

The Freier Flyer

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

February 2024
www.qumc.com



Show Love This Year

God loves everyone - and He calls us to do the same selflessly, without expectation of something in return. Love is given utmost importance in His Word. We are expected to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind - and to love our neighbor, too. What is love? The 'Love Verse' at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is an often-quoted Scripture that reminds us love is patient and kind; not envious, boastful, or full of pride.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
(Matthew 22:37-39)*

Loving God means loving others - an important detail we must never overlook. God IS love.

If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

Love is a choice. We can choose to respond thoughtfully in any situation when we allow our decisions to be guided by His love.

Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

*But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.
Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High,
because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (Luke 6:35)*

Three strategies to choose love in 2024:

- 1) **Love through prayer.** He has commanded us to love, but He does not expect us to do it on our own. Pray for His guidance, and He will direct you. Ask God to help you see people through His eyes. Through God, you can gain the strength to love those who may be difficult to love. Humble yourself before the Lord - because sometimes you may be difficult to love as well.
- 2) **Love through action.** Love isn't all service, but it is a large part of it. We serve Him by loving each other, and we can serve others in love. Put love into action: volunteer, help a neighbor with yard work, or introduce someone to the love found in His Word.
- 3) **Love through attentiveness.** Family and friends love to *feel* loved. Offer recognition of the time and effort put into the dinner on the table, concern when they're unhappy, or words of affirmation when they need some encouragement. Simply being available can show your love in big ways.

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How showing love might look in your life:

- Exhibiting patience rather than frustration at the person ahead of you in line
- Offering forgiveness when you feel you have been wronged
- Setting aside time to spend in His Word each day
- Focusing on courtesy in your everyday interactions with strangers and family alike
- Praying for a friend, family member, acquaintance - or someone you don't get along with

We know how it feels to be on the receiving end of love, so how wonderful it is also to spread love to others. When we consider the gift of God's unconditional love, we realize how truly lucky we are to be loved by Him. Loving others is how we show Him we are listening and want to do as He does. Not only does sharing love make others feel good, it lifts you up as well. Start each day with a heart full of love.

Dayspring Article by Amber



- Fellowship Dinners begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, continuing 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 crock pots of soup or chili and/or breads to share.
- Lenten Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14. 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. Lessons and materials will be provided. Volunteers with clearances are needed to assist with the children's Lenten program. Contact Tammy Swearingen (trswearingen@verizon.net or 215.896.7323) to serve in this way. 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

"Building our Faith" in Lent

It feels like the year just started but the season of Lent is already here. Lent offers us a time to focus upon our faith, to dive deeper into discipleship and prayer for the Holy Spirit's power. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. Our worship service will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary so please join me as we remember our sins and the one who takes them all away.

Also starting on February 14 is the return of the **Wednesday Fellowship Dinners**. The meals will be running from Wednesday, February 14 through Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. We do have a change in the format for these meals. In the spirit of Lent, the meal will not be a grand feast some of us may enjoy on Fat Tuesday; however, we are also not calling a church-wide fast either. Rather, we are having a "soup, chili, and breads" themed potluck meal. Break out your favorite recipes and bring a crockpot to the meal for all to enjoy. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or just bring your dish to share. As always, the meal is served throughout the hour so come when you are able. I also cannot talk about the Wednesday Fellowship Dinners without thanking Bill and Dianne Scott for their service across these many years. They and their team of helpers have served up many delicious meals and as we move forward in this new phase of fellowship meals, please take an opportunity to show your appreciation.

Going hand-in-hand with the Wednesday Fellowship Dinners, we will also be having **Lenten Worship Services** on Wednesdays. These services will be held February 14 through March 20 as well. Ash Wednesday kicks it off in a very special and sacred way. After Ash Wednesday, the services will generally be a bit shorter than their Sunday morning counterparts. All Wednesday Lenten Worship services will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us as we continue our explanation of our Lenten Sermon Series: "Building our Faith."

Historically, Lent was a season where the Christian community focused upon their faith through the practice of spiritual disciplines, intensified study of the Word, and acts of kindness and service. In the same spirit, this worship series offers helpful ways to build up our faith through the teachings of Jesus and his first disciples. Jesus warned us not to "build upon sinking sand" by discarding his words (Matthew 7:26), so let's heed his teachings and build up for a better faith and witness this Lent and beyond. Please see the preview below:

- February 18 [Build upon the Rock] Matthew 7:24-29
- February 21 [Hearing and Doing the Word] James 1:19-28
- February 25 [You are the salt of the earth] Matthew 5:13
- February 28 [Practicing what you preach & Double Standards] Matthew 23:1-12
- March 3 [You are the light of the world] Matthew 5:14-16
- March 10 [The New Commandment: Love one another as Jesus loves you] John 13:31-35
- March 17 [Who do you say Jesus is?] Matthew 16:13-20

Our Lenten celebration will also include **Palm Sunday** on March 24, as well as services in Holy Week. 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.

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Immediately thereafter, we enter Holy Week. We will be hosting Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, respectively. **Maundy Thursday** will take place at 6:00 p.m. and will feature a pot luck meal in Miller Hall, as well as a special celebration of Holy Communion. This year's focus will be a more lived experience of Communion, for when Jesus and his disciples first celebrated this sacrament it was amid the Passover meal. In the same spirit, amid our potluck meal we will celebrate the breaking of the bread of Christ's body and the sharing of the cup of his salvation; consider it worship amid a meal, if you will. **Good Friday** 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.

In Holy Week, the "Building our Faith" will come to its height as we celebrate how "**The Tomb Shall be Empty.**" The focus of Easter 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?

Youth Confirmation Class Forming

You may have seen the notices in the worship bulletin and email blasts. If you have not, please know that I am forming our next Youth Confirmation class to receive our newest members. If you or your child would like to join this class, please contact me as we will be quickly moving to set up this class. I can be reached at 484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com.

I look forward to the celebration of the Lenten season and all that this spring has in store for us, 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.*



2023 end-of-year statements were recently distributed. If you did not receive your statement, or have any questions, please contact Financial Secretaries Bob & Anna Mushrush (215.536.3112). Thank you!



Grief Share

The journey of grief is a painful process and one in which we are not alone. QUMC now offers a Christ-centered and biblical small group for those dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Meeting weekly on Saturdays from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor**, Grief Share provides an opportunity for those grieving to be surrounded by others who understand the pain of their loss. The weekly video series features grief experts and real-life stories of those dealing with loss of a loved one. Videos are followed by a group discussion and a time of sharing.

The purpose of this group is to provide encouragement, comfort, support, and guidance, while renewing hope for the future. Light refreshments will be served.

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)

Gale Hewitt (267.218.2479 or gwhewitt4@gmail.com)

Pastor Rick Brown (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com)

From the



✓ With winter weather upon us, please keep in mind that church updates, including closures, will be communicated in the following ways:

- Church-wide emails
- QUMC Facebook ad website
- Outgoing messages on the church answering machine
- WFMZ Channel 69 News

We also ask that the front row of parking spaces be left open for the elderly and those with difficulty ambulating.

✓ In an effort to save utility costs this winter, please remember to keep all doors closed and to turn off lights when an area is not in use. Also, please check that exterior doors are locked when leaving the building.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

If you have the calling to teach QUMC's Sunday School, then we would love to have you! We could use assistance in all classes but are still specifically looking for those interested in teaching/assisting Sunday School in our Middle/High School class. The classes could be Bible related, crafty, financial, project based, etc. Please consider helping with this ministry. We would love to have you share your talents with the church! Training for Safe Sanctuary will take place at the church, along with the ability to obtain proper clearances. Please contact Christine Rush if interested (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815).

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).

LENTEN SEASON CLASS!

Beginning on Sunday, February 18, and running for six weeks, Gail Schadler will lead a Daniel Darling study, "The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle." The Easter story is so familiar to all of us that perhaps we are not as amazed and moved by this miracle as we once were. Take a new look at the people and circumstances that were part of the greatest story ever told and bring this momentous event back to life for you, renewing your gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.



The QUMC Egg Hunt is back!

An egg hunt is being planned for our young children on Saturday, March 16, 9:30 a.m. Your help is needed! If you are able, please donate small individually wrapped candy, treats, or trinkets that will fit in a plastic egg. Place these items in the box marked "egg hunt" in the narthex. Volunteer "egg fillers" will be needed in the future!

Registration forms are available in the narthex or in the weekly bulletin.



Family Matters

Happy Birthday to: Marie Frankenfield & Lorraine Hillegass, February 11; Ethel Hurley, February 16; Margaret Stotsenburg, February 21; Kathryn Landis, February 22.

Note of Thanks:

“Heartfelt thanks to our church family for the prayers, cards, notes, and expressions of sympathy at the passing of Anna’s sister. Your kind words and support during this difficult time were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Gail Schadler, and the Prayer Shawl ministry, for the gift of the lovely prayer shawl. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring church family.”

-Bob & Anna Mushrush

Faith Preschool News



- ❖ “Lunch & Learn” is a new extended day program for families of Faith Preschool. We will be doing more art projects and fun science experiments during this time, along with many other activities. If you are able and willing to contribute to this mission of QUMC, please check out our Amazon wish list for supplies that we will be using and need. Just follow this link:
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, Tammy Swearingen, Allison Ghorm, or email Rachelle Sawadski (mrs.sawadski@gmail.com) to purchase coupons. Payment can be in cash or by check, checks made payable to Faith Preschool.
- ❖ Congratulations to January Artists-of-the-Month: Brynn (three-year-old class), Isla (four-year-old class), James (four-year-old class), Ethan (pre-kindergarten class).
- ❖ Coffee cans with plastic lids are needed for a drum-making project. They can be placed in the marked box in the narthex. Thanks!

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.

QUMC Cares

Thank you to everyone who donated to January’s collection on behalf of Quakertown Cares. A total of \$467 was received! This monthly Missions collection is held on the fourth Sunday of each month and supports members of our community-at-large in need. Thank you for your continued support!

A message from Jim Newcomer, on behalf of Quakertown Cares:

Thank you to Friendship Circle who contributed a wonderful \$1,000 in December. This is a brief summary of how we used these funds and looking ahead to your next special collection, how we would expend the funds to aid our neighbors with “compelling” needs:

- *A family with four children in our schools, one with a significant disability. The father now has seizures, and they struggle with paying for medication and with expenses related to the disabled child. They may be facing homelessness.*
- *An elderly couple struggling with heart issues and medication expenses, needing assistance to purchase heating fuel this winter for their trailer residence.*
- *A family with two children in our school district, struggling economically and with food insecurity. The mother has attempted to take her own life, fortunately has recovered after a hospitalization.*

And looking ahead:

- *A mother has fled her home from a toxic, abusive relationship. She has two sons, one of whom is autistic. Food insecurity is an issue. She is determined to rebuild her life and secure a house rental but will need a security deposit. We would dedicate your next special collection to her family.*

In all of these four situations, we are either contacted by other agencies to provide immediate Giant food cards or cash(check), as we can respond quickly, or we are putting families in contact with other agencies who can offer longer-term support and guidance, such as housing.

When I mail out assistance with a cover letter, I always mention that the funds are provided by Quakertown United Methodist Church.

Looking For Ways To Help?



- It's Audit Time! The church is in need of someone with accounting and or treasury experience to audit the 2023 end-of-year books. If you can serve in the way, contact Pastor Rick (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484-358-1138) or Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com). Thank you!
- Nursery is back! Spread the good news! The Nursery will now be 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. Please [click on this link](#) to sign up for a Sunday. You will need to obtain clearances to volunteer. A link to those clearances can be found on the Sign-Up Genius or you can follow this link [click here to obtain clearances](#). Pennsylvania clearances are free for volunteers, and very easy to obtain. If you have any questions, please reach out to Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org).
- Have an extra 45 minutes a month? Want to make a difference in the community? See/text/email Kathy Dressel, Melea Rupert, or anyone on Missions, to let us know that you would be willing to make a Wawa run a few times a year. Missions does a weekly "Wednesday Run" from the Wawa on Route 663 (near the turnpike) to the Quakertown Food Pantry. We head to Wawa in the morning (plan to arrive at the food pantry between 9:30 & 10:00 a.m.), package the previous day's hot food choices in green bags, and drop the food off at the Quakertown Food Pantry. The whole process takes about 45 minutes. This is an extremely flexible activity that helps to feed our community. Thank you.
- A Hospitality Chair is needed. This person is responsible for initiating and managing special events at the church. If you have any interest in serving in this way, contact Molly Minarik (610.282.3708 or craftlover38@aol.com).
- Snacks are needed for Sunday morning hospitality. Donations of pre-packaged breakfast snacks are welcomed and can be placed on the table in the Conference Room outside Pastor Rick's office. Thank you!
- Hospitality Ministry is in need of volunteers in these areas: Greeters, Hospitality Table, Welcome Center. If you are interested in serving in any (or all) of these areas, contact Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com or 610.282.3708).
- Have you ever considered using your talent as a reader during worship services? If so, Melea Rupert is coordinating the Lay Reader Schedule so please contact her to express your interest or to ask questions. She can be reached at 215.696.9804 or mrupert55@hotmail.com.
- Looking for an opportunity to serve our community while sharing your faith? Independence Court has asked our church to offer a 30-minute worship service of prayer, scripture, and song at their facility the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Contact Gail Schadler (267.733.3328) if you would like to be a part of this outreach ministry.
- Altar flowers are \$40 for two vases and can be sponsored in honor or memory of someone (or if you just feel it upon your heart to provide flowers for a Sunday during the year). The florist will use flowers seasonal at the time. Special requests can be fulfilled at an additional cost. Flowers are yours to keep after worship services. To sponsor altar flowers, contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).
- If you play the piano, flute or another instrument, you can make a meaningful contribution to worship! Musicians are needed to play occasionally throughout the year, solos or with others. To share your musical gifts by making a joyful noise unto the Lord, see Bethan.
- A Stewardship Chair is needed. Contact Pastor Rick if you can volunteer for this position.



Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is one of the ways we care for each other here at QUMC. Prayer requests are currently being received and distributed by Pastor Rick and thus, should be directed to him (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com). Prayer Chain requests will be communicated through Mailchimp, the way in which you are currently receiving church communications via your email. Emails will be clearly titled “Prayer Chain.” If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Rick.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Two AA groups are now meeting at QUMC, a meditation group and a Spanish-speaking group! For more information, contact Pastor Rick (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com) or the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).

Reminder from the Trustees & the Church Office

All staff, church groups, and church members are reminded to promptly inform the church office of any upcoming events and to complete a Building Use Request Form accordingly. Forms are readily available in the church office. To schedule an event, contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com).

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind our church family that if anyone is experiencing financial difficulty during these unprecedented times, please contact Pastor Rick (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

The church has an Acts IV Fund specifically designed to help members during a time of financial struggle. Inquiries are completely confidential. Now more than ever, we realize many are struggling to make ends meet. QUMC is here to help. Those with sufficient resources who have it in their heart to contribute to the Acts IV Fund can send donations, indicating that preference, to QUMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Safe Sanctuary Volunteer Clearances and Training

Clearances are for all volunteers working with children. If your clearances are updated please make sure we have a copy for our files. There is also a Safe Sanctuary training offered periodically that must be taken and if you would like a hands-on First aid and CPR training. Contact Pastor Rick if you have questions or have your information to submit.

What’s Happening at QUMC?

If you wish to receive updates on all that is happening at the church, subscribe to our church-wide email list or USPS mailing list. For more information on these resources, contact the Church Secretary, Barbara Hafler at 215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com.

Want To Become A Member or Schedule a Baptism?

The doors of QUMC are always open! Contact Pastor Rick for more information (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

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Prayer Shawls

Handmade prayer shawls are available to those who are ill, grieving or just lonely. These handmade shawls bring comfort and warmth to those enduring difficult times. If you or someone you know needs to be wrapped in prayer, contact Gail Schadler (267.733.3328 or glschadler@gmail.com).

Monthly Newsletter Submissions

If you have items for the monthly newsletter, you can email them to QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com or you can put them in Teddi Miller's newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next newsletter, please email Teddi or drop off the information in the church newsletter mailbox as soon as possible. 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!



