



# Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

Share Christ   Grow in Christ   Serve Christ

February 2020

## Love God...Love Others



Who's your neighbor? God says *everyone* is. "The central truth – the one you have heard since the beginning of your faith – is that we must love one another" (1 John 3:11). *The second great commandment is this: "Love others in the same way you love yourself."* (Mark 12:31) We are not only to love others... but love others in the same way we love ourselves.

First, we must know and believe that God loves us so that we can then love others. "We love because He has first loved us" (1 John 4:19). This powerful yet simple truth is paramount to living out our faith. Through knowing and believing God's love for us, we are able to then *love each other deeply and fully* as Jesus has loved us. "So I give you a new command: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways" (John 13:34). Do you demonstrate your love for others without judgment and meet people where they are like Jesus did?

Just think about how you would love your neighbor better if you had a healthy love for yourself. Loving our neighbor will not always be easy because our neighbors are imperfect people, as are we. God is the connector that loves through us. "Just as I have loved you, you are to love one another. (John 13:34-35)

### Let His Love Shine Through This Valentine's Day!

Celebrate Valentine's Day in a beautiful new light. Take the opportunity to share God's love with your family and friends. Reach out to someone that is alone, someone that may be homebound or someone that you think may just need a friend. Show them kindness, let them know how much you cherish them, and remind them of God's love and blessings.

**Show Kindness.** "So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense." (Colossians 3:12-13) The Lord calls us to love one another because love binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**Cherish Friendships.** "Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Do not forsake your friend or your family." (Proverbs 27:9) Each friendship brings blessings into our lives. Use this Valentine's Day to make a new friend. Let family and friends know that they were fearfully and wonderfully made and have great things to offer the world.

**Bless Others.** "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Let's embrace this love-filled holiday and remember to show kindness, cherish our relationships and to bless them.

*Taken from Dayspring Live your Faith Articles:  
"Love your Neighbor as Yourself" including excerpts from "We're Still In This" written by Susan Goss  
and "Bless your Friends on Valentine's Day" written by Brittany*



## *From the Pastor's Palette*

One of the strangest, most mysterious and resilient trees in the world is the Pacific Madrona tree. The Madrona is a tree that doesn't seem to know how to be a tree. It's an evergreen that has cinnamon-red bark, twisting branches, and beautiful red berry clusters. But it produces these berries when no other tree is bearing fruit. It prefers to grow in the most unlikely places—in rocky, coarse soil, on slopes and bluffs, on the edges of a river, or deep in the rocks. Its clever roots penetrate deeply and widely searching for hard-to-find water, and its branches lean toward the sun like a house plant. Defying everything we know about trees, it sheds, not its leaves, but its skin, its bark. Like a lobster with a shell, the Madrona peels off its red outer layer to reveal a fresh smooth amber new skin, which will later grow red, thick, and protective again. The Madrona loves to grow by the water, and it loves the rain. But once an established tree, the Madrona barely needs any water or fertilizer to maintain its stability. It's as though it retains the memory of water within it.

We too in our faith can be like the Madrona. The word human comes from the word humus for earth (no, not the tasty garbanzo bean dip hummus but the word for dirt, clay, earth itself), humus. It's that layer of earth that is organic, often wet, and filled with minerals and fertile matter. The dictionary defines it as "the organic component of soil." But essentially, humus is a big sponge, which can hold up to 90% of its weight in water.

In Genesis, God creates humankind (humus) from dirt and water and forms us into a human shape, breathing into us the divine breath of life. After our departure from the garden, God insures us with a new "skin," one that will enable us to be in relationship with God in a new way, even while in the world and part of the world. This God-skin is our sacred cloak that marks us in the world as "made by God" in union with God. How we see, use, and take care of our spiritual skin, that living organic God-sponge, will determine if our lives will wither, or if they will flourish.

God constantly sends His rain/reign upon us, extending His grace to every inch of the earth and to every person. But not every person will choose to soak up God's gift of life. Not every person will choose to receive the gift of God's reign. We all know people like this. All of us have met people who, no matter how much you give them, they can only see gloom and emptiness. They refuse to stand in the rain and soak in the Spirit, and they get dry and brittle like prunes. Prunes are people with a parched spirit. It's easy to get a case of the prunes when you forget to reach for God's nourishment. But the scriptures tell us, all we need to do is ask, and God will rain God's healing and restoration upon us. "He leads me beside still waters....He restores my soul."

It's not easy to live in the world today. It can be a confusing, dry kind of place, where you can easily get lost in a stony land or a dry desert. But like the Madrona, once your roots are planted in Jesus, you will find the nourishment and the life you need to live another day. For God's rain/reign is always ours, always within our reach.

Rev. Dr. Lori Wagner  
[loribethwagner@gmail.com](mailto:loribethwagner@gmail.com)



# Welcome to Youth Group!

Hello Youth and Parents from Pastor Kathryn!

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you how excited I am to be the new Youth Pastor at QUMC!

First, a little about myself: My husband and I currently live in the Poconos, however, in a few months we will be moving to the parsonage of Emmanuel UMC in Allentown where I am presently serving as the Pastor. We have two dogs and two cats who are very spoiled! I worked as a social worker before I entered into ministry and I love to dance and travel.

I grew up in the United Methodist Church and was part of an active youth group. Those years have given me some amazing memories and I hope to create the same youth atmosphere at QUMC that I was fortunate enough to experience growing up. Needless to say, I'm very excited to be serving the youth of QUMC.

I am planning a combined event for Middle School and High School age youth (and their parents) as a time to meet everyone, while everyone gets to know me as well!

Typically, Middle School and High School youth will not be combined but for this welcome event we will share in this time together.

I look forward to growing in ministry with the families and youth of QUMC!



**Middle School and High School Youth (and their parents) are invited to**

**A “Build-Your-Own” Ice Cream Sundae Party**

**Date:** Sunday, February 16, 2020  
**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)  
**Place:** Miller Hall

Contact Pastor Kathryn ([kathrynswan19@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynswan19@gmail.com)) with any questions.



# Missions Commission



FEAST Food Pantry items for the month of February include peanut butter, jelly, jam, juice or juice boxes.

QUMC Cares special offering to help a local Quakertown family in need will be Sunday, February 23.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, February 21, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., Miller Hall. Sign up in the narthex or register on the American Red Cross website. Blood supplies are extremely low so please consider donating and giving someone the gift of life.

Homemade Easter Eggs fundraiser coming in March! Missions will once again be making this homemade candy. Details will be forthcoming.

Contact Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713 or [carolpertuit@verizon.net](mailto:carolpertuit@verizon.net)) for more information on Missions items.



## Calling All Kids!

**Kid's Club** (grades one through five) meets once a month, monthly events described below. 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](mailto: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!

- > 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

**Winter Weather Is Upon Us!** Please keep in mind that during times of inclement weather, QUMC follows the lead of the Quakertown Community School District. If school is cancelled due to weather, all church activities for that day are cancelled as well. If there is an early dismissal due to weather, all church activities for that afternoon and evening are also cancelled. Church staff may or may not report to work, depending on weather conditions.

Church-related closings and cancellations are also available on Channel 69 via the WFMZ-TV Stormcenter and online at [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com).



## ***For Your Information***

### New Member Classes:

Membership classes are held monthly. Contact Pastor at [loribethwagner@gmail.com](mailto:loribethwagner@gmail.com). Please note membership transfers do not require classes. We hope you'll join us!

### Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Women's Group:

QUMC hosts weekly meetings in Miller Hall, Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This AA 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:

This ministry is one way we care for others. If you know of someone who would like, or you feel needs a prayer shawl, contact Janet Finch ([jmfumw@aol.com](mailto:jmfumw@aol.com) or 215.538.0835).

### The Prayer Chain:

This is another way we can care for each other. There is an email chain and a phone chain. Contact Janet Finch ([jmfumw@aol.com](mailto:jmfumw@aol.com) or 215.538.0835) to place someone on the prayer chains or to be included on the praying end of the chains.

### 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. Missions receives checks from recycling to be used for missions programs of the church.

### Aluminum Can Recycling:

Bag and bring your cans to the two white trash cans at the church pavilion. They do not need to be crushed but they are easier to handle if they are. All brands of aluminum cans are welcome. Proceeds from can recycling helps to defray costs of the annual Chicken Barbeque.





## Upcoming Events



### Important Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Sunday, March 8:

On this day, there will be no Sunday School. Adults, as well as middle school and high school aged children, are strongly encouraged to attend as we will be taking a poll and continuing discussions surrounding the United Methodist Church discussions by Traditionalists, Centrists, Progressives, and Bishops in regard to the agreements aimed at separation within the United Methodist Church. A Sunday School activity will be held during this time for younger children so that parents and older children are free to attend the meeting. Please mark your calendars to be at church on March 8.

### Tent Revival II:

Coming soon! Planning is starting for this community evangelism outreach. With the support of the Communications Team, there will be idea and planning sessions where we will form the teams needed to cover this event. Sign up in the narthex to take part in what we hope to be a super successful event!



## Did You Know?

QUMC has a new communications department! Do you have a QUMC event you would like advertised on our Facebook page? Send photos, videos, and general information to [communications@qumc.com](mailto:communications@qumc.com).

Monthly Newsletter Submissions can be emailed to Teddi Miller ([QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!



## Family Matters

### Happy Birthday to:

Ruth Barto - February 4, Donald Barto - February 6, Marie Frankenfield - February 11,  
Lorraine Hillegass - February 11, Thelma Bagg - February 13, Norma Lillie - February 19,  
Kathryn Landis - February 22

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

### Baptisms:

Brynn Marie Kropelnicki born September 30, 2019, daughter of Chris & Lisa, baptized January 12.

### Notes of Thanks:

*“Tom and I would like to thank our church family for all your kind love and support as we have gone through our son Eric’s illness and hospitalizations. On February 1, it was four years since it all began, and your concern and is both heart-warming and sincerely appreciated. We thank God for answering our prayers and blessing him with survival.*

*He has been through so much and is now recuperating and trying to plan for his future.”*

*Midge and Tom Weisel*

*“Our family would like to thank our church family for all the kind words, prayers, calls and cards at the passing of my father. Your support is very much appreciated.”*

*Bill Scott and Family*

*“Thank you for bringing the Christmas carolers from church to our Meadow Glen at Phoebe. The choir consisted of more people this year and the piano was a big plus. I also remember the two young boys that stood in the back at the piano. They added a lot too!*

*I’m also happy that I was able to get a nice group of residents to hear you. Hope to see your choir next year.”*

*Sincerely, Anna Wolfinger*

*“A heartfelt thank you to the Praise Band who has blessed us with their music for the past 14 years. Your presence will be missed.”*



# Keeping Up with Our College Kids!

By popular request, below are the bios for our current 2019 Endowment Grant Recipients so that the congregation can follow their educational careers:

Elizabeth Aber is in her first year at Bucks County Community College. She is in the Communication Studies program. Elizabeth worked for a year to save money for school. She also auditioned for community theaters in the area but had to pass up an opportunity for an acting workshop at the Kimmel Center due to school. She loves acting and would like to work in the theater in Philadelphia or New York.

Amanda Hafler graduated Summa Cum Laude from Elizabethtown College in May 2019 with a B.A. in Legal Studies. She is now a graduate student in Elizabethtown's Master's program in Public Policy, while working two days a week in the capitol in Harrisburg. During a 13-week fellowship at the capitol last summer, Amanda wrote a bill addressing prisoner reentry into the workforce that was sponsored by a legislator and ended up on the PA House Floor! Amanda will graduate in May 2020 with her M.P.P. (Master's in Public Policy).

Zach Korpics is currently a junior at Shippensburg University. He is taking core business classes working toward his Marketing degree. Zach appreciates that school offers more new beginnings, friendships and manifold opportunities including a career fair with large and small businesses, all looking to fill a variety of jobs and internships. He wants to become involved in the digital media side of Marketing in sports or retail.

Abbie Miller is a senior at Lock Haven University in Recreation Management. Abbie has chosen a dual concentration in Community Commercial and Therapeutic Recreation. She is still treasurer for the Recreation Society (an academic club), moved up to President of the Circle K club this year, and is on the Board of Directors for Student Auxiliary Services. Abbie is also on the University Leadership Council, meeting with the university president, department chairs, and executive staff. She continues to work on Haven Activities Council and this is also the third year she has helped run the Employee Health Fair. With all her clubs and activities, Abbie will have to exercise succession planning to fill her shoes after she graduates!

Blake Miller is also a senior at Lock Haven University. He is majoring in Traditional and Applied Physics and minoring in Mathematics. Blake finds some courses stressful but continues to work hard to maintain his GPA. This is his fourth semester as a Resident Advisor (RA). He is on the Global Honors Program (GHP) honors council, is a member of the Phi Sigma Pi Honors fraternity and vice-president of the Physics Club. He finds the collegiate social experience worthwhile. Next fall, he plans to move into a graduate program in Engineering and Mechanics.

Charlie Miller is yet another senior at Lock Haven University, studying Ecology and Environmental Sciences, minoring in Outdoor Recreation Management. She is a member of the Biology Club, vice-president of the Marine Biology Club, and a member of the Rec Society Club. She is now taking Ichthyology (named for that icky/slimy feel on fish). Last year's Aquatic Bio becomes this year's electrofishing and - IN HER WORDS - "is really hands-on and fun." Charlie recalls ecology field trips as being up-close and personal with tadpoles, frogs, salamanders and pond scum. She is also taking Outdoor Ed and Therapeutic Recreation and believes that we not only observe nature around us, but learn to appreciate it. Charlie is looking to take on an all-encompassing view of stream ecology and ways to make our waterways healthier. In her spare time, she would like to develop a biology camp for kids.

Caleb Pfeiffer is a sophomore at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. His field is Communications. Caleb is taking public speaking classes, and enjoys the smaller classes that create closer relationships with the professors. He is involved with LaSalle TV Sports panels that have an audience of 300,000 people. After completing his Master's degree, Caleb wants to work in sports broadcasting.



Alexis Smakulski is a first year student at Northampton Community College. She is working toward a degree as a Healthcare Office Coordinator and Specialist. Alexis will be taking classes for the next two semesters and then will do an internship. She will continue her education with additional courses for added certifications, building on her college education.

Amanda Tascarella is in her first semester at Bucks County Community College. Her current major is Health Sciences and she is taking five prerequisite courses. Amanda is finding her classes interesting and challenging. She is looking for a school to transfer into a BSN program next year as she feels it is important to work as a nurse to help others.

Haley van den Burg is in her junior year at St. John's in New York City, majoring in Speech Pathology. She hopes to complete her courses and graduate next fall. She is enjoying her higher level classes and learning about language development and communication disorders. She is working as a research assistant in the Language Acquisition and Bilingualism lab and also as a tutor for phonetics students and English language learners. Outside of academics, Haley volunteers at a hospital in New York City for the Initiative for Women with Disabilities and with the Director of Staff for the New York chapter of Miss Amazing, which promotes self-confidence and independence for women and girls with disabilities. Haley wants continue her education with a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology, working as a speech pathologist performing pediatric research.

For more information on QUMC Educational Endowment Fund Grants, including how to contribute to the fund, please talk to Steve Finch or a committee member. Committee members include Nancy Parry, David Rush, John DeSimone, Julie James, and Brad Mushrush.

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## ***Looking for ways you can help?***



Hospitality Committee is still looking for some volunteers. Contact Mary Ellen (Molly) Minarik (610.282.3708) if you would like to help in this ministry.

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 the 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 7 people are needed to open the shelter on each night the temperature falls below 26 degrees. Time commitments to the shelter are flexible. Volunteers can set their own schedules, 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 with one of Code Blue Shelter volunteers, contact Les Rice (leslinrice@yahoo.com or 215-536-5166).



	Revenues	Expenditures	Year-to-Date Balance
December	\$30,334.02	\$27,102.91	\$4,130.57

**2019 End of Year Summary:** Good news! Because of your tremendous support, our church had a **GREAT** December. All of the church's financial obligations were met and we were able to pay another \$3,000.00 to the Care of God's House fund. While not all of what we owe ourselves was paid, this is still a good ending to the 2019 fiscal year.

**QUMC Audit:** The audit for the 2019 fiscal year has begun. If you haven't turned your records in to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

**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 it 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.



# February 2020

## Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<b>**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Youth/Family Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship					1
2 **	3 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	4 11:00 a.m. Life Changes	5 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	6 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group	7 8:30 a.m. Life Group	8	
9 ** 5:30 p.m. Kid's Club/ Youth Group Finger-Weaving Scarves	10 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	11 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 7:00 p.m. Finance	12 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	13 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 6:45 p.m. Praise Band 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group	14 8:30 a.m. Life Group 	15 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy	
16 ** 6:00 p.m. Middle School & High School Youth Groups Ice Cream Party	17 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Milford-Trumbauersville Democrats	18 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 7:00 p.m. Trustees	19 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group	20 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group	21 8:30 a.m. Life Group 2:00 p.m. Blood Drive	22	
23 ** QUMC Cares Sunday	24 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	25 11:00 a.m. Life Changes	26 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:00 p.m. Worship, Joyful Noise 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group	27 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 6:45 p.m. Praise Band 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group	28 8:30 a.m. Life Group  Miller Hall Reserved →	29	