



## Quakertown United Methodist Church

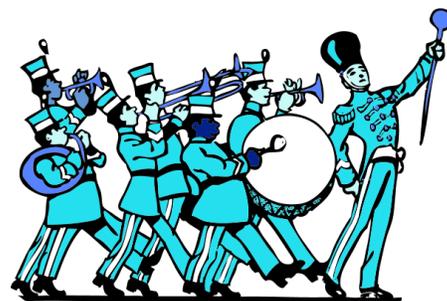
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Visit our website at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

January 2015

# Forward Into 2015



Many people make New year's resolutions, fully intending to keep them. Soon, however, they become discouraged, realizing that they're not meeting their goals. Even St. Paul bemoans that there are times when "the good that I would do I do not."

The important thing is to keep going forward, even when it's three steps forward and two steps back. Winston Churchill famously said, "Never give up. Never give up. Never give up."

Fabio Casals, considered to be one of the world's greatest cellists, was once asked why at age 95 he continued to practice long hours a day. Casals replied, "Because I think I'm making progress."

God will never give up on us. Paul, who recognized that he still had a long way to go to be the man God wanted him to be, wrote in his letter to the Philippians, "I've got my eye on the goal...I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back." (The Message paraphrase)

Let us go forward in the strength of the Lord, and never give up.



**Living Wills, Advance Directives, and Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** will be the topic of an information session held during the Sunday School hour, Sunday, January 18, at 10:00 a.m. Ralph Ciampa, Chief Emeritus of The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss the importance of these issues as they pertain to current laws exercised within the State of Pennsylvania.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Pastor Atkinson ([pastor@qumc.com](mailto:pastor@qumc.com) or 215.536.4992) so that an appropriate number of materials can be pre-ordered. Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 14.



*Beginning this month and continuing on a quarterly basis throughout the year, the Pastor's Page will feature the thoughts and insights of Associate Hilary Ann Golden.*



## **Coffee & Conversation**

### **From Hilary Ann Golden**

Happy New Year!

I was recently reading through one of my favorite books: John O'Donahue's "To Bless the Space Between Us." It is a collection of blessings for every occasion—moving into a new home, friendship, conflict, birthdays, births, deaths, suffering, marriage, divorce, celebration, etc... Aside from the collection of blessings, O'Donahue reflects on how we've lost the art of blessing one another in all of life's circumstances. As I was reading, I was struck by one particular passage:

"The word kindness has a gentle sound that seems to echo the presence of compassionate goodness. When someone is kind to you, you feel understood and seen. There is no judgment or harsh perception directed toward you. Kindness has gracious eyes; it is not small-minded or competitive; it wants nothing back for itself... Despite all the darkness, human hope is based on the instinct that at the deepest level of reality some intimate kindness holds sway. This is the heart of our blessing. To believe in blessing is to believe that our being here, our very presence in the world, is itself the first gift, the primal blessing."

I suspect that most of us are in need of such kindness, such deep blessing. We all find ourselves in different places in our lives and in our faith. Yet, the basic desire and need to receive kindness binds us together as human beings. How can we do better this coming year in giving and receiving kindness? It is, of course, not a one sided endeavor. We cannot receive kindness and keep it to ourselves. It must be shared. And how can we do better this year at sharing our kindness and our blessing, especially to those who have hurt us, angered us, or confused us?

My prayer for us all in 2015 is to take every opportunity we can to bless each other and our community with our kindness and compassion. And, in doing so, I pray that we see love, healing, forgiveness, and grace abound in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Peace,  
Hilary Ann Golden



# The Youth Spot

## Save the Date: Laser Tag at Planet Trog

Sunday, January 11. Time and cost to be determined. Keep an eye out for an email with more details!

## Social Media Workshop for Parents

Join us on Sunday, January 18 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the church for a conversation about social media, youth, and parenting hosted by Mike Lehr and Hilary Ann Golden. Parents of tween/teens are highly encouraged to come; parents of younger kids are more than welcome to join as well!

## Grab Your Skates and Save The Date...

Join us at In-Line 309 for a fun evening of skating and fellowship on Saturday, January 24, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Skating is \$4.00 per person (includes rentals), and we are asking each family to bring a peanut-free snack to share. Please sign up by January 18 on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We look forward to seeing everyone there. If you have any further questions, please contact Rachelle Sawadski at 215.529.6980.

## Youth & Kids Club Bowling Day

Calling all youth grades 1 through 12! The Youth Group and Kids Club will be bowling together at Quakertown Earl Bowl, Sunday, February 22, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m. Bowling is \$8.00 per person (includes shoe rental) and we are asking each family to bring a peanut-free snack to share. Please sign up by February 15. Look for a sign-up genius in your email. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

## January Youth Calendar

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 4  | No Youth   | 18 | Youth Group, 6 p.m.                              |
| 7  | No Youth   | 21 | MS Office Hours, 6 p.m.; HS Office Hours, 7 p.m. |
| 11 | Laser Tag at Planet Trog, 1:15 p.m.              | 24 | Roller Skating at Inline 309, 5 p.m.             |
| 13 | Food Pantry, 6 p.m.                              | 25 | Student Leadership Team Meeting, 4 p.m.          |
| 14 | MS Office Hours, 6 p.m.; HS Office Hours, 7 p.m. | 25 | Youth Group, 6 p.m.                              |
| 18 | Social Media Workshop for Parents, 5 p.m.        | 28 | MS Office Hours, 6 p.m.; HS Office Hours, 7 p.m. |



# Going Forward in Our Stewardship



By now you should have your church envelopes for January and February. Also included is an “Initial Offering” envelope. Gifts to this one go to defray the cost of the envelopes.

Please note that there are two funds designated on the envelopes: General Fund, which provides for the ministries and outreach of the church as well as the “nuts and bolts” included in the yearly budget. The second fund is Care of God’s House, which supplies money for capital improvements and major repairs and maintenance.

There is a third line on the envelope: Other (specify). You may use this line to direct a gift to a particular ministry, such as the Acts Four Fund. This fund was established quite a few years ago when a family of the church was, through no fault of their own, in great financial need. The name of the fund came from Acts 4:32-34, which refers to the early church. “The whole congregation of believers was united as one - one heart, one mind!.... No one said, ‘That’s mine; you can’t have it.’ They shared everything..... And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy.” (The Message paraphrase). Requests should be directed to Pastor Russell, who is the only one who will know the identity of the one making the request. He may consult with a few others but supplies only the circumstances, not the identity.

Speaking of the Acts Four Fund, an additional offering will be taken for this purpose on Sunday, January 25.



## Forward in Mission

- Milford Food Pantry items for the month: spaghetti and spaghetti sauce.
- A big thank you to all who gave the 130 gifts for the children of Kensington.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive, January 23, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Annual after-Christmas toy drive is underway. Bring in gently used toys and books to share with those less fortunate.

## Cargo Trailer Wanted



The Mission Team needs a 6’ x 12’ (+ or -) used Cargo Trailer in good working condition to use for tool storage and transportation to and from Mission trips. Please contact Barry Gossler ([gosslerfamily@aol.com](mailto:gosslerfamily@aol.com)) if you have one, know of someone who is looking to get rid of one, or if you see one for sale.



## Good News and Thanks



The trustees report that, despite the bad winter last year, there was a drastic reduction in the amount of kilowatts of electricity used, resulting in savings for the budget.

Thanks to all the good stewards - members and staff - who were careful to turn off lights, close doors, and conserve energy whenever possible.

Keep up the good work this year.



## Forward in Our Christian Walk

A good resolution for 2015 would be to join one of QUMC's life groups. These are informal gatherings of people who seek to grow spiritually. Each group chooses its own area of study or focus. All groups are open and welcome new participants. The present schedule of groups:

Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 6:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

All groups meet at the church excepting the Thursday, 2:30 group. This group meets at the home of Mary Schwer. (For directions and/or information call 215.536.4596.)

## Come to the Lord's Table



Communion is offered every Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. service and the first Sunday of the month at the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Please note that alternative communion wafers are available for those with food allergies. These wafers are gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut, and corn free. Simply let Pastor Atkinson know of your need for an alternative communion wafer and he will take care of the rest.



## Breakfast Anyone?

Men's Breakfast at Quakertown Family Restaurant, Saturday, January 17, 8:00 a.m. All men of the church are invited and welcome to attend. This is a regularly-scheduled event held the third Saturday of each month.



# Announcing 2015-2016 Preschool Registration



## Faith Preschool Parent's Time Out

It's registration time for the 2015-16 school year for Quakertown United Methodist Church's two quality preschool programs - Faith Preschool and Parent's Time Out. Both programs provide high-quality, affordable, early childhood education in a Christian setting by caring, experienced staff. Registration information and forms are available online at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com) and may also be found in the church narthex.

**FAITH PRESCHOOL** offers classes for 3's that meet Tuesday and Thursday AM or PM, and classes for 4's on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday AM or PM. Numerous enrichment opportunities are available, including Lunch Bunch, Stretch-n-Grow, and Summer Camp. Students must be 3 or 4 before September 1 to register.

**PARENT'S TIME OUT** provides programming for 2's and young 3's with classes that meet one day a week on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings. Supplemental programs include Lunch Bunch and Mini-Camp opportunities. Students may register throughout the year, as they turn 2.

**PRIORITY REGISTRATION** will be held at the church on Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. for members of QUMC and current Faith Preschool and Parent's Time Out families. (Snow date - Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.)

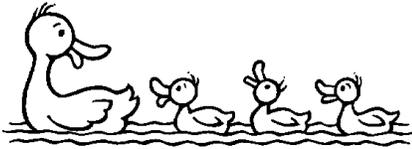
**GENERAL REGISTRATION** begins Thursday, January 15.

For further information or to arrange an observational visit, please contact Melodie Schmouder, Registrar, at the FPS/PTO Office - 215.536.8172 - or by email at [faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com) or [parentstimeoutqumc@gmail.com](mailto:parentstimeoutqumc@gmail.com)

## *Garrison Keillor on Methodists (Just for Fun)*

*"A merry heart does good like a medicine." - Proverbs 17:22a*

- Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
- Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
- Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
- Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle when passing the peace.
- Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
- Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.
- Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never (seldom) take themselves too seriously.



# Family Matters

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Richard Hillegass - January 4 and Grace Mohr - January 7.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Lenore Berger - November 28, Eleanor Kulp - December 15.

**APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!** to Amanda Hafler and Darby Keller who are members of our high school's outstanding Varsity Singers, who performed a wonderful program at our church Friday, December 12. Take a bow!

**KUDOS** to Kenneth Schroy, son of Nancy Schroy, for his charitable work. Ken had an outstanding career in football in high school, college (University of Maryland), and the NFL (New York Jets). He now lives in Long Island, working as a sales executive.

Back in 1982 his Jets teammate and good friend Marty Lyons established a foundation to "fulfill the special wishes" of children from 3 to 17 years old, who had life-threatening or terminal illness. Lyons asked Ken to help. He is still the foundation's vice chairman, board member and active volunteer. The foundation has grown from one chapter to ten throughout the country.

Ken grew up in the former Bethel UMC, one of the two churches that merged to form QUMC.

## NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

*"Thank you to the Christmas carolers that came to our house and sang for us. Thank you also to the Kid's Club for the ornaments they made for us. We appreciate our church family and you made us very happy."*

*Love to you all, Jerry & Marie Frankenfield*

## KEEPING IN TOUCH:

*"We are snowed in and I can't wait until spring! I love to run, but I can't get up and down hills with my little car. I wish everyone at QUMC a very Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year."*

*Your QUMC friend, Hattie (Bowman)*



## Save-The-Date

What: A Valentine's Party  
 Where: The Starzecky's House  
 When: Friday, February 13, 2015  
 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Details to follow.



# January 2015

## Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</b></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>				<p>1</p> <p>Hilary Ann Golden Vacation →</p>	2	3
<p>4 **</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Missions, Trustees</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Radical Hospitality, Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Faith Preschool Registration 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team, Finance</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Brownies</p>	10
<p>11 **</p> <p>Youth Group Laser Tag Trip 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Youth Group at Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Faith Preschool Registration (Snowdate)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:00 p.m. Middle School Office Hours 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, High School Office Hours, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Worship</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Conference Mission U</p>
<p>18 **</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Living Wills, Advance Directives and Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 5:00 p.m. Social Media Workshop 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Life Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:00 p.m. Middle School Office Hours 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, High School Office Hours, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Blood Drive</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 p.m. All-Church Skating</p>
<p>25 **</p> <p><u>Special Acts 4 Offering</u> 4:00 p.m. Student Leadership 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Life Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:00 p.m. Middle School Office Hours 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, High School Office Hours, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>Miller Hall Reserved</p>