



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Quakertown, PA 18951
215.536.4992

Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

September 2015

BE PART OF THE ACTION

QUMC has a vibrant Christian Education program. No matter your age or where you are on your Christian journey, there's a class for you. (The only requirement is that adults have no objection to laughing on Sundays.) Read on elsewhere in the newsletter for info on all of the classes.



THE KICKOFF!

The Sunday School year starts officially with:

RALLY DAY

Everyone - adults, children, and youth - will gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. for an opening celebration.



Children will be registered, the theme for the new Sunday School year will be presented, and the teachers introduced.

After the preliminaries, children and youth will be dismissed to go to their classrooms, followed by the adults.

During the worship services on Rally Day, September 13, all children entering second grade will be presented with Bibles. To register your second-grader for a Bible, contact Tammy Swearingen at 215.538.7513 or trswearingen@verizon.net.



The Pastor's Pen

Thoughts by Pastor Russell J. Atkinson

Can Something New Be Old? Old New?

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If you do, the wine will burst the skins - and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins. Mark 2:22

“That's ancient, dude! You are so old school!” I'm old enough now to want to go somewhere new with this familiar passage from Mark about innovation. Sometimes I get to wondering if there is anything spiritually new out there. Is there anything new under the sun?

A Cambridge lecturer once gave a talk in Beijing. He began his lecture and, after a sentence or two, stopped in order to let the translator translate. But the translator waved him on saying, "Carry on; I'll tell you when to stop." So he carried on, uninterrupted, for about 15 minutes. The Chinese interpreter then turned to the audience and said four words in Mandarin. Four words, and then told the lecturer, "Carry on. Carry on."

The same thing happened after another 15 minutes. He spoke again and translator said four words. The same thing happened after 45 minutes and, at the end, the translator gives three words in Mandarin. As the audience left, he turned to the interpreter and said, "That was unbelievable! I gave a most complicated lecture and you compressed it into those few words. What did you say?"

The translator said, "That was easy. After 15 minutes I said, 'So far he hasn't said anything new.' After 30 minutes I said, 'He still hasn't said anything new.' After 45 minutes I said, 'I don't think he's going to say anything new,' and after an hour I said, 'I was right.'"

So can we say anything new about faith?

We are about to celebrate Rally Day (Sunday, September 13th) and launch into a whole new program year at Quakertown United Methodist Church. As the sun sets on our Rally Day, Jews will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah; new year. What little Hebrew I remember is rusty to be sure, but just last month I was reminded that לְשׁוֹנוֹת (Leshanot), the verb from which *shanah* comes, means “to repeat;” to do something a second time exactly as you did before. But *leshanot* also means “to revise or to change,” to do something a second time differently from the way you did it before. Two words, that are contrary in English – “repetition” and “change” – in Hebrew are represented by the same word. In other words, every time we repeat our experience we find in it something new.

That's what I'm hoping will happen for us this program year, beginning with our September 13th Rally Day; I hope, as we tell the old stories and repeat the patterns of years past, we'll be filled with new inspiration and remember again the hope that God renews in us always and ever.

God of every new beginning, help us remember that what is new is old and what is old is also new. Amen.

Grace and peace . . . anew,

Russell J. Atkinson

SPEAKING OF NEW...

New members will be received into the congregation on Sunday, October 25, 2015. Contact Pastor Atkinson for more information (pastor@qumc.com or 215.536.4992).



Sunday School Classes

All classes are open to everyone.

Newborns and children through 5th grade will use the David C. Cook Bible-in-Life curriculum. This series is Bible based, teaching scripture knowledge with God-honoring Biblical values. The fall themes for this year include “God gives us families, friends, and church” and “The God who created us, corrects us, and calls us.”

Middle School Students will use the rfour.org Season 2 curriculum, which creates direct links for students between Old and New Testament faith stories with application to daily living. This fall features sessions entitled Language, God and Conflict, Birth Stories, and God & Our Attention.

High School Students will learn of God through Bible studies, scripture knowledge, and devotionals with ties to current events and hot topics. They will gain practice applying their learning to real world situations. The David C. Cook curriculum provides teens with experiences designed to help them make a successful transition into owning their faith.

Women’s Class, led by Mary Schwer in Room 114, uses material developed by the “International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching.” The Bible based lessons are applied to daily living as Christ’s followers in our homes, work places, churches, community, and the wider world. The theme for the fall quarter is “The Christian Community Comes Alive.”

Men’s Class meets in Room 112. They will shortly complete their current studies based on the Men of Integrity materials, and begin using the Our Daily Bread devotional. Their focus is on learning how to draw on God’s power to guide them in the challenges of daily life through Bible study, reflection, and prayer.

FaithBuilders: This class, led by Gail Schadler, meets in Room 109 to explore elective studies throughout the year. Beginning on September 20, the focus will be on “Fruit of the Spirit.” What is it? What should the fruit of the Spirit look like in your life? How can you cultivate and then protect the fruit? Jesus is looking for the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. If you really are a Christian, where’s your fruit? This class will be the first of many this Sunday School year that will look at how we can grow in Christ and how to live and walk in the Spirit so that we can inherit the Kingdom of God. “Fruit of the Spirit” will be followed by a series of classes on Spiritual Disciplines and Spiritual Gifts, and later by a study on the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Sunday Morning Life Group: This life group meets during the Sunday School hour in the parlor, focusing on family - specifically raising children in this modern world. Adults attending have children of all ages, from infants and teens to adult children, and help and support each other as they take on the wonderful, yet challenging, journey called parenthood. It also explores building marriages that will go the distance. This group is open to everyone that wishes to join the discussion.



From Extravagant Generosity



“Give and it will be given to you.” The members of the Extravagant Generosity Team have agreed to spend at least three years promoting an intentional effort to grow the understanding of, and commitment to, biblical principles of stewardship in our congregation. Our three-year plan includes:

- Communicating frequently and regularly with the congregation about giving by means of sermons, newsletter articles, bulletin and website articles, letters, testimonies
- Offering Adult and Children’s education classes each year on the subject of stewardship
- Commissioning a Prayer Ministry to pray regularly for the development of an attitude of generosity among members
- Offering regular Bible studies, seeking God’s message on giving
- Collecting and studying patterns of giving of the congregation
- Developing a challenging year-round stewardship message to enhance the six-week pledge drive

Based upon the results of the May 31 congregational survey, the Extravagant Generosity Team has determined that the following actions be included in the three-year plan:

- Defining “percentage” giving and developing practical ways of achieving an increase in this type of giving
- Reporting on the ways that giving is connected with ministries of the church. Example: previewing mission trips and upcoming opportunities; making video presentations; celebrating the impact of ministries, especially local.
- Regular reporting of the financial status of our church and the results of special offerings
- Communicating expectations of giving with new members at New Member classes
- Placing more emphasis on Care of God’s House, such as reporting on improvements both made and needing to be made to the church property, and including Care of God’s House giving on the step chart on the back of the pledge card.
- Promoting electronic giving

When we are truly grateful to God for His extravagant generosity, giving becomes a joy, not a burden.



We Were Blessed

Much appreciation to members Mike Lehr, Ken Ghorm, and Doug Kennedy, who preached the sermons in the absence of Pastor Atkinson on several Sundays this summer. It was evident that they had spent much time, as well as study, in preparation. They challenged us and gave us much upon which to reflect.



Lip-Smackin' Good!

It's time again for QUMC's popular Chicken Barbecue - Saturday, September 12, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Eat in or take out. Adults: \$10.00, children aged 4 to 10: \$4.00. Baked goods also available. Proceeds benefit missions.

Music! Music! Music!



The organist/choir director search committee is still hard at work. Meanwhile, all existing music groups will continue as usual. Groups and rehearsal times are as follows:

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., beginning September 2

Bell Choirs

Glory Ringers (grades 2 to 8)

Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Grace Notes (grade 9 to adults)

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Praise Band

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Joyful Noise (children ages 4 to 5th grade)

Wednesdays at 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., beginning September 16

All these groups welcome new members.



Opportunities to be in Mission

- ✓ FEAST Food Pantry items for September: spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Place them in the grocery cart inside the entrance doors.
- ✓ CROP Walk - This is an ecumenical effort to eradicate hunger worldwide. This year it will take place Sunday, October 11, leaving from Quakertown Memorial Park at 1:00 p.m. More details in Sunday bulletin announcements and the October newsletter.
- ✓ SCHOOL SUPPLIES were distributed to children in Quakertown, the Jerusalem House ministry in Allentown, and Kensington area of Philadelphia. Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming response.



Many of the Life Groups took a summer break, with most of them resuming the week of September 13. Watch bulletin inserts for more specifics.

Life Groups are small groups of persons who want to explore and/or grow in their faith, as well as to fellowship with others who share similar goals. All groups are open to any interested persons.

Current groups are listed below. Find one that you think will work for you.

- Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Focus on parenting and marriage, Church Parlor
- Sunday, 6:00 p.m. Study of John Ortberg's The Me I Want to Be, Church Parlor
- Wednesday, 6:30 a.m. Focus and location to be determined
- Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Focus to be determined, Church Parlor
- Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Women's studies, Church Parlor
- Thursday, 2:30 p.m. Resuming September 10, study adapted from Maxie Dunnam's workbook "That's What the Man Said," home of Mary Schwer (for directions, call 215.536.4596)

Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS (Vacation Bible School) program June 22 to 26 was a great success, with 92 children registered. Thanks to the 68 adult and youth volunteers who came forward to help support this huge effort. The kids, helpers, and additional church members raised \$1,138.53, sent to UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) for Nepal earthquake victims. Much appreciation to Megan McMichael and Allison Ghorm for leading the VBS planning and serving Christ in this way. Thanks again to all who served! What a blessing VBS is our congregation and community.



Attention Kids!

The Kids Club, our children's fellowship ministry for kids grades 1 to 5, will begin on September 20, the Sunday after Rally Day. We'll be meeting once a month for Bible lessons, service projects, and lots of fun! The CROP Hunger Walk will be on October 11. You can even walk with your dog! We'll supply more information at our first meeting. We hope you had a great summer and that you're ready to jump back into a new year. We look forward to seeing you.

Volunteers are needed to lead Kids Club this year and to be helpers. If you would like to help, please contact Babs Kerns at babs.kerns@gmail.com. Thank you.



Youth Group



Summer's over and school is starting up again, which means that our youth ministries are, too! The Youth group will begin meeting on the evening of September 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come on out to see what we're cooking up for this year!



For youth in grade 8 or above, confirmation classes will begin the week of January 10 and continue until Pentecost, May 15. Students will meet weekly with the pastor to study the book of Mark, as well as Christian and Methodist traditions. This will be augmented by the mentor program - pairing each youth with an adult in the church to discuss the lessons and seek answers to questions they may have. Two field trips are planned to experience both the history and contemporary mission of the United Methodist church.

Book Club: The Place To Begin



*And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way,
and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.*
Exodus 13:21

This book club will be all beginnings! Just as in the story from Exodus, we'll travel together on a new adventure (ours being through a book and not a wilderness). This new group will gather around the first four chapters of Christian classics and currently popular Christian titles. The group will meet Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Atkinson has chosen the following books to get started.

- September *The Gospel According to Mark*, by Mark (inspired by God)
- October *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*, by Rueben P. Job
- November *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis

In December we will dive into a book suggested by one of the book group participants (whomever that might be).

Should you wish to participate in any or all of these evenings please inform Pastor Atkinson at pastor@qumc.com or 610.675.7187.



Radical Hospitality

The Radical Hospitality teams will be selling QUMC mugs featuring a design by QUMC's member Mary Stahr. Cost: \$2.50 each or five or more, \$2.00 each.

Needed: Greeters and/or guides to be on hand in the narthex before all services to make visitors feel welcome. Contact Ruth Baker for the 9:00 service and Sunday School hour. Contact Midge Weisel for the 11:00 service.

Also needed: Person or family to take responsibility for the hospitality table on the fourth Sunday each month. To find out what is involved, contact Adele Winkler, Wendy Smakulski, Betsy Steen, Steve Finch or Liz Cole.

The Welcome Center greeters are looking for volunteers to add to their team. Share the joy and satisfaction of this important ministry. Contact Jeannie Suelke, Liz Cole or Steve Finch.



Preschool "Spots" Available for 2's & 3's

Faith Preschool looks forward to the start of its 14th year of quality preschool education with 59 enthusiastic 3 and 4-year-olds ready to begin the 2015-16 school year on September 9. **Parent's Time Out** will open its doors to twelve 2-year-olds in mid-September, marking the start of its 15th year of continuous operation.

Both programs continue to be a vital ministry of QUMC and an important outreach to the community with excellent programming, dedicated staff, strong board leadership, and much-appreciated congregational support.

IMPORTANT: Limited openings remain in Faith Preschool's 2-day class for 3-year-olds. Additional information and registration materials are available in the church lobby or online at www.qumc.com. For further questions or to schedule a tour, please call the FPS-PTO office at 215.536.8172. It's not too late to enroll!

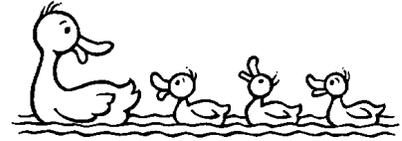


Food for Body & Soul

Worship Committee invites everyone to Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals, served in Miller Hall every Wednesday from October 14 to November 18. Bring your family and friends to enjoy dinner and fellowship, nourishing body and soul.



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Carol Wackerman - September 3 and Steven Rhoades - September 17.

Note: Our church believes that many Asian, and some other, cultures have it right. Elders are special treasures. Therefore we celebrate our 75 and older members.

BEST WISHES to Christine Sterner and Jacob Swearingen, married August 8.

BAPTISMS: On August 2: Savannah Elizabeth and MacKenzie Emma, daughters of John Orange Jr. & Marilyn (Klose) Orange. Savannah and MacKenzie are the granddaughters of Linda Klose and the late Greg Klose.

On August 9: Ford Lee, son of Ricky & Dannielle Mayer. Ford was born on February 22, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM: R. Alan Parry - June 24

NOTES:

"I can't begin to express my gratitude for all the support Al and I received during the past year. He was buoyed so much by all the prayers, cards, and calls he received from our church family following his diagnosis and during the many months of treatment. Now that he is gone, I also feel the support from all of you. God bless you all."

Sincerely, Nancy Parry

To my dear friends of Friendship Circle,

"I'm sorry for not sending this thank you note sooner for all your prayers and the poinsettia that June Roth and Adele Winkler brought to me. Also a special thanks to Laura Clymer for bringing the newsletter and weekly bulletin to the front desk. Also thanks for the phone calls."

Sincerely, Anna Wolfinger



THIS JUST IN...

Celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of fall with your family as you enjoy the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of Camp Innabah over Labor Day weekend. Enjoy spending time in Bible study, fellowship, and song, as well as many other activities. Check-in is Saturday, September 5, 10:00 a.m., with check-out on Monday, September 7, 3:00 p.m. For more information, including rates, contact Camp Innabah at 610.469.6111 or director@innabah.org.



September 2015

Church Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | 1 9:00 a.m. Faith Preschool CPR Training 9:30 a.m. Bread for the Journey Retreat 7:00 p.m. | 2 7:00 p.m. Radical Hospitality, Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band | 3 7:00 p.m. Intentional Faith Development | 4 | 5 |
| 6 * | 7  LABOR DAY | 8 Faith Preschool Orientation (Sanctuary in use all day) | 9 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Praise Band | 10 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Finance | 11 7:00 p.m. Chicken BBQ Set-Up | 12 4:00 p.m. Chicken BBQ |
| 13 ** RALLY DAY 2nd Grade Bible Presentation 6:00 p.m. Life Group | 14 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 15 7:00 p.m. Book Club | 16 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Glory Ringers 7:30 p.m. Praise Band | 17 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team | 18 | 19 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy |
| 20 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group, Kid's Club | 21 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 22 7:00 p.m. Missions | 23 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Glory Ringers 7:30 p.m. Praise Band | 24 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group | 25 | 26 Miller Hall Reserved |
| 27 ASP Sunday 10:00 a.m. Festival Worship 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group | 28 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 29 | 30 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Life Group, Glory Ringers 7:30 p.m. Praise Band | <p align="center">SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULES</p> <p>* 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Men's & Women's classes only) 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>** 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> | | |