



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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215.536.4992

Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

November 2019

Giving thanks in all circumstances... finding HIS sacred lining...



It's a story of sacrifice and survival; partnership and progress. It was our country's very first Thanksgiving.

Imagine the challenges the first settlers endured in 1620. They left everyone they knew and everything that was familiar. The Mayflower carried 102 voyagers across the Atlantic on a 66-day journey full of sickness and storms. That winter, nearly half of the voyagers died from disease and lack of shelter. Yet, when the harvest season arrived, they set aside three full days to give thanks. In spite of the hardships, there was still much to be grateful for. They were alive. They were welcomed as strangers into a new land. The natives taught them how to grow their own crops. They had food to eat and friends to share it with. And they had religious freedom, which is the very reason they came.

The settlers' simple decision to be intentionally grateful led to centuries of Americans doing the same every November. Let's be real though. In some seasons of life, being grateful is just plain hard. We find ourselves overwhelmed with circumstances and underwhelmed with relationships. With preoccupied minds and aching hearts, it goes against our nature to give thanks anyway. But that's exactly what the Lord asks of us.

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT).

But...

- How can we give thanks if we lost our job?
- How can we give thanks if our friend refuses to talk to us?
- How can we give thanks if we are spending the holidays alone...again?
- How can we give thanks if our marriage is falling apart?
- How can we give thanks if our child is suffering?
- How can we give thanks if we have lost a loved one?
- How can we give thanks if we don't know what the future holds?

Because even though we are struggling, our God is still sacred. In each difficult situation, our Creator gives us glimpses of hope in a sacred silver lining. It's the place where God is working all things together for good. It's where the hidden blessings are stored. They aren't always easy to find, especially in time of real loss and suffering but they're always there.

...continued on page 2



The secret to giving thanks in all circumstances is to find His sacred lining.

We will find His sacred lining when we give thanks for what we do have.

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength (Philippians 4:11-13 NLT).

We will find His sacred lining when we give thanks for what is right instead of worrying about what is wrong.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT).

We will find His sacred lining when we give thanks for the process.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love (Romans 5:3-5 NLT).

We will find His sacred lining when we give thanks to God first.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 118:1 NIV).

Before we gather around the Thanksgiving table this year, gobbling up turkey and a slice of pumpkin pie, let's be intentional about giving thanks no matter what. We can be personal about it or we can share it with others in a prayer before dinner. Yes, some circumstances can be challenging and some can be heartbreaking. But we serve a God who is for us, not against us. There is a holy gift waiting for us. Let's look hard for His sacred lining and give thanks to God when we find it, not just on Thanksgiving, but every day.

Article from Dayspring,
Living your Faith: When it's hard to be grateful on Thanksgiving



Monthly Newsletter Submissions

Items for the monthly newsletter can be emailed to Teddi Miller (QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com) or you can put them in the newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next monthly newsletter, please email Teddi or drop off the information in the church newsletter mailbox by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!



From the Pastor's Palette



The “omer” or sheaf is an important metaphor in the life of the Jewish people. Most people were either shepherds or farmers, so agricultural symbols dominate the Hebrew scriptures. The story of Ruth, told in full during the time of Shavuot, the harvest time, is the story of an agricultural community at Beth Lehem (the House of Bread or Bethlehem as we know it) –the fertile hillsides from which the community was fed with rich harvests of wheat and barley and other grains, as well as grapes and wine.

In the time of the harvest, workers in the field would cut and harvest the grain and take it to the threshing floor, where the grain would be separated from the chaff. The poor, widows, or those without means would be allowed to “glean” after the workers. Gleaning meant to pick up the wheat fallen during the cutting that the workers have missed. Often gleaners could go home with a good several sheafs of wheat or barley out of the kindness of this practice. The threshing floor was a symbol of judgment (note Jesus’ teaching on wheat and chaff). The good wheat would serve to nurture others. The useless chaff would blow away or be burned up.

Looking at the symbol of grain in the story of Ruth, Ruth is both gleaner and wheat. She symbolizes the servant of the field, but she also symbolizes the wheat laid upon the threshing floor and chosen/redeemed by God. Her redemption comes in the form of her wedding to Boaz, in which she becomes part of Israel’s royal heritage.

The metaphors are missional, as well as ministerial. We are called to participate in God’s mission field –we sow seed, but we also help in the harvest, to gather together those who are weary and heavy laden, so that Jesus may give them rest –and a place at His heavenly and abundant table.

John Wesley spent his life gleaning from the “leftovers” in the fields –those who weren’t welcome in the pews of the wealthy and well-brought up. He was interested in gathering from the margins among the downhearted, the poor, the disenchanting, and the depressed –those with addictions, and those with little money, those thrown into debtor’s prison, and those battling domestic issues, sickness, and pain. Wesley gleaned from the hopeless and showed them the hope and the abundant mercy of God. And Jesus calls us to do the same.

To whom will you pass on the stories of Jesus? Who will one day say that YOU were their inspiration, their saving grace, the one they’ve looked to when they learned to follow Jesus? You are the workers of God’s harvest. “The harvest is plentiful; the workers are few.” Shed your tears for the poor and disenchanting. Tell your stories to those who haven’t heard of Jesus. Go out into your communities, into your fields, into your coffee shops and firehouses. And tell the stories of Jesus to those in the margins and on the edges of the world today. Gather us in, Lord, gather us in.

Ask Pastor Lori how you can make a difference in your community with your ideas and your presence!



Missions Commission



FEAST Food Pantry

Items for the month of November include stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, gravy, and canned pumpkin. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart located between entrance doors to the church.

Give the Gift of Life

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, November 8, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Miller Hall. Blood is desperately needed right now so please consider donating.

Ham it Up!

Annual Ham Dinner, Saturday, November 9, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Adults \$10, children (ages 4-10) \$4. If you are able to help out in any way, contact Carol Pertuit.

Share Thanksgiving Dinner

We are again collecting frozen turkeys and non-perishable side dishes to provide Thanksgiving dinner for Jerusalem House and the surrounding Allentown community. Place turkeys in the freezer and side dishes on the counter in the kitchen, clearly labeled "JH." Donations need to be brought to the church by Sunday, November 24.

Blanket Sunday

"Blanket the World with Love" on Sunday, November 24 by donating generously to Blanket Sunday. For every \$10 donated, Church World Service will deliver a warm blanket to someone in need.

For more information on these, or any other Missions items, contact Carol Pertuit (carolpertuit@verizon.net or 610.346.6713).





For Your Information

On Sunday, November 17, we will renew together our covenant of membership in the United Methodist Church, thus allowing us the opportunity to renew our vows to God:

- To confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- To believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments;
- To promise to live a Christian life; and
- To uphold The United Methodist Church with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness

Please prayerfully reflect on being a Christ-centered steward through your time, gifts and service, and bring your commitment card to your worship service on November 17. One side of the Commitment Card allows you the opportunity to offer your time and talents. The other side allows you to offer monetary support to fund our ministries.

Church Directory Photos can be taken by appointment. Contact Marj Lofland (yeamarj@gmail.com or 215.257.7389).

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Women's Group meets weekly in Miller Hall, Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. This group is open to women of the community-at-large. If you would like more information, Pastor Lori is available to speak to you confidentially.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of QUMC is just one more way we care for others. If you know of someone would like, or you feel needs, a prayer shawl, contact Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com or 215.538.0835).

Life Changes Group meets at the church Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Are you dealing with grief, divorce, illness, unemployment, change, or just feeling stuck in your life's journey? Join us! This is a confidential support group, open to all.

QUMC is helping the environment while contributing to Missions!

Paper recycling receptacles can be found in the southwest corner of the church parking lot. Acceptable materials to recycle include newspapers, magazines, catalogs, books, office paper, school paper, wrapping paper, and junk mail. Proceeds are used for missions programs of the church.

Recycling aluminum cans is an ongoing fundraiser for Missions. Bag and bring your cans to the white trash cans at the church pavilion. They do not need to be crushed but are easier to handle if they are. All brands of aluminum cans are welcome. Proceeds help to defray costs of the annual Chicken Barbeque.



Upcoming Events



Friendship Circle will meet Tuesday, November 12, 1:00 p.m.

UMW Thankoffering is Sunday, November 24.

This year, United Methodist Women celebrates 150 years of women organized for mission with women, children, and youth. On Thankoffering Sunday, we collect jars at all three services. This offering is one of the five channels of undesignated mission giving and is an opportunity for you to respond to God's abundance and grace with your gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used for mission and advocacy programs in the United States and around the world. If you didn't pick up a Thankoffering jar last year, jars will be available in the narthex beginning Wednesday, November 6.

Wednesday Fellowship Dinners continue through Wednesday, November 20, 5:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for this time of food and fellowship. Bring a dessert to share!

QUMC Holiday Concert, Sunday November 17, 3:00 p.m. featuring Craig Thatcher & Nyke Van Wyk

- Doors open at 2:30 p.m.
- Freewill donation to COBCARES
- Fellowship & light refreshments in Miller Hall after performance
- Volunteers needed to greet, hand out programs, bake "seasonal" treats (cookies, brownies, etc.) and to stage refreshments in Miller Hall

A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex or contact Molly Minarik (610.282.3708 or craftlover38@aol.com).

Added bonus: QUMC was the recipient of a \$1,000 Dewees Grant to help fund this event!

A Trip to the Holy Land

QUMC is planning a trip to the Holy Land in 2021. See Pastor Lori for details.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 27

7:30 p.m.



Bequest Opportunities

Bequests from individuals are an important part of the funding of our church's missions. If or when you plan a charitable bequest to help support the mission of the Quakertown United Methodist Church you can direct your bequest in the following ways;

1. **Unrestricted bequest:** This is a gift for our general purposes, to be used at the discretion of our Trustees and Finance Committees. A gift like this - without conditions attached - is frequently the most useful, as it allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.
2. **Restricted bequest:** This type of gift allows you to specify how the funds are to be used. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If so, it's best to consult us when you make your will to be certain that your intent can be carried out.
3. **Honorary or Memorial bequest:** This is a gift given "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. We are pleased to honor your request and have many ways to grant appropriate recognition.
4. **Endowed bequest:** This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only the investment income they generate. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.

Feel free to contact Pastor Lori or a member of the Trustees Committee or Finance Committee to learn more about helping our church through a bequest.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

	Revenues	Expenditures	Year-to-Date Balance
September	\$23,209.64	\$20,980.04	+\$751.95

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Fiscal Note - The church is now in the positive, although there is still an outstanding amount of \$7,312.80 owed to the Care of God's House fund.

Budget Time - The Finance Committee is currently working to finalize a projected 2020 budget proposal. Thank you for the help of the many committee members.

Thanks - Our church is a Christian place of worship and fellowship due to the prayers and dedicated work of so many members of this congregation. Thank you for your talents, contributions, and financial gifts to advance the ministry of Christ in our community!



Looking for ways you can help?



Got Apples?

If you have apple trees, or know someone who does, the church is looking for “seconds” (damaged or bruised apples) to be made into cider with our new cider press! Contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com or 267.825.5683).

Seeking musicians for the Praise Band!

Contact Jim Strohecker (jhs214@comcast.net) for details. Needed are lead electric/acoustic guitarist and male or female vocalists.

Lily’s Hope Foundation reaches out to families of preemie babies with supplies and support. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in more information on volunteer opportunities and ways you can help, contact Melea Rupert (215.696.9804) or Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713).

Volunteers Needed for Code Blue Shelter

The Advocates of the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) are in desperate need of more volunteers. They are asking the churches in Upper Bucks County to assist in staffing the shelter for the 2019-2020 Code Blue Season. Approximately 120 volunteers are needed to staff the shelter during the winter months. A minimum of seven people are needed to open the shelter each night the temperature falls below 26 degrees. Time commitments are flexible. Volunteers can set their own schedule, working as little as one night per month or as much as one night per week. Training is provided to new volunteers.

For more information, or to schedule a visit by one of Code Blue Shelter volunteers, contact Les Rice (leslinrice@yahoo.com or 215-536-5166).

Hospitality Committee...

Is still looking for some volunteers. Contact Molly Minarik (610.282.3708) if you would like to help with this ministry.





Family Matters

Happy Birthday:

Ethel Setman, November 6
Adele Winkler, November 26

If you are 80 years old (or over) and would like your birthday included in the newsletter, please let the church office know.

Baptism:

Owen Thomas Howard, born February 11, 2019, baptized at QUMC on Saturday, October 5. Owen is the grandson of Steve and Janet Finch.

Notes of Thanks:

Dear Friends at QUMC,

“What a joy it was to share in worship and fellowship with you in October. I am so blessed to find a home in this church that raised me in my own faith. Thank you for your support of MVP and our ministry in El Salvador. We are grateful for our partnership. Thank you for your generous donation from the Chicken BBQ. We are blessed to call you a partner in this great mission! Many blessings to you!”

*With Christ’s Love,
Molly (Jamison) & Eliberto Juarez*

“Thanks to all the volunteers who cut out animal masks and set up and managed QUMC’s information and kids’ craft activity booths on Autumn Alive Day, October 19. Several volunteers stayed throughout multiple shifts in order to help. We enjoyed beautiful weather, had fun right along with the kids, and discovered some veggie racecar and animal mask creating talents we didn’t realize we had. Please join us next year!”

“The Friendship Circle would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Fall Rummage Sale a success. We could not do it without the help and support we receive from everyone! Our bake sale was our most successful to date. The donations of wonderful treasures for the sale was overwhelming. Thank you to all the workers who helped in so many ways to make the sale a success, while enjoying fellowship and fun. We made a profit of almost \$2,900 which will be put to use towards needs of the church as they arise, as well as a tithe toward a missions project. Thank you to everyone and hope to see you the week of April 20, 2020 for our Spring Sale which will be held Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25.”

...continued on page 10



Welcome to New Members welcomed to QUMC on Sunday, September 29:

Chris & Lisa Kropelnicki
2450 Willow Stream Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951
610.451.0068

Steven O'Grady
1611 Park Avenue, Apt. 313
Quakertown, PA 18951
267.905.8773

Linda Marie Voller
28 S. 11th Street
Quakertown, PA 18951
210.287.7615

Beulah Mae Wear
Lisa McGrath
Tyler Berg
57 Ninth Street
Quakertown, PA 18951
267.767.8867

Caitlin Yaun & Ryan Yost
27 Roth Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055
267.374.2842



Calling Kids & Youth!



Kid's Club (grades one through five) meets once a month, monthly events described below. The Youth Group (grades six and up) also meet at these times plus once more each month for an activity meeting such as bowling, a movie at the Grand, game night, s'mores around a fire, dinner together, etc. Our schedule this year is going to share teaching resources while always keeping groups separate (except when specified in advance, such as for bowling).

If you have questions or would be willing to help with one or more of these events, please contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com). Thank you!! These programs for our children and youth would not be possible without your help.

Here's the monthly summary of what we have planned!

- > November - food preservation and following directions with applesauce making and tea
- > December - Christmas Parties!
- > January - stringcraft in worship and service with weaving and knot-tying
- > February - bowling combined event with Kids Club and the Youth Group
- > March - creativity, self-expression, and being made in the image of God through the arts
- > April - Kids Club lock-in and stewardship of the earth with gardening
- > May - responsibility for animals and resourcefulness with sheep shearing and sheepdog training
- > June - communication and serving the community with HAM radios

Confirmation Classes begin in January 2020. Open to those age 12 and up, confirmation is an opportunity to learn about faith, participate in projects and fascinating field trips, learn what it means to accept Jesus into your life, and to follow Him faithfully. Classes will be held Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Lori (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327) for more information or to sign-up.



November 2019

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30 a.m. Life Group	2 9:00 a.m. Annual Charge Conference
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> </div>						
3 **	4 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	5 ELECTION DAY 11:00 a.m. Life Changes	6 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	7 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. AA Women's Group, Praise Band	8 8:30 a.m. Life Group 2:00 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive	9 4:30 p.m. Ham Dinner
10 ** 12 noon Endowment Team 2:00 p.m. Kids\Joyful Noise Hymn Sing 3:00 p.m. Kid's Club\Youth Group	11 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	12 1:00 p.m. Friendship Circle 7:00 p.m. Finance Pastor Lori Off →	13 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	14 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. AA Women's Group, Praise Band	15 8:30 a.m. Life Group	16 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy
17 ** Stewardship Sunday 3:00 p.m. Craig Thatcher Concert	18 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Milford/ Trumbauersville Democrats	19 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 6:00 p.m. Leadership Team 7:00 p.m. Trustees	20 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	21 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. AA Women's Group, Praise Band	22 8:30 a.m. Life Group Pastor Lori Vacation →	23
24 ** -Laity Sunday -UMW Thankoffering -QUMC Cares Sunday -Blanket Sunday -United Methodist Student Day -Youth Group Bowling	25 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	26 7:00 p.m. Missions	27 6:30 a.m. Life Group 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 	29 Barb Hafler Vacation	30 Habitat for Humanity 5K Race 6:30 p.m. All- Church Bowling