunday: November 20. This is an ecumenical ministry of Church World Service, originally to provide blankets to victims of disasters and wars. It now includes other forms of aid, such as deep water wells, sewing machines, and literacy classes. Please contribute generously.
- Fall Fest, Saturday, October 29, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be lots of things to do and good food to eat. Bake sale, games, crafts, silent auction, music, petting zoo, and border collie sheep-herding demonstration. Proceeds to benefit missions outreach.
- Chicken BBQ Report: 437 dinners served (including take-outs), with a profit of \$3,803 realized. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you so much. Proceeds will go to mission outreach.

Fall Rummage Sale



Collect your unwanted but still in good condition and usable items and bring them to Miller Hall for Friendship Circle's Fall Rummage Sale, coming up Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, October 21 and 22. A light lunch will be available Friday, as well as a baked goods table.

Bring your donations to Miller Hall at the following times: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 18, 19, 20, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. You may also bring them Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00.

Needed for sale: baked goods, jewelry, kitchen utensils, dishes and glassware, tools, games, clean clothing in good condition, toys, other usable items. Absolutely NO televisions, computers, other heavy or large items, please! Also needed: paper and plastic grocery bags.

Contact Becky Petko (215.536.4741) with questions or to find out how you can help.



Life Groups Are Back!



“Bread for the Journey,” the Thursday morning Life Group, meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. This fall we will explore Adam Hamilton’s sermon series, “Behind the Veil: Women of the Bible.” The series uncovers the stories of lesser known women of the Bible, revealing their faith and faithfulness even in the midst of hardship and disappointment.

What can be learned from these courageous women? Join us to explore this interesting topic. If you would like to stay for lunch and fellowship, please bring a bag lunch. Contact Gale Hewitt with questions (grammagale@verizon.net or 215.453.9997).

There is also a Thursday afternoon Life Group, held at the home of Mary Schwer. This group meets at 2:15 p.m. For more information, contact Mary at 215.536.4596.

On Sunday evenings, a Life Group meets in the parlor beginning at 6:00 p.m. A new study, When God’s People Pray by Jim Cymbala, will begin on October 2. The study includes a DVD message, Bible Study, and discussion components. New members are welcome. Contact Tammy Swearingen at 215.538.7513 or trswearingen@verizon.net with questions.



Join us for FALL FEST

Saturday, October 29th

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Featuring: Petting Zoo,
Border Collie Sheep-Herding Demo,
Music, Games, Food,
Silent Auction, Bake Sale



COPE (Circle of Parental Encouragement)

Join the Circle of Parental Encouragement (COPE), a place where you will find community, fun, support, friendship and resources in a welcoming environment. We are looking for moms of children from infant through college, and even beyond! Let's combine our wisdom and support to help each other and have some fun together.

Check the narthex for a board with more information and membership forms. Browse through last year's newsletters and printables and see a calendar of events. We will meet on the following dates:

November 29

January 31

March 28

May 30

Meetings will be held in Miller Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. See the sign-up sheet on the COPE board. Contact Erin Haslett (erinhaslett@gmail.com) or Megan McMichael (megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) with any questions.

Church Council



Church Council will meet on Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



New Look in the Parlor

Do you need a good book, want to learn more about church history or get some advice on Christian parenting? Then we have just the thing for you. Our parlor library has been reorganized by subject: adult fiction, biography, reference, self-help, prayer, children's fiction and resources for teaching, complete Bibles and individual books of the Bible, church history, parenting and family issues, spiritual development, and others. Please come in, take a look and feel free to borrow what you want. In addition, there are also lots of resources there for life groups and other small study groups, including books, videos, DVDs and various study guides. Take a look and maybe we have just what you have been looking for!



Thank You to VBS



Vacation Bible School gave its donations to Samaritan's Purse this year. Co-coordinators Allison Ghorm and Megan McMichael received this very nice email thanking us:

On behalf of Franklin Graham and all of us at Samaritan's Purse, thank you so much for your incredible and generous gift! What a blessing you are to this ministry.

It is always encouraging to see a group of young believers working together to help others in need. As Jesus teaches us in Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV), "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*" Your congregation's children have set a wonderful example for others by living out this command.

I have included below information so the children can see how their kindness is helping people discover the love of Jesus Christ.

Clean Water Projects

Samaritan's Purse is operating water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in underserved areas of 12 countries, including Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Uganda, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Directed by our global team of technical experts, we are working to drill wells, install household water filters, rehabilitate existing water sources, build pit latrines, and provide hygiene education.

Animals & Agriculture Projects

Through animal and agriculture projects, Samaritan's Purse provides education and assistance to help communities and families live off the land. This illustrates how your gifts are making a significant difference in the lives of many.

We are so very grateful for your partnership in ministry. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information or have prayer concerns that I can lift up for you.

May the Lord bless you and your congregation as you serve Him.

Sincerely,
Wanda Nicke

GROWING THE BODY OF CHRIST



SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016-2017

Rally Day

Rally Day Sunday September 11, marked the beginning of the new Christian Education year. As is the custom at QUMC, second-graders were presented with Bibles, followed by a dedication of QUMC's Sunday School teachers. Much appreciation for our Christian Ed staff.

See page 9 of this newsletter to learn all about how Christian Ed at QUMC is "Growing the Body of Christ."



Growing the Body of Christ

Sunday School classes for all ages, infants through adults at 10:00 a.m.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
2's and Under	Toddler Nursery	High School	Room 105
Preschool	Room 107	Women's Class	Room 114
Kindergarten & 1st Grade	Room 106	Men's Class	Room 112
2nd & 3rd Grade	Room 110	Faithbuilders	Room 109
4th & 5th Grade	Room 104	Life Group	Parlor

Children's Sunday School

Newborns and those all the way to fifth grade will use lessons on their appropriate age levels from the David C. Cook Bible-in-Life curriculum series.

Middle school students will be instructed with the rfour.org Season 3 curriculum. The curriculum creates direct links for students between Old and New Testament faith stories with application to daily living.

High school students will learn to recognize God's presence in their lives as they explore prayer, biblical stories, modern parables in DVD formats, and dynamic discussions of faith in today's often volatile world.

Adult Sunday School

Women's Class

Women use Cokesbury Adult Bible Study lessons. Each quarter (fall, winter, spring and summer) contains 13 lessons that explore the biblical message and how to apply it to daily life, focusing on personal, family, church, and community concerns.

Men's Class

Men use as their resource the "Men of Integrity" magazine, a bi-monthly daily devotional published by *Christianity Today* and *Promise Keepers*. Men in this class will learn how they can draw on God's power as they develop a consistent pattern of Bible reading, reflection, and prayer.

Faithbuilders

This class is open to all adults.

- Theme through October 23: "Spirit Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts"
Join in on a journey of discovery and growth that will empower and equip you for service and leadership in the Body of Christ, the church.
- October 30: The Parable of the Talents
In the middle of a long sermon about His future return from heaven to usher in God's Kingdom, Jesus told this parable.
- November 13 to December 18: Advent Study - "Not a Silent Night - Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem"
Beginning with a look at the meaning and symbols of Advent itself, this class will then use Reverend Adam Hamilton's video/book study, *Not A Silent Night*.
- January 8 to February 12, 2017: Heaven: What the Bible Says
What happens when we die? What's heaven like? Is there really a hell? What's the difference between Sheol and Gehenna? Who gets to go to heaven? What happens to people and the earth at the End Times? Find out what the Bible has to say to answer all your questions. And learn why the bodily resurrection of Jesus means everything!
- February 19 to April 2, 2017: "Spirit Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts"
This class is being offered for those who could not attend the fall session.



Everybody Likes a Snack and a Chat



Help Wanted: The Hospitality Table is in need of helpers. The commitment is no more than one Sunday a month. If you are willing to participate in this ministry of hospitality, contact Wendy Smakulski (610.282.0796), Betsy Steen (215.529.7832), or Adele Winkler (215.679.6402).



Endowment Education Grants

Joyfully, the Educational Endowment Committee is pleased to report that on Sunday, November 27 the church will distribute grants to eligible students receiving post-high school education (including technical schools).

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- ✓ Student must be a member in good standing of QUMC.
- ✓ Student must be enrolled in and attending the 2016-2017 academic year in an institution of higher education.

The application procedure is as follows:

- ✓ Request an application by phone, mail, email, or in person from the church office (barb@qumc.com).
- ✓ Complete the application, returning it to the church office by email or postmarked by midnight on November 1.
- ✓ After review, the committee will send written confirmation that the student has met the eligibility requirements to receive the grant.
- ✓ Grants will be distributed during worship services on United Methodist Student Sunday, November 27.
- ✓ There are no financial aid requirements. The grants formula: Available funds/Number eligible students = Grant per student.

If you have any questions, please contact a committee member (Steve Finch, Ruth Barto, Nancy Parry, David Rush, John DeSimone).

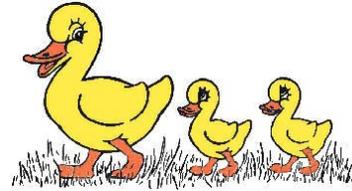
"I love autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it."

-Lee Maynard





Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: William Booth and Frank Prusch - October 1; Joan Bailey - October 15; Laura Clymer - October 24; Anna Wolfinger - October 27.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

To my QUMC Family,

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and expressions of love and concern following my mom's stroke and subsequent passing. It has been a difficult time for my family and me and your cards, words, and caring have been very helpful to us all. It is wonderful to have such a supportive church family during times like these and I am so grateful to be a part of this family.

Thank you again to all and God bless.

Doug Wilson and family



Adult new member classes will be offered this fall. Classes are held on Sundays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, October 16 History of the Church (from Jesus to the Middle Ages)
- Sunday, October 23 History of Methodism (from Wesley to Quakertown)
- Sunday, October 30 Sacraments
- Sunday, November 6 Spiritual Gifts
- Sunday, November 13 Reception into Full Membership

For more information, or to sign up, contact Pastor Tom at 215.536.4992 or pastor@qumc.com.

Confirmation Classes will be offered in 2017 beginning with an introductory meeting:

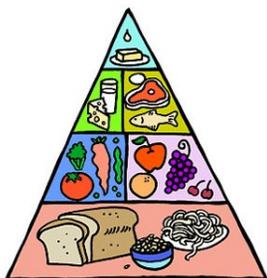
Sunday, January 15, 5:00 p.m.

Classes will continue through May and will be held on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a few exceptions. Contact Pastor Tom at 215.536.4992 or pastor@qumc.com with any questions.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NUTRITION: FACTS & FICTION



Thursday, October 6th, 7 pm in Middle School Rooms 101-103 - We invite anyone interested in healthy eating who has questions about all those additives and preservatives we hear so much about lately, to attend this program presented by Mandel J. Smith, Nutrition Educator with the Penn State Extension. Refreshments will be served following the program.

THANK OFFERING SUNDAY

November 20th - UMW will lead all three worship services and collect the Thank Offering jars. Look for the jars in the Narthex. We have so many things to be thankful for, so let's fill up those jars! The Program will a learning experience - Esther and United Methodist Women



Fact: Do you know where Muncy, PA is? Do you know that there is a women's maximum security prison there? And did you know there is a United Methodist Circle that operates within the walls thanks to the many United Methodist Women units in and around Muncy, PA?

United Methodist Women Revenue Categories 2016

- Mission Giving 50.40%
- Interest Income 16.36%
- Publications 7.13%
- Rental and Service Fee Income 2224%
- Other Income 3.87%

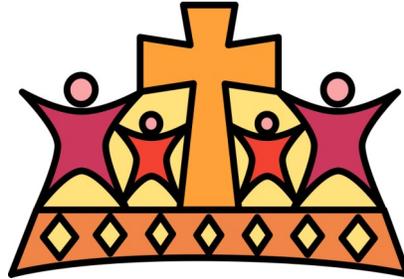
United Methodist Women Expense Categories 2016

- Programs Administered by UMW 35.74%
- Programs Administered by Other Organizations 14.76%
- Program Support 35.18%
- Supporting Services 14.32%

Stayed tuned next month for detailed explanations of these categories.



Worship Committee News & Notes



**For more information about worship news items,
contact Bill Scott (bill.scott@remmey.com or 215.620.7413)**

- ✓ Sponsors are needed for weekly altar flowers. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board between the sets of entrance doors to the church. Providing altar flowers for worship services is a great way to remember or honor a loved one. Cost is \$35.
- ✓ Ushers are needed for the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Share the love of God by welcoming church members and visitors alike to QUMC by serving in this way.
- ✓ Also needed is an Usher Coordinator, responsible for gathering the list of ushers and preparing the ushering schedule. The schedule is made once a year, with each team of ushers covering two non-consecutive months a year.
- ✓ Worship Leaders are needed for the 8:00 a.m. service. Put your faith into action by assisting Pastor Tom at 8:00.
- ✓ Festival (combined) Worship Services will be held on Sunday, October 2 and Sunday, December 18. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Festival Worship at 11:00 a.m.
- ✓ Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners will resume October 12, continuing through November 16. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m., followed by a short program from 6:00 to 6:30. This will allow plenty of time for members of Joyful Noise to get to rehearsal at 6:30 and for members of the Chancel Choir to get to their rehearsal at 7:00.



October 2016

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> </div>						1 Wedding
2 World Communion Day 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Festival Worship 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group	3 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes, Missions	4 7:00 p.m. Trustees	5 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	6 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Radical Hospitality, Praise Band, UMW Nutrition Event	7	8
9 ** 1:00 p.m. CROP Walk (Kid's Club & Youth Group) 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Faith Preschool Board Meeting	10 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes, Willow Stream Homeowners	11 7:00 p.m. Church Council	12 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	13 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band	14 Miller Hall Reserved	15 8:00 a.m. UMW Conference (Miller Hall & Sanctuary Reserved) 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
16 ** 5:00 p.m. New Member Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group	17 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	18	19 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team, Praise Band	21 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale	22 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale 3:00 p.m. Miller Hall Reserved
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> ← Miller Hall & Kitchen Reserved for Rummage Sale Preparations and Sale Days → </div>						
23 ** 5:00 p.m. New Member Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group	24 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	25	26 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Intentional Faith Development, Praise Band	28	29 11:00 a.m. Missions Fall Fest
30 ** 5:00 p.m. New Member Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group	31 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes					